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FRONT COVER: Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, with Ms Selina Hlakane (30) from Sedibeng District, Gauteng, who had undergone training in self-discipline and patriotism. Read all about the National Rural Youth Service Corps on pages 12 to 13. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
This April edition of SA Soldier is packed with a variety of articles ranging from service delivery to millions of South Africans living in rural areas (read the article on the building of bridges on pages 16 and 17) to the positive attitude change of Department of Defence members towards their colleagues with disabilities (pages 22 and 23).

On pages 36 and 37 you can read about the importance of your employability skills and how to develop them. These are critical tools and traits one needs to succeed in the workplace.

Our sport-lovers will enjoy this month’s edition that overruns with articles on sport. We start off with an athlete who is aiming for her Comrades green number (page 39). This is followed by a husband and wife who dominate in combat rifle shooting (page 40). On page 42 you can read about the SANDF 21.1 km Championships, which 285 athletes finished. Then it is time to read about the world’s largest open water swimming competition - South Africa’s Midmar Mile, including the assistance that the SANDF rendered to the swimmers (page 43). Let your fingers do the walking to pages 44 and 45 and read about the top endurance-walking event in South Africa - the Dias Endurance Walk …

During April we have many public holidays to celebrate, starting with Good Friday on 22 April, followed by Family Day on 25 April and Freedom Day on 27 April. Let us commemorate these days in the spirit they deserve.

Next month SA Soldier will be celebrating its 10th birthday. In celebrating a decade of informing you, our readers, about military affairs we shall dedicate the May edition to the highlights of the past ten years. We hope you look forward to reliving the past, as we shall enjoy compiling the Special Birthday Edition for you.

Until then - happy reading!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor
Gunner Masango laid to rest with full military honours

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On 22 February 2011 the nation learnt with great shock and sadness of the sudden passing of Gunner Jabulani David Masango, a member from 10 Air Defence Artillery. The SANDF, friends and family mourned the falling of a warrior who had passed away under tragic circumstances following a parachute accident during Exercise YOUNG EAGLE, a force preparation and combat-ready exercise to enhance the capabilities of airborne forces.

On 5 March 2011 the late Gunner Masango was laid to rest with full military honours. The service was conducted at the Emmaus Community Centre and he was laid to rest in the Nigel Cemetery. He was given a hero’s send-off in a colourful military funeral that turned the township of Duduza in the East Rand into a hive of activity.

Family, relatives, childhood friends and colleagues who worked with Gunner Masango attested to the fact that South Africa had lost one of its greatest assets, an airborne soldier. They described him as one who loved life and they celebrated the gentle and humorous person he was.

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves and General of the Gunners, recognised the commitment of Gunner Masango to serve through his selfless dedication to the safety of the Republic and the continent, and his dedication, loyalty and determination to protect vulnerable and insecure people. His name will be added to the Gunner’s Memorial Site in Potchefstroom and will be unveiled later this year during the national annual Gunners’ Memorial Service, to which his family will be invited.

His coffin was draped with the National Flag. The significance of this during military funerals is to denote that the deceased has died in the service of his country. The last post sounded at the cemetery was the “Nunc dimittis” of the deceased. The high note on which it ended was designed to express hope and expectation, and this is emphasised, after a pause during the Reveille, which anticipates the resurrection.

The SANDF conducted the funeral in a sensitive, but militarily correct way. The service was to support and comfort the family, relatives and friends of Gunner Masango, while taking the military customs and practices into consideration. A military funeral is a specially orchestrated funeral given by a country’s military for a soldier.

Gunner Masango paid the highest sacrifice for his country. He was a proud and fully-fledged member of the parachute battalion. He served his country and nation with pride and distinction and conducted himself at all times in the way required of a paratrooper. He believed in himself, in his unit and his country and above all he believed in God (quote from the Code of Honour of the paratroopers).

Gunner Jabulani David Masango is survived by his father, Mr Bongani Masango, three sisters and a brother.

Lala ngoxolo Dumako, Phondo Lubomvu (May his soul rest in peace).
EXERCISE STIRRING THE WATERS

Many people have asked themselves why they gained so much weight and why they felt so unhealthy. It is most likely because they have not been exercising.

I would like to refer to exercise as stirring the water because our bodies are approximately two-thirds water. Think of what happens when water sits for a long time in a puddle or pond. It eventually gets covered with slime and gunk and breeds diseases and becomes toxic. Think of those green, algae covered ponds you see in the country. That process is similar to what is going on in many people’s bodies. On the other hand, water moves. Life thrives. Running water is usually fresh water. Rivers and waterfalls are beautiful and inviting-alive. That's a perfect picture of what exercise does. It refreshes your body and clears it of toxins and cellular garbage, sharpens your mind and gives you strength and energy.

Consider again that your body is mostly water. There are many references in the Bible that associate flowing water with life and healing. The gospel of John tells us about the crippled people who waited at the pool of Bethesda because they believed an angel would occasionally stir the waters, healing whoever got into the pool at that moment. To them the movement of water symbolised life (See John 5:2-7).

When water moves, things grow and thrive. On the other hand, dead things are commonly associated with stagnant bodies of water. It is time to take your health into your own hands and stir the waters of life with exercise.

Do not park your body; your body was designed to move. It needs water, rest, food and exercise; eventually you may ruin your engine. Many people these days are sick because they have not stirred their waters with movement and action. They become cesspools of disease due to stagnation. Soon they will get to the point where they cannot exercise because their bodies are broken down with heart disease, arthritis and other degenerative diseases. "Stirring the waters" with exercise has many powerful effects on one’s health.

Benefits of regular exercise: a decrease risk of heart disease, stroke and hypertension. It helps to prevent Type2 diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, colds, flu and certain types of cancer. It helps maintain healthy bones and joints, slows down the overall aging process and promotes restful sleep. It improves the mood and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression. And benefits you probably already know about are that it promotes weight loss and decreases appetite. 

Lt H. Meyer, SA Irish Regiment

EMPLOYMENT FOR FORMER MSDS MEMBERS

Each year a number of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members do not receive contracts from the DOD and must clear out at the end of their contract. These members are the earmarked to join the Reserve Force to rejuvenate our Reserve Force. Most of these young people will be unemployed with only a limited chance of finding employment.

The DOD wants to prevent this situation and endeavours to find sustainable employment as far as possible. It is one of the objectives of Directorate Human Resource Separation to seek employment for these members in the private and public sector.

Such an opportunity arose with the upgrading of roads in Gauteng. The upgrading of the roads includes the implementation of an electronic toll collection (ETC) system on some of the main roads in the province. Director HR Separation approached Omega People Solution who is responsible for recruiting members for the project on behalf of ETC as control room operators.

From November 2010 until January 2011, Director HR Separation co-ordinated the selection and interviewing process of 581 MSDS members who were not offered Core Services System (CSS) contracts. The selection process and interviews were conducted by ETC all over the country.

Of these members who participated in the selection process 128 met the requirement profile for employment in the ETC project. These members were employed by ETC all over the country.

OBTAiN A MILiTARY DRIViNG LICENSE

I want to give some advice to all the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members of 2010. This is the time to get your military driving licence because it is going to help you in case you do not get a contract. A driving licence is vital since our SANDF does not give all of us contracts. It will help you in your next career. It is going to be your Plan B, if Plan A fails.

Lt H. Meyer, SA Irish Regiment
A PRIDE OF LIONS

A pride consisting of a lion, lioness and four cubs on a cloudy autumn afternoon were in a remote area without a tree or other animal in sight. In other words the pride was looking for a new home. The environment seemed unknown to the pride, as the father was cautious but alert, with a view to securing the area ahead. In this scenario the male portrays the old ways of human culture in which the father is the one who protects the family. By walking in front, the male displays strength and courage. If lions could speak, the male would say: “If anything should happen to my family, they’ll have to go through me first”.

The lioness is known for her protective nature. She walks with them with pride and the knowledge that she is in charge of them. She is facing the future, not only hers, but that of her family. With the knowledge that the cubs are beside her and her mate (male) is protecting them she embarks on the journey, ready to take on any challenge.

The two cubs, one to the left and one to the right of the lioness, are not only embarking on the journey to be protected by their father, but they are also contributing by protecting their mother. Small, yet full of courage, the cubs display the characteristics of manhood.

The cub behind the father to the left of him displays the character of a lioness.

DISCUSSING MORALS AND VALUES

From 18 to 21 January 2011 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) recruits of 1 Special Service Battalion were blessed with a visit from Chaplains Mokobe, Mandleleni and Van Rooyen, who taught the recruits how to combat HIV and AIDS through spiritual and ethical conduct (CHATSEC).

For the duration of this programme, recruits were taught and sensitised about various issues that they might have come across in their lives, whether good or bad. They were also taught various ethical ways to approach problems they might have come across in their everyday lives, whether as soldiers or civilians. The recruits participated in role-playing and group discussions about morals and values, the steps of decision-making, self-esteem, positive- ness when encountering challenges, “river of life”, responsibility and discipline.

During the programme the recruits demonstrated an increased understanding and awareness of the importance of their own and universal ethical values. They demonstrated, among others, an increase in knowledge, understanding and the application of ethical decision-making.

AFRICA MY HOME

Africa my home, Africa my land
You are the beat of my heartbeat Africa!
You are my life

Africa!
The land of my forefathers
The land of prosperity
Oh, my beautiful land
Africa my home

Listen to the song
The song of African bird
Arise and shine Africa
And let the world see your splendour

Africa my home
Africa my land
The land of my forefathers.
T.J. Mathavhana, Pretoria

WORLD WAR II TELEGRAM

It reads: Personal
“To remind you of my previous injunction - Think only of being a good soldier. Do not bother about anything else.”

This ought to be the first thought and desire of every man and woman as they get out of bed each morning. I was a member of 1 SSB in 1972 (National Service) and thereafter 1st Light Horse Regiment and am now a member of the South African Armour Association.

All success with your magazine.
Danny Fourie, email

“It was found that with simulation (role-play) regarding assertiveness, recruits managed to interact with each other about the matter (scenario) at hand, and showed an understanding of the course outcomes, as different emotions were exchanged and conveyed without any criticism” (an extraction from Chaplain Mokobe’s report).

The CHATSEC concluded with a candle lighting ceremony, which was held at 1 Special Service Battalion Film Hall. CO Bongani Mkhwanazi, Troop Commander, B Squadron, 1 Special Service Battalion.

