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Showcasing the firepower of our artillery

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FRONT COVER: Maj Quintus Eksteen, Best Player of the Tournament, playing his heart out during his final cricket championships. Read all about the SANDF Cricket Championships on pages 38 to 39. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

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FRONT COVER: Maj Quintus Eksteen, Best Player of the Tournament, playing his heart out during his final cricket championships. Read all about the SANDF Cricket Championships on pages 38 to 39. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)
from the editor’s desk

As SA Soldier is celebrating 10 years of journalistic excellence this year, the editorial team celebrated the birthday of SA Soldier with a dinner at Stone Cradle restaurant near Rietvlei Dam in Pretoria on 30 September 2011. It was the social event on the calendar of Defence Corporate Communication since the dawn of democracy. Read all about the festivities on pages 17 to 19.

We want to thank all the sponsors for making this a night to remember. A Big Thank You to: Sanlam, Metropolitan Life, Shereno Printers, CSIR, Reutech, Strategic Defence Systems, Grintek, the SA Army Foundation, BAE Systems and Liberty.

We wish we could have invited you, our loyal readers, as well. However, I would like to thank sincerely all our readers, regular contributors, Editorial teams, Editorial Boards, sponsors and advertisers down the years for your support and commitment.

Remember, SA Soldier is your magazine and therefore your comments will always be welcome.

May SA Soldier keep on enlightening and empowering our readers for many decades to come!

It is also time to bid farewell to our previous Director of Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Marthie Visser, who was appointed as Director Corporate Staff Services at the SA Air Force. We wish her all the best in her new position. At the same time we welcome our new Director, Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, to Defence Corporate Communication. General, we will endeavour to run faster than King Shaka’s impi’s … (Next month we will publish an in-depth interview with the new Director of Defence Corporate Communication.)

Viva SA Soldier Viva!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

From the editor’s desk - November 2011

Brig Gen Visser heads for the SA Air Force HQ

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

After more than two years as Director of Defence Corporate Communication (DCC), Brig Gen Marthie Visser was transferred on 1 November 2011 to the SA Air Force Headquarters as Director Corporate Staff Services.

Brig Gen Visser has given the Directorate a shape and the ability to operate effectively. To this end she gave her full support to the Corporate Communication Restructuring Task Team whose aim is to transform Corporate Communication and to formulate guidelines, policies and doctrine.

She holds a BA in Political Science and Communications at Unisa, a Professional Certificate in Government Communication and Marketing from Witwatersrand Business School in conjunction with Government Communications and Information System (GCIS). She also completed the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) at the SA National Defence College, followed by the Public Relations Practice and Management Course with the Public Relations Institute of South Africa (PRISA).

Welcome to our new Director

Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga has been appointed as the new Director of Defence Corporate Communication as from 1 November 2011. He was previously the Officer Commanding of the South African Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria.

(Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)
The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an international campaign. It takes place every year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). In 2011 the world is commemorating this campaign with the theme: “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence”.

The global campaign focuses on violence against women only, but since 1999 the South African Government has added children to its campaign in view of the fact that children too are vulnerable to different kinds of abuse in our society.

Furthermore, while the campaign runs for only 16 days each year, its objectives are reinforced by a year-long 365 days programme and a national plan to combat abuse. This has seen a number of government departments intensifying their efforts during the entire year to support the campaign and the Department of Defence (DOD) continues to participate by spreading the word.

By taking part in this campaign, the DOD has earned the status of being a credible partner in fighting this scourge, e.g. in 2006 it hosted the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Women’s Peace Table Conference, which included countries such as Tanzania, Swaziland, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique. The main objective of the conference was to empower women in the various defence forces and civilian women in the prevention of violence against women and children. The conference saw women in defence leading the discussion in search of sustainable interventions to eliminating women and child abuse in our societies.

To further intensify the fight against this social ill, the DOD participated in the Security Sector parade through the Transformation Management Division in 2008. It was led by male officers from the SA Police Service (SAPS), Tshwane Metro, and the SANDF. The highlight of the commemoration was having men from the security sector pledge their support for the campaign, which deepened the drive for a collective effort in the fight to change the mindset that thinks that speaking against abuse should be led by women.

Having a male buy-in in this campaign has amplified the DOD’s voice in dealing with this social challenge. This was evident in 2009 when men took a leading role in raising awareness among themselves to foster the will to prevent this evil and positively influence each other in this matter. Accordingly the DOD used the commemoration as an opportunity to remind South African society that not all men were abusive and sexist in their behaviour and attitudes.

The territory of the military environment unfortunately comes with a certain culture of violence which, if not controlled, can easily spill over to affect women in the military. The theme for the 2010 commemoration could not have been more appropriate, namely: “Structures of Violence: Defining the intersections of Militarism and Violence against Women”. To further emphasise the message against women and child abuse, a march consisting of members across Services was organised.

To take this fight to another level, this year’s event has the theme: “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence”. The DOD will join the global community in speaking with one voice against women and child abuse. A workshop has been organised in collaboration with members of the Security Cluster, which will include the SANDF, SAPS and the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO), to find more creative ways of addressing this challenge. The focus for the workshop will be largely on raising awareness beyond the borders of SA among our members on external deployment and will cut across all rank levels.

For this year’s commemoration there are five sub-themes:
- Bringing together women, peace, and human rights movements to challenge militarism
- Proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence
- Sexual violence in and after conflict
- Political violence against women, including pre/during/post-election violence
- Sexual and gender based violence committed by the police and armed forces

The Government, civil society organisations and the business sector will work together to broaden the impact of the campaign. By supporting this campaign, thousands of South Africans have also helped to increase awareness of abuse and have built support for victims and survivors of abuse.

This campaign actively supports the priorities of Government to empower women, in particular rural women grappling with the challenges of unemployment and poverty; and to protect the rights of the child.

The DOD is firmly committed to leading a co-ordinated effort to sustain the campaign into the next decade. Fight women and child abuse; do not look away!
OLD FAITHFUL IN EAST LONDON

In East London you will find a 1990 Beige Opel Monza being proudly driven by the Officer Commanding of the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles (BVR), Lt Col Malcolm Cock.

This car has been in the unit since the late nineties and is very well looked after by all the members. It has travelled 196 400 km. This vehicle is the long distance car of the unit and is used mostly by the Officer Commanding. If any other member has to drive the car, it is done under the watchful eye of Cpl Craig Birkholtz, the Transport Non-commissioned Officer.

This car is also fondly named “Frobenonia” due to an incident which took place on the way to Port Elizabeth when Maj “Frobie” Frohbus, the unit Second-in-Command, was driving and he had to make a very quick stop. The three BVR passengers have never been the same again! But here again old Frobenonia showed what steel she was made of and came to an abrupt standstill to the amazement of the drivers and passengers of the other cars at the intersection.

Incidentally, all D Vehicles of the BVR that have covered 500 000 kilometres (two Toyota Corollas) are kept roadworthy and trustworthy under the watchful eye of Maj Frohbus.

Although Frobenonia is looking a little tatty from coastal rust, she will be resprayed in the new financial year and be given new “panties”, i.e. the two front seats will be re-upholstered. The driver’s front seat support is now old and not very reliable and the adjustment has been welded many times, so when you see the driver leaning back he is not in sleep mode or racing driver position, but merely relaxing and setting sail for the next destination. Oh yes! Do not try and steal Frobenonia because it will be difficult. Because an ignition switch is nearly the cost of the old beauty, Maj Frohbus pulled a typical Reserve trick, and fitted a R26-95 press button switch under the dashboard to “fire her up”. There are many other exiting features and stories around the “old b”, too numerous to mention.

This car is a very good lesson to all of us of what can be achieved if we look after our vehicles and equipment and it is as the motto of the unit, Nunc Animis, says: “Now with Courage” or is it a matter of driving with courage.

You need more than courage when driving with Maj Frobie. Maj Merle Meyer, Pretoria

Maj Merle Meyer, Pretoria

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LT COL TUTSHANA

Lt Col Zakhile Elliot Tutshana died of a stroke on Tuesday 13 September 2011 at the age of 54 years. He was buried on Saturday 24 September 2011 at 10:00 in Mthatha with full military honours.

Brig Gen Debbie Molefe, Director of the Defence Reserve Division, and other Senior Officers from Pretoria were also present to pay their last respects. At the time of his death, Lt Col Tutshana was working at the Defence Reserve Provincial Office Eastern Cape in Port Elizabeth where he had served since August 2009 until his passing. Whenever it was possible for him he enjoyed visiting his family in Mthatha.

His military career began in 1980 when he joined the then Transkei Defence Force. After completing an Officer’s Cadet course, he was appointed Platoon Commander with A Company and after the successful completion of subsequent courses was promoted to the rank of Captain. He was then transferred to 1 Mounted Battalion as Company Second in Command. Lt Col Tutshana did a Company Commander’s course in Taiwan from February to July 1990 and was promoted to the rank of Major. He later completed his Junior Staff Course in March 1993 in

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

I love your magazine. The reason is that I have a teacher by the name of Mr Nhlapo and we read every issue of SA Soldier magazine - each volume. Now I am interested in the work of our soldiers, I wish I could join you one day. Mohau Matsela, Kroonstad, Bodibeng High School

* It is good to know that you and your classmates enjoy our magazine. I forwarded your letter to the DOD Information Centre to provide you with the necessary application forms and contact details for future reference. – Ed.

WARRANT OFFICER

CWO Lwana wrote a good article that was published in the July 2011 edition of SA Soldier, but I would like to say this. In the book "Once We Were Soldiers and Young", when the new officer commanding with his regimental sergeant major (RSM) meet the officers for the first time he says: "This is my RSM and when he speaks he speaks for me and works for nobody else". That is what should happen at all levels of a warrant officer. He is also the person in charge of routine in a unit and he has to ensure that the men are trained correctly. A unit can be run without young officers, but not without a warrant officer and senior non-commissioned officers. J Boulter, Oslo Beach, KZN

Zimbabwe, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was then appointed as Officer Commanding of 1 Mounted Battalion. In 1993 he played a major role in the preparatory work for the integration of the various military forces. In 1995 he was transferred to 14 SA Infantry Battalion in Umtata as Commanding Officer. In 1998 he made a major contribution when he took the lead in putting Umtata Commando on the map. He has served as Commander until the complete closure of all commando units.

His passing will leave a huge void and he will be remembered with reverence for his diligent work, his enthusiasm and determination. He was a great example to all in the way he treated his subordinates and how he and fellow colleagues worked together. He will be remembered as the Lieutenant Colonel with the broad and welcoming smile.

He leaves his wife, Pumla, and four children behind. WO1 Leonie Kapp, email

7 SAI BN CELEBRATES HERITAGE DAY

7 SA Infantry Battalion (7 SAI Bn) celebrated Heritage Day in the unit hall on 23 September 2011. Activities included history of different cultures, displaying of cultural items, settings and dress codes, including cultural dances and lifestyles. The second session was conducted at the unit rest camp with traditional food and drinks prepared by members of the unit. The day was a huge success.

