FREE ... But pass it on when you are done

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Lt Gen Mqwebi talks about the SANDF’s state of human resources

Ammunition debris clearance from Madimbo Training Area

Integrated Environmental Management Learning Programme

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COPYRIGHT: No article or picture in this magazine may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.
Greetings again, it is always a pleasure for us (the Editorial team) to get this opportunity to converse with you. The previous month July we celebrated the birth of our first democratically elected president, Dr Nelson Mandela. As you know by now, not only were he our first democratically elected president, he was also our first SANDF Commander-in-Chief as well. It is therefore appropriate for us to be loud about his call to give at least 67 minutes of our time to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

In this special edition we dedicate most of the pages to Tata Madiba’s call. “I encourage you to open your hearts and be compassionate by showing the true spirit of ubuntu”. Make every day a Mandela day: “It is more Moses to give than to receive,” Acts 20:35

On page 12 and 13 read about Exercise Shared Accord 2011 where you can read about the SANDF and US armed forces standing united for humanity in the name of Madiba during this annual bilateral military training event.

We will be doing an injustice if we do not acknowledge the fact that August is women’s month. Women truly play a crucial role biologically, emotionally and psychologically in every person’s existence. Their role does not end there, as they defend what they believe in, including fighting for and defending our freedom. Not only do we say for ourselves, aunts, sisters, et cetera: you have done well, but we should add "thank you for having nurtured us". You have fought hard for our democracy, you are indeed the corner stone of the freedom we enjoy today. South Africa is a good place to live because of your tenacity and zeal in achieving your goals, regardless of the hardships we enjoy today. South Africa is a good place to live because of your contribution and sacrifice.

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On page 5 please read the message from the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. On behalf of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. On behalf of the Department and Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. On behalf of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. On behalf of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. On behalf of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. On behalf of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. On behalf of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu.

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Message from the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans to all women in the DOD

By Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans

On the 9th August South Africa celebrated National Women’s Day, a day that commemorates a march by women in 1956 to petition against legislation that required black persons to carry the “pass”- special identification documents. The zeal and courage demonstrated by the women who participated in this march, both black and white, paved the way for the free society that we live in.

On behalf of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, I should like to express appreciation to all women in the Department of Defence (DOD) both uniformed members and non-uniformed members, for their selfless efforts to serve the country and its people with dignity and honour. The sterling job that they continue to perform validates the 1956 march to the Union Buildings by the women of SA who were characterised by a resolute spirit that sought equality, justice and freedom for all.

Today the DOD is proud of the contributions that women make towards carrying out the Constitutional mandate and here sustaining of democracy in the country. This is evident from various internal operations that seek to support the people of our country. The DOD women serve in the front line to safeguard South Africa borders, they support other government departments in times of need, they are there for communities that are hit by natural disasters, and over the years have become part of decision-making bodies in the DOD.

Furthermore, women in the DOD are even taking on multifaceted responsibilities in peace support operations in the hardest environments on the African continent.

These are some of the examples that define the life of a female member of the DOD today.

My own experience has taught me that there is no limit to what a woman can do when given an opportunity and access to resources. I therefore urge all the women in the DOD to lead the way towards their own emancipation by working to make their mark in various capacities in the Department.

I would like to indicate that starting this year we will henceforth have a parade to celebrate our women in the DOD for their contributions in strengthening and sustaining our democracy.

Let us all seize the moment to make a significant difference in this department and the country at large.

I wish all our women in the DOD the best in their daily duties.

Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.
LANGUAGES AS AN ENGINEER TO BUILD BRIDGES

Bridges connect people. Whether it is an unsteady hanging bridge consisting of a metal rope and two trees, a well-engineered strong concrete bridge, both will still serve the purpose of connecting people. Bridges provide people with the opportunity to do reconnaissance, explore, learn and be enriched.

Language can be utilised as an engineer to build bridges between cultures and traditional differences. Thus language can be used to do reconnaissance, to explore, to learn and to be enriched.

People in general have a loving relationship towards their home language. It is an integral part of their being and in a certain sense they are what they speak. To reach out to people in their home language is to connect with what is important to them and to their hearts.

In South Africa we are fortunate to have 11 official languages, namely English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, Sepedi, IsiZulu, Siswati, Setswana, SiSotho, Tshivenda, Xitsonga and Afrikaans. The idea is not to start orchestrating the funeral of your own home language and everything connected to it, but to learn basic greetings and courtesies in some of the other official languages and to use these as an engineer to build bridges. It does not matter if the bridge you are engineering is a hanging bridge that is a bit unsteady; with time it can become a strong concrete bridge as you become familiar with a new language. A bridge is a bridge, the important thing is to start building that bridge.

We want to encourage all members to set aside some office time and learn some of the other official languages. Unisa presents a free online course that is very user-friendly and offers you the opportunity to learn some of our other official languages, starting with greetings and courtesies. Please visit: www.unisa.ac.za/free_online_course

Let us use language as an engineer to build bridges. If you never try to explore, you may never be enriched by what you might find in life. Capt Amanda Kaltwasser, email

MILITARY DISCIPLINE


It is so sad that military discipline goes out of the window immediately after Basic Training. We are departing more and more every day from our military culture. I do not really know what the problem could be because military discipline has not changed a bit, which is very disappointing.

Discipline can be defined as “a state of training, resulting in orderly conduct.” If you give it a thought, you will agree with me when I say that the root of most of the challenges we are facing in our National Defence Force is a lack of discipline. It is either soldiers who have become thieves or someone who does not perform his duties. There are four different types of discipline that can be used according to circumstances, namely:

1. Task Discipline defined as how well we meet the challenges of the job. We must recognise that the job is important, as it related to the effectiveness of our work section and our unit. It requires a “sense of responsibility” to perform our jobs to the best of our abilities.

2. Group Discipline is also known as teamwork, which is very important in the military environment. It is not an individual’s responsibility, but everyone’s to make sure military discipline is maintained.

Imposed Discipline is known as enforced obedience to legal orders and regulations. If something cannot be done for whatever reason, someone must make sure it gets done and this is where I think we are really in need of strong disciplinarians to save our National Defence Force.

Self-discipline is a sense of responsibility that leads us to do whatever needs to be done. Keeping our environments and ourselves clean is a first sign of self-discipline. Far above our acceptance of imposed discipline, self-discipline reflects our personal commitment and sense of duty. As soldiers, we must create an environment where the necessity for imposed discipline is minimised or eliminated. We should not have theft when we have military guards in our military bases that are supposed to be ensuring and enforcing security. Soldiers cannot be committing violent acts in military bases, hitting and stabbing each other; then something needs to be done to get our soldiers back to basics. If all else fails, imposed discipline is certainly needed. Let us all do away with mediocrity and strive for excellence in everything we touch. Pte Siphekazi Dlakamela, email

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor: Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence.

Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor

• A U G U S T  2 0 1 1
**VIP FLIGHT KITCHEN PERSONNEL HONOUR MADIBA DAY**

On 22 July 2011 the VIP Flight Kitchen personnel at AFB Waterkloof saw an opportunity to reach out to the South African community in the spirit of Nelson Mandela Day.

Ten members reached out to the Itumeleng Shelter located in Sunnyside. The shelter is home to 12 orphaned boys aged 5 to 18. They had not had any previous contact with the SA Air Force. The VIP Flight Kitchen group attempted to give them positive exposure to the SA Air Force.

Waterkloof Air Force Museum provided an ideal opportunity for such exposure and WO2 A.M. Taylor took the group on a tour of the premises. The children enjoyed it very much and nominated the venerable C130 as their favourite aircraft. Their dream is to enjoy a flight in one.

The children were treated to hot dogs and cool drinks after the tour and given an opportunity to play in the park.

**HOW OLD IS OUR SANDF**

I hope every sober and reasonable South African or even the internationalists would agree that this is contempt for democracy, or that of “democratic rule in South Africa” by the SA Army and its own SA Navy.

Recently the SA Navy celebrated 89 years of its own existence and in Bloemfontein to be precise a certain unit, known as 1 Parachute Battalion, commemorated 50 years of its existence. One is left to wonder whether these commemorations are relevant to the current phase of our democratic dispensation.

The SANDF does not only consist of members from the former SADF. For the record it consists of seven different forces with their own historical backgrounds, therefore it is disingenuous to celebrate or commemorate 89 and 50 years in this dispensation, taking into account that the formation of SANDF as a People’s Defence Force was a historical milestone itself, and a significant political phenomenon.

This National Defence Force was established on 27 April 1994 after a lengthy political process at the international Convention Centre in Kempton Park. CODESA, in particular, created favourable conditions South Africa.

I had personally expected your magazine to be fair and impartial, and to open a dialogue and expose the current state of affairs within the DOD of a new democratic South Africa. Cpl P.J. Mouse, 1 Parachute Battalion, Bloemfontein

* Letter shortened. - Ed.

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**ON YOUR RETIREMENT GEN G. NGWENYA**

- As you retire know that you’ll be missed
- We will have an empty space in our lives
- Everyday we will feel that gap of having you
- Looking through your major accomplishments, then we will miss you
- All lives you’ve influenced and improved will remember you
- For your new journey we wish you best.
- In French “BON VOYAGE”

Cpl M.Guduza 5 SAI Ladysmith

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**MINISTER SISULU VISITS GENERAL MALAN’S FAMILY**

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, has noted the passing of the former Chief of the South African Defence Force and former Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.

The Minister extends her condolences and sympathy to the family and relatives of the General. The Minister visited the family to extend her sympathies and condolences personally to the family. Mr Ndikhulayo Mabaya, Head of Media Services

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**OFFICER COMMANDING AFB SWARTKOP, COL I. ZURICH, THE OFFICER COMMANDING OF THE SA AIR FORCE MUSEUM, LT COL W. NEL, AND WO2 TAYLOR. LT COL RINA ROTHA, AFB WATERKLOOF**
CELEBRATING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY BY GIVING BACK

South Africa's Human Rights Day, 21 March, is synonymous with the historic township of Sharpeville. For many South Africans, the day will always remain Sharpeville Day, a commemoration of the 21 March 1960 Sharpeville massacre, when police action led to the death of 69 unarmed people and injuries to 180 others who refused to carry the hated dompas identity document that was meant only for indigenous Africans.

This day, some 43 years ago as Heroes' Day, was a watershed in our country's liberation struggle, hence its inclusion in South Africa's post-apartheid holiday calendar.

This year the Military Psychological Institute (MPI) situated in Pretoria decided to commemorate this significant day by giving back to the community. The charity of choice was Ditshego, which means "House of Laughter". This small but humble charity organisation is situated in the Mooiplaas informal settlement.

RAISE YOUR HAND TO BE SEEN

I have fond memories of the letter "I will staff myself" published in SA Soldier in May 2003 in its 10-year anniversary edition of May 2011. It seemed a far-fetched dream to others when I wrote the above-mentioned letter as a Corporal and I graduated to being a Major. This type of safety operation was conducted in the 1980s and 1990s to support our liberation struggle. Today, with the increased emphasis on safety and security, this type of operation is needed once again in support of our hard work in trying to make a difference.

