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In this edition: On page 5 read about the cordial and excellent relationship between the South African National and Namibian Defence Forces. This relationship is enhanced by the fact that the two countries are Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states that strive for the expansion of economic prosperity and sustainable security, peace and stability in the region and on the continent.

Exercise and training are integral parts of any defence force as they promote combat readiness. It is for this reason that SA Soldier will always go the extra mile to bring news of exercises or training. After all, the core business and the constitutional mandate of the SANDF are to be ready at all times to defend the State’s sovereignty. Read about exercise and training on pages 18, 19, 20 and 21.

It is summer and with summer comes rain. The rainy season is conducive to the breeding of mosquitoes including those carrying malaria. In our regular health pages we give the dos and don’ts of staying malaria free. Read about this on page 35.

On pages 36 to 37 we sadly bid our final farewells to two former Generals of the SANDF. We send our sincere condolences to their families. Time is the only perfect healer of pain and sorrow. SA Soldier hopes this period of “darkness” does not overwhelm you, but instead encourages you to want to celebrate, honour and emulate those that we have lost. We are Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states that strive for the expansion of economic prosperity and sustainable security, peace and stability in the region and on the continent.

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On page 35 we provide information on how to stay malaria-free. It is always a pleasure and a privilege to get this opportunity to converse with you. Can you believe it’s already October, and this means that there are only two months to the end of the year. One can only hope that to some extent you have achieved what you set yourselves to achieve at the beginning of the year.

SA Soldier values you, our readers, and it is for this specific reason that we bring you news and information that is relevant and that matters to you. This has become a tradition over the years. Your reading satisfaction is what we strive on.

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This message is by Mr Eugene Muller.

It is now time. May abundant peace and health be with you.

Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Deputy Editor

in Afrikaans by Mr Eugene Muller.

it is altijd ’n pleier en ’n voorryk om die geteldheid te hê om met jou te kyk. ’n Mens kan skoon glo dit is rads. Oktober, en dit breken dan is al skyn te maande vir die einde van die jaar. Hoëlik het julle, al is dit net gedolelik, daarin geslaag om julle Nasionalevrouwevoornamers te voorverklik.

SA Soldier het waardering vir julle, ons lewens, en daarom bring ons relevante nuus en inligting van julle aan die maak. Dit is nou af ’n jaarlang tradisie. Die bereidheid van ons lewens is vir ons die grootste belang.

Lees op bl 5 van hierdie uitgawe van die hartlike en uitstekende verhouding tussen die Suid-Afrikaanse en Namibiese Weermagte. Hierdie verhouding word versterk deur die feit dat albei lande van die Suider Afrikaanse Ontwikkellende Gemeenskap is en daarom stref om ekonomiese vooruitgang en veiligheidskrag, troepe en stabiliteit in die gebed en op die oostkust uit te brei.

Oefening en opleiding is ’n integrale deel van enige oorlog oor鸡肉 omdat dit gevegs-paraatheid in die hand werk. Daarom sal SA Soldier altyd al inspan dele doen aan om nuur militêre oefeninge of opleidinge te bevorder. Dit is ons belangrikste taak en die konstitusionele mandaat van die SANW om te alle tye gereed te wees om die Staat se sekerheid en veiligheid te volbied. Leer meer oor militêre oefening en opleiding op bl 18 tot 21.

Dit is somer, en dit behoort reën. Die wetenskaplikes moet die uitbreiding van die muggelik waaronder malaria, waarin ons gewoonlik vee om die moets en die motora om malaria vry te maak. Lees hieroor op bl 35.

Op bl 36 tot 37 moet ons ongelukkige lotgenoots al om twee generale van die SANW. Ons betuig ons ongelukkige gevoel met hul gesinne. Dit is die enigste werklike genoot van punt en droefheid. SA Soldier hoop dat julle nie deur hierdie donker tijdsperk voortgesit word nie, maar dat dit julle onder al onvoordeel om die lewe wat verby is te vrees, te veral, te voel. Wys gevoel dat hulle altemat voorhoud en dat hulle al die goeie gedoen het na hul beste vermoe. In ons gemeleerde sportafdeling kan julle op bl 40 lees oor die Suid-Afrikaanse Veterane Ope Puntbal-kampioenskoepie, en op bl 42 en 43 oor die SANW Vroue Gheutfonteindragtertoernooi.

Onthou, Oktober is oogbewustheidsmaand; maak dus seker dat julle al geteens werk. Onthou altyd, oorwinning is beter as geneesing.

Tot volgende keer, mag julle veel vrede en gesondheid vervaar.

Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Adjunk-redakteur

Translated Afrikaans by Mr Eugene Muller.
The 21st century started with a redefinition of world priorities in international relations and has placed joint operability, partnership and the expansion of military-to-military cooperation at the centre stage of world affairs.

Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, invited his Namibian counterpart, Lt Gen Epaphras Ndaitwah, the Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, and his delegation to South Africa for a working visit over the period 22 to 27 August 2011. The official welcoming parade was held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria, followed by a courtesy call and a meeting with the Namibian delegation at Huvo the boardroom on 23 August 2011.

Gen Shoke warmly and wholeheartedly welcomed the Namibian delegation and described the relationship between the two countries and Defence Forces as cordial and excellent. He acknowledged that the process of building trust and respect would be a long-term endeavour and as both allies were members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member States may well provide the best of both worlds in expanding regional commonalities through their striving for economic prosperity and sustainable security, peace and stability in the region and the continent.

In his response, Lt Gen Ndaitwah mentioned that the visit served as a tremendous engagement opportunity for the two Armed Forces to develop a collective approach to national security. He acknowledged that the process of building trust and respect would be a long-term endeavour and as both allies were members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member States may well provide the best of both worlds in expanding regional commonalities through their striving for economic prosperity and sustainable security, peace and stability in the region and the continent.

On 25 August 2011, the Chief of the Namibian Defence Force and his delegation visited the SA Navy, at SAS SALDANHA. On arrival they were welcomed by the Officer Commanding of SAS SALDANHA, Capt (SAN) Vees Pillay. While touring the unit, Lt Gen Ndaitwah was informed about the National Youth Service Programme and was quite pleased to learn about the programme that paved the way for youth development in multi-disciplinary skills, and he got to speak to a few of the learners. He asked learners what they wanted to gain from the programme. One learner said: “On completion of my training I will go home and give back to my community by proving community service in various ways and I’ll help impart the skills that I was taught to the youth of my community to help bridge the poverty gap”.

On completion of his tour, Lt Gen Ndaitwah and Capt (SAN) Pillay exchanged gifts. Capt (SAN) Pillay expressed his gratitude that the Chief of the Namibian Defence Force had come to visit SAS SALDANHA.
WILL TO CONQUER

Although involved in a car accident that caused permanent injuries and rendered him incapable of performing his daily task as a driver, Pte Ishmael Tshipuke proved many people wrong by not using his disability as an excuse. Even though he is a person with disabilities, he is still a disciplined soldier who obeys orders without questioning them.

His disability opened doors for him as he is a member of Wheelchair Tennis SA (WTSA). Currently Pte Tshipuke is a member of WTSA at the University of Venda. His disability does not preclude him from making meaningful and sound contributions to the Pfulufelo School for the Handicapped (which has been adopted by 15 SA Infantry Battalion) where he coaches wheelchair tennis. Apart from acquiring SA National Colours in wheelchair tennis, his cabinet is full of medals and trophies. As I am writing this letter, it is my wish and that of Pte Tshipuke’s that this sport be recognised in the DOD. I would also like the Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation to look at the possibility of introducing wheelchair tennis into the SANDF so that people like Pte Tshipuke can come to the fore and compete with the rest of the world.

Lastly, I would like to invite all SANDF members with disabilities to sign up with their different military sports clubs in each province, so that one day we can have a wheelchair tennis championship in the SANDF. Capt G.M. Efala, 15 SAI Bn

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

Do I really need to further my studies? Why bother, I could just attend military courses and pursue my military career. There are still opportunities around: I could one day become WO or Col, but hey flash back to the days you had a dream goal to catch. It’s never too late, the DOD is a stepping stone to reach out to your dream. The DOD is there to help you financially and again you have a choice either to study at State expense or at your own.

You had the strength and courage to stand basic military training and other training; you were in and out of operations and missions, you brought peace and protected lives. You can still make a huge difference in your own life. That certificate, diploma or degree will definitely make your dream come true.

Your destiny is in your hands; do not hold yourself back as you vowed in the code of conduct that you would strive to improve the capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, developing skills and knowledge and performing your duties diligently and professionally, so come on, develop that skill and knowledge; there is a unique potential in you that the world is waiting for. Go get it, make yourself proud for others to be proud of you, because education is the mother of all success; be a shining star among shining stars. Pte D.E. Mokwena, Lwamondo

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor.
CONGRATULATIONS ON 10 MEANINGFUL YEARS

My heartfelt and profound congratulations to everyone who has done the hard work of keeping SA Soldier going, month after month and year after year for 10 meaningful years.

As a retired member of the SA Navy and former Corporate Communication Officer for Naval Base and Naval Station Durban, I convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to you and your strong team of seasoned (photo)journalists.

My submission of articles and photos from Durban was timeously published to ensure that the SA Navy in Durban was well covered within the Department of Defence. When I was deployed to Europe and South America with the SA Navy ships, SA Soldier ensured that those major exercises and deployments featured prominently in the magazine.

I remember the jubilation we shared when it was announced at the GCIS Government Communications Awards Ceremony at Gallagher Estate that SA Soldier was the Government Communicator of the Year for 2005. In the space of only four years the magazine received this unique award.

I used to courier photographs to your office in Pretoria in the absence of email, wondering if it would be published. Nelda, you never disappointed Durban. Thank you.

Wishing the team at SA Soldier every success in all your endeavours and may your magazine grow from strength to strength.

WO1 Manny Gounden (Ret)

INTRODUCING LEARNERS TO THE MILITARY

The Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape co-ordinated a visit from 22 learners from the Alta du Toit School for learners with special educational needs and intellectual disabilities in Kuilsrivier. The children visited 9 SA Infantry Battalion (9 SAI Bn) and Monkey Town.

Col Bayanda Mkula, the Officer Commanding of Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape (J Tac HQ WC) welcomed the children on their arrival at 9 SAI Bn. The learners were introduced to the military with a static exhibition of Infantry weaponry. They enjoyed the drill display and were eager to return the salute to the participating soldiers. They received a poncho as the Cape was true to the winter season, but the rainy weather could not dampen their enthusiasm. They enjoyed the hands-on experience and eagerly posed for an individual photo with a weapon and the appropriate camouflage stripes on the face.

Monkey Town in Somerset West sponsored the group’s free tour of their facilities. Not only the children, but also the liaison officers learned more about these animals. The day ended with the children enjoying their food parcels sponsored by Silvermine Wardroom and 9 SAI Bn. This was truly a heart-warming experience for all who attended. 12-year-old Stephan (his life expectancy is 14 years) told the soldiers that his life’s dream had come true - visiting the SA Army. The Alta du Toit School opened its doors for the first time on 14 July 1964 with 20 learners. Since then it has developed and grown to become a proud institution. The impressive building complex in Piet Fransman Street in Kuilsrivier was inaugurated on 4 November 1981. There are 361 learners between the ages of 6 and 18 years. All the learners of Alta du Toit are intellectually disabled. There are various causes, e.g. complications at birth, injuries to the brain, abnormalities of the brain, the skull or the central nervous system, and genetic disorders. To date medical practitioners have identified 34 different genetic disorders, of which Down’s Syndrome is but one.

Ms Nelda Pienaar, Editor of SA Soldier, and WO1 Manny Gounden (Ret), former PRO Naval Station Durban, at the 10th anniversary celebrations of SA Soldier on 30 September 2011.

Front row: Emile Barnard (9) and Jessica Vrolik (12). Second row: Stephan Hartman (12), Mariette Thomas (16) and Damain Gowar (12). Third row: Alexander Gatteyn (14), Johanna de Waal (14), Saritha Lellie (13), Dieter Richter (15) and Renitia Meyer (13). Back row: Capt Collin Matlila (J Tac HQ WC), Lt Col Jammies de Kock (J Tac HQ WC), L Cpl S.F. Melaphi (9 SAI Bn) and WO1 Jumbo Williams (9 SAI Bn).
On 5 August 2011 the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Western Cape (ASB WC), Col J.P.M. Kobbie, showed his commitment to creating a working environment free of risks and hazards that are a potential threat to the health and safety of unit members and visitors, by signing the ASB WC Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement in front of unit members. The ASB WC Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement was read by CPO D.A. Bruce where after it was signed by the Officer Commanding. It was well received by the unit members.

What makes this such a significant day is that this is a first for the SA Army and most probably a first for the SANDF in that the Officer Commanding of a unit has signed an Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement in front of unit members to show his commitment.