7 SAI Bn women were also visited by Miss Limpopo, Kholofelo Modiba, Miss Polokwane, Emerald Mithi and the Ba-Phalaborwa Radio Station Manager, Sello Lepedi. The aim of the visit was to motivate women of the unit and also to encourage them to participate in the tourism month games, which will take place at Phalaborwa in Namakgale. The visit was organised by 5 Special Force Regiment members, namely Capt Xaba, Capt Sketane, RSM Sebothoma of 524 Signal Regiment and S Sgt Lepholetsa. The women of the unit enjoyed the visit. Pte M.J. Kekana, email

HERITAGE SYMBOLISES OUTSTANDING VALUE FOR HUMANITY

September is Heritage Month on which all South Africans across the spectrum are encouraged to celebrate their diversity and rich cultural heritage. Various events are staged throughout South Africa to commemorate the many cultures that make up the rainbow nation. The personnel of the Armscor Sickbay at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria celebrated Heritage Day in style on 23 September 2011. They were dressed in colourful traditional attire and prepared traditional dishes. Sister Vuyelwa Makalima, the Nursing Officer, said proudly that they celebrated Heritage Day to appreciate the multitude of cultures that portray the diversity of our people, what we have inherited and what we are collectively as South Africans.

She added that as South Africans we should use Heritage Month to pay homage to the rich legacies that have been handed down to our current generations and that will be handed on to future generations. Sister Makalima said: “Heritage ranges from our unique characteristics, nature conservation and heritage sites that symbolises outstanding value to our humanity.” Cpl Ally Rakoma, Pretoria
FIRST ALPHA FOR FORCES COURSE IN THE SANDF

On 1 August 2011 the Air Force Base Durban made history by hosting the very first ever Alpha For Forces (A4F) training course under the leadership of WO1 Michele Bezuidenhout (Directorate Labour Service Relations), with Cpl Vuyo Malinda (AFB Durban) and Cpl Lucian de Wee (AFB Durban) assisting her. There was an atmosphere of expectancy and nervousness because of the unknown, however, God being true to His awesome nature never disappoints and the first evening’s training was a roaring success.

The second training session was equally successful even though it fell on a long weekend. As with the first evening, the participants desired to continue discussion of the topic and not end the session. This enthusiasm is witness to the need for such training within the SANDF, which is an opportunity to interact in a relaxed atmosphere and discuss issues of God’s love and desire to be part of everyone’s life and to have a meaningful relationship with all.

Feedback from the ground was that participants returned to their rooms and places of work and shared with their friends what had transpired. They said things like “you should have been there”. Sadly the A4F course was full house and everyone wanting to “seek and find” will have to wait for the next training in 2012. At the end of the course the feedback received was awesome, seeing how God had worked in the lives of each and every one of us on the course from myself to across the board. All thirteen of us had our minds stretched and never to be the same again. The most powerful testimony was how personal relationships with God had intensified and developed, as well as relationships with the other course-goers, how these had developed and now we all had new best buddies rather than work acquaintances. The Scripture that came to mind after all had shared their experiences and testimonies, was Matthew 22: 37 – 39. That was what the A4F course had done for us all.

God’s power did not stop there! I was honoured to have Lt Yombi from the Congo on the course as well. All glory to God, as this course will now travel all the way to the Congo, where Lt Yombi has expressed his desire to introduce it into the Armed Forces there. Wow, we serve an awesome God! I can only encourage all those Chaplains and South African Military Christian Fellowship members who attended the A4F training in Saldanha Bay and Potchefstroom to take up the challenge and present courses in your regions. Also for SAMCF members who have spiritual questions, doubts or whatever, to look to do an A4F course when this training becomes available in your region – join up, you cannot go wrong and you will never regret it. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Col Kitley and Chaplain Ras from AFB Durban for their support and assistance in allowing this course to launch.

May God’s richest blessings be your portion. “You Rest, You Rust - Go and Grow”. WO1 M. Bezuidenhout

CELEBRATING CASUAL DAY

The Department of Defence DOD celebrated Casual Day in support of people with disabilities at the Thaba Tshwane Military Sport Grounds on 2 September 2011.

There was a lot going on, people were participating in different activities such as wheelchair racing, dancing and “an idols competition” and playing chess.

People were very active and supportive of this day and even Colonels and Majors of the SA National Defence Force were participating in the activities, one of whom was Maj Esmari van Nierkerk from Defence Corporate Communication who sang a few songs.

When Mr Brian Emennis from Capital Sounds sang, his performance was so good that Maj Antheolene Smith from Defence Corporate Communication could not help herself, but be on the dance floor, and showed us how to move.

It was beautiful, people were all out supporting this day, wearing according to the theme of Casual Day, which was “Worn to be Wild”, and their outfits were out of this world.

There were many prizes up for grabs for participating in any of the competitions. The best idol and runner-up won a piano and a guitar from Yamaha respectively. Thandeka Cele, Pretoria

Wheelchair racing. (Photo: WO2 David Nomtshongwana)
EDUCATION IS KEY

Three DOD visually impaired members graduated from the SA National Council for the Blind on 30 June 2011. S Sgt Gilbert Koko, Sgt Nico Ledwaba and Ms Thozama Bokwana received awards for their hard work to complete a six-month long computer course at the Optima College in Brooklyn that will enable them to do their job more efficiently in this fast growing world of technology.

The social development manager and course co-ordinator, Ms Lucy Mphaphuli, gave words of encouragement to the graduates, saying: “With this skill that you have acquired at the college go back to your offices and contribute positively to the national economy growth of our country”. S Sgt Koko has proved that education is key despite his health condition he still gave his full concentration to the course and did not let his health circumstances get him down. He was scheduled for a brain operation during the course, but his determination and zeal to further improve his qualification kept him strong to the end of the course. He thanked everyone who supported him and concluded: “Luck is not random, but attracted to those who work hard”.

Bibi Sibanyoni, Pretoria

S Sgt Gilbert Koko with his computer literacy certificate. (Photo: Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela)

17 SQUADRON REACHES OUT TO CHILDREN

A group of about 400 children from schools, orphanages and day care centres in and around Pretoria and surrounding areas visited 17 Squadron at AFB Swartkop on 19 August 2011 as part of its community outreach and social investment programme. Some of the children do not have parents while others suffer from epilepsy and cancer.

The children from Kids Care Centre in Cullinan, Betang Puelo Home in KwaMhlanga, Pretoria School for the Disabled and Via Nova Special School for the Mentally Retarded and Epileptics were treated with an Oryx helicopter flight, after which they were spoilt with snacks, refreshments, food parcels and other gifts that put big smiles on their faces.

Members of the media and sponsors of the event were flown by an Oryx helicopter commanded by Maj Heinrich Holtzhausen and his co-pilot, Lt Reagan Pillay, and Flight Engineer, WO2 Willie Ludick, for a courtesy visit to the Pretoria School for the Disabled. The children with disabilities waited patiently for the group to arrive and enjoyed every minute of the visit. The helicopter flight was the highlight of the day. Back at the airbase, the Squadron provided entertainment with a jumping castle, an Oros man and a Simba character to the delight of the young ones.

Maj Heinrich Holtzhausen, the Oryx helicopter Commander, helping a learner from the Pretoria School for the Disabled to reach for her dream to fly. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)
The Official Opening of Mama Jeanne Orphanage

E
er heard of the saying: “One will enhance one’s life by finding a way to serve others. Whether one volunteers at an orphanage or joins a charitable committee, serving others in some small way will make one feel alive and fulfilled.”

Well, that’s exactly what 4 SA Infantry Battalion (4 SAI Bn), the RSA Battalion presently deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (Monusco) under the leadership of Lt Col W.L. Madikoto has done. Boy oh boy! What a feeling!

Ever since the Unit identified and then decided to adopt Mama Jeanne Orphanage as a way of contributing to the betterment of the Congolese people and the people of Goma, in particular, it has been a revelation to me of the number of obstacles the human spirit can overcome in order to triumph in any of a human being’s endeavours. (Note: Mama Jeanne Orphanage was once screened on South African TV on the In Your Defence programme and was filmed in the DRC).

The orphanage is now renovated and boasts new doors, windows and a roof. I bet my $10 sustainment allowance that the Tsalena crew that filmed the In Your Defence programme will not recognise the orphanage today. This is similar to what US President Obama did during his campaign to the White House: one dollar here, two dollars there. These dollars were coming from ordinary RSA Battalion members who understood that as long as the world remained greedy for power instead of being greedy for love, the world would know no peace.

In Africa it is often said that “motho ke motho ka batho”. That literally means that one becomes a king/queen because of one’s subjects. Now for sure you will all agree with me when I say it is time for us all to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognises the challenge and does something about it.

The official opening of Mama Jeanne Orphanage took place on 9 November 2011. What a beautiful and emotional day it turned out to be! The saddest part came when it was time for the South Africans to bid the kids farewell for good as it was the end of deployment for 4 SAI Bn in the DRC. “Munaenda Suda?” (meaning: are you going back to South Africa?) asked Rebecca, a young boy nicknamed Kgothatso, by the South Africans. “Ndiyo,” Capt H.C. Denation, the outgoing RSA OPS Battalion social worker, replied. “Hamuta rudia?” (Are you not coming back?) Kgothatso continued. “Ndiyo,” Capt Denation replied. And then the floodgates were opened. It became really tough. Forget about “tigers don’t cry” stories. Our weakest point was not to have brought enough tissue paper to wipe away all the tears …

Credit should go to all the members of 4 SAI Bn who were deployed under OPS MISTRAL XVII for making this a success, in particular the Charity Committee members. To you we say “merci” (French for thank you). Lt M.E. Semono, email

Members of 15 SAI Bn with the children and personnel of Mama Jeanne Orphanage with some donated goods. The orphanage has now been renovated. Notice the new doors, windows and roof.
(Photograph by Lt V.A. Minnie)
Two Southern African Development Community (SADC) Election Observer Teams under the leadership of Maj Gen (Ret) Bakwena Oitsile (Botswana) and the High Commissioner of Namibia, Commissioner Ben Shikongo, paid a brief visit to the RSA Operational Battalion deployed in Goma at Munigi Base in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on 19 November 2011.

The National Contingent Commander, Col R.A. Makgae, heartily welcomed the high-profile guests and gave an overview of the current situation in North Kivu. The RSA Operational Battalion Commander, Lt Col M. Dyakopu (Officer Commanding 8 SA Infantry Battalion (Mechanised)) gave a presentation on the Force deployments, the current situation in his area of responsibility, incidents that occurred and the security situation in general. The Information Officers of the RSA Contingent highlighted aspects relating to armed groupings, political parties, coalitions and human rights violations reported by the communities where the RSA Company Operating Bases and Temporarily Operating Bases are situated.

Maj Gen (Ret) Oitsile and Commissioner Shikongo were impressed with the presentation and commended the RSA Forces deployed for the remarkable work done. Their concerns with regard to security were laid to rest.

