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Sir Pierre van Ryneveld honoured
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FRONT COVER: We salute the new Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke. Read all about the change of command parade on pages 12 to 15.

(Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the outgoing Chief of the SANDF (left) bequeaths the Command of the SANDF to Gen Solly Shoke, the new Chief of the SANDF. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
The year is flying - it is already mid-year! Wow! It is also time to salute our new Chief of the SA National Defence Force - General Solly Shoke. He is not only the new leader, but also the father of our military family. He is also blessed with four children of his own.

General Shoke knows what it means to be a father and what it entails. We as SANDF members can rest assured that our new military father and Chief will take charge and provide us with the necessary guidance and direction.

These sentiments were echoed by General Godfrey Ngwenya, the outgoing Chief of the SANDF, in welcoming his successor at the Chief of the SANDF Change of Command Parade. General Ngwenya in his final message to General Shoke said that leadership and command were the single most important elements in any defence force. He said that leadership was about trust: trust in the leader’s competence, character and vision and trust in the leader’s respect and care for those in his charge, which inspired the voluntary spirit. Please read more about the Change of Command Parade on pages 12 to 15.

As we celebrate Father’s Day on 19 June, let us all honour our fathers and remember those fathers who are no longer with us …

Viva to all fathers Viva!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

* Translation (Tshivenda) by Mr L. Netshirembe
SANDF celebrates Freedom Day with the nation

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA National Defence Force participated in the Freedom Day celebrations on 27 April 2011 in support of the National Department of Arts and Culture at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Freedom Day celebrations in our country mark the culmination of a long and hard won struggle that has seen countless heroes and heroines make the ultimate sacrifice and living the life of selflessness for freedom and democracy.

This day commemorates the first elections held in South Africa on 27 April 1994. It is a day that represents peace, unity, and the restoration of human dignity of all South Africans, in the spirit of building a South Africa that belongs to all. It is a reminder of the struggle for a free and just South Africa. This year we celebrated 17 years of freedom and democracy and the achievements we have made as a nation with the theme: "Working together to unite the nation, promote democracy and protect freedom".

The colourful military ceremony included a National Salute, a guard of honour by the National Ceremonial Guard, a 21-gun salute, a salute flight by three Agusta Westland AW109 helicopters with two National Flags and the SANDF Flag escorted by six Oryx helicopters guarding the flags, followed by a march past of an amended brigade comprising marching columns, mass fly-past, military veterans and a cultural parade.

The SANDF also celebrated 17 years of its existence; it was on the eve of the 1994 first democratic general election that the new SANDF was born as a result of the decision to integrate the Non-statutory Forces (MK and APLA), the SA Defence Force and the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei (TBVC) Forces.
SOLDIER

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SERVING AND WORKING - SOLDIER

A soldier is a patriotic member of the country who volunteered to stay awake on behalf of the President and the citizens of the country.

But what?
Yes there is a vast difference between soldiers.
Our motherland is going down because of two classes of soldiers, namely serving members and working members.

Serving soldiers are crying to be deployed, whereas working soldiers are crying to go home.

Serving soldiers are concerned about the future of the SANDF, while working soldiers are concerned about salary increases.

TRIBUTE - THE FACE OF THE NCG BAND IS NO MORE

Many people will remember him leading the National Ceremonial Guard Band during prestigious events of national importance, such as the Opening of Parliament, the Presidential Inauguration and many other ceremonial events.

S Sgt Nkagisang Godfrey Moremedi was born on 7 October 1969 in Seweding village in Mafikeng. He completed his schooling at Lapologang High School after which he joined the then Bophuthatswana Defence Force on 1 June 1984.

S Sgt Moremedi was the drum major of note in the National Ceremonial Guard Band. Maj Shabalala of 43 SA Infantry Brigade, S Sgt Moremedi’s cousin, said: “It all started when S Sgt Moremedi was a toddler. He used to break broomsticks when he was young. He was always available to perform any task with a smile. He also doubled as a bus driver for the Band.”

He was a very disciplined soldier who succumbed to cancer on 20 February 2011. He was in and out of hospital. Eventually he continued serving with distinction as the drum major.

S Sgt Moremedi was selected to be part of a contingent to represent the SANDF in the International Tattoo that took place in Virginia USA in 2008. Since S Sgt Moremedi took ill in August 2010 he was in and out of hospital. Eventually he succumbed to cancer on 20 February 2011.

He was a very disciplined soldier who was always available to perform any task with a smile. He also doubled as a bus driver for the Band.

He is survived by his mother, wife, sister, two brothers, a son and three daughters.

May his soul rest in peace.

S A S O L D I E R

letters to the editor

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SERVING AND WORKING - SOLDIER

Serving soldiers know how to fold the R4 rifle, whereas the working soldiers ask assistance on how to fold the R4 rifle.

A serving soldier is mostly disliked; a working soldier entertains friends during working hours.

A serving soldier is mostly disliked; a working soldier asks questions why, what is the purpose of that?

TRIBUTE - THE FACE OF THE NCG BAND IS NO MORE

In 1994 he was integrated into the SANDF and continued as a drum major.

In 2001 S Sgt Moremedi was sent to Britain to further his art as a drum major.

Sadly the post was eliminated, though he continued serving with distinction as the drum major.

S Sgt Moremedi was selected to be part of a contingent to represent the SANDF in the International Tattoo that took place in Virginia USA in 2008. Since S Sgt Moremedi took ill in August 2010 he was in and out of hospital. Eventually he succumbed to cancer on 20 February 2011.

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SAYING THANK YOU

On 25 March 2011 the SA Army Technical Service Unit held a function to express appreciation for all the non-Technical Service Corps (TSC) members and for the work of the support structure of the unit and to lift the morale of these members as the TSC members of the unit received “back-pay” on their technical allowances. The idea was sold to TSC members who responded in the most positive way and 82 members each handed in on time. He also expressed his gratitude to the logistical personnel and the civilian members of the unit for their continued support to the TSC members in the execution of their task. This function was the brainchild of Lt Col S.J. Fowler thanked all the Human Resources and Personnel members for the overtime they had to work to ensure that the applications for technical allowances were handed in on time. He also expressed his gratitude to Maj J.T. Magubane, email (Lt Col J.T. Magubane, Protection Force: SAS SALDANHA)

WO2 R.D. Stick and S Sgt S.A. Looch and was organised by Maj J.L. Jansen van Rensburg with tremendous support from the Officer Commanding, Col B.A.G. Mofela, and TSC members.

The TSC members all signed a big card on this day which will be presented to the Director Technical Services with the following inscription: “On behalf of all the TSC members of the SA Army TSU we would like to express our sincere gratitude to you and your team for bringing about the many changes in the TSC”. S Sgt S.A. Looch, email (S Sgt S.A. Looch, email)
SA ARMY GYMNASIUM MEMBERS

REACHING OUT

The SA Army Gymnasium slogan says: “May every soldier make his or her mark”, and the social outreach serves as a means of making the mark in the community. The Unit’s programme accommodates the social outreach once or twice a year. For 2011 a social outreach was organised by the Unit with the aim of giving to a community organisation. Unit members brought clothes and non-perishable items together to the Chaplain’s office as an expression of caring for the needy in the vicinity of the SA Army Gymnasium. This process took about three weeks, after which an organisation was identified.

The Ikhono Care Group, a non-governmental organisation of Ratanda Extension 7, was identified as an organisation for reaching out to in the year 2011. This organisation plays a crucial role in supporting people who are suffering from the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

The Unit representatives who took the gifts to the Ikhono Care Group on 17 March 2011 were as follows: the Chaplain of the Unit, Cpln W.H. Mthimunye, Communication Officer, Maj P.P. Xaba, Evaluation Warrant Office, WO2 E.B. Nkomo, Musketry Non-commissioned Officer, S Sgt C.J. Cockcroft, and a Public Service Act Personnel member, Mr G.H. Dlamini. Cpln Mthimunye spoke to the people on behalf of the Unit before handing over the gifts. He emphasised that the gifts were a gesture of caring and concern from the military community that could make a different in the lives of the needy. Thereafter the gifts were presented to the representative of Ikhono Care Group, Mr Obian Skhosana. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation as the gifts would be very important in alleviating hunger. He made a plea that the relationship with the military should be ongoing.

Maj P.P. Xaba, SA Army Gymnasium

A firefighter

The main task of a firefighter is to carry out rescue operations and save people’s lives and equipment. A firefighter’s task is not easy, it requires a lot of physical strength and endurance. A firefighter needs mental toughness and personal skills. A firefighter renders the services of a rescuer, even at the risk of his or her own life. A firefighter needs to be ready at any given point and time. A firefighter should be respected when carrying out his or her tasks. Firefighting needs a lot of character. To become a successful firefighter one needs to stay focused, and to “look, listen and decide”. Pte Yaya Guduza, Kimberly Military Base (fire branch)

SET FREE BY GOD

We were born free to live free in God’s favour not in any man’s favour. That is why God did not allow Pharaoh to make slaves of the Israelites. He sent Moses to rescue them. Soldiers, do not allow anything to make slaves of you. I pray that our leaders will understand our vision because everyone has a vision, whether a Recruit, Private, Lance Corporal or Sergeant.

God does not start recognising us from Staff Sergeant and up: He starts from our mother’s womb. In the DOD people will look at your shoulders and say lower ranks are crazy, even if you come up with something constructive. My advice is not to look down at God’s image because by so doing you are dis-honouring God. Anyone who sins is a slave to sin (John 8:34).

Soldiers, let’s depend upon God for our lives, for we are created by Him for His purposes, unlike those who depend on people and then if that particular person makes a mistake then he or she kills himself or herself to be free. It starts in the mind, for example if you want to go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and help people there, God will do the impossible for you: you just have to do the possible and believe. When you are sick, see yourself healed no matter whether the disease is curable or incurable: God is God. No sickness is bigger than Him. If you want a degree, see yourself graduating, and you will graduate.

“May every soldier make his or her mark”. Good job!

My advice is not to look down at God’s image because by so doing you are dis-honouring God. Anyone who sins is a slave to sin (John 8:34).

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“The Unit representatives who took the gifts to the Ikhono Care Group on 17 March 2011 were as follows: the Chaplain of the Unit, Cpln W.H. Mthimunye, Communication Officer, Maj P.P. Xaba, Evaluation Warrant Office, WO2 E.B. Nkomo, Musketry Non-commissioned Officer, S Sgt C.J. Cockcroft, and a Public Service Act Personnel member, Mr G.H. Dlamini. Cpln Mthimunye spoke to the people on behalf of the Unit before handing over the gifts. He emphasised that the gifts were a gesture of caring and concern from the military community that could make a different in the lives of the needy. Thereafter the gifts were presented to the representative of Ikhono Care Group, Mr Obian Skhosana. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation as the gifts would be very important in alleviating hunger. He made a plea that the relationship with the military should be ongoing.

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S A S O L D I E R

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VALENTINE’S DAY

On 14 February 2011 Personnel Service School members enjoyed a Valentine’s Day Tea at their unit in Thaba Tshwane. For a minimal amount members were invited to wear civilian clothes for the day, and the colour scheme was red and white.

Staff and course members were invited to enter as teams. Each team decorated its own table, and was challenged to be original and creative. Nine teams entered for the competition. Lt Col Clarissa Neethling (Hospitality Service JSB Thaba Tshwane) and members of Ukweza Hospitality Company acted as the judges.

SA ARMY COMBAT RIFLE SHOOTING EVALUATION

The SA Army Combat Rifle Shooting Evaluation was presented at the De Brug Shooting Range near Bloemfontein from 28 February to 5 March 2011.

This type of event is held annually and different African countries take part in the shooting exercises. Altogether 354 shotists of 46 SA Army Regular units and 376 shotists of 37 SA Army Reserve units, including five international teams from Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Kenya participated.