The ASB WC Policy Statement reads:

ASB WC recognises that it has an impact on the safety and health of its members.

ASB WC will identify health and safety hazards and reduce risks to members and other persons associated with all our business activities.

ASB WC commits itself to applying best practices in health and safety management and has the following objectives:

- To ensure compliance, where reasonably practicable, with all local and national laws, regulations and standards applicable to its core business.
- To set specific objectives for managing health and safety.
- To monitor and report on health and safety objectives by including health and safety targets in key performance indicators.
- To review health and safety targets quarterly to ensure appropriateness and enable continuous improvement.
- To document, implement and maintain this policy and ensure that it is communicated to all members with the intention to make members aware of their individual health and safety responsibilities.
- To make this policy available to interested and affected parties by displaying it publicly in key areas.
- To report on health and safety matters on a monthly basis.
- To review this policy annually to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate to ASB WC.

The proceedings ended with a speech by Col Kobbie. He said, among other things: "The policy statement will be displayed in key areas for all to see, and together we as unit members can strive towards creating a safer and healthier workplace. The statement is so appropriate as it coincides with the unit slogan - Support Service Excellence". CPO Bruce, ASB Western Cape

CHIEF SA NAVY'S SECRETARIES DAY LUNCHEON

It is a proven fact that secretaries are one of the most influential figures behind many successful leaders and are often the backbone of their decisions. Their dedication and attention to detail is often the fine line between success and failure. That is why Administrative Professional Day, better known as Secretaries Day, was conceptualised in the United States in 1952. The idea was established in order to pay homage to the amazing efforts of secretaries and administrative professionals in contributing to the workplace.

In time Secretaries Day has grown to become one of the largest workplace observances in the world. The event is recognised worldwide through community events, social gatherings and individual corporate activities, including giving gifts to support staff.

Such an occasion took place in the SA Navy when the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, decided to honour the backbone of Navy Headquarters by hosting a Secretaries Day Luncheon at the Naval Mess in Pretoria on 7 September 2011. The occasion involved 13 secretaries who took time out from their busy schedule to be in the limelight for a change and let themselves be pampered.

The Chief of the SA Navy had these words of praise for the individuals: "It is a privilege for me to honour you as vital members of our organisation because through your selfless dedication and hard work the organisation continues to prosper. The value you add ensures that we meet our mandate of being a winning nation".

In the end the day went a long way towards solidifying the bonds the organisation shared with its gatekeepers and the remarkable contribution they bring to the SA Navy. LS N.C. Zulu, Pretoria

Secretaries display special inscriptions with their names.
COVERING ALL SECURITY ASPECTS

The Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape with Joint Operational Headquarters, consisting mainly of SANDF and South African Police Service (SAPS) Western Cape members were tasked to plan and prepare for the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) at the Military Academy in Saldanha from 27 June to 2 July 2011.

The objective was to ensure that all security aspects were covered, including medical support for over 60 local and international delegates from almost all defence forces to be transported from Cape Town International Airport to Saldanha. The Venue Operational Centres (VOC 1 and VOC 2) were activated to perform 24-hour security, manned by 14 members from the Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape. All the security elements and the delegates gathered at the Military Academy for the official opening of the SWIRMO seminar. The highlight was the welcoming of the then Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen D.M. Mgwewi, by Lt Col W. Mda, SO1 Ops Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape. He ordered the group to salute in honour of Lt Gen Mgwewi, who was invited to open the SWIRMO 2011. For us it was also an opportunity to chat and rub shoulders with the worldwide senior military officer establishment as we manned the joint operational centre (JOC) at the Military Academy.

On 29 June 2011 we witnessed a breathtaking demonstration by 4 Special Forces on hostage taking and release. Afterwards, the Silver Falcons from the AFB Langebaanweg entertained the delegates and viewers with their aerobic display. During working hours and after-hours mobile VOC’s were activated to ensure safety and security, including medical support. A correct reporting procedure was followed both before and after delegates retired to their respective residences. The members were also proud to notice that most of the delegates to the JOC used our maps for orientation. This shows the importance of map-reading by the soldiers. The seminar was closed on Saturday, 2 July 2011, and all the delegates departed for their respective countries. Maj S.A. Kese, SO2 Monitor and Control of Joint Tactical HQ Western Cape

A BIT OF DOWN TIME FOR OUR LADIES

Outside it was a wet and chilly day, but inside the Old Mutual Building in Pinelands women were socialising over a steamy cup of coffee or tea while having hand massages from Sh’zen. Fifty ladies from all Services exchanged their uniforms and office outfits for more casual clothes at the Ladies Workshop held on 4 August 2011. It was organised and initiated by Maj Rene Vollgraaff, the Employment Services Liaison Officer from the Regional Works Unit Western Cape.

The workshop ran in conjunction with the celebration of Women’s Month aimed at celebrating womanhood and at inspiring and instilling self-pride among women. The workshop was opened by the Acting Officer Commanding Regional Works Unit Western Cape, Capt (SAN) Fred Hans. Topics ranged from financial advice on budget management by Capitec and Sh’zen to explain how to start a small business to nutritional facts by Sasko.

While some lucky ladies disappeared backstage for a make-up and hair make-over from Retro Style Lounge, others remained for a complete facial demonstration on stage from Salon Care. A couple of hours later, the make-up winners appeared backstage one by one. The audience clapped and cheered while others stared in amazement at the beautiful make-up techniques and hairstyles that gave each individual model a distinct look and feel.

A saxophone player, “Mario”, helped to create the mood with light music in the background during a delicious light finger lunch in the foyer. Throughout the day, the ladies were pleasantly surprised by spot prizes and wandered through the exhibitions to view, test, make purchases and ask advice on beauty products and to fit on Honey customised jewellery. The day ended with fruity wine tasting from the wine cellars of Avondale and Dimersdal in the foyer, while Fish Eagle demonstrated how to make lovely brandy cocktails for when one had to entertain. Each lady received a goodie bag filled with gifts from the main sponsor, Old Mutual, and other sponsors to allow the ladies to continue pampering themselves at home. CPO Doreen Oosthuizen
WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATIONS

“Wa thinta Abafazi Wa thinta Imbokodo” (meaning: if you strike a woman you strike a rock) was the war cry of Brig Gen Bobelo, Chief of Staff Joint Operations, during Women’s Day celebrations in Munigi Base in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on 24 August 2011. So beautiful were our deployed ladies on the day that the National Contingent Commander, Col R.A. Makgae, had to acknowledge the beauty of our “flowers”.

Brig Gen Bobelo emphasised the importance of self-discipline of our ladies, while Col K.I. Goboza, SSO BOI and Investigation, Joint Ops, complemented her on the importance of doing away with the barriers that separate the Tsongas from the Xhosas, the Vendas from the Zulus and the Pedis from the Tswanas. Col Goboza said: “Let us focus on being African women and South African women, in particular, rather than be locked in the old chains that turned us into enemies of one another.”

The day was celebrated at Ihusi Hotel in Goma just a stone’s throw away from the Rwandan border with the DRC. Lt M.E. Semono, 4 SAI Bn.

A DAY ON PATROL

“Countries do not decay overnight; they do so over decades. Once the tipping point has been reached, there is no turning back.”

“The land belongs to the millions of people who are dead, few are living, and billions more are yet to be born.” “Squatters and beggars in your home country.” Contradictory statements? Well, believe it anyway you see fit. Those of us who have been to the corners of the Continent for peacekeeping purposes can boldly attest to these sayings of some African intellectuals who in their wisdom uttered the above statements. In the DRC, during Operation MISTRAL XVII, B-Company in Pinga must escort the locals to the market in Kalembe every Tuesday and Friday. Bravo Company escorts the locals (Congolese) up to Mindjendje Bridge, 21 km away, where Alpha Company based in Kalembe escorts them further towards Kalembe and surroundings, that is another 14 km. This is necessary because of the dangers posed by armed groups. So bad are the roads here that now and then you will need someone to direct the driver because of the condition of the roads.

On 16 September 2011 I, in my capacity as Ops Battalion Public Information Officer, went on this type of mission with Platoon 1 of Bravo Company under the command of Lt Adendorff. Asked why we had to walk the whole 21 km on foot, even though we as the United Nations’ personnel had our vehicles with us, Lt Adendorff said: “No, Semono, these people are Africans just like you and me. We have to identify with them so that they can understand when we say we are here for them and nothing else. We sacrifice our today for their tomorrow.” I was dumbstruck by that answer. What more could I have said? Honestly, o nswaletse molomo. Nkabe ke rogile bommago … Ever heard the saying: “A real friend is the one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out?”

From the Mindjendje Bridge the locals were escorted by Platoon 2 of Alpha Company, under the command of Sgt Thabethe, to Kalembe and sur-

Lt Adendorff (without a bullet-proof jacket) with some of the members of 4 SA Infantry Battalion Bravo Company Platoon 1.
**WELL DONE LION OF THE NORTH**

We did it fellow soldiers. From day one when we arrived in Sudan the Sudanese people felt our presence. Lt C.L. Singo (Moruti) said that’s where we started our tow of duty.

Initially we were motivated internally by our commanders who knew that we were here to work, and not for a vacation. As the Lion of the North we did it. As a Military Skills Development System (MSDS) member, part of the first intake to train in 15 SAI Bn, I am proud to say I am what I am because of you commanders. Through all the challenges we faced it was our first deployment. You motivated us to stay focused and yes, we did.

All the visitors from around the world, your words to us were words of wisdom. You have shown us the way of life, my commander at Malha Base, Maj B.M. Malamula. It was nice working with you. Sergeant Major Modau, you have been sitting on our heads since day one of our duty, all the best for your future. Working under you was a lifetime experience; thanks for that. 21 Platoon Commander, Lt K.P. Boshielo, you have been a father and a commander since I joined this organisation; thank you for that. I can say you are my role model in this organisation. Keep well and keep up the good work. 21 Fox Cpl Moshweu, if it was not for you with your support and words of encouragement, I do not think I would have made it.

All platoon members and company members you have played your part in this deployment. Now it is time to be proud of ourselves. I say, let us go home and be with our families, and remember to enjoy that. Now 9 SAI Bn do your duty and keep up the standards and discipline of the National Defence Force. Now it is my turn to sing … I am coming home. Tell the world I am coming home!

Pte Lobert Mmaphuti, Tuba: Malha Base, Sudan

**COMBAT READINESS**

Do South African soldiers have what it takes against the armed groups in the Sudan? Do our platoon weapons compare with the weapons displayed by the soldiers of the Sudan and other parties in conflict? WO2 A. Mudau, CSM 15 SAI Bn, Bravo Company, Sudan

**Ladies from 4 SAI Bn on deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo celebrating Women’s Day.**

**Locals are escorted to the markets at Kalembe by Bravo Company from Pinga every Tuesday.**
At least 40 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Defence Attachés (DA’s) from various diplomatic missions across the world converged on Pretoria for the fourth annual Defence Attachés Conference, which was organised by the Directorate Foreign Relations and held from 14 to 16 September 2011.

The main aim of the event was to help the attachés to map their way forward and to obtain further guidelines in relation to their daily tasks in their respective countries of deployment.

Representing the Chief of the SANDF at the opening of the conference, Lt Gen Abel Shilubane, the Chief Defence Intelligence, said the platform would play an important role in interacting and sharing information with each other.

Lt Gen Shilubane said: “The symposium provides the stage to equip and give guidelines on the present position of the SANDF with regard to the country’s diplomatic policy. It will also help the resident attachés to strengthen military to military relations all over the world. As SANDF management we will forever acknowledge the efforts undertaken by various DA’s in peace support operations and should make it a point that the SANDF’s contribution is visible. The DA’s should also help to convey Africa’s message that it is not a playground for conflicts and it is very capable of solving its own internal problems and as such, also demands a platform to solve its own problems. All of you gathered here today have been thoroughly trained and should aspire to keep us abreast of the latest developments in those countries, but most importantly remember your patriotism, loyalty, responsibility and accountability to your defence force and the country.”

Various speakers were invited to present
their observations and their current projects. Among those invited to make presentations was Brig Gen Marthie Visser, Director Corporate Communication, responsible for providing the communication function of the Department of Defence (DOD) and the SANDF to both internal and external stakeholders, through press releases, collating of news clippings and by publishing information on matters relating to the DOD/SANDF. Her directorate is also responsible for promoting the image of the two institutions through interaction with the media and by publishing an internal magazine and disseminating of information through the on-line publication of bulletins.

Brig Gen Visser requested the DA’s to provide her with their concerns and suggestions so that she and her team could work to improve on their function by providing effective communication to the outside missions.

Another important presentation was by Health Intelligence, which provided clients with accurate and relevant health intelligence for proper decision-making. According to the presentation tabled at the event, the Health Intelligence personnel go out and conduct proper research in areas of deployment to identify health threats to own forces and predict threats to the health system. Its members also study humanitarian issues such as the impact of disasters on affected regions to provide appropriate recommendations to the decision-makers.

