SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

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FRONT COVER: The obstacles that the participants had to overcome were made to be as close to reality as possible. Read all about the SANDF Fittest Soldier Championships on pages 20 and 21. (Photos: PO Byron Lombard and WO1 Yvonne Bezuidenhout)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
We wish you peace and prosperity.

Sikufisela ukuthula nenqubekela phambili.

Ri vha tamela mulalo na mvelaphanda.

Sikufisela ukuthula nepumelelo.

Hi mi navelela ku rhula na mikateko.

Re le lakaletsa khotso le mahlohonolo.

Sikungwenelela uxo lo nempumelelo.

Ons wens u vrede en voorspoed toe.

Re le lakaletsa khutso le tswelopele.

Sikufisela kuthula nempumelelo.

Re go elets a kagiso le tswelopele.

The SA Soldier Editorial Team

Christmas message

Your road to Bethlehem

By Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, outgoing Chaplain General SANDF

Scripture reading: Luke 2:1-7. “At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to take place throughout the Roman Empire. … Joseph and Mary went from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem in Judea. … Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God and laid Him in a manger for there was no room for them to stay in the inn.”

During this time of the year we are all en route to somewhere. Some are on holiday to the sea. Some en route to loved ones and families over the Christmas period. Traffic volumes are high and we all plan to travel the roads with less traffic.

At Christmas over 2000 years ago God also started a new journey with us as His people, a journey that began and ended with the birth of His Son Jesus in the little town of Bethlehem. May I invite you to journey with me this year on the five roads to Bethlehem.

- **The first road was the one from Rome to Bethlehem.** Throughout the Old Testament it was promised that God, the Son of God and the spiritual saviour of the world, would be born in Bethlehem of Judea. On the command of the Roman Emperor that all people had to register in the town of their birth, Joseph and Mary left Nazareth and went to Bethlehem to be registered. This single act ensured that all the promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born in Bethlehem. An instruction by Government ensures that the Scripture becomes true. An order by an Emperor who knew nothing about the history of God with the world ensured that God’s wishes became true. This is the lesson of the first road to Bethlehem, namely that God, irrespective of who is in control and governing over a said period, can and always will reach His aim with the world and with us.

- **The second road is the one from Nazareth to Bethlehem.** A road that speaks about the sacrifices God made through His love for us. This we see clearly in this short history of the birth of Jesus. Joseph and the highly pregnant Mary had to travel a long distance over many days from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to be registered. Their only mode of transport was a donkey, their accommodation a cowshed and their nursing home a manger. These were difficult circumstances to cope with and in which to bring the Son of Peace into the world.

I realise that we as a Department had to work under very difficult circumstances this year in order to be peacemakers on this continent. There were a lot of demands on our resources, both inside and outside the country. Circumstances, especially during deployments, are not always easy, especially for the families of our deployed members. To all of you God says “Blessed are the peacemakers”.

- **The third road is the road from Heaven to Nazareth.** The road of “Immanuel”. God with us. The road that testifies that God came down from heaven in the form of His Son to be with us. That God gave us His Son to be with us in order to support us, take care of us, guide us, inspire us and give us wisdom. God with us to give us hope and something to live for. The road that indicates that God did not leave us alone on earth to struggle on our own, but that He came down from heaven to be Immanuel – God with us. This we must hold onto. We are not alone. We are not without a God. God is not up in heaven leaving us to go on as we wish as if He is non-existent. No, God is with us and in us, and this is the message God would like us to grasp again and hold onto during this Christmas period.

- **The fourth road is the road of the shepherds and wise men to Bethlehem.** These were people that wanted to celebrate the Son of God. People that wanted to bring glory and honour to the Son of God. People that made sacrifices and travelled long distances to be with the Son of God in Bethlehem. People that brought gifts, acknowledgement and honour. People that set us an example by making an effort to be close to God, challenging us to make sure that we, over this period, evaluate our relationship with the Almighty and get close to Him again.

- **The fifth road is the road taken by us to Bethlehem.** This is the road that reminds us to do something with the Son of God, and may I again challenge you this year to test your relationship with the Son of God who was born in Bethlehem:

- To acknowledge that God is the Almighty that governs the world and is continuing to make His history irrespective of who is in control on earth.

- To acknowledge the sacrifices God has made to save you and me in order to give us eternal life.

- To acknowledge that God is Immanuel – with us to guide and protect us, and that we have nothing to fear as we live in His light and under His guidance.

- To commit ourselves to loving Him, serving Him, honouring Him, worshiping Him. He asks us to govern His creation and to take care of His people.

May I, as I am leaving the Department, thank you all for the support you have given me over the past seven years in my post as Chaplain General and I pray that God will continue to bless you, the Department of Defence and our country.
HIV AND AIDS: DANGEROUS IN THE EXTREME

HIV where is your origin? What are you doing with our people? Explain to me who are you HIV and AIDS? You are dangerous.

The smoke flying very low And bereft of life inside Your door ajar and beckoning You are a savagery.

You are peril and pest What is your onus? You do not choose; what are you doing to our defenceless people?

Boys, girls, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers Take heed of this damn HIV and AIDS. The ineffectual idiots You are not biased.

HIV and AIDS who will remain behind, And reign tomorrow? You took our youngest heroes And you still look for others.

HIV and AIDS you are exterminator You are not playful But now your power is about to perish

The drum of the world is playing far away.

Today HIV and AIDS it is accosting you Africans (Whites, Indians, Coloureds and Blacks) Be united, utilise all weapons you have to fight this dangerous disease. Fast-track the research of traditional medication in order to fight this disease. HIV and AIDS the time is over for you, You are going to run like hell. Percy Sizwe Dlamini, Oudtshoorn

SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The newly appointed Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, organised the SANDF Christmas Church Service at Defence HQ in Pretoria on 1 December 2011. Everyone sang Christmas carols and the outgoing Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, delivered his farewell Christmas sermon. The service was also meant to give recognition to World Aids Day and to bid farewell to those who had lost their lives due to Aids. The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, mentioned that members should be at peace with themselves to reflect peace to others. He said he was proud of the SANDF personnel that continued to serve the National Defence Force and were willing to lay down their lives for the sake of peace. Gen Shoke acknowledged that the SANDF was what it was through individual members’ efforts and he was grateful for it. Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela, Pretoria

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SANDF SPOUSES FORUM SHARING LOVE WITH KIDS

Christmas came early for the Kiddie College at Tek Base in Thaba Tshwane as the members of the SANDF Spouses Forum opened their hearts to the 37 children of the crèche on 30 November 2011. The forum organised a Christmas party for the crèche. “This is a gesture to say we value the importance of the children’s well-being and know that this school is building future leaders and possible Generals for the SANDF”, said Ms Charlotte Shoke, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, as she addressed the parents. The forum contributed gifts and toys to promote

S.A. 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. 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, S.A. 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.

ABOVE: Ms Charlotte Shoke, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum (back row, second from left) and Ms Montsi Monare from MTN (back row, first from left) with the teachers and children of Kiddie College at Tek Base. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)
CHRISTMAS WISHES

I know 2011 was long, but I wish to thank all DOD members for their strength and courage in journeying through. I wish them all a happy Christmas and a happy and safe festive season and holidays that are better than their dreams. They must enjoy the festive season and prepare for 2012 with high morale. I like people who begin with this end in mind. Let us keep our RSA flag flying high and defend our liberty. Congratulations to our new Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum. Merry, Merry! Cpl M. Guduza, 5 SA Bn

SA NAVY CONDUCTS MUSICAL MAGIC

The SA Navy Band is renowned for its musical milestones and 22 October 2011 was no exception as the premier military band in the country once again dazzled the audience with its musical genius at this year’s Chief of the SA Navy Gala Concert held at Unisa in Pretoria. The Gala Evening is one of the annual highlights on the SA Navy’s social calendar and offers an opportunity to showcase not only the SA Navy in general, but also the finesse of its Navy Band.

The 45-piece Navy Band once again enthralled music lovers, family and friends alike with their dynamic renditions. The orchestra is the centrepiece of these annual occasions. The Band has diverse concert programmes, including music representing all of South Africa’s eleven cultural groups. The standard repertoire includes typical western music, such as light classical pieces, big band and jazz numbers and marches to name just a few. However, the uniqueness of the Band is that it includes traditional African music and instruments.

To emphasise the stature of the occasion Mr Danny Jordaan, a South African Sports Administrator, was on hand to share in the SA Navy’s celebrations. The SA Navy once again reaffirmed itself as being central to all the SA Navy premier calendar events.

LS N.C. Zulu

HONOUR SERVING MEMBERS

North West Signal Unit held a medal parade on 11 November 2011 at 11:00 to honour serving members by handing over medals to them. The medals handed out were the Maluti Clasp for Operations in Lesotho, the Thumelo Ikatelaho Medal for Operational Service, 10 Years Service Medals and 20 Years Service Medals, as well as Certificates for 10, 20 and 30 Years Service. A.J. Keulder, email

effective learning and development at the crèche. The theme of the day was: “Children are our future, love them and care for them”. Ms Shoke emphasised that it was important to build a strong foundation for the mental growth of our children and she insisted on a good partnership between the parents and the teachers to see that the vision of the crèche was implemented successfully.

The crèche also received a pledge from MTN to instal a geyser in the vicinity in January 2012. Ms Montsi Monare from MTN was pleased to make the announcement to the school in the presence of the parents. Ms Monare said: “This is to show our commitment as MTN to well-being of the children and to make the lives of the teachers easier. She concluded: “Children are the future; let us work hand in hand to give them the best education.” Bibi Sibanyoni, Pretoria

TWO SA OFFICERS IN THE USA

Two South African Officers met in Washington DC in the USA during a 5-day long International Military Officers Washington DC field trip XVI-2011 from 13 to 18 September 2011. They were international military officers from different military schools in the USA who attended a dinner hosted by Brig Gen R. Cornum (USA) held at the US Army Military District of Washington at Fort Myer Officers’ Club on 14 September 2011. (Capt M.A. Masedi is busy with the Combined Logistic Course 3 and Capt S.I. Masuku with an Engineer course)

Ftr: Capt S.I. Masuku, 1 Construction Regiment, Brig Gen R. Cornum, Director of Soldier Fitness Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (USA) G-3/5/7, Capt M.A. Masedi, 35 Engineer Support Regiment.
LEADERSHIP CONCEPT AFTERTHOUGHT

Leadership as a concept in the military environment is mind-boggling. In the organisation leadership is integrated, from a corporal to a general. The preservation of our democracy is inherently more important than leaders. Therefore leaders must subordinate their management ideas to conform to our democracy.

Power is an instrument that can be used meaningfully, or carelessly. We hope those holding power are obedient to their conscience as a last resort; most leaders are well versed in the intricacies of the military; however they are not able to exercise their military ability.

It boils down to a choice of a leader, irrespective of the rank. What type of a leader are you? A tactician or a strategist? A master tactician is always there at the finishing line, but favours strategic uncertainty, is patient and logical, with a methodical approach. A strategist is a master planner, is versed in the art of planning, is a visionary and pragmatic.

I quote Charles Grant of the think-tank centre for European reform “Truly great leaders - they can change the weather, they are prepared to think the unthinkable, to say and do things that they know will be unpopular, are naturally quite brave and can change the way people think”.

It is my opinion that you have a duty as a leader to challenge the intellectual climate in which you operate. Most leaders in our environment are sharp, maybe ruthless opportunists, capable of drawing blood, decisive and, if necessary capable of committing dirty deeds to achieve their ends. People are afraid to sail close to the wind because it can blow them away, they would rather stay in power. Maybe is a strategy or tactic they have mastered over the years. Close your eyes and hope the problems will go away. If they are still there when you open your eyes, close your eyes again; one day the problems will go away. If problems were “weed”, we would smoke all of them away; however we would be very high, every time we have to deal with our problems.

Are you a tactician or strategist in the organisation? The question is, are you responsive and reliable to everyone you lead? We need level-headed leaders with undimmed character; this is very important. Leadership can be a caricature for some people when they are rudderless.