* You really have a passion for your hobby … Enjoy it! Unfortunately the quality of the scanned version of the telegram received was too poor for publication purposes - Ed.
ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

I am writing this letter as I have experienced unethical behaviour on the part of one member in our unit. It is not that I have a problem with the individual concerned, but I am just trying to highlight something that will prevent unpleasantness in our working environment. We tend to forget that when working with people we need to be professional and behave ethically.

I want to address ethical behaviour in our workplace because this situation is quite disturbing. People should know how to work with clients. It is important to know that in your daily routine you will be confronted by different kinds of customers and it's your call to know how to deal with them. Therefore, in short, ethics indicates to us what is right or wrong and it determines our attitude towards work, which we call work ethics.

Work ethics addresses the broad principle of what is considered to be right or wrong, desirable or unacceptable behaviour in the workplace and interaction with key stakeholders. It defines these sets of behaviours and actively communicates them to employees, new recruits, clients and others who have an interest in the way one performs.

If you ask big companies or organisations why they struggle to survive, the answer often lies in a profound lack of ethics. Remember, at the heart of work ethics resides integrity, which means accepting full responsibility, communicating clearly, and actively avoiding hidden agendas. It is your duty and responsibility as an office worker to help, when asked for help.

Although I say it is not really possible to teach someone to be ethical in his dealings with the public, workplace ethics training can contribute to successful discussion or even a seminar on the subject of work ethics. Ethical behaviour will help create a better customer service for your client.

Cpl S.E. Dlangana, 2 SAI Bn

TEACH ME DISCIPLINE

I thought I was born inside it
I thought I was grown up
I thought there was no need

What is discipline
Every individual has it
What is the use to be taught about discipline
While I have it from birth

I know how to greet with respect
I know how to talk to the elders with respect
I know how to shake hands with respect
I know how to respond with respect

I was born in the days of apartheid
I was born when the days were tough
I was born when respect was not important
When respect could not open doors for you

Someone must teach me discipline
Not by reading or writing
not by singing or talking
But by actions

To be disciplined means you must respect yourself
And then the person next to you
You must know how to rectify mistakes
And also allow people to rectify you

Learn to love so that you can be loved
Learn to respect so that someone can respect you
Learn to smile then someone will smile back
If you do not do this, who is going to do it for you

A disciplined human being is respected by all
A disciplined leader is loved by all
Disciplined parents are loved by their children
A disciplined soldier is respected by people.

Pte Mapea Maria Mmaphefo, 1 SAI Bn

NEW OFFICER COMMANDING FOR MPUMALANGA SIGNAL UNIT

On 11 February 2011 Maj Barend Pretorius officially accepted command of Mpumalanga Signal Unit. The unit had been without an Officer Commanding for two and a half years, and during this period Lt Natasha Diedericks acted as Officer Commanding.

The Appointment of Command Parade was attended by Officers Commanding of signal units from all provinces, including the Officer Commanding of 2 Signal Regiment, Col Loy de Jager. Col De Jager officially handed over the command of Mpumalanga Signal Unit to Maj Pretorius.

Also attending the parade were the parents of Maj Pretorius and his grandfather, Mr Fortuni Trossello, who fought in World War II in Italy.

Mr Fortuni Trossello, who fought in World War II in Italy.

In his address Col De Jager said that he was confident that Maj Pretorius would provide good service to the clients as he had the necessary knowledge and skills to do so. He also asked the members of the unit to support their new Officer Commanding to enable him to execute his task with diligence and professionalism. Lize Pienaar, Com Officer ASB Mpumalanga

Maj Barend Pretorius, the newly appointed Officer Commanding Mpumalanga Signal Unit, and his grandfather, Mr Fortuni Trossello, who fought in World War II in Italy.
ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Port Elizabeth Branch of the South African Legion of Military Veterans once again held its annual Memorial Service at St Paul’s Church in Port Elizabeth on 20 February 2011. This service commemorates three disasters at sea, namely the sinking of the SS Mendi (21 February 1917), HMSAS Southern Floe (11 February 1941) and the SAS President Kruger (18 February 1982).

This year, during the memorial, the Candles of Remembrance were lit by Capt (SAN) L. Scheckter (Ret) for the SS Mendi, Cdr K.A. Adams (Ret) for the HMSAS Southern Floe and Warrant Officer (SAN) Y. Tifloen (a survivor of the SAS President Kruger’s sinking) for the SAS President Kruger. The service was well attended and included a contingent of Sea Cadets from the Port Elizabeth Unit.

This year there was in fact a twist to the disaster of the SS Mendi. A letter was published in the Eastern Province Herald from a Mr Nick Ward of Littlehampton, Sussex, UK. In that letter he said that he, a battlefield tour guide and researcher, had come across a grave in the Littlehampton Cemetery in which three soldiers from the SS Mendi were interred! The Commonwealth War Graves Commission had apparently erected a headstone. However, the condition of the grave made it obvious that nobody had been to it for a very long time, if ever.

Mr Ward proceeded to lay three poppies on the grave on 21 February.

We were able to make contact with Mr Ward who has now further researched the grave and discovered from the inquest report that “a signal was sent from a ship a mile off Littlehampton stating that they had picked four men from the water and could they land the bodies in the harbour, and a launch was sent out to meet the ship and take off four bodies (three black and one white male). The bodies were handed over to the police along with other articles (unknown, as no mention was made of these ‘articles’)

A post-mortem was carried out on the white man and the reason given for death was drowning. It was said by the coroner that if required, a post-mortem would be carried out on the three black men, but it was not felt necessary as death was obviously due to the same cause.

Identification of the white man was made by a letter in his pocket from his mother in Bootle, Liverpool, and he was identified as W. Cooper, the ship’s baker. The three black men in uniform were identified from their ID tags and metal shoulder titles as Simon Lingansio, Jim Mbombiya and Smith Segule. However, the joint grave only lists Smith Segule, the other two are simply Pte Jim and Pte Simon and it is a matter that needs to be raised with the Commonwealth War-graves Commission as a matter of urgency. The inquest gave no idea as to how these bodies came to be in the water, but I suspect the wartime blackout on this sort of news prohibited the truth being told.

The site of the sinking of the SS Mendi is approx 35 miles from Littlehampton and according to the dates the men had been in the sea for 8-9 days, no mention is given of whether they were found separate or on a raft or other floating object, but it does seem odd to me that a letter has survived so long if it had been submerged for this period.

The inquest stated that the three black men seemed of a young age. We will be approaching the SA Legion National Office in Johannesburg to find a way of trying to locate the relatives of these three men so that the families can bring closure to their lives and know where their brothers or fathers are buried.

W. M. Bartie, Branch Treasurer
**THE ABC OF A SOLDIER**

A - absence of love during war  
B - battle readiness at all times  
C - commitment by soldiers in war zone  
D - death that might come their way  
E - ever ready when whistle blows  
F - fear none but God  
G - guns that bring pains  
H - happiness after victory  
I - identify the main target  
J - jointness of all arms  
K - knowledge of task given unto them  
L - love of their Lord  
M - mastering his tour of duty  
N - no retro  
O - options to overcome their opponent  
P - plan A and plan B  
Q - question after the battle  
R - reorganisation when mission is accomplished  
S - small things that matter most  
T - time necessity is the investment of speed  
U - understanding of current situation  
V - victory at hand whilst fighting  
W - winning is gaining experience  
X - crossfire as their effective fire  
Y - yearning for those who counted  
Z - Zulu vehicles that must be camouflaged at all times.  

Cpl M. Guduza, 5 SAI Bn, Malha Base: Sudan

**DOCTOR ON DEPLOYMENT**

**FREEDOM DAY**

Yes, how can I keep quiet if I see a beautiful desert becoming a war zone  
When will Freedom Day be I want to know  
Our fathers fought for this day but no sign of peace  
Yes, is this fighting caused by the oil in your soil?  
Is your soil rich because of fallen heroes who we are fighting for freedom?  
Give your hand, I will pull you and lead you to the promised land  
Are you treating me as a helper or a stranger  
How can I help if you don’t give me co-operation: we try together  
I know that I’m a foreigner but my aim is to bring Freedom Day nearer  
Let us unite in bringing peace and stability to the land of our forefathers  
I want to know when Freedom Day will come.  

Cpl M. Guduza, 5 SAI Bn, Malha Base: Sudan

**FROM THE SUDAN TO PEACEKEEPERS**

You fixed my broken heart;  
You dried my tears;  
You stopped my nightmares;  
You brought happiness into my life  
You made me forget the past;  
You brought joy to me  
You made me forget the pains of the past  
You made me treat other people fairly  
Please stay forever.  
Thanks for your sacrifice  
If you can, make our country your home.  

Cpl M. Guduza, 5 SAI Bn, Malha Base

**TWO DAYS LEFT - WITH HIM WE CAN MAKE IT**

Let me return my mind to the presentation at DOD Mobilisation Centre, when they were talking about Pinga Base. Everyone’s heart was just black like coke. Asking each other who will be sent there.  
The General, Emanuel, Ke Manyakayita, Commander Mushana, but myself I call him born Commander. When he heard his company was going to Pinga, he took it easy, knowing that it was his porridge and meat.  
He had high morale. In his first week he was the President of Pinga because the community was proud of his work for them. Our motto was to win the minds and hearts of the community. It took us a week to do this because of our commander.  
We ended up calling this place a place of holiness and peace because we changed it from red to green. Members of the community are now moving freely, whether by day or night. But all of this is because of this man - Commander Mushana - the General of 7 SA Infantry Battalion Bravo Company, Operation MISTRAL XVI, including his Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Edgar Mavunungu, and his second in command, Capt Vanneel, and his officers: Lt Makola, Lt Legodi and Lt Ntwampe.  

Two days left was our slogan. We were taking six months, as if it was two days because of the support that we were receiving from our Commander and our Sergeant Major. Thanks for being with you our fathers; you showed us a lot; without you we were chickens without a mother. We thought that we would help our brothers and sisters in the future. Shine the General shine! Let God expand your mind so that the young officers can copy a lot from you and imprint in their minds that they can also excel in future.  

L Cpl R.B. Mkhonto, Bravo Company 7 SAI Bn, Pinga Base (Op MISTRAL XVI)

Maj (Dr) Solly Tselane, an Aviation Medical Evacuation Team (AMET) Medical Officer, stationed at Munigi Base in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(Photograph: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)
CHANGE OF COMMAND IN THE CONGO

25 January 2011 was a day to remember for some of us. It was the handing and taking over parade for the National Contingent Commanders of Operation MISTRAL XVI between the outgoing Commander, Col M. Ngculu, and the incoming Commander, Col R.A. Makgae.

To attend a parade of such a nature in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was a memorable experience, far away from home. It was a very good display of the discipline in the SANDF. Let the tradition live long. Among us were also members of the Canadian and Uruguayan Defence Forces to witness the discipline of the SANDF, which started with drill.

