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

SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

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Blast Impact and Survivability Research Unit

History of the SA Corps of Signals

SA traditional regiments takes on NATO’s best

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FRONT COVER: Capt Charles Beaurain competing in the triathlon championship at the Peace Games. Read all about the 5th CISM Military World Games in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on pages 38 to 45. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)
A s we all know by now, September is our heritage month when South Africans celebrate the diverse cultural heritage that makes up our “rainbow nation”. Of the 12 South African calendar months, it is in September that we ought to celebrate the contribution of all South Africans to the building of South Africa.

In this edition we delve into some of this military heritage. Heritage is about remembering the past and those who came before us, and what they have done for us that we should remember and celebrate. Yes, we should not forget the past. I say with conviction: if you do not know where you come from how do you know where you are heading? Life is lived forwards, but understood backwards.

In this Edition: on page 5 our Chief SANDF, General Shoke, has a heritage message for you. As I have said before, what we do today has a direct influence on the future. Once we have departed what we did today will be referred to as heritage. In creating this heritage a women’s only parade was held by the SANDF. In page 16 and 17 we honour those who perished during the Battle of Delville Wood.

On our sports pages we go international where we bring about our efforts to save our environment on pages 32 to 35. A general. This means taking care of our environment as well. Read what we did today will be referred to as heritage. In creating this heritage a women’s only parade was held by the SANDF. In page 16 and 17 we honour those who perished during the Battle of Delville Wood.

On page 38 and 39, read about the Reserve Force taking on NATO’s best. In last month’s editor’s note I promised you that we would take the extra mile to bring you news that matter to you. SA Soldier takes account of the diversity of its readers. That is the reason we go the extra mile to bring you news that matter to you. On pages 18 to 20 you can read about the SANDF’s social responsibly efforts. When we say the SANDF is the Force that cares we don’t only mean caring for humanity but for life in general. This means taking care of our environment as well. Read about our efforts to save our environment on pages 32 to 35.

On our sports pages we go international where we bring SANDF’s participation in various international sporting codes. On page 38 and 39, read about the Reserve Force taking on NATO’s best. In last month’s editor’s note I promised you that we would bring you the 5th CISM Military World Games. This was the largest military sports event ever held in Brazil, with approximately 4,900 athletes from 108 countries competing in 20 sports codes. The SANDF was one of the competitors in these games. Read more about it on pages 40 to 45.

It is always a pleasure and indeed a blessing to keep in touch with you through this DOD official magazine. I look forward to this opportunity again next month.

Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Deputy Editor

Go tšwa go Morulaganyi

B efore we go into battle gogwadi yea Lezidi ko yaa no, Ma Afrika Borwa ka bopana ka lekuwa dita latša fao ka go fephipa gona liko, go diina no a “molele-edi” (Rainbow nation). “Molele-edi” go fephipa gona Lezidi yea Lezidi ro ka bolela tša tša, go tshepho a Legosi bolela tša tša no Lezidi Borwa.

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S A S O L D I E R

from the editor’s desk

message from the editor

Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Xandla xa muhleri

Xandla xa muhleri

Translated XITsonga by Ms Nemedwa Chawane.
September is the month when we as South Africans the time out to appreciate and celebrate our diverse heritage that gives this country its colourful history.

As the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) we have a rich military history that is often undervalued but that has played a significant role in building this country.

It brings to mind the heroic days of King Shaka Zulu who was one of the greatest warriors in the world, in 1816 during his reign. His battle techniques revolutionized the way wars were fought in Africa. He is renowned for his military genius, discipline and an attempt to unify the warring tribes of the Zulu Nation.

In the Anglo-Boer War of (1899-1902), although the protagonists were Britain and the two Boer Republics, the population of South Africa as a whole became embroiled in the war, either directly or indirectly.

During the First World War (1914-1918) and the Second World War (1939-1945) blacks and whites fought side by side under the Union Jack.

South Africa’s independence from British rule came in 1961 but unfortunately it gave birth to apartheid. This was the Genesis of the Armed Struggle (1961) against apartheid, which saw the birth of the African National Congress’s military wing, uMkhonto weSizwe and the Azanian People’s Liberation Army, whose mother body was the Pan Africanist Congress.

On 27 April 1994, a new nation was born. South Africa was no longer a pariah state. It became a place for all who live in it. Non-statutory Forces were integrated into the newly formed South African National Defence Force (SANDF) which was constitutionally mandated “to defend and to protect the Republic, its territorial integrity and its people regardless of creed or colour.”

The South African military heritage is drawn from the sweat, blood and tears of many, so as we celebrate Heritage Month this year, it is important to reflect on where we come from as a people of this country in order to know where we are going. We in the SANDF are immensely proud of our country’s remarkable military heritage and the journey that we have travelled together to overcome differences and work collectively to build a democratic South Africa that belongs to all who live in it.

Happy Heritage Month to all SANDF members.
SA SOLDIER

APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

On behalf of my committee, the greater community of the North West Province and specifically the people of Tlokwe City Council area of jurisdiction, I wish to extend a hearty thanks to your organisation for a sterling effort and selfless service to the public at large as well as to the backbone of society, the farmers and their staff. Had it not been for your exceptional and heroic service, we would have been faced with a disaster on a scale never before seen in our country due to the recent widespread threat of fire. Would you be so kind as to convey this message of appreciation and gratitude to all your members and staff. Their courage, determination and gallant efforts will always be remembered and appreciated by all and sundry.

I do not think that the City Council, the people of Tlokwe or the North West Province Legislature fully appreciate the magnitude of the disaster that befell our area and the good fortune we experienced that the fire did not reach the hills leading to the Vredefort Dome. This may well have happened had your members not been so steadfast in their endeavours, and the fire could even have spread to the Free State, which would also have suffered the same type of devastation as was experienced in the North West and Gauteng. Once again please accept my heartfelt and sincere thanks for everything you and your members do, and have done, for our City and Province. May you be blessed with good rains, fertile soil and healthy stock in the coming season! Eric J.

UNISA IN DIALOGUE WITH COMBAT TRAINING CENTRE

On 28 June 2011 members from Unisa was invited to come to the SA Army Combat Training Centre at Lohatlha to meet with Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, and some of his unit members to look into the possibility of establishing a Unisa contact and examination centre at Lohatlha.

As a profound believer in education and a culture of lifelong learning Brig Gen Mpaxa initiated this visit with the prospect of reaching an agreement with Unisa. The following opportunities for Lohatlha were discussed during the visit:

- Establishing a Unisa contact and examination centre.
- Orientation and registration of learners in Lohatlha.
- Presenting short courses.
- Setting up a videoconference facility.

- Facilitating small groups.
- Because of the geographic location of Lohatlha, the establishment of such a Unisa centre would be of great benefit to the members permanently stationed there and learners reporting for courses and exercises at Lohatlha. It can also be of great benefit to the people of local communities, as the nearest Unisa centre currently is in Kimberley, about 240 km away. The visit was successfully concluded and the SA Army Combat Training Centre is awaiting a positive response from Unisa as to whether or not they see fit to reach an agreement. If Unisa decides to reach this agreement with SA Army Combat Training Centre, it will be one of the first of its kind in the South African National Defence Force.

In the words of Mary Manin Morrissey: “Don’t wait for something big to occur. Start where you are, with what you have and that will always lead you to something greater.”

MS Hanna Coetzee, Lohatlha

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.

Winning letter

TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT

Let us treat poor people with respect.
Do not oppress the poor to increase your wealth.
Do not exploit the poor because they are poor.
Do not crush the poor with your boots, or else poverty and scarcity will come to you like a rob-
ter.
Do not gloat when those who were higher are demoted, or else your wealth will fly off like an eagle in the sky.

Pte
M.V. Mathibela, Phalaborwa

Stoch, Interim Chairman: North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association

Ftr: Mr Abraham Kheswa (Unisa), Ms Hanna Coetzee, Mr Vivian Eksteen, Ms Linda Procter (Unisa), Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa (Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre), Ms Manniedene Louw (Unisa) and Chaplain Joel Maphelo.

(Kindly send your winning letter to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001 for a R200-00 cash prize. Winning letters are published on a rotating basis and may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations.)
It was my privilege to share the podium with Minister Sisulu, the Chief of the SA Air Force. I was honoured, not only to share the podium with them, albeit for a few moments, to receive the SA Air Force Prestige Trophy on behalf of 2 Air Servicing Unit, AFB Langebaanweg. This has to rate as the single highest honour in my career in the SA Air Force. I was honoured, not only to share the podium with Minister Sisulu and Lt Gen Gagiano, but also to represent the Air Force and country with a moving sermon befitting the day. The Master of Ceremonies, WO2 L.M. Meyers, in his opening remarks read a well-written and researched poem in praise of Dr Nelson Mandela. The Officer Commanding ASB Kimberley, Col M.R. Mongo, and MWO F.J.P. Kruger lit nine candles (for 90 years) and three small candles (for 3 years) in commemoration of this joyous event. The ASB Kimberley unit, in turn, displayed enormous generosity in their contribution to Madiba Day by participating voluntarily in a coin laying ceremony. An amount of R1 500 was collected during the ceremony and was donated to Groenpunt Primary School situated next to the Base.