Members of the Defence Industry were also invited to present their latest military hardware with a view to marketing their products through the DA’s deployed to international missions. Among those industries were Pamodzi Aviation, Paramount Group, AMD, BAE Systems, Land Systems, Aerosud, Saab SA, Tellumat, OTT, Reutech, Armscor, ATE and Denel.

Delivering his closing remarks on the last day of the conference, Maj Gen Mofokeng expressed his appreciation of the members’ efforts to enhance the SANDF’s image in their respective deployments.

Maj Gen Mofokeng said: “The country and the SANDF in particular are immensely proud of the good work in your respective missions despite challenges expressed during the occasion. The SANDF management has selected you to reflect and represent the Commander-in-Chief and become the eyes and the ears of the country in those nations. It is also expected of you make friends and promote the image of the republic and the capabilities of our local defence industries to the deployed countries. It is anticipated that from here on you’ll be able to put all the information gathered during the last three days into practice.”

Col Sipiwo Dlomo, Military Adviser Permanent Mission South Africa to the United Nations, thanked the Defence Foreign Relations Directorate for organising the event and for the guidance received from various speakers. Col Dlomo hoped that his colleagues had gained valuable information from the conference and encouraged them to keep asking probing questions in order to learn more about diplomacy.
The DOD Human Resource Development conference

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Mr Frans Setlau

On 1 July 2011, the Chief Director Human Resources Development, Maj Gen Molefi Mokoena, hosted the DOD Human Resources Development (HRD) conference at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Conference Centre in Pretoria. The conference was attended by DOD Senior Officials (uniformed and civilian functionaries) and the Human Resource (HR) Partners and associates ranging from government, academics, civil society and the private sector to engage in collective dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking with special reference to HR governance issues.

This was a productive conference that provided a platform to launch the HRD Strategy, share lessons, challenges and successes and also keep the HR professionals up to date with the latest developments in the field and keep the momentum going to deliver the HRD strategy for the benefit of the organisation’s greatest resource - its people.

"Making our Elephant Dance" was the theme of the conference. This theme was adopted from the Public Service’s Trainers Forum 2010, the conference and is based on the premise of James A. Belasco that to effect change in a large organisation is comparable to teaching an elephant to dance.

Brig Gen Petra Mari, the Director ETD Systems Integrity, mentioned the importance of organisational change that would result in effective service delivery by means of the Education Training and Development (ETD) process together with a sustained will to perform. She highlighted three prerequisites for the change, namely visionary strategies, empowered people, and focused resources.

The conference did not only dwell on challenges and what needed to be done, but also highlighted the inroads that have been made to bolster what President Jacob Zuma has called for, namely striving for superior outcomes. ETD is conducted with modern methodologies, approaches and best practice. In conjunction with institutions such as Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA), the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), Quality Council for Trades and Occupation (QCTO) and Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) that support the Defence Mandate.

As major developments continue to unfold in the Human Resources profession influencing HR Practices, various experts in the domain of HRD participated by making presentations. Topics such as the Government perspective on HRD, DOD Human Resources Imperatives, the Interrelationship of Human Resources Management and Human Resources Development, the relationship between Human Resources Development and ETD, the New National ETD Landscape: Perspectives from South African Qualifications Authority, Quality Council for Trades and Occupation and Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority, DOD HRD Strategy, and the eManagement System were discussed.
Advocate Nandi Ntsaluba, the Director Defence Strategy and Plan, provided the departmental imperatives and context for HRD and said that a strategy to develop a reliable, high quality, right quantity and dependable human capital base requires attention. This entailed, amongst others, succession planning and developing think-tanks for long-term sustainability. She mentioned that the creation of a learning organisation requires that one should focus on human as well as on infrastructure and organisational capital.

Mr Oliver Seale, the Deputy Director General Training Delivery from the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA), said that the role of HR must not only be seen as an administrative or support function within the organisation, but that it was in the heartbeat of an organisation.

He added that in the pursuit of President Jacob Zuma’s vision of a new public service cadre, leadership in the Public Sector was about service and commitment and there was an increasing trend towards exploring and discovering new skills through research, coaching and refinement of values in a manner that permanently propelled the nation into a greater development trajectory.

Dr Marius Meyer, the Chief Executive Officer of the SA Board of People Practices, Human Resources governance was an opportunity to use resources to the benefit of HR Practitioners.

During the second session of the conference Brig Gen (Dr) Annemarie van der Walt, the Director Education Training and Development describes the DOD’s HRD strategy, complemented by presentations on the implementation imperatives of Information Technology Support for the proposed e-learning strategy.

Dr Caren Scheepers, a consulting psychologist of People Dynamic Development emphasised that when implementing the Human Resource Development Strategy, DOD leaders could apply lessons from an analogy of the African elephant concerning purpose, processes and connections. She mentioned that the elephant’s main purpose was to survive and sustain the species, and communal defense of vulnerable calves was one of the main reasons for elephants living in groups. “Change leaders have to be inspired to be an inspiration to others. True leaders are good managers who also ensure that feedback is regular and balanced. True leaders adopt to new roles with awareness. Change leadership improves through continuous learning,” she said.

At the closing of the conference, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, said that the strategic intent of government and the DOD was based on the principle of service to the nation, taking into account the mission, vision and mandate of the Government. This was articulated by both our Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma, and our Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, on a number of occasions.

He said that through the Human Resource Development (HRD) conference the work and deliverables of our department were being improved and we could our HR to assist government in its priorities to create a skilled workforce that responded to the needs of the economy.
Approximately 30 members of the Military Attachés and Advisory Corps (MAAC) undertook a study trip to the Western Cape from 4 to 10 August 2011 to learn more about the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) training institutions and the cooperation it enjoys with the South African Defence Industry (SADI) companies in Cape Town.

The event, which was organised by the Chief Defence Foreign Relations, was aimed at familiarising the MAAC members based in the country with the SANDF recruitment processes, training methods and the working relationship between the different Services and the local defence industry.

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"In this room we study the propagation of sound in water and the interaction of the mechanical waves that constitute sound in the water. The software before you contains almost live recordings. It is effective for spectrum analysis and provides the background noise for the simulator programme. The recordings are done through the deployment of the hydrophones that can record objects from far away. The symphony of sounds that come here will include that of boat traffic, marine mammals, fishes as well as military surveillance operations that use sonar (sound navigation and ranging)," Coley said.

The event, which was organised by the Chief Defence Foreign Relations, was aimed at familiarising the MAAC members based in the country with the SANDF recruitment processes, training methods and the working relationship between the different Services and the local defence industry.

The Denel Overberg Test Range was the next stop where military equipment manufactured by the company would be tested to ensure its safety to the end user as well as its conformity with industry standards.

Among the tests conducted at the OTR,
During their visit to the ARMSCOR Simon's Town Naval Dockyard, Mr Nigel Coley, Underwater Acoustic Specialist, (extreme left) gives his presentation to the MAAC group about the underwater acoustics software during their visit to the ARMSCOR Simon's Town Naval Dockyard.

aircraft flight testing, air to air, air to surface, surface to air (land & sea), Surface to surface and satellite launch support.

Different presentations were made to the group to introduce them to various instruments in the OTR facilities. They were next taken on a tour to various installations within the area, including 43 000 Ha site with 70 km of coastline, with limited interference from air/sea traffic and low electromagnetic interference to enable tests to be conducted in a suitable environment.

The delegation proceeded to the Central Flying School, Langebaanweg, to learn the process of teaching student pilots basic flying skills.

Presentations were made to the delegation about the transformation of a recruit into to a world-class military pilot.

According to Lt Col Gerrie Pretorius, Chief Flying Instructor at 85 Combat Flying School, it takes approximately three years and six months to for a person to become a pilot.

"The incumbent needs to have passed matric with very good pass in maths, science and English. He/she should weigh between 50kg to 100kg and be between 18 and 22 years old. The person will undergo a series of tests and once the criterion is fulfilled, he/she will undergo Basic Military Training followed by Officers formative course. The person will proceed to the Military Academy where he/she will learn the Aeronautical Science modules and will need to pass a series of examinations to qualify. He/she will then come back to the school for flight training on the Pilatus PC 7 Mk II. It will be up to the individual if he/she needs to upgrade, and depending on type of the aircraft required, the person will be helped and channelled to the squadron of the aircraft of his/her choice," Lt Col Pretorius said.

The group proceeded to the SAS Saldanha, the training centre for the SA Navy where they were introduced to the culture of the SA Navy. A proud SAS Saldanha Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Valason Pillay, told the MAAC members that the success of the SA Navy was due to the commitment shown by the recruits when undergoing their BMT, as they were instilled with basic life and leadership skills, and taught them discipline/patriotism and a sense of pride in wearing their uniforms as well to take ownership of whatever they did.

The next stop was the Military Academy, in particular the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University based in Saldanha. The academy is a training institution for the SANDF and provides undergraduate university education and professional military development for career orientated male and female officers. Officers from all four Services descend on the institution to learn various disciplines and to obtain their three-year Military Science degree on completion of their studies. This provides the Defence Force with an opportunity to cope with a fast, changing environment and to meet the demands of the future.

During his presentation, Brig Gen Lindile Yam, Commandant of the Military Academy, shared the rich history of the institution and the programmes that the academy was offering, as well as their relevance in the current global security trend. The group was also taken on a tour of the unit. They were impressed with the historic buildings used to accommodate the first female student groups in 1978.

"This week-long trip has hopefully unlocked your horizons to get a deeper understanding of the cordial relationship the SANDF and the DOD have with the local defence industry. I am also of the view that what you have learned on this trip you will be able to share with your defence forces, and hopefully you will use the experience to benchmark some of your projects in your respective countries. We can recall that last year we hosted a successful FIFA Soccer World Cup, and millions of our countrymen welcomed visitors from all corners of the globe. The SANDF played a huge role in providing a much needed security on land, air and sea. It was through cooperation with the defence industry that we managed to execute the mandate with aplomb. The SANDF also prides itself peacekeeping operations on the continent to stabilise troubled regions and would continue to foster relations with foreign military forces," said Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, Chief Defence Foreign Relations delivering his address on the success of the tour.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, the Nigerian Defence Adviser, Commodore Jacob Ajani, and the dean of the MAAC appreciated the DFR efforts to bring the group for a learning experience in a relaxed atmosphere. Commodore Ajani said he was hopeful that after this trip, the MAAC members would develop a clear understanding of the diversity of the country.
The second Combined Joint African Exercise 2011

Gaining a better understanding of the challenges involved in planning and co-ordinating complex, multinational peace support operations.

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The South African National War College (SANWC) in Pretoria conducted the second Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX) 2011 from 03 to 09 September 2011. This was in line with our Government’s commitment to greater integration within the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the SANDF’s mandate to create a better South Africa, a better SADC region and safer continent.

The aim of the exercise was to develop a greater understanding of the joint, multinational and interagency environment amongst SADC countries in order to promote a better understanding of the challenges involved in planning and co-ordinating complex, multinational peace support operations (PSO). The exercise also served to exchange ideas and concepts between SADC future Operational Commanders and Operational Staff Officers.

The exercise encouraged all regional role-players, military security sector reform, police, corrections officers and civilian agencies to think beyond the immediate, and to reach towards the challenges of the 21st century in order to understand the current African threat scenario.

In line with present-day multidimensional peace support operations, is the transformation from military-to-civilian-focused peace missions. This change has come about as mandates shifted from monitoring military ceasefires to supporting the implementation of comprehensive peace agreements. As missions becomes more peace-building orientated, the role of civilians become more central, and the number of civilians has shifted from a peripheral support role to the core of contemporary peacekeeping and peace-building missions.

Participating members from the SADC Defence Staff Colleges, SA Police Service (SAPS) and Department of Correctional Services attending the Combined Joint African Exercise 2011 at the SA National War College in Pretoria.
Briefing *SA Soldier* on the exercise, Col Edward Ramabu, the Senior Directing Staff and co-ordinator of CJAX 2011, mentioned that exercise CJAX was a pilot project within the SADC, was being undertaken on behalf of the African Union and the African Conference of Commandants. He pointed that learners from the SA National War College, Botswana Staff College, The Namibian Military School and the Zambian Staff College would be taking part, with each college exchanging students and instructors with other partner countries.

"This serves to exchange ideas and concepts between the SADC Command and Staff Colleges and other attending role-players or observers within the peace support environment, and forges the critically important professional and social link between attendees. The exercise is to profile on Military Operations Other Than War and will have a positive effect on the operational capability of the African Standby Force, SADC Brigade," said Col Ramabu.

He concluded that in a powerful display of regional solidarity, we ushered in what was hopefully a new approach of including the Department of Correctional Services and the SA Police Service (SAPS), which showed a renewed willingness to approach issues of concern with a united voice.