Capt G.C. Kganyago, Thaba Tshwane

REACHING OUT TO OUR YOUTH

The Personnel Services School in Thaba Tshwane entered a new phase in a community outreach programme to encourage young people to be active participants in their own development, as youth development determines a country’s future and social status.

The Personnel Services School has adopted the Crossroad Shelter for Boys in Salvokop in Pretoria, and on 6 July 2011 the unit members arranged a special day to assist the youth to make informed life choices and to help them to develop an understanding of their future role as youth in a democracy.

Maj Donaven Schoeman and Sgt Buti Nkoana from the Directorate Human Resources Acquisition impressed upon them an understanding of the role of the SANDF in the promotion of national reconstruction and career awareness and the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) that enhances the nation’s untapped human resources.

Chaplain Erika Boshoff, the Chaplain of the Personnel Services School, told SA Soldier that together we could help those who could not help themselves, and for many people living a “normal” life is something we take for granted. She said: “We grow up, go to school, graduate and start a career and hardly ever give a second thought to those that are unable to do that. This initiative of adopting the Crossroad Shelter for Boys, a shelter that takes care of street children and aims to get them away from activities that play a major role in antisocial behaviour, e.g. drugs, alcohol, violence and crime, as children are the most vulnerable individuals in society. Most of them are aged between 10 and 19 years”. The eager young lads from the Crossroad Shelter for Boys enjoyed sporting activities, such as egg running, buddy running (with one hand and one leg tied to that of the other person) and blindfold running with the staff members and MSDS students. Cpl Ally Rakoma, Pretoria
Over the weekend of 30 September to 2 October 2011, the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles (BVR) celebrated their 135th anniversary and in true BVR style this weekend was excellently arranged and wonderfully supported by the unit members and their families. Every year the unit celebrates a special event on their birthday and this year the focus was on the founder of the unit, Maj Gen (Sir) Edward Yewd Brabant.

On 30 September 2011 the celebration consisted of the unveiling of a display of artefacts of the founder of BVR. The curator of the museum, Maj (Ret) Tony Step, managed to get a revolver and the holster that belonged to Maj Gen Brabant. Two great-grandsons of Maj Gen Brabant, Charles and Rodney, unveiled the display to which the family of Maj Gen Brabant had contributed.

On 1 October 2011, the BVR exercised their right to the freedom of East London by marching through the town. This company on foot was led by the Army Support Base KwaZulu-Natal that also entertained the guests with thrilling military music complemented by the famous pipes and drums of the East London Caledonian Society Pipe Band. The soldiers were followed by a company of vehicles consisting of Casspirs, Mambas, a Samil 20 and 50, a Ratel and a Rooikat from 1 Special Service Battalion in Bloemfontein.

The Executive Mayor of East London, Councillor Zukiswa Ncitha, thanked the members of the BVR for their contribution to the country and to the people of East London.

On 2 October 2011 Councillor Ncitha laid a wreath at the Regimental Memorial in honour of the members of the BVR who had died in service of the country. This was followed by a church parade at the Garrison Church where the unit members again pledged themselves to the service of God and to the people of the country.

During the afternoon of 2 October 2011 the unit members served food to 2 000 people from the nearby townships. This formed part of their Project Madiba 93 and was in appreciation for the blessings received during the year. The food was sponsored by several businesses in East London, but the biggest contribution was by the members of the BVR who only ate bread and coffee for one day and donated their meals to the project.

Maj Merle Meyer, Pretoria

BUFFALO VOLUNTEER RIFLES SERVING 135 YEARS

DOD HQ Unit took the opportunity to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Woman and Child Abuse and the International Day for People with Disabilities at the Armscor sports ground in Pretoria on 2 December 2011.

With the festive season upon us, domestic violence cases that usually increase around this time of the year. The campaign emphasises and advocates non-violence against women and children. Members of the unit heard the words of a motivational speaker and social worker, Maj Raburabu, who described different kinds of abuses that people go through everyday. People were amazed at how they failed to notice various kinds of abuse directed towards them.

Recognition was also given to people with disabilities, as they may at times face some level of discrimination and isolation. A fun wheelchair race was organised to give people a sense of what it was like to be in a wheelchair. Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela, Pretoria

Wheelchair racing was among the highlights of the day.
Deployed soldiers commemorate World Aids Day

More than 1 000 communities commemorated World AIDS Day as part of the Light for Rights Campaign. 101 Battery of ADA Formation, currently deployed in Ndumo Base, commemorated this day. It was very nice to see deployed members at rest join hands to help those in need. Owing to operational commitments the queen herself, my commander, could not say “NO”; rather she decided that we could commemorate the day on 30 November 2011.

The day itself was so heart-breaking and so emotional. So help me God, it was not only me that was touched by the Hungry Orphanage Centre, but the rest of 101 Battery. They did not look back, but put their hands deep into their pockets to give a money donation to buy clothes and presents for the children. Brothers and sisters, I am proud and thankful to my Joint Tactical HQ Officer Commanding, Col N. Bavuma, and my Commander, Maj M.P. Maine, for this great opportunity. 101 Battery grasped this opportunity with both hands to assist those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

World Aids Day in its first two years focused only on children and young people. Later it was criticised strongly for ignoring the fact that people of all ages become infected with HIV and suffered from Aids. Attention was still on the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and the day helped alleviate some of the stigma surrounding the disease and dispelled recognition of the problem as a family disease. It starts with me, you, him, her, them and all of us.

The guest speaker from Mosvold hospital gave a short speech on HIV and AIDS related issues. It was so good to have a professional giving the presentation. Lt Nene from 121 Battalion also gave a great lesson and delivered a very good speech. I myself learned a lot from him and so did my colleagues. After an opportunity like this, an individual does not look back. It is great if we start by changing our way of life and our behaviour regarding sex and our attitude towards reality. God help him to grow and continue on the path of righteousness.

The presence of the command group on the day showed great support and motivated the members.

Children from Ndumo Drop Centre Orphanage were also present. They looked so neat in their school uniforms. One stood up to speak, I cannot remember everything, but I remember these words very clearly: “HIV and AIDS, you took my Mom, you took my Father, but thanks be to God I got to Ndumo Drop Centre, a shoulder to cry on.” I saw my Commander looking down with emotion. This was so touching and very painful. I hope that not only us, but everyone who has something will share it with the kids.

The group from the HQ performed a drama. I was laughing and so was everyone. We did not laugh at them, but loved the performance. The drama itself was produced and directed by Maj Maine and Capt L.N. Ndodana. It was not only entertaining, but sent the message of HIV and AIDS so clearly. Who could have thought SGT Ntuli could perform as the mother. She was so good on stage. All of them, from the charming boy, Cpl Khoza, to the daughter, Cpl Khoza. There was the nurse with the squeeky voice - Gnr Siko, not forgetting the father, SGT Ngubane. Also entertaining us were SGT Molao and Gnr Moyane, proudly South African. One could not stop laughing about the Hip Hop master, Gnr Mnese, WOW! The Battery Commander ended the commemoration by presenting the gifts to Ndumo Drop Centre.

I speak out loud so that everyone in the SANDF can hear me. Brothers and sisters, let us change our sexual behaviour and act against our ignorance. Young people, in particular, must reduce the number of their sexual partners. To those infected by HIV and AIDS, remember it is not a death sentence, but rather a chronic condition. It can be controlled and you can live a normal long life like any other person. We must promote and help with the distribution of this message. In this way we become AIDS campaigners.

Message from the Chaplaincy

John 3:16. For God so loved the world that He gave his Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life.

This text make me think of the World War II film that gives the historical background to the German and Allied Forces in May and June of 1945, when the Allies were trying to free Italy from German occupation.

During the fighting the Allied Forces tried to fight the Germans by winning ground and driving them northwards, out of Italy. There was a small town named Cassino, south of Rome where heavy fighting took place. The Allied Forces suffered heavy casualties due to the change of season from hot to extreme cold in the winter and stiff German resistance.

Under heavy artillery fire, one officer in his trench lay with his face in the mud. He started to pray and said: “God help us Yourself; don’t send Jesus down here. This is no place for children”. Sometimes things can get very hectic and problematic and we think of calling on God because it looks as if even our best commanders are not in command of the situation that develops around us. Thanks be to God who sent His Son Jesus Christ to the world to strengthen our faith to enable us to get through the worst of times.

God loves us and therefore it is by the grace of God the Father that we as peacekeepers represent our country. However, also as children of the living God we can show by our presence in the operational area that our help comes from God. May God equip us with inner peace so that we, His children, may carry the flag of peace in Africa. God bless Africa and everybody in it. To God be the Glory.

Amen. Chaplain M. Otto, Chaplain 8 SAI Bn (Mech), currently deployed in the DRC.

Prince of Wales

By Kgabo Mashamaite

The arrival of the Prince of Wales at Air Force Base Waterkloof on 2 November 2011 has instilled confidence in the ability of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to welcome high-profile visitors. Immediately after landing at about 18:00 Prince Charles, as he is widely known around the world, stepped onto the red carpet to inspect the guard of honour consisting of members of the South African Air Force. This gesture has surely boosted the morale of our soldiers as Prince Charles was clearly impressed with the reception he received. Among the esteemed guests were the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Mr. Kgosietshe Ramogopa, and the High Commissioner of South Africa.
SANDF provide support during the DRC elections

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: WO1 Cristo Crous

South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region are standing at the threshold of a new era in which a community of nations provide for regional peace and security, cooperation. A regional approach based on collectivity and equality is in the Government’s interests and will come about through close interaction of effective institutional instrument, such as the SANDF. This will contribute to a better SADC, a better Africa and a better world.

The role of the SANDF as a tool to further the Government’s foreign policy has again been demonstrated with a successful election support deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) recently to provide logistical support.

To execute this operation six Oryx helicopters, six fixed-wing aircraft and two Hercules C-130s of the SA Air Force were utilised for the mission, which involved the delivery and collection of election material and the ferrying of military support personnel to assist with distribution at voting points. This vital support ensured that the Congolese were able to manifest their wish for democracy and development.

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, hosted a media briefing at Joint Operations Headquarters in Pretoria on 13 December 2011 to highlight the role of the SANDF in the period leading up to the national elections in the DRC on 28 November 2011. Lt Gen Mgwebi said that the SANDF was engaged in a very difficult operation that involved the transportation of ballot papers for the DRC’s Presidential elections. He said that the SANDF had been approached by the Department of International Relations and Co-operation to assist in this regard. The papers were transported to 13 transit points in the DRC for the polls on 28 November 2011.

Lt Gen Mgwebi said: “We were responsible for the delivery of the material to the SANDF Independent Electoral Commission officials. We chartered aircraft, including a Boeing 747, and an Ilyushin 76 to transport the 1 863 tons of election material. At least one or two SANDF members were present on each flight to ensure that the material was delivered to the expected destinations. The operation was completed by 22 November and required 39 flights; the SANDF had to keep a tight schedule.”

He added that the joint operation, controlled from Kinshasa by the SANDF, the Independent National Electoral Commission and the United Nations’ Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), was not over yet. The DRC Government had asked for further help in distributing and collecting ballot material in the southern parts of the country.

“This meant that the SANDF had to deploy extra staff and aircraft, including six Oryx helicopters, two C-47TPs and two C130s to distribute the material to 210 delivery points. The ballot papers then had to be transported to 15 000 centres, distributed to 63 000 polling stations and finally taken back to provincial capitals after the polls. Some stations did not exist, so tents had to be erected. SANDF members keeping to a tight schedule to move the material for the polls.”

On 27 November, the day before the elections, most SANDF members had already left the DRC,” said Lt Gen Mgwebi.

In response to a question on possible post-election destabilisation, Lt Gen Mgwebi said that in terms of the level of security, he did not foresee the DRC asking for additional help in a post-election situation as they also had to see to the MONUSCO troops for the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the DRC.