It was Dr Mandela himself who said: “Education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world”. It is the wish of Col Mongo that this act of goodwill, initiated by Lt Col P.J. Steenkamp, be adopted as a tradition within the SA Air Force and country with conviction. Receiving the aforementioned honours is testimony to that fact.

I would like to congratulate you on an excellent magazine. I look forward with great anticipation every month to read the articles in the magazine since I find them most informative, and they give me an insight into what’s happening in my National Defence Force.

Secondly, thank you indeed for publishing two articles in the March edition of SA Soldier; both relating to the prestige awards of the SA Air Force. On page 21 of that edition you published a wonderful photo of Ms Lindivele Sisulu, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, accompanied by Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief of the SA Air Force. It was my privilege to share the podium with them, albeit for a few moments, to receive the SA Air Force Prestige Trophy on behalf of 2 Air Servicing Unit, AFB Langebaanweg. This has to rate as the single highest honour in my career in the SA Air Force. I was honoured, not only to share the podium with Minister Sisulu and Lt Gen Gagiano, but also to represent a unit such as 2 Air Servicing Unit.

Lastly, on page 30 of the same edition, both the Air Force Prestige Unit of the Year and the Air Force Air Servicing Unit of the Year are listed as 2 Air Supply Unit, AFB Langebaanweg. Please allow me to point out that it was indeed 2 Air Servicing Unit, AFB Langebaanweg, which received those honours. Without going into too much detail, 2 Air Servicing Unit is basically responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery. The cemetery is visited on a regular basis to ensure that the grave is in good order.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is in the process of replacing the current headstone with a new headstone reflecting the correct details. Owing to a severe backlog at the Commission’s headstone plant in France this may take up to nine months to be corrected.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission remains committed to maintaining the graves of the Commonwealth soldiers who died during the two World Wars and welcome any comments. Please visit their website: www.cwgc.org. Capt (SAN) Charles Ross (Ret), Secretary of the SA Agency: Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

News SA Soldier

KIMBERLEY CELEBRATES MADIBA DAY

93 years ago a boy was born to the Mandela family, someone who would later be honoured and loved by the whole world. A man of great stature and an abundance of wisdom. He dances to the beat of God’s heart, he shines in the light of His presence, he has a heart of compassion and moves in the power of His spirit.

During a heartfelt ceremony on 18 July 2011, Army Support Base Kimberley bade a very happy 93rd birthday to Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. The event was opened by the birthday to Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. The event was opened by the Master of Ceremonies, WO2 L.M. Meyers, in his opening remarks read a well-written and researched poem in praise of Dr Nelson Mandela. The Officer Commanding ASB Kimberley, Col M.R. Mongo, and MWO F.J.P. Kruger lit nine candles (for 90 years) and three small candles (for 3 years) in commemoration of this joyous event. The ASB Kimberley unit, in turn, displayed enormous generosity in their contribution to Madiba Day by participating voluntarily in a coin laying ceremony. An amount of R1 500 was collected during the ceremony and was donated to Groenpunt Primary School situated next to the Base.

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SA SOLDIER

SEX AND SOLDIERS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

The Southern African Historical Society held its biennial conference from 27 to 29 June 2011 at the Howard Campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. This year's theme was 'The Past and its Possibilities: Perspectives of Southern Africa'. Five members from the School for Security and African Studies and another from the Centre for Military Studies at the Faculty of Military Science (the Military Academy) attended this well-organised event.

The Military Academy crew grabbed with their paper 'Business as Usual: Commercial Sex and its Possibilities: Perspectives of Southern Africa'. Five members from the School for Security and African Studies and another from the Centre for Military Studies at the Faculty of Military Science (the Military Academy) attended this well-organised event.

The title of the paper was 'Bored Stiff: The Leisure-time Experience of (South African) Troops since 1899'. It alluded to what one commentator afterwards termed 'a very brave panel indeed'.

The audience expected interesting and controversial papers, and at the panel's conclusion they were not disappointed. The panel as a whole destroyed common misconceptions around the nature and content on what constitutes military history.

The papers addressing this common theme followed in chronological sequence, with Prof Ian Liebenberg the first to present his paper, entitled 'Business as Usual: Commercial Sex Work/Prostitution in Johannesburg during the Anglo-Boer War with Specific Reference to the British Occupation.' Liebenberg pointed out that there existed both a formal and an informal network of sex workers in the ZAR (Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek) prior, during, as well as after the British occupation of Johannesburg and Pretoria. By the end of his talk the audience were keenly aware that the needs of troops on deployment stretched far beyond post and pay. Lt Col (Prof) Ian van der Waag presented a packed lecture room with his paper 'Furlough, Beer and Brothel: The Politics of STD's in the AIF, 1914-1918.'

Herein he dealt with how STD's influenced the Australian war effort during World War I and how the contraction of sexual transmitted diseases (STD's) contributed to an enormous wastage of manpower in all armies of the period due to hospitalisation. This revealing presentation was backed up with in-depth statistics and graphs, which supported an otherwise well researched paper. The Union Defence Force was not about to let their troops follow in the footsteps of the Australians during World War I and here Lt Evert Klynhans did sterling work in his depiction of the importance of sport as a leisure-time activity for soldiers with his paper 'The Fighting Springboks: The Role of Rugby in the Union Defence Force during WW II.'

After the normality of some defence force rugby, Capt Gustav Bentz, with a graphic and no-nonsense presentation, informed a mesmerised audience that in spite of efforts to keep troops occupied with sport and official entertainment, many soldiers sought out entertainment of an illegal nature. His paper entitled 'At the fleshpots of Egypt: The battle for control of the morality of South African troops in North Africa during World War II', was enjoyed by an increasingly captivated audience. Lt Herman Warden, focussing on a more recent topic, spoke of 'Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Leisure Time Utilisation within the SADF during the Bush War.' Lt Tjaart Barnard concluded the discussion on a high note with his paper 'Soldiers and solicitation: The South African experience', in which he dealt with some of the current illegal practices of military personnel on deployment.

At the conclusion of his paper the audience realised that little had changed over the past 100 years in terms of how soldiers spent their time when not engaged in physical fighting.

The papers were all well received and were described as controversial and thought-provoking. The team were commended for their bravery in taking on such a controversial and rather little studied yet relevant topic. The members did not just make their presence felt during the academic proceedings, but participated heartily in all of the social activities as well. New relationships with other university colleagues were forged and the honour of the Military Academy and the SANDF was upheld at all times. Ettienne Barnard, email.

5 SAI BN OUR PRIDE

I am proud to write this letter to my best magazine as a member of 5 SA Infantry Battalion. Let me first orientate you about my unit. It is the window of Ladysmith when coming from Durban and Johannesburg. In summer sounds echo from Klip River and the green mountains of Drakensberg far to the west.

In winter snow beautifully covers the Drakensberg mountains. During Mandela Month soldiers join hands with local government departments to clean the Uthukela area and educate people about recycling and other development activities. Our unit keeps battle history alive by participating heartily in all of the social activities as well. New relationships with other university colleagues were forged and the honour of the Military Academy and the SANDF was upheld at all times.

BE A REAL WOMAN

A woman's ability to give birth is what makes her special.

A woman brings up her children, and even though she may live to provide financially for her children, she always strives to give them the best in life.

A real woman works hard to succeed in life; she is strong. A real woman is confident about all she does and thinks positively even in tough times.

A real woman does not bring other women down. She does everything she can to inspire, motivate and build them up. She gives them guidance and prays for them when they need help.

A real woman always has a smile. A real woman loves life and cherishes her loved ones. She understands her family and friends. Women are the conquerors.

M.P. Zungu Masango, 121 BN
FEMALE IN A MALE DOMINANTED ENVIRONMENT

Asked what it took to be a female supervisor in a male dominant environment, Maj Motlapula Miranda Methula replied: "Most of my colleagues are supportive. Therefore, by ensuring that you know your work, are diligent and willing to work long hours, women can become just as much team members in the environment in which we work as men.