The greatest emotion came from the actual visit to the Ditshego Pre-school where the children are educated and fed, as well as patients on medication who are given much needed food once a day in order for them to take their daily tablets.

Capt Da Silva and Lt Col Dibley were the fortunate members who were able to go to the charity for a visit and to deliver all the items that had been collected. Seeing the expectant faces of the 60 children was such a fulfilling experience, yet at the same time it was sad to see the children who couldn’t be at the school, due to limited space and capacity, watching through the fences surrounding the school.

The six vulnerable social workers and volunteers' faces was of such joy and gratefulness since they had never seen so many food items being donated at one time. The timing of our visit was perfect as at the time they were also experiencing shortages in food supplies and were therefore having to turn people away from meals. With our donations they were able to continue providing meals for another week until the next month began.

From the Regimental Committee, thank you to all MPI members for your great generosity concerning this charity run. As for Ditshego, we thank you for all your hard work in trying to make a difference. To all those reading this article, we hope you had a similar experience in your own way on this year's Human Rights Day. If anybody is interested in contributing to this worthy charity, whether big or small, please contact Isabel on Isabel@westview.org.za.

LOCAL ELECTIONS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

CAPE TOWN. With the Local Government Elections that took place on 18 May 2011 the SANDF was prepared for any eventuality. The SANDF played an integral part in ensuring security during the elections. In the Western Cape Col Bayanda Mkula, Officer Commanding of Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape, was our mission commander, with a strong team supporting him. The structure included a Provincial Joint Operational Centre in Cape Town, a Venue Operational Centre and the deployment of a company of 9 SA Infantry Battalion. The Joint Structures initiated an operation over the period 11 to 20 May 2011 in the Western Cape area of responsibility.

The purpose of the operation was to enhance safety and security during the elections. Participating joint role-players included the SA Police Service (SAPS), Metro, the SANDF (Joint Tactical HQ Western Cape), the SA Air Force (22 Squadron) and the Traffic Department.

The operation was conducted by means of vehicle control points and patrols to restrict disruptive elements during the elections. High visibility and mobility were promoted in support of the SAPS. This type of safety operation aims at the blanket protection of the communities in the areas most affected.

8 • AUGUST 2011
ASB POTCHEFSTROOM HOSTS TRIANGULAR SPORTS DAY


The occasion was officially opened with a prayer by Chaplain Spannenberg. Col D.B.J. Schoonwinkel declared the competition open on behalf of the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Potchefstroom and the Chairperson North West Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, Col A.H. Louw.

In his address Col Schoonwinkel said: “Sport has always been and will always be a unifier of the human spirit. Participating in a sport brings out the best in a participant and the competition it creates and drives us to exceed expectations and abilities”.

The following sporting codes were presented: Rugby seven-a-side, freshwater angling, netball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, golf, black ball, endurance walking, road running, combat rifle shooting, squash, table tennis and bowls.

The overall winner was Potchefstroom Sports Club with 31 points, followed by Pretoria Sports Club with 28 points and Heidelberg Sports Club with 15 points. The trophy was officially handed over to Chaplain Kaiser Cornelius who is also a patron of the Potchefstroom Military Sports Club.

By violence, namely hot-spot areas as indicated by intelligence in the Western Cape metropole and surroundings. The safety message was communicated through various briefings presented to the different role-players.

During the operation many successes were achieved, which proved that the joint effort of the operation will lead to future joint planned operations.

Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape plays an important operational role in the Western Cape and is dedicated to serving the people. Capt Llewellyn van Staden (Operational Communication Officer).
It is often said during the time of war, “prepare for peace”. I remember it was on 30 June 2011 - Independence Day in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) when we as the RSA Ops Battalion deployed here were invited by the local Congolese people in Goma to come and celebrate with them. On being invited to such an honourable event, Lt Col W.L. Madikoto, Officer Commanding 4 SA Infantry Battalion, responded that this was the only way one would have expected an African in another African country to respond to an invitation of a fellow African. A game of soccer was played. In the first game the DRC team beat the South African team 2-0. In the second game the South Africans beat the Congolese 4-2. The main aim of the two matches was two-fold: first to celebrate Independence Day and secondly to cement the relationship between the two nations.

On Mandela Day the RSA Battalion also did what was required of it. As 4 SA Infantry Battalion (4 SAI Bn) we started at the Charite Maternelle Hospital as early as 07:00. The doctors and the labourers were amazed by the humanity displayed by the South Africans. We also rendered our services at Virunga Hospital where there was just no water even to mop the floor, let alone drinking water. Lt Col Madikoto had to intervene and ordered that the water bunker should bring water to the hospital that day. Thereafter the water had to be used with care. One could only use what one needed. So moved was the Virunga Hospital management by the South African open-handedness that they wrote a letter of appreciation.

After the community service, the officers of 4 SAI Bn decided to have a function in celebration of Mr Mandela’s birthday.

Note: The Officer Commanding of 4 SAI Bn, Lt Col W.L. Madikoto, humbly requests the South African military family to pass his members’ greetings to their loved ones back home. Lt Moses Semono

COURTESY VISIT TO OUR SOLDIERS IN THE SUDAN

On 5 July 2011 the General Officer Commanding of Joint Operation Headquarters, Maj Gen Dumisani Mdutyana, the Chief Director Force Preparation, Maj Gen V.R. Masondo, the Chief Director Material Governance, Mr K.P. Lebelo, and his entourage visited the South African soldiers deployed under the auspices of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur. On their arrival they were briefed about the current situation in the Darfur region. They also paid a courtesy visit on the Acting Force Commander, Brig Gen D.D. Ikoha. The Acting Force Commander was very pleased with the visit as Maj Gen Mdutyana was familiar with the Sudan. He explained that there had been many changes in terms of the security and stability in the mission area. The UNAMID staff officers deployed in El Fasher had an opportunity to talk to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) and his delegation during lunchtime with the Rwanda Battalion 25 at Super-Camp. They presented their concerns about the preparations for International Mandela Day in terms of sponsors and funding.

The delegation also paid a courtesy visit on the UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR), Mr Ibrahim Gambari, the same day. The JSR shared his vision and experiences as the head of the mission. Mr Lebelo asked the JSR if he thought the UNAMID mission would come to an end. He answered that the way he saw it, it would end soon because there were many needs and challenges faced by the people of Darfur. The GOC presented some gifts as a token of appreciation to the JSR and Acting Force Commander.

On 6 and 7 July 2011 they flew to Kutum, Mellit and Malha where a South African choir welcomed them. They updated the soldiers on current issues in terms of the new salary dispensation in South Africa. The GOC also emphasised the importance of discipline in the mission area and elaborated on the need to observe the primary role of the UNAMID mandate at all times. On 8 July 2011 the delegation flew back to SA. Maj A.B. Ndamase, email for further information.
HONOURING THE GLOBAL ICON’S 67 MINUTES

FORWARD WITH PARTRIOTISM AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE IN DAR-

The South African community in Darfur in the Sudan gathered at the RSA 15 Battalion HQ in Kutum to celebrate National Women’s Day on 9 August 2011.

More than 500 people, including the United Nations (UN) Mission UNAMID leadership, attended the celebration. The Deputy Joint Special Political Representative congratulated the South African women in uniform who were celebrating National Woman’s Day in Kutum Battalion HQ Base.

South African women used this day to instil hope in the Darfurians and also to reflect on their past. The women were focused on national pride and self-motivation and so pressed on with their work as women representing SA. They sang at the top of their voices and shouted empowering messages. The South African women demonstrated that there was hope in Darfur.

Lt Col Azwi Mukwevho, UNAMID Deputy Force Medical Officer, gave a brief history of the day. She commended the female soldiers for the patriotism and military discipline they had portrayed since their deployment. She also encouraged them to continue raising the RSA flag higher: “We must lift this flag very high.”

The UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Political Representative, Ms Aichatou Mindaoudou Souleymane, told the assembled soldiers and Kutum women’s association members that “every African woman stands behind South Africa today.” Within UNAMID, South African women have proved to be a major asset. She acknowledged that out of the 457 soldiers in Kutum 130 were women.

A minute of silence was observed for the greatest heroine of all times, our mother who passed in recent past, U Mama Albertina Sisulu.

On behalf of the SANDF the CO of RSA Battalion 15, Lt Col N.E. Singo, handed a copy of the book “Nelson Mandela by Himself” to Ms Aichatou Mindaoudou Souleymane.

The occasion never lacked SA vibrancy; Malibongwe (paying tribute to “women”) was the greeting slogan of the day. The women sang and danced for the guests.

The day culminated in a visit to the maternity ward of the local hospital. The women and children were handed Mandela T-shirts and coffee mugs to the patients. The patients appreciated the visit and the nurses stressed the good relationship they had with the RSA medical team.

Lt Col Azwi Mukwevho, UNAMID Deputy Force Medical Officer, addresses the soldiers based in Kutum during the celebrations of the South African National Women’s Day.

UNAMID South African female soldiers celebrate National Women’s Day in Kutum (North Darfur).

The UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Political Representative, Ms Aichatou Mindaoudou Souleymane, addresses the guests at the South African National Women’s Day celebrations in Kutum RSA Base.

Lt Col Azwi Mukwevho, email: Albert Gonzalez Farran

AUGUST 2011 • 11
Standing united for humanity in the name of Madiba

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Sgt Ellias Mahuma

Exercise SHARED ACCORD, a bilateral military training event with the objective of developing military humanitarian assistance capabilities in crisis situations was this year, 2011, held for the first time in South Africa in the Eastern Cape Province at Mandela Bay Metropole and Grahamstown from 18 July to 12 August 2011.

The 2011 Exercise SHARED ACCORD saw components of the American armed Forces and the South African National Defence Force coming together to heed the call by Madiba to give help to those who are less fortunate. At the embryonic stage of this exercise the US Marine Corps Forces Africa (MARFORAF), a component of U.S. Africa command worked with the SANDF to organize this military / civil humanitarian assistance event.

Hundreds of South Africans received free medical treatment. The Medical Civic Action programme (MEDCAP) and South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) provided elementary health, dental and optometry care. During this exercise the SANDF, US forces and local SANDF and American Armed Forces members combined in a guard of honour at Signal Unit, Eastern Cape, from where Shared Accord was directed.

Lt Leticia Makoa with a Specialists Veterinarian American soldier, William Atkisson prepare a dog for a spaying operation.
During the Exercise the Kleinskool sports ground was temporarily transformed into a makeshift hospital and tents were erected to offer free basic health, dental and eye care.

Engineering Corps of the SANDF and the US refurbished the dilapidated SPCA animal shelters and dug furrows to improve drainage to the shelters that were in a bad state due to the rains at the time. “What these men and women in uniform are doing is priceless, because animals cannot help themselves without human intervention. There is no value one can determine when people take their time to help animals in need”, said the Manager of the Uitenhage SPCA, Mr Koos Croukamp.