Col Ngculu ended his successful tour of duty after 12 months in the deployment area. His message to the members of Operation MISTRAL XVI was: “Great South Africans, give a helping hand to our fellow Africans and portray a good image of the SANDF. Let us be successful in establishing peace in this country for the people in the DRC”.

Sgt Colin Witbooi, email

SA ARMY ACCOMPLISHES ITS MISSION IN THE CONGO

The South African Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mr N. Mashimbye, formally handed over 42 and 43 Rapid Reaction Force Battalions to Brig Gen Mbuayana, Director of Logistics of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Armed Forces (FARDC) during a parade held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Katanga Province, Mura Training Centre near Likasi on 25 February 2011.

The two battalions were trained by members of the SA Army (Mission THEBE) as part of an agreement between the RSA and the DRC signed in August 2007. The agreement stipulated that South Africa would assist the FARDC in training two or three battalions of the Rapid Reaction Force. In 2008 the then Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, handed over the first battalion, 41 Rapid Reaction Force Battalion, to the FARDC.

The two battalions were trained under the command of Lt Col M.L. Moraba. The training started on 24 May 2010 with 1 771 members of the FARDC who reported for training. It began with Basic Military Training followed by Platoon Weapons, Individual Training, Motorised Training, Infantry Support Training, Artillery Training, Military Police Training, Financial Training, Helicopter Assault Training, Battalion and Signallers Training, and culminated with Integrated Training of the above specialist fields.

During his address, Mr Mashimbye stressed the importance of cooperation between the two countries. He stated that the SA Government was proud of their involvement in the training of the FARDC and congratulated the SA Army Generals who were present at the parade on a “mission accomplished”. He said: “According to the agreement, we have fulfilled our undertaking to train at least three battalions.” He thanked the SA Army instructors for realising this dream.

Mr Mashimbye added that nothing was impossible. He said: “Today I am proud to see these men and women in uniform on parade. It is your task to implement what you have learned.” He then reminded all the Congolese Armed Forces’ Commanders: “it is possible”.

During the parade, Mr Mashimbye handed over the colours to both battalions. Brig Gen Mbuayana handed over certificates and awards to the best students in the various categories. The parade concluded with a march-past by the newly graduated soldiers who sang as they marched. Lt Col Mafi Mgobozi, SO1 SA Army Corp Com

MEDICAL ALERT

Capt (Dr) Sicelo Bangani, Medical Officer, and Cpl Malesela Matshitshila, driver of the ambulance, on duty at Munigi Base in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

Fltr: The South African Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr N. Mashimbye, the Director of Logistics of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Armed Forces, Brig Gen Mbuayana, and the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke.
In support of the Government’s drive to achieve more with less, more partnerships are pursued with other organs of state to assist in the delivery of justifiable socio-economic needs of rural areas and at local level.

The vision of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, to establish a National Youth Service was further enhanced when 500 youths from the country’s eight provinces received their certificates at a function held at the Department of Defence Mobilisation Centre at De Brug near Bloemfontein on 17 March 2011. The ceremony was honoured by the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Gugile Nkwinti, the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, and other senior officials from the Department of Defence and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

The youth were recruited by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and seconded to the Department of Defence for a seven-week foundation phase of pilot training. This specially designed foundational training of a non-military nature was intended to train the youth in, among others, self-discipline, patriotism, civic education and civic par-
participation (voluntarism). This programme is called the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC), the main goal of which is to recruit and develop a National Rural Youth Service Corps of members aged between 18 and 35 years to be trained to perform community service in their own communities.

The NARYSEC is a Government effort to curb migration to urban areas with a view to dealing with the escalating levels of service delivery protest action and high levels of unemployment that are prevalent among the youth and people in rural areas and to reskill young citizens. It is therefore another opportunity for economic participation through maintenance of existing infrastructure.

The focus of the programme is youth development in the rural areas and the need to address challenges of a lack of skills and unemployment.

One objective of the programme is to train the youth through Further Education and Training programmes linked to identified developmental community projects in rural areas. Another is to develop youth with multi-disciplinary skills through civic education, equipping them with basic concepts, methods, techniques and practical applications based on identified needs, and to provide them with knowledge and skills. In addition, to capacitate youth to retain knowledge and technical skills and to ensure that rural communities receive support for their self-development through the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme.

During her Budget Vote speech on 4 May 2010, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans announced her intention to introduce a bill that would provide the necessary legal framework for the creation of a National Youth Service. In this regard the DOD has embarked on a public consultative process to solicit inputs from various defence stakeholders, particularly youth formations.

Once established, the National Youth Service will, among others, seek to address the challenges of youth unemployment. This will be done by ensuring that all youth are introduced to the Department of Defence’s facilities where they will be offered skills to build on.
Human-centredness of SA and Botswana

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SANDF’s improved standing on the world stage enables it to attempt new ways of doing things, based on human-centredness in building a better life for all citizens, both those of our region and the world.

On 2 March 2011 the Acting Chief of the SANDF, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, his counterpart, the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force, Lt Gen Tebogo Masire, co-signed the technical arrangement regulating the transfer and treatment of patients between the SANDF and the Botswana Defence Force as a follow-up on matters arising from the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria.

During the signing ceremony both parties welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the joint action plan of the strategic partnership covering co-operation in the field of military health.

Welcoming the Botswana delegation, Lt Gen Matanzima said that this agreement laid a firm foundation for the two allies to support each other in providing quality health care to soldiers and making health facilities and specialised military health disciplines available to provide optimum medical support.

He pointed out that the agreement also gave expression to expectations around future institutional capacity development. Lt Gen Matanzima said: “As one of the outcomes of the meeting we will continue to engage on the regional front for support for the mutually beneficial agreement.”

In response, the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force said that the agreement addressed the desire to take service delivery of our military health services to another level. He said that collaboration between the two armed forces would allow for greater access to military institutions and the Defence Force would be able to refer patients to military hospitals and also take responsibility for associated health care costs. He pointed out the challenge of limited specialised military health care facilities in Botswana which made it difficult for members at times to access health care.

Lt Gen Masire said: “The agreement is a major milestone and footprint that further enhance strategic partnership, particularly the tangible outcomes which support the achievement of developmental objectives of both our countries and armed forces.”

The Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, who also attended the signing agreement later spoke to the members of the media. He said that the military health service of the SANDF supported the South African Government’s message of “being of service to others” and it would continue to provide health care and world-class clinical service.

Lt Gen Ramlakan said: “The agreement will have positive results and the SA Military Health Service has a cohesive working relationship with other Southern African Development Community (SADC) Military Health Services and we support each other wherever possible in the provision of health care services.” He also mentioned that the event was a telling instance of a deliberate strategic decision between the two allies to collaborate in establishing this capability.
SANDF successfully evacuates South Africans from Libya

Article and photo by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA National Defence Force is the spear and the shield of the nation. It is the ultimate arsenal when it comes to the security of this country, its people and its borders and our democracy", said President Jacob Zuma as he addressed the crowd at the 10 Years Peace Mission Parade in Bloemfontein last year.

Libya has been in a state of armed chaos since a massive revolt erupted on 15 February 2011. After careful assessment of the security situation on the ground in Tripoli, the South African Government decided that all South African diplomatic personnel and stranded nationals would be evacuated and they would only return to Libya once conditions had returned to normal.

Through intra-governmental co-operation between the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO) of the Republic of SA and the Department of Defence, thirty South Africans were evacuated from Libya and returned to safety in South Africa. The Government also assisted fellow Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries by evacuating nine SADC citizens from Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Mozambique and one UK citizen.

The people evacuated from Libya landed at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria on 27 February 2011 and were welcomed by the Deputy Minister of DIRCO, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, the Acting Chief of the SANDF, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, their families and friends. The chartered Boeing 767 left South Africa with the rescue team from the SANDF and DIRCO on 26 February 2011 for Malta and landed in Tripoli to evacuate the South Africans stranded in Libya.

In welcoming these people, the Deputy Minister of DIRCO, expressed the Government’s satisfaction at the successful evacuation mission undertaken to Libya under the leadership of DIRCO and the DOD. He extended his appreciation to the South African Missions across the continent that assisted in the successful execution of the evacuation, while commending the efforts of the Ambassador of Tripoli, Mr Muhamad Dangor, and his staff, who under extremely difficult circumstances had ensured the safe return of our citizens and those of fellow SADC countries.

Mr Ebrahim said: “As the situation in Libya continues to deteriorate we would like to reiterate our support for the call made by the African Union Peace and Security Council for an end to the indiscriminate and excessive use of force against demonstrators. Furthermore we urge the Libyan Government to abide by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1970, ensure the safety of foreign nationals and their assets, and facilitate the departure of those wishing to leave the country, as well as the safe passage of humanitarian and medical supplies, humanitarian agencies and workers into Libya in order to assist the Libyan people.

“The South African Government will continue to monitor the situation in Libya and remains committed to providing assistance upon request from the Libyan people to ensure a smooth transition to democratic rule.”

Cabinet congratulated the SANDF on successfully evacuating South African citizens stranded in Libya. The total number of people evacuated was forty. Cabinet also reiterated that the responsibility of the SANDF was to assist South Africans in distress, both locally and abroad (Statement on the Cabinet meeting held on 2 March 2011).
**Defence in peacetime - a force for good**

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA Department of Defence has the ability to provide collateral utility as and when required both within South Africa and beyond her borders. Much of the collateral utility is in the form of support to the South African people.

The Department has the obligation to support the people of South Africa in operations and activities other than war, in disasters, emergencies and cases of humanitarian need, when the responsible Government departments do not have adequate capacity to do so.

The recent rains and floods in South Africa resulted in numerous bridges and roads in rural areas being damaged and/or washed away. In this regard the Department of Public Works formally approached the SANDF to render assistance in re-establishing mobility in priority areas as determined by it.

There will be four crossing points, namely, one at Nqqu, two at Mthatha and one at Hammanskraal. The deliverables required for the areas will be four pedestrian and vehicle crossing points. The construction project, which is driven by the Department of Public Works and the SANDF, is part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) aimed at bringing service delivery to millions of South Africans living in rural areas, many of whom are cut off from schools, clinics and towns during the rainy season.

The EPWP is a national programme co-ordinated by the Department of Public Works. The mandate of the EPWP is to implement Government’s objective of alleviating poverty, providing income, work experience and skills development through the cre-
The EPWP involves creating temporary and ongoing work opportunities for the unemployed, using public sector funds. Its fundamental objectives are to increase employment opportunities so that able bodied individuals who cannot find work and do not have access to social grants can earn an income and gain experience and skills through productive work.