Maj Methula is one of the supervisors at Defence Works Formation in Thaba Tshwane and a proud mother of two children, Solly Thabang and Muzi Kabelo Methula. She is currently studying for an advanced qualification in the field of construction management.

GOLF ... NO LONGER JUST A SPORT

Golf is no longer just a sport; it has become an opportunity for networking, for old friends to re-engage and to relax. SA Army Signal Formation outdid itself again by creating just such an opportunity by hosting the annual SA Army Signal Formation/SACS Corporate Golf Day at the Akuasia Golf Club in Pretoria on 12 August 2011.

Stakeholders of SA Army Signal Formation were invited to book a "four ball" and to participate in this annual prestigious event.

During the awards function, Brig Gen Leon Eggers, the General Officer Commanding SA Army Signal Formation, said: "It's a golf day with a "difference" and "At the end of the day, people are here to enjoy themselves". He then thanked Lt Col Berna Steyn, Officer Commanding 4 Signal Regiment, and her team from 4 Signal Regiment for their hard work.

As custodians of health in the DOD, the SAMHS used its day to celebrate the art of military health and its myriad gains and achievements since its formation. The SAMHS was formed on 1 July 1979, which marked its 32nd anniversary as a separate Service from the other Services of the SANDF. The day was used to commemorate and honour all the members who paid the ultimate price in service of the great nation and to thank all those members who, as medical personnel or non-combatants, were deployed in hospitals and sickbays, not only in South Africa, but also in and around the continent. The members were well dressed in their tracksuits as they marched through the stadium and the Medical Veterinary Institute showed their dog handling skills.

The push-up competition was also one of the highlights of the day as Master Warrant Officers from different formations took part in the competition. Master Warrant Sebone and Master Warrant Williams were the winners on the day. The day culminated in a precision drill competition by the SAMHS Band also showed their skills during the day as they performed a free-fall parachute jump. The SAMHS Band also entertained members as they marched through the stadium.

Military Health Training Formation. Among the competitors were three different platoons of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) while L Cpl Monke Marumo scooped the trophy for the best drill presentation. "I am very proud and honoured to win this competition," said L Cpl Marumo: "We worked hard for this."

The Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vojaynard Ramilakan, encouraged members and reminded them of the importance of the ten focus areas in building towards excellence. He said: "Make sure that you know where the new SAMHS is moving towards." Lt Gen Ramilakan concluded by expressing his gratitude to all people contributing to the growth of the Service. Pte Tshegoafatsa Rakoma, Pretoria.

SAMHS CELEBRATES ITS DAY IN STYLE

28 June 2011 marked another significant day in the history of the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) as a large number of people from different units gathered together at the Defence Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane to celebrate the SAMHS Day.

As custodians of health in the DOD, the SAMHS used its day to celebrate the art of military health and its myriad gains and achievements since its formation. The SAMHS was formed on 1 July 1979, which marked its 32nd anniversary as a separate Service from the other Services of the SANDF. The day was used to commemorate and honour all those members who paid the ultimate price in service of the great nation and tribute was paid to those members that were deployed in hospitals and sickbays, not only in South Africa, but also in and around the continent. The members were well dressed in their tracksuits as they marched through the stadium and the Medical Veterinary Institute showed their dog handling skills.

The push-up competition was also one of the highlights of the day as Master Warrant Officers from different formations took part in the competition. Master Warrant Sebone and Master Warrant Williams were the winners on the day. The day culminated in a precision drill competition by the SAMHS Band also showed their skills during the day as they performed a free-fall parachute jump. The SAMHS Band also entertained members as they marched through the stadium and the Medical Veterinary Institute showed their dog handling skills.

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letters to the editor

SA SOLDIER
TO ALL THE LADIES

This letter is dedicated to all the ladies:
Look how beautiful you are my love, how your eyes shine with love! Your hair waves, your teeth are as white as milk, not one of them is missing; they are all perfectly matched. Your lips are like a perfect ribbon; do you know how lovely they are when you speak? Your neck is round and smooth, until morning the darkness disappears when ever you are around.

How beautiful you are, how perfect you are my love. You are compared to a flower. My love, my sweetheart, my bride is a secret garden.

My love, do not be like a flower that is perfect in the early hours and when the sun sets it dies. Do not depend on nourishment, but on strength. My love, you are the deepest and secret weapon. Stay as good and perfect as you are.

My love, your strength is amazing. You raised kids for me. You nourish them and whenever I see them I praise your wisdom. I am the stronghold, the commander, the controller, but without you my love, I am nothing; without your existence I am useless. Without you my love, my leadership is in vain.

Thank you for your utmost support. Without you, where would my daughter be, where would my son be? Where do you think Africa would be without you; can you imagine the world without a woman?

You deserve my utmost support. You need care and love. To me you are like a flower that I take care of and it stays in good condition. Be as perfect as your majesty, for I am perfect. Let me lead you to a prosperous life. May God bless Africa and the world, for He is the ruler of the universe, the Owner of mankind, animals and plants. F.K.L. Poogo, Founder and Chairman of Itireleng Bokamoso Club (currently deployed in the DRC)

S A S O L D I E R

TSALENA PRODUCTION CREW VISIT TO DRC

This letter is not meant to support what the Minister of Defence, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, said during her Budget Speech when she highlighted how inadequate the Defence Budget was nor is it meant for you, the loyal SA Soldier magazine reader, to pity the members of our proud organisation. This letter is meant to inform you and update you, the great South Africans, in your sons and daughters who were sent to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to go and help stabilise and bring peace to that vast country.

The Battalion Engineers, under the command of Sgt N.T. Mowale, are doing their best to upgrade the barracks/living quarters and offices of the Operational Battalion.

The Light Work Troop (LWT), under the command of Capt M. Netshidzati, is also doing whatever is possible in their power to improve the serviceability of the vehicles in the Battalion. There are times when the mechanics, or the artisans as they like to be called, have to be detached from the Battalion HQ to the Company Operational Bases (COBs), like Kitchanga, for a whole week to go and help improve the serviceability status of our COBs. However, the challenging factor remains the working conditions. Soldiering is not for sissies.

On 29 June 2011 we as 4 SA Infantry Battalion (4 SAI Bn) hosted the Tsalena crew who where assigned by the DOD to come and record the lives of SANDF peacekeepers in the DRC.

On 3 August 2011 the RSA Contingent in the DRC hosted Mr N. Mabaya, the Spokesperson for the Minister of Defence, at the National Contingent Commander Compound. At the same time we bade farewell to the Tsalena crew.

On 7 August 2011 in Mpati our TOB bought books in Goma and donated them to the two local primary schools.

Note: The Officer Commanding 4 SAI Bn, Lt Col W.L. Madikoto, would like to appeal to all SA Soldier readers to pass the message on to all the loved ones of all the members deployed with 4 SAI Bn that we are safe and that there have been no casualties to date (31 August 2011). Lt M.E. Semono, email...
Focus on Heritage

Women as agents of change

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

Over 1,000 women from all the Services and Divisions of the Department of Defence (DOD) took their time off on 05 August 2011 in order to commemorate South African women. Celebrating the difference brought about by our female citizens has become part of our culture and heritage. The 2011 event was held at the Works Training School (formerly known as the Centre for Advancement of Training, or CAT).

During her keynote address Ms Lumka Yengeni, a Member of Parliament, said the event had been carefully earmarked for August as a special month to pay tribute to the heroines who risked their lives and careers in demanding to be recognised.

"Historically the event goes a long way back, to 1956, when women organised a huge demonstrating against the pass laws in Pretoria, which also demonstrated unity across racial lines. Those women paved the way for the emergence of women’s organisations and campaigns, such as the potato boycotts. They were vocal and in unison during the treason trials of struggle heroes. International women’s organisations heard their plight and also joined their cause and supported them, side by side for our liberation," Ms Yengeni remarked.

According to the guest speaker, Mrs Zimasa Petane, the spouse to Maj Gen Moolisi Petane, said that women should not wait to be given roles to lead, but instead, they should rise up and put up a fight.

"Today we see the role of women as pronounced and the constitution has gone a long way towards acknowledging their role in our society and the world literally is moving towards giving the women their rightful place they deserve. We also applaud and are immensely proud to note the strides made by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans (MOD&MV) Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and the Defence Secretary, Ms Mpumi Mpofu. Within a few months in her role as minister, she brought about major changes in her department, including the introduction of the separate dispensation for the members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and an improvement in their conditions of service. The main question we should ask ourselves is, are there enough women in middle to top management today? Women should rise up to the occasion when given leadership roles, prove themselves and be counted among the best," Mrs Petane said.