Lt Gen Mgwebi stressed that as the delivery of the ballot papers was the key issue, the SANDF contribution to the elections had nothing to do with its existing peacekeeping efforts in the DRC and the two operations were kept quite separate.

Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, the Head of Communication, added that the DRC had previously been affected by the grave humanitarian situation of conflict in the past, but today the nation was treading the path of democratic governance, evidenced by the recent national electoral process. He said: “Taking into account guidelines governing national elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission was put in place only in January, but they did a good job.”
SA and Mozambique focus on regional stability

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

A high-level security milestone was reached when the South Africa-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) concluded its third session in Pretoria on 8 November 2011.

The meeting succeeded the Defence Committee meeting between the two countries’ third Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security held in Cape Town on 23 and 24 August, which focused on conducting joint operations and forging bilateral relations, especially military to military co-operation focusing on combating cross-border criminal activities and eradicating piracy in Mozambican territorial waters, thus contributing to peace and stability in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Delivering her opening remarks, the RSA Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, said the meeting would be helpful, especially in terms of information sharing in order to combat criminal activity by syndicates operating in both countries.

Ms Sisulu said: “This gathering marks an important inter-state engagement pertaining to defence, public and state security and we are satisfied with the progress this far. The conference also helps us to meet our international obligations such as guaranteeing business vessels the freedom of the seas and protection against the threat of piracy through joint operations between the SA and the Mozambican Navies in the Mozambique Channel.

“These engagements also helped in reviewing the progress made in the implementation of resolutions passed at the second session of the South Africa-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security held in Matola, Mozambique, in 2009.

The RSA Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and the Mozambican Minister of Defence, Mr Filipe Nyusi, walk to the plenary venue during the third session of the RSA/Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security.
This Commission underscored the need to conduct joint operations to curb human and drug trafficking and determine the routes and trends followed by drug traffickers. Other crimes include theft and vehicle smuggling, stock theft, smuggling of illicit goods, firearms and ammunition and non-ferrous metals. This can only be achieved through co-operation by the two countries on strict border control measures.”

In his reply, the Minister of the Mozambican National Defence Force, Mr Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, said that the event confirmed the commitment by the both countries to contribute to peace and stability within the region.

Minister Nyusi said: “What we can truly say to each other is that we are prepared to commit ourselves to the agreements made in these high-level dialogues. This is one of the crucial interactions between the two nations with the aim of learning from one another. This event comes at a crucial time when a G5 vessel was captured by Somali pirates, where it was thus an experience learned. High calibre co-operation is necessary to contain these types of situations.”

The Commission also underlined the need for rhino poaching to be considered a priority crime requiring joint operations and that a Technical Committee must be formed to finalise a strategy to protect wildlife. This should be done by the end of February 2012 and the committee must report back on progress at the next meeting.

Concerning the influx of illegal migrants into the SADC region, the Commission urged the law enforcement agencies of the two countries to exchange information on the movement of illegal immigrants and to formulate common strategies. These should include the enactment of legislation dealing with human trafficking and irregular migration.

In efforts to facilitate the smooth movement of people, goods and services, the Commission noted the work done by the technical team on the establishment of the new border post at Mbuzini/Macuacua. It also noted with appreciation the assistance rendered by the Mozambican Government during the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Andries Nel, described the work session as an excellent forum full of good ideas and fruitful discussion aimed at improving regional security and stability. Mr Nel also thanked the Mozambican delegation for their visit to South Africa.
The new Chief of the SA Army takes charge

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On 18 November 2011 a general salute, thundering echoes of a 17 gun salute and a salute flight of two Oryx helicopters of the SA Air Force displaying the SA Army and SANDF flags signalled the beginning of a new era when the former Chief of the SA Army, Gen Solly Shoke (now the Chief of the SANDF) handed over command of the SA Army to his successor, Lt Gen Vusumuzi Masondo, during a change of command parade held at the Thaba Tshwane Military Sports Ground.

All the formations of the SA Army were taking part in the parade. They presented a brigade strength parade in review that marched in detailed precision around the field. The two military Chiefs stood tall on the podium, while marching columns marched past the podium and saluted them.

It is worth pointing out that with our SANDF constantly expanding regional and international obligations, the SA Army under the leadership of Gen Shoke was strategically positioned to equip its landward forces to play a prominent role in the African battle space through its multinational tasks contributing greatly to external peace support missions under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union and its obligation to serving South Africa and its people.

When officially accepting the reins, Lt Gen Masondo said that it was an honour to lead the finest military minds in landward defence.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “I want to assure you that I am not one to shy away from challenges. I actually thrive on challenges. I have learned the following lesson: in life you can choose to deal with the problems thrown at you as either insurmountable hardships or as challenges that define the very processes of human life.”

Curriculum Vitae

Lt Gen Vusumuzi Ramakala Masondo was born in the former Transkei on 21 December 1957. He left South Africa to join the military wing of the African National Congress, Umkhonto we
The new Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusumuzi Masondo, in command of the SA Army.

Sizwe (MK), in 1976. He underwent his basic military training in Angola in 1977 and Air Defence Artillery training in the former Soviet Union in 1978. He served in the ranks of MK in various capacities before his return to South Africa in 1992. While in exile, he completed his Matric and Diploma Courses in Secretarial and Computer Studies.

Before integration into the SANDF in 1994, Lt Gen Masondo served in the Joint Military Coordinating Council as the co-chairperson of the Inspection Work Logistics Command in 1995. In 1996 he was transferred to 3 Electronic Workshop in Wonderboom where he was appointed as the Personnel Officer of the unit. After serving nearly a year, he was transferred to the SA Army Signal Formation Headquarters in 1997 and appointed as Staff Officer Grade 2 (SO2) Personnel.

On 1 January 1999 he was appointed Staff Officer Grade 1 (SO1) Personnel at the SA Army Armour Formation and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Lt Gen Masondo was instrumental in setting up the Personnel Section of the SA Army Armour Formation, a newly established formation. He served the SA Army Armour Formation until 31 May 2002.

He was appointed as Senior Staff Officer in charge of staffing at the SA Army Headquarters and promoted to the rank of Colonel on 1 June 2002. On 1 January 2003 he was transferred to the Human Resource Support Centre (Directorate Personnel Maintenance) where he was appointed as Senior Staff Officer in charge of remuneration.

On 1 May 2004 he was appointed as Director Corporate Communication and promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. He only served for one month and on 1 June 2004 was appointed as Personnel Staff Officer to the then Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda. On 1 March 2006 he was appointed as Acting Director Human Resource Maintenance, a post in which he was confirmed as Director on 1 March 2006.

Lt Gen Masondo was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed as Chief Army Force Preparation on 1 December 2007. The highlight of Lt Gen Masondo’s military career was his appointment as the Director of Exercise GOLFINHO, a Southern African Development Community (SADC) peace support operation exercise intended to train the SADC Standby Brigade.

He completed all the required military courses, including the Executive National Security Programme. He also pursued his academic studies and holds a Certificate in Defence Management from Wits University, a Certificate in Labour Relations from the University of Pretoria and a B Com degree from Unisa. He is married to Dinah and has been blessed with two daughters and a son.
Members of the SANDF and the private sector symbolically handed over goodwill parcels during a parade held at the DOD Mobilisation Centre near Bloemfontein on 28 October 2011 to members of the SANDF that were about to deploy to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan.

The Goodwill Parcel Project is a joint venture between the SANDF and the private sector. This team visits internally and externally deployed soldiers annually as a gesture of goodwill to reaffirm its appreciation for their continued efforts to improve security in South Africa.

The Goodwill Parcel Project recognises the important role of the SANDF in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building, and the importance of their participation and full involvement in all efforts regarding the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

This year the Goodwill Parcel Project celebrates eleven years of its existence. Over the years the project has become one of the significant events on the DOD calendar, and credit must be given to all the Warrant Officers in the SANDF.

It all started back in 2001 when the Warrant Officer of the SANDF and the Warrant Officer of the Joint Operations Division established the project. At that stage there was no funding for the project, and the Warrant Officer of the SANDF then requested that all Warrant Officers in the SANDF donate R1 towards the project.

The project has since grown and evolved to include a token to all members on deployment, whether deployed internally or externally, including hamper packs for the members’ families back home. This is possible owing to the generosity of sponsors and the SANDF Spouses Forum. Currently the SANDF Spouses Forum is the custodian of the hamper packs and oversees the obtaining of sponsors and determines the content of the hamper pack.

Through this project, the SANDF was able to spread its wings to cultivate, maintain and enhance partnerships with community-based structures. These included business, churches, schools, orphanages and old-age homes that have benefited from these partnerships.

The project not only touches the hearts of the deployed soldiers...
ABOVE: SANDF members and Goodwill Parcel Project members bade farewell to the members of the SANDF that were about deploy to the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

over the festive season, but also their family members back home. Those unfortunate to be in hospitals or hospices also share in the project, as well as those who are on duty on Christmas Day.

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

Representatives of the various sponsors will be included in the goodwill visit to all deployed members to hand over a token of appreciation, which will give the sponsors an opportunity to convey the good wishes and appreciation of their companies to the deployed soldiers. All activities of the Goodwill Parcel Project carry the good wishes and appreciation of the entire SANDF and the South African community as a whole, and have an important impact on the morale of deployed members and their families over the festive season.
The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) hosted the year-end function of the SANDF Spouses Forum at the Pretoria Country Club on 26 November 2011. The theme was “Peace and Goodwill”, and the event was graced by Generals’ spouses from all the Services.

The event was not only used to socialise and network, but to reflect on the plight of the less fortunate and to spearhead the message of goodwill and giving.

First there was a candle-lighting ceremony to mark the beginning of 16 Days of Activism campaign against woman and child abuse. The spouses not only simply raised awareness about the negative impact of violence against women and children, but took a decisive stance against such abuse.

The Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen Ansuyor Fakir, called upon all spouses to take practical actions to end violence against women and children. She said: “We have improved the position of women so that they can assume their roles in the public sphere by protecting the sovereignty and security of our country and taking up the role as peacekeepers in Africa.”

She also encouraged people to use every platform to change the mindsets of men and women so that they respect one another.

The forum pledged support of unit programmes to manage diversity and build cohesion concerning its transformation goals. The spouses also committed themselves to providing counselling to the young leaders and members to deepen their patriotism and unity.

Delivering his keynote address, the Chairperson of Gift of the Givers, Dr Imataiz Ismail Sooliman, encouraged those in attendance to be grateful for what they had and to learn to share with those less fortunate.

“Whatever is done is done through you and by you,” said Dr Sooliman, as he motivated everyone to believe in themselves. He also reminded the guests of how fortunate they were to be South African citizens.

The forum was established over six years ago and is recognised as an official entity of the Department of Defence community. It is led by the wife of the Chief of the SANDF, Ms Busiwiwe Shoke. The forum meets voluntarily once per quarter to review the progress of its annual goals.

The spouses rounded off this prestigious event by exchanging gifts as a token of appreciation.
THE SA ARMY FOUNDATION and MAXI CREDIT SOLUTIONS are proud to be sponsors of the 2011 Goodwill Parcel Project in support of all our deployed soldiers over this festive season.
Be fit - BE PREPARED

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: PO Byron Lombard and WO1 Yvonne Bezuidenhout

The fact that soldiers are supposed to be fit is not something that the SANDF takes for granted. The correct perception is that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. Fittest Soldier competitions are generally used as a barometer to measure the physical fitness levels of soldiers. It is therefore correct to assume that the fitter the soldier the more combat-ready that specific soldier is.

In pursuance of this ideal the SANDF annually invites its members of different ranks and age levels to participate in the SANDF Fittest Soldier Championship. The 4th SANDF Fittest Soldier Championship was held from 17 to 21 October 2011 at Army Support Base Eastern Cape (ASB EC) in Port Elizabeth.

As mandated by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, this event was to be accorded all the necessary attention and respect it deserved, as he had pronounced it as an integral part of the SANDF’s physical training. The event was held under the auspices of the office of Chief of Human Resources, Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR) and ASB EC PTSR.