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The RSA and Botswana Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security has the aim of identifying areas of co-operation and establishing channels for the exchange of information in the fields of defence and security.
RSA and Russia deepen their strategic partnership

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

South Africa hosted the 5th meeting of the RSA and Russian Federation Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Military Technical Co-operation (JICMTC) in Pretoria from 4 to 7 October 2011. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen the existing relationship between the two countries and to identify several defence industrial co-operation projects and aspects of military to military co-operation.

This commission was established on 17 September 2002 at the level of the South African Secretary for Defence and Director of the Russian Federal Service for Military–Technical Co-operation. To date four meetings have been held, the last one hosted by the Russian Government in Moscow in November 2010.

As strategic partners the Joint Intergovernmental Commission explores avenues and solutions in the quest for security and economic stability to give effect to the vision of the principals as reflected in the bilateral agreements that were signed as far back as 1995. This Joint Commission creates a suitable platform for the respective defence industries and armed forces to share information in various fields of mutual interest and to exchange ideas and proposals to optimise strategic capabilities and expertise.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the meeting, the then Secretary for Defence, Ms Mpumi Mpofu, emphasised the importance of the overall strategic partnership between South Africa and the Russian Federation. She said that South Africa was indeed honoured to be a member of these prestigious economic groupings that took ownership of future economic growth and social development of the people of the two countries. She added that South Africa and Russia shared common values and approaches to the challenges of global security.

During the meeting various matters were discussed, including matters of common interest in the field of military education, training and development, exchanges of military observers and instructors during combined exercises, force preparation exercises and the exchange of expertise.

In their closing remarks both the Chairperson and Co-chairperson agreed that the meeting was a success and they hoped for the implementation of decisions taken during these deliberations.
Peace, security and confidence-building on the African continent are promoted through constructive dialogue aimed at nurturing sound defence relations.

The Chief of the Ghanaian Defence Staff, Lt Gen Augustine Blay, accompanied by his delegation visited South Africa as a guest of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, over the period 9 to 14 October 2011.

The aim of the visit was to strengthen and enhance the already good relations between the two armed forces. A welcoming parade was held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 10 October 2011. The visit also included a courtesy call, a briefing on the SANDF and related matters and visits to military installations to obtain a better idea of the capabilities of the SANDF.

In welcoming his Ghanaian visitors the Chief of the SANDF mentioned that in the light of the developments that have been taking place in Africa, defence forces needed to be role-models in nation building and maintaining a strong commitment to regional integration. They exchanged views on issues related to stability challenges, maritime crime, e.g. piracy, which have been attracting much international attention.

Lt Gen Blay said in response that he wished to reiterate his desire to further strengthen relations and co-operation between South Africa and Ghana. He pointed out that the exchange of expertise and information would also serve as a fact-finding mission to achieve a holistic understanding of the SANDF.

State visits have been found to be a useful mechanism to evaluate the state of bilateral relations between countries. Forming alliances with other African countries added to South Africa’s own security and that of the other member states. This enhanced peace and stability in the region and created an environment conducive to growth and prosperity.

UPHOLD CLOSE DEFENCE RELATIONS  Sitting, fltr: Lt Gen Augustine Blay, the Chief of Ghanaian Defence Staff, and Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, with senior RSA and Ghanaian delegates.
Focus on safeguarding of airspace

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The current state of countries’ porous borders has compelled them to react to safeguard their territories, which in some instances may be virtually impossible to cover entirely. Citizens have been left at the mercy of terrorists, pirates, human traffickers, wildlife poachers, illegal immigrants, narcotics and arms smugglers, syndicates and organised crime.

South Africa, perceived to be Africa’s economic hub in the 21st century, has been viewed as a target for lucrative economic exchanges and illegal dealings. Operation CORONA, which is under way, has been a resounding success with reports of apprehended poachers and contraband seized from smugglers.

The South African Joint Air Defence Symposium (SAJADS), held at the CSIR in Pretoria on 27 and 28 September 2011, sought to exert more pressure on illegal activities on the borders and to improve on the success that was achieved during Operation KGWELE. About 20 candidates presented their papers at the symposium in an attempt to find solutions to managing and maintaining effective border control.

The aim of SAJADS is to provide a forum where members of the Air Defence fraternity have the opportunity to exchange information and ideas on requirements, technology and solutions, both on a formal and an informal basis. The theme of SAJADS 2011 is “South African Joint Air Defence: Air Border Safeguarding” which is in keeping with the South African Government’s strategic objectives and priorities to provide support to the people of South Africa.

The theme necessitates a new look at the nature of operations envisaged, as the focus is shifting from defence against aggression towards operations other than war. Systems must be employed with careful consideration of the operational and physical environment, and threats involving operations other than war.

It also strives for integration with other government departments to include concepts of joint, interagency, interdepartmental and multinational operations. The safety and effectiveness of joint air defence systems in a joint operations environment is to be ensured by employing the Interoperability Development Environment Facility to verify and validate the system-of-systems interoperability doctrine.

Lt Cdr Christoff Theunissen was one of the candidates to present a paper. It was entitled “Air Border Safeguarding: Taking Back The Initiative”, the aim of which was to raise awareness regarding South African border safeguarding, with specific focus on the safeguarding of South Africa’s airspace. He mentioned that conventional, symmetric threats had shifted towards more unconventional and asymmetric threats. Radical political and religious groups, organised crime syndicates and other non-governmental groups now threaten state security by cross-border crime more than the conventional threat posed by other states.

Lt Cdr Theunissen conceded that lessons learnt in Operation KGWELE could be integrated into Operation CORONA. This would reinforce the experience gained from Operation KGWELE and standard operating procedures could be refined and adjusted into feasible long-term solutions to safeguarding and controlling airspace.

The long-term success of safeguarding airspace depends on factors such as time, which will determine the period of deployment, while the effective control of airspace also requires more permanent sector control centres. South Africa has a land border of 4 471 km, a coastline of 2 798 km and an air border of 7 66 km. Widespread sector control centres will be required for effective control of airspace around South Africa’s borders. The SA Air Force can provide Gripen and Hawk squadrons for standing air patrols, interceptions and force-downs, while

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Safeguarding: Taking Back The Initiative, the aim of which was to raise awareness regarding South African border safeguarding, with specific focus on the safeguarding of South Africa’s airspace.
the ability to detect threats early and to respond to incursions at South Africa’s long borders. An integrated system of ground based and airborne surveillance radars is required to reinforce the current radar systems in use by the SA Air Force and the Air Traffic and Navigation Service.

Lt Cdr Theunissen said that through international co-operation, South Africa was in a position to assist states at various stages of economic and political development and stability in order to achieve a better border control, which would result in the ability to combat and prevent trans-border crime, and also encourage regional trade in goods and services.

Operation KGWELE proved that the securing of South Africa’s airspace was achievable. Airspace control measures such as vetting protocols and security screening codes for pilots and flight authorisation codes proved very effective. Six sector control centres were successful in controlling the airspace over the soccer match venues last year. Integrating the successes and lessons learnt in Operation KGWELE into Operation CORONA will pave the way for long-term airspace control.

Co-operation in defence and military diplomacy

The India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Defence Work Group was held in Pretoria on 11 and 12 October 2011. This work group served as another building block in the process of strengthening the friendship, common interest and military-to-military co-operation between the three defence forces.

The meeting between the three allies also provided an opportunity to look at the world situation, particularly the issue of peace and stability on the continent and in the region. Peace, stability, the possibility of expanding knowledge, exchanging training, technical and medical skills, joint military co-operation and joint exercises were touched on by the three countries in their discussions.

Joint efforts towards a common cause and shared goals that would help in realising democracy and good governance were also discussed. The three countries emphasised that the terms of reference of the IBSA Defence Work Group paved the way for co-operation in defence relations and military diplomacy to deal with a number of significant areas of mutual benefit.
SA Soldier reaches 10 year milestone

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: S Sgt Leonard Xaba

SA Soldier was introduced to you, the reader, in May 2001 as the official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence. It has been ten years since the first SA Soldier was published and it is still making impressive strides in pursuance of military journalistic excellence. To mark this growth, SA Soldier celebrated its 10th anniversary at Stone Cradle restaurant near Rietvlei Dam in Pretoria on 30 September 2011.

It was the social event of the year on the calendar of Defence Corporate Communication since the dawn of democracy. This event provided the ideal opportunity for SA Soldier to thank its stakeholders for their contributions over the past ten years as well as to strengthen relationships between SA Soldier and its stakeholders.

The Defence Staff Council, SA Soldier Editorial Teams and SA Soldier Editorial Board members of the past ten years, members of Defence Corporate Communication and representatives of the sponsors were invited to attend this historic occasion.

The then Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Marthie Visser, in her keynote address highlighted briefly the journey SA Soldier had travelled to the award winning occasion in 2005. “The distance that the magazine has travelled is amazing. From humble beginnings to being named the Government Communicator of the Year in 2005. This did not come about because there was a chance to gain great popularity and honour, but it did come about because there was a commitment to genuine reporting that”

SA Soldier used this opportunity to thank its stakeholders for their contributions over the past ten years and to strengthen relationships between SA Soldier and its stakeholders.

ABOVE: Prof Ronel Rensburg, President of the Public Relations Institute of South Africa, was the guest speaker at the 10th anniversary of SA Soldier.
documented our society today,” said Brig Gen Visser.

She added: “No matter how well we may have wanted the magazine to do, it could not be done without a dedicated team. It was clear from the beginning that running the magazine would be a sacrificial effort. Therefore we needed a team that was willing to go and cover stories in all corners of our land where military personnel are based.”

The President of the Public Relations Institute of South Africa (PRISA), Prof Ronel Rensburg, was the guest speaker at the event. She addressed the topic of the significance of internal communication and in-house magazines in an organisation.

“To the SA Soldier team, a happy 10th anniversary. Thank you for all the efforts in distributing the monthly magazine that is so informative at all times. Please keep on with the good work and may the Lord bless you in all your career aspirations. Happy 10 years,” wrote Brig Gen Debbie Molefe from Defence Reserves.

“SA Soldier comes a long, long way in keeping DOD employees and the public informed of what we do best. Halala halala SA Soldier,” wrote Ms Tebogo Bopape from Directorate Human Resources Corporate Communication.

“Sho sho sho! SA Soldier, my favourite team in this wide and diverse military … I wish to compliment you on a job well done. As usual, Nelda, you and your entire team rock, keep rocking,” wrote Lt Col Tsholo Tseke from DOD Foreign Learning Opportunities.

“Baie, baie geluk SA Soldier, ons sien uit na die volgende 10 jaar van uitmuntende leestof” (meaning “many, many thanks SA Soldier, we are looking forward to the next 10 years of exceptional reading material.”) wrote Maj Lindie Claassens from Defence Corporate Communication.

The National Ceremonial Guard Band provided lively music that kept people entertained during the celebration, while Ms Rowena Sibanda captivated the guests in her role as master of ceremonies.