Apart from the entertainment provided during the day, there were also activities to empower women with self-defence and First Aid techniques as well as introduction to basic motor vehicle tools such as a wheel spanner and a jack and were lectured on the do’s and the don’ts when confronted with adverse motoring / security situations. Other invited guests included the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo, and as a respected Woman in Football Administration and a Football Club owner, Mrs Ria Ledwaba, and many others.
**DOD celebrates the anchors of family and society**

Women epitomise tenderness, care and wisdom, but today’s landscape tells a different story. Women are no longer choosing between a family and a career, they choose to have both. They are also not limited by boundaries, but have in fact broadened their horizons and reached heights that the earlier generations could only dream about.

As we celebrate heritage month to highlight and promote cultural expression and diverse heritage, which contribute to building our nation, our collective history not only ensures worldwide awareness and exposure for our country, but builds upon the foundation for generations to come in embracing the Africaness we share.

On 29 August 2011, the SANDF women in their different colourful uniforms dazzled the crowd with a women only parade performed in detailed precision drill on the field, there was also a fly-past and a flight in salute by the SA Air Force at the Thaba Tshwane Military Sports Ground.

The parade also served as an opportunity to celebrate our military diversity, as it paid homage to the rich legacy of the SANDF’s contribution to humanity and its participation in changing lives of ordinary citizens.

Addressing the gathering and about 450 female soldiers on parade, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, commended the role of women in the DOD and reaffirmed the important role of these amazing SANDF women soldiers in peacekeeping missions who go beyond their normal call of duty in creating a safer Africa by protecting the vulnerable and insecure.

She said that the Department of Defence was a department in motion, which seeks to find an efficient and effective modus operandi that would advance the government’s priorities through its constitutional mandate.

Minister Sisulu said she was proud to see all these women in uniform on the parade ground. Seeing these women in the different Service uniforms made her optimistic for
the future and the heritage that was being created for future young women who would want to join the military. "To see how the ranks of women have grown over a few years is truly a long-term investment in the future, not only for themselves, but also for the greater South African community, as every passing day brings confirmation that women in defence occupy an exceptional place in our society”, said the Minister.

She added that South Africa had made concerted efforts to accelerate women’s involvement in a range of spheres in the military environment, and this has been recognised as a good democratic practice. "Young women are joining the SANDF with the realisation that the protection and defence of the country’s sovereignty is no longer a male only preserve”, she said.

In conclusion, she said the SANDF has been contributing to peacekeeping missions for 10 years. "South Africa deploys the largest number of female soldiers in peace-keeping missions compared with other troop contributing countries. Female peacekeepers regard their deployment as an opportunity to put their military training into practice and they make it their business to reach out to women, the elderly and vulnerable children”, she said.

Peacekeeping in Africa is part of the legacy that will be enjoyed by the next generation as their African heritage. This heritage that begins in our time will tell the next generations that Africa enjoys peace partly because of these South African women in the SANDF uniform.

She applauded our women in arms for their full involvement in and impact on social support services supporting the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants into their communities; demobilisation, rehabilitation, reintegration and restoration of basic social services to the conflict affected population, thus creating a peaceful and guaranteed atmosphere for post-conflict reconstruction.
As part of the Emnambithi/Ladysmith Municipality’s Battlefield Heritage Festival on 02 July 2011, nine regiments of the South National Defence Force (SANDF) were granted the Right of Freedom of Entry to Ladysmith, of which four regiments actually took part.

The Municipality celebrated the 2nd Annual Battlefields Festival with several events that highlighted the 118 day siege of the town. The events included the Literary Festival, Oral History Workshop, Arts and Culture Festival, International Gun Run, Multicultural Exhibition and Freedom of the City parade.

This privilege means that troops may march through the city concerned with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed. It has a long history and symbolises the confidence of the civilian population in the Regiment or Unit.

In his message, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, said that South Africa’s role during the Second World War is acknowledged as truly remarkable and many of the regiments that paraded in Ladysmith participated with distinction in some of the major battles that took place in North Africa and Europe.

He added that the democratic elections in 1994 heralded the birth of a truly united South Africa. The Reserve Force units that paraded through the streets of Ladysmith reflected the demographics of the modern South Africa. This is a remarkable achievement in the country’s history and the soldiers who serve in these regiments reflect the same pride in their traditions as those who served before them.

The 121 SAI Bn, Durban Light Infantry, served before them.

Lt Col M.J. Rowe shows the parade and public the scroll after receiving it from the Mayor, Honourable Councillor Vincent Madlala.
Natal field Artillery, Vrystaat Artillery Regiment, Transvaal State Artillery, Umvoti Mounted Rifles, Natal Mounted Rifles, 1 Medical Battalion Group and 15 Maintenance Unit were granted the freedom of entry:

The Mayor said that the city was heartened by the selfless contribution of a number of people and organizations, particularly the people of Ladysmith. He mentioned that the Battlefield Heritage Festival parade was worth attending, to witness history in the making.

Major C.E. Nel, Officer Commanding Natal Field Artillery, addressed the event on behalf of all receiving units. He expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and the Councillors for granting the Freedom of Entry and for allowing the SANDF to exercise this right, and to honour both Regulars and Reserves with the highest honour a city could grant the Freedom of Entry. He said that, as a Defence Force, we are mindful of the fact that it is our duty to serve and protect the citizens of our country and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

And concluded by saying that as we celebrate our Freedom of Entry we must be mindful of the supreme sacrifice paid by the many soldiers in the siege and relief of Ladysmith, as well as those who have given their lives in the many battles in the vicinity and that it was their sacrifice that had brought us our freedom.
The Battle of Delville Wood remembered

Article and Photos by Mr John Adler

The battle of Delville Wood is of particular importance to South Africa, as it was the first major engagement entered into by the South African 1st Infantry Brigade on the Western Front during World War 1. From 14 July to 20 July 1916, the South African Brigade, comprising 121 officers and 3032 other ranks, was engaged in one of the bloodiest battles ever fought. Under command of the 9th Scottish Division, the 1st South African Brigade was ordered to attack Delville Wood and to hold it 'at all costs'. The 95th Commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood, including a wreath laying ceremony in the town of Longueval in the Somme province of France was held on 10 July 2011.

For five nights and six days the brigade fought against units of the German Fourth Army Corps. It was outnumbered and was attacked from three sides. On the Western Front, units were normally considered to be incapable of combat if their casualty levels had reached 30%, and they were withdrawn once this level had been reached. The South African Brigade suffered losses of 80%, yet they managed to hold the wood as ordered. This feat has been described as 'The bloodiest battle of the hell of 1916'.

Throughout poor weather and enemy artillery fire, which reached a crescendo of 400 shells a minute, the surrounding landscape was transformed into a mess of broken tree stumps, roots and massive shell holes. Only one tree survived and even today the shrapnel marks are visible in its ancient trunk.

Mud and rainwater covered bodies of South African and German soldiers alike - many the bodies remain in the wood today. On 20 July 1916, six days after entering the wood, Col Thackeray, who was himself wounded, walked out of Delville Wood with two wounded officers and 140 other ranks casualties sustained by this Brigade were of catastrophic proportions.

Following the war, Delville Wood was purchased by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and presented to South Africa. The memorial was unveiled on 10 October 1926. Two replicas of the memorial were...
made. Both are in South Africa, one in the Union Buildings in Pretoria, and one in Cape Town. This memorial also serves as the national memorial to all those of the South African Overseas Expeditionary Force who died during World War I. A total of some 229,000 officers and men served in the forces of South Africa in the war. Of these, some 10,000 died in action or through injury and sickness, and their names are written in a memorial register that was kept at this memorial, and is now kept in the nearby museum. Almost a third of the total South African casualties during WW1 occurred at Delville Wood in just six days. Today the wood, memorial and museum are looked after by the South African Government. The Delville Wood Cemetery, situated across the road from the memorial, contains 5,493 graves. Almost two thirds of these are of unknown soldiers.

Walking along the remains of the trenches that still scar the landscape to this day, it is difficult to imagine that this tranquil, beautiful place was the site of the horrors that these young men (most mere teenagers) endured. Knowing that many of these boys still lie buried, anonymous under my feet, was deeply moving. And I felt proud of our Defence Force that has ensured that although they may be anonymous, they are not forgotten.

Arques-la-Bataille

South Africans of all races were involved in the Great War in various roles and they all distinguished themselves by serving courageously.

The South African Native Labour Contingent came to France early in 1917 and No 1 General Labour Hospital was established at its camp at Arques-la-Bataille near Dieppe. Most of those who died in France lie in Arques-la-Bataille British Cemetery. There are 381 graves of the First World War of which 260 are of men of the Contingent, including some of whom were exhumed from Ste Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, to which the SS Mendi was headed before tragedy struck.