The participants consisted of teams and individuals from different provinces and units from all four Services. The objectives of the event were as follows:

- A long-term project to boost fitness among soldiers of the SANDF.
- To determine the fittest male and female soldiers in three age groups, including the senior cadres.
- To provide recognition and exposure for the winners so that others may see and strive to follow their examples.
- To provide Service and Divisional Chiefs with the opportunity to encourage their units and members to participate in the competition.

Officially opening this week-long event, the Officer Commanding of ASB EC, Col Alfred Ndou, wished all participants luck. He said: “I hereby welcome each and every participant to the 2011 SANDF Fittest Soldier Competition. I know and believe that you are well prepared and are looking forward to this week with enthusiasm and excitement.”

At the end of the event the total physical and psychological fitness of individual participants was evaluated. It was followed by a prize-giving ceremony that was held on 21 October.
On behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, the chief functionary at the prize-giving evening was the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusumuzi Masondo.

During his speech Lt Gen Masondo said that the SANDF was mandated to include physical training, sport and recreation as part of force preparation. He also indicated that the SANDF had policies and prescripts that constituted an essential framework for implementing and executing PTSR. Physical fitness and psychological preparedness were the personal responsibility of each and every member, it was above all a command responsibility.

Lt Gen Masondo added: “Sport teaches the value of effort and how to manage victory as well as defeat. It offers opportunities for play and self-expression that are beneficial, especially for those young people with few other opportunities in their lives.”

During the prize-giving ceremony it was clear that this event was indeed physically demanding, but it did not dampen their spirits. It proved to me that the steeper the hill the greater the prize. The participants were happy that the event had come to an end. Because they all participated and got to the finishing line, they were victorious in this battle of the will:

The obstacles that the participants had to overcome were made to be as close to reality as possible.

Winners

- **The female winner in the Senior category (up to the age of 30 years):** AB Marlene Scholtz (Naval Base Simon’s Town)
- **The female Sub-Veteran (between the ages of 31 and 39 years):** CPO Chandre Roodman (SA Naval Armament Depot)
- **The female Veteran (from the age 40 years upwards):** WO2 Gail Jacobs (AFB Ysterplaat)
- **The male winner in the Senior category (up to the age of 34 years):** CO Eugene Mmatsaka (SA Army)
- **The male Sub-Veteran (between the ages of 35 and 44 years):** S Sgt Louis Fourie (44 Parachute Regiment)
- **The male Veteran (from the ages of 45 years upwards):** S Sgt Ngoako Moloto (7 SA Infantry Battalion)

Best Service/Division (Team Event): SA Army 1 (CO Livhuwani Mariba, S Sgt Hermanus Fourie, Pte Michael Mathaha and L Cpl Paulus Jokwana)

Best Unit/Formation: SA Army Infantry Formation (L Cpl Irene Moiwa, Pte Petrus Leboeana, Lt Ntlahla Mantato and S Sgt Ngoako Moloto)

This event truly tested the fitness of the participants. Looking at some of the events that the competitors participated in, I could not help but wonder if these men and women in uniform were made of steel or if it was just sheer determination that drove them to want to be the best. I watched as tired participants toiled to the finishing line. I personally thought my fitness left a lot to be desired. This was not child’s play nor was it a walk in the park. If this event has to be a combat-readiness barometer, I am convinced that the SANDF is very capable and ready to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the South African state.

**ABOVE: From water to leopard crawling in the dark.**

**ABOVE: The participants carry a 25 litre container and had to run for several metres on the beach sand.**
Fallen heroes and heroines commemorated

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Fallen heroes and heroines of World War I were commemorated during the annual Remembrance Day Memorial Service held at the War Memorial at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 13 November 2011. The memorial service was to commemorate the Commonwealth war dead.

Armistice Day (also known as Poppy Day) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth countries since the end of World War I to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

Armistice Day is observed on 11 November to recall the official end of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ceased at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.

The day was specifically dedicated by King George V on 7 November 1919 as a day of remembrance of members of the armed forces who were killed during World War I. This was possibly suggested by Edward George Honey to Wellesley Tudor Pole, who instituted two remembrance ceremonies based on events in 1917.

The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem “In Flanders Fields”. These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, their brilliant red colour an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

The presence of those who attended symbolised the commitment and sacrifices of the people of all races in pursuit of freedom during the various operations.

They gathered as one people to share a history, and as friends who share a human story. They recall that history, and keep it clear in their consciousness, and pass it on to the future generation. They have come to know how our fallen heroes and heroines paid the ultimate price with their blood by laying down their lives.

We acknowledge this painful history and cherish this abiding human story. We celebrate this way of living and we show our gratitude for having learned it, a way of living that values personal effort, restrained courage, humility, sacrifice, resilience and self-belief.
Remembering the unselfishness of the great sacrifice

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

A number of countries, including South Africa, fought in the two World Wars. Since then the fallen heroes of those wars have been commemorated. Remembrance Day has become an occasion to remember the nobility and the unselfishness of their great sacrifice.

In memory of all the men and women who made the supreme sacrifice, every year on the 11th month on the 11th day at the 11th hour a moment of silence is observed to remember the deceased of wars and other conflicts. Following November 11, on 13 November 2011, a remembrance Sunday and a wreath-laying ceremony were held by the City of Johannesburg and the SANDF at Johannesburg City Hall at the Cenotaph. The theme was Salute to the families of the fallen.

The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Parks Tau, said in his address that more than 200 million people were killed in wars worldwide over the past century, but the families and dependants who lost loved ones, or who had to live with those physical and emotional scars, were often forgotten. Mayor Tau said: “How often do we think about the loved ones who were left behind? It is time for all of us to reflect on the destruction of wars, not only the fallen, but their families as well. Let us remember their pain and suffering due to their loss.”

Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, the outgoing Chaplain General, said in his sermon that nobody emerged from the war unscathed. He said that those that were killed instantly were lucky, as they did not suffer, while others returned wounded and had to live with these, e.g. loss of sight or missing limbs. He added that others struggled to fit into society again after the wars, which included the families of those who returned that had to readjust their lives and lifestyles, and live with the anguish of the war.

This year marks the anniversary of the Battle of Square Hill in which members of the SA Cape Corps took part, and the 91st Armistice Day when peace was declared at the end of World War I.

Members of the SANDF, the SA Infantry Association, the SA Air Force Association, the Royal Naval Association, the SA Police Service, Johannesburg Metro Police detachments, Johannesburg Emergency Services, ex-servicemen (military veterans), including the Gunners Association, civilian bodies and elements of youth volunteer organisations, viz the SA Red Cross, Boys Scouts and Girl Guides took part in the annual remembrance parade.
Southern African International Law of Armed Conflict Course

By MWO Beulah Vermaak, Chief of Staff to WO SAMHS
Photos: Lt Col Rudi Maritz and Simone Milward

The International Council on Military Medicine delegated the Southern African International Law of Armed Conflict Course for the past 12 years to the Swiss Armed Forces, *inter alia*, due to the fact that Switzerland is a neutral country.

This course is presented for 50 Military Medical Practitioners annually in Spiez, Switzerland, in August. Various countries are represented, including South Africa, Namibia and Kenya on the African continent.

In 2008 the International Council on Military Medicine (ICMM) requested South Africa, on behalf of the ICMM and the Pan African Congress of Military Medicine, to host the course. The first Southern African International Law of Armed Conflict Course was hosted in Pretoria in 2009 and was declared a success by the ICMM. The Surgeon General then instructed the organisers to present a course annually within the borders of South Africa under the auspices of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) and to invite the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to attend.

In 2010 the second course took place with one member each from Namibia and Tanzania attending.

The aim in hosting this course in South Africa is to include all Medical Practitioners from SAMHS and the SADC countries. They will be given the opportunity to participate and be exposed to first-hand international recognised through methodologies that would enable them to participate with the necessary knowledge in international deployments worldwide. A limited number of deployable Occupational Emergency Care Practitioners (OECPs), social workers, medical officers, senior nursing staff, medico-legal and chaplains will also be included.

During deployment every SAMHS member is under the command of the Mission Commander. Usually it is a member of the SA Army, on a ship under the command of the SA Navy and the SA Air Force. For 2011 the Surgeon General invited members from other Services and Divisions to participate in this course to have a better view and understanding of the Rules of Engagement and Medical Ethics regarding the Military Medicine.
The third Southern African International Law of Armed Conflict Course took place over the period 9 to 15 October 2011 in Paarl. The members on the course found the content very enlightening and informative. Various comments indicated that they looked at deployment and their “job” with new eyes and appreciation. The role that each and every one plays in the medical field is important.

The international lecturers utilised during the course are the same members utilised during the course in Spiez, Switzerland. The knowledge and insight they displayed during the classes were of a very high standard and much appreciated by the students.

The course in South Africa is the only Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) course internationally that includes other health care practitioners, such as the nurses, social workers and a first ever the Occupational Emergency Care Practitioners (OECPs). The lecturers said that it was a wide range of medical practitioners and that provide them, as the lecturers, with a broader spectrum of views and interpretations. The lecturers were also impressed with the level of knowledge and experience that was shared by the OECPs. The involvement of the OECPs about their physical and practical experience is of great value to the lecturers. As part of the course are the Chaplains within the SAMHS. Chaplain Nomsa Nkosi, the Acting Director SAMHS Chaplains, was part of this course and she said this was an eye-opener for them as Chaplains. Now they know how to interact with the members of the SAMHS during and after deployment.

SADC countries were invited to send a health care practitioner within their defence force to attend this course. Six members from Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe respectively attended the course. They indicated that they would act as ambassadors for the LOAC course within their defence forces and that next year more SADC members will attend.

During the closing ceremony on 14 October 2011 Maj Gen Lourens Smith, Deputy Surgeon General, handed out certificates to all the members and declared the course a success. The Organising Committee under the chairmanship of Col (Ret) Johan Crouse was congratulated on a course well planned and executed and thanked for their hard work during the year.

Lecturers and Organising Committee: front, fltr: Lt Col S. Fournier (DOD Canada), Col I. Kholikov (DOD Russia), Lt Col T. Schaay (DOD Germany), Maj Gen M. Merlin (DOD France, representing ICMM), Col (Ret) J. Crouse (SANDF, Chairperson Organising Committee and Course Commander), Ms P. Ermuth (DOD Canada) and Lt Col P. Zen-Ruffennin (DOD Switzerland). Back, fltr: Organising Committee: Lt P. Thloubatla, Lt Col H. van Geems, MWO B. Vermaak, Lt Col R. Maritz and S Sgt J. Mathebula.
Gender based violence, exploitation, enslavement of women and children, mutilation, harmful traditional practices, sexual violence and human trafficking are among the most despicable acts of human evil. All of this represents a sad story of human degradation.

The 16 Days of Activism Campaign of No Violence Against Women and Children takes place annually, from 25 November to 10 December. The campaign is endorsed by the United Nations and this year’s worldwide theme is: “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World”.

Taking a stand against gender based violence and child abuse, the DOD observed the 16 Days of Activism campaign by hosting a Security Sector Workshop consisting of delegates from the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). The workshop was organised by Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen Ansuyah Fakir, at the Peace Mission Training Centre in Thaba Tshwane on 2 December 2011.

The aim of the workshop was to reaffirm commitment to human rights and to identify the key issues of gender based violence and child abuse as a threat to the restoration of international peace and security. The other objective of the workshop was to analyse the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1820 (2008) and the UNSCR 1888 (2009).

Officially opening the workshop, Lt Gen Themba Nkabinde, Chief of Human Resources, said that gender based violence and child abuse not only caused grave physical, psychological and health problems for its victims, but also had social consequences for communities and entire societies. He said: “Let us not look away, violence against women and children has reached unspeakable pandemic proportions in some societies attempting to recover from conflict and undermines efforts to cement peace and security.”