1 SA Infantry Battalion (1 SAI Bn), under the command of Lt Col M.P. Mofokeng, hosted the event. 1 SAI Bn played an important role by making this event a remarkable success and also succeeded in upgrading the image of the SA Army. It was the first time in the history of this battalion that it had been given the opportunity to host an international event of such magnitude.

The exercise began with massive firing. Fitness, safety and firing skills played an important part as the participants fired and moved from the 400 m mark to the 100 m mark. They ran from the 400 m to the 300 m mark, fired three shots in prone position, got up and ran to the 200 m mark and fired four shots in a kneeling position. Lastly they ran to the 100 m mark and fired the last four shots in a standing position.

The exercise was conducted in three phases. In Phase 1 all the participants, with the exception of the participants of the Reserves, were evaluated in all firing positions: prone, kneeling and standing, from the 100 m mark to the 300 m mark. Phase 2 on 3 March 2011 was the evaluation of members of the Reserves. In Phase 3 the top ten participants of the Regular and Reserve units participated in a competition against the five international teams.

1 SAI Bn would like to give sincere gratitude to all the organisers, supporters and participants in the event. To Col Van Zanten, Col Brand, Warrant Officer Du Toit and other Infantry Formation staff, you are our heroes and made us proud of your organisation of such a huge and successful event.

Cpl Molehe Tshitlho, 1 SAI Bn
A GEM OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

On the ground floor of the Paratus Building on the premises of the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane lies a gem of knowledge and information – the library.

The library is expertly run by the friendly and helpful Mr P.C. Chauke and Pte L.M. Somdaka (assistant). It houses a wealth of books, covering fields such as psychology, ethics, religion, social and political science, foreign policy and foreign relations, military science and strategy, financial organisation, general and personnel management, biographies and books on World War I and II. It is also home to the history albums of SA Army College.

It is clear that Mr Chauke and Pte Somdaka are not only there to issue the occasional books to readers; they are also highly experienced in assisting with research and at the four Internet stations, three of which are dedicated to learners.

SANDF SPOUSES FORUM MOTIVATES FEMALE LEARNERS

8 March 2011 is celebrated as International Women’s Day worldwide. It originated in 1910 in Copenhagen where a group of women took steps to promote equal employment opportunities. In 1911 the day was marked officially as International Women’s Day. Over the period 11 to 13 March 2011 the SANDF Spouses Forum visited the Military Academy in Saldanha to motivate female learners who were away from their homes for a period of at least one year and shared with them the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day.

It is for this contribution that the SANDF Spouses Forum took the initiative to celebrate this month by sending the message that they saluted them for their bravery in their oath to the South African Flag. With the theme “equal access to education training and science technology” the SANDF Spouses Forum is spreading the message of women’s inclusion at all levels in various sectors of our society.

The then Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, addressed all female students of the Military Academy as follows: “Women in uniform have shown great determination in volunteering to infiltrate this male-dominated field in the security cluster. It is true that the educational gap is steadily narrowing. However, we need to acknowledge the harsh reality of this significant progress. We are proud of the achievements of a small fraction of the women and young girls in our country.”

Ms Ngwenya added: “As women we need to emphasise our capabilities within our respective environment as daughters, mothers, sisters, friends, colleagues, employers and employees among various other roles we play. The future of our nation depends on the choices we make, whether to see the opportunities afforded to us for what they are, exploit them to our advantage and eventually succeed.”

The Department of Defence and Military Veterans is synchronised with the Government’s message of giving women a chance in leadership positions. This can be seen in the appointment of the Minister of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans and the Secretary for Defence. Both these women are serving as living proof that women are capable of holding high-profile positions and they are a great inspiration to women in the DOD. The advancement of women in the DOD needs to be pursued with the vigour it deserves and women should seize the opportunities presented to them. This was emphasised by Minister Lindise Sisulu when she was highlighting the role of women in the DOD. She said: “They care and they pay attention to detail. Women excel better under pressure when women are put into difficult positions they come out the best.”

Ms Ngwenya said: “It is no walk in the park and the road ahead needs strong, mature women and my experience has taught me that women have to leap to cover a distance that men can walk. That is why we need to apply ourselves and be more assertive when it comes to issues of our advancement.”

Mrs Clinton in her speech on International Women’s Day: “If we invest in women’s education and give them the opportunity to access credit or start a small business, we add fuel to a powerful engine for progress for women, their families, their communities and their country. Women invest up to 90% of their income in their families and their communities. When women have equal access to education and health care and the freedom to start businesses, the economic, political and social benefits ripple out far beyond their own homes.”

The female learners also had an opportunity of sharing their challenges and seeking advice from the women who came to motivate and give support to them. The SANDF Spouses Forum has taken a stand to mentor these young women. To all the women of this institution, the ball is in your court, the road has been paved for you; go out there and take the women in the DOD forward.”

JUNE 2011 • 9
MESSAGE TO MSDS MEMBERS

Remember what we do today determines the future of our National Defence Force. The road to success is long and hard, with obstacles and challenges. Obstacles make us strong to face the future with pride and to do our best. Staying focused makes one a successful soldier in future. Obedience of lawful commands and respect will determine who you are. Taking up training as a hobby will make you not feel the pain. Remember to train hard in order to fight well.

We are here for the memories of our forefathers and the future of our children. Take this National Defence Force as the only place for your red carpet so that you can be called “Corporal, Lieutenant …”. Cpl M. Guduza, 5 SAI Bn, currently deployed in the Sudan.

BYE MELLIT BASE

It was an honour for me to be part of Charlie Company of 1 Parachute Battalion deployed to 5 SA Infantry Battalion as Delta Company for Operation CORDITE in the Sudan. It was not an easy mission, but we did it and we can do it again.

When I arrived at 5 SA Infantry Battalion to link up with them for the Sudan I was not happy because I was staffed in a paratrooper company and I had a wrong perception about airborne forces. Maj B.R. Molekane gave me a chance to grow as an Intelligence Officer. To be an Intelligence Officer in an infantry company is not an easy thing because your corps is always subject to criticism, but I stood my ground and flew the Intelligence Formation flag high. I will miss 9B (Major Bodibe). He always asked me: “Bhura tell me the situation in Mellit”. How can I forget guys like Sgt O.M. Mahasa who always had stories to tell: “I gave away my 20 years experience”, those were his famous words. To the big four of Mellit, no one managed to break us because we were always together (Lt Floris, Lt Nkiane, Lt Veleko). Keep up the good work guys, we will meet one day on another mission. Lt A. Cengani, Intelligence Officer Mellit Base, Sudan.

VICTORIOUS SOLDIER

Fighting for the sake of peace in Africa. Not knowing if he will live. Brave soldier Standing up for what he believes and fighting for freedom. Brave soldier Fighting for what is right, Dying heroes, dying evil men Brave soldier Leaving every thing he owns To be loyal to his country. Brave soldier.

LET 15 SAI BN ENJOY THEIR TOUR OF DUTY

Enjoy no matter how hard it may be on Your tour of duty. Enjoy the new day born no matter How imperfect it may be. Pull together with one goal at the end; Shout go win. Work as a team that may take pride Home at the end of the day.

Cpl Pinky Motaung, a Construction Machine Operator, is a member of the SA Engineer Squadron on deployment in Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the period 1 December 2010 to 30 June 2011. Cpl Motaung is a single mother of three children: Tyson (21), Nthabiseng (18) and Mpho (11). She loves her children dearly and misses them. She said it was because of them that she was on deployment. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole).

A champion is one who stands up Even if he cannot. he the ambassadors Of the Republic of South Africa. Enjoy your tour of duty, I wish you all the best. In their language there is a saying: “LUDIUDA DOVHA”, the time will come to go back home. Cpl M. Guduza, 5 SAI Bn (Sudan).
On 26 November 2010 the best motorised Infantry Battalion in RSA, which was proud and mission ready, landed at Kigali airport in Rwanda. This unit was ranging from three to four months when we started with what we had been retraining for at General Ben Viljoen Training Area in Phalaborwa and the Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein. Then there was the four-hour long flight with the Virunga express to Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Within two shakes of a duck’s tail I was in the theatre and battle ready to carry out peacekeeping and also to win the hearts and minds of the local population. While keeping a constant eye on the eyes of the local population.

As part of the requirements within the mandate, the RSA Ops Battalion (7 SA Infantry Battalion) decided to adopt World Orphans Kids, an orphanage for children at Katoyo Village, Kasika District on the outskirts of Goma. This was one of the quick impact projects that the battalion is engaged in terms of its peace support operations.

The orphanage currently has 362 children ranging from three to fourteen years, without shelter and space. The only structure available for them is a local Catholic church hall measuring 6 x 6 square metres where they attend classes given by 14 volunteer educators who are members of the local Catholic Church.

At the children gathered from places as far as Kanyaba, Lubero, Massisi and Rutshuru. They have no relatives to take care of them and their lives are in the hands of the local Catholic Church.

The children, who are members of the local Catholic Church.

The RSA Contingent members have contributed, through the Contingent Support Unit Commander, Lt Col X.B. Ndlovu, the Contingent Support Unit Commander, Lt Col R.A. Makgae, the RSA Ops Battalion Commander, Lt Col X.B. Ndlovu, the Contingent Support Unit Commander, Lt Col A. Tshukudu and inspired by Chaplains D.P. Phaka and Pte M.P. Mokobodi.

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The children’s joy knew no bounds.

Having looked at the plight of these children, the Ops Battalion decided that obtaining a site and constructing a shelter to solve many of the challenges faced by this orphanage. However, this could not be achieved overnight.

A site has been acquired and the Ops Battalion Orphanage Committee headed by Chaplain D.P. Phaka is busy engaging other stakeholders with a view to obtaining resources to begin with the project.

The RSA Contingent members have supported various initiatives to assist the orphans. These initiatives include collecting clothes, toys and donations in the form of US dollars or Francs (the local currency) and buying food from the local supermarkets and spending time feeding the children.

Sadly, two of the children, Mitima and Giselle, both aged nine, recently died and Philip indicated that as educators they would have liked to hold a joint memorial service for them. This afforded the Ops Battalion Orphanage Committee an opportunity to offer a helping hand and the matter was raised during one of the church services at Munigi Base Church where a decision was unanimously taken by the church members that funds should be raised to assist with arrangements for the memorial service. It was decided to hold a church service with the children and staff members and spend a day and feeding them.

This initiative was strongly supported by the National Contingent Commander, Col R.A. Makgae, the RSA Ops Battalion Commander, Lt Col X.B. Ndlovu, the Contingent Support Unit Commander, Lt Col A. Tshukudu and Munigi Base Church members in general.

Sunday, 6 March 2011, was duly accepted by all as the most suitable day for this activity and the response in terms of financial support from the Contingent Support Unit members, the Prayer Group and the Ops Battalion was very good.

More than 300 US dollars were raised to support this cause. Sandwiches and soft drinks were prepared the night before by the Ops Battalion women under the guidance of Pte M.P. Mokobodi.

The RSA Contingent, led by Lt Col Tshukudu and inspired by Chaplains R.I. Moremoholo and Phaka, was warmly welcomed by the children and staff members with the former singing "Karibu, Karibu! They also performed a touching drama depicting abusive conditions that orphans are subjected to if raised by relatives. Formalities for the day included the history of the orphanage by Philip, performances by the children, and the event was rounded off with the main event of the day in which the children were fed and photographs taken.

The RSA Contingent members in attendance raised more than 100 US dollars, which were handed to Philip and his staff members to purchase items such as medicine, when needed.

The children’s joy knew no bounds as they bade us goodbye by singing and dancing.

As I waved through the window of the Land Rover I could see smiles on their faces and come to the realisation that the RSA National Contingent had indeed made their day and at least a moment had forgotten that they did not have parents. Well done, I once more Capt M.M. Sihlobo, email, email
1 May 2011 will remain deeply etched in the collective memory of members of the SANDF and the South African nation as a son of the soil, a giant among the military leaders of the world and a strict disciplinarian, Gen Solly Shoke, took the oath and solemn undertaking to command the SANDF.