The Alanridge Community Centre was temporarily turned into an animal hospital where veterinary services for the Alanridge and Kwa-Nobuhle communities were provided. These services were led by Maj A.M. Banderker, an SANDF vet who confirmed to SA Soldier that since the beginning of the exercise they had dealt with approximately 50 animals daily. United States Army Spc. Tessa South of the 949th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), 807th Medical Command, United States Army Reserve, and a native of Ames, Iowa worked with SANDF Lt Leticia Makoa from Bloemfontein, among other veterinary services they were tasked with, they administered anaesthesia to local dogs before they were spayed.

The Alanridge Community Centre was temporarily transformed into an animal hospital where veterinary services for the Alanridge and Kwa-Nobuhle communities were provided.

A little girl takes advantage of the opportunity to deworm and spay her young dog.

On the day SA Soldier visited Exercise SHARED ACCORD 2011 at Kleinskool sports ground the following was done:
- 419 dental services were offered
- 724 optometry check-ups
- 1797 primary health care services, physical examinations and treatment
- A 3 month supply of medicine (including multi-vitamins) to the overall value of 2 million rands was given to patients.

Approximately 700 American soldiers comprising mainly the Marine Corps Reserve with a number of Guard Reserves, sailors and US air force members joined 1,581 SANDF soldiers from the four Services (91: Combined HQ, 14: COMSIN Personnel, 873: SA Navy Component, 63 (7 standby): SAAF Component, 365: SA Army Component, 132: SAMHS Component, 36: Military Police and 49: Base Maintenance Personnel). This formidable US Armed Forces and the SANDF team was responsible for successful execution of 2011 Exercise SHARED ACCORD.
Logistic Division celebrates Mandela Day

The objective and theme of the day was: 'inspire change, take action and make every day a Mandela Day'.

By Maj B. Nobanda, SO2 Corp Com
DOD Logistic Division
Photos: F Sgt Lebo Vaarland

Logistic Division held Mandela Day on 20 July 2011 at Atteridgeville Life Kingdom Centre for orphaned and abused children. The objective and the theme of the day division was: 'inspire change, take action and make every day a Mandela Day'. The Log division members cleaned the centre and donated food, toys and clothes to the centre.

The Life Kingdom centre was established in 1999 after Ms Sylvia Magoba as a member of the governing body in one of the schools realized the plight of children in difficult circumstances. She decided to do something about the situ-

“Working together we can do more”: members from the DOD Logistic Division display the spirit of “Ubuntu”.

Members from the DOD Logistic Division opened their hearts and donated much needed items to the Atteridgeville Life Kingdom Centre.
Defence Corporate Communication honours an exemplary global icon

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On 23 July 2011 Defence Corporate Communication participated in the 67 minutes campaign (Mandela Day) to honour the exemplary global icon under the slogan: “Take Action, Inspire Change. Make Every Day a Mandela Day.”

The young, old and disabled from the Paul Jungenichol Home for mentally and physically challenged people situated in Pretoria East were among the less fortunate people who were cheered by the goodwill and the generosity of Defence Corporate Communication, the SA Army from 5 Signal Regiment, the SA Military Health Service members from 1 Military Hospital and Area Military Health Unit Gauteng and motorcyclists from the Stampede and Christian Motorcyclist Association on the 93rd birthday of the first democratically elected Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Mr Nelson Mandela.

The 67 minutes campaign is designed to honour our first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF’s legacy of service to humanity and values promoting the well-being of mankind. It was very fulfilling to see the smiles on their faces and to top it all what made it even better, they enjoyed the ride on the Ratels of the SA Army and the fact that they had Angels in Camouflage they could talk to and play with. Defence Corporate Communication donated toys, food parcels, groceries, clothing and non-perishable products.

Motorcyclists supported the SANDF to the delight of the young and old as the SANDF put big smiles on their faces as they rode on a Ratel armoured vehicle in honour of Mandela Day.

Brig Gen C.D. Schoeman, Director Logistic Management on behalf of Chief Logistics said: “What is worrying me is that we as adults know that children are the future, but still some of us tend to ignore that fact and allow the children that need our guidance and protection to go astray”.

Gen Schoeman concluded by conveying the following message to the present members:

“God will not ask about the colour of your skin. He will ask about the content of your character”.

“God will not ask what your highest salary was. He will ask if you compromised your character to obtain it”.

“God will not ask what your job title was. He will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability”.

“God will not ask what kind of car you drove. He will ask how many people you drove who did not have transportation”.

“God will not ask the square metres of your house. He will ask how many people you welcomed into your home”.

“God will not ask in what neighbourhood you lived. He will ask how you treated and helped your neighbours”.

Lastly he wished God’s richest blessings upon Ms Magoba and her staff. He said she must never lose faith and continue to serve the community.

Social responsibility

SA SOLDIER

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Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF’s legacy of service to humanity and values promoting the well-being of mankind. It was very fulfilling to see the smiles on their faces and to top it all what made it even better, they enjoyed the ride on the Ratels of the SA Army and the fact that they had Angels in Camouflage they could talk to and play with. Defence Corporate Communication donated toys, food parcels, groceries, clothing and non-perishable products.
The Nelson Mandela Foundation has created an official global Mandela Day to be celebrated annually on 18 July. Its purpose is to serve as a call to action so that people recognise their individual power and make difference in helping to change the world around them for the better.

As part of the Nelson Mandela Day the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Solly Shoke and the South African Army Council members received donations for the Kiddy College at Tlopi Base on 07 July 2011. To add to General Shoke’s many contributions towards the college through his golf day tournaments, Malao Bedding, a company owned by Mr Norman Malao from Ga-rankua near Pretoria, donated blankets and mattresses to the centre.

The Minister of Defence mentioned that the department had dedicated the month of July to Nelson Mandela Day, beginning their month-long programme at the Kiddy College. "The DOD dedicates the whole month to Mandela Day, another reason for this being that he was our first commander-in-chief”, said Minister Sisulu.

On 1 July 2009 the Cabinet endorsed the call to declare 18 July global Mandela Day. Cabinet called on all South Africans, civil society organisations and the citizens of the world to support the Mandela Day initiative by doing good in their communities. The Department of Defence seized the perfect opportunity to take part in the 67 minutes initiative to help change the lives of Kiddy College children, and at the same time honour the legacy of the former commander-in-chief of the SANDF, President Nelson Mandela.

Health inspectors had threatened to close down the college as it was in dire need of renovation. In 2009 General Shoke organised a fundraising Golf Day that generated R75 000 for numerous upgrades at the centre. Minister Sisulu acknowledged the support of General Shoke and Malao Bedding towards upgrading the Kiddy College: “I would like to thank Helena and her team, and also General Shoke for upgrading the college. As government we need to be involved in such ventures. With the chill winter upon us, we hope the children will benefit. The ministry also donates R10 000 and we hope that the project can be replicated in other services”, she said.
Mthatha celebrates Mandela month with the SANDF

By Lufuno Ntsihirembe

Photo: Sgt Ellias Mahuma

Nelson Mandela’s birthday is celebrated worldwide in July. Following this worthy trend the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality (KSDM) held a Freedom of Entry Parade on 30 July 2011 at Mthatha (the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality). This municipality is one of seven municipalities located within the O.R. Tambo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. This province is the birthplace of two prominent leaders of the liberation movement of South Africa, both Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Oliver Reginald Tambo (popularly known as O.R.).

This occasion coincided with the 6th anniversary of the KSDM bestowment of the Freedom of the city to the 14 SAI Battalion, by the then KSD Mayor, Dr De Larey Mkatshwa. The celebration was officially opened by Chaplain Murphy Maart who read the scripture from Psalm 12 verse 5 and Hebrews 13 verse 5. Appropriately honouring our icon of freedom, the Mayor of KSDM, the Executive Mayor, Councillor Monkoliso Ngqongwa, was main functionary at this event. In her speech she thanked the SANDF for its commitment to improving her municipality.

During this month the SANDF helped with various projects, e.g. the cleaning of the streets of KSDM. Ms Ngqongwa urged all the people in the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality, including those serving in various capacities in both the private and public sector institutions, to take a leaf from Nelson Mandela’s book and to plough back into places where they were born and bred.

The event culminated in the SANDF’s capability display at the Rotary sports ground. This display was not only meant to demonstrate military strength, but to show that the SANDF was combat ready. The citizens are thus assured the SANDF is ready to defend the sovereignty of South Africa. It further displays the SANDF as a force that cares, for example in the hijack scenario in which SANDF members simulated a rescue people in a precarious situation.

The Surgeon, Lt Gen General Vijay Ramlakan, who represented the Chief of the SANDF at this event urged people to emulate Nelson Mandela.

Everybody felt rejuvenated and keen to do good after such encouragement from both KSDM and the SANDF.
After spending 67 years of his life fighting for the rights of all, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day. This day also coincides with the icon’s birthday. The celebration of this international day recognises and gives credence to the former President and Commander-in-Chief’s commitment to human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation.

The South African Army Combat Training Centre, under the command of Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa (and other units within the Lohatlha military training area), observed this day, by assisting the needy.

The Lohatlha units rendered assistance to the Tsantsabane (Postmasburg) and Gamagara (Kathu, Deben, and Olifantsvlei) Municipalities. In Kathu, Deben and Olifantsvlei, the units assisted by cleaning the entrances to the various towns. In Postmasburg the units assisted in cleaning the hospital in cooperation with the municipality and cleaned the entrance to Postdene, the two entrances to the town and the old age home in town.

The day ended with a gala dinner for the elderly at the Postmasburg Town Hall attended by the MEC for Public Works, Mr Dawid Rooi from Kimberley, the Mayor of Tsantsabane (Postmasburg), Mr Elroy Jan Phete, and the Commandant SA Army Combat Training Centre.

It is worth mentioning that prior to 18 July 2011 (Mandela Day) the troops of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, after they became aware of the starving children in the Lohatlha informal settlement and washed cars for a small (R20.00 per car) donation and used the money to buy food which they cooked for the learners of the Lohatlha informal settlement primary school.

Clothes were also collected and given to their parents.

The SA Army Combat Training Centre is challenging other units in the Northern Cape to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day!
As part of the 93rd birthday celebrations of Dr Nelson Mandela and a gesture of goodwill, Army Support Base Potchefstroom offered its services to Witrand Hospital.

The hospital became a hive of activities as military personnel and civilians extended their helping hands to do laundry, clean the kitchen and cook and dish up for the patients.

Col Riaan Louw, Officer Commanding Army Support Base Potchefstroom, and his second in command, Lt Col Christo Eicker, also took time to visit the patients in different wards to offer a word of encouragement.

The day ended with spiritual support to the patients in the form of a church service by Chaplain Joe Radithlako.

SA Army Signal Formation gives 67 minutes

True to the spirit of “Mandela Day Celebrations”, an SA Government imperative, SA Army Signal Formation Headquarters members gave 67 minutes and more of their time on 18 July 2011 to those less fortunate than themselves. The day was spent at House Hermon, an old age home in General De Wet Street in Pretoria North, starting off drinking tea and coffee with the residents, sharing stories, and a laugh.