The invited guests wished SA Soldier well and their sentiments were penned on the guest register. Lt Col Gerda Tredoux from the Training Command wrote: “All the best to all of you wonderful people. May you keep on going from strength to strength. It has always been a pleasure working with you and I hope I will have the privilege to do it again in the near future. Happy birthday. God bless you.”


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RIGHT: Sgt Elias Mahuma, senior photographer of SA Soldier, lighting the candles on the special birthday cake, while Cpl Ally Rakoma, a journalist of SA Soldier, looks on.
This first-class celebration was made possible by the generosity of the sponsors, namely Sanlam, Metropolitan Life, Shereno Printers, CSIR, Reutech, Strategic Defence Systems, Grintek, the SA Army Foundation, BAE Systems and Liberty.

In my language, Tshivenda, we say: Munve muthihi a u tusi mathuthu, which means: “one finger is useless in carrying anything, you need all fingers to do anything effectively. Indeed, without all your contributions, this evening would have remained just a wish.

Viva SA Soldier Viva!

Fltr: Ms Anneri Schultz and Mr Jaap van der Poll, both from the SA Army Foundation, Col Mpho Pheko from Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Debbie Molefe from Defence Reserves, and Ms Ruth Tutu from Directorate Language Services.

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Fltr: Maj Lindie Claassens and Mr Chappy Holtzhausen, both from Defence Corporate Communication (DCC), Mr George Thiart, WO2 (Ret) Tania Kettles, Mr Martin Desiderati, former members of Defence Corporate Communication, Mr Werner van der Westhuizen from DCC and Col (Ret) Horst Schöbesberger.

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10th anniversary
Infanteers say goodbye to Lt Gen Nkabinde

By Maj Merle Meyer,
Communication Officer SA Army Infantry Formation

On 27 October 2011 the Infanteers paid tribute to Lt Gen Themba Nkabinde with a battalion in review parade held at the very scenic School of Infantry sports grounds in George with the lovely Swartberg in the background.

The members on parade were those on course at the School of Infantry, while the colour parties were from the Western and Eastern Cape Infantry units. The ASB Western Cape Band entertained the guests with their programme of music. And of course no Infantry parade is complete without the paratroopers jumping in with various military flags, despite the freezing cold wind.

Lt Gen Nkabinde had served as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the SA Army Infantry Formation since 2003 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and as Chief of Human Resources on 1 October 2011.

During the period that Lt Gen Nkabinde served as the GOC of the SA Army Infantry Formation, the Formation was deployed to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan. The Area Defence Capability, which consisted of 183 commando units and 20 Group HQ was phased out, after which the Infanteers returned to the borders where they have served with great success. In addition the Infantry Specialist Capability is in the process of being revived.

Lt Gen Nkabinde complimented the Infanteers as being “giants” - tall in stature and spirit on whose shoulders he was able to stand, and they were the people who had carried him during his term as the GOC. Lt Gen Nkabinde said that in his new post the challenge was to manage human resources efficiently and effectively, but also in an ethical and moral manner, with the emphasis on motivation.

Lt Gen Nkabinde emphasised that high morale could only be obtained by an improvement in working conditions, high discipline and by paying attention to soft issues. He added that in his new post he would be able to look out for the Infanteers, the biggest human resources element in the SANDF.

Lt Gen Nkabinde encouraged all the Infanteers to carry Maj Gen Lindile Yam, who took over as the new GOC of the SA Army Infantry Formation on their strong shoulders and he wished his successor all the best of luck because he would hit the ground running with the SA Army Infantry Formation, which was very dynamic, busy and the best. Lt Gen Nkabinde, may you continue to wield the sword; the Infantry wish you well.
A new era dawns for the DOD Human Resources Division

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

A new era dawned for the Human Resources Division at the Change of Command Parade at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane on 14 October 2011.

The parade was held for the formal presentation of a sword of command to the new Chief of Human Resources Division, Lt Gen Thembisa Nkabinde, by Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, who has been appointed as Chief of Joint Operations. Before his promotion Lt Gen Nkabinde was the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation, to which post he was appointed in 2003.

This follows high-level promotions of senior officers of the South African National Defence force (SANDF) recently and of others who were laterally transferred to assume command in their new roles and responsibilities.

In his acceptance speech Lt Gen Nkabinde said he was honoured to have been presented with the opportunity to direct the DOD Human Resources Division and offer leadership. He further undertook to perform his duties with zeal, diligence and by setting a good example to all those under his command.

Addressing the parade for the last time, Lt Gen Mgwebi acknowledged the challenges he had to face for the past four years, but encouraged Lt Gen Nkabinde to tackle them head-on.

Lt Gen Mgwebi said: “Since its inception in July 2006 in order the DOD Human Resources has had to function more effectively, efficiently and cost-effectively. The Human Resources Division had to endure serious challenges, especially regarding office space, a dwindling budget, skilled people in certain mustering, equipment and material to do the job and in the light of the above we were expected to be creative and resourceful in executing our given mission. We can, however, in the midst of all challenges, list successes such as participation in the establishment of the Department of Military Veterans, the improvement of conditions of service of soldiers as recommended by the Interim National Defence Force Service Commission to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the migration of the Service Corps to form the Defence Works Formation with all its resources, resolving the problems of the employees who were in Policy and Procedure on incapacity leave and ill health retirement, gazetting of the Non-statutory Forces pension rules with effect from July 2011 where a number of payments have already been processed according to various categories set by the government pension administration agency and the migration of the Occupational Health and Safety function from the SA Military Health Service to the Human Resources Division.”
A former Chief of Joint Operations was welcomed back to the Joint Operations Division family during a change of command parade held at Air Force Gymnasium in Thaba Tshwane on 28 October 2011. Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi received the symbolic sword to lead the Joint Operations Division once again after he relinquished his position as Chief of Human Resources.

His predecessor, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, who has been at the helm since September 2007 has been seconded to the office of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu.

Immediately after assuming his new role as the Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Mgwebi promised to raise the bar still further of the standards already laid by Lt Gen Matanzima.

Lt Gen Mgwebi said: “As I start the long walk into this role as the Head of Joint Operations I, together with the professional members of the SANDF of all Services and Divisions, intend to uphold and fulfil the mandate entrusted to us by the people of South Africa to promote peace and stability in the deployed areas according to the policy of our Government. We are aware therefore that we are stepping onto the shoulders of those before us in order to become tall like them and will ensure that those soldiers who are doing duty for our country, both internally and externally, are well taken care of. It is therefore important that we remain focused while discharging our functions in honour of those who fell and sacrificed their lives in defence of our country. I would also like to appeal to the Minister in her presence here today, that ready as we are, our resources should be commensurate with the tasks allocated to Joint Operations.”

Delivering his last address in his 34-year career in military uniform, an emotional Lt Gen Matanzima congratulated Lt Gen Mgwebi on his new appointment and wished him well.

Lt Gen Matanzima said: “A special welcome to Lt Gen Mgwebi. I know you very well and will rest peacefully knowing that my beloved Division is in the capable hands of a dedicated and utterly professional commander. You are taking over a proficient group of people who are well versed in operational doctrine and administrative support and functions.”
SAMHS Nursing College making SAMHS self-sufficient

By Pte Sipokazi Dlakamela, Corp Com MSDS Intern  
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thlaole

The recently held diploma ceremony for nursing students of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) Nursing College was a demonstration of the commitment of the College to supporting Government in its call for all Government departments to equip our youth with knowledge and skills. It was held at Unisa in Pretoria on 29 September 2011.

Every year the SAMHS Nursing College ensures the self-sufficiency of the SAMHS and of the SA National Defence (SANDF) as a whole by training high-quality health care professionals.

“May you never lose your enthusiasm and your inspiration for doing the best for every patient or client,” said the Director of Humanities, Social Sciences and Theology of Unisa, Prof Marthie Bezuidenhout, in her congratulatory address as she encouraged the new graduates to be the best they could be throughout their profession as qualified nurses.

The guest speaker, Dr Sharon Vasuthevan, who has a Ph.D. in Nursing, and is an Executive Manager of Nursing at Life Healthcare Group, challenged the excited graduates to make nursing “my nursing”, and said that attitude would help them grow and be responsible nurses. Speaking about her nursing experience, she told the packed hall “nursing is like a team sport” and encouraged the graduates to work as a team in order to succeed.

Dr Vasuthevan told the graduates that good followership and leadership were essential for nursing. She emphasised that discipline formed the basis of leadership and success. “… So life is not a bed of roses, and definitely nursing ain’t,” said Dr Vasuthevan.

The first group that entered the hall to receive their diplomas was Group AE, for the Diploma in Clinical Science Health Assessment, Treatment and Care. Altogether 23 students graduated, with a total of 39 distinctions. In this category, Lt Louisa le Grange stood out as she attained her qualification cum laude. Next was Group AF from the same category with 32 students who received their diplomas with a total of 45 distinctions.

The second group, the diploma following the four-year course leading to registration as a nurse (General, Psychiatric and Community) and midwife, saw 44 students graduate in this category and obtain 14 distinctions, with CO Rachel Mahlangu and CO Laurencia Roos graduating cum laude.

The graduates also received trophies as tokens of appreciation for their dedication and hard work. CO Mahlangu became the centre of attention as she collected three trophies on top of her cum laude. She was awarded the Blanche Schepers Floating Trophy (the learner with the best achievement in General Nursing Science), the M.C. Opperman Floating Trophy (the learner with the best achievement in midwifery) and the Surgeon General Floating Trophy (for the most versatile learner in the academic field).

This phenomenal young woman finished a two-year nursing diploma in 2002 and then worked as a staff nurse. She later completed a diploma in nursing after a four-year course leading to registration as a nurse. Speaking to Milmed magazine about her achievements, she said perseverance was the key to her successes and her great achievements during her years of study. At the event the SAMHS Band provided the entertainment.
SA Army WO/NCO Competition marks its 17th year of its existence

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt O. Smith

Col Lawrence Mbatha, Officer Commanding SA Army Gymnasium, gave an overview of the history of the SA Army Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Competition when he declared it officially open at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg on 12 September 2011.

He said: "In the mid nineties the SA Army decided to institute a special day for the warrant officers and non-commissioned officers (WOs/NCOs) in the organisation. It was decided to celebrate it in the form of a competition. The first competition was a great success, and thus it became an annual event. The aim of the competition was both to maintain and improve the standard of all the basic military requirements for soldiering. The annual competition is preceded by competitions at formation level, whereafter the best members of each formation compete in the SA Army competition to determine the best SA Army member in a specific item and/or rank grouping."

Col Mbatha mentioned that the competition was established to uplift the standard of basic soldiering, and to provide a tool to judge the present standard of the WOs and NCOs in the SA Army. Countries that took part in the fixtures included Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique.

After five days of an exciting competition a prize-giving ceremony followed to award those who had performed to the best of their abilities during the competition. The then Chief of the SA Army Force Structure, Maj Gen Lungile Dlulane, noted during his keynote address that WOs and NCOs are the custodians of military discipline.