The inauguration of the new Chief of the SANDF commenced with a signing ceremony between the outgoing Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, and the incoming Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, that was held during a special meeting of the Plenary Defence Staff Council at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 31 May 2011. At the meeting the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, took the opportunity to bid farewell to Gen Ngwenya, and to congratulate the two military leaders, Gen Ngwenya and Gen Shoke. She said that the outgoing Chief of the SANDF had created legacies for us as a National Defence Force that would guide future developments. She said: "Gen Ngwenya, you are South Africa’s finest military officer, someone who has contributed to the SANDF’s identity as a strong and dependable instrument of peace."

To the incoming Chief of the SANDF who took charge, Gen Shoke, she said that the SANDF continued to advocate the renewal of Africa, and continued to meet the needs of our society and the well-being of South Africa, the SADC region, Africa and beyond. Minister Sisulu proudly said: "Let’s continue to be true to our pledge, a force for good, supporting Government’s initiatives and institutions that have the same mission as ours. We are an instrument of South Africa’s international relations and defence policy, the policy of non-aggression, respect for other countries, mutual co-existence, and we defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries and good neighbourliness."

The Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma, parliamentarians, diplomats, senior government officials, leading academics, defence analysts, dignitaries from civil society, prominent businessmen and women and representatives from corporate South Africa, friendly nations from far beyond our borders, Captains of Defence Industry, the Defence and Military Veterans Portfolio Committee, and members of the Plenary Defence Staff Council were among the esteemed dignitaries who joined the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and the Secretary for Defence, Ms Mzumile Mpofo, to witness the incoming Chief of the SANDF, Gen Shoke, being introduced and sworn in at a dignified colourful military ceremonial event.

During the swearing-in-ceremony held at the Pretoria Military Sports Ground in Thaba Tshwane, the Secretary for Defence welcomed President Zuma, Judge President Bernard Ngenepe and the esteemed dignitaries to rejoice with the SANDF. Ms Mpofo said that the SANDF was a national asset, a force that represented hope and relief. She added that the SANDF was the ultimate custodian of our national security. Shortly after the swearing-in-ceremony the Chief of the SANDF Change of Command Parade took place. As they received a standing ovation and stepped onto the podium South Africa’s two top military commanders stood...
It was the outgoing Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, who bowed out as the Chief of the SANDF and the incoming Chief of the SANDF, Gen Shoke, assumed his post and took over the reins. They were honoured with a show of force by our members in uniform of our glorious nation and presented with a brigade-strength parade in review that paraded in detailed military precision around the field.

Prior to officially handing over command, the members on parade stood attention for a General Salute accompanied by a 17 round gun salute. The SA Air Force aircraft took to the skies in a magnificent fly-past, which had the spectators looking up into the blue sky. A salute flight of two Agusta Westland AW109 helicopters took place with the front helicopter displaying the National Flag and the rear helicopter displaying the SANDF Flag and a Rooivalk Mk1 combat support helicopter accompanied it as a flag escort.

A mass fly-past took place, consisting of a formation flight of four AW109 Agusta helicopters, two Oryx helicopters and a Rooivalk, followed by a Beechcraft BE-30 King Air and four Cesna C208 Caravan in a transport aircraft formation flight, followed by a C212 Casa and two Douglas C47TP Dakotas, two Lockheed Martin C130BZ Hercules medium transports, nine Pilatus PC7 MkI trainer aircraft, five Silver Falcons in formation flight and the PC7. The display continued with four BAE Systems Hawk Mk120 fighter trainer aircraft and five Saab Gripen fighters. Five Silver Falcons made a bow salute and the Silver Falcons gave a low-level aerobatics display and a CASA C212 light transport dropped ten elite parachutists from the South African Special Forces, while 7 Medical Battalion Group executed an impressive free-fall to hand over the scroll to the outgoing Chief of the SANDF, Gen Ngwenya.

As a final compliment, the military band comprised of members from the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service, set the festive tone with their brilliant performance. The flag Warrant Officers from the Services and Divisions took up their positions, flying their different flags led by the Parade Commander at the head of the column, followed by the marching columns marching gracefully past the podium, and greeted the outgoing Chief and the incoming Chief, President Zuma, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Secretary for Defence and the senior leadership echelon of the SANDF and all the people of South Africa as the SANDF represented the South African population. It had become credible in the eyes of our people - the pride of the rainbow nation.

In welcoming his successor in his final address, Gen Ngwenya, in a message to Gen Shoke, said that leadership and command were the single most important elements in a defence force. He said that leadership was about trust: trust in the leader’s competence, character and vision and trust in the leader’s respect and care for those in his charge and so inspiring the voluntary spirit.

Gen Ngwenya admitted that there was still room for improvement in the SANDF and South Africa would remain a major role-player in Africa. He said: “Our National Defence Force’s success is dependent on strong leaders and commanders who, when in command, are faced with the huge tasks of responsibility, authority and accountability, which are all absolute.”

He also thanked the Commander-in-Chief, President Zuma, for overseeing the swearing-in ceremony, and said to
be trusted with such a position demanded loyalty, integrity and honour. When it was time to say goodbye, he bade farewell and thanked the members of the SANDF for being midwives of peace and for building the SANDF into a formidable force since 1994, and told them to hold their heads high in the knowledge that they had made the SANDF the force of choice when it came to peace support and peacekeeping missions in Africa. He was satisfied to leave a force for the good of humanity behind.

Gen Ngwenya said: "The SANDF has striven to become the pride of South Africa and Africa, with peace and security on the continent being at the forefront of its many responsibilities. It has made an indelible mark in peace support operations in Africa." He added that while many sceptics had doubted South Africa's ability to succeed in bringing peace to the continent, the SANDF had silenced its critics with its many peacekeeping operations on the continent.

He proudly added: "So successful have our attempts been in countries such as Burundi that the United Nations now relies heavily on South Africa and the SANDF. It is our troops' courage, pride and toughness which has proved this." Gen Ngwenya concluded by thanking the Services and Divisions for their role in peacekeeping and helping to man hospitals during the public service strikes, securing South Africa's borders, securing the 2010 Soccer World Cup and providing maritime security to ensure the safety of the country's seas. He said his tenure at the helm was one of the proudest moments of his life.

After the official parade, invited guests attended a function at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall, where Gen Shoke told the audience that to serve in the military was like a calling to priesthood. He said: "When we strive to be as good as we can individually and even more collectively, we can all be winners. Soldiering is the lifeblood of a soldier's existence; it is the nature of our calling."

**SA Soldier**

**General Ngwenya's Curriculum Vitae**

Gen Godfrey Ngwenya was born in Johannesburg on 28 April 1950. He attended Orlando High School in Soweto, where he matriculated in 1970. He joined the African National Congress (ANC) and the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto weSizwe (MK), at the height of the student uprisings in South Africa in 1976. He left the country for exile. While in exile he underwent rigorous basic military training in Angola in 1976. In 1977, during his training, he demonstrated strong leadership skills, which led to his being selected to undergo an Instructors Course led by Cuban Instructors, followed by the Commanders Course in the USSR. His military training continued when he completed the Commanders Course in the German Democratic Republic in 1978.

Because of his excellent leadership skills and discipline he rose within the ranks of the MK in Angola where he was an instructor from 1976 to 1978. From 1978 to 1979 he was the Camp Chief of Staff in Cibasa Base in Angola. He held several Camp Commander's positions and responsibilities in Angola from 1978 to 1981. From 1982 to 1983 he was the MK Regional Chief of Staff, which saw him rise to the position of MK Regional Commander, a post he held from 1984 to 1988. As the Regional Commander he held responsibilities for all training activities and the diplomatic standing of the MK in Angola.

In 1990 he was appointed as the MK Chief of Personnel and Training and became a member of the MK Command Council and of the National Executive Council of the ANC. His diplomatic and analytical prowess was demonstrated during the pre-1994 negotiations at (CODESA) Joint Military Command Committee where he was part of the ANC negotiating team. At the dawn of the new dispensation in South Africa, when MK was integrated into the new SANDF, he completed an Orientation Course for Generals from 1994 to 1996 at the SA Army Combat Training Centre.

He went on to complete the Senior Command and Staff Duties Programme at the SA Army College in 1996. After the integration process he was appointed as Major General and served as the Deputy General Officer Commanding of the North West Command in Potchefstroom. His continued rise within the senior ranks saw him take up the responsibility of Chief Director Army Force Preparation, a post he held from 1998 to 1999 at SA Army HQ in Pretoria. He served as the Deputy Chief of Joint Operations from 1999 to 2000 and was later promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and Chief of Joint Operations from 2001 to 2005.

His involvement in multinational organisations became significant between 2001 and 2005, when he became a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Inter State Defence and Security Committee (Operations). He went on to prepare for the SANDF's participation in Peace Support Operations in consultation with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of International Relations and Co-operation. Gen Ngwenya became a member of the Inter State Defence and Security Committee and the SADC Chiefs of Defence in 2005.

He has been awarded the following commendations and medals: Star for Bravery in Gold, Decoration Medal in Gold, Merit Medal in Silver, General Service Medal, Operational Medal for Southern Africa, South Africa Service Medal, Unitas Medal, Tsumelo Ikathelaho, Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Diens 30 Years, Service Medal Silver, Service Medal in Bronze, Medalje vir Troue Diens 10 Years and Maluti Clasp.

In June 2005 he was promoted to the rank of General when he took over from the former Chief of the SANDF.
Gen Siphiwe Nyanda. He became an outstanding General who strove to maintain the integrity of the SANDF. He embodies what it means to be a member of the SANDF today; indeed he is a man of outstanding discipline. Gen Nyanda relinquished this post on 30 March 2011 to become the Ambassador of South Africa to Angola. He is married to Ms Busisiwe Nyanda and has three children.

General Shoke’s Curriculum Vitae

Gen Solly Shoke was born on 15 August 1956 in Alexandra Township. He left the country after the uprisings in 1976 and joined the military wing of the African National Congress (ANC) Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) and received his military training in Angola and further training in the then Soviet Union.

He served in various capacities in MK both inside and outside the country. He rose through the ranks to become the Commander of the then Transvaal Machinery. He was part of the underground Collective Leadership during Operation VULA. He was a political commissar and operated internally until the unbanning of the liberation movements. He was part of the National Organising Department of the ANC whose mission was to organise ANC structures in the country.

He was also a member of the committees that facilitated the peaceful transition to democracy in South Africa, including the integration of the armed forces into the SANDF. He completed his Intermediate Staff Course in 1993/1994 in Zimbabwe. After the ushering in of the new democratic era, he completed the Senior Command and Staff Duties Course in South Africa and later did the Joint Staff Course at the SA Army College.

Gen Shoke holds a Diploma in Human Resources Management from Damelin and a Certificate in Defence Management from the University of Witwatersrand. He served the SANDF as the Director Manpower Planning and later as the Director Army Integration. He was the Director Personnel Acquisition from January 1999 to October 2000 after which he was promoted to the rank of Major General as the Chief of Human Resources Support in 2000. In 2004 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed as the Chief of the SA Army.

The following are some of the highlights of his career as the Chief of the SA Army: he introduced the SA Army Vision 2020, a long-term vision and strategic planning process for the SA Army. Under his leadership the SA Army established the Works Regiment, which currently runs the programme for the maintenance and refurbishment of the SANDF infrastructure. The SA Army also resuscitated some of the essential capabilities, such as the airborne capability, Desert and Jungle Warfare and Special Infantry - a capability that deals with border safeguarding. Another memorable highlight of his career was his appointment as the SADC Forces’ Mission Commander of Operation BOLEAS in Lesotho in 1998.

Gen Shoke is a known disciplinarian who is committed to a disciplined National Defence Force guided by strict military discipline. He has committed himself to exemplary leadership and is an example of living the values of the SANDF. His actions are a testimony of integrity, loyalty and patriotism in an unbiased and non-political manner. He is married to Ms Charlotte Shoke and is blessed with four children.