Maj Gen Johanna Nkomo from the
SAPS mentioned that safeguarding the peace process against any threats was a common strategic goal to ensure a solid security sector. She said that a police presence was necessary to provide strategic advice, facilitate the screening process, to provide regular policing activities and to help guarantee public security.

Col Bhasie Ggoboka, Senior Staff Officer Peace Support Operations from Joint Operations Division, discussed a comprehensive review of the SANDF’s successes at the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU), best practices, lessons learned, obstacles, gaps, challenges, opportunities leading to concrete goals and strategies for action in accordance with diplomatic practice.

He said that the process of peace missions has gradually shifted from peacekeeping to peace building. He added that SANDF women peacekeepers were deployed in various capacities in UN/AU missions and are an arsenal of much needed skills for peace building. He highlighted the fact that in multidimensional peacekeeping mandates peacekeepers, in addition to their military or security related tasks, were mandated to support Government institutions, elections, train police and correctional officers, disarm and reintegrate former combatants.

Ms Nolufefe Dwabayo, the Director of Peace Missions, could not have said it better when she said that the priorities of our Government were the key drivers of our foreign policy and lay at the heart of the millennium development goals. She said that considering the inhumane acts suffered by these vulnerable groups during conflict, several efforts have been made by the relevant actors in the peace process to cater to their needs by promoting gender justice, and rehabilitating and reintegrating them into mainstream life. She added that considering their psychological setbacks, deployment of female peacekeepers was an operational imperative.

Ms Dwabayo said: “Women peacekeepers help the mission enhance its ability to communicate with the entire host community, gather information, and handle situations in which sensitivity to gender considerations is critical. Local women may experience fewer difficulties in reporting sexual violence and abuse.”

The workshop was elevated this year to the level of a security cluster and so formed an integral part of peacekeeping. It is also important to note that this workshop took place in the context of the UN’s debate centred around the 16 Days of Activism campaign of No Violence against Women and Children.

In her closing summary the Chief Director Transformation Management said that it was a good example of the security sector working as one. She said that it was a modest investment in activities that could help the Government and civil society head off the potential violation of human rights.

Maj Gen Fakir pointed out that it was very important to focus more on prevention. It was part of the general development of a country and was a national responsibility to broaden the campaign against abuse and the protection of human rights in its many dimensions.
Renewed partnership aims to integrate Phidisa into SAMHS

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Attendees of the Project Phidisa annual conference took time to reflect on progress made and to reach consensus on the new Research Agenda applicable to South Africa. The Memorandum of Understanding, which lapsed in 2010, has since been renewed for the next five years and for which three goals were identified. The goals are intended to integrate Phidisa more effectively into the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) as a clinical infectious disease research component, build capacity for sustainable clinical research and develop a new research agenda.

Project Phidisa is a collaborative project led by the SANDF and other partners, including the National Institutes of Health of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Defense. It is a clinical research project that aims to establish the impact of HIV infection on the South African military community and develop strategies for the effective management and prevention of HIV infection.

The project is intended to support a clinical research infrastructure within the SANDF and a network of sickbays and hospitals for studies on pathogenesis, prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS, and possibly other infectious diseases. It is also intended to help establish a biomedical and public health research capability within the SAMHS that can be utilised in future to address other health issues of critical importance for military force preparedness.

The research will include collecting information through a research study in human volunteers to answer specific health questions. Clinical researches are carefully conducted in the safest way to find treatments that can work in people and to learn about ways to improve health using voluntary participants.

The Second-in-Command of Project Phidisa, Dr Lotty Ledwaba, spoke about the history of the
The Minister of Health said that the armed forces undertook peacekeeping responsibilities in distant places far away from their families, but their natural impulses remained with them, leading to changes in the pattern of health. While peace operations are meant to protect human beings from threats, HIV targets them through the decline in security. He warned that if the spread of HIV and AIDS was ignored, it could adversely affect power projection and the ability of the armed forces to protect the sovereignty of the country and maintain civil order, which would lead to the lose of more enemy in a conventional battle.

Dr Motsoaledi noted the numbers of military personnel and their dependants whose lives were prolonged through their participation in Phidisa. He mentioned how proud he was that some of the research in the pages of international health research journals.

The Minister of Health said: “I have no doubt that lessons and data from Project Phidisa will inform the South African National Defence Force’s (SANDF) policies and future decisions about how best to manage the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the military. Project Phidisa will also inform the SANDF on its combat readiness by expanding knowledge regarding the best way to treat infection with HIV.”

ABOVE: The Second-in-Command of Project Phidisa, Dr Lotty Ledwaba, informed delegates of the progress and achievements of Project Phidisa.

project and what it has been able to achieve during the conference on 29 November 2011. When it all started in late 2002, it was meant to expand the Masibambisane prevention collaboration to include research. Between the period January 2004 and October 2004 the first participants were enrolled and screened in different Phidisa sites around the country.

By December 2004 a follow-up meeting was scheduled in Pretoria to review the progress of the project and to address deficiencies noted. This led to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Research Agreement between the former Minister of Defence and the United States Ambassador to South Africa.

At the end of April 2011 a letter of intent to continue beyond the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both governments and officially extended for another five years to renew collaboration on health projects for SAMHS members.

Dr Motsoaledi said: “AIDS is a powerful enemy facing armed forces internationally – and our Armed Forces are not immune. While there is no cure for HIV, we now know that the disease can be retarded successfully through treatment that slows down its manifestations. Through anti-retrovirals we can reduce deaths and new infections from HIV and AIDS, but these drugs are expensive and not readily available.

“The prevalence of military contingency operations such as humanitarian, peacekeeping and peace enforcement missions in the last few decades have exposed the military establishment to unexpected risks and challenges. One of these challenges is the risk to peacekeeping through the spread of HIV infections. Military personnel are considered to be a high-risk group concerning both infection and transmission.”

The Minister of Health said that the armed forces undertook peacekeeping responsibilities in distant places far away from their families, but their natural impulses remained with them, leading to changes in the pattern of health. While peace operations are meant to protect human beings from threats, HIV targets them through the decline in security.

He warned that if the spread of HIV and AIDS was ignored, it could adversely affect power projection and the ability of the armed forces to protect the sovereignty of the country and maintain civil order, which would lead to the loss of more soldiers to AIDS than fighting the enemy in a conventional battle.

Dr Motsoaledi noted the numbers of military personnel and their dependants whose lives were prolonged through their participation in Phidisa. He mentioned how proud he was that some of the research findings of the project had appeared in the pages of international health research journals.

The Minister of Health said: “I have no doubt that lessons and data from Project Phidisa will inform the South African National Defence Force’s (SANDF) policies and future decisions about how best to manage the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the military. Project Phidisa will also inform the SANDF on its combat readiness by expanding knowledge regarding the best way to treat infection with HIV.”
Freedom Regiments of Johannesburg paraded through Jabulani

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On Saturday 12 November 2011 members of the Freedom Regiments Association of Johannesburg took to the streets of Jabulani Mall in Soweto to celebrate the Freedom of Entry Parade. Senior SANDF Officers, the Acting Speaker of the Council, members of the City Council of Johannesburg and local dignitaries took the salute.

A Freedom of Entry Parade is an old tradition of conferring the freedom of the city or official permission to military units from the City Mayor to enter the area of jurisdiction of the city. Only regiments which have been granted the Freedom of the City are permitted to parade through the streets with armoured vehicles, fixed bayonets, Regimental colours flying and drums beating.

This privilege is a sign of gratitude and a symbolic token of appreciation and trust placed in a specific military unit by the civilian population in recognition of service of a high order rendered to the city in particular and the country in general.

The Freedom Regiments Association of Johannesburg was started in 1986 by R Adm (JG) Lucas Bakkes of SAS Rand and a few regiments, such as 21 SA Infantry Battalion, Transvaal Scottish, Witwatersrand Rifles, Rand Light Infantry, Light Horse Regiment, Transvaal Horse Artillery, SA Irish Regiment, Johannesburg Regiment, 2nd Squadron SA Air Force and SAS Rand.

These regiments had already had the Freedom of Entry to the City of Johannesburg bestowed on them and they felt that they should form an association in order to maintain the esprit de corps that they had developed and keep in touch with the elected representatives of the city.
The first regiment to be granted freedom of entry was the Transvaal Scottish Regiment in 1952. Fifty years later, in 2002, 6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment received the Freedom, and in 2003 the council ratified the Freedom of the City of Regiment President Kruger, the unit having had the freedom of the former city of Roodepoort. The Reserve Force regiments have over the years played a vital role in support not only of civic functions, but also in support of the citizens of Johannesburg.

Expressing his pride that the City of Johannesburg is associated with the Regiments, Councillor Willie van der Schyf, said that Johannesburg has always had a close involvement with the military, which goes back to the Great South African Anglo Boer War. He continued that at that time British Regiments consisting of men of the Witwatersrand were raised to fight against the Boer Commandos and both sides had many black soldiers, both combatants and non-combatants.

In conclusion, he expressed sincere thanks to the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, for authorising, not only this parade but for the valued participation of the SANDF in the annual National Civic Remembrance Service for at least the past 50 years.

Councillor Van Der Schyf, said: “The SA National Defence Force, and especially our Reserves are very part of the fabric of the city and it is therefore most important that the citizens can see them on parade. The city is extremely proud to have all of you in its midst as dual citizens. Thank you for this magnificent combined Freedom of Entry Parade.”

ABOVE: Colour parties in the lead during the Freedom of Entry Parade.

ABOVE: Soldiers marching through the streets of Jabulani Mall in Soweto during the Freedom of Entry Parade granted to them.
Introducing the newly appointed Chief of Logistics

The newly appointed Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, was introduced to various internal and external stakeholders at a guest evening held at DOD Logistics Support Formation in Pretoria on 22 October 2011.

The occasion provided the Logistics Division with an opportunity to interact and strengthen relations with their most valued stakeholders. The Division took the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by their stakeholders in the quest to support them to deliver on its constitutional mandate. The Logistics Division values these relations as the foundation on which they can build a solid SA National Defence Force (SANDF) that is fully capable of defending the country’s territorial integrity and its people.

The newly appointed Chief of Logistics is convinced that by working together with all his stakeholders the Division will be able to meet whatever challenges it might face. Their collective efforts will ensure that it delivers quality service to the nation.

During his address Lt Gen Nkonyane thanked his colleagues, staff and friends he had been privileged to work with since his first appointment in the Department. He said: “Your support, commitment and dedication in serving our people gave me the strength and courage to face with confidence the challenges each day threw at us.”

He also expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Chief of the SANDF, various groups and the people of South Africa for showing confidence in him. His pledge to the people of South Africa is to continue to serve them to the best of his ability, with diligence and honour.

While he is humbled by the trust shown him by the Minister and the Chief of the SANDF he is fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead, including expectations to address matters of service delivery. However, he is optimistic that with the support of his staff, colleagues and various stakeholders he will be able to carry out his mandate as expected, and the experience he has gained over the years will carry him through.

Since joining the SANDF in 1998, Lt Gen Nkonyane has served the Logistics Division in various capacities, including that of Director Formation Staff, Acting General Officer Commanding (GOC) Logistics Support Formation, GOC Logistics Support Formation and Acting Chief of Logistics. These career challenges could not have occurred at a worse time of his life than when the left side of his body was partially paralysed owing to a motor vehicle accident in October 2003.

It is also inspiring to note that in spite of that tragedy, it was during this period, 2005 to 2008, that he enrolled with the University of South Africa (Unisa) and graduated with a Masters degree in Business Leadership.

Lt Gen Nkonyane, an accomplished scholar, holds a series of degrees. These include a B.Sc. degree in Statistics and Financial Accounting from the University of Toronto and a Masters degree in Business Leadership from Unisa.