Lt Col Alex Murray, the embedded UK Officer in the SA National War College and part of the British Peace Support Team (South Africa) said that the exercise was designed to test the skills of senior military learners in planning a complex peace support operation and develop wider knowledge of the challenges facing military personnel in working with civilian agencies and police personnel. In conclusion he said that the process of peace operations had gradually shifted from peacekeeping to peace-building. Peace-building refers to a process that facilitates the establishment of a durable peace. It tries to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing the root causes and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building, and political and economic transformation.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Col Keabetswe Sethlane from SAPS Divisional Training, said that the increasing complexity of the environment in which peacekeeping operations were deployed had created the need for constant co-operation between police and correction officers and local communities.

Police and Correction Officers are not at the tail-end; their presence is necessary to support the resumption of responsibili-ties and to continue to help guarantee public security. The other role is to strengthen engagement with various actors, such as the justice and security sectors and civil affairs components to support restoration and extension of state authority.

The Deputy Director of the Department of Correctional Services Bilateral and Multilateral Relations, Mr Nomatamsanqa Sopazi said that criminality was one of the major problems today in war-torn societies, the sexual exploitation of women and children was overwhelming, and sexual abuse was the most frequent crime. Women who are sexually abused will often be deserted by their men and the family, and the cornerstone of society thus disintegrates. Violence and abuse therefore continue to be a serious problem for the victims and society at large and a number of challenges remain unaddressed.

Our presence provides victims with a special recourse to justice and means they need not be subjected to further victimisation. This will assist in bolstering the justice and security sector and support the development of social conditions conducive to sustainable peace that will build on the gains made in continuing along the path towards peace and prosperity.
SADC Air Forces converge for Exercise BLUE CLUSTER

**By Kgabo Mashamaite**  
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Approximately 146 personnel together with their respective Chiefs of the Southern African Development Countries (SADC) air forces assembled at the Air Force Bases Hoedspruit and Makhado in Limpopo for a third air component exercise, Exercise BLUE CLUSTER, a joint simulated humanitarian relief exercise over the period 20 to 28 August 2011.

The aim of the biannual event was, to among others, to develop and improve regional co-operation in the field of humanitarian support operations among all SADC air forces.

According to the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the multinational relief event came after a decision by the SADC’s Standing Aviation Committee (SAC) meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, early last year, where the need to strengthen regional humanitarian support operations was explored.

“During the meeting in which South Africa volunteered as the Lead Nation for this event, it was decided that the region should come up with a comprehensive strategy through Exercise BLUE CLUSTER to deal with natural disasters such as famine and flooding and, as such, the involvement of all air forces of the SADC countries would afford us an opportunity to work together and share valuable information to deal with such occurrence.” Lt Gen Gagiano said.

Lt Gen Gagiano was optimistic that the event would present the region with an opportunity to respond to catastrophic situations and act quickly to save lives.

Maj Gen Placid Segokgo, Botswana Air Arm Commander, said that the humanitarian exercise had served to remove elements of mistrust among the nations through team-work.

“From what we have learned here we will be able to respond as a team to any disaster, even if it were to occur tomorrow. While the impact of natural disasters differs and can stretch our resources and require us to call for outside assistance, I am confident that we can provide greatly needed help to our people”, Maj Gen Segokgo said.

The Angolan Air Force Commander, Gen Francisco Lopes Conçalves Alfonso, said the exercise was a perfect platform to rehearse how SADC air forces would respond to various types of natural disasters. Gen Conçalves Alfonso hoped that future exercises would include real-life elements and rural areas that were inaccessible, so that helicopters would transport boxes of relief aid and rescue such as extracting stranded villagers.

Among the nations that contributed to the simulated human relief exercise on the borders of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana were:

**South Africa:**  
Two Gripen fighter jets  
Two Hawk led-in fighter jets  
One C130 BZ Hercules Medium Transport Aircraft  
Two CASA 212 Light Transport Aircraft  
One C47T Dakota Maritime Aircraft  
Three C208 Cessna Caravan Aircraft  
Four Oryx helicopters  
One Sector Control Centre  
Five Static Radars

**Botswana:**  
Two AS350 helicopters  
One B412 helicopter  
Two BN2B Islander  
One CASA 212

**Angola:**  
One ILyushin 76 (IL 76) TD Medium Range Transport Aircraft

**Zimbabwe:**  
One AB412 helicopter  
Two K-8 Jet Fighters  
One CASA
new generation of soldiers has been trained for a new generation of warfare. Gone are the days of conventional rural warfare. Troops from 1 Parachute Battalion, 21 SA Infantry Battalion and Rand Light Infantry (Reserve Unit) went through their paces at Deelkraal Mine near Carletonville to embark on FIBUA training. An urban warfare training exercise open day was conducted on 17 August 2011.

The exercise was physical. Troops were taught how to enter houses and clear them, fast-roping onto buildings, weapons handling in an urban environment, how to fight street by street and how to use support weapons such as mortars to deal with snipers and neutralise ambushes.

Fighting in built up areas (FIBUA) is a specialised infantry capability, and is part of Infantry doctrine. This capability is required in all types of warfare whether one is deployed in support to the South African Police Service (SAPS) or in peace support operations. The requirement for this capability is becoming ever more important in the deployment of Infanteers in urban areas at home or abroad.

FIBUA training includes house clearing, foot and vehicle patrols and the safeguarding of builtup areas. This training was presented earlier this year to the Infantry Specialist unit in Cape Town and at Deelkraal Mine.

South African troops are now fast learning what tens of thousands of soldiers across the world are enduring every day as they fight against enemies in pitted street battles, dealing with improvised explosive devices, surviving street ambushes, booby-trapped houses, sniper nests and the freeing of hostages.

To date more than 1 000 soldiers have been trained in the SANDF’s FIBUA programme. Col Andy Mhatu, Officer Commanding 44 Parachute Regiment said that Africa’s battle space required our soldiers to fight in built-up areas and be a standby force for peacekeeping missions. They must be combat ready for this type of warfare, the need for which was identified in 2001 during South Africa’s peacekeeping mission in Burundi.

Master Warrant Officer Shan Louw, 1 Parachute Battalion Warrant Officer who designed the FIBUA programme, said that the training was a combination of Special Forces and Infantry training. He added that people neede to realise that in today’s warfare the enemy was no longer in the bush, but in the cities, on the streets and hiding in houses.

“Warfare is changing, and in the past our troops were never really prepared for this, the new doctrine requires troops to be trained in urban specialist warfare techniques with the programme being a continuation of their current infantry training”, said Master Warrant Officer Shan Louw.
The significance of national security

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SA National Defence College under the helm of R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Vuuren, assisted by the Senior Directing Staff (SDS) continues to reach its defining moment on national security priorities and a broad range of geostrategic human security issues important to the continent and the global world.

The institution increases a positive correlation among nations pursuing the example of the United Nations (UN) Millenium Development Goals, African Union initiatives, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as the blueprint for action and a path for sustainable growth and development that engage government agencies from across the spectrum on national security.

On 13 July 2011, the SA National Defence College held the opening ceremony of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 24/11. The main functionary during the event was Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF. During the welcoming by R Adm (JG) van Vuuren, the Commandant of the College, she highlighted that ENSP incorporates a wide range of interagency players, military and non-military personnel to think beyond the bounds providing synergy for emphasis on state and human security and a wide range of issues and non-military dimensions of national security.

Gen Solly Shoke, gave a thought-provoking keynote address mentioning that the objective of national security encompasses also economic, social and environmental development. He encouraged programme members to initiate collaborative processes to enhance efforts to help States and potential partners to enhance full and beneficial integration into global economy.

He also pointed out that, in the continent, the majority of the people rely heavily on agricultural productivity, farming, water a critical resource for all humans and processing of natural resources. "We need to consider the environmental impact of human activities on the planet and identify the negative and unsustainable trends and this should be a concern for us for peaceful coexistence for humanity to prosper. The biodiversity and ecosystem is seriously affected and this can generate tensions, conflicts and wars and can affect national security, social and political breakdown", said Gen Shoke.

SA Soldier caught up with Group Captain Salisu Yushau from the Nigerian Air Force who said that through the ENSP they will effectively meet their goals of supporting states’ national security policy. "The programme will present a more coherent face to African partners relating to building confidence, trust amongst States, military and non-military towards resolutions of conflicts, establishment of democracy and working together to achieve economic development, peace and stability across our national borders", he said.

While, Brig Gen Paul Ignus Mella, the Chief of Defence Intelligence from the Tanzanian Army said that the ENSP will assist programme members to identify impacts of human activities that are negative and unsustainable and those that can generate serious repercussions for national security. "Using capacity building as a central element of peaceful, stable national and international relationships, we need to take a proactive approach to bring to bear the knowledge, expertise and resources needed to making the living environment more stable and secure understanding the criticality of State and human security", he said.

Above: Fltr: Brig Kennedy Kamoli (Lesotho), R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Vuuren, the Commandant of the SA National Defence College, Col Mohamed Mouldj (Algeria), Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, Brig Paul Mella (Tanzania), Mr Tumela Letete (Lesotho), Ms Lealimo Makakole (Lesotho) and Group Capt Salisu Yushau’u (Nigeria)
Celebrating the heroes and heroines of the struggle

The 2011 National Heritage Day celebrations were held at Mpumalanga Stadium in Ermelo on 24 September 2011 with the theme: "Celebrating the Heroes and Heroines of the Liberation Struggle in South Africa". The theme among other things reaffirmed the significance of the liberation heritage as part of South Africa’s cultural heritage to foster social cohesion, nation building, economic development and inclusive citizenship. It also created awareness through educational programmes, dialogue and public engagements on the importance of the liberation heritage to the youth by promoting unity in diversity in South Africa.

Heritage Month promotes inter-governmental dialogue and encourages society to identify and reconnect with the past in order to shape the direction for the future. Social segments such as youth, women, people living with disabilities, students, learners, civil society, religious and cultural fraternities, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, business and recreation and sport have an important role to help sustain discourse on the theme.

Our heritage is unique and precious and it cannot be renewed. It helps us to define our cultural identity and therefore lies at the heart of our spiritual well-being and has the power to build our nation. It has the potential to affirm our diverse cultures and in so doing shape our national character. South Africans celebrate the diverse cultural heritage that makes up a rainbow nation. On Heritage Day we celebrate the contribution of all South Africans to the building of South Africa.

Our heritage celebrates our achievements and contributes to the redressing of past inequities. It educates and deepens our understanding of society and encourages us to empathise with the experience of others. It facilitates healing, material and symbolic restitution and it promotes new and previously neglected research into our rich oral traditions and customs.

The SANDF participation consisted primarily of joint ceremonial activity and a Heritage Day parade as part of the formal programme. The colourful military ceremony included the Guard of Honour by the National Ceremonial Guard, the National Anthem performed by the National Ceremonial Guard Band, a 21 round salute by 4 Artillery Regiment and a salute fligh past by two BK 117 helicopters of the SA Air Force.

Above: Cultural teams performing during the National Heritage Day celebrations in Ermelo.

Above: Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe officiating during the parade.
The parade was organised to thank and award the recipients for the commendable contribution they made to the SANDF.

**Presenting medals to worthy recipients**

The Defence Legal Services Division (DLSD) and Air Force Base (AFB) Bloemspruit held a combined medal parade at the AFB Bloemspruit on 1 September 2011 to present medals to worthy recipients and honour the men and women who had distinguished themselves by providing excellent service to our country and had excelled in their soldierly duties, or who had displayed exceptional capabilities in the SANDF.

The Defence Force recognises the importance of presenting medals to worthy recipients in public. The two units were no exception. Adjutant General and Acting Chief Defence Legal Services, Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, was delighted to officiate at this parade.

It was a special occasion for the Defence Legal Services Division for a number of reasons, including the large number of recipients wearing their medals in public for the first time, by new insignia of the SA Army members of the Corps of Military Law Practitioners and the commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the establishment of the DLSD in September 1999.

The DLSD is a highly professional and, deployable provider of Defence Legal Services and support to the DOD. Speaking to the recipients, Maj Gen Mmono said the parade was organised to thank and award them for the commendable contribution to the SANDF. He added that the medals, decorations, certificates and citations received reflected the excellent service provided by DLSD and AFB Bloemspruit members to the public at large.

"Only disciplined soldiers must be considered for medals in order to avoid making a mockery of this noble tradition and honour. In compliance with the Constitutional mandate, the Defence Force must be structured and managed as a disciplined Military Force," said Maj Gen Mmono.

He added that the Chief of the SANDF had recently issued SANDF Instruction 01/2011 in terms of which all commanders and staff officers in the SANDF were required to enforce and maintain good discipline, and all the role-players and Military Courts must take the lead in this. He said the SANDF was busy drafting the new Military Discipline Bill which would, among other things, empower the commanders to enforce discipline.