Ms Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde, the Minister of Public Works, and Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Acting Chief of the SANDF, launched Phase 2 of the project during the sod-turning ceremony on 8 March 2011 at Nququ, Cofimvaba, in the Eastern Cape. The SA Army Engineers are building bridges that will link remote communities to established infrastructure.

A number of people were swept away following floods and heavy rains. Drownings had occurred in flooded rivers in the impoverished rural communities of South Africa, involving toddlers, young children, teenagers and adults. These incidents are largely caused by a lack of proper infrastructure, such as bridges, with which to cross the perilous rivers in these rural areas.

The SANDF once again will show the nation that it has a National Defence Force that it can be proud of. The SANDF can be counted on and can make a difference. The SANDF has in recent years positioned itself as a reliable partner in the creation of stability, peace, security and prosperity in the country and the continent. The skilled, disciplined and technologically advanced National Defence Force remains committed to being a force for good.
SADC Naval Chiefs reconvene in Namibia

By PO Dineo Maleka,
Senior Internal Com Clerk,
Naval Base Simon’s Town
Photo: CPO Johannes Mbiza

The Standing Maritime Committee of the Interstate Defence and Security Committee reconvened for their annual meeting at Swakopmund in Namibia from 23 to 25 February 2011. The committee comprises Naval Chiefs and related defence representatives that share mutual maritime interests in terms of development, capability and capacity, particularly in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The meeting was chaired and hosted by Namibia. Eight member states were present, namely Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Two presentations, namely, "Maritime Domain Awareness in the Gulf of Guinea, its Impact on the SADC and Lessons Learnt" and "Naval Challenges in the 21st Century and their Impact on the SADC and a Strategy to Deal with these Challenges" were presented by Angola and Mozambique respectively (as topics of maritime interest and information value).

The meeting also focused on deliberations and resolutions in relation to the minutes of the previous meeting, which included items such as the completion of the maritime strategy, the doctrine, concept of operations and standard operating procedures, maritime pledges, establishing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between member states, expanding regional maritime interoperability and information sharing mechanisms, and joint training opportunities and exercises.

New items introduced included invitations to the Sea Power for Africa Symposium and the Indian Ocean Navies Symposium, which provide a platform for discussions on matters of mutual maritime interest, the signing of MOUs and jurisdiction to facilitate the process of co-operation between countries, and piracy as a threat to the SADC and socio-economic development.

The Namibian Naval Commander,
RSA/Royal Thai intensify military relations

By Cpl Ally Rakoma

The Acting Chief of the SANDF, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, hosted the Chief of the Royal Thai Defence Forces, Gen Songkitti Jaggabatara, and his delegation at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 14 March 2011.

They visited South Africa over the period 14 to 18 March 2011. Gen Jaggabatara was also formally introduced to the Services Chiefs during the courtesy meeting. The aim of this visit was to show goodwill, strengthen military relations and affirm mutual understanding between the two defence forces.

South Africa views the Royal Thai Defence Forces as a strategic partner and the relationship between the two countries is underpinned by a common desire to promote the aspirations of developing countries with a view to ensuring a better world.

R Adm P.H. Vilho, said: "Activities such as illegal fishing, piracy, drug-trafficking and pollution have a detrimental effect on our economies. However, these problems cannot be tackled by individual countries, they require the concerted effort of all countries in the region. It is only at forums such as these that this co-operation can be achieved."

The current unprecedented spread of piracy, which has become an issue of maritime concern, necessitates that member states of the region prepare themselves effectively for any eventuality. As a result, the committee decided that a large SADC driven exercise (search and rescue, combined with a diving exercise) should be held in Tanzania during September/October 2011. Extensive media coverage will be planned to promote the visibility of SADC countries and thus demonstrate the region’s readiness to combat piracy. The exercise will also be an opportunity to identify all the gaps in terms of the capabilities of all member states.

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm J. Mudimu, said: "As piracy spreads southward, it presents both a challenge and an opportunity to the members of the SADC Standing Maritime Committee. This is our moment to shine. We as a collective have to be ready to present solutions and options to our respective governments, the region and the continent. Piracy can no longer be viewed from under a microscope as something distant; it is here and requires speedy action from all of us. We are the hope of our people and the people of the continent, we must not fail them as history will surely judge us."

The meeting concluded with the official signing of the 17th Standing Maritime Committee minutes by all member states and the handover of the chairmanship by Namibia’s R Adm Vilho to South Africa’s V Adm Mudimu.

The next Standing Maritime Committee (SMC) Annual Meeting will be held in Durban and will be programmed as follows: the SMC Work Session (20-21 February 2012), SMC Maritime Conference (22 February 2012) and the SMC Meeting (23-24 February 2012).
Accelerating value for a vital constituency

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On 11 March 2011 at the SA Military Health Service Headquarters, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, accompanied by Mr Tsepe Motumi, the Director-General in the Department of Military Veterans, held a meeting with the Ministerial Task Team on Military Veterans to deliberate on the Military Veterans Bill and explored how best various matters that had been raised in the bill could be achieved. The Bill provides a number of social benefits, including pensions, housing, health care, disability, education, business opportunities and employment for military veterans.

Mr Makwetla said that research had shown that it was important for countries that had emerged from conflict to take care of their former soldiers, including military veterans. He mentioned some of the military veterans’ critical challenges resulting from inadequate pensions, improper and insufficient housing, unsuccessful reintegration, re-skilling programmes, inappropriate honour and deteriorating health care. He warned that it would be immoral to abandon military veterans, as many of them did not have other skills to fall back on.

Also briefing the task team was Mr Motumi who mentioned that during a parliamentary presentation on the financial impact of the military veterans bill the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans demanded a full costing of the bill for a range of proposed benefits.

To establish benchmarks, representatives from the line function government departments and Alexander Forbes were present to engage with the Deputy Minister and the Task Team in an effort to explore how best to proceed in regard to the matter.
Allegiance to the cause of the SANDF and SA

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rders, decorations and medals are awarded by the President of the Republic of South Africa to deserving members for bravery and gallantry, and for distinguished, meritorious or devoted service.

On 9 March 2011 the Chief of the SA Army held a medal parade at the SA Army HQ to honour members of the SA Army who had displayed true allegiance to the cause of the SANDF and had rendered exceptional service to the nation.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, officiated at the parade and presented the medals. In conveying his appreciation and congratulating the recipients, he said that their dedication and loyalty, and never failing South Africa, had been noted and today they were being recognised for their outstanding contributions.

Lt Gen Shoke said: "Cognisance must be taken of the core objective of the SA Army and our persistent and purposeful actions to make a difference wherever we serve and our contribution to peace support operations beyond our borders. The image of South Africa is projected in the international community through your military professionalism. You make the world a better place: that should be seen as a symbol of hope."

Salute by members of the National Ceremonial Guard.

Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, presents Brig Gen Norman Yengeni, the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Intelligence Formation, with the Operational Medal for Southern Africa and the Tshumelo Ikatelaho Medal.

LEFT: Worthy medal recipients awaiting the arrival of the Chief of the SA Army during the SA Army Medal Parade.
Awarding contributors towards members with disabilities

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The attitude of the members of the Department of Defence towards their colleagues with disabilities is gradually changing. That was the view of Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, Chief Director Transformation Management, when she delivered her address at the 2010 Disability Unit of the Year Awards ceremony in Thaba Tshwane on 18 February 2011.

She was paying tribute to units and divisions that went the extra mile to accommodate people with disabilities as per the DOD’s strong moral and constitutional commitment to respect the equalisation of opportunities for people with disabilities.

Maj Gen Memela-Motumi said: “Since the introduction of the awards in 2006, the DOD’s able-bodied staff have came to appreciate working with their colleagues with disabilities. There is a gradual reality that it is only a mindset of individuals to suggest that people with disabilities cannot perform tasks that their able-bodied counterparts can. Those individuals with a hardened attitude towards people with disabilities should bear in mind that an accident can happen to them and they might sustain permanent injuries rendering them incapable of performing daily work as they were used to do. Colleagues should also acknowledge the fact that being a person with disabilities does not preclude one from making meaningful contributions to the country.”

Maj Gen Memela-Motumi added that since 2006, in order to motivate units to remove the barriers that impact negatively on people with disabilities, a Disability Equity Unit of the Year Award was introduced to enable people with disabilities to reach their full potential and to contribute equally with fellow DOD officials. The School of Signals at Wonderboom Military Base became the first recipient, followed by Air Force Base Langebaanweg in 2007, Army Support Base Bloemfontein in 2008 and in 2009 again Air Force Base Langebaanweg. She added that apart from the Disability Equity Unit Award, the units can also compete for other awards on offer, such as the Most Improved Disability Equity Unit of the Year Award, the Most Accessible Disability Unit Award and the UBUNTU Disability Equity Unit Award.

According to Chaplain Ben van der Walt from the SA Air Force colleagues with disabilities should stand up and be counted, and also should not let their disability prevent them from realising their goals. Chaplain Van der Walt also gave examples, such as Ludwig van Beethoven, a renowned classical music artist, who could not hear the masterpieces he produced.

The main aim of the awards was to pay tribute to units and divisions that
create a conducive working environment, promotion, skills development and empowerment for people with disabilities within the Department.

**AWARD WINNERS**

The **Most Improved Disability Equity Unit Award** was awarded to the unit that made the most progress with regard to the promotion of environmental accessibility in the unit by utilising their own creativity resources. This year the award went to Naval Base Simon’s Town.

The **Most Accessible Disability Equity Unit Award** went to the Joint Tactical Headquarters Northern Cape for excelling in the removal of structural barriers preventing people with disabilities from enjoying equal access to the built-up environment.

The **UBUNTU Disability Equity Unit Award** went to Directorate Career Management for reasonably accommodating people with disabilities, thus enabling them to compete equally alongside their fellow able-bodied colleagues.

The **Disability Equity Unit Award for 2010** was presented to the SA Air Force College for promoting disability equity by removing structural, institutional and attitudinal barriers from the working environment. This has led to the equal enjoyment of opportunities for people with disabilities.

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**New reins for Joint Operational Headquarters**

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela  
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thlaole

The Joint Operational Headquarters held its change of command parade between the outgoing General Officer Commanding, Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, and the incoming General Officer Commanding, Maj Gen Dumisani Mdutyana, at Tek Base Logistic Support Formation in Pretoria on 4 March 2011.

In his farewell speech Maj Gen Hlatshwayo emphasised the major role the SANDF has played in bringing stability to Africa. He said: "The fluidity of our operation can be attested by the success of the election held and peacekeeping missions in Burundi."