Among his achievements was in bringing stability, focus and respect to the Logistics Division and rallying its resources to reduce the audit qualifications from a high of thirteen to the present one.
Meet the new **Director Defence Corporate Communication**

By Lufuno Netshiremba

With the transferring of Brig Gen Martha Visser to SA Air Force HQ, Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) has appointed Brig Gen Gilbert Mabanga as its new Director on 1 November 2011. The coming of the new Director signals the dawn of a new era that could bring renewed enthusiasm to achieving the aims and objectives of the Directorate. Talking to **SA Soldier**, Brig Gen Mabanga said he is on a quest to get Defence Corporate Communication to function with one objective, namely of being the guardian and builder of communication in the SANDF.

Brig Gen Mabanga is a firm believer in charity beginning at home and for this means that all the members of his directorate must work like a well-oiled machine to achieve its objectives. To achieve this ideal he wants the personnel under his guidance to have a thorough understanding of how different components and subsections of his directorate function in accomplishing the aims and objectives of Defence Corporate Communication (DCC). He wants the personnel to understand that their different cultures, traditions and religions, as this understanding expels negative and unfounded perceptions about individuals.

His vision as the custodian of DCC is to diligently serve the military and civilian components of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans. Brig Gen Mabanga is under no illusion as to the challenges that come with his new position. He fully understands that at this juncture in his position demands that he administratively report to the Chief of Corporate Staff (CCS) who is a SANDF uniformed member, and functionally to the Head of Communication (HOC) who is a civilian member of the Department. These two centres of authority can be confusing and overwhelming at times - a certain level of maturity and level-headedness, among other requirements, are absolutely important attributes that the Director of Defence Corporate Communication (DDCC) must possess. Brig Gen Mabanga said: “The approach to working effectively with the CCS and the HOC is to find synergy in these two centres of power. It's only when one has found this balance that one discovers that the CCS and the HOC do not work in competition, but work to complement each other on various levels.”

mission as the DDCC is to utilise the available technology to enhance the image and reputation of the Department. He is consciously aware of the pros and cons of technology usage in a military environment, and though he wants to embrace technology, he is cautious not to compromise the security of the Department and the Government.

Brig Gen Mabanga was born on 28 September 1968 in Vosloorus, Boksburg. He grew up in the Transkei, Eastern Cape, and reached adulthood in Tanzania.

In 1985 he joined the Pan African Congress of Azania and subsequently the Azanian People’s Liberation Operation (APLA). He left the country in 1987 to receive formal military training and he did his basic military training in Tanzania in 1988, a semi-commando course in Guinea in 1989, office and personnel management courses in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1990, the Officers’ Basic Course at Bombo Military Academy in Uganda in 1991 and the Company Commanders’ Course at the Zimbabwe Military Academy in 1994.

He was integrated into the SANDF in 1994 and received the rank of Major. He did the Bridging Training Course at 10 Anti-Aircraft School in Kimberley. He was then placed at Witwatersrand Command HQ in Johannesburg as SO2 CADET and has since then served the SANDF in different posts and units, such as SO2 Operational Control at the then Gauteng Command HQ, SO2 Operational Plan 43 Brigade HQ and Officer Instructor Junior Staff Course Branch at the SA Army Battle School (now the SA Army Combat Training Centre). In January 2001 he was appointed by the then Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, to represent the SA Army in Project PROFUSION. He was responsible for conducting research, and for designing and developing the curriculum of the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme to replace the single Service Senior Command and Staff Course. This culminated in the establishment of the South African National War College (SANWC) in January 2002.

From January 2002 to December 2004 he served as Director of Research and Development Branch. In 2006 he was appointed as the Chief Instructor. In 2007 he was nominated by the SA Army to be a Commander of the South African Defence Intelligence Division where he served as Senior Staff Officer Overt Collection until appointed as Officer Commanding South African Defence Intelligence College.

Highlights in Brig Gen Mabanga’s career include being a member of the core team of Directing Staff at then newly established South African National War College, a founding member of the African Peace Support Trainers Association, the Africa Chapter of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres, a member of the African Civil-military Co-operation Curriculum Design Team for African peacekeeping training institutions, part of Project RESTORE which led to the establishment of the Peace Mission Training Centre and a member of the lobby group that persuaded the United Nations to hold its United Nations Mission Leader Course in South Africa in 2005.

Asked what his source of inspiration was, he replied: “I am inspired by the words of Neil Eskelin, ‘Don't let minor setbacks cloud your vision of the future; be like Captain James Cook, the famous English explorer’. He faced monumental obstacles, but he kept sailing on. Said the Captain, ‘I had ambition not only to go farther than any man had ever been before, but as far as it was possible for a man to go.’”

Brig Gen Mabanga has the ambition not only to lead Defence Corporate Communication further than was reached by previous directors, but to take the Directorate as far as it can possibly go.
Infanteers launch the friendship/challenge coin

By Maj Merle Meyer, Communication Officer, SA Army Infantry Formation

The SA Army Infantry Formation HQ Officers’ Forum has launched a friendship/challenge coin at a function held at the School of Infantry in Oudtshoorn on 27 October 2011. This coin was sponsored by SAAB and presented to the outgoing General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation, Lt Gen Themba Nkabinde. Each of the Infantry unit Officers Commanding received a coin.

This coin originated during World War I when American volunteers formed the new flying squadrons. Most of these young volunteers were very wealthy and studying at Harvard and Yale. One of these young lieutenants had a medallion struck in solid bronze with the squadron’s emblem and presented it to all the members in his unit.

A fellow pilot placed his medallion in a small leather pouch, which he wore around his neck. This young pilot was shot down and forced to land behind enemy lines where the Germans captured him. They confiscated all his identification documents, but left the coin. He managed to escape and was caught by the French who thought he was a saboteur. He showed them his medallion and one of the Frenchmen recognised the squadron’s emblem, so he was released after being presented with a bottle of wine.

It then became a tradition for all soldiers to carry a coin and this became known as the challenge coin. There are certain rules for the coin check:

Hold your coin in the air and state/shout/scream that you are initiating a coin check or place your coin firmly on the bar counter, table or floor, thereby producing an audible noise. The response by the other persons present being challenged is to produce their coins in the same manner. If you are unable to respond, you must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and for the rest of the group being challenged who did produce their coins.

If all those being challenged respond by producing their coins, the challenger must buy a round of drinks for all the people he challenged. Failure to buy a round is a despicable crime and will require you to turn in your coin to the issuing authority.

If you accidentally drop your coin and it makes an audible sound on impact, then you have just “accidentally” initiated a coin check. At the time when a coin check challenge is called, you are permitted one step and an arm’s reach to locate your coin and if you still cannot reach it – sorry about that.

This is part of the Infantry’s effort to enhance esprit de corps among Infanteers, but watch out next time when you are in the presence of an Infanteer in a bar …

Col John Titus, Chairperson of the SA Army Infantry Formation HQ Officers’ Forum, and Lt Col Cobus Valentine, Officer Commanding of the Witwatersrand Rifles, presenting the history of the coin to Lt Gen Themba Nkabinde, the outgoing General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation.
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Deliberating the importance of armour in operations

By Kgabo Mashamaite

The deployment of light and medium armour in internal and external security operations was the theme of the third Armour Symposium which was held at the CSIR in Pretoria on 18 October 2011.

The main aim of the event, which coincided with the SA Army Armoured Formation’s 65th anniversary, was to exchange ideas to enable the Armoured Corps to realise its objective of outmanoeuvring, outfighting and outlasting the opponent and reclaiming the territory where the mission was being carried out.

Delivering his keynote address before the senior officers of the SA Army and other Services, including renowned military writers and analysts, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, the Chief of the SA Army, said that the one-day conference would help the SANDF to realise the Government’s active participation in a collective approach to solving Africa’s problems and to create a safe and stable environment for economic development and prosperity for all.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “South Africa’s military is a landward force in the main. Of this land capability an armoured capability forms an indispensable part of any army worth mentioning. Currently there are no South African armoured forces deployed in Africa, except for tank and armoured car crews in an infantry role deployed in Operation CORONA, which entails internal light or medium mechanised forces on current peace missions. These have been deployed for border safeguarding operations. Although the likelihood of deploying is for the time being not foreseen, doctrine is required for such an eventuality. It is for this reason that the SA Army will continue to debate and research matters in this regard, as was evident during the previous Seminars 21 and previous symposia of this nature.

Delivering his keynote address during the 2011 Armour Symposium held at the CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria on 18 October 2011.

ABOVE: Lt Gen Vusi Masondo delivering his keynote address during the 2011 Armour Symposium held at the CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria on 18 October 2011.

ABOVE: The Flame burns forever! as members of the SA Armoured Corps propose a diesel and dust toast to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the existence of the Armoured Corps.
“Many of the security problems or issues in sub-Saharan Africa are shared by neighboring countries. Challenges such as poverty, cross-border drug trafficking and illegal immigrants, refugees, and internally displaced people, acute debt crises, widespread disease, environmental degradation and proliferation of small arms require concerted and deliberate efforts to create and maintain peaceful co-existence in Africa and a better life for all. As a fully-fledged member of the international community, South Africa will fulfill its international obligations by participating in international peace support operations (PSO). PSO is a reality as South Africa is currently contributing forces to several countries all over Africa.”

The opening address by the Chief of the SA Army opened the floor to a flood of presentations by experts in various fields. They ranged from regional security threats and trends in armoured deployments to lessons learnt and experiences with light and medium armour in the African context, experiences with US light and medium armour, the technological solutions to armoured threats and preparation for the right EQP Armoured Corps lectures.

Among those to deliver papers on regional security threats to the Armoured Corps was Lt Col Deon Liebenberg, SO1 Functional Intelligence Land SANDF at Defence Intelligence Division. He said that the main threats to the corps in regional deployment were mines, various forms of improvised electronic devices, portable rocket launchers, missile systems, a variety of warheads, air attack (helicopter, unmanned aerial vehicles and fixed wing) and armoured cars, night vision equipment, sniper units, enough rations, water and a heavy engineering recce section. He warned that the operational terrain should be well studied and good driving techniques applied properly to suit the environment.

In his summary of the SA’s Armoured Corps the defence analyst, Mr Helmoed-Römer Heitman, said that it was important for the Armoured Corps to realise that armoured vehicles were used in different ways due to their protective mobility, and most of them could be used by task force members against criminal syndicates in places such as Colombia and Mexico.

The event was concluded by the lighting of a flame as a symbol and a toast of diesel and dust in accordance with the armour tradition of celebrating 65 years of existence.

Mr Mark Dutton receives a certificate of merit on behalf of his late father, Lt Gen JR Dutton, from Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuys, General Officer Commanding SA Army Armour Formation.
Preparation our youth for a nautical career

The motto “Honour and Skill” of the South African Sea Cadets is proudly displayed under their badge. These words embody the core values of the Corps, which are integrity, excellence and service, which are instilled in the Sea Cadets via their training and interaction with competent instructors. These three words embody the cardinal points of a Sea Cadet’s compass of life, and include honesty, morality, loyalty, responsibility, discipline, accountability, self-respect and obedience.

The Sea Cadets also teach the necessary knowledge and provide practical skills underwritten by accredited courses that are necessary for those who wish to follow a career at sea following their entry into the maritime industry.

The Sea Cadet movement in South Africa traces its origins back to the first South African training ship, located on Woodstock beach in Cape Town. The Woltemade was inaugurated on 8 June 1905. The movement spread throughout South Africa and currently there are 15 training ships, 9 of which are active. They develop those values and skills required to ensure that the maritime industry is provided with recruits who have a passion for the sea.

Who are the Sea Cadets?

The Sea Cadets are school-going boys and girls from Grade 6 to Grade 12 who enjoy having “serious fun” while learning leadership, self-discipline and maritime orientated skills.

The land based training ships located around the country provide a safe space with competent instructors in which training can take place. Training takes place on Fridays or Saturdays or Sundays depending on the training ship involved, with leadership camps scheduled during the school holidays. The highlight of the year is the annual camp hosted by the SA Navy in Simon’s Town.

Action centred learning allied to a practical outcome based competency assessment is the approach which the instructors follow. This ensures that Sea Cadets are not only skilled to do, but also to know why they do it and how to use available resources.