The home cares for a 170 members, of whom a 100 are in frail care. After the formalities, SA Army Signal Formation HQ members got dirty by working in the garden, washing windows and sanding down old tables, but it was well worth it. The contribution of time, money, old clothes and other much-needed items was greatly appreciated by the residents and personnel of the home. House Hermon members were left with a sparkle in their eyes and a warmed heart, knowing that there were still people out there who care.

* For enquiries about this or other events of SA Army Signal Formation please contact Maj Lizette Lombard at (012) 529 0009 or fax: (012) 529 0028.
On Friday 5 August 2011, the Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu and the staff members of SAS Immortelle handed over the Noah’s Ark Crèche for orphans to the Principal of the crèche in Mathibestad.

This the SA Navy had devoted month-long international and national programmes and activities to community service in honour of the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his values.

The SA Navy has devoted month-long international and national programmes and activities to community service in honour of the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his values.

Children singing to show their appreciation to the members of the SA Navy and the SANDF as a whole.
8 SAI Bn supports Mandela Day

Article by Lt Villa Minnie, Communication Officer

The Acting Officer Commanding 8 SAI Infantry Battalion (Mech), Maj Laetitia Wolmarans, in support of 67 minutes of community service has requested members to donate canned and non-perishable food, clothes, toys and money for Nelson Mandela international Day.

A Piling Parade was held on 18 July 2011 at 08:30 at 8 SAI Bn (Mech). The eager and high spirited members of 8 SAI Bn (Mech) did not shy way from being generous. Over 300 canned food and non perishables and 350 pieces of clothes were donated. The total amount of money that was donated was a whopping R3 664.00.

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Tehillah Shabach Community Centre, is managed and administered by the CEO, Sister Magda Kleyn, a profession nurse. This organisation has a holistic approach in serving the community. It concentrates on health (taking care of the elderly and the sick), education (youth programme) and drug rehabilitation (the drug rehabilitation centre is in Cape Town). The centre also has another section that deals with abused women and children and abandoned and rejected youth. A soup kitchen that caters for + 600 destitute people operates twice weekly.

The money that was donated was used to purchase a Defy 621 stove at Game Stores in Upington. Detergents and cleaning materials were also bought. Game Stores Upington donated a set of pots to the value of R 300.00 to the centre. All donated goods were joyously received by the Project Manager, Mr Jowitt Smith, who thanked the Battalion and Game for their generosity. Khara Hais Municipality communication officer (technical), Mr Pieter Jaarts, attended the event.

The participation of 8 SAI Bn (Mech) men and women for 67 minutes of community service inspired the Tehillah Shabach Community Collaborative.

BAE Systems keeping kids warm this winter

Article and photo by Natasha Pheiffer; Director: Communications and Responsibility

Over a thousand township children will have warm beds and keep their heads warm this winter as a result of blankets, beanies and scarves provided by BAE Systems Land Systems South Africa through its latest South African community outreach initiative.

BAE Systems Land Systems South Africa teamed up with two partners as part of the social initiatives programme for 2011. Both Children at Play and Oliver’s House are registered non-profit organisations. To kick off the 2011 initiatives, BAE Systems embarked on three winter projects to help keep the local community warm during these cold months.

The first initiative was a blanket drive through Children at Play for the Soweto Kliptown Youth (SKY) Centre. SKY Centre provides hope and services to neglected children in Soweto. There are approximately 400 children, ranging from infants to 18 years old, from different townships that are receiving care at this youth centre through various programmes. BAE Systems’ employees donated blankets and the company provided an additional 380 new blankets to ensure each child received one.

"My sincere appreciation to BAE Systems, who as a corporate entity, reached out to provide help to people in need within our community. This is exactly what Children at Play (C@P) exists for, helping those in need. The effect of the company’s contributions throughout the year and the volunteers interacting with less fortunate people and children are having a bigger impact than anyone could have imagined," said Lion du Plessis, founder of Children at Play.

A thousand beanie and scarf sets were provided through both partners to Ekukhanyeni School in Johannesburg and Nomthandazo Day Care Centre in Zenzele Informal Settlement in Daveyton. Both of these institutions support the children in those communities who have nowhere else to go.

"A heartfelt thank-you to BAE Systems, who as a corporate entity, reached out to provide help to people in need within our community. This is exactly what Children at Play (C@P) exists for, helping those in need. The effect of the company’s contributions throughout the year and the volunteers interacting with less fortunate people and children are having a bigger impact than anyone could have imagined," said Lion du Plessis, founder of Children at Play.

BAE Systems members donated thousands of blankets and scarf sets that were received by children from Soweto Kliptown Youth (SKY).
**S A S O L D I E R**

**Social responsibility**

**SANDF COLET embraces Mandela Day**

Mandela Day is a day on which we are all called to roll up our sleeves and dedicate 67 minutes of our time for community service. On 29 July 2011, 15 members of COLET visited the Olievenhoutbosch Christian School for their 67 minutes on Mandela Day. The school is housed in a dilapidated building with unfinished walls that look as if they might fall at any time and endanger the lives of the children.

Frank Ackerman, a volunteer who used to work as an engineer and is now a pensioner, was more than happy to take us through the school. He is in charge of the after-school care and is also responsible for any menial work that the school needs. We soon realised that he had oil paint and brushes ready for us to paint the classrooms.

Conversations with the staff revealed that the school was started five years ago as an idea by Themba Maluleke from Winterveld. Themba discussed the idea of establishing a Christian school that would cater for children from poor families, the aged and HIV patients with the “Kerk Sonder Mure” or “Church Without Walls”. His idea was adopted by the church and the school was established.

The school is now a day school that teaches orphans and poor children from Grade R to Grade 3. There are future plans to expand the school to be able to accommodate higher grades, but resources are limited. After Grade 3 the learners are sent to public schools in the community. The school also runs an after-school for learners. During this time, children are helped with their homework and they also participate in sports like soccer and take part in other extra-curricular activities. Over weekends the school runs camps for teenage learners from the Steve Tshwete High School nearby.

The aged and HIV programmes are run concurrently on Mondays where attendees are taught job related skills and art. The school is open from Monday to Friday and teaches subjects such as Life Skills, Mathematics, English, Zulu, Northern Sotho, Bible Studies and Life Orientation. It has a little children’s library and a container turned into a

There are future plans to expand the school to be able to accommodate higher grades, but currently resources are limited.

**Article and photos by Mr P. Thulare**

SANDF COLET members get ready to provide the Olievenhoutbosch Christian School with a major face lift during their part of 67 minutes on Mandela Day on 29 July 2011. The school is housed in a dilapidated building with unfinished walls that look as if they might fall at anytime and consequently endanger the lives of the children.
There is a computer classroom with six computers. There are no windows in the computer room. The school has also established a mini-bakery that produces bread daily for the learners. It is hoped that the bakery will grow into a self-sufficient business that will sell bread to the community and be source of income of the school.

Ria Wessels is the principal and teacher of the school. She taught previously in an uptown school in Johannesburg. When the church approached her about heading a Christian school in a township, she did not hesitate. At present she heads a staff of nine teachers who are all volunteers. Thirty per cent of the staff are qualified teachers, while the rest are studying towards a teaching qualification. She says the school depends on church donations in the form of food parcels, canned food, maize meal and dried foods. There is also a vegetable garden that is managed by the staff. Among the difficulties that the school is facing are uneducated parents, who themselves also need education. During "Parents` Days" the staff teaches these parents first aid skills, discipline and child abuse awareness.

Pam John, who is responsible for the administration of the school, highlighted the biggest challenge the school was facing was lack of food. The food that they receive as donations is sometimes also passed on to the families of theses children to ensure that the children go to bed with at least something in their stomachs. She emphasised that some of the children only receive a meal when they are at the school.

It was so inspiring to see COLET women, oblivious of whatever qualms they had, act like true heroines and getting their hands dirty. Although it was a cold day, our jackets and scarves were hanging on trees. By the time we finished our community service, most of us were dripping with sweat. We worked and only stopped when we realised that we were tired, otherwise we could have painted the whole school. Mandela Day requires us to spend only 67 minutes of our time doing community work. Our team worked three hours and we were very proud of it.
Infanteers coming out in full force for Mandela Day

They painted walls, weeded the garden, donated items, picked up rubbish and cleaned everything in the spirit of helping others.

The Formation HQ leading from the front

On Friday 15 July 2011, SA Army Infantry Formation Headquarters in Pretoria cleaned the garden at the Centurion Hospice in Lyttelton. This was no easy task as they had to cut down some trees, while others were taking out a big pole cast in concrete.

At the Seshegong Primary School a shade was erected over the school’s vegetable garden. The members learnt a new trade of sewing fishing net, creating a scene reminiscent of the fisherman/women from the West Coast. The Infanteers also helped to make the vegetable beds.

Infantry School

The officers of the Infantry School took the Bumble Bee Pre-school under their wing by clearing the garden and painting some classrooms, while others tried their talents at face painting. Other groups distributed food parcels to old age homes, toys were handed out to the children of the Klein Karoo School. Here some of the staff members cleaned the windows of the classrooms. The Oudtshoorn Hospital was also refurbished.

Infantry Units

4 South African Infantry Battalion (SAI Bn) in Middelburg cleaned the grounds of the Mkhulu Primary School in Doornkop. Middelburg on 19 July 2011. 5 SAI Bn in Ladysmith cleaned the areas around the taxi ranks and the central area of the town from 18 to 20 July 2011. On 22 July 2011 they launched a community outreach programme with the world-renowned Ladysmith Black Mambazo music group. This project reached several communities in the KwaZuluNatal area.

8 SAI Bn in Upington held a piling parade where they collected over 300 tins of food and donated a stove and cleaning materials, which were bought for the Tehillah Shabach Community Centre which cares for the elderly. The Centre is also involved in drug rehabilitation.

14 SAI Bn cleaned several areas in the town, painted a school and donated blankets to the Elata School for the blind. On 30 July 2011 they presented a freedom of the city parade and took part in an open day exhibition in the Rotary Stadium.

15 SAI Bn cleaned the area around the Tshilidzini Special School in Venda and tackled the gardens. The unit members also donated fruit and vegetables to the school.
Members from the SA Army Infantry Formation erecting a net for the vegetable garden at the Seshegong Primary School.

Reserves also getting really dirty in support of Mandela day

Regiment Christian Beyers in Polokwane cleaned up the area around the New Horizon Special School on 14 July 2011.

Regiment De La Rey in Potchefstroom visited Ikageng, Extension 6 from 1 to 3 July 2011. Here they provided water for the people that normally walk 3 km to the closest water point. Vegetables and bread were also purchased and donated. A large area was cleaned by the Young Lions of the youth project of the regiment. As part of their training they had to undertake a social project. These youngsters met an old lady with her grandchildren locked in their shack without food or water and they saw to it that they were looked after on a continuous basis.

Regiment Bloempruit in Bloemfontein donated blankets to Child Care and Childline. These blankets were donated by the members of the unit.