Maj Gen Hlatshwayo has been with the unit for five years and said he has learned that emergency and fluidity were the name of the game and teamwork was vital in reaching the goals of the unit. He added: "Fluidity should allow a degree of understanding and does not mean you take advantage."

Maj Gen Mdutyana, who is taking over the reins of Joint Operational Headquarters, is ready to face the challenges ahead with enthusiasm. He said: "I entertain no illusions that the way ahead will be smooth sailing or a bed of roses. However, let us be prepared for hard and rocky times with challenges and obstacles; then our road might be smoother, and I appreciate the fact that no man is an island. We rely and depend heavily on the support of all Services and Divisions for the success of our common objectives."

He expressed the importance of discipline as an important aspect when it came to good soldering. Maj Gen Mdutyana said: "To my fellow countrymen in uniform, I want to stress that discipline is the mother of all victories and as such there will always be zero tolerance of ill-discipline at all levels and all times. We will not compromise on this. It is the alpha and omega of good soldiering and the achievement of the best results."

In his speech Maj Gen Mdutyana gave a vote of thanks and congratulated his predecessor, Maj Gen Hlatshwayo, for the tremendous work he had done with dedication, loyalty and passion and he promised that their ship would never sink and that he would seek his advice whenever in doubt.

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Maj Gen Dumisani Mdutyana, the newly appointed General Officer Commanding Joint Operational Headquarters, holding the Sword of Command.
Unveiling the aviation industry through text and photos

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

In order to entice the youth to consider various career opportunities in the aviation industry and to introduce the public to the role and the function of the SA Air Force, the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, with Denel Aviation Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mike Kgobe, launched a coffee-table book entitled "Per Aspera Ad Astra - Through adversity to the Stars" at Denel Aviation Park in Kempton Park on 2 March 2011.

This book takes an in-depth look at the journey of SA Air Force personnel from their initial recruitment right through to when they take to the skies. This is done through a selected set of incredible photos that capture the various platforms used by the SA Air Force, including the operational support of these aircraft by both in-house (SA Air Force) engineers and those of the Denel Aviation.

In his address at the book launch, Lt Gen Gagiano said that the SA Air Force and Denel Aviation through this 2011 edition were looking to stir the imaginations of the learners to motivate them to work hard at maths and science to be able to pursue a career in aviation.

Lt Gen Gagiano added: "The publication presents an in-depth, amplified photographic chronicle of the role and work of the SA Air Force. It takes a reader along the journeys of members of the SA Air Force through their chosen careers, from the time of their
recruitment through to the achievement of their qualification and then on to their participation in operational missions. It also presents the interwoven resources, activities and air assets of the SA Air Force, thereby enhancing an understanding of the SA Air Force in the minds of all who read it.

"A parallel intention is to get the youth to love the Aviation Industry and create awareness of it, its value and the great diversity of opportunities it offers. The book also contains the highlights of Operation KGWELE, the securing of the national airspace during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. SA Air Force assets such as the mobile radars and ground support systems, and aircraft such as the Gripen, Hawk MK 120, Super Lynx Mk 64, Oryx, Augusta A109, C130BZ Hercules, C47TP Dakota, Cessna Caravan and the CASA 212 all played a part and all the highlights of these operations are brilliantly recorded in the book."

According to Mr Kgobe from the company responsible for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of military aircraft and test equipment, the book is a culmination of a project that has inspired the SA Air Force and Denel Aviation, and has captured our collective imagination over the past couple of months.

Mr Kgobe said: "What you are holding in your hands this evening can probably best be described as a labour of love - a legacy - for South African aviation. This is so much more than just a book! Working on it reminded each of us of the privileged position in which we find ourselves every day, namely that of working with flying machines. In flipping through these pages, you will be reminded - just as we were - of the beauty and elegance of these aircraft, of the feat of engineering and ingenuity they represent, of how man has conquered the barriers to flight and embarked on a journey to the stars."

He added that the book also showcased the vast array of career options available, and painted a picture of individual contributions that have made the SA Air Force what it is today. As such, we believe it to be a critical awareness-building and educational tool that will expose this country’s children and their parents to a new world of possibilities in the aviation industry, and will empower the next generation to take both of our organisations to even greater heights.

Meanwhile an auction was held and guests were invited to bid for beautiful pictures of aircraft. Altogether R7 800 was raised and the proceeds went towards the SA Air Force Benevolent Fund. A lucky reader, Mr Dean Harmse, also won himself a copy of the newly launched coffee-table book after updating his details on the SA Air Force website in December 2010.
Capability development in the SANDF

By Lesley-Ann Jacobs, Defence Decision Support Institute

Organisations created to fight the last war better, are not going to win the next one!” Lt Gen Gavin (US Army Paratrooper 1907 - 1990).

The SANDF annually spends large sums of money on equipment, which may take 10 to 15 years to acquire and could be in service for 40 - 50 years. A problem originates when the needs of the entire SANDF must be met from limited funds. All expenditure should be carefully considered and weighed up against many factors. These difficult decisions may impact on the SANDF for many years into the future.

In 2002 the Secretary for Defence tasked the Chief of the SANDF to change the DOD processes and practices for acquiring equipment in order to identify requirements properly and ensure accountable methods for specification and selection of defence equipment. Research showed that the best way to do this was to view defence needs as “Capabilities”. Thus was the Capability Development Programme born.

A capability is the ability to execute a task to achieve a desired effect in battle space.

The aim of Capability Development is to develop effective and affordable joint capability to execute approved missions. The Programme is intended to enable SANDF commanders to take complex decisions.

Teams from the SANDF, primarily the Directorate Capability Development (from the Joint Operations Division), and selected scientists have collaborated on the Programme. The intention of Joint Operations Division is to involve the Services and Divisions achieving an SANDF approach.

Capability Development uses processes, tools and techniques to identify and describe capabilities required by the SANDF to meet the full spectrum of Government’s expectations. Although the future cannot be predicted, possible futures that the SANDF is likely to operate in are determined. This provides the context within which the capabilities will be employed.

The most important benefit of Capability Development is that it reduces duplication of acquisition projects across Services and Divisions and obtains integrated joint systems. The funds available are therefore used more efficiently.

Achievements to date include a set of tools, techniques, methodologies and processes; the Joint Warfare Publication 139: African Battle Space; and a set of scenarios with which to set the context for the work. Several results have been obtained within the wider SANDF.
Four in one change of command parade

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaoe

On 25 February 2011 the SA Air Force hosted a four in one change of command parade at Air Force Base Makhado for four different SA Air Force units, namely 2 Squadron, 85 Combat Flying School, 3 Air Servicing Unit and 515 Squadron.

Transformation in the SA Air Force has come full circle as one of South Africa’s top fighter pilots, Lt Col Musa “Midnight” Mbhokota, was appointed as the first black pilot to assume command of 2 Squadron which is home to the country’s Gripen fighter jets.

Col Silumko Vaiboom, Lt Col Kevin Ogden and Lt Col Iris Joan Owen also assumed command of 3 Air Servicing Unit, 85 Combat Flying School and 515 Squadron respectively.

85 Combat Flying School is primarily responsible for training aircrew for Gripens and Hawks while the 3 Air Servicing Unit and 515 Squadron deal with technical support and protection services respectively.

The core business of AFB Makhado is to ensure the provisioning of a specialised platform for air combat operations. It is the SA Air Force’s prime fighter base, which boasts state of the art facilities to sustain the Government’s priority of ensuring that the people of South Africa are and feel safe. The SA Air Force has entrusted this mammoth responsibility to the above-mentioned officers as drivers of this endeavour.

Lt Col Mbhokota said that this was not something to be taken lightly as it was a massive challenge that came with huge responsibilities. He added that it was not about himself, but about ensuring the Squadron was the best it could be.
Facilitating leadership dialogues

By Maj Gen N. Memela-Motumi, Chief Defence Transformation Management

One of the strategic objectives of Chief Directorate Transformation Management is the development of professional and transformational leaders to ensure that the behaviour, attitude and mindset exhibited by the DOD leadership is in line with the values enshrined in the country’s Constitution.

Taking a cue from our current Government that we must implement the outcomes based approach in the manner in which we execute our daily constitutional and legislative mandate, Chief Defence Transformation Management has deemed it appropriate to facilitate leadership dialogues for Officers Commanding and their Warrant Officers.

The purpose of these dialogues is to generate critical discourse around pertinent issues affecting our organisation in order to solicit a commitment to the following: An appreciation of the need for a Delivery State in which non-racialism and non-sexism are two of the core values of our organisation and society; the development of and commitment to the Delivery State; the development of and commitment to measurable and meaningful outcomes to best serve the DOD Mandate in times of peace in a developmental state.

These constructive engagements across Services have fostered individual and collective ownership of the current state of affairs within our organisation and what needs to be done differently in order to ensure the effective fulfilment of the Defence Mandate.

Officers Commanding and their Warrant Officers also reflected on endeavours pursued through the review of legislation and policy to ensure that Defence as a Constitutional injunction was indeed a well structured and disciplined organisation. Issues around the promotion of a culture of good governance prescripts, and the realisation of a qualifications free audit within the DOD were also alluded to. The fact of the matter is that transformation should ideally start at a personal level when we choose to adopt a progressive paradigm shift that is responsive to our times. At the end of day two, participants committed themselves to doing things differently in pursuit of world-class military services in support of the government’s priorities by utilising inherent Defence capabilities.

It is important to note that three months after the Gauteng and Western Cape dialogues were conducted, follow-up Impact Assessment Workshops were conducted. The priority for the workshops was to review progress on the integration and implementation of different, but effective methods of pursuing our mandate. But most importantly, participants also reflected on and examined the commitment and pledges that they undertook at the initial dialogue, the competencies required to serve as agents of change, thus entrenching accountability and ownership and creating a working environment to unleash everyone’s full potential and deliver a world-class military service in a Developmental State. Feedback on the workshops will be presented at the Military Command Council and Plenary Defence Staff Council.

In conclusion, I quote from the ruling party’s Strategy and Tactics document, which states that: "Our strategy is the creation of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society. In pursuit of this objective, we shall, at each given moment, creatively adopt tactics that advance the objective. Our fundamental point of departure is that South Africans have it in their power, as a people and as part of progressive humankind, to continuously change the environment in which we operate in the interest of a better future."
Handing over the Sword of Command

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

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Change of Office ceremony between the outgoing Commandant of the SA National Defence College, Brig Gen David Schoeman, and his successor, R Adm (JG) Laura van Vuuren, was held at the SA Air Force College parade grounds in Thaba Tshwane on 17 February 2011.