In support of his statement, Col Mbatha said: "I have taken an extract from the Creed of the Warrant Officer, and I quote: ‘As a Warrant Officer I am the personification of authority and justness ... I possess extensive knowledge in the fields of military lifestyle, traditions and policy. Being a Warrant Officer I set an example at all levels with regard to discipline, conduct, punctuality and efficiency’.

When he elaborated on drill Maj Gen Dlulane said: "In ancient times the most powerful and developed empires developed a way of moving organised units or troops from one place to another on the battlefield without individuals getting mixed up with other units or getting lost. Forming up men in a block, which we now call a squad or block, meant men stayed together, and the command system was more effective. This was improved when a system of flags was developed so that soldiers could identify their own units on the field and make their way to their correct flag carrier if they got separated. You can see that drill and marching were developed as instruments of command and control to direct the movement of troops during battle'.

He indicated that an army that regularly took part in parades in public was highly professional, and such discipline can be shown in public displays by means of military tattoos and exercises. He concluded: "With these words I encourage the NCOs and Warrant Officers to continue with this competition. I know that this competition is regarded as one of the priorities in the SA Army Budget and by the SA Army Foundation, because we recognise the importance of its objectives".
It is often said that dynamite comes in small packages. L Cpl Molatelo Nkoana is indeed a living example of this famous statement. She told us that one did not need muscles, only mental readiness and discipline to be a paratrooper and, being as athletic as she is, she was determined to pass the paratrooper selection. This is what the 26-year-old woman who hails from Bochum in Limpopo, currently at 7 Medical Battalion had to say with pride in an interview with Milmed magazine:

“I am a hard worker. I knew I was going to pass because I believe that if you put your mind into anything you want, you will definitely get it,” she enthused. When asked about the challenges of being in a male-dominated field, she cheerfully said that she went with men to her first paratrooper selection and passed it with them as the selection criteria is the same for both male and female soldiers. L Cpl Nkoana emphasised the power of a positive mind that while making highlighting that she does not see herself as an extraordinary woman for having passed the paratrooper selection.

A highlight for her as a paratrooper is the water jumping held annually near Bloemfontein where the paratroopers attempt to jump into a dam.

This is a woman the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) is proud to have, as she is the first female paratrooper to represent the SAMHS in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). L Cpl Nkoana is one of six female paratroopers in the SANDF. She joined the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) at the age of 22 years in 2007 and shortly after Basic Military Training went for paratrooper selection. She was one of 13 female soldiers to go for paratrooper selection. All had one dream, i.e. to be paratroopers, but only two were successful. Today she is seen as an extraordinary woman making her mark in this male-dominated field in the military.

She has immense enthusiasm for helping people and, having experienced the emotional challenges one faces during military training, L Cpl Nkoana would like to further her studies to be a qualified social worker. Mental preparedness when one is undergoing training or during operations and when far away from home is important and she would like to be one of the people rendering this service to uniformed members of the SANDF in future.

L Cpl Nkoana is indeed an example that women are as capable as men, especially in the SANDF. She is such an inspiration to all young women. She wants to motivate them never to underestimate their capabilities in any field. Later this year she will be qualifying as an Ambulance Emergency Assistant.

L Cpl Molatelo Nkoana preparing to take to the air for a jump.
Showcasing the firepower of our artillery

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

It is estimated that over 11 000 people visited the annual SA Artillery Open Day at 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom on 17 September 2011, which is a showcase of Artillery expertise.

The DOD in its commitment to the Government’s diplomatic initiatives requires advanced and interoperable technology to be able to participate in peace missions on the continent. The technology acquired and currently operated by the SA Army Artillery was displayed on the open day.

The impressive exhibition of artillery hardware and spectacular live firing demonstrations highlighted the state of combat-readiness and capabilities of the artillery. This will ensure effective participation in any mandated military operation sanctioned by the Government. The SA Air Force and 44 Parachute Regiment were afforded the opportunity to be active participants as an integral part of the SANDF.

The aim of the open day was to expose the community, especially the youth,

In its commitment to the Government’s diplomatic initiatives, the Department of Defence requires advanced and interoperable technology to be able to participate in peace missions on the continent.

ABOVE: A G5-155 mm gun howitzer fired by the team made up only of women, from the gunner to the loader.

ABOVE: Members of the SANDF and the public viewing the SANDF hardware on display during the Artillery Open Day.

ABOVE: 44 Parachute Regiment was afforded the opportunity to be an active participant as an integral part of the SANDF.
to the military environment and to create an opportunity to educate them on military matters and the SANDF. A number of schools were invited to the open day with the aim of inspiring and raising the level of interest of the learners so that they could serve their country by joining the SANDF after Grade 12.

The Artillery Open Day is a highlight on the DOD calendar that attracts military people and civilians. It provides a platform and opportunity for the SA Army Artillery Formation to interact with all its stakeholders and to contribute to a better understanding of the SANDF’s internal and external roles.

ABOVE: The Artillery Open Day was an effort to maintain healthy relationships with the communities.

BELOW: The Artillery Open Day provides an opportunity to showcase artillery capabilities and combat-readiness through a significant and impressive exhibition of Artillery hardware.

ABOVE: A highlight for the public was undoubtedly the spectacular firepower demonstrations that involved all types of guns in operation in the SA Army Artillery Corps. The GV6 – 155 mm self-propelled gun howitzer – Renoster in action.

BELOW: Members of Artillery firing the 120 mm mortar during the Artillery Open Day.

BELOW: The Artillery Open Day provides an opportunity to showcase artillery capabilities and combat-readiness through a significant and impressive exhibition of Artillery hardware.
On 1 October 2011 nearly 50 000 spectators came to enjoy the daring dance of aircraft in the sky, thundering through the air and displaying their manoeuvrability during the AFB Waterkloof Airshow and Lifestyle Expo in Pretoria. The lifestyle expo offered various items for shoppers and for young people to learn more about avionics.

Prior to the event, Brig Gen Sam Madumane, the Officer Commanding of AFB Waterkloof, said that the 2011 Airshow was meant to test the revamped infrastructure and systems at the base in preparation for the largest African exhibition of air, land and sea capability. The next Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo will take place at AFB Waterkloof in September 2012.

He said that since 2004, while the runway upgrades were taking place and other infrastructure was being installed, the AAD was held at AFB Ysterplaat in Cape Town. Brig Gen Madumane said: “Everything we now have at AFB Waterkloof passed the litmus test and we are ready, able and looking forward to 2012.”

The local aviation companies supported the event with their corporate stands that included stalls and displays of aerospace and general aviation products and services.

The airshow saw aviation enthusiasts being thrilled by an array of military aircraft ranging from the country’s newly acquired Gripen fighter jet, Hawk lead-in fighter trainer jets, Rooivalk combat support helicopter, Mirage F1, Impala, Oryx, BK 117, Agusta A-109, C130, Bosbok, Kudu, Albatross, Puma and United States Air Force (USAF) C130 heavy-lift transport and civilian commercial aircraft, including the SAA Boeing 737.
The SA Air Force’s best pilots, the Silver Falcons, and Harvard and Pitt special aerobatics teams provided spectacular static displays, including solo performances and formation flying. They were very impressive to watch as they demonstrated synchronised and harmonious aerobatic manoeuvres that showed that flying could make one a super hero and top-notch professional.

In view of the significance of the airshow and its ongoing commitment to youth, the SA Air Force recognised the necessity of presenting a quality youth programme worthy of the occasion, firstly to provide military aviation exposure to the youth through the Siyandiza and the Young Falcons programmes, secondly to create awareness of career opportunities for those in the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) by focusing on skills in the aviation, maritime, electronics, engineering and military health environments required to link the military high-tech science and aerospace defence technology.

Adding flavour to the day was the air power capability demonstration that showcased the sharp end of South Africa’s airborne might and defence capabilities.

ABOVE: SA Air Force aircraft performing an aerial break-away during the air capability demonstration.

ABOVE: Aviation enthusiasts being thrilled by the Silver Falcons aerobatics team.

ABOVE: United States Air Force C130 heavy-lift transport aircraft demonstrating its air-to-air refuelling capability.

LEFT: A display of systems won the admiration of young learners.

ABOVE: The SA Military Health Service demonstrating its world-class chemical and biological emergency treatment capabilities.

ABOVE: A Hawk lead-in-fighter trainer jet in action over the airfield showing its air flexibility.
The aim of the event was to host the new Chief of the SANDF with a view to obtaining his ideas on the contribution the Honorary Colonels could make to the organisation.

History was made when the Honorary Colonels of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) hosted the newly appointed Chief of the SA National Defence Force, Gen Solly Shoke, to dinner at the Rand Club in Johannesburg on 29 September 2011.

The main aim of the event was to host the new Chief of the SANDF with a view to obtaining his ideas about and plans for the SANDF, his expectations and the contributions the Honorary Colonels could make to the organisation.

Delivering his keynote address, Gen Shoke expressed his gratitude for the support of the Honorary Colonels for assisting various units to uphold their traditions. He also thanked them for enhancing civil-military relations.

Gen Shoke remarked: “As Honorary Colonels, the SANDF is immensely proud to have you on board to help with your ideas and skills in your capacities as captains of industry and for the role you continue to play in enhancing the image of the SANDF. We would also appreciate your continuous engagement with opinion and policy makers to persuade them to add more to the budget of the SANDF to enable us to execute our mandate during times of need, such as the assistance during the National Public Service Strike in 2007, the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and the floods in Mozambique in 2000. With a bigger budget the SANDF can do even more.”

He appealed to the Honorary Colonels to assist with employment opportunities for the Reserve Force members who cannot be absorbed into the SANDF system due to budgetary constraints. Col Basil Hersov, on behalf of the Honorary Colonels Association, thanked the Chief of the SANDF and expressed his appreciation for Gen Shoke’s presence at the historic event. Col Hersov appealed to the Chief of the SANDF to include the services of the Honorary Colonels during the change of command parades and to introduce service medals in recognition of the services of the Honorary Colonels. He also asked that a similar gathering be held on a continuous basis so that feedback could be relayed to the members.
LIPCO HAVE BEEN
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When one approaches the gate of Fort iKapa, a military base in Goodwood, Cape Town, the home of Reserve Force units in the Western Cape Province, one is greeted by the sight of disciplined and dedicated Reserve Force soldiers performing guard duties at the entrance, and you immediately feel welcome among all 12 units located within a stretch of 54 hectares of land.

The high standard and dedication are a true reflection of the life and times of SANDF members plying their trade within the enclosure.

It was for this reason that SA Soldier team members spent two days on a fact-finding mission to investigate the reasons for the uniqueness and synergy between the different units with different cultures and traditions, though they operate in the same yard, sharing resources and information.

According to Col (Dr) Allan Nelson, the Officer Commanding of the Cape Field Artillery Regiment, and the project officer tasked with the responsibility of drawing up a plan to reactivate the place to bring all the scattered Reserve Force units all over the peninsula together, the unit represents an important milestone in the history of the Defence Reserves.