The Transvaal Scottish supported the community not by cleaning or donations but by entertainment. The community of Bedfordview was invited to join them at the St Benedict’s National Pipe Band Gathering on 16 July 2011.

The positive approach by all the units to support this project was commendable because they came out in full force not caring to get their hands dirty and putting them deep in their pockets.

A member from the Infantry Formation busy sewing a net.

Members brought a ray of hope by visiting children and the elderly.
The year 2011 is significant as it marks the first centenary of the commemoration of International Women’s Day. What has become apparent during the last century is that as much as women have made great strides, there is still a great deal to be achieved on many fronts.

Anne Doyle, author of *Powering Up*, states that nearly every professional arena is bursting with three generations of educated, ambitious and professionally savvy women. She describes the mid 50s and before as the Pioneering Interlopers, mid 30s to early 50s as the Influential Insiders, and the college age to 30s as the I’ll do it my way Innovators.

Inspired by the African Union’s (AU) Declaration of 2010-2020 as the decade for African Women, the Chief Directorate Transformation Management has deemed it appropriate to highlight the achievements and contributions made by Women in Defence. However, owing to limited space, the focus will only be on a few.

**WOMEN IN OPERATIONS AND ON DEPLOYMENTS**

**Deployment to the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

Maj Pumla Nqgakamba, a medical doctor, joined the SANDF in 2004 and has been deployed on three peacekeeping missions: the Sudan from January to April 2006, the DRC from February to May 2009, and the DRC from January to September 2010. She has shown dedicated service to our country and promoted the vision of our President of a continent at peace, while still bringing up her young family of two children. She graduated from the University of Limpopo - Medunsa and is specialising on Occupational Medicine.

Burundi

Lt Col Lucille Gallant served in Burundi in 2006 as a Company Commander and took over the base Sibitoke from the Pakistan battalion. She successfully safeguarded UN equipment and personnel. She is currently working as Chief Instructor at CTC. After she took over as the Chief Instructor -Operations Duties Branch, the rate of failure decreased.

DRC

In 2008 Maj F.N. Maganwe was deployed as a Company Commander in the DRC. Her leadership saved the company on two occasions when they were caught in the cross-fire between the rebel grouping CNDP and the government FARDC mortar attack. Through her quick communication and negotiations skills the fighting shifted away from the base. She also succeeded in scheduling a meeting with the most wanted rebel leader, Gen Laurent Nkunda. She was awarded the best company commander trophy by 121 SAI Bn and also received a commendation certificate from the Force Commander for her excellent performance.

Deployed in DRC

Sgt L. Ndlovu was part of the medical team deployed in the DRC. She was always helping the members who were ill or injured, but also provided first aid to DRC members before sending them to the local hospital.

**Deployed in DRC**

Capt Ntuli was Platoon Commander in DRC and rescued a female worker of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees who had come under attack. The refugee worker’s life was saved by the quick thinking of the Platoon which was under the command of Capt Cynthia Ntuli of Alpha company 4 SAI Battalion.

**Deployed Bunia DRC - Female peacekeepers who went the extra mile**

Maj E.M. Molusi and Cpl L Shivhulaise from 13 Provost Company for support given to the Moziphela Orphanage in DRC. LCPL Mkhize for going beyond her duties and assisting an elderly lady who feared for her safety by checking up on her and providing her with food.

**COMMANDERS**

Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa commands...
true leadership in all she does. Maj Busisiwe Petronella Modori worked as a horse instructor at 12 SAI Bn. She has been deployed twice externally and twice internally as a Coy 2IC and a platoon commander. During one of her patrols and house searches while deployed at Sedibeng she was successful in finding a stash of guns close to Matalele. Capt Heybrecht van Niekerk is a rising star. She is the first female to become a Silver Falcon pilot and has entered the prestigious SAAF display team club. Capt Keabaka Abegal Thlong is currently working as the Musketry Branch Commander at the Infantry School. She is an expert and specialist in Reconnaissance Specialist learning programmes. Capt Thlong has coordinated over three learning programmes which are a very physically demanding. She is currently on the Junior Command and Staff Duties course in China. WO2 Nokuthula Lucky Mazibuko worked as a Senior NCO instructor and a course WO at Infantry School. There is a critical shortage of swimming instructors and she is one of the few assistant swimming instructors to train and assess the MSDS members on swimming orientation. She is currently working as a communication WO at Infantry School. L Cpl Marriam Thabisile Skhosana, L Cpl Chavon Carmen Malgas and L Cpl Mongwa Linah Motebele are the only three women who are qualified as parachutists. L Cpl M.L. Motebele was the fittest soldier in 2009. All three are currently working as Section 2IC at 1 Parachute Battalion.

ACADEMIC

YOUNG Women scoop it all at the Military Academy

In 2010, Lt B.M. Maeta was awarded Academic Colours by Stellenbosch University for achieving the best academic results during her three years of study at the Military Academy. The top finalist and student at our Military Academy for year 2010 went to Lt Lindiwe Mashigo. This bright and humble young lady scooped four distinctions and was awarded the Prestigious SAAF display team club. The Military Academy saw all the top academic awards go to female students in 2010. Young women in Defence are leading the team. The SAMBS award went to Lt Lerato Sokonyela.

Maj F.E.A Easton received the best student award during her three-year study at the Military Academy. Capt M.P. Bopape received the best student award during her three-year study at the Military Academy.

Lt Z. Nyanhi received the best student award during her three-year study at the Military Academy. Capt T.V. Sokomane received the Rector’s Award for Excellence during her first year in various Faculties. Enséign Melinda Banda was the SA Navy recipient for Top Academic Award. 

Lt A. Grudling received Academic Colours from Stellenbosch University. Lt N. Wallace received the Sword of Honour at the Military Academy. 

Lt C.Y. Rutters received the best student award during her three-year study at the Military Academy.

Lt A. Grudling received the Rector’s Award for Excellence during her first year in different Faculties.

MANAGEMENT

Medical Policy

Dr Archary is a medical doctor. She is an expert in health policy and has worked tirelessly with the health policy team to ensure that our medical and health policies are aligned with national values and the national imperatives for development.

Human Resources

Col Patience Lorna Memela Motumi, our Chief of Transformation, has made our Defence Staff Council rethink their stereotype by her refusal to accept No as an answer in her goal of transformation. Maj Gen Memela Motumi has travelled into Africa and met several Defence Force leaders to whom she has conveyed the importance of women in Security Sector Reform SSR to ensure sustainable peace in Africa.

Human Resources Policy

Dr Mary Ledwaba has provided the department with foresight and clear direction in HR policy. She has steered the department to ensure fair policy that upholds the national imperatives. Dr Ledwaba has provided the department with foresight and clear direction in HR policy. She has steered the department to ensure fair policy that upholds the national imperatives. She has steered the department to ensure fair policy that upholds the national imperatives. 

Dr Mary Ledwaba received the Rector’s Award of Excellence during her first year in various Faculties. 

Lt N. Wallace received the Rector’s Award for Excellence during her first year in different Faculties. 

Lt A. Grudling received the Rector’s Award for Excellence during her first year in various Faculties. 

CO N.G. Mlangeni received the Rector’s Award for Excellence during her first year in different Faculties.

COMPETITIVE LEARNING

L Cpl Mandinda is the first female qualified para trooper in the Special Forces. She is currently stationed at 5 SF Regt. L Cpl Tshepo L Cpl Mandinda is the only female qualified para trooper in the Special Forces. She is currently stationed at 5 SF Regt. 

Sgt M.E. Kesekile received the award for outstanding achievement in the Air Defence Artillery Corps Combat Mastering.

Lt Col Trudy Zanele Mahlangu worked at Special Forces from 2002 - 2010 doing the planning of Special Forces training. She also interacted with foreign countries such as Botswana and Sweden on training related matters. In 2006 she was involved in training the Presidential protection unit. She is currently the SO1 Plan at 46 SA Bde. 

Maj Catherine Labaschagne is the first qualified Gripen pilot in the SANDF and the world. She has consistently topped the class in all her courses and displays...
Conditions of Service.

Development of policies related to also leads the team responsible for the translating all changes to salaries Ms Christelle Faul has provided outstanding support to the Interim National Defence Force Service Commission and drafted their reports. This she has done while still responsible for her own work as Dir Governance Risk and Compliance to make sure that the department receives a clean audit.

Ms Buyiswa Nkunjana has worked tirelessly to address all the HR related queries from the AG. It was through her dedicated efforts that there were no HR qualifications for the 2009/10 FY.

Risk Management

In line with our determination to have a clean audit, Mrs Khumalo is a key official who monitors the Risk Register of the department. She has worked hard to ensure that all commanders understand risk management by conducting training sessions.

Ms Christelle Faul is responsible for translating all changes to salaries announced by Government and capturing them on the PERSOL system. She also leads the team responsible for the development of policies related to Conditions of Service.

Strategic Planning

The most outstanding professional achievement of Adv N. Nhalela is the creation and sustaining of an enabling Defence Strategy and Planning environment through empowered and capacitated functionaries and related stakeholders. Through these focused efforts, the servicing of the Defence and related mandates was conducted efficiently and effectively when she the directed the Defence Strategy and Planning function.

Planner

Maj Lee-Ann Markom is one of very few officials who understand the planning framework and who has the technical skills to compile the 3 year MTEF plan. As the HR Division planner, she is an asset to our department in our quest to ensure that we attain and maintain a clean audit.

Sport and Fitness

Football

Lt Col Lephalo is a member of the SAFA Gauteng Coaches Committee. As coach she has led the Gauteng ABSA Under 19 Team to win the National Championships in 2009 and 2010. She also coaches the SANDF ladies football team. Recently she was nominated as a candidate for coach of Banyana Banyana.

Lt Col. L. Bester came 4th in the SA Championships in 2007 and 2008. She has participated in 4 World Championships.

2010 Sportswoman of the year

Lance Corporal Moaneno participated in the SA Championships and achieved No 3 in her age group in 2010 and No 2 in 2011.

SA Army fittest soldier

Gnr T. Shandu - For outstanding achievements in the Army as well as SANDF fittest soldier competition where she was placed in 2nd position in the Army fittest soldier's competition, and 3rd position in the SANDF fittest soldier competition.

Naval Pentathlon

CPO C. Roodman has represented South Africa in six World Pentathlon Championships.

Fittest Woman in the SA Navy

An all-rounder, Seaman Maryke Steyn came out tops in the 4-part fitness test for 2010. She completed her 2.4km run, her push-ups, sit-ups, the 4km walk, the obstacle course, and the 4x4km walk with her kit top and came of the class.

Pte F. Mbande is a development athlete with great potential, having participated in the SA Championships and the Iron Man Championships.

Specialists

Maj (Dr) Nomsa Mahlangu is a dentist working in the SAMHS unit in Mipamalanga. She has worked innovatively with her patients - at no point does the lack of resources slow her down. She also volunteered for and was deployed on the naval ship SAS Drakensberg.