All these graves are grouped around a Great War Stone, on the face of which is a concave bronze medallion with the head of a Springbok in high relief. Inscribed on the stone in English, Sesotho and Xhosa are the words:

“To the memory of those Natives of the South African Labour Corps who crossed the seas in response to the call of their great Chief, King George V, and laid down their lives in France, for the British Empire, during the Great War 1914-1918, this Memorial is erected by their comrades.”

On the 8th of July 2011 a commemoration was held at the memorial followed by a wreath laying ceremony in the town of Arques-la-Bataille.

The sinking of the SS Mendi in the English Channel, a troopship carrying the last Native Labour contingent en route to France, with its heavy loss of life was also commemorated at Arques-la-Bataille.

On January 16, 1917 the Mendi troopship sailed from Cape Town en route for La Havre in France carrying the last contingent of the SANLC. On the morning of 21 February 1917, another ship, the SS Darro, rammed the SS Mendi, which sank in 20 minutes. There are many stories of the men’s bravery as the ship went down. One of them is that of the Reverend Isaac Wauchope Dyobha, who cried words of encouragement to the dying men. The men sang and stamped the death dance together as the SS Mendi sank, taking with her all still on board and many who leapt into the icy waters. Of note is that, regardless of race, clan or tribe, these men faced death together as South Africans.

Other tales of valour are told of Joseph Tshite, a schoolmaster from near Pretoria who encouraged those around him with hymns and prayers until he died. On receiving the news of the disaster (on 9 March 1917), all the members of the South African House of Assembly, under the then Prime Minister Louis Botha, rose in their seats as a token of respect to their fellow South Africans who had gone down with the SS Mendi. The survivors continued their military service in France. Like so many other military disasters, the story of the SS Mendi is a story of supreme courage in the face of death, and valour shown between brothers toward each other in dire circumstances. The courage displayed by these men has remained a legend in South African military history.
The preamble of the South African Constitution adopted in 1996, speaks to all citizens: “We, the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of our past; honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in diversity.”

In 1994, South Africans “emigrated” en masse, to a “new country”, replacing a repressive social and legal structure with one of the most sophisticated and modern constitutions in the world, which was crafted with the intention to bring change to the lives of all South Africans. The most obvious and remarkable changes in corporate and institutional structures that have taken place in recent years are the result of our constitutional transformation policies. Transformation Management Policies have been developed to move from being a historically disadvantaged society to a more representative society that embraces and values its diversity.

In the Department of Defence (DOD) the Transformation Management Chief Directorate has promulgated a Transformation Management Policy with specific guidelines to eliminate discrimination on any grounds. The policy has also been established to improve attitudinal, stereotypical and perception changes to promote social cohesion. However, transformation seems to be taking much longer than expected and diversity is not entirely embraced and managed. It therefore becomes crucial for all DOD members and employees to understand the importance of managing diversity in their working environment to eradicate all forms of divisions and discriminatory practices. Thus creating a favourable working environment where all members and employees are respected for who they are. Where they can experience a sense of belonging and develop their full potential for maximum performance so that they contribute positively towards the achievement of workplace objectives.

It is critical that all DOD officials create effective diversity management programme, to promote recognition and respect for the individual differences found among members or employees. The idea of this management style is to encourage employees to be comfortable with diversity in the workplace and develop an appreciation of differences in race, culture, gender, background, experiences, opinions, skills or any other factors that may not be shared by everyone working in the same area within the department.

The DOD officials are also encouraged to put an effort into complying with transformation management impera-
tives and create the kind of development systems where all members and employees from diverse backgrounds show respect and tolerance towards each other. Management practices, existing systems, and leaders that do not promote mutual respect and the development of employees should always be challenged according to the laid down prescripts.

The philosophy of diversity management suggests that institutions are making the necessary changes in their existing systems, structures and management practices to eliminate any subtle barriers that might keep employees from reaching their full potential. Furthermore, the presence of diversity in the office does not have to hamper productivity or create conflict. Instead, it must function as one of the most helpful aids in the promotion and attainment of the goals and objectives of the DOD.

Globally, differences in the workplace are increasingly seen as a powerful opportunity for strengthening institutional performance. Therefore leaders and managers must be keen to mentor, coach and encourage the development of underlying skills as well as talents among employees. It has been evident that well mentored and coached individuals gain confidence in their abilities. They tend to enjoy their jobs, which leads to satisfaction and positive results. Mentoring and coaching as one of the tools to gain new knowledge and skills, could be used to advance diversity management practices if properly implemented.

In a diverse institution like the DOD, diversity management is crucial in the campaign to increase morale, productivity and retention levels. It must be institutionalised to effect essential inner and structural changes that will shape the DOD into a more inclusive working environment that embraces human dignity and mutual respect.

Institutionalising diversity management will further convert an unfriendly workplace atmosphere into a welcoming environment where people freely communicate their opinions without fear of career limitation or victimisation.

The key to enhancing human dignity and social cohesion as well as discipline within a diverse environment is to be able to properly interpret and implement rules, regulations and policies as well as procedures such as the DOD Shared Values System, Codes of Conduct, Transformation Management Policy, basic Military Cultural practices, and many other policies. All Commanders are therefore encouraged to ensure that all unit members and employees are familiar with and understand all transformation management related policies that regulate the DOD with a view to advancing the eradication of all forms of discriminatory practices in the workplace.

**IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:**
- Valuing diversity starts with individuals; it starts with you.
- Treat people as individuals; avoid acting on perceptions, stereotypes or assumptions.
- Respect differences, try to look at things from the other person’s perspective and be objective.
- Learn about issues that affect groups of employees.
- Get all team members involved and recognise individual strengths accordingly.
- Use equal performance standards for all workers.
- Never underestimate other people’s opinions.
- Understand different cultural tendencies.
- Recognise and confront issues of discomfort.
- Appreciate and utilise different perspectives and styles of diverse workers.

Recognise group differences in communication and perspectives.
- Provide feedback often and equally to all members.
- Know the laws, policies and regulations to ensure equity in employment of human resources.
- Be aware of and condemn different forms of discrimination.
- Confront behaviours (e.g. racist, sexist, stereotypical, discriminatory practices, etc) according to the laid down prescripts.
- Convey clear expectations.

Our organisation is a new organisation and it requires a new form of leadership and management style, e.g. leadership that embraces and respects diversity, with a view to making the DOD one of the most harmonious institutions in the country.

Diversity management is in the midst of profound transformation. All DOD Unit Commanders are therefore encouraged to embark on diversity management training for all members and employees to effect change, which will help the organisation to retain productive workers, foster understanding among the diverse workforce and maintain social cohesion.

Let us all unite in condemning actions and statements that threaten social cohesion and continue instead to promote acceptance and understanding among all DOD members and employees regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, gender, background, disability, etc.

Remember that diversity means no one can sit back, but we should want to be part of a common goal in which our diversity remains a source of cultural enrichment and social stability for all.

“UNITED IN DIVERSITY”
The SANDF supports humanitarian aid for Somalia

“As a South African, it really feels good to know that we are goodwill ambassadors helping to make a difference to the desperate population,” Col Khumalo said.

Over the past decade, the South African government through the SANDF has taken its proper place in the community of nations in being proactive in the collective security in the region and the continent as a peacekeeper.

The SANDF has embarked on a number of initiatives to promote regional and continental stability under the patronage of the UN and AU.

With the expansion of UN Peacekeeping resolutions came the recognition that peacekeepers would need to serve in a variety of functions, both in traditional military functions and humanitarian relief operations supporting post-war recovery, demining, disarmament and elections. The SANDF has become a beacon of hope in different parts of turmoil stricken countries in Africa, such as the DRC, Burundi, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Central African Republic.

Humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping have been important to the South African Government’s efforts to ensure a better Southern Africa, thus contributing to a better Africa.

In this regard the SANDF has partnered with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), and the Gift of the Givers Foundation in response to the UN appeal to offer humanitarian assistance to the drought stricken country of Somalia.

Airlift was part of a massive drive by Gift of the Givers to take much needed food and medical supplies to millions of refugees fleeing the country’s drought and hunger.

SA Soldier spoke to Mr Ekream Omar, the Transport, Logistics and Packaging Project Manager for Gift of the Givers. He said that the Gift of the Givers had been collecting food, water, and medical supplies for its relief response to Somalia for over a month. He mentioned that the flight, provided by the SANDF, delivered 112 tons of aid in two weeks. Another shipment of 500 tons would soon leave for the war-torn, drought-stricken country. So far food aid, cooking utensils, tents and other items have been distributed to thousands of people in refugee camps near Mogadishu.