“When we started the project in 1999, the place was overgrown with shrubs because it was no longer part of the plans of the Department of Defence and there was a need to gather all the Reserve Force units together. After the plan was approved in 2001, the first step was to erect a fence, followed by the refurbishment of the hangars, as this place was used...”

This sign serves as confirmation that Fort iKapa is the home of 12 Reserve Force units. Here visitors are guaranteed a warm reception by unit members.
by 6 Base Ordnance Depot for the Wingfield Airdrome which was utilised by the English Royal Navy in 1941 during World War II. Provision of infrastructure such as roads, pipes and electricity followed suit. The area, apart from being the home of the Reserve Force in the Western Cape, is also the habitat of endangered fauna and flora, which we are really proud of conserving. It is envisaged that the whole project will be finished by 2014,” said Col (Dr) Nelson, who holds a PhD in Engineering.

MWO John Tuck, the RSM of the unit, recalls one of the moments when they were clearing the field. He said: “The bush was as tall as 1.5 metres. As we were busy clearing, we discovered some buildings, even abandoned equipment dating years back. After the clearing process came the refurbishment of the buildings and the laying of pipes. The refurbishment of those buildings had to be done in accordance with the municipal bylaws that govern old buildings, since they become part of the heritage of the area.”

Among the units at the Fort is the well-known Cape Town Rifles (CTR) or the “Dukes”, one of the oldest units in the history of the SANDF, whose existence dates back to 28 November 1855 as the Cape Royal Rifles with Col William Hope as first Commanding Officer. More information on the CTR may be obtained from the book entitled: Semper Eadem, the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) 1855-2010 by Capt John Dorrington. The unit is the home of the distance-learning centre, and boasts a state of the art indoor shooting range. It is the nodal point for SA Army Infantry Formation training and is an assembly point for the call-ups of the Reserve Force members and the SITA satellite pay system for servicing Reserve Force members. According to the Officer Commanding, Lt Col Ray Nesset, CTR provides training for airborne, seaborne and air assault troops. In addition it provides Reserve Force members for Exercise SEBOKA, and prepares troops for deployment to mission areas. Lt Col Nesset added that the “Dukes” also provide technical services for military combat vehicles and light motor vehicles. The CTR is also used for the daily administration of the entire unit via 30 Field Workshop, a technical support unit within Fort iKapa. It is also responsible for the administration, among others, of the fuelling point.

Our next pitstop was Regiment Westelike Provincie (RWP), where we were warmly received by Maj Harold Gertse, the Second-in-Command, and his staff, who were still busy with pre-deployment training of about eight companies due to be sent to the Sudan on Operation CORDITE.

RWP is one of the oldest mechanised infantry regiments, which was established in 1856 through the amalgamation of the Stellenbosch, Paarl, Malmsbury and Worcester Rifles. The RWP prides itself, among others, on being one of the first distillers of a specially bottled brandy, which has had its own label since 1936. It also prides itself on upholding the age-old tradition of toasting the regiment and dignitaries in pure, undiluted RWP brandy, of which an example is currently available on display. The RWP has been granted the following: the Freedom of the City of Cape Town bestowed in 1983, that of Bellville in 1984, honorary citizenship of Keetmanshoop in 1987, Parow in 1990, Goodwood in 1994, Hermanus in 2006, the memorial ceremony for Gen Jan Smuts, and the annual Poppy Day. The dress code during those commemorations included short pants with kilts. The RWP is also involved in ceremonial duties during the annual State of the Nation Address at the Opening of Parliament. For more information please visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regiment_Westelike_Provincie.

The history of the Cape Field Artillery (CFA) dates back to 1857. An old town house in Greenmarket Square in Cape Town was originally named Cape Town Volunteer Artillery. The CFA took part in the South African
invasion of South-West Africa in 1915, under the Prince Alfred’s Own Cape Field Artillery banner. It also took part in every campaign of World War II in which the South African troops were involved, including East Africa, North Africa and Italy.

Another unit with a proud history in the unit is Regiment Oranjerivier, which provides refresher courses for armoured vehicles, such as the Rooikat. The objective of the regiment is to supply the SANDF with combat-ready Reserve Force members. According to Maj J.P. Wessels, the Second-in-Command of Regiment Oranjerivier, the regiment prides itself on having participated in the Freedom of the City of Upington. It has also provided armoured static displays to the previous Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo. It still upholds the tradition of toasting with “Diesel and Dust”, a drink of the South African tank squadrons. Maj Wessels said that the drink was originally used to toast the admittance of new gunners to the Tanker family, but became so popular that the entire SA Armoured Corps now uses it when celebrating milestones.

Cape Garrison Artillery is another unit in Fort iKapa. It is one of many units that participated in Operation Jumbo to ensure that the first democratic elections in 1994 were peaceful. It is currently operating as a training base for Air Defence Reserve personnel. Among the flagship activities are participation in the provincial gun-push competitions, static displays and the annual ceremonial Opening of Parliament.

Other treasures at the Reserve Force stronghold include the third time SA Army Combat Gold Cup Shooting Competition winner, L Cpl Thandi Viti (27). L Cpl Viti is also an instructor who is Jin, Sin and Musketry course qualified. It is also home to the oldest serving soldier, Rfn Thozamile Sukwana (62), a former freedom fighter, who still enjoys wearing his uniform and performing duties as a soldier. Members at the unit refer to him as “Oupa” and he gets along with them just fine and appreciates their company.
We wish all our members and their families a joyful Festive Season

with love,

from all the staff at the SA Army Foundation and Maxi Credit Solutions

Army HQ 012-328 2823; Army Gymnasium (Office); ASB Johannesburg 011-2125746; ASB Nelspruit 013-7522711; ASB Port Elizabeth 041-5821151; ASB Youngsfield 021-7871456; Bloemfontein 051-4021781; De Aar Ammu Depot 053-6311869; Defence HQ 012-3555721; Durban (Bluff) 031-4664307; Infantry School 044-2032926; Lohatla 053-3214383; Kimberley 053-8303158; Marievale (Office); Polokwane 015-2993424; Potchefstroom 018-2933805; School of Engineers 056-2124317; SAFI Thaba Tshwane 012-6516388; Tek Base 012-6641716; 2 Fiegl Engr Regt 058-3036665; 2 SAI Bn 018-6423886; 3 SAI Bn 053-8303550; 4 SAI bn 013-2432573; 5 SAI Bn 036-6375788; 6 SAI Bn 046-6226115; 7 SAI Bn 015-7810617; 8 SAI Bn 054-3321380; 9 SAI Bn 021-7876295; 10 SAI Bn 018-3861588; 14 SAI Bn 047-5360898; 15 SAI Bn 015-9652024; 21 SAI Bn 011-2125746; 121 SAI Bn 035-5504570
Faculty of Military Science co-hosts conference on military culture

By Lt Col (Prof) Francois Vreý

A number of academics from local universities and abroad, and an equal number of practitioners and policy informers gathered at the Wallenberg Conference Centre at Stellenbosch University to debate military culture and African armed forces.

The conference, convened for 22 and 23 September 2011, was the second in a planned series of conferences on strategic culture, co-hosted and funded through a partnership between the School for Security and Africa Studies of Stellenbosch University’s Faculty of Military Sciences in Saldanha and a Danish partnership embracing the faculty of the Royal Danish Defence College and the Danish Institute for International Studies in Copenhagen. The conference series “On Strategy” stem from collaboration between the Danish and South African faculties, with Prof Thomas Mandrup from Denmark and Prof Francois Vreý from South Africa as the originators and co-organisers.

Academics from Australia, Canada, the USA, the Netherlands, Denmark, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Kenya and Rwanda contributed papers, while delegates from as far afield as Japan, Sweden and Uganda also attended the event. Prof Peter Vale of the University of Johannesburg, who delivered the keynote address, spoke on social theory and military culture, after which papers covering other theoretical aspects on strategic and military culture followed. Day two of the programme entailed regional themes presented by African speakers on South Africa, Southern Africa more widely, and East Africa, which was followed by a workshop comprising three brief papers on maritime culture and the Indian Ocean off the African east coast and South African defence adaptations. As was found during the preceding conference, the workshop evoked an intense discussion on how thereigning military cultures of African armed forces might be adapted.

Approximately 92 delegates attended the conference and the one feature that marked the entire proceedings was intense discussion and deep, meaningful, multi-layered interest in the topic of military culture in the various African armed forces. Wide-ranging queries regarding the availability of the conference papers were indicative of the interest. The conference ties into and is indeed the first output of a research project on military culture that is being run at present in the Military Strategy Department of the Faculty of Military Science.

Other project outputs, in the form of a book publication, briefings and scholarly publications, will appear during the course in 2012. A third conference is currently under discussion by the South African and Danish hosts and is envisaged for 2013, with the preliminary theme directed at the African maritime domain and matters related to good order at sea.
Trained to manage a unit effectively

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

To help manage the SANDF in a professional and modern way, 22 senior Officers and Warrant Officers received certificates on successfully completing the Officer Commanding/Regimental Sergeant Major Course. The awards ceremony was held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 22 September 2011.

The objective of the Officer Commanding/Regimental Sergeant Major Course was to prepare aspirant Officers Commanding and Regimental Sergeant Majors to manage a unit effectively. To qualify for the course, Officers should be in the rank grouping Majors to Colonels, while the aspiring Regimental Sergeant Majors should be Warrant Officers Class One to Master Warrant Officers.

Delivering his keynote address, Maj Gen Leslie Rudman, the Deputy Chief of the SA Army, said that the course would help the candidates meet the promotion criteria as required by the SANDF.

Maj Gen Rudman said: “The training of the Officer Commanding/Regimental Sergeant Major in tactical aspects will help greatly and create immense opportunities for the individual’s career growth within the SANDF. It also unlocks the candidate’s horizons at the operational level so that he or she understands the military strategic objectives, especially during peacekeeping and in promoting peace and stability in the region. It is for this reason that the SANDF is in great demand in peacekeeping missions. What you learn on this course will come in handy and will help to eliminate qualified opinion reports from the Auditor General when you become Officers Commanding and Regimental Sergeant Majors of your different units.” Two members of the course received awards for being the best overall Officer Commanding: Maj P.J. Steyn from 21 Signal Unit and the best overall Regimental Sergeant Major - SWO S.H. Boshoff.
The President of SANDF Cricket, Lt Col Randall Williams, remarked at the Awards Evening: “Congratulations to the winning team – Gauteng. For the rest of the teams, you will have to work harder …” Gauteng was the winner of the SANDF Cricket Championships for the second consecutive year.

The 42nd SANDF Cricket Championship were hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Military Sport Region in Durban between 7 and 14 October 2011. The event was co-hosted by the KZN Cricket Union (Dolphins Cricket Franchise) under the auspices of Cricket South Africa. The theme of the championships was: “Think big, believe big, act big and results will be big”.