Dr Marcellle Groenewald, the head of the Allergy unit at 1 Military Hospital, for her outstanding academic achievement which she has used to help our soldiers receive world-class health services.
I hope to see my children graduate top of the class
I hope my kids can go to a good school
I hope to preserve my pension fund
I hope I have enough money to send him on that soccer tour
I hope we’re always this happy
I hope she doesn’t fail
I hope he has every opportunity that I didn’t have
I hope I can have a dignified funeral
I hope she gets accepted into university
I hope I get my driver’s licence
I hope to go to Rio one day
I hope my professional practice continues to be a success
I hope we can do the renovations to the house
I hope to be the best dad in the world
I hope I can buy that house someday
I hope my broker gets the trade done before the market moves
I hope we can travel together
I hope I can show him my hometown one day
I hope I get the financing for my business
I hope to live out my dreams
I hope I can always take care of her
I hope my children will be taken care of
I hope she says, ‘yes’
I hope my offshore investments perform
I hope I can pay my medical bills
I hope I have enough for my retirement
I hope, one day, own that house on the hill
I hope I can afford this holiday
I hope I can study overseas
I hope my hard work pays off
I hope I can get that car
I hope to see the Northern Lights
I hope this idea works
I hope my business succeeds
I hope I am giving our employees the best
I hope to dive with dolphins
I hope the rest of my studies run smoothly
I hope for trading at the right price and at the right time
I hope I can provide for my family

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**SA SOLDIER**

*focus on women*

**What script are you writing?**

By Minah Sindane-Bloem

Never has the time been so promising in dealing with women’s issues as right now in the DOD. Fortunately both the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and the Secretary for Defence are women. Not so long ago I had the privilege of spending the whole day with the Secretary for Defence during the DOD and Military Veterans Industry Day. Of the many things we discussed this one thing stood out: She saw that there was only handful of women around. However, she intends to make it her duty to see to it that that number increases by the time she leaves.

For me that statement was very profound and heartening. It means that those of you who interact with her often are going to have to support her agenda of women empowerment. I have no reason to doubt Minister Sisulu’s passion for women’s issues.

A few months ago I was haunted by this question: If I was not born what would the world miss? I request you to ask yourself this question everyday of your life. If you were not born, what would the world miss? The answers you choose to give to this question are part of the script that you are writing to the DOD as a platform for your career, to your friends as part of your social life, to your family, especially those with the privilege of having offspring. What will people say about you when you leave the DOD?

Issues affecting women also affect those that are close by, colleagues, namely friends, spouses, partners, lovers, parents and children. What you write on that script will affect those who are close by. I propose that you write the script and then live by it. Be the director of your own movie. Think about the writer of a movie. He sits in a very privileged position compared to those who are watching. He knows the beginning and the end. He is not perturbed by the main character that looks like he or she is struggling because he knows that the end result is that the main character will triumph.

Think about yourself as the director of your own script. You have decided the role of each character. You are the main character and you decide how the other characters are going to relate to you. No matter your struggles, one thing is for sure victory will be yours.

The position in which you find yourselves as senior DOD women is a crucial one. You are writing the history of women within a seriously male dominated environment. The juniors that report to you can either look up to you with admiration or with disgust. One day they will be seniors themselves and they will be able to tell stories about your influence.

Workplaces are horrible places, especially for young women who are just entering the world of work. There are many people, both male and female, who may not be very kind to these young women. Many of them are taken advantage of because they are young and feel overwhelmed by the work environment. Some of them fall victim to sexual misconduct by very senior people, and I am afraid in this instance the culprits tend to be men. Some young women end up giving sexual favours to men who are as old as their fathers, under the pretext that they will have some kind of favour done for them to advance their careers.

Unfortunately these are sad realities of our world of work. My question is: where are the ‘mothers’ when their daughters are abused in such a manner? Where are the DOD senior women when such abuses occur unabated? I speak very passionately about this subject because I ask myself time and time again where I would be had a ‘mother’...
Things happen, life has a way of punishing when we look the other way when such wrong doing occurs. I have done the right thing by confronting him. When we look the other way when such things happen, life has a way of punishing us. You may not be at the workplace with your daughter to protect her. However, another woman might be there to protect her because you have also protected this other woman. It might not be in your job description to teach and guide young women on the issues of life, but do it for the sake of the nation. Women are nurturers by nature. If we are not safeguarding these young women, what kind of nation are they going to nurture?

While women’s issues are in the foreground, both nationally and internationally, we must be careful not to label all men as monsters who are ready to abuse women. I am surprised that despite all the legislation protecting women, women remain the most vulnerable in our society. I thought about this situation and this is how I explain it, though it is not necessary gospel. We have empowered women, but have not empowered men. By their very nature men worship power. When they feel disempowered they get more violent to show that they are still in power. I have always been of the opinion that rape is not about sex, but about power …

Why are senior women in the DOD not empowered, even though they are in senior positions? I am concerned about the powerlessness of senior people, especially in government. Women are in charge, they have the power, but they still complain about the system, the white man, the black man. Prof Seepe tells me of an MEC for Education who ended up being of the opinion that rape is not about sex, but about power …

At work not taken me under her wings and protected me and guided me. There are many sharks and vultures in the workplace that are just waiting to pounce on the vulnerable women. It is our duty as senior women in the workplace to protect these young women like a chicken protects its chicks under its wings. As women, we are naturally endowed with characteristics of protecting.

Zig Ziglar in one of his books says that many of us are beneficiaries of institutions established by the previous generation. We are beneficiaries of institutions we never helped to build. We drink from wells we never dug. We warm ourselves from fireplaces we never built. This means that we are going to have to build establishments that we might not live to benefit from. We are going to have to plant trees that we may never sit under to enjoy their shade and coolness. A male colleague sexually harassed a junior lady. She came to tell me and I asked her what she would like me to do. She was too afraid to want to lay a charge against this guy. My heart sank for two reasons: she was young and so vulnerable, and he was so dignified that nobody would believe the allegations of the young lady. I also was shocked that such a dignified gentleman could do such a thing. I refused to feel helpless and decided to confront the said gentleman.

This is the motto I used: Be caring enough to confront. He initially denied any wrongdoing, but one thing I told him was that if I heard of another similar offense, I would personally nail him. I did this not because I was brave; I did this because I was afraid of who his next victim would be. Such a victim would have been my sister, my niece or any woman I care for. I subsequently heard that he had sexually harassed two other women before the one who came to report him to me. I knew I had done the right thing by confronting him.

We make destructive comments without thinking - and therefore without noticing or remembering. But the objects of our scorn remember. How do we stop making destructive comments? How do we stop making destructive comments? Decide not to make those comments. Make a bet with your colleagues that every time you make a destructive comment you will pay R10 into a kitty to be used by a cup of capuccino or some other drink. See how much you pay on the first day and it will give you an idea of how bad the problem is. Sometimes we rely on being candid or truthful as an effective management tool. The trouble is that the truth can easily become a weapon. People permit themselves to make destructive comments with the excuse that they are true. The fact that a destructive comment is true is irrelevant. The question is not, “is it true”, but rather, “is it worth it?”. We instinctively avoid destructive comments when it is a survival issue. We know the difference between honesty and full disclosure. We may think our boss is a complete fool, but we are under no moral or legal obligation to tell him.
from page 31

Another habit is “speaking when angry”. I guess anger has its value as a management tool. It wakes up sleepy employees. It raises everyone’s metabolism. It delivers a clear message that you give a damn. But at what price? Emotional volatility is not the most reliable leadership tool. When you get angry, you are usually out of control. It’s hard to lead people when you have lost control. The worst thing about anger is how it stifles our ability to change. Once you get a reputation for emotional volatility, you are branded for life. Pretty soon that is all people know about you. Gavin Hunt, the SuperSport Football Club coach, is by far one of the best coaches we have had as a country. He has won three PSL titles for three consecutive years. He has a well documented history of throwing temper tantrums at every soccer game in which his club is playing. When people think about Gavin Hunt, their first thought is his volcanic temper, not his good won-lost record in the PSL. It is the same in the workplace. We have a special place in our minds for our chronical-ly angry colleagues. No matter what else they do, we brand them as easily combustible. When we talk about them, the first words out of our mouths are, “I hear she has a temper”. That hothead image is tough to live down. Given that our efforts to change are judged not by us but by the people around us, you may need years of calm, collected behaviour before everyone will believe you are different.

How do you stop getting angry? I do not know. It is our duty as coaches to show you that anger is not really the other person’s fault. It is a fault that is solely your own. A Buddhist legend tells of a young farmer who was covered with sweat as he paddled his boat up the river. He was going upstream to deliver his produce to the village. He was in a hurry. It was a hot day and he wanted to make his delivery and get home before dark. As he looked ahead he spied another vessel heading rapidly downstream toward his boat.

This vessel seemed to be making every effort to hit him. He rowed furiously to get out of the way, but it did not seem to help. He yelled at the other vessel, “Change direction, you idiot. You are going to hit me. The river is wide. Be careful”. His screaming was to no avail. The other vessel hit his boat. He was enraged as he stood up and cried out to the other vessel: “you moron, how could you manage to hit my boat in the middle of this wide river? What is wrong with you?” As he looked at the other vessel, he realised that there was no one in the other boat. He was screaming at an empty ves sel that had broken free of its moorings and was going downstream with the cur rent. The lesson is simple. There is never anyone in the other boat. When we are angry, we are screaming at an empty vessel.

The second thing to show you about anger is that if you keep your mouth shut, no one can ever know how you really feel. A story is told by a writer, Nancy van Pelt, in her book entitled “Highly effective marriage” of Sandy who was very unhappy because her husband constantly made belittling jokes at her expense. She asked him not to do it. He refused to stop himself and apologised. Sandy’s husband had developed a bad habit of which he was barely conscious. All Sandy was doing was raising her hus band’s consciousness level to a specific situation. She was changing her situation by changing her own reactions. So the next time you start to speak out of anger, look in the mirror. In every case, you will find that the root of your rage is not “out there” but “in here”. What script are you writing? I will urge you to say today; I will be master of my emotions.

Chief Directorate Transformation Management has the challenge to get women in the DOD to acknowledge that they have a problem and to go out to seek help. Many profit-making organisations appoint coaches for their top executives to deal not only with issues of strategy, but to deal with their own personal issues that have an impact on the workplace as I have illustrated with the two habits mentioned earlier. Many of us are promoted into senior positions because we have done well in junior positions. However, the irony is that the very habit that brought you the senior position might infact be the wrong habit when you are in a senior position.

The example I cited earlier should apply, namely that when you are an MEC you do not march in protest, but instead you should execute the policies that have been given you authority to solve public problems. When you are a General it is not your duty to work very hard and find that your programme is so full you do not even have time to yourself. Generals are not supposed to work hard; they are supposed to think hard. You are paid to think, not to work.
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LAW FOR ALL
Recognising contribution of SANDF women in Op CORONA

All the ladies in the SANDF and the Department of Defence are urged to rise up to the challenge and be counted.

By Line: By Kgabo Mashamaite
PHOTOS: Cpl Ilumeleng Makubela

The heroines of Operation CORONA could not have asked for a better present when the Joint Operation Tactical Headquarters Mpumalanga (J OP TAC HQ MP) hosted a Women’s day celebration in their honour on 10 August 2011 in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province.