After the signing ceremony Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the outgoing Chief of the SANDF (left) congratulates Gen Solly Shoke on his new appointment as Chief of the SANDF.
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, has described the capability demonstration of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) at the annual Rand Show held between 22 April and 2 May 2011 at the Nasrec Expo Centre, south of Johannesburg, as awesome and a spectacular performance.

Minister Sisulu was speaking after witnessing yet another breathtaking SANDF combat airborne readiness display in front of almost 2 000 spectators present in the main arena, which also included influential business people and members of different political and civic organisations on 2 May 2011, the last day of the event. The demonstration comprised, among others, a combat search and rescue simulation exercise, a casevac exercise with an Oryx helicopter for the downed aircrew and a Hawk firepower capability demonstration that left the crowds in a state of admiration, especially for the supersonic speed.

After Minister Sisulu received the Platinum Award from the Nasrec Management for the Best Overall Display by the SANDF she said: “What we have seen here is a further proof that the SANDF is capable of defending our territory and bringing stability to the country. We hope to continue this partnership with the Rand Show on a regular basis. What also impressed me most are personnel who have been here for the past 12 days attending to the public’s queries about the military hardware we have here on display. I am also pleased with the presence of the Young Lions, a voluntary youth training project aimed at Grade 9 to 11 learners. This project was introduced by the SA Army with the aim of introducing them to military culture, buddy aid, personal hygiene, environmental aspects and field craft.”

Minister Sisulu also expressed her appreciation to all members who contributed to promoting the image of the organisation by highlighting its role and functions during peacetime, in support of all South Africans.

The event also marked the return of the SANDF to the Rand Show after an absence of 14 years, and hundreds of interested members of the public flocked to the exhibition stands to look at the equipment and to introduce their children to career paths within the SANDF.

Among those in attendance were Mr Punki Moeti and Ms Elizabeth Moeti from Johannesburg who expressed their appreciation on the return of the National Defence Force to the Rand Show. They said that the exhibition of the SANDF equipment provided an opportunity for them to know the core business of the force, apart from their securing the borders and defending the
Rand Annual Show

SA Soldier

country against external aggression. Their children, Lesego and Tebogo, were enthralled by the sight of an Agusta Westland AW109 helicopter on display.

At the opening of the Rand Show (Joburg Easter Festival) on 22 April 2011, Mr Craig Newman, the CEO of Nasrec, expressed his gratitude at the return of the SANDF to the Rand Show. He hoped that its return would also help to entice the youth to consider various career options available in the SANDF.

Representing the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, Director of Operations at the Johannesburg Metro Police Department, Ms Kenalemang Maribe, paid tribute to the SANDF's presence and warned those with criminal intent to stop what they were doing as security had been beefed up with the arrival of the SANDF contingent at this year’s event.

The following were some of the military hardware on display:

SA Army

- Startstreak missile launcher: Capabilities include the protection of national key points in SA and airspace security.
- Tactical intelligence system - state of the art surveillance technology, which is the first of its kind to be commissioned in the world.
- A parachute display.
- Multiple rocket launcher and M5 mortar system.
- Rooikat Armoured Car.
- Olifant Mk2 Tank with tank transporter.
- Ratel ZT-3.
- Bridge-laying vehicle and detection system used during deployments.
- Command Ratel, mock operational room main signal equipment.

SA Air Force

- The Rooivalk combat Helicopter.
- The Agusta Westland AW109 helicopter.
- Umlindi radar system and terminal mobile radar antenna.
- All the above-mentioned equipment was successfully utilised during the air security plan for the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

SA Navy

- The shallow water route survey system for sonar detection used in the harbours of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban.
- Diver tank used for training SA Navy divers.

SA Military Health Service

- A Level 1 chemical and biological defence decontamination deployment facility to ensure patients are stabilised before being evacuated to more advanced health care facilities.

Defence Reserves Unit

- 11 Field Postal Unit is to provide an efficient field postal service to the SANDF, wherever it may be deployed.
Launch of the Defence Works Formation

Facilities and well maintained infrastructure were an important element of preparing, employing and deploying forces.

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On 20 April 2011 the Department of Defence launched the Defence Works Formation by merging Project LEBAKA, the Service Corps, Directorate Facilities and Directorate Facilities Support Management under DOD Logistics Division, Maj Gen Justice Nkonyane at the DOD Works Capability, situated in the then Group 15 HQ in Thaba Tshwane.

As part of the Department of Defence (DOD) fine-tuning for greater innovation, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, in her Budget Vote speech on 13 April 2011 alluded to the DOD’s discussion with the National Department of Public Works on the establishment of the Defence Estate Management mechanism which will lead to the National Defence Force progressively exiting from Property and Facility Management. This shows that the DOD has undergone a strategic shift in terms of its core deliverables.

She said: "Now that we have laid down the systems for self-maintenance and management of our properties, the Works Regiment will intensify the maintenance and upkeep of all properties. We have completed a strategy to establish our own Real Estate Agency to manage our property portfolio of more than 430 000 hectares of land, approximately 35 000 buildings and more than 12 million square metres of surface area within buildings that is currently managed by the Department of Public Works."

Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the then Acting Chief of the SANDF, said that following the statement by Minister Sisulu and the Military Command Council, the opportunities of members of the SANDF to maintain the DOD facilities were considerable for both the Regular Force and the Reserves. He said: "They will be utilised in the following capacities: facility maintenance, including repairs and construction that require architects, civil engineers, estate managers, quantity surveyors, artisans (electricians, carpenters, bricklayers, mechanics, wall and floor tilers), environmental managers, occupational health and safety managers and all the military command and management skills inherent in the military fraternity."

Owing to decentralisation and ongoing structural reforms over recent years, there has been a growing trend towards privatisation of services and activities that traditionally were functions of the Department of Public Works and the Expanded Public Works Programme.

SA Soldier conversed with a panel of leading experts who highlighted some of the opportunities of the Defence Works Formation at the dawn of a new era. They mentioned that facilities and
well maintained infrastructure were an important element of preparing, employing and deploying forces.

Brig Gen David Masters, General Officer Commanding Defence Works Formation, in clarifying the achievements mentioned that a research into a case study was undertaken and an idea was planted in the SANDF that an opportunity needed to be granted to our own members to help solve this massive problem of the 12 billion rands maintenance backlog which had been confirmed by the entity responsible for the facility management of the DOD infrastructure, but there was no solution in sight.

He said that in order to achieve this objective it was necessary to recruit SANDF members guided by our 'One Force Concept' from all our Services (the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service) to be trained in different labour-based construction and maintenance trades, site supervising, engineers, technologies and technicians in the workforce from different rank groupings, including both men and women.

Brig Gen Masters said: "Most importantly, in terms of driving this project we aligned ourselves with different industries in mainstream construction, such as Murray and Roberts, Multi Volt Laden, GDD Irons, Afrift and Pelma Trucks, WBHO and Group 5. It was a vitally important and potentially rewarding area in detailing a successful initiative."

He added that the Defence Works Formation had been mandated to provide the following functions for the DOD:
- Operational Level Facility Management
- Facility Maintenance and Repair
- Facility Construction
- Facility Skills Development
- Military Integrated Environmental Management
- General Support Services, and

Research and Development.

Brig Gen Michael Mdletye, Director Operations (previously Director Facility Support Management), pointed out that perhaps more important was the shift in focus beyond simply addressing the facility management problem, but in fine-tuning our approaches in providing inspiration for greater DOD innovation and creating a sense of collective responsibility for some pressing challenges that face us to achieve concrete outcomes.

He added that this kind of a project had the added dimension of being able to perform the increasing amount of labour-intensive work and provide high-quality solutions to infrastructure development and in so doing creating skilled members who could compete in the open market once they left the military, thus strengthening the general community skills base.

Brig Gen Getrude Mgadi, Director Facilities (Level 2), said that through the power of the collective everything was possible and demonstrated how commitment and tenacity worked hand in hand to realise a vision. She pointed out the key to the realisation of the Minister's stated vision in the area of infrastructure, planning, design and construction management.

Brig Gen Kefilwe Mathibe, Director Skills Development (former General Officer Commanding Service Corps), said that as we moved into the 21st century, skills development continued to gather pace. She said that another aim was to impart knowledge and skills transfer and provide inspiration for those who wanted to expand their skills, e.g. Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members and Reserves acquiring skills in labour-intensive construction, artisan training in areas such as electrical maintenance, air-conditioning, painting and carpentry.

She concluded that the intensive programme would boost the organisational capacity to keep up with the operation and maintenance requirements of DOD assets. This would also assist in continuously monitoring the well-being of our assets so that they did not fall into a state of disrepair.
The SA Air Force offers reliable systems that solve problems of vital importance to national security.

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Cpl Tebogo Kekana

The SA Air Force continues to use its knowledge to secure South Africa’s airspace and to address challenges of vital importance to the sovereignty and territorial integrity. Thus it offers reliable systems that solve problems of vital importance to national security and builds sustainable capacity for a safe South Africa.

The SA Air Force Rooivalk Mark 1 AH-2A combat support helicopter was proudly handed over to the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, at Denel Aviation in Kempton Park on 1 April 2011. The changing role of the SANDF, which is now primarily engaged in peacekeeping missions means that aircraft systems have to be adapted effectively to meet the new requirements.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Mr Talib Sadik, the Group Chief Executive Officer of Denel, said that it was a historic moment after decades of work. He said: “We are proud to have been involved through the inception 25 years ago of this proudly South African, indigenous, world-class and fully-certified Rooivalk.” The first launch of a prototype took place on 11 February 1990 - the same day former President Nelson Mandela was released from prison. In 1996 the State owned defence industrial group, Denel, was given a production contract for the manufacture and delivery of twelve Rooivalk aircraft to the SA Air Force.

Lt Gen Gagiano expressed appreciation to all the role-players. He said that the...
In front of a Rooivalk Mk 1 combat support helicopter during the handing over ceremony, l-r: Mr Antonie Visser, Chief of Defence Matériel, Maj Gen Tsoku Khumalo, Chief Director Force Preparation, Mr Talib Sadik, Group CEO of Denel, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga, GOC Air Command, Mr Sipho Mkhwanazi, Acting CEO of Armscor, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SA Air Force, and Mr Mike Kgobe, CEO of Denel Aviation.

SA Air Force's relationship with Denel would still continue with regard to the maintenance of the aircraft and that the Rooivalk would strengthen the strategic capability, particularly in the peacekeeping missions on the continent. Lt Gen Gagiano added: 'Modern systems were integrated into the aircraft, and the cannon system has been rectified: its reliability is 100% and other safety aspects have been addressed.'

Mr Antonie Visser, the Chief of Defence Matériel, said that the qualification process of the fully-certified locally designed and manufactured combat support Rooivalk helicopters was an important development in a long line of achievements stretching over more than 25 years to meet the needs of South African Defence. He said: 'The Rooivalk Project has through the years been a very successful incubator for the rest of the industry and I have no doubt that the lessons learnt during the quarter of a century spent on this development will provide dividends for many more years to come.'

Standing next to the upgraded aircraft Lt Gen Gagiano said it had been tested at the SA Air Force’s Test Flight Development Centre and that evaluation included day and night flight operations, target identification modes and self-protection advanced features. He said that the first five helicopters would be deployed at 16 Squadron based in Bloemfontein at AFB Bloemspruit and the remaining six would be completed and ready for deployment later this year.

He mentioned that Denel Aviation would be responsible for the deeper-level support capabilities needed to sustain flying operations, including maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of the Rooivalk fleet.

Another key benefit of this world-class South African helicopter is the considerable improvements in avionics modernisation enabling the pilot to operate in night-vision goggle flying conditions with a different rapid terrain database to enhance offensive counter-air threats.