In conclusion he urged and challenged all members to redouble their efforts to ensure that they promoted good discipline in the SANDF. In this way they would be a good example to those who appeared before them in Military Courts. They should strive to realise the SANDF vision, namely "An SANDF that is ready and capable of effectively and professionally executing successful missions and operations, as directed by government".

He congratulated the recipients on their achievement of shaping the leaders of tomorrow through effective learning and by setting the example, "as you did by serving your country with distinction. Please wear these medals with pride; you earned and deserve them", said Maj Gen Mmono.
Now, more than ever, South Africa needs individual development to fuel innovation and performance. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) as the provider of national defence to South Africa and its people needs high calibre and educated personnel, also in matters of defence, security and democratic governance.

As part of bi-national relationships, foreign countries invest in human resource capacity-building in order to assist with the development of high-quality individuals and to place the SANDF on the appropriate development trajectory in terms of its reservoir of academic and applied knowledge.

One such programme currently under way was initiated by the British Peace Support Team South Africa (BPSTSA). The programme’s initiation was driven by Lt Col R. Hills (who has since completed his tour of duty in South Africa). The programme supported two students from the Joint Senior Command and Staff Course with the requisite academic credentials to read for the Masters Degree in the field of Security (MM-S) at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS). This process commenced during the JSCSP of 2008. Capt (SAN) A. P. Putter and Col M.M. Make were thus the first two students selected to read for the MM-S over the period 2009-2010, followed by graduation in July 2011.

Professor A. van Nieuwkerk, director of the Centre for Defence and Security Management (CDSM) at the Graduate School of Public and Development Management at Wits University stated that a postgraduate diploma of management in the field of security and an associated master of management in the field of security were designed in response to specific needs amongst members of the security sector in South Africa as well as the Southern African region.

The curriculum includes lectures, written assignments and presentations and discussion of theory and current trends.


The students are also required to complete a module on research methodology and to write a research report on a pertinent security sector related research question.

The programme is aimed at improving capacity for managing the South African and SADC region security sectors.

Lt Col Alex Murray RM (UK), the current BPST (SA) member embedded in the South African National War College (SANWC), is responsible for the management of this aspect of the BPST’s work. He states that: “BPST is pleased to be able to contribute in some small way to the intellectual capital of the SANDF officers."

"This programme will now hopefully get subsumed into a wider initiative of the SANWC to partner with WITS and see all JSCSP learners attain the postgraduate diploma,” said Lt Col Murray.

He summarised: “If this can be achieved, it really will be a win-win situation all round; that is good for the individual, good for the SANWC and the SANDF, and good for WITS."

Capt (SAN) Putter became the first product of this programme by graduating on 19 July 2011 at WITS. He also holds a BMil and Master Degree in Business Leadership (MBL) that was funded by the SANDF.

With the assistance of the BPST (SA), at least five students currently study at the WITS. The expectation is for at least two graduates every year at Masters level.

The success of the programme depends on the calibre of selected candidates as well as the level of support they receive from the DOD to complete the programme. The benefits to the DOD are multiple; it contributes significantly to the establishment of DOD knowledge networks with the potential to drive security and defence solutions, innovation, development and performance.
On 2 June 2011 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members demonstrated the type of training they had undergone and unique abilities that they had acquired throughout their six months training at Air Force Gymnasium in Hoedspruit to qualify themselves as SA Air Force members during their MSDS Basic Military Training Passing-out Parade.

The SA Air Force Gymnasium has over the years been utilised as a centre of training excellence for all Air Force members to ensure that the Air Force is combat ready. This training is vital not only to ensure the SAAF functions effectively, but also to assist the Government in addressing the country’s skills shortages.

The aim of the MSDS is two-fold, firstly, it is to enhance the SANDF’s mission-readiness through the systematic rejuvenation of its human resource composition. This is done through annual intakes of young, fit and healthy people. Secondly, the MSDS serves as the feeder system for the Reserves and seeks to provide scarce skills for the youth to enable them to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the country.

The MSDS remains the primary mechanism through which the Department of Defence contributes towards structured military skills development, occupational functional skills development and leadership development among the youth.

The MSDS also affords young South Africans the opportunity to join and serve the military voluntarily and/or leave the SANDF upon completion of their service to contribute towards the economy and society by utilising their new skills acquired through the MSDS programme. Subsequent to their Basic Military Training deserving MSDS recruits are afforded an opportunity to choose training in specific careers, such as those of engineers, pilots and surveyors.

During the parade the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, paid tribute to the men and women in the SA Air Force that had through hard work, determination and a strong belief in themselves excelled in their respective fields by awarding them certificates and trophies to highlight their achievements and the high standards achieved during Basic Military Training.

The MSDS programme seeks to provide scarce skills for the youth to enable them to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the country.

ABOVE: Mr Thabang Makwetla, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, awards a trophy to an MSDS member after completing Basic Military Training.

ABOVE: The SA Air Force Gymnasium has over the years established itself as a centre of training excellence for all Air Force members to ensure that the SA Air Force is combat ready.
To save or not to save

Most of us are never going to win the lottery or be left a sizeable legacy by a deceased relative. The only way we are ever going to achieve our goals in life is through our own efforts.

Sadly, we live in a society where the preoccupation for acquiring consumer goods supercedes common sense, says Rosie Wilson, manager for Old Mutual’s Market Development division. That is why so many people find themselves in a debt trap - borrowing from Peter to pay Paul and never coming out on top.

The prevailing attitude is one of living for today without any thought for the future. “I must have that new car now.” Before long they find themselves approaching important milestones in their life, such as getting married, starting a family, or retirement, and they have no cash to finance it.

Consumer goods are not assets, they depreciate in value. Money in the bank or invested elsewhere like in property or shares IS an asset that appreciates in value if left for a reasonable amount of time.

Listen to the messages
There is so much talk in the media about saving for a rainy day, investing for a brighter future, etc. I’m sure you’ve heard and seen it all before. While this may be advertising hype designed to win you over as a client, there is also a lot of wisdom in these marketing messages. Do not merely write it off, take heed in what is being communicated.

Do not procrastinate
You may say: “But I don’t earn enough, or I’ll start when I’m older.” “Don’t keep finding excuses,” says Wilson. “It doesn’t have to be a large amount - a little goes a long way. Small sacrifices today can mean realising big dreams tomorrow. If you’re really serious about achieving your goals, it will require a disciplined approach - one where you regularly put away a sum of money and forget about it. Think of it like this: everyday you put off saving is money forever lost to you.”

If you’ve lost a lot of investing time because you’ve procrastinated, didn’t have the willpower, or whatever other reason - stop fretting. It’s water under the bridge. There’s nothing you can do to get back that lost time. But you can still make a difference in your finances. How? Start saving today! Years from now, you’ll be glad you did.

The magic of compound interest
There’s a good reason why Albert Einstein once said: “The most powerful force in the universe is compound interest.” Your money grows by means of compound interest, i.e. interest upon interest. There are many products available in which you can invest and each one is structured to meet the individual’s own personal circumstances.

Where do I start?
Firstly, identify your goals. These should be concrete, achievable goals with a timeline, such as, I would like to buy my own home in March 2016. Now, shop around for the product that will help you achieve this in the shortest possible time. Here I would recommend that you seek out the advice of a professional and accredited financial adviser who will be able to structure a workable yet flexible plan for you. Now calculate how much money you would need, identify what you would need to sacrifice in order to free up that money, and lastly, get to work and start saving.

Old Mutual has been helping millions of people realise their dreams for more than a century and a half. Their team of qualified financial advisers are equipped to give you sound financial advice for any circumstance. If you would like to start saving but don’t know where to begin, give Old Mutual a call and they will get you on the fast track to making your dreams come true.
On 8 August 2011 a media day took place at SAS SALDANHA to allow the media a chance to understand the National Youth Service (NYS) training project and the curriculum that the learners will be following. The open day gave internal and external media an opportunity to ask pressing questions of key role-players.

Present were Mr T. Zondi (KZN Provincial Government Communications), Lt Col B.M. Semane (Secretary for Defence NYService Task Team), Ms Nomangugu Simelane Zulu (representing the KZN Provincial Government and Youth Community Ambassador Programme), R Adm (JG) Khanyile Litchfield-Tshabalala (Ret) on behalf of the Secretary for Defence and part of National Youth Service Task Team, Lt Cdr S. Candasamy (Human Resources Development and Curriculum Development) and the Officer Commanding of SAS SALDANHA, Capt (SAN) V. Pilllay.

The motivation for running the DOD NYS programme is to contribute positively to the challenges posed by the high level of unemployment in South Africa, (particularly among the youth) and thereby provide them with an opportunity to earn an income while acquiring life skills that will enhance their chances of employment, entrepreneurship and overall development. Constructive feedback after the pilot programme at De Brug led to the Government making amendments to the NYS training currently taking place at SAS SALDANHA. Facilitators from all four Services of the SANDF, who received cadre training during July 2011, were keeping a watchful eye over the 961 learners who where mustered in their brown overalls outside the accommodation blocks for roll call. The group consisted of 618 females and 343 males. It was their fourth day at SAS SALDANHA. They started their mornings bright and early, and had breakfast in an orderly fashion. Morning inspections were done by the NYS facilitators to introduce them gradually to one of the main modules, viz hygiene. While the learners continued with their daily programme, R Adm (JG) Khanyile Litchfield-Tshabalala (Ret), gave a presentation, which was followed by questions from the external media on issues such as the recruitment criteria and the reasons for the training venue. She explained that the KZN Provincial Government had approached the DOD for assistance. She also explained that the applicants must take completed the grade 12 (matric) or show proof that they attempted it. They must also have a keen interest in the youth and/or issues related to the youth. Ms Simelane Zulu added that the reason why only KZN youth were selected was because their province was the first to test the pilot project within their 14 districts and it was hoped that other Provincial Governments would follow suit. The media was also informed that the selected youth leaders had been in the Youth Community Ambassadors programme since March 2011.

Asked why SAS SALDANHA was chosen, Rear Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala (Ret) replied that at the time SAS SALDANHA was not conducting Military Skills Development System training and was therefore ideal for the proposed 1 000 NYS learners. The curriculum will cover various modules dealing with self-respect, self-discipline, skills development and social ills in communities. "We are going to start off with counselling sessions, as some of the young people here are from abusive backgrounds," she said. "We can’t expect people to be responsible and patriotic citizens if they are still carrying unresolved issues.” The media conference was rounded off with a tour around the base. The media held individual interviews with the various role-players after their visit to the accommodation blocks and the vibrant singing of learners as they waited for lunch in front of the dining hall or mess.
The South African National Defence (SANDF) Rejuvenation Drive was aimed at marketing and recruiting candidates that offered scarce skills.

**Article and photos by LS N.C. Zulu**

Since its establishment in 2003, the South African National Defence Force’s (SANDF) Military Skills Development programme has recruited and trained over 23,000 youths, of whom 12,000 have been absorbed by the regular Force and more than 5,000 in the Reserve Force. In the financial year of 2009/2010 alone, the SANDF spent ±R 200 million recruiting youth.

These telling stats clearly highlight the emphasis on rejuvenation within the Department of Defence. With this in mind the Directorate Human Resource Acquisition tasked all the different Services and Divisions within the DoD to participate in a career exhibition in Durban from 11-13 August 2011. The rejuvenation effort was aimed at marketing and recruiting candidates that offered scarce skills. The following venues were identified for the exercise:

- 11 August 2011 - Durban University of Technology (DUT)
- 12 August 2011 - University of South Africa (UNISA)
- 13 August 2011 - Chatsworth Youth Centre

With all arrangements finalised the first port of call was the DUT Sports Hall where the Department of Co-operative Education had invited the SANDF to brief students about prospective career opportunities available in the DoD. The university students were first apprehensive about what being a soldier/sailor was all about, but after a comprehensive presentation by different staff members of each service the students started to ask question freely and seemed intrigued. After the presentations some students received promotional items before they filled in their application forms.

The following day the SANDF recruiting team was invited to a career exhibition by the University of South Africa at the Durban Jewish Club where 18 other companies were also showcasing their employment opportunities. The doors opened at 09h00 and a frenzy began as a large contingent of the 30,000 registered students from UNISA Durban packed the centre explore all the career opportunities on offer. The team was swamped by the keen students, after which they enjoyed lunch and refreshments.

The last port of call for the SANDF recruiting team was the Chatsworth Youth Centre where different role-players gave a presentation on what each Service had to offer, followed by a Q&A session that ended with an opportunity to fill applications forms.

The recruitment was highly successful and went a long way towards identifying the SANDF as the employer of choice.
group of 45 young mathematics and Science learners from different schools in our nine provinces paid a visit to military installations in the Durban area from 10 to 12 August 2011.