The objective of the occasion was to give recognition and pay tribute to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) female soldiers from the 21 SA Infantry Bn who are currently performing guard duties at the Macadamia and Sand River borders.

Delivering her keynote address during a spectacular event, Brig Gen Winnie Bobelo, Joint Ops Headquarters Chief of Staff, urged all the ladies in the SANDF and the Department of Defence to rise up to the challenge and be counted.

"As we salute those women and thank them for their contributions in the SANDF, and in order to claim our rightful place in the defence force, we need to play a meaningful role and inspire society and the country in general, so as to make a better life for the people of our country. We are fortunate enough in this country as gender equity is regarded as a key aspect of its transformation agenda. I would urge all women to have self-esteem so that they can express themselves with great courage and consideration, without fear of being victimised. This will ensure that women claim their rightful place in the defence force to help South Africa as a developmental state reduce poverty, crime, and corruption and provide basic health care and education, all with the participation of women. If we forge ahead as a united force with this in mind, there is no mountain too high to climb, no river too deep to cross, no jungle too dense to negotiate, no desert too dry to bear and no reactionary force too strong to break", Brig Gen Bobelo remarked.

During his welcoming address, Col Nceba Bobelo, J OP TAC HQ MP Officer Commanding, reminded the guests of the significance of the Women’s Day celebration.

"Exactly 55 years ago, almost 20 000 brave women of all colours and ages marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria led by stalwarts such as Mme Lillian Ngoyi, Mme Helen Joseph, Mme Albertina Sisulu, Mme Bertha Gxowa and others to express their disgust at the pass laws of the then government. Today we emulate and honour their spirit in this hall as we honour the courageous women of the DOD. We have also taken note of the proud women who patrol our borders day and night and are thankful for the role they are playing. They prove the point that a woman’s place is not in the
focus on women

SA SOLDIER

Rammpopo praised the ladies manning our borders for their bravery in helping to fight the worst ever form of gender based violence. She told the women soldiers to continue raising the flag of the country high and continue with the good work they were doing as disciplined women in the defence force.

The event was also graced by the presence of Ms Malebo Kotu-Rammopo from the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) who made a presentation on human trafficking. The Tsireledzani National Co-ordinator Programme was instituted in 2008 to help the victims of trafficking to seek justice and their dignity, and Ms Kotu-

Meanwhile 10 Op CORONA female combatants were awarded with certificates by the J TAC HQ MP in honour of their contribution to the success of Op CORONA mission. The recipients are listed below:

Name list
1. L/Cpl S.P. Mvuyane
2. Rfn P.P. Muthala
3. Rfn D.D. Choma
4. Rfn M.M. Moabelo
5. Pte P.P. Munyali
6. Pte B.N. Sibanyoni
7. Pte T.R. Munyadziwa
8. Pte M.B. Manganeng
9. Spr T.M. Mabele
10. Rfn P.P. Munyali

The occasion was capped by a performance by the J TAC HQ MP staff, Op CORONA A and B Companies as well as a local artist Danny, of Basheshe ba hléga fame, who rendered musical items that had the ladies rushing for the dance floor.

Brig Gen Winnie Bobelo, Joint Ops Headquarters Chief of Staff (in yellow) with some women soldiers patrolling the Sand River and Macadamia border posts on Op CORONA mission. The ladies were recognised and thanked by J TAC HQ Mpumalanga for their efforts during the Women’s Day celebration hosted in their honour on 10 August 2011 in Nelspruit.

Op CORONA SANDF female soldiers dancing to the local artist tunes during the J TAC HQ MP Women’s day celebration held in their honour for the success of the mission in Mpumalanga on 10 August 2011.
As the gender balance in the workplace in both public and private institutions in the country is beginning to equalize, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) prides itself on having taken great strides in addressing the gender balance within its ranks.

The SANDF comprises four Services, namely the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service. These Services are made up of various units and divisions, and these have begun a process of filling strategic posts with capable and high-calibre women within the organisation, who are just as capable as the men and performing their duties with aplomb in their different musters.

Women within the SANDF are also afforded training opportunities to empower themselves to handle and command combat equipment (something that was traditionally perceived to be a male area of speciality). Among those women to have ventured into so-called “male territory” is 28 year-old, Lt Palesa Madiehe, an A squadron tank female officer commander at the 1 SA Tank Regiment at Army Support Base Bloemfontein.

Lt Madiehe's journey into the SANDF started as a Basic Military Training (BMT) recruit through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS), from where she later proceeded to Officers Forming (Formative) training in 2005. As her passion for serving her country grew, she went to the Military Academy in Saldanha, for a Degree in Human Organisational Development, which she obtained in 2008, and for which she received the MA 2008 Neatest Student award.

"Being a tank commander in a male dominated area has been a challenge, especially when you always have to prove yourself to male colleagues and demonstrate to them that the position was not a fluke but hard earned. I have also noticed that the attitude of my colleagues is gradually changing and they have learned to accept that women also are equally capable into venturing into domains that require physical strength. One needs to be in tip-top shape when commanding this equipment as it weighs about 56 tons. Madiehe has been a qualified tank driv-

A glimpse of a female main battle tank commander in action

The South African National Defence Force prides itself on having taken great strides in addressing the gender balance within its ranks.

Olifant Mk1A main battle tank commander Lt Palesa Madiehe, left and Pte Mary-Ann Dhlamini, a tank driver, standing next to the main battle tank after conducting some inspections before taking it to the 1 SA tank Regiment, Bloemfontein.
In the next five years, Lt Madiehe will still be in the SANDF uniform, probably as a Major and will mentor aspirant female commanders in the field. At the moment, her focus is to raise her one year old daughter who is at present being looked after by her parents. When her schedule allows she travels to Ikgageng "location" (township) to visit them. She keeps herself fit by covering long distances in walking, her favourite past-time.

Among those moments she would like to cherish for the rest of her career in the Defence Force were, the presentation of the Olifant Mk1A and a demonstration of its abilities to the Minister of Defence & Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and the then A/ CSANDF, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, on 2 May 2011 and her participation in the 2009 Ex Seboka while still fresh from her studies at the Military Academy.

NB: In the story entitled, The SANDF-Best Overall Display at the Rand Show, published in SA Soldier June 2011 edition, this writer erroneously wrote Lt Palesa Madie instead of Madiehe and 1 Tank Regiment instead of 1 SA Tank Regiment. The writer acknowledges and regrets both errors.

Any achievement by any of our staff members”, Maj De Neeker said.

Among her protégés is 23 year-old Pte Mary Ann Dhlamini, an MSDS 2010 recruit and qualified Olifant Mk1A Main Battle Tank driver since September 2010, who sings the praises of her mentor.

“My first encounter with Lt Madiehe was in May this year after my return from a course at the Combat training Centre in Lohatlha and I found her to be a jolly person, but thoroughly professional and she always makes sure that the job at hand is well executed”, Pte Dhlamini, also a qualified tank driver since September 2010, said.

Pte Dhlamini also explained the process of becoming a tank driver. A good pass in matric is necessary to enable one to undergo the BMT and the Simulator courses. Here the student’s performance, accuracy and capability of executing tasks as required is tested. She also said that one needed to have a high level of physical fitness, be a team player and a good listener since one will be working with three other people (Bombardier, Gunner and Commander) on the tank and taking commands at the same time.

The tank crew can be identified by their long, fireproof overall. It has a unique design to enable a crew member to be pulled out of a tank to safety in the case of an emergency. The tank crew do not have a specific diet, but they need to constantly to drink lots of milk as they operate in dusty terrain.

In the next five years, Lt Madiehe will still be in the SANDF uniform, probably as a Major and will mentor aspirant female commanders in the field. At the moment, her focus is to raise her one year old daughter who is at present being looked after by her parents. When her schedule allows she travels to Ikgageng "location" (township) to visit them. She keeps herself fit by covering long distances in walking, her favourite past-time.

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Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, held his Communication Period at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane on 7 June 2011.

He wanted to address pertinent issues unfolding in the Department of Defence (DOD) and he conceded that the Department, with emphasis on the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) was in a better state than it had been since the dawn of the new dispensation.

Lt Gen Mgwebi spoke about the Defence Amendment Bill that has been passed by Parliament and said the DOD could now concentrate on the pertinent issues, e.g. conditions of service, remuneration and grading of posts and issues that address the core function of the SANDF.

He also said that the long overdue draft of the Defence Review was ready to be presented to Parliament, after which the DOD would embark on a public consultation process before the submission of the final Defence Review to Parliament.

He added that Defence Works Capability would urgently attend to the matter of the declining state of defence infrastructure. The DOD had begun discussions with the Department of Public Works on the establishment of the Defence Estate Management Mechanism, which will result in the DOD progressively exiting from the current arrangement on property and facilities management by the Department of Public Works. The rolling out of the Defence Works Capability, which is an in-house capability to maintain and repair defence facilities, has been implemented.

Lt Gen Mgwebi also said that the DOD’s National Youth Service (NYS) Programme, currently in partnership with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform with more government departments joining the programme in the near future, had gotten off to an exciting start. The programme aims to build the youth through civic education and training in basic workplace skills while also encouraging self-respect, respect for others, integrity and societal responsibility. The desired outcome is individuals who are reintegrated into the community and determined to help build their community, thus making a positive contribution to society at large.

He pointed out that on 17 March 2011, 500 students of the NYS Pilot Programme graduated at De Brug in Bloemfontein and were handed over to the Department of Rural Development and Land reform to complete the remainder of their NYS Programme. The self-attested change of the graduates strengthens the DOD’s resolve to continue with the programme. Partnerships are envisaged with more government departments in the near future.

Lt Gen Mgwebi added that the budget of the DOD had to change and reflect the constitutional requirements of the DOD. Unfortunately in the short term the DOD has had to reprioritise and scrape through at great cost to its programmes and development. The priorities outlined will require a significantly increased budget.

The Chief of Human Resources concluded: “These are some of the achievements that have set the tone for the SANDF in the road ahead. We appreciate the hard work that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans has put into improving the livelihood of SANDF members. The groundbreaking work that was done by the Interim National Defence Force Service Commission in attending to long-standing challenges in a short space of time in the SANDF is admirable.”
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Ammunition debris clearance from Madimbo Training Area

Many military training areas are used or have in the past been used as operational training areas in order to simulate the real situations of war.

The Department of Defence (DOD) uses land for military training and the testing of military equipment and weapons systems. Many military training areas are used or have in the past been used as operational training areas where training is conducted using live ammunition in order to simulate the real situations of war. According to military doctrine, these areas must be surface swept for blinds and misfires after every training exercise. However, these are not entirely cleared due to the fact that some blinds, misfires or unexploded ordnance (UXO) sometimes penetrate the subsurface of the soil. These pose a threat to human life - either new inhabitants of the area or for participants in later exercises. They also contaminate the environment.