The championships entailed a knock-out round in two groups, with the final and subsequent order of merit games being played on 13 October. The matches were played on various cricket fields in and around Durban. The format was a 45 overs match according to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) – “the laws of cricket” - limited overs rules.

In welcoming all the athletes and guests at the opening parade of the SANDF Cricket Championships at Chatsworth Oval on 8 October the President of SANDF Cricket said: “Let us compete in a positive spirit. … May you experience God’s love, good fortune, endless friendship and good sportsmanship during this championship. … Let us be brave and courageous like Zulu warriors this week. Let’s play – It’s game on!”

Before officially declaring the tournament open the Officer Commanding of Army Support Base KZN, Col Godfrey Netshidongololo, said: “Maintain good discipline at all times. Never lose focus. May the best team win”. After the formalities and beautiful music by the ASB KZN Army Band it was time for seven days of cricket action. The host (KZN) lost against the defending champions (Gauteng) in the opening game. The next day KZN retaliated with a full onslaught on Limpopo. Cpl Reginald Steenkamp (KZN) hitting a gargantuan 244* (not out). His innings included 15 sixes and 21 fours. Cpl Steenkamp made history by being the first player in SANDF Cricket to achieve this. (KZN managed a very competitive 439/3, which they succeeded in dismissing Limpopo for 179.) Bdr Chris Symington (North West) was the top scorer with 229 in the game between North West and Mpumalanga at Luther Park Kloof on 10 October. North West won with 476 runs, but Mpumalanga was bowled out for only 26 runs.

Gauteng and North West gave each other a hard time in the final game on 13 October. What a nail-biting game! But at the end last year’s champions (Gauteng) triumphed again! The Captain of the Gauteng team, F Sgt Randolph May, said: “I am very proud of my team. The team spirit and co-operation showed. Officially we won 14 cricket games consecutively at various cricket competitions in the SANDF.”

On 14 October the newly chosen SANDF Cricket Team played against the Dolphins amateur side and lost. What a privilege! Trisha Chetty, the SA and KZN wicketkeeper/batter,
ABOVE: Trisha Chetty, the SA and KZN wicketkeeper/batter (with the tracksuit top), headed a development clinic for SANDF female cricket enthusiasts during the SANDF Cricket Championships.

While Maj Eksteen was playing his heart out in the final game I got a chance to talk to the Chief Executive Officer of Dolphins, Mr Jesse Challen. Mr Challen said that he and Maj Eksteen played club cricket in Pretoria together. “When I stopped in 2000 we kept in touch,” said Mr Challen. “He is an absolute character. He loves cricket. I remember when we had to prepare for a week against Aussie players what he would say to them … He is a great guy, a free and happy spirit. He always smiles and is never grumpy.”

The Captain of the Gauteng team referred fondly to Maj Eksteen as “die lolpie masjien”. Maj Eksteen did not disappoint his team as he scored 103 runs against North West in the final game.

F Sgt May said: “If it was not for Maj Eksteen and Sgt Steven Mpete (67 runs in the final) Gauteng would not have beaten North West. Experience cannot be bought. It is always good for young players to learn from skilled players.”

When I asked Maj Eksteen (36) what his future held he said that he would like to plough back his cricket experience and knowledge to the benefit of the younger players, but that decision was in the hands of the executives of SANDF Cricket.

According to him one of the highlights in his cricketing career was when he scored 100 runs in the PRO 20 Security Cluster Cricket Tournament in Potchefstroom. Another was when he was chosen as the Player of the Tournament in the SANDF Cricket Championships in 2004.

Maj Eksteen has played SANDF cricket since 1994. He was chosen for the SANDF Cricket team every year except one year when his wife had to undergo an operation and he had to look after their six-month-old baby.

During the Annual General Meeting, directly after the championships, Maj Eksteen’s wish came true as he was chosen as the batting coach of SANDF Cricket. He was also chosen as the Player of the Tournament at the Awards ceremony at Sahara Kingsmead Oval on 14 October.

Caring for our future

Children from the Agape Orphanage in Waterfall were invited to see the SANDF cricket players in action. During their visit they received sponsored cricket bats, balls and T-shirts. The little ones enjoyed the jumping castle, while the other children enjoyed watching cricket and the military hardware. Ms Pam Mqadi, the Manager of Agape Orphanage, said that the home for HIV and vulnerable (affected by HIV and AIDS) children burnt down in 2004. With the support of sponsors they have built five cottages and are now in the process of being registered as a children’s home. At this stage every morning the children come from their families to get food parcels at the Agape Orphanage and then take a bus to school. After school they do their homework at the Agape Home and receive food parcels to take back home. They still need cupboards in the laundry and aluminium doors for the fire escape as well as food and toys. For donations or enquiries please contact Pam on 082 465 2136 or 083 520 9571.

Thank You

A special word of thanks to Fanpic Technologies, Sunfoil Dolphins, uShaka Marine World, the Zulu Kingdom, Cricket SA, Denel Mustek, Oranjrivier Wine Cellars, Liberty, SuperSport, MEC Sports, Arts and Culture KZN Province, and all Services and KZN units, in particular, for their support.
Silver Queen Night Race 10 km

By Col Zirk Lourens (in acknowledgement of AFB Ysterplaat and Defence Western Province Athletic Club)

The Silver Queen Night Race is an annual event hosted by Air Force Base Ysterplaat in conjunction with the Western Province Defence Athletic Club, and is an appropriate celebration of the SA Air Force’s enviable aviation heritage.

Participants had a choice of various distances – the scenic 10 km run for the serious runner or the 5 km fun run. This year these two events attracted close to 600 participants and provided a mixture of breathtaking night scenery, a gruelling test of fitness for both the elite and recreational runner, and an unrivalled race atmosphere.

Western Province Defence Athletic Club presented the 5th Silver Queen Runway Night Race without sponsorship on 19 October 2011. The 10 km race started at 18:35 and the 5 km fun run at 18:20 on the premises of AFB Ysterplaat.

Almost 600 athletes completed the two races. The first overall winner was Mr M. Qhina of RCS Gugulethu Athletic Club in a time of 31 min 13 sec. In the second position was Mr L. Mdzanga, also from RCS Gugulethu Athletic, in a time of 32 min 15 sec. Mr Vladimir Kotov, a master athlete from Century City Athletic Club and a previous Comrades Marathon winner (2000 new UP-record, 2002 and 2004) came third in a time of 33 min 45 sec.

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line in the 10 km race was S Sgt Dimitri Jansen from Pretoria Military Marathon Club. His overall second position was Dr Berlize du Plessis from AFB Ysterplaat in a time of 48 min 44 sec.

The first race was held on 14 February 2007 and saw 406 runners line up to face the unknown challenge on the runway. Since then, the race has become a Western Cape institution and a firm favourite as a night race with local and visiting up-country athletes. It was an honour and privilege to run a race on a “runway” at night with the runway lights indicating the direction to follow. The clear starlit night and illuminated Table Mountain in the distance was a breathtaking sight. The ambience resulted in the number of athletes growing from 406 athletes in 2007 to 566 athletes in 2008, to 652 athletes in 2009 and to 758 athletes in 2010.

History of the Silver Queen

The name “Silver Queen” is derived from the Vickers Vimy aircraft flown by two South African pilots, Sir Pierre van Ryneveld and Sir Christopher Brand, in the February 1920 historic flight from London to Cape Town.

Aviation evolved rapidly during World War I and shortly after, to the point where it was possible to travel by air from London to Cape Town. So, by 1919, a feeble chain of primitive airfields had been cleared across the African continent as a prelude to the challenge of pioneering an air route between London and Cape Town. A Times of London sponsored aviation crew of the Royal Air Force was among the first contenders to rise to this challenge.

The visionary South African statesman, Gen Jan Smuts, had grasped the merits of aviation in both war and peace before most of his contemporaries. He fiercely contended for the feat of pioneering an air route between Europe and South Africa to fall to a fellow countryman. South Africans, Pierre van Ryneveld and Christopher Brand, were therefore designated to pilot a Vickers Vimy, hailed as the “Silver Queen”, from England to Youngsfield in Wynberg, Cape Town. These intrepid aviators departed from England in February 1920, and soon assumed the lead in the contest as the aircraft of other contenders fell out.

The South Africans persevered despite two accidents in which the wrecked aircraft was simply replaced. Their arrival in Cape Town signified the founding of the SA Air Force, the second oldest Commonwealth air force in the world.

Members of the SANDF and the DOD are invited to become members of SANDF road-running or walking clubs by signing up at the nearest such club.
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We’re here for you.
The SANDF Volleyball Championship was held at the Cape Town Military Sports Arena at Army Support Base Wynberg from 3 to 7 October 2011.

Altogether 315 male and female athletes representing territorial teams from all over South Africa participated in the championships.

On 3 October 2011 Col Kolekile Mancotywa, Chairperson of SANDF Volleyball, officially declared the championships open and welcomed all the athletes present. He urged them to keep volleyball alive by promoting it in their respective regions. He also reminded the men and women on parade of the CISM Volleyball Championship to take place in 2012.

According to the SANDF volleyball tradition the volleyball anthem was played during the opening ceremony while CPO A. Skippers, as the oldest player at the championship, lit the SANDF volleyball flame to symbolise the passing on of the knowledge of the game from the senior to the junior level. The switching on of the volleyball torch symbolises that the SANDF volleyball association community strives to be a professional and well managed organisation that promotes volleyball at all levels.

The games were played according to a round robin system with the first four teams in each category playing in the semi-finals and the winners of each category playing in the finals. The finals was played best out of five sets between Northern Cape under 25s and KwaZulu-Natal. Northern Cape emerged as the winners. Gauteng Masters beat Northern Cape Masters. Gauteng ladies beat Western Cape. Finally it was the final between the Gauteng seniors and Free State seniors, and the Free State came out victorious. After the finals, all the athletes formed up outside and marched into the indoor arena for the closing ceremony. Col William Bangiso from Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation presented the gold, silver and bronze medals to the teams in their respective categories and trophies were also presented to the teams that won the finals.

Rfn K. Padayachee, as the youngest
player in the championship, had to extinguish the flame, which symbolised rejuvenation.

On Friday evening the Western Cape Military Volleyball Club hosted a dinner at 9 SA Infantry Battalion to honour the athletes who excelled during the championship and to announced the SANDF Volleyball Team.