Addressing guests and members on parade Brig Gen Schoeman, the outgoing Commandant, said that the SA National Defence College was the flagship training unit of the SANDF and that it played a significant role in preparing senior officers and officials from other government departments to operate at the strategic level. He added that it was not what you have in your life, but who you have in your life that counts and you should learn not to compare yourself to the best others can do, but to the best you can do.

In congratulating his successor, Brig Gen Schoeman said: "It feels good when one becomes part of history and groundbreaking. I was the first person of colour to occupy the post and it feels good to hand over to the first female. May you continue to excel in adding value and raising the baseline".

The new Commandant

R Adm (JG) Laura van Vuuren, former Director Equity Strategic Direction, is one of the SANDF’s remarkable women with the will and desire to make a change. She is passionate about South Africa, and serves as a role model to many women in the SANDF. She enlisted in the SA Navy as a Non-commissioned Officer in April 1977. After completing her Basic Military Training, she practised as a Communicator for two years in the Communications Centre at Silvermine.

In 1979 she completed her Officers course and in 1980 completed her Bridge Watching Course. From 1981 until 2000 she was involved in Maritime Force Preparation and Maritime Force Employment at COMNAVOP in Cape Town, Naval Headquarters and at the Chief of Joint Operations. In 2001 she successfully completed the SA Army Senior Staff Course. From 2002 to 2005 R Adm (JG) Van Vuuren held the appointment of SSO Naval Foreign Relations.

In 2005 she completed the Executive National Security Programme. She was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral (Junior Grade) in September 2006 and appointed as the Director Equity at the Directorate Transformation Management until her current appointment as the Commandant of the SA National Defence College on 3 January 2011. She is married to Lou van Vuuren and is blessed with two sons, Robin (26) and Paul (18).

The outgoing Commandant

Brig Gen David Schoeman started his military career in January 1984 in the SA Air Force. He completed his Officer Formative Course in 1986 and attained the rank of Lieutenant. He completed all the relevant functional and developmental military courses, after which he was appointed the Officer Commanding of the SA Air Force College. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General on 1 January 2005 and served as the Director Base Support Systems within the SA Air Force Headquarters. He was appointed as the Commandant of the SA National Defence College on 1 July 2007.

Brig Gen Schoeman has now been appointed as the Director Logistics Management in the Logistics Division. He holds various qualifications: Costs and Management Accountant, Certificate in Logistics, Senior Management Programme, Masters Certificate in Project Management, and he completed a thesis in Masters Philosophy in Security Management. He is married to Anthea and blessed with three sons and a daughter.
SA Special Forces recruits in Kuruman

Article by Lt Col Angela-Lee
Human, SO1 Corp Com
SA Special Forces
Photos: WO2 Henning Gouws

T he youth is our tomorrow that needs to be equipped with the necessary skills to be applied in areas such as Defence and our efforts should be focused on attracting quality people to the National Defence Force."

These were the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, during the first intake of the Military Skills Development System 2011.

The SA Special Forces took these words to heart by scheduling a team-building camp for the Senior Rugby Team of the Kalahari High School in Kuruman as part of the SA Special Forces 2011 Recruitment Plan. The camp was based partly on a request received from the principal and rugby coach of the Kalahari High School and a need to recruit candidates from the Northern Cape region.

For the SA Special Forces to recruit the calibre of candidates that they required they needed to widen their scope of recruitment and so over the period 18 to 20 February 2011 the SA Special Forces’ Force Preparation Recruitment Team departed for Kuruman as planned. Upon arrival at the Kalahari High School the recruitment team was welcomed enthusiastically. It was clear that the learners had been waiting for this moment in great anticipation. First they watched the Special Forces Recruitment DVD, which was followed by a comprehensive briefing led by WO1 J.J. Teitge who aroused their curiosity about the unique career opportunities that the SA Special Forces could offer.

This was a short introduction to what was yet to come. The rugby team earmarked for the team-building camp varied in age between 15 and 18 years and a total of 38 boys reported and gathered to be transported by bus to the campsite, ready and in high spirits, not knowing what awaited them. The campsite was situated on a nearby farm owned by Mr Ross Chapman a few kilometres outside of Kuruman.

Upon their arrival the boys looked a little hesitant about what to do, but quickly formed up when the whistle blew and were told what to load and what to carry. Initially this proved to be a challenge as they did not know what the programme entailed, and they lacked experience. However, the boys formed up and marched with their kit for 1.3 km to the identified campsite without breaking a sweat. Once there, they immediately identified where they would be pitching their tents, but before they could start pitching them they were told to form up in threes, were given their "calling names" and were told to wait for further instructions.

The first activity was to camouflage each other with the camouflage paint provided, an activity which some took full advantage of by painting their buddy’s entire face. With this activity completed the base building commenced and just as they were comfortable and satisfied with their achievement, the whistle blew and they were told the camp was not to the liking of the recruitment staff. In a short space of time they were required to disassemble their tents, kill the fire and carry the large iron pot, food, tents and bags and march for a further 3 km to where the actual base would be. This
did not dampen their spirits and in record time they were on their way to their new campsite. At the new campsite clearings were made and the tents were pitched, this time with more consideration of the most favourable location, guided by the immediate environment and its resources.

The second activity, named Exercise 4x4, involved the planting of three poles at different spots, then assembling various sized tyres stacked in no particular order, and by means of strategic planning placing them in a particular order according to the strict rules that applied in this exercise. This exercise was conducted in pouring rain, but this did not hamper the boys’ efforts and they completed this activity with ease. This was followed by a debriefing session where certain weak points were identified and the boys were introduced to a concept communicated by the facilitator, Mr F. du Toit, called the five-point plan in which each of the five fingers on their hands represented an item, eg support and co-operation, communication, energy, trust and sensitivity, and together forming a fist that represented a team. This concept was introduced as a practical tool to use during all their planning activities.

Next followed Exercise Lucky Packet where the labels on tins were removed and each boy had to choose a tin as his meal for the evening. There were no rules for this exercise since the aim was to observe how the boys would approach it. What followed showed that they were not inclined to share, and only after vehement protests did they all place their tinned food into the big pot to make more for all. This proved to be a valuable lesson in teamwork and how it applied to their rugby game.

The rest of the evening programme involved a seizure type exercise where some had to stand guard while the others had to seize some items. This exercise showed that they did not have a collective approach to planning, but rather an individualised one. After several attempts the Warrant Officer provided some insights into deception techniques that could be of value in this exercise.

This was followed by a navigation lecture on how to use the elements to navigate at night. Even nature co-operated when the clouds lifted and the boys could see the Southern Cross and were shown stellar navigation techniques; then the clouds returned and covered the sky again.

At the conclusion of the evening’s programme the boys were allowed to retire to their tents, but while asleep they were awakened again at 02:00 and told to break down their camp in rapid time and move it to the initial location. Their faces spoke a thousand words and not with all the motivation in the world could the recruitment team get the boys to react with speed. They were eventually allowed to go back to sleep.

The next morning they were awakened by gunshots in the hills - their morning alarm - but it did not solicit a rapid reaction at all. In true military style they started the second day with physical training and, as they were

>> on page 32
rugby players, fitness was not a problem. This session was followed by Exercise Spider Web in which they were divided into two groups, each group having to co-operate to move one member at a time through a spider web like rope structure according to certain rules to increase the difficulty of the exercise and to test the groups' planning and communications skills. Various facets came to the fore. At first there was jubilation at the successful movement of one team member to the other side, but a few mishaps followed and rules were broken, which complicated matters. It was clear that it was a test in which they had to trust that their team members would not let them fall. They were reminded of the five-point plan and how it was to be applied in the exercise. Of note was the reference to rugby, when they were reminded that if the captain was injured in the first five minutes of the game, they had to decide how the team would continue.

They were taught that one should have more than one plan and involve the team in each plan, and not think things would change if they kept doing the same thing.

With that said, Exercise Long Foot followed, a 5 km CASEVAC exercise, which involved three teams each having a stretcher with one “casualty”. From the start it was evident that the lessons learned during the previous exercises had been taken to heart and incorporated in their planning. Without difficulty they assembled their stretchers loaded their “casualty” and started the march without hesitation. They marched ahead with great speed, quickly switching sides, assisted one another and reached the halfway mark in double time, one team not even stopping for a water break. The march was completed by all three teams within a time of one hour and 10 minutes - earlier than the expected two hours. This exercise clearly showed their teamwork and how they had learned to complement and accommodate each other’s strong and weak points.

At long last it was time for Exercise Surprise, the big finale that the boys were waiting for in anticipation. And was it a welcome surprise! Each boy was given the opportunity to shoot a number of rounds with a rifle, a task that they managed with ease and without fear. Judging from the expressions on their faces it was the perfect ending.

When all was said and done it was time to return to the school to get cleaned up and assemble for the evening reception with their parents. The main attraction of the evening programme was the inspirational talk delivered by WO2 Jappie Klopper (Ret), the most decorated SA Special Forces Operator. He had been injured during operations, and as a result was both deaf and blind.

WO2 Klopper provided a brief background to his life and times in the SA Special Forces and used a small three-legged iron pot by way of illustration, to convey his message that trust, responsibility and respect are the three pillars of life needed to achieve success. It was an emotional event in which stories were told and heartfelt appreciation expressed.

The next morning the boys each received a certificate to certify that they had successfully completed the team-building camp and were bade farewell by the SA Special Forces recruitment staff, with the parting words “Let your Greater Compass guide you”.

Footnote: “A positive attitude is a powerful force… it can’t be stopped.” This was proved when the senior rugby team of the Kalahari High School beat Bloemhof High School for the first time ever with a final score of 35-0.
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Develop your employability skills

By Motshodi (Tsholo) Ngwepe, Personnel Practitioner (DCM: Career Services)
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Employability skills are skills that can be transferred from one work environment to another. They are the basic skills necessary for getting, keeping and doing well in a job. Employers often refer to them as job readiness skills that help employees fit into, and remain in the work environment.

Employability skills can be grouped into the following categories:
- Communication skills
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork skills
- Organising and planning skills
- Initiative and enterprise skills
- Self-management
- Learning skills
- Technology skills

The importance of employability skills

The world of work is changing and it is less likely that you will have a job for life. Most employers will expect you to train and continue to improve your skills, and sometimes also your qualifications, while you are working. Employees should be lifelong learners in order to possess these employability skills. To be a lifelong learner requires that as an employee you should be constantly developing yourself by studying towards a formal qualification such as a degree or diploma, or undergoing informal training such as attending short courses, rotating in a different division in your workplace and volunteering.