Mr Omar thanked the SANDF and the South African public for being of great help during this crisis. More assistance and donations for the mercy mission is, however, needed: including educational toys for thousands of children living in the camps. He said: “The best of people, like the SANDF, are those who benefit mankind.”

SA Soldier and said that as the SANDF, they were deeply concerned about the plight of the Somalian people. The situation in Somalia had deteriorated to such a level that it left a trail of devastation affecting the population, with mostly infants, young children, pregnant women and women facing starvation. He added that his logistical team had spent hours helping to offload a Gift of the Givers truck and repackage the supplies in record time for the airlift to Somalia (Mogadishu).

Col Khumalo commented and said: “As a South African, it really feels good to know that we are goodwill ambassadors helping to make a difference to the desperate population. I am extremely proud of these men and women who unconditionally serve humanity. Let us not be helpless spectators when a disaster such as this happens.”

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The SANDF showing UBUNTU beyond our borders: The C130 transport aircraft crew who delivered much-needed supplies to Somalia.

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The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Defence Chiefs, as well as heads of intelligence agencies met in a historic meeting on regional anti-Piracy strategy to work out a joint anti-piracy and maritime crime strategy at the Velmore Estate outside Pretoria from 24 to 27 July 2011.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, accompanied by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, addressed the attendees during the welcoming function and described the meeting as a historic occasion, as this was the first time that all the Defence Chiefs of the SADC had gathered in the same place, and South Africa and its SADC neighbours were ready to work collectively on a joint anti-piracy and maritime-crime busting strategy.

She said that the effectiveness of the meeting would be higher if individual countries combined their efforts rather than if each member country had a plan of its own. It was important that the SADC Defence Committee should synchronize its legislative, political, economic and judicial policies to allow armed forces of the member countries to operate swiftly and effectively against maritime criminals, including pirates.

“The SADC member states should put in place robust laws to curb piracy effectively. The current practice of 'catch-and-release' of pirates should be stopped, since it allows experienced pirates to execute more sophisticated acts of piracy and there have been around 1600 acts of piracy, which have caused 'immeasurable harm,'” said Minister Sisulu.

She said that the increase in piracy off the Horn of Africa was directly linked to continuing insecurity and the absence of the rule of law. In this respect piracy had increased the cost of trade. “As regions are increasingly regarded as threatened by piracy, they are seen as unstable, or volatile, and entire trading routes are altered, insurance premiums increase, and cargo shippers use alternative ports to pick up and deliver their goods,” she said.

The meeting provided a forum to establish a common framework of cooperation and a regional network of maritime nations for a free and secure maritime domain. Regional issues of mutual interest were discussed and the strategic ramifications of the SADC initiative were highlighted as a major development in the maritime arena. Regional maritime security capabilities were required would make SADC region a world-class maritime player and this would boost economic development.

There was much discussion on transnational maritime networks that posed a threat, human trafficking, piracy, terrorism and other factors that could retard regional maritime and general economic interests. The provision of maritime environmental protection and maritime resource co-ordination would ensure the safety of seafarers, chartered vessels and other shipping. Coastal monitoring, surveillance, identification and tracking would be valuable to the navies, government entities, ports authorities and maritime industry.

Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, pointed out that SADC member states would have to take responsibility for their own maritime security in co-operation with other regions, task forces, navies and role-players.
For the first time in Africa approximately 59 international senior military personnel converged on the Military Academy at Saldanha near Cape Town to attend the Fifth Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) from 27 June to 02 July 2011 to learn about the latest trends in international rules governing military operations.

In his welcoming address, Lt Gen Derrick Mgwebi, Chief Human Resources and Acting Chief Joint Operations, said that the SANDF provided troops with the best military training for the peace-support operations on the continent.

"Globally, armed conflicts afflict the world daily with cruelty, suffering and death, especially for those not in the business of war fighting. To lessen destruction in times of armed conflict, whilst allowing the exertion of full military force, we as commanders and planners and executors of military operations need to know and understand the prescriptions of the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) and then rigorously implement and adhere to those stipulations."

Lt Gen Mgwebi said. He encouraged commanders to ensure that members under their command were aware of their obligations under the LOAC in order to prevent breaches of the law and, where necessary, to suppress and implement punitive measures.

According to Mrs Christine Beerli, ICRC Vice President, the decision to have this seminar was motivated by a desire to empower the armed forces with tools to enable them to understand international law and to limit the suffering of people affected by armed conflict or internal violence. She hoped the seminar would help the delegates implement human rights law and its practice in the field of operations.

The highlight of the event was the mock rescue operation of a hijacked vessel by four "thugs", which helped put theories on general detention principles into action.

The simulated exercise involved four "criminals" who were surprised by an Oryx helicopter carrying 4 Special Force Regt Langebaan members and the South African Police Services (SAPS) coast maritime squad. They roped down onto the ferry and immediately took command from the bridge. The "criminals" were subsequently arrested.

During the closing ceremony Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, GOC Training Command, expressed his appreciation that the ICRC had chosen the SANDF as the host. Maj Gen Mabuza urged the delegation to consider the country when planning their holiday schedule, and to explore all the tourist destinations the country has to offer.

The fifth SWIRMO seminar hosted by the SANDF on behalf of the African continent was also presented alternately in English, Spanish and French to the delegates; Lt Cols to Maj Gen from various armed forces across the globe.
O
ver the period 06 June to 01
July 2011, the Directorate
Language Services presented
and piloted the first Arabic
programme for 23 learners.

The aim of the pilot pro-
gramme was to assess how
first-time learners would fare in a peri-
od of four weeks. The Directorate
Language Services can fully lay claim to
the fact that it has achieved its goal.

Directorate Language Services enhances
the DOD language ability and supports
the SANDF during Peace Support
Operations in terms of language capa-
(bilities. The Directorate also played a
critical role throughout the world by
equipping numerous military attachés
and assistants in linguistically prior to
their appointments. In addition to the
training Directorate language Services
renders interpreting, editing and trans-
lation services in support of DOD objec-
tives.

Since the SANDF started deploying to
countries it was
imperative to arm attachés with the lan-
guages spoken in those countries, such as
French or Kiswahili. Arabic is critical in
the SANDF because we are deployed in
the Sudan. This has led to the appoint-
ment of an Arabic speaking language
practitioner in the DOD.

After several efforts to acquire the ser-
vices of an Arabic speaking language
practitioner, the Directorate Language
Services finally appointed Mr Simphiwe
Lobi as the first language practitioner
with this capability in 2010. This appoint-
ment enabled D Lang to pilot the first
Arabic learning programme.

On 30 June 2011 the learners visited the
Siyafunda Trust to be exposed to the
Arabic culture, language and religion.
The centre funded Mr Lobi’s education in
this field, which will be used throughout
his endeavours.

During their visit to the Siyafunda Trust
Ms Ruth Tutu, Director Language
Services, said that it was a moment of
euphoria for the DOD as it marked an
important achievement in the history of
the department in the sense that it was
the first Arabic programme to be devel-
oped and tested in the DOD.

She stated that the Department was
proud to have Mr Lobi as a Principal
Language Practitioner who even though
only joined the DOD in November 2010,
had been thrown in at the deep end.
Through his dedication and commit-
ment, he has expedited the develop-
ment of an Arabic programme that
would be instrumental in promoting the
Arabic language competency of DOD
members.

She thanked the learners for diligently
completing the course: “You are the
cream of the crop and the means
through which the Directorate
Language will be able to provide Arabic
language training in the DOD. She
urged them to continue with of the
training, and to advance from the lower
to higher levels of Arabic language
competency so as to make a difference
in the department.

Mr Lobi said that the learners could
pride themselves on having tried to the
best of their ability to learn as much as
possible within a short space of time.
He said that it must be borne in mind
that the environment was totally differ-
ent from the one they knew.

He added that Arabic had its own
alphabets, which differed markedly
from the English alphabets, and
learners had to learn to read
and write from right to left. In
addition Arabic has its own
grammar rules that also differed
completely from those of

He concluded by saying that the
Directorate knew where im-
provements were needed and
as more Arabic learning pro-
grammes are presented, more
information will be gathered to
improve on the approach to
teaching the language.
Sam Ewing once said: "Hard work spotlights the character of people". 1 July 2011 was a proud day in the history of the SA Army Support Base Limpopo in Polokwane as the day marked the official inauguration parade to bestow the highest honour, the rank of Honorary Colonel of the unit on Advocate Abram Malose McCAPS Motimele. Distinguished guests from the home of peace, Limpopo Province, and the community of Polokwane graced the occasion.