It is installed with state-of-the-art systems integrators for a wide variety of applications during tactical missions and will expand the SA Air Force’s mission operation network and ensure that training stays on a par with the new unmatched resources of high-level mission-critical training to meet air combat requirements in operational theatres.
Chinese naval warships anchor in Durban

The main task of the two Chinese vessels is to ensure the security of Chinese vessels and personnel transiting the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia and provide protection for chartered vessels working for international organisations.

Article and photos by AB N.C. Zulu, Com Admin Clerk Navy HQ

The 7th Chinese People’s Liberation Army’s Navy Escorting Flotilla paid a goodwill visit to Durban over the period 4 to 8 April 2011. Two Chinese naval warships - the CNS ZHOUSAN (FFG 529) and the CNS XUZHOU (FFG 530), arrived at the port of Durban (Passenger Terminal) on 4 April 2011. The two Chinese vessels were the 7th Escort Task Force, which was dispatched by the Chinese Government last November to perform an escorting mission in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia. Their main task was to ensure the security of Chinese vessels and personnel transiting the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia and provide protection for chartered vessels working for international organisations.

The visit was the third of its kind. The last time a Chinese naval vessel visited South Africa was in August 2000, when two Chinese naval missile destroyers, the SHENZHEN and the NANCANG, visited our shores. In October 2008 the SAS SPIOKENROP also docked in Shanghai as part of celebrations to commemorate the 10th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and South Africa.

The Chief of Naval Staff, R Adm Rusty Higgs, had this to say about the Chinese visit: “The navy in any country is an instrument of the state. This visit strengthens the pledge between the nations to assist each other at sea in times of need. It is both strategic and historic.”

The Commander of the Chinese Task Group, R Adm Zhang Huachen, speaking through an interpreter, had this to say about the goodwill visit: “The traditional friendship between the two countries would be made stronger through the interaction, which will foster mutual understanding.”

During their visit to the city of Durban R Adm Huachen and his entourage made courtesy calls on the Mayor of Ethekwini Municipality, Councillor Obed Mlaba, and the Police Commissioner of KwaZulu-Natal, Lt Gen Betty Ngobeni. They also hosted a reception dinner on board CNS ZHOUSAN.
Minister orders a clean-up campaign

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The untidy state found by the Interim National Defence Force Service Commission when it viewed the Thaba Tshwane military area compelled the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, to instruct the residents to clean up the area.

The perception of the Commission indicated in the preliminary report about the lack of maintenance for current facilities in the DOD. It also attributed the state of affairs to the absence of a comprehensive preventative maintenance programme.

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The Minister's insistence that the soldiers clean up the Thaba Tshwane military area came as a first step towards introducing a culture of self-reliance in the maintenance of DOD facilities.

On 7 and 8 April 2011 all Services and Divisions took to the streets to muster resources and clean up open areas according to the allocated zones. Residents were also to ensure that their living quarters were up to the required standard, after which Minister Sisulu would inspect them.

The General Officer Commanding SA Army Support Formation, Maj Gen Steven Marumo, convened the community at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall to present the Minister's wishes about the campaign and to describe the challenges and responsibilities they were going to face as residents.

Maj Gen Marumo remarked: "When the Minister was here in January she complained about the state of Thaba Tshwane's residential areas, workplaces and other facilities."

He mentioned that 50% of the General Support Base's budget, which should actually be 15%, was being utilised to maintain facilities due to the high demand. He added that some members were negligent in maintaining their properties and would be held accountable for those.

Maj Gen Marumo also alleged that others were involved in prohibited activities, such as renting, sub-letting and running taverns in their back yards. He warned that punitive actions would be taken should such activities continue.

He urged members of the Thaba Tshwane community to undertake the responsibility of maintaining and fixing things around their properties and not depend on the General Support Base.

The highly anticipated Minister's inspection took place on 10 April 2011 at the Thaba Tshwane sports grounds. Minister Sisulu conveyed her gratitude to the soldiers who packed the grandstands for responding when she made the call to resolve the concern raised by the Commission and the Chiefs of Services.

It was decided during the work-session by Minister Sisulu and the Chiefs of Services to return Thaba Tshwane to its original clean state. She mentioned that the area was badly in need of repair.

Ms Sisulu said: "Thaba Tshwane as a military town reflects on us in many ways; and on us as soldiers. So, you are reflected by your environment."

The Minister remarked that the place also promoted family life since there were living quarters that had to be taken care of. She said that the Defence Works Regiment would assist with the maintenance of equipment and facilities owned by the DOD.

Minister Sisulu pledged to commit herself to improve members' living conditions in military areas so that they could reside in a dignified environment that would reflect well on the soldiers and their reputation.
Military partnership with the local Defence Industry

“The New Growth Path seeks to address the core challenges of joblessness, poverty and inequality by knitting together the Second Industrial Policy Action Plan.”

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Department of Defence and Military Veterans in conjunction with Armscor and the Department of Trade and Industry held its fourth Defence Industry Day with the theme: “Political Support for Security, Economic Gains and Creation of Employment” in Pretoria on 17 March 2011.

The Defence Industry Day aims to strengthen co-ordination and co-operation between Government, the SA Defence Industry (SADI) and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of developing a competitive world-class SA Defence Industry. This event will help SADI to understand Government’s intentions on defence matters and position themselves for the development and enhancement of defence products that are relevant to the defence industry.

During his address the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, said that Government recognised and supported the defence industry and intended to see it grow and contribute both locally and abroad. He added that a new benchmark had been set and the objective was to create solutions. He said: “The Government has in the recent past published its new strategy for economic development in the form of the New Growth Path which seeks to address the core challenges of joblessness, poverty and inequality by knitting together the Second Industrial Policy Action Plan.”

The Secretary for Defence, Ms Mpumi Mpofu, said that the SA Defence Industry’s role as an integral part of the SANDF’s capabilities was now taking root in a more meaningful sense and within the context of a home market. She emphasised that what was crucial was that this partnership between the military and the local defence industry was not aimed at obtaining self-sufficiency in the provision of armaments, but to ensure a degree of self-reliance for both the SANDF and the SA Government. She said: “For this partnership to succeed, there will have to be enhanced, consistent and transparent communication between the SANDF and the Industry.”

The Defence Industry stakeholders such as Armscor and Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association also provided specialist input in terms of the development of procedures for defence capability, defence systems modelling and the evaluation of technical concepts and defence acquisition programmes.
On 24 March 2011 the long-awaited pilot wings, navigator and flight engineer insignia were presented to 17 young students who successfully completed the SA Air Force Student Pilot Course 114/10. The Wings Parade took place at AFB Langebaanweg in the Western Cape and the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, awarded the SA Air Force flying badges to the recipients.

The Wings Parade is more than just a graduation day for the graduates: it is a moment of pride for the SA Air Force, flying instructors, mentors, families and friends. This special occasion was held for 13 pupil pilots, one navigator and three flight engineers. Lt Gen Gagiano commended the Central Flying School for shaping the products that were seen on parade and acknowledged members of the SA Air Force’s diverse contributions, support and guidance at several levels. He said that the SA Air Force would continue to exercise its mandate of developing aircrew and helping them to realise their military aviation ambitions and create career pathways in various musters to ensure the flexibility and mobility of its workforce with a view to maintaining the internationally acknowledged high standards. These are equal to the standards set by the best air forces in the world.

Lt Gen Gagiano reminded the recipients that the parade marked only the first of many goals that they must reach in order to become truly proficient in their various musters, and said all of them were leaders at different levels. He stressed that aircrew had always been a rather special breed of people and today’s recipients were members of the first course to complete the initial outsourced ab initio phase of flying training and would proceed to the Military Academy for two years of study for a BMil Degree.

In conclusion, Lt Gen Gagiano wished all the recipients the best with their future careers in the SA Air Force. He said: “Give your best. Do not ask what your Air Force can do for you, ask rather what you can do for your Air Force.” The highest overall achiever on course was 2Lt Michael Richmond who scooped the Air Force Board Floating Trophy and the Inkosazwi Floating Trophy. 2Lt Nkululeko Nikahinde was awarded the SA Air Force Association Floating Trophy while 2Lt Dale Nadasen was awarded the Air Command Floating Trophy.

Speaking to SA Soldier, 2Lt Richmond said that he was overjoyed as this symbolised a milestone achievement and a sacrifice amply rewarded. He added that the foundation of any good aviator was his knowledge base and one needed to stimulate his or her interest in flying or aviation in general. 2Lt Richmond said: “Being a graduate pilot today has led me to discover who I am and what life would be if one has no courage to attempt anything. Some things will not move in your favour until you make a move.”

2Lt Nikahinde said: “It’s not where you come from, but where you are heading for that determines one’s destiny.” He could not contain his delight and added that there were three things that made life special: to dream, to believe in yourself and to have passion. He added: “You are the only person who can say what is right for you and you must trust yourself to test your limits.”
The DOD becomes a planning and risk-intelligent department

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief Director Strategic Management, Mr Dumisani Dladla, hosted the DOD Professional Development Workshop on Planning, Reporting and Risk Management at the Peace Mission Training Centre in Thaba Tshwane between 4 and 8 April 2011.

The aim of the workshop was to provide DOD planners or planning functionaries with the required skills to ensure proper planning, reporting and the importance of integrating risk management with the DOD planning process.

The workshop facilitator, Adv Nandi Ntsaluba, Director Strategic Planning, welcomed the workshop participants and said that the workshop marked the beginning of a new era in DOD Planning. She said that Planning was a sphere that ought to function like a well-oiled machine, working in close co-operation with all spheres of the Department, Services and Divisions to achieve the goals set by the developmental state agenda.

Adv Ntsaluba said: "We are indeed writing a new chapter. Therein lies the increasing significance of the turnaround strategy as a blueprint that will ensure good governance with the full compliance of our Government Regulatory Framework."

In his opening address the Chief Director Strategic Management said that the hosting of the workshop would help refine the practice of planning, balanced budgeting, risks, audit control, the performance expectations of the organisation, asset management, accountability and balanced dimensions that enhance systems to monitor and assess progress and reporting.

Mr Dladla also reminded the participants that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, had signed the delivery agreement of the President. The signing constituted our Minister’s commitment to creating a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient DOD.

He added: "We are building a performance-oriented department by improving planning, reporting and risk management, as well as monitoring and evaluation. This also involves identifying the key outputs and activities required for the achievement of each outcome. It also involves identifying appropriate indicators to measure progress and set targets for indicators."

Good practice in organisational development dictates that the organisational structure of a department should be aligned with its strategic objectives. This is in line with the Public Service Regulation, which stipulates that the organisational structure of a department...
Attendees of the DOD Professional Development Workshop on Planning, Reporting and Risk Management at the Peace Mission Training Centre in Thaba Tshwane.

Ms Annandale continued: “Effective risk management allows departments to have increased confidence that they can deliver desired outcomes, manage risks and threats to an acceptable degree and make informed decisions about opportunities. It is imperative that top management and high-level boards of the DOD be presented with information on risk management that could affect long-term planning, with the focus on strategic and transversal risks. If this is not done in a constructive manner, risk assessments and state of the art risk registers will serve no purpose.”

Workshop participants were taught how to identify particular risks relevant to their goals, assess them in terms of likelihood and impact, determine a response strategy and monitor progress to ensure that the DOD becomes a risk-intelligent organisation.

should be based on the Department’s strategic plan to ensure timely alignment with new priorities and programmes.

Topics such as understanding the planning, strategy, budgeting, risk management, reporting frameworks and processes were discussed in depth. The new DOD Enterprise Risk Management Framework, which was promulgated in December 2010, was also discussed. The Directorate Risk Management presented a standardised risk register, which will in future be used by all Services and Divisions.

At the closing of the workshop, Dr Mary Lechwala, Chief Director Human Resources, and Dr Thobekile Gamede, Chief Defence Policy Strategy and Planning, congratulated the workshop participants and mentioned that Government relied heavily on a mature administration with a service delivery ethic, and each department, sphere of Government and state agency should therefore have planning capacity.

V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, said that greater coherence in work between government departments and clusters across spheres could only be achieved if there was a common understanding in enough detail of the long-term objectives and direction of our Government and the society it serves.