The visit was in line with the DOD’s aim of supporting the government’s programme of action to support youth participation in nation-building, and impress upon the young people an understanding of their role in the promotion of civic awareness so that they would become valuable members of society.

The visit also provided an opportunity to bring the SANDF closer to its target audience - the youth, to inform them about the role and functions of the DOD as well as to give a comprehensive overview of the SANDF’s capabilities and career opportunities.

The visit started at Air Force Station Durban, where Capt Yogesh Hulasi from 15 Squadron exposed them to the military aviation world, pilot training, aerodynamics, the technical working environment, aeronautical engineers and the maintenance of the avionics components for which maths and science were the requirements. Then the group visited Naval Station Durban where they were briefed by WO2 Gordon Spenceley, the Warrant Officer in charge of the Durban Diving Team, who briefed them on the role of the SA Navy in protecting the maritime interests of our country. They saw a diving display and some strenuous diving exercises in the 3 metre diving tank.

On the last day, they visited the SAMHS at AMHU KZN on the Bluff. They were welcomed by senior officers and Staff members of the unit and enjoyed the stand-easy morning tea. Lt Col Virginia Vardhan, the Military Health Services Manager inspired them to become productive future citizens and to be active participants in their own development, saying they were a most valuable commodity and the intellectual capital of South Africa.

They gained a lot of knowledge of the SAMHS and its professional health careers, as in health, environmental health, biokinetics, dietetics, occupational hygiene, occupational nursing, occupational health, social work, psychology, physiotherapy, veterinary science, oral hygiene, pharmaceutical, dentistry, speech therapy, radiography, podiatry, medical doctor, dental lab technology, operational emergency care practitioners and emergency care technicians. The young inquisitive learners were clearly very excited and were enticed to consider military health careers.

Our last stop was ASB KZN. On arrival the youngsters were welcomed by Col Godfrey Netshidongololo, the Officer Commanding, and Capt Musa Nhllumayo, Communication Officer, who gave a briefing regarding the MSDS Programme, the experience and adventure of military life, the level of skill and training required to operate weapon systems and introduced them to the SA Army’s humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping in Africa and beyond.
Two Seafarers Assist at Sea Cadets Mid-year Camp

Article & photos by Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves

Two experienced seafarers, CPO William Visagie (SA Naval Reserve) and Keith Arendse (ex SAFMARINE), shared their seamanship and catering skills respectively with the Sea Cadets at the TS Woltemade mid-year camp.

CPO Visagie, ex MCM Flotilla, was called up by the Reserve Management Centre in Simon’s Town as a specialist Seamanship Instructor to teach the young Sea Cadets a variety of bends, hitches, knots, spices, rope stowage, preparing, pairing and throwing a heaving line.

The evidence of his practical training in the form of an eye and back splice was taken home by the Sea Cadets to proudly demonstrate to their families and friends what they had accomplished.

CPO Visagie indicated that the Sea Cadets “were eager to learn seamanship and grasped the new practical skills quickly”. He was pleased that those who attended the mid year camp wanted to be there to learn and that they realized that it was not their way or his way, but the Sea Cadet and Navy’s way which was reinforced.

The Commanding Officer, Cdr Philip Miller, ensured that the new seamanship skills learnt were put to use when the 122 Sea Cadets were set the challenge of pulling their 12 vessels through the Marina on a 5km round trip.

Keith Arendse is an ex SAFMARINE chef who has spent 19 years on ships and oil rigs before joining Fedics. There he has been employed for 33 years and now holds the position of Production Chef and shares his passion for creating delicious food with those assigned to galley duty.

As specialist Seamanship Instructors the young Sea Cadets were taught a variety of bends, hitches, knots, spices, rope stowage, preparing, pairing and throwing a heaving line.

Arendse, through his employer, prepared a small gift pack of basic kitchen items for each member of the galley crew, which included an apron, menu book, whisk and pairing knife. These items came in handy in preparing the dishes, including firm favourites such as lamb curry, spagetti bolanaise and a seaman’s dish (a smorgasbord of delights).

Arendse indicated that he was looking for and found passion and potential in the galley from the trainee Cadet chefs and offered them an opportunity to do chef duties.

He indicated that he “enjoyed sharing his skills with the Sea Cadets and that being around them brought back many fond seafaring memories”. He, and his wife Anne, who is a qualified nursing sister, intend to contribute to TS Woltemade in the future by offering their professional services to assist the staff and provide the Sea Cadets with additional professional skills.

The success of the camp is reflected by the 10 Sea Cadets and one Instructor who qualified in fire-fighting (STCW95) via Red Watch, there are five newly trained chefs and 58 new Entries promoted to Seamen, eight Seamen promoted to AB, three ABs promoted to Leading Seamen, one Leading Seaman promoted to Petty Officer and the Unit mascot who achieved his seamanship badge.

LEFT: CPO Visagie giving Quartermaster and radio procedure instruction to Sea Cadets.

ABOVE: Professional Chef Keith Arendse in the Galley with some Sea Cadet Chefs.
On 5 August 2011, the staff members of the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane visited the Philadelphia High School for people living with disabilities in Soshanguve (north of Pretoria) as part of the College’s community engagement and outreach programme of supporting a meaningful future for the physically challenged.

The activities of the day included public speech presentations by learners on the topics: “The Importance of Democracy in RSA” and “Environmental Management in the RSA”. These topics were an attempt to promote patriotism and give the learners the chance to speak up and be proudly South African and to demand their identity be embedded in their consciousness. The learners were very appreciative.

Lt Col Mogapi Mogapi, Directing Staff, spoke on behalf of the Commandant of the SA Army College when he presented certificates to learners. He said that it was the beginning of a meaningful future for the young bright sparks as education was the great engine for empowering personal development. He encouraged them and said that the SANDF was set to become the destination of choice for ambitious youth. “Identify yourself; it is what we make of who we are, of what we have, not what we are given that separates one person from another”, he said.

Lt Col Clifort Mahao, the Senior Directing Staff, JCSD Branch emphasised that despite the learners’ disabilities they presented themselves in an assertive and self-confident way. “Being physically challenged myself and serving in the SANDF, we are creating possibilities for the eradication of negative perceptions and stereotypes about people with disabilities. We are here to encourage them to strive for academic excellence and provide them with a real-life platform to broaden their aspirations about the impact they can make in a varied working environment within the DOD and broader socio-economic landscape of our country,” he said.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Mr Isaac Shadung, the School Principal, mentioned that the visit was the beginning of this very important task of our government to serve the nation unconditionally. He added that the young people had met and learnt from role models and gained valuable insights and a deeper understanding of what the SANDF was all about and how they could achieve their goals in the military environment.

Mr Shadung said that Philadelphia High School accommodated disabled learners some of whom had special needs as they included those who had physical problems, and the blind and deaf from all Provinces. The school uses Seven African official languages as medium of instruction starting from Grade 8 to Grade 12. He concluded by mentioning challenges such as crumbling infrastructure, rusted roofs, outdated kitchen equipment, water supply, and general unfavourable sports facilities as major challenges for the school.

This was part of the SA Army College's community engagement and outreach programme of supporting a meaningful future for the physically challenged.
A star-studded spectacular of air dominance and superiority of the SA Air Force took place at the Roodeval Bombing Range in Limpopo during the biannual Air Capability Demonstration on 01 September 2011.

The military strategic objectives of the SANDF require a force design capability to defend the country against conventional onslaughts, and to promote regional peace, stability and security and to provide support for the people of South Africa.

Briefing members of the media, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief of the SAAF, said that the air capability demonstration projected the multi-role air capabilities of the SANDF and the integration of different air, ground and medical components. These had to achieve complementary roles and when experience married innovation there would be a viable air capability to ensure effective participation in any mandated military or humanitarian relief sanctioned by the Government, the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) or the SADC.

The demonstration consisted of two displays of some of the most complex operations of civilian humanitarian relief. The display commenced with a photo reconnaissance fly-past by a Hawk lead-in fighter escorted by a Gripen fighter jet. It used a geosynchronous satellite system alternating coverage and flight data over any location and terrain to provide communication intelligence surveillance, a data link, electronic countermeasures and aerial reconnaissance. This was followed by low-altitude flying by two Oryx helicopters to demonstrate firefighting techniques in putting out a fire with bambi buckets, which was followed by a conventional warfare light attack and various exercises, such as fast-roping, insertion techniques on landing, rappelling, interdiction, airlifts, medical rescue, and air pickets to provide anti-aircraft protection. In modern warfare, airspace is not only about intelligence gathering, but can also be used as part of combat and be linked to maritime and landward operations. It requires an assortment of different air assets that are tailored to suit the requirements of a mission. A variety of engagement scenarios combining air and ground fighting crew were displayed.

Situational awareness and knowing what to expect in any environment is the key to mission success. The Rooivalk attack helicopters then attacked their targets by firing high-explosive 20 mm rounds and rockets in support of a simulated ground attack, and sophisticated Gripen fighter jet demonstrated their electronic warfare capabilities. The hilly terrain on the boundary of the range was used to the maximum effect to provide cover for the aircraft, while extremely low altitude approaches displayed the air assault and blocking to advantage. Then the Oryx helicopter evacuated the ground forces after a mock attack, which included 81 mm mortars.

The SAAF system’s effectiveness in operational situations proved to be outstanding and continues to maintain its high level of operational preparedness and excellent co-ordination of command and control which demonstrates its capability in quelling air and surface threats and provides outstanding early warning threat detection.
Naval Station Durban Medal Parade and 9th Birthday

On completion of the parade, members of NSD and invited guests gathered to celebrate the station’s 9th year as a Naval Station.

History and birthday celebration

The NSD was formally known as Naval Base Durban until it was downsized to a Naval Station in 2001. The change was announced at a media briefing held in Naval Base Durban by V Adm Johan Retief who was then Chief of the South African Navy. Following this the strike craft, which had become accustomed to the east coast, returned to their home port of Naval Base Simon’s Town. The downsizing of the base resulted in many members opting for the Military Exit Mechanism Package (MEM) while the rest were drafted to Naval Base Simon’s Town and Navy HQ in Pretoria. The Naval presence in Durban was reduced to 300 from 2000. Later, 14 August 2002 the NSD was commissioned to support maritime operations on the East Coast of Africa on. The base has since been utilised as station for nine years.

On completion of the parade, members of NSD and invited guests gathered to celebrate the station’s 9th year as a Naval Station. This celebration was accompanied by entertainment from the Army Band. WO2 Moraila took guests on a journey down memory lane with a presentation about the station's history. On completion of the day’s events, AOC Lt Cdr Mgquba invited all members to lunch.

On 12 August 2011, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon’s Town, R Adm (JG) J.E. Louw, inspected divisions and presented medals to members of Naval Station Durban (NSD). NSD later celebrated nine years as a Naval Station at a birthday celebration hosted by Acting Officer Commanding (AOC) NSD, Lt Cdr X.P. Mgquba.

The following members received the SA NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE GOOD SERVICE MEDAL.

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES
The following members received 20 years service certificates: Ms R.A. Squier, Ms M.B. Nzuza, M.E. Dlungele and Mr S.R. Nikwe received 10 years service certificate.

CHIEF OF THE NAVY’S COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE
CPO M.J. Nadarajan, CPO N.B. Reddy, CPO S. Nathan and PO C.D.S. Krishen

ABOVE: The Flag Officer Commanding inspects the parade.

Article and photos by LS H.N.P. Ngongo

ABOVE: The Flag Officer commanding hands a 10 years’ Long Service Certificate to Mr S.R Nikwe.
**Malaria - the silent disease**

An infected mosquito bites a person and injects malaria parasites into a person’s bloodstream.

By Martina Nicholson Associates - Newsdesk

This article explores malaria and its treatment, illustrating it with a real-life story.

Mr Makasi Msondo of Johannesburg was distressed when he came down with what he thought was flu. A week before he had come back from the Kruger National Park, which he had visited on holiday, and still had lots of work to catch up on. The last thing he needed was to have to take more time off work through illness. However, he was concerned that he had bad flu because he did not feel at all well, and he decided he had to visit his doctor. His symptoms included fever, chills, headache, body aches, joint pains, and diarrhoea.

Tested for malaria

Mr Msondo was surprised when his doctor wanted to have his blood tested for malaria because to him his symptoms seemed to be just like flu. However, his doctor said that malaria symptoms could be flu-like and Mr Msondo had just recently returned from a malaria area. The tests came back positive and Mr Msondo’s doctor treated him for seven days for malaria. Luckily for him his malaria was detected and treated early because the disease can cause dangerous complications in some patients.

A killer spread by mosquitoes

Malaria is a disease that is spread through the bite of a certain type of mosquito called the Anopheles mosquito. An infected mosquito bites a person and injects malaria parasites into a person’s bloodstream.