More jobs need employees who have the skills and ability to use numbers, computers, telephones and the written word to get things done. About ten years ago, for example, it may have been possible to do a basic practical job, using job-specific practical skills learnt at work, without using any reading or writing skills. Increasingly, all workers doing practical jobs now have to use literacy skills to keep records and follow instructions (Hansen, 2009). This emphasises the importance of lifelong learning.

What employers want and how you can give them what they want

Every employer is looking for a specific set of skills from job seekers
that match the skills necessary to perform a particular job. But beyond these job-specific technical skills, for example, knowledge of operating cleaning equipment for a cleaner, certain skills, such as computer literacy and interpersonal skills, are nearly universally sought by employers for administrative personnel. Most employees possess these skills to some extent. Employees with weaknesses in these areas can improve their skills through training, professional development, or obtaining coaching/mentoring from someone who understands these skills (Hansen, 2009).

Most employees are concerned about earning a reasonable salary, and that is possible provided they acquire the skills necessary for the specific job. You can grow and develop to reach your target level. It is like climbing a ladder to reach the top, but for you to reach the top you must start at the bottom.

**Personal values that employers seek in employees**

- Honesty/Integrity/Morality
- Adaptability/Flexibility
- Dedication/Hard Work/Work Ethic/Tenacity
- Dependability/Reliability/Responsibility
- Loyalty
- Positive Attitude/Motivation/Energy/Passion
- Professionalism
- Self-confidence
- Self-motivated/Ability to work with little or no supervision
- Willingness to learn

Employability skills and personal values are the critical tools and traits you need to succeed in the workplace, and they are all elements that you can learn, cultivate, develop, and maintain over your lifetime. Once you have identified the sought-after skills and values and assessed the degree to which you possess them, remember to document them and market them.

**The role of Directorate Career Management**

Directorate Career Management (DCM) has an assessment tool called the Career Mentor that can be used to assist with self-exploration to give you an indication of your career interest. This assessment tool, for example, also provide for a job-fit analysis, which determines the suitability of the individual for the work that he or she is currently doing.

The Career Resource Centre (located at DCM) has books on career development, planning and management that can assist with information that employees need in this regard. The Internet is also available for further research. Furthermore, the information brochures from different academic institutions are also available when needed. The personnel of DCM can also be contacted to find the career information you want.

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The official opening of the first submarine museum in Africa, SAS ASSEGAAI, was held in Simon’s Town on 1 March 2011. The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, carried out the official opening with R Adm (JG) Theo Honiball (Ret), the first Officer Commanding of the submarine, the SAS ASSEGAAI, being the guest of honour.

R Adm (JG) P. Keene (Ret), R Adm (JG) A. Soderlund (Ret) and a number of serving and retired members formed a committee some seven years ago to “save our submarine” and they have campaigned since then to raise funds to preserve the SAS ASSEGAAI and prevent her from being broken up.

The SAS ASSEGAAI, formerly the SAS JOHANNA VAN DER MERWE, the third of the three Daphne Class submarines built in France for the SA Navy, was commissioned in 1971. She served her country well, and after the acquisition of three new Type 209 submarines, was decommissioned in November 2003. Unlike her two sisters, which were cut up for scrap, she has been retained for preservation as a museum exhibit of the SA Naval Museum.

The submarine as an exhibit has done extremely well since her trial opening on 22 December 2010 and has attracted more than 2 000 visitors, both local and international, in the first two months. One of the aims of the submarine exhibit with its vast array of technologies aboard is to promote the sciences among the youth, and it is thus an ideal venue for school outings.

SAS ASSEGAAI is currently a floating exhibit outside the Simon’s Town Dockyard and accessible by ferry from the town jetty. She is open daily for conducted tours with ferries departing from 10:00 until 15:00 daily, weather permitting.

This unique submarine museum serves as a reminder of the country’s rich naval professionalism and heritage.
Hester Merritt (50) is hard at work preparing for the upcoming 2011 Comrades Marathon. It will be the fourth time she has run this race since 2007, the greatest race on the South African sports calendar, which attracts big international names worldwide.

In keeping with the tradition, the 2011 marathon will be an up-race, with the 89 km run from Durban to Pietermaritzburg. The topography along the route will be an inspiration to Ms Merritt, an ardent road-runner, who has already embarked on a programme to keep her in tip-top shape come 29 May 2011, the day of the event. Her preparations include daily jogging of about 10 km and she covers distances of between 18 km and 32 km on weekends.

According to Don Oliver’s Western Province Training Programme for the up-run in 2011, as many as 6 000 novices have won finishers medals on their very first attempt and they attributed this success on a gradual, graded increase in the distance run in training and races - a philosophy which conforms to Merritt’s form of training. Her training regime agrees with Oliver’s Programme that for optimal results an athlete should commit to run about 1 200 km from January to the end of May, which should also include two standard marathons of 42 km and three ultra marathons of between 50 km and 56 km.

Ms Merritt, a member of the Irene Road Running Club, said: “Preparing for a Comrades Marathon is not an easy task, especially when it is an up-run event like this year which requires a lot of technique and skill. It helps to be part of a road-running club, not only because this is a requirement for entry into the Comrades Marathon, but also for the camaraderie and support.

“Finishing the Comrades Marathon requires dedication and discipline and an overriding self-motivation to finish within the specified time. To help me prepare for the stretch of the hills, I practise running up to Fort Klapperkop for stamina which will help me pull through some rigorous 47 or so kilometres uphill.” When her feet are not doing some talking on the road, Ms Merritt can be found at the SA Army Foundation National Headquarters in Centurion, Pretoria, where she is currently a Group Schemes Death Claims administrator, a post she has held for almost 21 years. She said the support she receives from her colleagues and managers at the workplace is overwhelming, especially when she has to prepare herself for big races, such as the Comrades and Two Oceans events.

During the interview at the offices of the SA Army Foundation, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, the SA Army Foundation General Manager, said that Ms Merritt’s achievements in road-running and finishing the Comrades Marathon were praiseworthy. Maj Gen Mokoape said: “The Foundation is extremely proud and impressed with her involvement in sports and we are committed to providing her with any running equipment and support she might need. The SA Army Foundation will also continue to provide the necessary technical support in the form of sponsorships to sports-related causes, as it has already done with soccer, netball and boxing, among others.”

Since embarking on a road-running career in 1999 after being introduced to the sport by her sister, Ms Christine Jeneker, a fellow road-runner, Ms Merritt has participated in other contests. These include the acclaimed Forever Resorts Loskop Ultra Marathon in Mpumalanga, the Two Oceans Marathon in 2004 and 2005, and the 50 km Loskop Marathon and the Dawn to Dusk Marathon (a 12-hour circuit race for which she received her permanent number). Her ultimate goal is to receive a permanent number for the Comrades Marathon. Ms Merritt has also received numerous medals and accolades for her participation in the sport.

In 2007 she helped organise a fun run challenge for the SA Army Foundation to promote a healthy lifestyle among her colleagues and she hopes to get the community involved in a similar project this year. Ms Merritt is proud of the continuous support from her husband Charles, also a fellow road-runner, and her son, Christiaan.

Husband and wife dominate
goalie championship

The 33rd annual Gauteng North Combat Rifle Shooting Championship was presented at the General Piet Joubert Shooting Range at Boekenhoutskloof, north of Pretoria, from 17 to 19 February 2011. Approximately 100 shottists from Gauteng North and South, North West, Mpumalanga and Free State Provinces attended this prestigious shooting competition.

The competition kicked off with an individual night shoot on 17 February. The next day twelve individual competitions were shot respectively at 100 m, 200 m and 300 m. A 400 m sustained shoot concluded the individual competition on 19 February, followed by two Unit Team matches at 300 m and three Provincial Team competitions, also at 300 m.

**Individual results**

(husband and wife)

Lt Col Bieb Gouws from Defence Intelligence achieved the highest score during the individual competition and took overall first place. He was crowned the champion of the 2011 Gauteng North Open Championship and was also the Gauteng North Closed Champion for 2011. During the various individual competitions he won two gold, two silver and two bronze medals. He was also selected to represent Gauteng North "A" at the Interprovincial Competition on 19 February.

Maj Nerino Gouws from SA Army Signal Formation HQ (the wife of Lt Col Gouws) who only started to participating actively in combat rifle shooting in January 2011 was crowned as the 2011 Gauteng North Closed Ladies Champion. She achieved a third place in the Overall Ladies Category and a third place in the Overall B-Class Division. During the various individual competitions she won a gold and two bronze medals. She was selected to represent Gauteng North "B" at the Interprovincial Competition on 19 February.

The organisers are to be commended on this successful championship, especially Lt Col Fritz du Plessis from Pretoria Military Combat Rifle Shooting Club and Col Anton Dreyer from the SA Police Service, who is also the Chairperson Gauteng North Combat Rifle Association.

Combat rifle shooting contributes towards SANDF Force Preparation and any member interested in participating in this SANDF sporting category, within the Pretoria area, can contact Lt Col Fritz du Plessis at (012) 428 2807.
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SANDF 21.1 km Championships

By Col Zirk Lourens,
PRO Athletics SANDF
Photo: Pretoria Military Marathon Club

SANDF athletes from all over South Africa descended on ASB Bloemfontein for the SANDF 21.1 km Championships on 12 February 2011. In attendance were 120 male and female athletes, officials and executive committee members representing teams from the Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West and Western Cape. (KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Province could not attend.)

Entries were finalised at the meeting of the team managers, which was held at the Bloemfontein Military Sports Club on 11 February 2011. (Bloemfontein Military Sports Club hosted the event.)

The SANDF 21.1 km Championships formed part of the Kloppers/Adidas Festival of Running event, which was an open race over distances of 10 km, 21 km and 42 km. The event was presented by Nedbank Bloemfontein Achilles over a very challenging course.

A total of 285 athletes finished the 21.1 km race. The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was Pte I. Ambraal from Athletics Club Gauteng (21 Battalion in Johannesburg). His overall position out of the 285 runners who finished was third in a time of 71 minutes and 11 seconds. In the second position was Able Seaman M. Mathomane from Athletics Club Western Province in a time of 74 minutes and 01 second, an overall position of fourth. The first SANDF Veteran was Sgt P.I. Mokhobo from Athletics Club Free State in a time of 77 minutes and 50 seconds, an overall position of 9th. These runners obtained their silver medals for running under the one and half hour cut-off time (90 minutes).