What do Sea Cadets learn?

Sea Cadets are taught practical skills...
and assessed on these, including seamanship, communications, engineering, catering, first aid*, survival at sea*, fire fighting* and restricted maritime radio*. (*Several of the courses are certified and accredited via national bodies that provide the Sea Cadets with the necessary certification towards their chosen careers.)

While undergoing training they also develop their leadership, team building and self-discipline skills under the watchful eye of experienced instructors.

Each training ship is staffed by competent volunteers, many of whom are themselves ex Sea Cadets or parents of Cadets, while others who have followed careers within the maritime industry or the SA Navy have the skills that are needed to be imparted practically.

Who supports the Sea Cadets?

The South African Sea Cadet Association is a Section 21 Company. Its Registration Number is: 2025/026649/08 and it is registered as a non-profit organisation (NPO, Public Benefit Organisation (including Section 18A status) 18/11/13/833, staffed by volunteers who have a passion for things nautical. They are supported by local communities, parents, the maritime industry and the SA Navy.

The maritime industry and the SA Navy also provide opportunities for Sea Cadets to experience life at sea.

Funding is raised via the Sea Cadets annual fees and camp fees as well as via bequests, pledges and donations.

Funding is required in order to support Sea Cadets whose families may not be in a position to fund their activities fully.

Should you wish to contribute either through funding or materially to the South African Sea Cadets please contact the National Treasurer, Mr E.W. Pritchard, on 082 396 3635 or at edpritchard@telkom.co.za or PO Box 7681, Newton Park, Port Elizabeth, 6055.

Anyone wishing to join or assist in Sea Cadet training should contact the Commanding Officer of the unit within their area for more details.

Training Ships of the SA Sea Cadets

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Training Ship</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>TS Woltemade</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Cdr P. Miller, 083 658 1666 <a href="mailto:fishtyra@iafrica.com">fishtyra@iafrica.com</a></td>
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<td>TS Immortelle</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>1916</td>
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<td>TS Springs</td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>Sub Lt V. Cooper 082 833 9421 <a href="mailto:tsssprings@vodamail.co.za">tsssprings@vodamail.co.za</a></td>
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<td>TS Tiburon</td>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Lt Cdr J. Young 083 680 6512 <a href="mailto:tisan@polka.co.za">tisan@polka.co.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TS iNyathi</td>
<td>East London</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>S Lt R. Heidtmann 078 157 2702 <a href="mailto:rheidtmann@gmail.com">rheidtmann@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TS Lanherne</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Lt Cdr G. Daniels 083 627 4696 <a href="mailto:lanherne@telkomsa.net">lanherne@telkomsa.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TS Bounty</td>
<td>Vereeniging</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Lt Cdr J. Smit 083-582-1616 <a href="mailto:bosun4447@mymailserver.co.za">bosun4447@mymailserver.co.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TS Arethusa</td>
<td>Hartbeespoort Dam</td>
<td>1955</td>
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<td>Mossel Bay</td>
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<td>TS Fearless</td>
<td>Centurion</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Lt Cdr N. Fray 082 415 4483 <a href="mailto:mwsaugh@mweb.co.za">mwsaugh@mweb.co.za</a></td>
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<td>TS Knysna</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Lt Cdr S. Eriksen 083 653 7060 <a href="mailto:seacadet@seanet.co.za">seacadet@seanet.co.za</a></td>
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<td>George</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS Kromme</td>
<td>St Francis Bay</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Maj Gen O. Holmes 082 480 0458 <a href="mailto:oholmes@telkomsa.net">oholmes@telkomsa.net</a></td>
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</table>
Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme

By Ms K. Swart, Assistant Director
PSAP ETD

The Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (PSAP ETD) Public Service Act Personnel: Education Training and Development presented the 9th DOD Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme to 29 members and employees on salary levels 8 to 12 at Logistic Support Formation in Pretoria from 7 to 11 November 2011.

As learners entered the training venue, it was evident that some were more excited than others. Those newly appointed to the DOD were looking forward to gaining knowledge and understanding of the core business of the DOD. Others, however, showed little enthusiasm as they did not understand why they had to attend an induction programme after 20 years of service in the DOD. However, both new and long-serving employees voiced their amazement at the level of information shared and its applicability to their levels of appointment.

Observing from the back of the class, was undoubtedly a huge contributory factor to the success of the programme. Learners indicated that the programme design was of a high standard and the strategic information shared was very informative, of the utmost importance and applicable to their working environments.

When asked to provide feedback on their experiences and the personal value of the programme, some learners responded as follows:

Mr N.E. Rakhadani has been working in the DOD for two months and has been appointed as a Deputy Director in the office of the Secretary for Defence. He commented as follows: “The programme was very informative and an eye-opener for a person like me, who joined the DOD on 1 September 2011. In spite of the massive amount of information to digest in five days, I now have an explicit birds-eye view of the DOD, its core mandate, main structures and how these are linked with another. I must say that I was astounded at the high level of competency, knowledge and expertise demonstrated by the various presenters, particularly when I consider that more than 90% of them were Colonels. You hardly find such a pool of people in other departments at Deputy Director level, as it is almost always at Director level and above. The co-ordinator, Ms K. Swart, also showed a high level of professionalism in terms of managing the proceedings so well and putting together all the presentations on a DVD for each attendee. Lastly, I would like to say thank you for affording me such an opportunity.”

Ms N. le Roux has 18 years of experience in the DOD and is a Chief Professional Nurse in the South African Military Health Service. Her comments were as follows: “At first I was negative about the programme because I wondered why I had to be orientated as I have been working in the DOD for 18 years. On Monday I actually wondered if I was supposed to be on the programme, because I am not in a supervisor post. However, as the lectures and the week progressed I found each and every one of them meaningful and I learned a lot about the SANDF and the work that was being done in the different Services and Divisions, some of which I did not even know existed. The co-ordinator and the people who presented the lectures are highly professional and I found that very often I wanted them to spend more time on certain subjects. I thoroughly enjoyed the programme and learned a great deal.”

Attendees of the 9th DOD Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme.
Course in Strategic Management

The course in strategic management was developed for individuals who have some form of management experience but have not yet been introduced to the field of strategic management and who will be involved in this field in the near future.

**Duration:** 6 months

**Teaching method:** Distance education

**The course consists of two modules:**
1. Strategic Planning (CSTR01L)
2. Strategy implementation and control (CSTR02M)

**Fees:** R1150 per module, payable in full on registration

**Registration requirements:** Senior certificate and at least three years working experience.

Registrations, with full amount paid will be accepted until 20 January 2012.

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Programme in Advanced Strategic Management

The programme in advanced strategic management was developed to address the need for a practical and integrated course in strategic management at an advanced level.

**Duration:** 12 months

**Teaching method:** Distance education

**The course consists of FOUR modules:**
1. Strategic intelligence and analysis
2. Strategic decision-making
3. Strategic change management
4. Strategic risk management

**Fees:** R1700 per module, payable in full on registration

**Registration requirements:** A previous qualification in Strategic Management (NQF level 6 or higher) and at least five years suitable business experience. Registrations, with full amount paid will be accepted until 20 January 2012.

Enquiries: For more information and registration forms
Sms your fax number or email address to 071 449 4261
Email: cstr@unisa.ac.za
Tel: 012 352 4383 / 4317 / 4087 / 012 429 2245
Fax: 086 692 2782

Enquiries: For more information and registration forms
Sms your fax number or email address to 081 346 1288
Email: ventep@unisa.ac.za
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The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki Moon, said: “Sport has become a world language, a common denominator that breaks down all the walls, all the barriers. It is a worldwide industry whose practices can have a widespread impact. Most of all, it is a powerful tool for progress and development.”

The 2011 SANDF Sports Merit Awards function was hosted by Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation to honour SANDF sportsmen and women who excelled in their respective sporting codes. The ceremony was held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 24 November 2011.

No country can expect to achieve and sustain success at the elite level without a strong base of participation in sport and recreation in the community, because that is where every champion has his beginnings.

Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo, the Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, said in his welcoming address that the ideals of a sporting and healthy nation should be our preoccupation and clarion call. He outlined the social impact of sport and recreation in contributing to inclusivity, equality, unification and improvement in quality of life, including physical, mental and moral well-being. Brig Gen Yekelo said: “Sport has a unique power to attract, mobilise and inspire. By its very nature, sport is about participation.”
Chief of the SA Army Recreational Day

By SA Army Corp Communication Research Team

Members of the SA Army Headquarters and SA Army formations celebrated spring in true spring style when they displayed their various sporting and culinary talents during the annual Chief of the SA Army Recreational Day held at SA Army College at Thaba Tshwane on 23 September 2011.

The aim of the event was to help SA Army members celebrate their diversity through sporting competitions and cooking. This was to be done in the spirit of Heritage Day, which was to be celebrated the following day.

During the event the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, urged all the SA Army members to take advantage of their fitness by participating in various sporting competitions. He said that sport was a tool to build unity, as it was a language understood universally by players from various nations.

The activities of the day included chess, volleyball and soccer competitions. The winners of the different sporting codes were presented with awards and certificates at the end of the day. The SA Army HQ team won the volleyball tournament, with the SA Artillery Formation team as runners-up, the SA Army Defence Artillery coming third. Judges of the potjiekos competition could not resist the mouth-watering dishes of the SA Army Training Formation which scooped the winning award. 43 SA Brigade HQ was the runner-up, with the SA Army Intelligence Formation in third place.

The main award certificate of the day was presented to SA Army Signals Formation for being the Most Organised Formation Overall.

Award winners

Fittest Soldier (Female): AB M. Scholtz (Naval Base Simon's Town)
Fittest Soldier (Male): CO Z.E. Mnatsaka (SA Army Gymnasium)
Fittest Soldier (Services/Divisions): SA Army
Fittest Soldier (Units/Formations): SA Army

SANDF Sporting Code of the Year: Cricket
SANDF Sport Administrator of the Year: Maj J.J. Wahl
SANDF Sportsperson of the Year: Midshipman G. du Toit (Judo)
SANDF Special Sport Administrator: S Sgt G. Julies

S Sgt Julies received a special award for being a true sporting ambassador for SANDF sport, for his role in developing rugby in the rural areas of South Africa, and for being instrumental in developing rugby among women. He is also instrumental in coaching rugby at schools in Thaba Tshwane and surrounding areas.

Commendation certificates were awarded to people that have proved to be friends of Defence Sport. Gold commendation certificates were awarded to members who distinguished themselves through positive and concrete contributions to sport in the DOD.

The Chief functionary, Lt Gen Themba Nkabinde, the Chief of Human Resources, in his keynote address said that sport was one of the most important cohesive factors in uniting the entire nation. He said that the beautiful game had become more than a sport.

Lt Gen Nkabinde said: “SANDF sportsmen and women are role models in the profession of arms, of athleticism and healthy lifestyles. Receiving recognition today should not result in your becoming complacent, instead it should encourage you to continue to scale new heights and to remain positive role models, not only for members of the SANDF, but also for society at large.”

In conclusion, he said that the SANDF drew inspiration from the National Sport and Recreation Indaba 2011 which focussed on setting in motion objectives and tactics to leap-frog sport and recreation into new realities and possibilities by increasing levels of participation.
The end-year function of the SA Army Foundation - Day at the Races - that was held at the Rand Club on 5 November 2011, included representatives of business and sponsors, who also celebrated the Foundation’s inception almost 55 years ago.

Apart from the five and a half decades of its existence the Foundation also celebrated its healthy balance sheet. It has grown from strength to strength, despite the economic challenges that dominated headlines this year and created an atmosphere of uncertainty in business.

Speaking about the Foundation to the well dressed delegates Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, SA Army Foundation General Manager, said his organisation was successful because it maintained three principles, namely the maintenance of the cohesion of the members, their morale, and by improving their lives.