He added: “In the context of the revised Green Paper of the Government National Planning Commission, the Government plans to achieve Vision 2025. This spells out where we want to be. As DOD planners, the leadership of the DOD/SANDF has great confidence in you, our resources, key institutions and our employees. Longer term planning provides longer term certainty, and improves the quality of decision-making to further facilitate the DOD's fulfilment of its constitutional mandate and its role to help strengthen our democracy.”

Speaking to SA Soldier, Ms Lea Annandale, Chief Risk Officer, mentioned that the link between the environmental analysis, planning and risk management was very important in understanding the organisational context and conducting an environmental analysis to assist the Department in identifying key risk areas and differentiating between the types of risks, e.g. risks that are unique to a specific environment and transversal risks that cut across the entire Department. She believes that the workshop provided planners with the necessary knowledge and skill to manage and report on their risks in a pro-active manner, and to utilise frameworks and tools to turn risks into opportunities.
The DOD/SANDF continues to commit itself to the Government’s call for skills development with specific emphasis on youth development. The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, continued a policy of supporting continued economic growth and prioritised further interventions on poverty reduction by intensifying the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (JPSA).

On 14 April 2011 the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane held a passing-out parade for 80 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) learners who completed an intensive senior personnel clerk course. The course was presented between 11 October 2010 and 15 April 2011.

Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, the General Officer Commanding of the Training Command, addressed the young male and female Human Resource practitioners on parade. He said their role was the key factor in helping create a better future for the country and the continent as peace ambassadors. He added that anybody who was ready to enter the unknown was a courageous person. Maj Gen Mabuza said: “Soldiering is not about what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. Your behaviour both at a personal level, and in group context will always be a reflection of your background as a soldier.’ He saluted the learners’ decision to join the SANDF and said they represented the nation’s greatest achievement. Maj Gen Mabuza said: “The technological advancement and the uncertainty of the international security situation necessitates a need to advance ourselves academically in the international and regional security arena. This morning you are the centre of attraction; the effort you exerted in your work bears testimony to this.”

Best academic performers acknowledged, fltr: Pte Nombulelo Zuma (third place), Pte Christinah Lefifi (second place), Col Petra van der Merwe, Commandant of the Personnel Service School, Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, General Officer Commanding Training Command, and Pte Sandile Kambule (first place) during the Military Skills Development System passing-out parade.

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SANDF safeguarding borders
for a better life for all

Since the return of the SANDF to the borders, cross-border crime has dropped and crime syndicates have been dealt a blow.

Article and photo by S Sg t
Lebogang Tlhaole

As envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa the role of the SA National Defence Force is to protect the territorial integrity and safeguard the sovereignty of the Republic. The SA government took a conscious decision to declare border safeguarding a national priority.

The SA Police Service (SAPS) is currently withdrawing from our country’s borders to concentrate on reducing the high levels of crime. In line with its constitutional responsibility the SANDF has returned to the borders with effect from April 2010 to ensure that its mandate is carried out.

The return to the borders will be effected in a five-phase approach over the next four years with a total of 22 companies. Currently the SANDF is covering 1 500 km of the border. At the end of the full deployment it is estimated that the SANDF will cover 4 471 km of the land border, 2 700 km of the maritime border and 7 660 km of the air space.

Since the return of the SANDF to the borders in April 2010, several successes were recorded, including in the Kruger National Park in support of the South African National Parks campaign against rhino poaching. On 18 May 2011 three poachers were fatally wounded in the Kruger National Park north of the Olifants River in the Houtbosrand area when SANDF soldiers came across the suspected poachers. An AK47 rifle, one Bruno 458 hunting rifle, two axes and two cellphones were found in their possession.

In cases where rhino poaching manifests as a cross-border crime activity, the SANDF acts within the framework of its present mandate as per the Defence Act of 2002 section (18)(d).

Now South Africa is reaping the benefits of SANDF deployment. The borders are secure, cross-border crime has dropped, crime syndicates have been dealt a blow and communities and farmers feel safer because they believe in the SANDF, said the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, during her 2011 Budget Vote speech.

Phase 1 ended in March 2011 with four companies already deployed in the north-east on the Zimbabwean and Mozambican borders. Two SA Army Engineers troops were already deployed in support to repair border fences. Phase 2 started in the new financial year and included the deployment of three companies to the Kruger National Park (Mozambique), Lesotho and Swaziland borders respectively. Phase 3 will see four additional companies deploy on the Zimbabwean, Lesotho and Swaziland borders. During Phase 4 the focus in this deployment will be on the Botswana/Namibian borders, but will also include deployments on the Lesotho border. In Phase 5 the deployments will be concentrated along the Botswana and Namibian frontiers. Additional deployments will include Swaziland and Mozambique. By this time all 22 companies will be deployed and South Africa’s land borders will be safeguarded.

The SANDF is the lead department in border safeguarding, but it requires the co-operation of various government departments, namely Agriculture, Health, Home Affairs, Public Works, State Security and Tourism and the SAPS to ensure success and effectiveness. Safeguarding the land border will be conducted mainly by SA Army soldiers supported by the SA Air Force and SA Military Health Service elements. These elements will operate in identified mission areas and conduct day and night high mobility operations.
SA Navy Officer graduates in Honolulu

By Michael E. Daniels, Deputy Chief
Public Affairs Office: APCSS
Photo: APCSS Photo/Visual
Information

Cdr Mfanelo Bongco (SA Navy) graduated from the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies’ Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism Course in Honolulu on 24 March 2011. He received his diploma from the Dean of Academics of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Ms Lauren Kahea Moriarty.

Cdr Bongco joined 85 other military and civilian participants who attended the four-week course. They came from 46 locations, primarily the Asia-Pacific region, but including the rest of the world. There were representatives from Afghanistan, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Fiji, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Tuvalu, the United States and Vietnam.

The course provides key states in the Asia-Pacific region and other designated countries with the operational and strategic-level skills necessary to enhance their ability to combat terrorism and to cooperate with each other. The course is designed to build relationships between the United States and other countries and provide current and future counter-terrorism practitioners with the trust and confidence necessary for increased information sharing, and to identify ways to reduce obstacles to cooperation in the international struggle against those who use terror to promote their goals.

The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies is a Department of Defense academic institute that addresses regional and global security issues. Military and civilian representatives of the US and the Asia-Pacific nations participate in its comprehensive programme of executive education, professional exchanges and outreach events, both in Hawaii and throughout the region. The mission of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies is to educate, connect and empower security practitioners to advance security in the Asia-Pacific region.

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The 2011 SA Navy Festival officially began on 1 April 2011 with the Right of Entry Parade in Simon’s Town and came to a momentous end with a Retreat Parade on 3 April 2011. The SA Navy was established on 1 April 1922, and the SA Navy Festival was organised to begin on 1 April to coincide with its 89th birthday celebrations.

To celebrate the two events, it has been decided that the SA Navy Festival will henceforth officially commence on 1 April every year. By any standard 89 years is a seasoned and remarkable age, and at this age if one has to personify the SA Navy one could point to the years of successes and some minor challenges. The SA Navy has gained the astuteness to discern what really works and what does not in the execution of its constitutional mandate: hence it is passionately referred to as the Navy of the People.

The SA Navy Festival has in a special and unique way become very dear to the hearts of Capetonians. The SA Navy 89 years and still going strong

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SA Navy Festival has in a special and unique way become very dear to the hearts of Capetonians.

Sea Cadet Precision Drill was one of the many activities during the 2011 SA Navy Festival.

The then Executive Mayor of the Cape Town Metropolitan, Mr Dan Plato, officially opened the SA Navy Festival. In his speech he thanked the SA Navy for its efforts to empower the community while maintaining its constitutional mandate. The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, next highlighted the successes the SA Navy has enjoyed lately. According to V Adm Mudimu some of the successes the SA Navy has enjoyed have been the pivotal role it played when South Africa hosted the 2010 Soccer World Cup event and the numerous exercises it has participated in, such as Exercise ATLASUR VII in which the SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE participated without any hiccups, as well as Exercise GOOD HOPE and Exercise IBSAMAR II.

The Chief of the SA Navy went on to thank the Simon’s Town community for their excellent support and co-operation in beautifying the town and public spaces through Project STATCO and the youth involvement through the
The new recruits of the SA Navy Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake displayed their skills in the Gun Run.

The ISIVUNGUVUNGU Programme of sailing and music training and their assistance in the feeding scheme for the less privileged in “Uncle Mags” creche.

During an exclusive interview with SA Soldier shortly after his speech he mentioned that he was indeed proud of the SA Navy’s 89th birthday as this indicated that the SA Navy had come of age. He mentioned that he was particularly happy with the successes of the SA Navy: “The success that the SA Navy has enjoyed thus far can be attributed to the dedication of the sailors, and indeed the successes were a true reflection of the SA Navy’s undeniable combat-readiness”.

Of note during the 2011 SA Navy Festival was the unveiling of the SS Mendi Memorial Plaque at Jubilee Square by the Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Philip Scholtz. The inclusion of the Bikers Association added a special touch: “The SANDF Bikers Association was founded by the SA Navy, and is mainly comprised of SANDF members and their families. This association assists every year in reaching out to less privileged children by collecting toys and distributing them”, said R Adm (JG) Koos Louw, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon’s Town.

Other activities during the 2011 SA Navy Festival included the Sea Cadet Precision Drill, the Gun Run in which the new SA Navy Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake displayed their skills in quickly and efficiently disassembling the canon in order to cross obstacles and reassemble it with ease. Another activity was the Fireman Competition in which the SA Navy Fire Brigade displayed their fire extinguishing capabilities. The Lynx (helicopter) air-sea search and rescue display and the dry dock flooding demonstration was particularly interesting; the dock was deliberately flooded with sea water to demonstrate what would happen when the ship was repaired on dry land. Another item on the programme was a dog show, followed by the Maritime Reaction Squadron displaying its ability to keep pirates at bay.

The public were treated to boat rides and given the opportunity to board the submarine and other SA Navy ships and frigates. The SA Navy Festival of course would not have been complete without local business people coming to display their products, ranging from food, toys and tattooing to new cars. Those who love speed and enhanced car audio were treated to the display of cars that had engines specially modified to increase their speed beyond the manufacturers’ specifications. Decorative accessory kits and audio enhancement were on display and for sale too.

The 2011 SA Navy Festival ended with a Retreat Ceremony, which was meant to symbolise the retreat of the naval forces after they had been given the right to march in town. Capetonians, especially the Simon’s Town community, are already looking forward to next year’s fun-filled event, which has become an integral part of the culture of Simon’s Town.
The DOD clarifies the National Rural Youth Service Corps

The aim is to develop and impart skills among youth in rural areas who will provide community service in various ways.

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The spokesperson for the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Ndivhuwo Mabaya, met with representatives of AfriForum Youth and the media to clarify recruitment issues regarding the National Rural Youth Service Corps Programme at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 3 May 2011.

Mr Mabaya mentioned that improving the lives of rural communities remained high on the Government’s agenda as unemployment and lack of employment opportunities, continued to be a major challenge facing rural communities particularly the youth. He said that the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform had embarked on a programme known as the National Rural Youth Service Corps to uplift the rural youth by providing opportunities that would enable them to be employable through skills development.

He said: “The National Rural Youth Service Corps is an initiative of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, its aim being to develop and impart skills among youth between 18 and 35 years in rural areas who will provide community service in various ways. Job creation is a critical component; they will receive training for technical careers, e.g. as bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters, roofers, welders, electricians and farmers.”

Mr Mabaya mentioned that the DOD as a responsive and responsible organ of Government worked together with other tiers of Government (national, provincial and local), parastatals, the council of stakeholders and civil society in a participatory approach to ensure sustainable livelihood for the youth by transforming them from being job seekers to being job creators with a view to breaking the cycle of poverty.