Malaria kills more than a million people a year, most of them in Africa, and makes many others sick and feel weak. A lot of children in Africa die after getting the illness. It has been estimated that one in every four deaths among children in Africa is caused by malaria. The disease causes many people to be so weakened that they struggle to work.

Malaria is quite common in southern Africa during the rainy season. In South Africa it is found in northern KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo province, and in the eastern region of Mpumalanga. Malaria is also found in parts of other southern African countries, including Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

Check with your doctor

Mr Msondo and his family had travelled to a malaria area without taking prophylaxis (a protective medicine) or any other measures to avoid catching the disease. Mr Msondo did not think that malaria was much of a risk to him or his family’s health. His doctor told him that this was a mistake. Everyone who is travelling to malaria areas should check with his or her doctor or travel clinic first to see if he or she should be protecting himself or herself with prophylaxis. Mr Msondo was fortunate his malaria was identified early and he did not develop any complications, and that no one else in his family had caught the illness.

Mr Msondo’s doctor says that while prophylaxis does not necessarily stop us from getting malaria it does help to reduce the severity of the symptoms if we do get the illness. It can also save us from developing potentially dangerous complications such as cerebral malaria.

It is vitally important to continue taking your medication as your doctor instructs you to. Some medications require that you continue to take them for a couple of weeks after your visit to a malaria area. This should be done even if you think mosquitoes did not bite you during your stay. The malaria mosquito can be a silent killer and may well have bitten you without you even knowing it. Stopping your medications before time may compromise the protection offered by the prophylaxis.

Avoid getting bitten

When you travel to a malaria area you should try and make sure that you do not get bitten by mosquitoes which, as noted earlier, carry the disease. There are various ways you can protect yourself from their bites. These include:

- Putting on mosquito repellent lotions or sprays
- Using mosquito coils, electric air repellents and insecticide sprays to kill or chase off the insects
- Sleeping under mosquito nets
- Staying in places that have mosquito screening on doors and windows
- Wearing long-sleeved clothing and long trousers from dusk to dawn when you are outside

Watch out for signs

Once you have been in a malaria area you should take care and watch out that you have not caught the illness. Malaria can develop as early as seven days after entering a malaria area and for up to six months after leaving. If you feel ill at this time, always keep malaria in mind and be sure to tell your doctor that you have been to a malaria area.

Keep in mind that malaria can cause serious health complications and can even be fatal. So if you do develop any signs of the disease after you have been to a malaria area, it is important to see your doctor immediately.

* The person’s name has been changed in order to protect his privacy.

Sources


'Malaria, World Health Organisation', www.who.int/topics <http://www.who.int/topics>.

Focus on health

* The person’s name has been changed in order to protect his privacy.
Wednesday, 7 September 2011, the Department of Defence and Military Veterans and the nation learnt with great shock and sadness of the unexpected death of South Africa’s most cherished patriot of the people Maj Gen (Ret) Johnson Mongameli Tshali, affectionately known as Lennox Lagu.

Family, friends, close associates from across the political spectrum, high-profile leaders and the nation mourned the falling of a warrior and a great struggle stalwart.

At an official memorial service and prayer meeting held at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall on Thursday 15 September 2011 to bid farewell and to salute this eminent son of the soil, speaker after speaker maintained that Maj Gen (Ret) Tshali was a true servant of the people, a dedicated champion of the masses, who was always forthright in understanding the revolution.

Some of the military veterans and close associates commemorated a momentous journey shared with the late Gen Tshali and testified that he was of the generation that stood the test of time, an accomplished military strategist who produced many of their cadres and nurtured a new generation of leaders. They testified that he stood unshakeable for the hopes of the masses.

V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, was the Programme Director during the funeral service. Maj Gen Tshali’s coffin was draped in the South African national flag and the SANDF provided the military honours.

Among the mourners paying their last respect were, fltr: Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and President Jacob Zuma, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF.

Among the array of dignitaries was our Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Secretary for Defence, Ms Mpumi Mpofu, and the leadership of the SANDF.

In bidding farewell to Maj Gen (Ret) Tshali, President Jacob Zuma attested that one of the most steadfast, dignified and disciplined pillars of our struggle had fallen, and that we were laying to rest a stalwart. We are bidding farewell to a national hero who produced many cadres of the liberation movement. The President and the SANDF Commander-in-Chief, Mr Jacob Zuma acknowledged that Maj Gen (Ret) Tshali was a distinguished leader with extraordinary credentials that contributed to the significant turning point of South Africa’s democracy and that he was one of the first to join MK in 1961 and become one of the brave commanders of the Luthuli Detachment.

Maj Gen (Ret) Tshali was laid to rest at the Thaba Tshwane cemetery.
Members of the DOD and the nation mourned the death of Brig Gen (Ret) Bafana Cyril Dlamini (75) who passed away on Saturday, 17 September 2011. The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, extended their sincerest condolences to friends and family of the deceased.

The funeral service with full military honours was conducted at Durban Light Infantry Hall on 25 September 2011, followed by the burial at Wiggles Road Cemetery, Chesterville, in Durban.

Among the mourners who attended the last send-off for the late Brig Gen (Ret) Dlamini were the Minister of Justice, Mr Jeff Radebe, the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and KZN Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize.

Obituary

Brig Gen (Ret) Bafana Cyril Dlamini was also known as Edwin Ndlovu by his comrades who were with him in his exile, was born on 10 October 1936. At the age of 25 in 1961, he left the country together with 15 other members to join Umkhonto WeSizwe (MK) under the leadership of the late Commander of MK, Mr Joe Modise, as the advance team for training. He crossed into Botswana en-route to Tanzania and then later to Cairo for military training. He further underwent training in Cyprus and the former USSR.

As a member of the first African National Congress (ANC) military formation recruits, in 1967-1968 he was a member of the Luthuli Detachment involved in joint military operations of the ANC/ZAPU guerrillas MK and Zimbabwean People’s Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) in combined battles against the former Rhodesian and SA Defence Force in Wanki and Spollilo campaign. After the repulsion of the Rhodesian Army, he crossed to Botswana where he was arrested and jailed for six months and sent back to Zambia after his jail term. After his release in Botswana he got involved in various ANC activities ending up in Mozambique in 1975, where he helped receiving and inducting thousands of young recruits who fled the country after the 1976 Soweto student uprising and arranged the filtration of MK cadres into South Africa between 1977 and 1990.

Brig Gen (Ret) Dlamini integrated into the SANDF in 1994, and was appointed to the rank of Brigadier General (Brig Gen). He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters, two sisters and a brother. May his soul rest in peace.
A solution to evacuation glitches

The Evac Chair is a stairway evacuation chair for people with mobility impairments.

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

An idea of a man whose wife suffered from polio and could not move around easily in their three-storey house developed into what is called the Evac Chair. So said the company’s training officer, Mr Themba Jiyane, who visited Armscor Building on 19 September 2011 to train different staff and divisional members in utilising of the Evacuation Chair.

The Evac Chair is a stairway evacuation chair for people with mobility impairments, including people with disabilities, injuries or ailments that render them unable to walk down stairs unaided.

Emergency Evacuation Plans take into account that people with injuries, disabilities or other medical impairments will need to be moved away from dangerous areas and, in some cases, might need to be carried down stairs to a safe area and wait until it is safe to go back upstairs or be transferred to a hospital.

Recently the country experienced an unprecedented number of power cuts and many people who travelled upstairs in lifts were stranded for hours because they were unable to walk down stairs.

Corporate employers and government institutions have recognised the need for these chairs in all their multi-storey buildings and conceded that anybody could be upstairs in a building at a time of emergency and it would be their responsibility to ensure safe evacuation.

Many of the country’s state owned enterprises and top corporate companies have started purchasing Evac Chairs to enhance levels of safety and compliance. Government departments have also started equipping all their multi-storey buildings with Evac Chairs.

The Evac Chair addresses safety and compliance issues including requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act, the new building regulations as well as the reasonable accommodation guidelines issued by the Department of Public Service and Administration. The new building regulations have been modified specifically to include safe evacuation of people with disabilities.

How does the Evac Chair work?

- A patient is put into an Evac Chair, which has a padded comfortable seat that provides support for patients if they are unable to sit in the hammock seat.
- When moving down stairs, an automatic braking mechanism slows down movement automatically.
- There may be only one operator under normal circumstances.
- Once at ground level, the Evac Chair can be pushed like a wheelchair along passages when the rear wheels are released and the patient is taken to safety in a 4-wheel mode.

LEFT: Mr Themba Jiyane demonstrating how the Evac Chair works.
The opening ceremony of the 5th CISM Military World Games was held at the João Havelange Olympic Stadium (Engenhão) in Rio on 16 July 2011.

The Pyre - the flame of peace - burning for the duration of the Games.

Compiled by Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos Sgt Elias Mahuma

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At an official memorial service and prayer meeting held at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall on Thursday 15 September 2011 to bid farewell and to salute this eminent son of the soil, speaker after speaker maintained that Maj Gen (Ret) Tshali was a true servant of the people, a dedicated champion of the masses, a most accomplished and courageous leader and struggle veteran who was always forthright in understanding the revolution.

Some of the military veterans and close associates commemorated a momentous journey shared with the late Gen Tshali and testified that he was of the generation that stood the test of time, an accomplished military strategist who produced many of their cadres and nurtured a generation of leaders.

They testified that he stood unshakably for the hopes of the masses, and inspired adoration. He also exemplified leadership and brilliance.

V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, was the Programme Director during the funeral service to bid farewell and to a great warrior. Maj Gen Tshali's coffin was drapped in the South African national flag and the SANDF provided the military honours.

Distigished send-off of Maj Gen (Ret) Johnson Mongameli Tshali

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Badminton South Africa’s SA Veterans Open Championship (40 plus age group) was held in Durban from 13 to 20 August 2011 at the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Badminton Hall. KZN Badminton hosted the tournament.

Nine provinces were represented, with a total of 150 players competing against one another. The SANDF team competed in the team, singles and doubles events. In the team event the SANDF finished third in the C-section.

In the other events the SANDF players won their preliminary games and lost in the quarterfinals. WO1 Brenda Boschoff (SA Army) and WO2 Johan de Klerk (SA Air Force) gained ranking points in this tournament. Players gain ranking points by playing in tournaments that are graded. Points are also gained depending on how far they compete in the tournaments.

“I am very pleased with the team’s performance in this tournament. There is a marked improvement compared to the previous tournament. They competed against seasoned and experienced players from all over South Africa. The team conducted themselves in an exemplary manner that befits the SANDF,” said Capt Gretha Prinsloo from the SAMHS, Chairperson of SANDF Badminton.

Players are now winning their games by using strategy and new techniques. Aimless running around the court without a clear game plan is not the norm in winning games anymore. Players also have to get accustomed to the flight of the shuttle when playing in coastal areas. The humidity in Durban slows the flight of the shuttle as compared to inland venues. Different shuttles are used for coastal and inland venues. South Africa is now ranked 25th in the World Team rankings, which is the highest in the history of Badminton South Africa.

In the team event the results were too many to publish fully in the limited space available, but the individual results were as follows:

**Men’s Singles Final**
Johan Kleingeld (Free State) beat Ivan Botha (KZN) 21/15, 6/12, 21/14

**Women’s Singles Final**
Michelle Rigby (Northern Gauteng) beat Karen Coetzer (Border) 21/19, 18/12, 21/17

**Men’s Doubles Winners**
Johan Kleingeld (Free State) and Jacques Pietersen (Eastern Province) beat Ivan Botha (KZN) and Neville Graham (KZN) 21/15, 6/12, 21/14

**Women’s Doubles Winners**
Karen Coetzer (Border) and Rene Schoonees (Boland) beat Gail McLoughlin (Southern Gauteng) & Michelle Rigby (Northern Gauteng) 21/16, 21/18

**Mixed Doubles Winners**
Johan Kleingeld (Free State) and Karen Coetzer (Border) beat Andre & Renee Schoonees (Boland) 21/8, 21/12

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**Lt Col Deidre Horn (SAMHS) squares up to Lynn Fry (Northern Gauteng) in the women’s singles.**
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The SANDF introduces more ladies to golf

By Lt Col Ilza du Toit and Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Lt Col Ilza du Toit

54 ladies from the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) took time off from busy schedules to develop their golf skills during the SANDF ladies development golf clinic at the Services Golf Club, Thaba Tshwane over the period 29 August to 2 September 2011.

The main objective of the event was to introduce and spark the interest of SANDF ladies in golf to increase their potential for the CISM World Military Games in the ladies category.

Delivering his keynote address, Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo, Director Physical Training, Sports and Recreation, encouraged those who would be teeing off for the first time to enjoy themselves.

“The event is a big opportunity for you, the new golfers to hone your skills in this beautiful game. I hope this is the opportunity you

A SANDF ladies development golfer puts the ball towards the hole on the greens during the SANDF ladies development golf clinic.