In his capacity as Honorary Colonel he will act as the adviser to the officer commanding and through personal example and attendance to unit activities, these responsibilities may include fostering civilian, local and regional connections, good will and support, as well as to foster esprit de corps. He will also represent regimental alliances and unit interests.

Honorary appointments are done to confer honour and acknowledgement on members of society who stand head and shoulders above the rest in terms of their contribution to the development of their country. Likewise the military acknowledges such contributions by bestowing these military honours on deserving members of society that are an outstanding example, and esteemed leaders.

Hon Col Motimele said that the SANDF belonged to the people of South Africa and reflected the new focus of the democratic state as it was often seen leading peacekeeping and humanitarian missions in Africa and beyond. He was gratified and felt privileged to have this Honorary rank conferred on him in the service of ASB Limpopo.

Curriculum Vitae

Advocate Abram Malose Motimele matriculated in 1975 in Setotolwane High school. He obtained the following qualifications: B.PROC at the University of the North in 1980, LL.B. University of the North in 1982, LLM Georgetown University Law Center USA in 1987, diploma in trial Advocacy at the Harvard University Law School, USA in 1987, Certificate of Arbitrator skills training course (AFSA) in 2003, Certificate of International mediation skills training course (AFSA) in 2005.

Hon Col (Adv) Abram Malose McCAPS Motimele SC serves in the following bodies: Chairman of Board of Trustees of People Trust, Chairman of Sun Telecommunication (Pty) Ltd, chairman of African Renaissance Holdings Ltd, Director of Armaments Corporation of South Africa Ltd (Armscor), member of the Audit Committee of Armscor, Director of S.A. Link (Airliner), director of Xcel Engineering & Management (Pty) Ltd, chairman of Audit Committee of Excel, chairman of Council of University of South Africa (UNISA), chairman of Audit Committee (National Department of Health) in terms of Public Finance Management Act, chairman of National Home Builders Registration Council, D.C., Secretary-General of the AFT National, member Executive Deputy President (T.M. Mbeki) Consultative Council, member of Legal Commission of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA), member of Bryneven Primary School Governing Body, member of National Defence Liaison Council, a presidential appointment, Chairman of the Finance of Remuneration Committee (UNISA), chairman of the Motimele Commission of Inquiry, Chairman of the Board of Trustees: Black Lawyers Association - Legal Education Centre.
new Chairperson was appointed for the Spouses Forum at the Thaba Tshwane Army College on 20 August 2011. This forum has been in existence for over six years under the leadership of Mrs Busisiwe Ngwenya. Mrs Ngwenya was one of the spouses who was instrumental in the formation of the SANDF Spouses Forum, which she led with passion and pride.

This forum assists in the goodwill parcel project, recognising the families of SANDF soldiers on deployment dur-ing the festive season. Over the years the project has had many sponsors, and has been ably assisted these ladies with their passion and dedication for the work that their husbands do each day.

Their work goes far beyond just sitting and building each other up on issues that each can relate to. Among other social responsibilities the spouses forum has also adopted the orphanage school in Thaba Tshwane, which made national news when the Minister of Defence, Mr. Lindiwe Sisulu, and former Chief of the SA Army now the new Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, donated blankets and food hampers. It is fitting that this forum is part of the greater SANDF. For its work it has received many accolades.

Under the leadership of Mrs Busisiwe Ngwenya the forum visited the women learners at the Saldanha Military Academy to celebrate National Women's day 2011. The visit was aimed at encouraging these women who work far from home to ensure that the mission and vision of the depart-ment are kept in good and disciplined hands.

Mrs Ngwenya hands over the batton, with the money invested in the forum and a good legacy, to Mrs Charlotte Shoke who also was previously the chairperson for the SA Army Spouses Forum. Mrs Shoke is the spouse of the Chief of SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke.

Mrs Ngwenya urged Mrs Shoke to continue being the strong woman she has come to know over the years: “You have been a backbone of the SA Army Spouses Forum, as you take up more responsibility, I know you will excel. To the other ladies of the Forum please continue to support my successor with the same measure of commitment and dedication you have given me. You are indeed in good hands and I would not have had any other person take over the reins from me. She is soft-spoken voice, yet her leadership and discipline are clear.”

Mrs Charlotte Shoke was born on the 15th February 1952, attended school in Swaziland, and matriculated at St Michael’s Girls High School. She joined the African National Congress and went to Zambia where she furthered her studies obtaining a certificate in business management at the Evelyn Home College of Journalism.

She went back to Swaziland, and served in the underground structures of MK, where she supported the Transvaal Machinery headed by Guebuza (later Gen Nyanda). She was a counter of intelligence information into and out of South Africa, at great danger to her life. During the crackdown by the Swaziland Government on the libera-tion movement in the mid-80’s, it was felt that Shu’s security had been com-promised. She had to leave Swaziland for Zambia, with the children. She worked in the Treasury of the ANC until she was redeployed to Zimbabwe where she continued with her studies, obtaining a diploma in business man-agement.

Upon her return to South Africa, Shu attended childcare courses, and worked at the Jabulile Ndlovu Childcare Centre in Johannesburg, run by the South African Communist Party. When that project closed, she devoted her time to child care charity organisations in the informal settlements in Midrand until her time was cut short by her responsi-bilities as spouse of the Chief of the South African Army.

Mrs Shoke takes over the forum with much delight as MTN announced at the event that they were going to adopt the forum. This partnership will enable the forum to achieve its goals tirelessly knowing that MTN is behind them. Ms Motsi Monare, a representative from MTN said, “ MTN is proud to adopt this forum because of its commitment as active agents of social change. We as MTN we are stirred by the work ahead and urge you to continue touching the hearts of those around you.”

Mrs Busisiwe Ngwenya hands over the file of all statements of accounts and the constitution of the forum to her successor, Mrs Charlotte Shoke.
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LAW FOR ALL
The Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, visited the Logistics Division and the Defence Inspectorate Division on the 28 and 29 June 2011 respectively. The aim of the visits was to be briefed on the current operational status of the two divisions.

The Logistics Division was established on 1 April 1998 with the mandate to ensure an integrated logistic support service to the DOD to ensure a sustainable SANDF that is transparent, appropriate, affordable, adequate and accountable.

The Chief of Logistics, Maj Gen Nkonyeni, gave a briefing to the Chief of the SANDF in terms of the mandate, value chain, logistics strategy map, vision and mission of the Division, risks, logistics support concept, damage and losses, the logistics process, current challenges and other issues.

The Defence Inspectorate is a division which is driven by the need to deliver a service of indisputable quality, integrity and reliability. It provides the DOD with independent and objective internal audit, inspections and perception surveys, as well as an anti-corruption and anti-fraud service in order to add value to the organizations operations.

The Inspector General, Maj Gen Petane briefed the Chief of the SANDF on the Division’s vision and mission, structure, functions, plan of action, business plan, the Minister’s priorities, the Auditor General’s reports, damage and loss of assets, challenges and successes. He added that in terms of Ministerial priorities the following were being audited: the enhancement of the SANDF’s peacekeeping capability and landward capabilities, maritime secu-

The aim of the visits was to be briefed on the current operational status of the two divisions.

The Chief of the SANDF thanked the two divisions for briefing him on their current operational status.
South Africa the America of Africa these are the words of the well-known journalist and military analyst, Mr Helmoet Römer-Heitman. With these words Mr Heitman started his presentation at the SA Army Infantry Formation presented a symposium held at the CSIR in Pretoria on 6 and 7 July 2011. The aim of the symposium was to look at “equipping the Infanteer for the future”.

The Infantry Officers Commanding were briefed on the African situation by the knowledgeable speakers, such as Mr Heitman, Prof Mike Hough from the University of Pretoria, Strategic Studies and Dr Martin Rupiya from the African Public Policy and Research Institute. All these speakers had one thing in common and that is war affects the economy and civilians. This leads to the mass movement of people, something that South Africa is presently experiencing and this needs to be addressed by the increase in border safeguarding. An interesting observation from Dr Rupiya was that civilians normally react much quicker to the war/unrest than the military. The establishment of a war-economy is done very quickly even if it means mounting an automatic rifle on the back of a Nissan bakkie. This emphasised the perception that all military power is relative, you can have the best equipment, but there may not be any roads or airstrip and therefore the soldiers cannot move.

All the speakers mentioned the huge influence of cyber-war and the unrest in Egypt and Libya were used as models, where the rebel movements were mobilised via cell phone and face book. In Africa the face of the conflict has also changed from a battle between different military powers to the civil unrest leading to the over throw of the local government. Civil unrest is enhanced by unemployment and other underlying factors of revolution, such as corruption, mismanagement, the treatment of minorities and police brutality. In the next few years the battle over resources such as water and energy (wood) and food may increase and lead to more civil unrests.