Winners of the different awards

Chair Master: A. Skippers (Western Province)
Development Referee: R. Goonaseelan (KwaZulu-Natal)
Sportsmanship (North West)
Best Uniformed Team (KwaZulu-Natal)

Best Server: S. Ngwenya (Gauteng)
Best Coach: M. Moodley (Gauteng)

Individual Award Masters

Best Spiker: S. Fourie (Gauteng)
Best Blocker: J.H. Celliers (Gauteng)
Best Setter: H.J. Gaginaar (Northern Cape)
Most Valuable Player: D. Chetty (Western Province)

Individual under 25

Best Spiker: L.C. Klein (Northern Cape)
Best Blocker: M.C. Mampholo (Northern Cape)
Best Setter: H.R. Gqumo (Northern Cape)
Most Valuable Player: K. Padayachee (KwaZulu-Natal)

Individual Ladies

Best Spiker: G. Muller (Gauteng)
Best Blocker: M.H. Sibande (Northern Cape)
Best Setter: S. Ngwenya (Gauteng)
Most Valuable Player: C.E. Goliath (North West)

Individual Senior

Best Spiker: A.B. Mashele (Gauteng)
Best Blocker: T.J. Njomo (Gauteng)
Best Setter: W. Pretorius (Gauteng)
Most Valuable Player: R. Simeon (Limpopo)

Players of the Tournament

Male: W. Pretorius (Gauteng)
Female: M.S.M. Manaka (Western Province)

SA Race Walking Championships

Fltr: S Sgt Melanie Venter, Lt Col Pieter Hudsenberg and Col Celeste Scheepers took part in the SA Race Walking Championships in Youngsfield on 8 October 2011. The walk had to meet international standards and was judged by six members, three of which were from South Africa and three from other countries. The 20 km walk was also a qualifier for the 2012 Olympics. Our members did us proud. All three members participated in the 20 km walk. S Sgt Melanie Venter and Col Celeste Scheepers both received gold medals.
Rugby tour to Mthatha

By Lt Col S.G.P. Nienaber,
Team Manager SANDF Rugby Association President’s Team

The SANDF Rugby Association President’s Team toured the Eastern Cape from 18 to 25 September 2011 and gathered at 14 SA Infantry Battalion (14 SAI Bn) in Mthatha on 18 September in preparation for the tour.

The aim of the tour was to assist the Transkei Football Union to develop the game of rugby in the rural areas around Mthatha and to participate in the Louis Mtshizana Heritage Tournament 2011 in Mthatha from 24 and 25 September.

On 19 September the team presented rugby development clinics at various schools in the Joe Gqabi District. Altogether 170 learners between the ages 5 and 18 took part. (There were also young girls who showed an interest in the game of rugby.)

The next day rugby development clinics were presented to 40 coaches and teachers from different schools, including 20 learners between the ages 12 to 18, as well as rugby clubs in the Dutywa Town area.

On 21 September the team travelled to Ngobo to present rugby development clinics to 170 learners between the ages 5 and 18.

Rugby development clinics were presented to 360 learners and 40 coaches and teachers in the Mthatha area. Mr Majokweni, the Development Officer of the Transkei Football Union, travelled with the team to each clinic and on completion of the clinics on 21 September thanked all members of the touring group and the SANDF for the effort that was put into presenting these clinics to promote rugby in the area. He invited them to repeat the exercise in 2012.

On 22 September the team started with their preparations for the tournament. Two training sessions were held every day in preparation for the matches on 24 September.

The team achieved a third place in the tournament. Their road to the third place started with their playing two matches on Saturday 24 September 2011 at the 14 SAI Bn sports field. The results of the matches were as follows:

- The SANDF President’s team won the match 30 to 0 against Lusikisiki. Six tries were scored by Capt G. Theart (School of Artillery), Capt Z. Fransman (1 Special Service Battalion), Lt A. Cengani (1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment), AB S.T. Maqhina (Naval Base Simons’s Town), Sct A.T. Skebotha (1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment) and Pte E.H.S. Sass (6 SAI Bn). Cpl J. Kammies was successful in converting four of the tries.
- The SANDF President’s team beat Ngcele United 17 to 10. Three tries were scored by Capt G. Theart (School of Artillery). Cpl Kammies was successful in converting one of the tries.
- The SANDF President’s team played in the semifinals against the Ntlaza Lions and lost 5 to 15. A try was scored by Sct A.T. Skebotha from 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment.

After only an hour’s rest the team had to play for the third place against Abahlobo. The coach of the team, Maj R. Gerber (1 SA Tank Regiment) had a difficult time motivating the players for the match. His words to the team before they ran onto the field were to the effect that they were soldiers and would play for the badge that they carried with pride on their chests. The final score of the match was 29 to 20 in favour of the SANDF President’s team. Tries were scored by Pte J.A. Walters (4 Artillery Regiment), two by L Cpl M. Buys (School of Artillery). Cpl Kammies was successful in converting four of the tries.

- The SANDF President’s team beat Ngcele United 17 to 10. Three tries were scored by Capt J. Kammies (4 Artillery Regiment) and two by L Cpl M. Buys (School of Artillery). Cpl Kammies was successful in converting one of the tries.
- The SANDF President’s team played in the semifinals against the Ntlaza Lions and lost 5 to 15. A try was scored by Sct A.T. Skebotha from 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment.

One is never too young to start learning to play rugby ...
**The big hitters go clubbing**

*By S Lt S.B. Lanser, Acting SO2 Internal Communications: SA Navy Office*

The Chief of the SA Navy, in association with Level 3 Naval Marine Systems (main sponsor), hosted his annual Golf Day on 14 October 2011. Unfortunately the Chief of the SA Navy was unavailable owing to prior commitments. Flag Officer Commanding, R Adm (JG) J.E. Louw, attended the event on behalf of the Chief of the SA Navy, while the prize-giving function was attended by Acting Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm B.H. Teuteberg.

The event was hosted at the prestigious Clovelly Country Club. The weather held true to typical Cape Peninsula style, wet and windy in the morning followed by sunny and windy in the afternoon. Despite the unpredictable weather, the scenery was breathtaking. It certainly was a privilege to have the event hosted in such beautiful grounds.

The First Four Ball (a group of four golfers) promptly teed off at 11:30. The tournament was played in the popular American Scramble format which, I was told by avid golfer, PO K. Maytham: “adds to the fun”. The day was filled with foreign terminology, players boasting about their driving abilities, handicaps being compared, and a gentleman by the name of “Mulligan” seemed to be quite the popular bloke.

I did not understand much about the sport, so the day became a learning curve for me. I wondered why golfers enjoyed trying to hit an impossibly small ball into an impossibly small hole from impossible distances, and repeating this process 18 times ... However, after watching the golfers teeing off I started to understand.

Most of the attempts at striking the ball lacked lustre; some veered off to either side, while others fell short of their intended marks. Yet every so often a golfer would connect the ball with such deafening power and accuracy that seagulls exploded in mid-air! (This may be a slight exaggeration).

Playing golf is like reaching for the proverbial stars. It is the combination of patience, dedication, practice and luck that every so often results in that one blinding drive down the fairway, or that unforgettable 20 ft put, or perhaps that once in a lifetime hole in one.

All in all, the day was a resounding success. The Chief of the SA Navy’s Golf Day remains, through dedicated planning, selfless contribution by the organisers and enthusiastic participation, “on a par” with any annual event of its kind.

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**Gauteng Regional Sports Day**

*Article and photos by Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela*

The second of two annual sports days in the Gauteng region was held on 9 September 2011 at the Pretoria Military Sports Club. The opportunity was created for units to complete and promote the value of healthy participation in sport. The emphasis was on mass participation and units were encouraged to enter as many teams as possible.

Capt Thandi Ngwena, the Chairperson of the Pretoria Military Netball Club, said the aim was to entertain members of the SA National Defence Force and to identify and earmark potentials players to play in the provincial military games.
Career Development Day for Secretaries

Article and photos provided by Ms Sanet Stoltz, Senior Personnel Practitioner, Directorate Career Management

The Department of Defence Instruction on the management of the development of Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) directs the employer’s responsibility towards the career development of PSAP of which the career services rendered by Directorate Career Management (Career Services) is an integral part. The identification of career development interventions originates from direct requests, and/or observations and/or dealings with employees/employers.

Career development days for various occupational groupings, especially on functional level of appointment, have been identified as a type of intervention that fits the scope of career development that can influence the self-management of individuals and consequently their career development.

The first ever Career Development Day for Secretaries (employed in the SA Air Force) was recently arranged and hosted by Directorate Career Management (DCM).

The aim of the Career Development Day for Secretaries was to augment the performance and engagement levels of this occupational grouping that is specifically valued in the Department of Defence (DOD) which focuses on relevant career aspects.

On 9 September 2011 the first group of 30 attendees and five guest speakers convened at the Ladies Mess at AFB Waterkloof. A warm welcome was extended by Ms M. Malan to the audience, the secretaries and the guest speakers, and they were reminded that although they were there to learn about career development, they should also enjoy the day. The audience were each provided with a paper bag that contained some craft items and each attendee was challenged by Ms Stoltz to create something with it during the day.

The first guest speaker was Lt Col Celeste van Rooyen, who has 31 years experience in the DOD and is currently studying at Unisa. As the designated SO1 Career Management for PSAP she gave information about an initiative to be implemented soon in the SA Air Force regarding the various salary levels of secretaries versus their post levels.

Lt Col Van Rooyen also presented information on the number of PSAP posts in the SA Air Force, including statistics on the attrition that took place from 2009 to the present and shared information regarding the age distribution of PSAP.

Capt (SAN) Leon van Dyk’s topic was: “What does my manager expect from me?” He discussed the origin of the concept “secretary”, the meaning of the word, what the perfect secretary should do/not do in order to be an excellent aid to her manager and illustrated this using typical DOD examples.

The third speaker was Ms Pamela Khumalo from Telkom. Ms Khumalo is the Executive Assistant in the Office of the CEO of Telkom Group. She has been a PA/Secretary for more than 16 years, nine of which has been at executive level. Ms Khumalo was also the 2009/2010 winner of the Today’s Office Professional Award. Her topic of choice was “How to be professional in your workplace”. She was able to relay to the audience which skills, knowledge and experience were required in order to be an outstanding and professional secretary.

Capt (SAN) Leon van Dyk’s topic was: “What does my manager expect from me?” He discussed the origin of the concept “secretary”, the meaning of the word, what the perfect secretary should do/not do in order to be an excellent aid to her manager and illustrated this using typical DOD examples.

The final guest speaker of the day was Ms Karin Swart, the First Princess in the 2008/2009 Ms Modern Woman Competition (Assistant Director Human Resources Development) speaking about appropriate office dress and make-up.

After the first tea break Ms Malan spoke on the topic “Taking charge of my career development”. This presentation immediately caught the attention - especially because many of the attendees had already reached the glass ceiling in their career. They were sensitised to the fact that they had to attend regular courses and study to improve their skills and could consider horizontal transfers if they felt their careers were stagnating. They were also informed of the importance of the two handouts compiled and prepared by DCM for each attendee, i.e. the Occupational Class Career Guide for Secretaries and the Secretarial Guide.

Ms Karin Swart, First Princess in the 2008/2009 Ms Modern Woman Competition (Assistant Director Human Resources Development) speaking about appropriate office dress and make-up.

The final guest speaker of the day was Ms Karin Swart, the First Princess in the 2008/2009 Ms Modern Woman Competition. She was therefore a very suitable person to speak on the subject “Appropriate office dress and make-up”. The ladies enjoyed her presentation very much and were coached on what appropriate office dress/make-up was, what was not appropriate and she even linked it to the DOD dress guidelines.
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!

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