He continued: “As the DOD we have an impact on the lives of the South African youth as the agents of change. Some rural areas remain extremely disadvantaged and underdeveloped economically and socially. Since the inception of the National Rural Youth Service Corps Programme, the DOD has embarked on a journey to pave the way for youth development, for example the 500 youths from the country’s provinces who were recruited by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform seconded to the DOD for a seven-week foundational phase of pilot training in multi-disciplinary skills, for example life skills, mentoring, self-discipline, etiquette, caring for others, self-control, respect, civic education, civic participation (voluntarism) and patriotism.”

Mr Mabaya added that the other focus of the programme was the creation of an enabling environment to train the youth through Further Education and Training Programmes linked to identified developmental community projects to support rural development and investments in infrastructure programmes to bridge the poverty gap and increase employment intensive growth.

Mr Ndivhuwo Mabaya, Spokesperson for the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans (right) clarifies concerns over the National Rural Youth Service Corps to Mr Charl Oberholzer, the Chairperson of AfriForum Youth.
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1 Parachute Battalion is a fully functional and internationally recognised unit and the only Regular Force parachute battalion in the SANDF.

1 Parachute Battalion celebrated their 50th anniversary with a series of ceremonies, such as a trooping of the colours parade in slow and quick time.

"They fought on land and in the air, gallant in their obligation, their one and only care, to keep free our great nation. We walk the streets free from strife, with freedom of speech and thought, because they paid the ultimate price in battles that they fought." These words were written by Tony Channing and are well known to the paratroopers.

1 Parachute Battalion celebrated their 50th anniversary on 1 April 2011 at the Tempe Military Base in Bloemfontein with a series of ceremonies, including a mock attack by Pathfinders, a trooping of the colours parade in slow and quick time and a static display by the airborne forces.

1 Parachute Battalion is a fully functional and internationally recognised unit and the only Regular parachute battalion in the SANDF. Currently the Battalion falls under 44 Parachute Regiment, which serves as its higher headquarters. The Battalion forms part of the Chief of the SANDF Strategic Reserve and is at all times combat ready for rapid deployment anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa.

Origins

The origin of the Battalion goes back to 1960 when a group of 15 volunteers went to England for parachute training as well as parachute related training, such as rigger and pilot procedural training at the Royal Air Force in Abingdon in the United Kingdom. These members were also trained as parachute instructors to train South African paratroopers. Upon their return to South Africa, 1 Parachute Battalion was established on 1 April 1961. As time went on 2 Parachute Battalion and 3 Parachute Battalion were established to accommodate Citizen Force paratroopers.

In 1971 the South African Special Forces was established. The founding members were also members of 1 Parachute Battalion. This battalion is thus regarded as the organisation from which all the South African airborne forces originate.

With the establishment of the new Government on 27 April 1994 all the parachute forces of the SA Defence Force, the Transkei Defence Force, the Bophuthatswana Defence Force and the Ciskei Defence Force were integrated.
into the structures of 1 Parachute Battalion.

Although tremendous challenges were experienced with integration, the esprit de corps associated with wings and the maroon beret contributed to binding the newly formed 1 Parachute Battalion together into a fighting machine par excellence.

Since 1998, 1 Parachute Battalion has participated in numerous multinational exercises with different foreign armies, both in South Africa and abroad. The members of 1 Parachute Battalion took part in Operation ROLEAS in Lesotho as part of a Southern African Development Community (SADC) force. Several members were lost in this operation.

In 1999 they were the very first members to be deployed to Burundi as part of Operation FIBRE and they again contributed in ensuring that the Comoros held free and fair elections in 2006. In 2009 they participated in the first multi-force SADC Brigade Exercise, Exercise GOLFINO that took place at the SA Army Combat Training Centre at Lohatla. One company of the Battalion is at present deployed in the Sudan with 5 SA Infantry Battalion.

The members of 1 Parachute Battalion pledge to sacrifice themselves for their country as is expected of them and they are the members of a unit which is second to none in the world. They are proud and fully-fledged members of the parachute battalion. They serve this country and nation with pride and distinction and conduct themselves well at all times as is required of a paratrooper. They believe in themselves, in their unit and their country and above all they believe in God.
A handing over of command parade was held for the outgoing Officer Commanding of the Institute of Aviation Medicine, Col Noel Ndhlovu, and the incoming Officer Commanding, Col Debbie Tempelhoff, at 7 Medical Battalion Group in Pretoria on 18 March 2011.

The parade was attended by high-ranking officials of the SANDF, invited guests and a platoon that stood tall and proud in their neat camouflage uniforms as they paid respect to the outgoing and incoming leaders.

In his outgoing remarks Col Ndhlovu said: “I have been fortunate to have had excellent footsteps to follow. I would not have been able to see the footsteps if I had not been able to see the light, and realise that being a commander is more than being a manager or a leader.” The improvement of the Institute of Aviation Medicine (IAM) was one of his successes in his term as leader.

Col Ndhlovu expressed his appreciation to everyone who had supported him during his term of office. He also challenged everyone to continue in the same spirit and support the new commander in order to take the IAM to greater heights.

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The parade was attended by high-ranking officials of the SANDF, invited guests and a platoon that stood tall and proud in their neat camouflage uniforms as they paid respect to the outgoing and incoming leaders.

In his outgoing remarks Col Ndhlovu said: “I have been fortunate to have had excellent footsteps to follow. I would not have been able to see the footsteps if I had not been able to see the light, and realise that being a commander is more than being a manager or a leader.” The improvement of the Institute of Aviation Medicine (IAM) was one of his successes in his term as leader.

Col Ndhlovu expressed his appreciation to everyone who had supported him during his term of office. He also challenged everyone to continue in the same spirit and support the new commander in order to take the IAM to greater heights.

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An impressive display of rejoicing

The SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg was granted the Freedom of Entry into Heidelberg on 7 May 2011. Members of the public and civic dignitaries witnessed the impressive display of rejoicing as members of the SANDF took to the streets with flying colours. Marching columns paraded through the city as a token of trust placed in the SANDF by the City of Heidelberg. The colourful military parade comprising both men and women was enthusiastically received by the locals.

Expressing her gratitude the Executive Mayor, Councillor Busisiwe Modisakeng, said that this historic parade symbolised many things that happened in our country and within the SANDF in 2010 and recognition would be given to those achievements and she thanked the members for their efforts.

The Executive Mayor said: "The country hosted a successful 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. The SANDEF set out to ensure iron-clad security for the duration of the tournament. The SANDEF was also called upon to assume further responsibility during the crippling three-week national health workers strike. You responded to a request from Cabinet to deploy personnel by taking over 74 abandoned hospitals in the Provinces. The SANDEF gladly undertook these responsibilities, firm in the knowledge that there was nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of your character, than undertaking a difficult task."

Ms Modisakeng also applauded the SANDF for having returned to patrol South Africa's borders. She said: "Currently about 1 500 km of the border are secure, cross-border crimes have been dealt with and communities and farmers feel safer because they believe in the SANDF."

She proudly added that the successes were consistent with the SANDEF's sterling performance on external missions. She concluded: "On the continental front, we are one of the biggest contributors of peace-keeping forces. I am pleased to state with pride that you serve with distinction and you have been internationally acclaimed for the work done. You have freely and willingly committed yourselves to a profession that requires you to put the country first. You are highly appreciated and respected by us."

The Executive Mayor, Councillor Busisiwe Modisakeng (standing in front), taking the salute from members on parade, while Col Lawrence Mbathe, the Officer Commanding of the SA Army Gymnasium, looks on.

Members of the SA Military Health Service salute during the Right of Entry parade.
A well-defined formal induction process has been recognised as one of the cornerstones of organisational investment in human capital. The purpose of a Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme for Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 1 - 7 is to provide new and current employees on salary levels 1 - 7 with a basic knowledge and understanding of the DOD.

Pilot programmes

Over the period 15 - 24 February 2011, two pilot programmes were delivered to PSAP on salary levels 1 - 4 and 5 - 7 respectively in Cape Town and Pretoria. Altogether 55 employees, with experience ranging from six months to 30 years in the DOD, attended the pilot programmes.

From the moment the learners walked in there was excitement in the air. The learners were delighted that they were chosen as the pilot group to attend the programme. The facilitators from Training Command (Core Competence Development Training) ensured that the programme was delivered in a lively and interactive manner; hence the learners were kept interested throughout the programme. The learners received basic knowledge and understanding of the DOD as the facilitators focussed on the structure of the DOD, the Services and the different Divisions, the facilitators making use of posters, pamphlets, DVDs and board games.

At the end of the programme the learners were requested to evaluate their experiences on an evaluation sheet and through verbal feedback. Feedback from some of the participants was as follows:

Mr W. Mokwena, a Senior Administration Clerk from Quartermaster SA Engineering Formation, said: "I have been in the DOD for more than 22 years and in all these years it is the first time that I have been given a chance as part of the first group to attend such a programme. It was an eye-opener for me and I wish that all employees could be given a chance to attend the programme. I enjoyed the programme and it has enlightened me concerning the core business of the DOD. Our Department is so big and confusing, therefore the induction and re-orientation programme will allow everybody to understand the day-to-day running of the DOD. For me, the highlights of the programme were the presentations on anti-fraud and corruption, the Services and the Finance Division."

Mr F. Tjaro, a Personnel Officer from AFB Waterkloof, commented: "Today we learned about the four Services of the SANDF and the other Divisions. The course was well presented in a clear manner and now we have gained outstanding knowledge and a better understanding of the DOD and its different functions. I was given an excellent overview, especially of the organisational structure, Human Resources and the core business of all the Services and Divisions. I would like to thank the facilitators for all their efforts and the professionalism displayed throughout the programme."

Ms E. Thetjeng, a Senior Accounting Clerk from the Finance Division, had this to say about the programme: "I was really honoured to be selected as one of the learners to attend the programme. It was a valuable experience and now I know how special and important the Services and Divisions are and how the PSAP support their core business. I also learnt that each person in the DOD is very important, irrespective of whether he or she is a PSAP or a uniformed member. I think this programme is suitable for new employees like me."

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Sir Pierre van Ryneveld honoured

By Capt Leon Steyn, Curator of the SA Navy Museum

A memorial service of special significance was held on 19 February 2011 at the SA Air Force Memorial at Bays Hill in Thaba Tshwane. The beautiful and tranquil surroundings of the Wall of Remembrance painted the backdrop to the occasion, during which the casket containing the ashes of the late Sir Pierre and Lady Betty van Ryneveld were placed in a newly dedicated niche inside the Wall of Remembrance.

Van Ryneveld, the founding father of the SA Air Force, died in 1972. He was cremated and his ashes together with those of his wife were placed in a casket at the Koedoespoort Memorial. This memorial, erected close to the actual landing site, commemorated the epic pioneering flight of Van Ryneveld and Brand across Africa from England in March 1920.

In recent years the memorial has suffered neglect and the casket containing the ashes were subsequently removed and kept in safe custody at Chief of the Air Force’s office at Air Command.

Through the efforts of Director Air Force Heritage, Brig Gen Derrick Page, and the SA Air Force Association, plans were set afoot to “re-intern” the ashes in a more appropriate and safe environment, which at the same time would be more accessible to family and friends. The Wall of Remembrance at the SA Air Force Memorial was the obvious choice as it honoured those who had served in the SA Air Force.

In view of the importance of the event the Memorial Service was attended by the Chief of the SA Air Force, several Air Force Board members, and a former Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Dennis Earp.

In his address Mr Tony van Ryneveld, a nephew of Sir Pierre, made mention of his uncle’s steely determination and fighting character, how he triumphed over several obstacles to establish the SA Air Force and of his tenure as Chief of General Staff of the Union Defence Force and the turbulent times of World War II.

After the placing of the casket, a lone Padre Don Watson, in his eulogy, highlighted the many achievements of Sir Pierre van Ryneveld and the big investment he made in the establishment of the SA Air Force ninety years ago.

Many proud members of both the Van Ryneveld and Brand families attended the memorial service.