The first SANDF woman was PO C.A. Fortuin from Athletics Club Western Province (Naval Base Simon’s Town) in a time of 01:39:09, an overall position of 76th and the second female athlete to cross the finishing line. S Sgt Susan Maree from ASB Mapumalanga, a head committee member, won the Master category in the open race.

Members of the SANDF and DOD are invited to become members of the road-running or walking clubs by signing up at the various SANDF road-running/walking clubs in each province.

A total of 285 athletes finished the 21.1 km race.
South Africa’s Midmar Mile is the world’s largest open water swimming competition, and has taken place since 1973. It is held at the Midmar Dam near Howick. The Midmar Mile started with 153 entrants in 1973 and now that number has escalated to approximately 19 000 entries this year.

This year the KwaZulu-Natal Military Sports Club entered 68 SANDF members from various units in different categories. The main role of the SANDF was to assist with the safety regulations in the water. The Midmar Mile Office called upon 19 Field Engineering Regiment to supply flat bottomed boats (Ribbs) and the SA Navy Durban Base was asked to supply the Harbour Patrol Boat to ensure the swimmers’ safety during the event.

Together with the SA Navy divers, the boats patrolled the waters of the Midmar Dam to help the lifeguards and paramedics in case of an injury or if one of the swimmers needed assistance.

They also helped convey swimmers back to the start if they wanted to participate in other categories. A group of harbour divers who had recently qualified at Naval Station Durban were also there to give support on the Ribbs and they also participated in the race. The SANDF certainly made a difference where safety was concerned at the Midmar Mile 2011.
Be a fit soldier - walk for fitness

Article and photos by Col E.O. Step, Chairperson SANDF Walking Association

What the Comrades Marathon is to runners, the Dias Endurance Walk is to endurance walkers - it is the top endurance-walking event in South Africa. On 24 and 25 February 2011 over 600 walkers gathered in Mossel Bay to participate in the 2011 SA National Endurance Walking Championship, also known as the Dias Vasbyt 2011.

The Dias Vasbyt was presented by the Mossel Bay Correctional Services in co-operation with the South Western Districts Endurance Walking Union under the auspices of the Endurance Walking Association of South Africa. The SANDF entered some of its best walkers to participate officially in the Championship in various team categories, while some military individual walkers and teams also participated at own expense. Besides civilian walkers from corporate entities, many teams from the Correctional Services and the SA Police Service also participated.

The Endurance Walk took place over a total distance of 70 km to be covered in two days at 40 km on day one followed by the remainder on day two. The route presented the ultimate challenge to all walkers as it included some difficult terrain with a multitude of extremely steep hills in Mossel Bay, rocky hiking paths and enormous stretches of beach sand. Walkers also experienced very hot temperatures, which during the day soared well into the thirties.

Despite the harsh terrain, climatic variations and the pain, the walkers thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful coastal surroundings and spirits remained at a high level as team members encouraged and helped each other as could only be the case in a sport such as endurance walking.

The SANDF walkers who participated flew the SANDF flag high and proved that they were among the fittest by winning three of the SA Championship categories. The Bloemfontein Cheetahs, consisting of SSgt W. Jaftha, Sgt V.J. Mkololo, Sgt M.J.
Golden Oldies - Mixed Masters.

Kgosiemang, Sgt B.M. Mokgoetsi, Sgt K. Nantselo and Cpl Z. Nyati, who competed in the Men’s Veterans category, lived up to their name of being the fastest by obtaining a first place in a time of 9 hours and 6 minutes. The Western Cape team, consisting of Maj R.A. Boshomane, WO2 G.A. Jacobs, F Sgt K.E. de Long, CPO T. Hendricks, S Sgt C. Smith and Sgt M.M. Williams, snatched gold medals from the other competitors in the Mixed Veterans category and finished in a time of 8 hours and 18 minutes. The Golden Oldies, a combined Pretoria/Potchefstroom/ Bloemfontein Military Walking Club team, consisting of Col C. Nortman, Col E.O. Step, Lt Col C.J. Coetzee, Capt G. van Heerden, WO1 A. Victor, and S Sgt D.V. Gomana, proved that “over fifties” soldiers could still be combat-ready by taking honours in the Mixed Masters category in a time of 9 hours and 43 minutes.

Other military teams that excelled were the following: in second place - Western Cape Men’s Veterans category and 9 SA Infantry Battalion in the Senior Men’s category. Third place - Bloemfontein in the Senior Men’s category; 4 Special Forces in the Mixed Senior category and Northern Cape (3 SA Infantry Battalion) Team A in Senior Men’s Social category.

Once again this event has proved that walking is not only about reaching the finishing line, obtaining medals or winning the SA Championship, although one cannot hide one’s delight and sense of achievement if one completes such a distance, but it is more about the journey, the creation of unity between team members, building esprit de corps, forging friendships, promoting ties between military and civilian sporting communities, the testing of fitness and ultimately the sportsmanship experienced during the race. It is for the above reasons that walking is one of the Force Preparation sporting codes in the SANDF. Walking is the one sport that offers an opportunity to participate to all members of the DOD who are able to walk. This promotes and enhances fitness and contributes to force preparation, combat-readiness and ultimately mission readiness.

Endurance Walking, i.e. walking long distances, is only one facet of walking. Walking also includes setting your own standards of distance and endurance, whether it is 5 km or 75 km. Start now by joining a walking club or a group of friends and walk every day for a kilometre or so, and before you know it you will be a much fitter soldier and be able to participate in an event such as the Dias Vasbyt.

Western Cape Team - Mixed Veterans.
"Carry each other's burdens" - Galatians 6:2

By Col (Rev) M.A. Mothopeng, SSO Reserves Chaplains Services

We live in times where things are just around and about us. We are so closed up and occupied by our own burdens that we do not even see or realise when our colleagues need our support. We are so swamped that we do not even have the courage to carry our brothers/sisters' burdens. Sometimes we are selfish and do not want to assist or carry their burdens with them. While situations are like that, Paul says we should carry each other's burdens, because in that way we would be fulfilling the law of Christ.

What does this mean for us today? What are the burdens that we need to carry for one another, and how possible will that be because we also have our own burdens? If we carry other people's burdens, how are we going to carry ours?

Paul was not only talking of physical things, but of emotional things also. Things that drain our energy, things that make us weary and make us feel negative. Therefore in this case, we can talk of things such as anxieties, disappointments, sadness, weakness, sickness and many other things that drain our energy and can cause us not to perform or deliver as expected.

Most of the time we are so swamped that we are unable to realise when our colleagues are drowning in their problems because of the above-mentioned energy drainers. Sometime we are aware, but do not help, because we do not care or want to shine alone or receive glory from the downfall of others. Paul says if we carry each other's burdens, in that way we will be fulfilling the law of Christ. The law of Christ is that we should love one another as we love ourselves. If we love, then we have accomplished what is expected of us. If we love one another as we love ourselves, we will be able to carry each other's burdens because as much as we do not want to be burdened, we will also not like to see our brother burdened. Therefore if we do not care or do not want to carry each other's burdens and want to shine while others are sinking because of the burdens they have, you will not be fulfilling the law of Christ, but the law of self-glorification and passion of excelling on other people's weaknesses.

As an organisation, I strongly believe that we are not individuals, but a team. We are expected therefore as a team to work together, to pursue the interests and achieve the goals and objectives of the organisation and not our individual desires. As a team we are expected to carry each other through thick and thin, so that at the end of the day we deliver as expected of us. We have a responsibility as a team to play our different roles and remember that we are not individuals. Also remember that TEAM stands for: Together, Each, Achieve, More.

Col (Rev) M.A. Mothopeng.
Soldier crowned with glory

By Ms Karin Swart, Asst Dir PSAP ETD, 1st Princess: Mrs Modern Woman 2008/2009, Lady Gracious Intercessor and Judge 2010

The mission of the Department of Defence (DOD) is effective defence for a democratic South Africa. To provide effective defence the Department is reliant on many factors, one of which is to have professional, credible, unselfish soldiers who commit their hearts and lives to the DOD and ultimately to all South African citizens. Maj Esmarie van Niekerk is one of these soldiers. She worked for several regiments, namely the South African Corps of Signals, the School of Infantry, Defence Legal Services Division and Joint Operations Division, and is currently in the planning office of Defence Corporate Communication. Not only is she committed to the core business of the DOD; she also shines like a diamond with other unique qualities that very few know of.

Maj Van Niekerk is a bundle of joy and wherever she goes, she captures the hearts of those around her. She has a passion for the arts and has an acting talent that came to the fore when she played the role of a state prosecutor in 7de Laan in 2010. She truly made us proud, but wait there is more. In 2010 she was nominated for the Lady Gracious pageant and was selected as one of the eleven finalists. Lady Gracious (www.lady-gracious.co.za) is not your normal beauty pageant, but focuses on taking women through a seven-month journey to discover who they really are, their role in life and the impact they can make in their community.

From the beginning, her giving heart and altruistic personality proved that she had the gift of giving, never asking anything for herself. As a mother of three lovely boys and a loving wife and friend to her husband, Paul, Maj Van Niekerk stole the hearts of her fellow participants and became one of the favourites to win.

In an extravagant ball gown designed by the Chamber of Couture, Maj Van Niekerk charmed everyone at the Lady Gracious Gala event on 29 October 2010. The moment of glory came when all the women were standing in the front looking spectacular, waiting in anticipation and excitement for the announcement of the winner. So as all of them were looking at each other with pride and holding hands, it was announced that Maj Van Niekerk had been chosen as Lady Gracious 2010. Not only was she crowned the winner, she also walked away with the 1st prize as Mrs Personality and Mrs Photogenic.

What a moment, what an experience, as tears of joy ran down her face in unbelief that God had chosen her to carry the crown for Him in the year that lay ahead.

Asked to say something about herself, Maj Van Niekerk said that her life’s motto was derived from Psalm 27:4 - “My only desire is to dwell in His presence, marvel in His goodness and live in His guidance.” During 2011, Maj van Niekerk will continue with her passion to uplift the community where she works and lives. She is very active in marriage counselling, the Military Christian Fellowship and women’s camps. Furthermore, she writes articles for the Jesus to my Rescue website (www.jesustomyrescue.com) and assists with professional voice-overs on DVDs designed for DOD projects.

Maj Van Niekerk, now a soldier crowned with glory, will no longer stand in the back of the row, because God Himself pulled her out and crowned her for His purposes. This He did, not to put her on a pedestal, but so that others can see that God takes ordinary people and crowns them with glory when they step out in faith to make a difference in the lives of others.

Maj Van Niekerk, the DOD is proud to call you one of our own. Not only do we stand behind you! We salute you!
National Anthem of South Africa

Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw’ uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.