A land claim was instituted on the Madimbo Training Area in the Vhembe area of the Madimbo Corridor on the northern border of Zimbabwe in the Limpopo Province. The negotiations with the Regional Land Claims Commissioner Limpopo led to conclusion that the area would be returned as restitution back to the land claimants and that the DOD would be leasing back a portion of the property to ensure continued military training and the mission readiness of soldiers as well as to guard the border as part of Operation CORONA. One of the conditions of the negotiations was that the other portion, the 15 000 hectare western Gumbu mine area, would be cleared of UXO and ammunition remnants resulting from long-term military utilisation.

In 2009, following an Auditor General qualification on the financial disclosure of environmental rehabilitation contingent liabilities, the DOD acquired competent and professional support for the development of a unique costing and prioritisation model for the clearance of UXO from Defence controlled properties. These costs include post-exercise surface sweeps, annual sweeps and environmentally friendly subsurface detection and clearance of UXO, a capability which the DOD does not possess. For the DOD to confirm and qualify these models and to assist in the finalisation of the land claim, the physical clearance of the Madimbo Training Area was...
The clearance operations were initiated in March 2011 with the identification of 13 danger zones and a non-technical survey which included collection of information on the history, utilisation, mapping and geo-data of the area. The analysis of the information resulted in the compilation of a Site Release Plan for conducting the physical surface and subsurface clearance operations.

A group representing Chief Logistics, Maj Gen Justice Nkonyane and the relevant Directors and staff officers involved in Project UMTHOMBO visited Madimbo from 23 to 25 May 2011 to observe and provide feedback on the progress of the range clearance operations. The project personnel and explosives manager provided the necessary background and conducted site visits to the various danger zones to provide the group with an understanding of the complexity of the clearance operations and the level of contamination to be cleared.

In accordance with the International Mine Action Standard, it is expected that an average of five UXO per hectare will be found, however at the Madimbo Training Area the average has been established as 7.2 UXO per hectare. This means that the area is more contaminated than would be found in a war situation and can be attributed to the continued long-term military training that has been conducted over some 30 years. Following the finalisation of the subsurface clearance and the quality assurance in the Gumbu mine area as well as the signing of the lease agreement between the Department of Public Works and the land claimants, the certification and handing over procedure of the Gumbu mine area will take place as a final step in the land restitution claim.

These operations benefit both the claimants and the DOD by reducing the risk of death or injury to the future civilian landowners and the environmental contingent’s liability and possible claims against the Department.

ASB Potchefstroom held a swagger parade

On 15 July 2011 Army Support Base Potchefstroom held its quarterly Swagger Parade to honour and award trophies and certificates to the men and women who excelled in their duties in June.

The parade was in a Battalion format with women occupying key positions ranging from Parade Commander to Platoon Sergeants.

The aim of the exercise was to train women to be independent and to gain confidence on parades. They demonstrated their capability to occupy leadership positions at all levels.

During his address Col Riaan Louw, the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Potchefstroom, congratulated the members who were honoured on parade for being exemplary. He further thanked women who conducted the parade and the way participants displayed most basic form of military discipline.

His speech focused on military discipline as a way of a soldier’s life. He indicated that discipline was the only way to make a distinction between soldiers and a bunch of armed thugs.

He described military discipline as a state of order and obedience existing within a command. It involves the ready subordination of the will of the individual for the good of the group.
Environmental Management Learning Programme 2011

Article and photo by Lt Col M. Laubscher (SO1 Regional Environmental Manager, Regional Works Unit Western Cape)

If you are interested in nature and your immediate environment, this programme is guaranteed to be the best learning programme that you will ever attend within the military.

The programme initially began as a training of Department of Defence (DOD) Environmental Services personnel in the Western Cape was identified. The initial course was one week long and was attended by all personnel involved with Environmental Services in the Western Cape.

It was recognised that the set objectives were not achieved and that a formal curriculum had to be developed. A curriculum was developed but the focus was more on ecological management. After six learning programmes of four weeks each the programme was reviewed in order to encompass all aspects of Environmental Management. The current Integrated Environmental Management Learning Programme commenced in 2008 and three learning programmes have already been successfully presented.

The programme is presented once a year at the DOD School of Logistical Training for the rank group Corporal to Lieutenant Colonel over a period of seven weeks as part of logistical training within the DOD. It is mostly aimed at personnel within the Environmental Management function as well as personnel that have the added responsibility of managing environmental aspects within units, for example Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) practitioners, since Environmental Management and OHS are two closely related functions.

The programme can also be attended by members of the fighting corps as these mastering have the biggest impact on the environment during training and operations. The modules in the programme address aspects relating to the sustainable management of the natural environment, balancing operational and environmental requirements and minimising the military impact on the environment without placing unnecessary restrictions on training and operations. Aspects relating to OHS, Communication Skills and Musketry are also included.

The first three weeks of the programme, which mainly involves theory, is presented at the DOD School of Logistical Training while the remaining four weeks are presented at the Touws River Training Area in the Western Cape Province where the learners are provided with the opportunity to put theory into practice. The learners are evaluated by means of practical assignments, summative assessments and practical evaluations, which means that time management is crucial in reaching the set training objectives.

During the practical evaluation, which is the final assessment, the learners are evaluated on basic plant identification, chainsaw safety, soil conservation and environmental monitoring with a view to putting some of the theoretical knowledge into practice. The highlight of the programme is most probably the practical Spatial Orientation exercise during which the learners are sent on a 15 km hike during which they have to complete different tasks on the way as well as establish a temporary field base for a night in the veld.

Although this learning programme is focused on environmental issues and how to integrate such requirements within the planning, implementation and execution of all military activities in order to sustainably utilise limited and non-renewable natural resources present on military bases and training areas, it is informative, and skills obtained will enhance the achievement of military objectives throughout the DOD. In a nutshell, this programme represents a military learning experience that soldiers, airmen and seamen would both relevant and enjoyable!
SA Army Infanteers bidding retreat to the day

By Maj Merle Meyer, Communication Officer, SA Army Infantry Formation
Photo: Capt Benje Hlalele

On 8 July 2011 at sunset the SA Army College parade grounds vibrated to the beating of drums and a company drilling.

This was the SA Army Infantry Formation presenting a retreat ceremony. The guard of honour on parade was from 21 SA Infantry Battalion. These youngsters who had trained under the guiding hand of MWO Grootboom, the RSM, delivered a drill exhibition like never seen before, and included the very difficult “slow march”. Beating the retreat were the members of the National Ceremonial Guard Band.

At the sounding of the retreat all the spectators stood to attention as the National Flag was lowered and the sun set in the west. This was indeed a sight not seen by many, as very few units present a retreat ceremony, but the history of the retreat parade goes very far back to the old British custom to “beat the retreat” at the end of a day’s fighting. This ceremony was revitalised by the Special Service Battalion as a formal parade.

In true infantry style the spectators were treated to a free-fall jump by Lt Col Herman Morkel who landed right in front of Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde, the General Officer Commanding of SA Army Infantry Formation, before the parade started.

Again the SA Army Infantry Formation has taken the lead in revitalising this type of parade and we hope other units will follow and make all soldiers proud of our military history.

South African Joint Air Defence Symposium 2011

What is it about: This prestigious two-yearly event, the only of its kind on the African continent, is organised by the SANDF in co-operation with Armscor. The acting SANDF Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Derick Mgwebi, is the patron of the symposium.

Where: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Conference Centre, Pretoria
Who must attend: Local and International delegates from Armed Forces and Captains of Industries with Air Defence as their main focus. Role players with direct involvement in border safeguarding.

Theme: The theme of SAJADS 2011 is “South African Joint Air Defence: Air Border Safeguarding” in keeping with the South African Government’s strategic objectives and priorities to provide support to the people of South Africa. This is a clear manifestation that the focus is shifting from defence against aggression toward operations other than war (OOTW). The theme of SAJADS 2011 aims to stimulate discussion on the role and contribution of the Joint Air Defence (JAD) capability toward safeguarding the South African air border. Discourse is invited on this subject, focusing on three sub-themes namely Realities, Homeland Defence and Innovation.

Program: 16 Papers from prominent local and international speakers. Presenters may attend the symposium free of charge.

Registrations: Registrations for the symposium are well underway and some 250 delegates are expected. Registrations will be accepted until the morning of 27 September 2011. Visit the symposium website www.sajads.co.za for registration forms and detailed information.

Contact persons: Maj J. Kriek (tel +27 012 428-3074) and Lt K. Shabe (tel +27 012 428-2653/3429(f)
Sport plays a crucial role in our lives as it promotes a healthier lifestyle and physical and psychological well-being. In line with the Department of Sport and Recreation’s decision to introduce Magnificent Fridays, members of the Defence Inspectorate Division led by Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, the Inspector General of the Department of Defence (IG DOD), hosted a sports day at Wonderboom Military Base in Pretoria on 24 June 2011.

The main objective of the event was to increase competitive sportsmanship and provide an opportunity to develop and promote different sports in the hope of unearthing talent among the various cultures in the Defence Inspectorate Division. It was a day of sporting fun, and the games were not only about winning but having fun and challenging one’s physical endurance. The games included various sporting codes, such as aerobics, endurance walk, volleyball and indigenous games.

Football Fridays have now been renamed Magnificent Fridays. The Departments of Arts and Culture and Sport and Recreation have called on all South Africans to support our national sports teams by wearing the colours and shirts of our national teams, singing the National Anthem and flying the National Flag high on Fridays.
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The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as He has promised. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for You are with me. Your shepherd’s rod and staff protect me. You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; You welcome me as an honoured guest and fill my cup to the brim. I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live.

King David advances from a point of unwavering assurance: that all his needs are being taken care of! In an older translation of the Bible, the first verse reads: “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” To me, there is a significant difference between “needs” and “wants”. There are so many things in life, which we would like to have. Yes, indeed, there are those absolute basic needs without which life can become almost unbearable. It is just good to know that having those needs met in Christ He then stands at the ready to go even further, with a preparedness to meet even those wants.

You know, at times it appears as though we are altogether caught up in the hustle and bustle of life; peace and quiet seem to be a distant commodity. This Shepherd, as depicted in Ps 23, assures us of peace and quiet.

When it appears as though we are altogether caught up in the hustle and bustle of life; peace and quiet seem to be a distant commodity. This Shepherd, as depicted in Ps 23, assures us of peace and quiet.

This Shepherd is my Lord - Psalm 23

By Cpln (Rev) J. Coetzee, Assistant to SSO Religious Communication and Liaison

Chaplain (Rev) J. Coetzee.

ensure that we always return to where we belong - at the feet of the Master.

Ever wanted to invoke the envy of your enemies? Well, with this Shepherd you can consider it done. Who else has the ability to set a table for you in the midst of your enemies? And then still invite you to be the honoured guest! And you will never thirst again; not with a cup that is filled to the brim.

Finally, with this Shepherd you will always be in good company. Imagine being followed by the twins called “goodness and mercy!” And where will you hide, you might ask. Well, this should be the least of your problems. After all, “Your house will be my home as long as I live”. If this was true for our brother king David, surely it is still true for you and me today.

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