The granddaughter of Sir Pierre, Ms Linda van Ryneveld, thanked Chief of the SA Air Force for the effort to save, not just the ashes, but also the memory and heritage of Sir Pierre and Lady Betty van Ryneveld. In his address Mr Tony van Ryneveld, a nephew of Sir Pierre, made mention of his uncle’s steely determination and fighting character, how he triumphed over several obstacles to establish the SA Air Force and of his tenure as Chief of General Staff of the Union Defence Force and the turbulent times of World War II.
The Father of the SA Air Force

Helperus Andreas Van Ryneveld was born in Senekal on 2 May 1891. He was educated at Grey College in Bloemfontein and obtained a BA degree from the University of the Cape of Good Hope (today known as Unisa). Shortly before the outbreak of World War I he graduated with a BSc degree from the University of London.

At the outbreak of World War I, Van Ryneveld initially joined the Royal North Lancashire Regiment, but was transferred to the Royal Air Force in 1915 as a pilot. He attained the rank of Lt Col and Officer Commanding of 11th Army Wing within four years of service and earned the Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross. His brother John, also a pilot, was killed during the war.

Van Ryneveld and Quinton Brand were the first persons to fly from England to South Africa, and were thus pioneers in establishing an air route across the African continent. Between 4 February and 20 March 1920, they flew in a Vickers Vimy called 'Silver Queen', accompanied by a second Vimy dubbed 'Silver Queen II' and eventually arrived in South Africa in a De Havilland DH-9 aircraft called 'Voortrekker'. Both Van Ryneveld and Brand were knighted for this feat.

At the same time he was commissioned by Gen Jan Smuts to organise the establishment of the SA Air Force with Kenny van der Spuy as his deputy in 1920. Van Ryneveld was appointed as Director Air Services (today known as Chief of the Air Force) from 1920 to 1933 and with his strong personality and practical approach was instrumental in the establishment of a well-trained and equipped Air Force. He served as Director Air Services for thirteen years. Today it is common practice for the Chief of the Air Force to serve in this capacity for five years.

A true pioneer and aviator, Van Ryneveld became the first person to fly from Pretoria to Cape Town non-stop in 1927 and was also the first person in South Africa to jump out of an aircraft with a parachute.

Van Ryneveld was appointed Chief of General Staff (today known as Chief of the SANDF) in 1937 and led the SA Air Force’s war effort during World War II. He retired in May 1949.

After retirement he settled on his farm Spitzkop in the Bronkhorstspruit area. He died on 2 December 1972 at the age of 81. He had one son, John van Ryneveld (also an SA Air Force pilot).

Dedication to the cause

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Warrant Officers of the SA Army have taken upon themselves the responsibility to work for a spiritual revival among SANDF members by establishing an annual momentary church service.

The dedication service that took place on 6 May 2011 at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall has been initiated as an annual countrywide SA Army event to afford Warrant Officers an opportunity to thank their Creator for all the blessings given to them and also to receive spiritual strength.

The SA Army Signal Formation Choir along with the National Ceremonial Guard Band provided the music for the event.
The first Two Oceans Marathon was held in 1970 and saw 26 runners line up to face the unknown challenge, and only 15 finished. Since then, the race has become a national institution and a firm favourite with local, upcountry, and international athletes. The breathtaking views of both oceans, along with the spectacular stretch along Chapman's Peak, is why the Two Oceans is known as the world's most beautiful marathon.

Participants could choose between various distances - the scenic 56 km ultramarathon or popular 21 km half-marathon, 10 km and 20 km trail runs, 5 km or 2.5 km fun runs, as well as a 56 m Nappy Dash (up to age 3). Owing to the large international participation an "International Friendship Fun Run" was also presented at the V & A Waterfront in Cape Town. (These events attracted close to 27 000 participants for all the distances.)

Registration

The Expo and Registration took place at the Good Hope Centre in Cape Town. The half marathon started at 06:00 and the ultramarathon at 06:25, both in Main Road, Newlands. The cut-off time for the 21 km is 3 hours and for the 56 km 7 hours.

The latest event on 23 April 2011 represented the 42nd Two Oceans Marathon in Cape Town. This prestigious event has become a landmark on the calendar of endurance athletes, as it embodies the spirit that is emerging in our country and the DOD at this time: a spirit where the elements of togetherness, common purpose, perseverance and endurance are all complemented at the end by a sense of personal achievement and sweet fulfilment.

A great performance by DOD runners

A total of 23 064 athletes completed the 21 km and 56 km races. Altogether 206 runners from the Department of Defence completed the race (of whom 20 were women and 25 athletes of the Defence Reserves who were all from...
L Cpl Edward Sibanda was the second SANDF runner and the second overall in the Master Division.

Natal Carbineers Marathon Club).

In the 56 km race, the first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was Sgt MJ Phamola from the SANDF North West Club. His overall position out of 7 300 competitors was 76th in a time of 03:40:10 - an excellent achievement.

In the second position was L Cpl Edward Sibanda (a master) from the SANDF Limpopo Marathon Club. His overall position was 129th in a time of 03:50:40. He also took 2nd overall position in the Master Division 50 to 59 years. S Sgt Isaac Mokhobo from SANDF Free State Marathon Club was the third SANDF athlete to finish in a time of 04:05:11 and an overall 268th position.

WO2 Sandy de Beer was the first SANDF female runner.

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The first woman running for the SANDF was WO2 Sandy de Beer from SANDF KwaZulu Natal Athletic Club with a time of 04:44:42 in 837th overall position. S Sgt Sucille Pieters from SANDF Free State Marathon Club was the second woman to finish the race in a time of 05:13:34.

In the 21 km race, the first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was Capt Rupert Hendricks from the SANDF Western Province Marathon Club. His overall position out of 10 900 athletes was 254th in a time of 01:31:04. The first woman for the SANDF was WO2 Gail Jacobs also of the SANDF Western Province Marathon Club with a time of 01:45:58 in 967th overall position.

Col Zirk Lourens, PRO for the Two Oceans Marathon, completed his 12th Two Oceans at this year’s event. Col Lourens was interviewed on television before the start of the race with regard to the DOD/SANDF involvement and participation in this road race and other race fixtures held throughout the RSA. The DOD/SANDF displayed banners at the University of Cape Town in the finishing area where all SANDF athletes and their families gathered.
How strong is your faith? What will it take to make you deny your beliefs? How much pressure can your faith withstand? Will you make compromises?

The depth of our convictions often determines whether or not we are standing tall in this life. A person is measured by his or her conviction. Are you willing to stand up for what you believe in, no matter what? Can you follow through on the basic ethical tenets that govern life and your relationships with others? Or are you inclined to waver, even crack, at the slightest challenge to your beliefs?

A case in point is an edict issued by the Roman Emperor Lucinius. In the winter of 320 AD he ordered all Roman soldiers to renounce Christianity and offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods. Those who did not obey were persecuted.

When the instruction reached the Thundering Legion at Sabaste, 40 Christian legionaries refused to renounce Christ. They withstood beatings, threats and torture. They were then marched on to a frozen lake, and ordered to remove their armour and uniforms. They were to remain on the frozen lake until they either recanted their faith, or froze to death.

The legion lit a large fire on shore and prepared food to tempt the Christians to renounce their faith and make a sacrifice to the Roman gods.

The Christian legionnaires replied: “You can have our armour and even our bodies, but our hearts’ allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ.” They then began to pray: “Lord, we are forty who are engaged in this combat; grant that we may be forty crowned, and that not one be wanting to this sacred number”. They sang hymns of praise to God.

The mother of the youngest legionnaire was present, and she enticed her son to abandon his faith. He marched off the frozen lake to the officer in charge, Centurion Sempronius, and renounced his faith. He was granted permission to rejoin the legion.

Centurion Sempronius was so impressed by the conduct of the remaining 39 Christians that he confessed his faith in Jesus Christ, took off his armour and his uniform, and joined the other Christians on the frozen lake. There he prayed and sang hymns with the others.

The next morning the Forty Martyrs of Sabaste were found frozen on the ice of the lake.

Men and women who live by conviction are rapidly becoming a rare commodity in today’s society, a society that often paints such persons as bigots, even zealots for not accepting the viewpoints of others despite the fact that these viewpoints conflict with the principles they hold dear. We are rapidly becoming a society governed by compromise, as opposed to conviction.

Standing tall is fine as long as you don’t cast a shadow on another person’s space.

We live in a society that is captivated with the idea of choices. We uphold the freedom of choice. Convictions are often seen as old fashioned since they will not conform to change or compromise, and limit choice.

We need to remember that the Bible says that a double-minded person is unstable in all his ways (James 1:8). So let us be bold and courageous. Let us stand up for what is right. Let us always be ethical in our conduct. Let us hold on to our convictions! Remember, convictions are in the heart. Should they be assailed and lost, sin is apparent, not choice.

“THE MOTHER OF THE YOUNGEST LEGIONNAIRE WAS PRESENT, AND SHE ENTIRED HER SON TO ABANDON HIS FAITH.” - CENTURION SEMPRONIUS.
apt (Dr) Zakes Kagiso Motene, a medical practitioner at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, achieved a milestone when he launched a book titled “The Journey” at the SA Army Foundation Head Office in Chloorkop on 11 April 2011. The book tells the story of South African soccer’s worst sporting disaster, the death of 43 soccer fans who died in the Ellis Park Stadium ten years ago in a stampede on 11 April 2001, when Kaizer Chiefs took on Orlando Pirates in the popular Soweto derby.

Introducing the book Capt (Dr) Motene said that the book was a memorial and heartfelt tribute to the 43 soccer fans who lost their lives. On this day fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children from Gauteng and the various provinces of our country shared their passion for soccer when they viewed the game between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates.

Capt (Dr) Motene described his experience inside the tunnel at the stadium during the stampede. He said a man and a woman were pressed against his chest and he struggled to breathe as they made their way through the tunnel - many people had forced him to face the exit against the oncoming mass. He explained: “At the time I was a final-year medical student at Medunsa. The woman took her final breath as I was looking into her eyes and I saw her looking at me, probably asking me for help. I tried to wriggle my hands out to help her, but I could not and that pierced me right to the core. I saw her roll her eyes; I basically watched her die. A few minutes later, the man who was pushed up against me died too.”

After the match was stopped and help came, he realised he could move, and got to work helping to stabilise the victims and taking the injured to waiting ambulances and performing CPR.

He said: "The story of that awful night is a tragedy. What should have been a night of joy and laughter turned out to be the country’s worst sporting disaster. It affected 43 families. This is the story I felt that I owe the South African nation.”

In the years that have followed the tragedy, he has suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and survivor’s guilt, as seven people who were trapped around him lost their lives. Since the incident he has found it tough to talk about it and decided to write the book, which was published last year.

Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, the General Manager of the SA Army Foundation (middle), congratulates Capt (Dr) Zakes Kagiso Motene (left), the author of "The Journey", for a job well done in launching his book, while Mr Angel Ramphele, the Marketing Director of the SA Army Foundation, looks on.

Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, the General Manager of the SA Army Foundation, congratulated Capt (Dr) Motene and said that The Journey was a collectable book that had required intense dedication and hard work. The content reflects the success story of Capt (Dr) Motene from his humble beginnings. Maj Gen Mokoape added that it is also an amazing account of history through a young man’s eyes and a celebration of a young life, a call to activism and most of all a call for professionals to rise up and take their rightful place in society as positive role models, particularly to the youth.

Mr Angel Ramphele, the Marketing Director of the SA Army Foundation, said that the objectives set by Capt (Dr) Motene were a cause for celebration. Mr Ramphele said: “Today he has showcased his work; the SA Army Foundation wants to expose members of the SANDF, young and old, to information through reading the book as a catalyst for growth.”

He said: “We encourage members to start reading clubs at their units. Reading equips one with the skill and confidence to participate meaningfully in community life.

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Our Force, Our Pride.

SANDF: The Force That Cares.