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“Almost 45 000 SANDF members, including civilian members of the Department of Defence (DOD) continue to enjoy the best quality products and services such as funeral plans, life cover investments and other financial products on offer, as they are aware that their investments are in good hands. Currently we are in pursuit of almost 57 000 Military Veterans to come and take advantage of our products and to improve their lives and those of their dependants through excellent financial packages.

We offer our business partners an opportunity for growth as well, as we are a Broad Black Economic Empowerment body accredited with financial service provider credentials. We are a non-governmental organisation, but one overseen by the SA Army. This is a unique entity with an enviable record on the African continent. Our presence during one of the goodwill visits to deployed soldiers bears testimony to the fact that we really do strive to improve the lives of our soldiers doing duty abroad,” Maj Gen Mokoape said.

He added that the Board of Control of this entity had to congratulate and bid farewell to members due to promotion. Those members included Maj Gen Lungile Dlulane, Chairperson, transferred to DHQ as Deputy Chief Corporate Staff, Gen Solly Shoke, promoted to the Chief of the SANDF, Maj Gen Leslie Rudman, Deputy Chief of the SA Army, and MCWO Mothusi Kgaladi, who became the Warrant Officer of the SANDF.

Delivering his last address as Chairperson of the Board of Control, Maj Gen Dlulane thanked the organisation for making the lives of members easier.

Maj Gen Dlulane said: “Our members are grateful that wherever they go, they always get quality service due to our relationship with those institutions. I also would like to thank the Board of Control for taking care of peacekeeping members of the SANDF on behalf of the DOD and the SANDF.”

Meanwhile a lucky draw for a few best dressed couples was made and these fortunate couples snatched prizes, including a weekend away at holiday resorts affiliated to the SA Army Foundation.

**SA Army Foundation celebrates a milestone**

*By Kgabo Mashamaite*

*Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma*

**ABOVE: Some of the lucky best dressed couples who won prizes that included a weekend away at holiday resorts affiliated to the SA Army Foundation.**

**ABOVE: Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, General Manager of SA Army Foundation, outlining the Foundation’s achievements during 2011 to the guests at the organisation’s year-end function.**
Interaction in recreation activities

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

Members of the Defence Inspectorate Division, together with their civilian counterparts from Deloitte, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Morvest and Ngubane and Company participated in the social and competitive interaction in sport and recreation activities in the form of a potjiekos competition held at the South African Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria on 4 November 2011.

Interaction to inculcate a sense of unity, friendship and good relations within the audit environment carried the day in a spirit of goodwill and enjoyment as members dressed in colourful traditional attire. Participants kept themselves busy with braai fires and preparing traditional dishes. Banners with different themes were displayed and handouts from the South African tourism sector were provided.

Participation in the potjiekos competition by mixed teams comprising men and women was not about winning, but engaging in promoting team spirit.

The results for the day’s events were as follows:
Best pot: Directorate Performance Audit
Best sport: Inspectorate General SA Military Health Service
Best theme: Project Mounting

Ms Michelle Chabangu mentioned to SA Soldier that in the 2011 potjiekos competition they opted for socialising and forming bonds of friendship with the civilian audit organisations to show appreciation for their support. She added that the Defence Inspectorate Division continued to challenge its members to sustain the momentum generated by the phenomenally successful 2010 Soccer World Cup. Ms Chabangu said: “This was to encourage members to participate in fun and activities shared by all our demographic groups to showcase our culture, heritage and the South African lifestyle.”

ABOVE: Resource Manager (RM) team embracing culture as a key ingredient of the South African heritage.

ABOVE: Sport as a symbol of unity Lt Col Spook le Roux demonstrating a karate punch.

ABOVE: The Pirates were one of the attractions, and prepared seafood.
Matthew 2:17-18 "Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

In our minds the pain of suffering, injustice, and cruelty should not be associated with Christmas, the birth of Christ. The very thought of Christmas and enmity being companions is repulsive. Some believe that Christmas should lay aside differences and all should be at peace. Harmony and goodwill should be the order of the season.

The stark truth is that such is not the case and never has been. The tyrant Herod epitomised the evil of humankind for all generations. The cry heard in Ramah is the same cry that echoes in our own world today. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s carol: “I heard the Bells on Christmas Day” points to the human condition: And in despair I bowed my head. “There is no peace on earth,” I said. “For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

The Prince of Peace is a paradox in the world of anger, hatred, and malice. Christianity seems to float on a vast sea of mischief and mayhem. Yet the life and work of this baby has been the cornerstone of our lives. This baby has influenced even non-believers and provided immense improvements in the human condition. This helpless baby of Bethlehem has brought everlasting peace to innumerable segments of humankind.

The land into which Jesus was born was ruled by the infamous Herod the great. He was a despot who ruled by terror rather than by concern for his subjects. Life was cheap during his reign. In a fit of anger he murdered his favourite wife, Mariamne, and killed his two sons. It was this act that caused Augustus Caesar to say: "It is better to be Herod’s hog than his son."

Herod’s warped nature can be seen in the request he made at his death. At the age of seventy he went to his winter palace in Jericho and prepared to die. He had a number of distinguished citizens arrested on trumped-up charges. He ordered that at the moment of his death they should all be killed. He said he knew that no one would mourn his death, and he was determined that tears would flow at the time of his death.

The gift that was sent on that first Christmas demonstrated God’s fondness for contrasts. One might have expected a more audacious entrance into human history by God. Instead, God entered through a stable, barely five kilometres from the capital of Herod.

We still look to God to do the spectacular. We want him to open heaven and astound our enemies. We want him to dazzle the evil tyrants in our lives with his awesomeness and magnificent power. Instead, God persists in contrasts.

God offers calm in the midst of chaos. He contrasts the sword and terror of Herod with the peace and tranquility of the manger. The lesson for us here is that God works quietly to bring a lasting peace to humankind. This is not accomplished by bluster and spectacular political events. Our lives are filled with turmoil, but Christ works calmly with deliberate assurance to bring the peace that passes human understanding. Herod is gone, and all the Herods of our day will also pass into the pages of history. But the baby of Bethlehem lives today and will live forever. In that fact alone is a sweet peace that calms the soul of every believer.

The slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem was but one more proof of Herod’s treachery. When the Magi did not return with the location of the newborn King, Herod reacted as he always did-with callous cruelty. To protect his throne, he ordered the death of all boys in Bethlehem who were two years old or younger. Death filled the city of David, and sin is always the author of death. The mothers who lived to protect their children were ruthlessly cast aside. Just like the mothers in our towns and villages who helplessly watch their children being raped in their presence. Just like our mothers today who watch their children being behaved upon by HIV and AIDS, leaving behind orphans. In the midst of it all, Christmas remains Christmas. Jesus comes quietly in the midst of it all, comfort, console, heal and bring hope. Evil seemed to prevail, but God has made provision for the one who was to overcome death. It seems little comfort that Jesus was spared when so many others had to die. But the answer to that paradox is found in the governing hand of God in history. Those Jewish mothers would only have to experience a temporary sorrow. Far greater would be their grief if there was no salvation at all. God wanted to provide the peace that wipes away tears, suffering, anguish, and death. Death for man, woman, or child is made easier to face because God preserved the life of Jesus.

Death is the last enemy of humankind. It is Satan’s most vicious weapon. With death the Prince of Darkness hopes to swallow up all of humanity. As God defeated Herod at Bethlehem, so he can defeat death in our lifetime. As God provided for the escape of Jesus into Egypt, so he can provide for our escape now. Our world is afflicted with human cruelty. The abuse of power by Herod did not cease with his death. Humanity has continued to inflict injustice on the weaker elements of society.

The world seeks peace that would put an end to strife and conflict. Yet Jesus said that there would always be wars and rumours of wars. Such upheaval and turmoil will never come to an end in this life.

Nevertheless, God has not abandoned us. In the midst of human misery he still slips quietly into our lives to reassure us that hate will not prevail. He calms our fear—our fear of life and our fear of death.

By putting our faith in Jesus we receive the peace of God. We can know that whatever happens, God will save us.

Have a wonderful, blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
Families and military music followers, including local and foreign holidaymakers, gathered at the Castle of Good Hope in the evenings of 18 and 19 November 2011 to witness a scintillating performance at the Cape Town Military Sunset Concert, hosted by the Defence Reserve Office in the Western Cape.

The top-notch entertainment included some musical items provided by the SA Army Band of Cape Town, the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums, the Cape Town Highlanders Drums and Pipes, the Western Province Schools Marching Drill and Exhibition Association, St Joseph Worker Church Lads and Girls Brigade from Bishop Lavis, Marimba Dancers of the Likhwezi Arts Projects and the Wynberg Boys’ High School Senior Steel Band. These entertainers provided exciting and inspirational performances that showcased Cape Town schools and other youth and non-profit organisations in the greater Cape Town area.

The SA Army Band of Cape Town was the first act of the show and performed the Rock Fantasy. The SA Army Band of Cape Town comes to the event with a rich history, as it was the oldest Regular Force band, having been established in 1915. It trains bandsmen from surrounding areas.

To add the element of civilian performance to the occasion, the second act was performed by the Wynberg Boys’ High School Senior Steel Band which produced a magnificent and organised sound of drums and steel, to the applause of the audience. The group, consisting of Grade 10 learners, started playing together in 2009 and has been sharing their unique brand of music on provincial tours in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 and also at the Grahamstown Music Festival in 2009.

Fresh from their participation in the 2011 Berlin Tattoo, the Cape Town Highlanders Drums and Pipes, under the guidance of Maj Charles Canning, took to the podium to perform the march on set and the medley by the Berlin Tattoo. The Cape Town Highlanders Drums and Pipes who pride themselves on wearing the Gordon Tartan, had taken part in the famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the 2008 Basel Tattoo in Switzerland.

Spectators were later charmed by the energetic march and drill display of the Western Cape Schools Marching Drill and Exhibition Association, an organisation mainly comprising learners around the province. They executed every move like seasoned soldiers on the parade ground.

The objective of the Association in establishing the march and drill programme was to develop the learners into model citizens who could become positive role models and future leaders.

The St Joseph Worker Church Lads and Girls Brigade, a non-governmental organisation, established in 1952 to raise awareness of different social issues, took to the stage to perform as the worker brigade band. The band consists of people from all categories who are trained to play musical instruments to help them to advance their careers in music should they wish to.

The Likhwezi Arts Project and the Marimba Dancers provided an African cultural element to the event with their entertaining choreography, which wowed the audience, especially international guests visiting the province. The Likhwezi dancers consist of the youth from surrounding areas, such as Gugulethu, Nyanga and Khayelitsha. The aim is to take them off the streets and equip them with musical and dance skills.

The Western Cape Schools Marching Drill and Exhibition Association charmed the audience.

The closing acts of the concert included a performance by the SA Army Band of Cape Town, the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums, the Cape Town Highlanders Drums and Pipes. They performed the March On, Highland Cathedral and Amazing Grace to usher in the Christmas festivities. The curtain call was rendered by the performance of Auld Lang Syne and Scotland the Brave.

(Additional information supplied by Capt J. Manning from the Defence Reserves Office Western Cape)
SONG FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Competition

THIS IS AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (DOD) FOR WORDS THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO: “A SONG FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE”

• THE WORDS FOR THE SONG SHOULD FOCUS ON THE STRENGTHS OF OUR SOLDIERS.
• MUST BE MORALLY UPLIFTING.
• MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK DONE BY OUR SOLDIERS.
• MUST REFLECT PRIDE OF THE NATION.

• MUST BE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE DOD.
• THE LYRICS SHOULD FLOW IN SHORT AND EASY VERSES.
• YOUR WORDS COULD BE USED TO FORM PART OR WHOLE VERSES OF THE SONG.

ONCE THE WORDS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED THE SANDF MUSICIANS WILL BE TASKED TO PUT IT TO MUSIC.

All contributions can be sent to SA Soldier email address: sasoldier@mil.za
Enquiries - Contact: Mrs Jenny Render email: pegrobler@mil.za

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AMAZING CONTRIBUTIONS!