SANDF ladies development golf members with Mrs Mpumi Mpofu, Secretary for Defence (middle row centre, with a gold polo shirt and cap) and Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo, Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (back row, fourth from right), during the SANDF ladies development golf clinic at the Thaba Tshwane Services Golf club.
have been waiting for in order to discover your potential, and the scene has been set for the whole week to showcase your real golf talent. I would also like to encourage all the players to work hard, maintain their focus and to ensure that when you go out there after a week, you would have gained enough experience to compete with the best,” Brig Gen Yekelo said.

During the course of the week, Lt Col Ronel Jansen van Rensburg also encouraged the ladies to keep their momentum by always practising golf, which she said would also help to keep them physically and mentally fit and so help the SANDF to increase its representivity in the ladies’ golf championships. According to Lt Col van Rensburg, only eight countries, including South Africa, were represented at the recent CISM Military World Games held in Brazil recently, while 13 countries participated in the male category.

During the course of the golfing activities over the week, the event was graced by the presence of the Secretary of Defence, Ms Mpumi Mpofu. Ms Mpofu expressed her appreciation for the staging of developmental golf and promised to support all the initiatives to develop women in the game. She was subsequently nominated as the ambassador for the SANDF ladies golf.

Before all the ladies could descend onto the field, a mini-fashion parade was held in order to introduce them to the correct golfing etiquette. To be able to execute better swings and enjoy the game, the ladies were advised to wear spiked shoes and, depending on the weather, short pants or long slacks, gloves, polo shirts with collar, and strictly no cellular phones allowed on the turf.

According to the SANDF ladies development golf clinic committee, the event is a launching pad for the planned roadshows in future where all the basic aspects of golf will be covered, and shortened courses made available for ladies. Mini-golf competitions will also be held for the ladies to demonstrate their putting talents.

**ABOVE:** Lt Col Ronel Janse van Rensburg indicates the slope of the green to Mrs Mpumi Mpofu (Secretary for Defence), a nominated SANDF ladies development golf ambassador during one of the practices.

**ABOVE:** A SANDF ladies development golfer was equal to the task when she had to putt the ball out of the sand.
On 20 September 2011 over 200 men and women reported for duty at 5 South African Infantry Battalion (5 SAI Bn) in Ladysmith, KwaZulu-Natal, not with the normal “camo” and boots, but Uzzi, Nike and Adidas covering the bulging muscles and six-packs.

With the words “If the mind says yes, the body obeys”, Brig Gen Clive van Schalkwyk, Deputy Chief Director SA Army Force Preparation, wished the members the best of luck, but later that day Brig Gen Van Schalkwyk realised that this competition was about more than a “2, 4 en ’n blikkie bier” (and a can of beer).

Most of the participants needed more than luck. The infantry surprise set up by the members of 5 SAI Bn was not an easy run as it consisted of a 2 km run with an ammunition case, a run with the 120 mm mortar base plate, a sandbag and a tyre, and, to top it all, they had to climb into a Casspir and out of the turret, run to the next Casspir, climb in at the turret and out at the bottom.

By then their legs did not want to run or climb anymore. The winners in this event were Pte Morongwa Motebele of 44 Parachute Regiment for the women and L Bdr Rapishwane Mashapu of the Light Artillery Regiment for the men. They were also crowned as the fittest SA Army male and female soldiers.

The best unit was 44 Parachute Regiment, with the runner-up 1 Special Service Battalion, and the SA Army Gymnasium in the third place. The SA Army Infantry Formation took the prizes for the first and second best teams, followed by the SA Army Armour Formation in third place. The HQ personnel did not remain behind and here 46 SA Brigade beat the SA Army Armour Formation and the SA Army HQ into second and third respectively.

In the senior categories there were 12 participants, including Brig Gen Allan Luck of the SA Army HQ, who showed the young ones a thing or two. These participants walked 20 km with a 20 kg pack in a nature reserve, so there were no tarred or even level road, but it was up hill and down dale. Here the Officer Commanding of 3 SAI Bn, Lt Col Sipho Nzweni, led the pack, while 5 SAI Bn, the host of the event, also had MWO Theuns Visser, their RSM, in the field and he came second. Lt Col Nzweni also came second overall in his age group category.
ROADMAP TO A COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT

Reaching one's retirement date is an exciting and rewarding moment after years of dedicated service to your country. "But your post-retirement planning starts at least five years before you retire. Important decisions need to be made to ensure that you and your family can live comfortably during your golden years," explains Mr Dinash Pillay, Manager: Single Premium Support Unit at Metropolitan Life.

Mr Pillay continued: "At Metropolitan, we have developed the Capital Preservation Plan, so you can rest assured that you will extract the most value from your retirement savings for you and your family."

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A Capital Preservation Plan not only guarantees an income for the rest of your life, but also a return of the original investment (or you can select to have any amount of your capital preserved, from 50% to 100%) to the nominated beneficiaries.

This is achieved by using some of the pension payment to pay for the premiums on a life cover policy. The death benefit on this policy will be the amount of your capital that you wish to be paid to your beneficiaries in the event of your death. This way, you are preserving your capital. In other words, upon your death, the pension payments will cease, but your beneficiaries will receive the death benefit of the life policy.

Mr Pillay concluded: "Contact the Metropolitan single premium support unit on 0860 99 00 99 today to help you pave the way to becoming financially independent during your retirement years by maximising the value of your nest egg."

These teams and individuals will participate in the SANDF Fittest Soldier Competition in Port Elizabeth from 17 to 21 October 2011.

Maj Gen Masondo presented the prizes to the winners, at this his last event as Chief Director Army Force Preparation, and he congratulated all the participants on being victorious in the face of the impossible. He also encouraged all the units to make fitness a priority with the aim of achieving an 80% fitness pass rate in 2012.

ABOVE: SA Army female soldiers running the 2 km run with an ammunition case.

LEFT: A soldier sweating on the run with a 120 mm mortar base plate during the SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition at 5 SAI Bn in Ladysmith.
The psalmist tells us that we are not owners, but stewards. All ownership is with God. Every single created thing, living or not, ultimately belongs to Him, including everything material or immaterial that we may personally have in this life: possessions, careers and families. He has given us all these things for us to enjoy (1 Tim 6:17) but He still has ultimate responsibility for them.

Steward

A steward manages and takes care of that which belongs to someone else. God owns everything, but as stewards we manage and take care of God’s belongings. God holds us accountable for the special responsibility of managing and taking care of the things that he has given us. We have an obligation to be faithful in this stewardship.

Stewardship is an ethic that embodies responsible planning and management of resources. The concept of stewardship has been applied to diverse realms, including to the environment, economics, health, property, information, and religion, and is linked to the concept of sustainability.

Historically, stewardship was the responsibility given to household servants to bring food and drink to a castle dining hall. The term was then expanded to indicate a household employee’s responsibility for managing household or domestic affairs (eg Joseph in Potiphar’s house in Egypt Gen 39:3-6).

Environmental stewardship

Environmental stewardship refers to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) championed a land ethic “dealing with a human’s relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it”. In Africa, Wangari Maathai championed this by encouraging the planting of trees. Through this act, she was the first black woman to be awarded the Noble Peace Prize. If we take care of the environment, it will take care of us.

Fiscal stewardship

This is a difficult part of stewardship in this greedy and supercilious partying generation where people choose to be rich at any cost. They steal, kill and plot against others to possess more money. The love of money (not money) in these instances is the root of all evil (1 Tim 6:9) “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs”.

Money is the good servant to be managed, but is always a bad manager to those who want to serve it. In giving to the needy, we only return back what belongs to God. People do not change the world by how much they possess (bank account) but by how much they have given to those in need (generosity).

Health Stewardship

In 2000, the Director-General of the World Health Organization highlighted health stewardship as a new concept, noting that the function involves “setting and enforcing the rules of the game and providing strategic direction for all the different actors meant.” The concept was developed and defined as “the careful and responsible management of the well-being of the population, the very essence of good government... This does not, of course, mean that the government needs to fund and provide all health interventions. It needs, however, to set the direction for both public and private sectors and ensure that the health system contributes to the socially desired intrinsic goals... Within government, Ministries of Health must take on a large part of the stewardship of health systems and should direct/coordinate intersectoral action for health.”

Rank stewardship

I once heard an airman saying: “If one does not have a rank in a military environment, one is not considered as a person. The only time we are considered as people is when we are proposed, used and abused and then dumped for the next person. We allow ourselves to be abused because we want to prove to our seniors that we are fully human and can take them on at their weakest point”.

Another soldier said: “I can’t wait for the day when I can leave a military. I no longer have the passion which I used to have because my career manager has ensured that my career path has been frustrated”.

Another said: “I came to the military still ‘pure’, a virgin (real danone), and because I wanted to pass the BMT and fast-track my career, I had to sleep with my seniors. I did pass, my career has been fast-tracked, but I have lost my soul and am HIV positive”.

In all these three cases, we see bad rank stewardship and its abuse. A military rank is given to a person who has proven worthy to be trusted with authority at a higher level. In the military one serves better with a rank and becomes a good example to be followed. It is not the rank that makes the soldier, but the soldier makes the rank. Like Jesus, a true leader serves better with a rank and becomes a good example to be followed. People do not have to suffer while leaders enjoy themselves, but true leaders choose to suffer for their followers to live a better life. This is stewardship.

Conclusion

How can we be better stewards in the little corners in which God has placed us? What do you need to change in your life to become a better steward?
he SA Navy Reserve is staffed by competent men and women who have both a civilian career and a career in the South African Navy. Often their civilian qualifications and their careers are well utilised by the South African National Defence Force to supplement their full time staff.

Lt Cdr Steven Bentley, the Waterfront Harbour Master of the V&A Waterfront, is such a man with a passion for things nautical and that which imparts his knowledge and skills to others. He is comfortable in any attire that reflects his passion for the sea, and has been seen in several guises on any day, from his Harbour Masters uniform to his Naval uniform to yachting docksiders, overall or wetsuit.

In his civilian capacity Lt Cdr Bentley is responsible for the V&A Waterfront, which includes the Alfred and Victoria basins, the V&A Marina and the Roggebaai Canal. Through the efficient work by the Waterfront Harbour Master’s office and his team of five staff an excellent relationship exists between the Port Authorities and the shipping fraternity. This relationship has resulted in the Transnet Port of Cape Town and the V&A Waterfront co-existing harmoniously while using the same waterways for shipping, charter boats, fishing boats, and recreational yachting.

His role also involves the logistics associated with hosting passenger liners, research ships, foreign warships, tall ships, the fishing fleet and the huge super yachts often visible in the harbour. He also plans major yachting events, for example the Volvo Ocean Race, the Clipper Round the World Race, and the Global Ocean Race, all due before the end of 2011. Planning for these events is already in progress and brings together several aspects of Lt Cdr Bentley’s naval training in organising, planning and executing, with a drop of passion!

The pre-planning for the arrival of a vessel is a huge task and, when done well, the vessel has an enjoyable stay. Lt Cdr Bentley’s success is evident from the many return visits by warships, the international passenger fleet and super yachts. When it comes to warships, he and his staff pull out all the stops to make sure that the visit is a success and that the captains go home to their flag countries with a good impression of South Africa.

Lt Cdr Bentley has been part of the V&A Waterfront since its inception over 24 years ago. During his working life he has been actively involved in harbour construction, inspecting the coastal shoreline and cargo operations. After over 35 years in the maritime and port environments he elected to study further and qualified as a Harbour Master via the London Institute of Maritime Studies. At the same time he studied for four years as a part-time Cat E midshipman (between the ages of 44 and 48 years) at the SA Navy College, and completed the full Naval Officer’s course.

It is this qualification and his prior experience in the ports, and the SA Navy experience, which prepared him for his current position, after he had passed the Degree course with outstanding results.

He has also participated in ship motion study programme and harbour modeling conducted by the CSIR at Stellenbosch and always shares his valuable knowledge and insights. His vast knowledge in practical port activities has resulted in his providing valuable inputs to developments located as far afield as Walvis Bay, Abu Dhabi, Kaohsiung (Taiwan), Rotterdam, and numerous waterfront and marina developments nationally and internationally.

Recently he assisted the SA Navy Hydrographic Office by visiting all the ports and assisting with the calibration of the tide gauges. He has also assisted with the maritime inspection of the naval floating jetties, assisted with inputs on the reuse of naval buildings, served on the SAS PROTEA in earlier times as a shore position surveyor, and worked at the charting office at Silvermine. His earlier Port Civil Engineering qualifications have been an invaluable asset to the SA Navy.

When not at work at the V&A Waterfront, Lt Cdr Bentley utilises his off-duty time to follow his various other passions. He is also active in the recreational sailing community and holds both the SAS OFFSHORE, and the RYA Yacht Master qualifications. After over 20 years of service with the NSRI, where he qualified as a big boat coxswain, he unfortunately had to curtail his active service availability due to his daily port responsibilities.