The present day war has taken another interesting turn in the capture of innocent civilians, such as tourist, contract workers and boats as hostages and the increase of piracy. In this regard the incidence of piracy has moved down to the Mozambique coast and therefore approaching our sea-borders. The terrain where the battles will take place is mostly built up areas and attacks will come from soldiers who are well trained, militia or rebel forces, civilians and even child soldiers. Soldiers needs to be trained in air assault, to operate in both desert, and on water, jungles, mountains, built up areas and in a country where a strange language is spoken. Additional to these aspects the Officers Commanding were informed by Mr Phillip Roach and Mr Theo van Dyk, both from the CSIR, on improvised explosive devises, ranging from booby traps, innocent looking containers, common explosives etc which causes major damage not only to humans, but also vehicles, buildings and even aircraft.

With all this in mind various defence industry companies exhibited their latest equipment and vehicles. On 7 July 2011 the members had the opportunity to shoot with the latest weapons and they were also treated to a demonstration of the impact of improvised explosive devices and the evening they tested various night sight and associated equipment.

The Infanteer of the future must be multi-skilled, equipped for various terrains, able to work with civilians, train and operate with the police and even to be skilled in cyber-warfare. Truly a tall order, but one for which the Infantry can prepare and aim to obtain the correct equipment.
Environment for Ops Reducing the Military Footprint

Environment for Operations aims at providing environmental intelligence and information to ensure adherence to departmental and national environmental requirements and considerations as well as minimising the military footprint on the environment through environmental integration in the planning and execution of exercises.

Ex SHARED ACCORD was a bilateral Peace Support Operation (PSO) and Humanitarian Relief Exercise between South Africa and the United States that took place in the Eastern Cape Province from 18 July to 5 August 2011. This exercise had been planned following of the Defence Committee discussions that took place in 2009 between the two countries.

The requirement for environmental participation in Exercise SHARED ACCORD was channelled through Chief Joint Operations (CJOps) and the SA-US Pre-defence Committee that took place in March 2010. As this was the first full environmental participation in a bi-national exercise, an Ex Environmental Planner and an Ex Environmental Officer were deployed as part of the Combined Headquarters and were under direct command of the Ex Cdr to form part of the specialist staff of the J-9 staffs.

The deployment of approximately 300 joint personnel at the Combined HQ in Port Elizabeth created a lot of recyclable materials such as cardboard, plastics, glass and plastic bottles as a result of the use of the Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MREs) or “Rat Packs” provided by the US Marine Forces.

In order to minimise the volume of waste materials landing up at the municipal landfill site in Port Elizabeth, a local recycling company, the Waste Trade Company was utilised to place separation bins for collection and removal of all recyclable materials prior to dumping waste at the local landfill site.

This measure implemented at the Combined HQ ensured the fulltime employment of two members of the Waste Trade Company for the ten days of full deployment and resulted in the recycling of about 2.5 tons of waste materials that ultimately did not place an additional burden on the local landfill site (see Figure 1).

Separation and recycling of waste materials created additional jobs for the duration of the deployment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cardboard</th>
<th>Cans</th>
<th>Glass</th>
<th>Plastic Bottles</th>
<th>Other Plastics</th>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>854</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
<td><strong>64</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>2 483</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Statistics of Waste Recycled at Combined HQ in Port Elizabeth
The management of maritime spills

The exercise led to the realisation that stakeholders needed to determine boundary management and work together for an effective response.

Capt (SAN) Adri Liebenberg, SSO Environmental Services, Chief Logistics, Directorate Facilities

At the request of the Coega Harbour Environmental Section, a Maritime Spill Prevention and Response Exercise was planned and conducted as part of Ex SHARED ACCORD. The aim was to execute the Port of Coega Spill Response Plan by means of a constructive as well as a live simulation.

All local and national stakeholders were invited by the Transnet National Ports Authority, including the Department of Environmental Affairs (Oceans and Coasts), the South African Maritime Safety Association (SAMSA), the Port Elizabeth Disaster Management Centre, Municipal Environmental Law Enforcement and Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs). This co-operative exercise took place from 25 to 27 July 2011 in Port Elizabeth and the Coega Harbour and consisted of an introductory workshop, a constructive simulation (CPX) and a live simulation (FTX).

Maritime Spill Preparedness and Response Workshop

The workshop took place on 25 July 2011 at the Port Elizabeth Disaster Management Centre and was aimed at providing all participants in the exercise with background information prior to the execution of the rest of the exercise. The topics presented ranged from the properties, movement, and the fate of oil, sensitive areas, response phases and strategies, response equipment, planning, plans, and response organization (including the introduction of port and drilling plans) and health and safety.

The workshop was presented in collaboration with two environmental engineers from the US Navy Europe, Mr John Owens and Mr Brock Durig, and was attended by all national and local stakeholders and role-players, including the engineer personnel from the SAS DRAKENSBERG.

CPX

The constructive simulation took place on 26 July 2011 at the Port of Coega and was aimed at simulating the command and control systems between stakeholders of the Coega Spill Plan. A Joint Operations Centre (JOC) was established at the port. With the assistance of the Centre for Conflict Simulation (CONSIM) of the SA National War College that created scenarios and injects were created for managing different issues relating to the offshore spill. The exercise led to the realisation that stakeholders needed to determine boundary management and work together for an effective response.

FTX

The live simulation was aimed at simulating the response to an actual oil spill in the harbour by the deployment of the harbour spill equipment at the Port of Coega on 27 July 2011. This exercise, in collaboration with the Transnet National Ports Authority, was a great success and was considered the first of further collaborative efforts to develop capability for maritime spill prevention and response.

Exercising our spill plans is important, as it gives us the chance to realise that environmental spill damage prevention plans cannot be successfully executed by one entity. It is for this reason that we would like to thank the Department of Defence for its assistance in this regard.
By Dr Genevieve Langdon (representing The Blast Impact and Survivability Research Unit)

A cademics at the University of Cape Town led by Prof Gerald Nurick gave South Africa a visible presence in the defence research field. Investigating everything from the detonation of a landmine, through to the structural and human response (survivability) of blast and impact targets, they have been raising the reputation of South Africa at conferences worldwide.

In October 2010 Prof Nurick was invited as an honoured guest to speak to the well respected Society for Experimental Mechanics Fall conference, IMPLAST 2010 held in Providence, US. During his keynote address, he reviewed much of the research work conducted by the Blast Impact and Survivability Research Unit (BISRU) team over the last ten years. He focused on the contributions made in the field of lightweight materials subjected to blast loading. Special sessions were held in his honour and he was given a plaque acknowledging his huge contribution in the field of impact and blast research. Shortly afterwards, Prof Nurick was also an invited speaker to a special workshop on "Modelling Blast impact and survivability research unit"

Investigating everything from the detonation of a landmine, through to the structural and human response (survivability) of blast and impact targets, they have been raising the reputation of South Africa at conferences worldwide.

The BISRU team has been testing the latest lightweight materials in a major effort to discover the very best materials for use in blast resistant structures. Composites, hybrid metal/composites and sandwich materials have all been scrutinised under carefully controlled blast conditions.

Another example of ongoing research is the simulation and testing of scaled V-shaped hulls. A V-shaped hull deflects much of the blast wave away from the vehicle, improving its survivability but increasing its visibility on the battlefield, and making it more prone to toppling. Using the latest computer packages, the effect of explosions on V-shaped structures are explored. The software allows the BISRU team to analyse different geometries to find the best hull shape for blast resistant vehicles. The software results are then checked against scaled experiments to ensure that all the important response features are accurately captured by
the model, thus enabling the team to predict how design changes will affect blast performance. Ultimately, once BISRU has gained a fuller understanding of how the V-concept works, the team want to try and move on to flat bottom hull technology.

BISRU is home to a globally unique experimental footprint including a blast chamber, high strain rate materials testing facilities, drop-mass impact rigs and a purpose built sled tester. BISRU partners with Landward Sciences (from the CSIR) and Armscor (through project BLAZE). This unique tri-partite alliance enables BISRU to undertake fundamental research that advances the interests of the defence industry. Besides world-class quality research, BISRU engages in human capital development and in training the next generation of engineers in research and development skills through its programme of M.Sc and Ph.D education. BISRU also contributes to improving the skill-base of the present defence workforce by supervising engineering professionals who are working full-time in industry. A number of graduates from the CSIR and Armscor have completed their higher degrees through the part-time study.

Contact BISRU: genevieve.langdon@uct.ac.za

*Figure: A V-shaped hull deflecting blast waves away from the vehicle, reducing damage and potentially saving lives.*

*Examples of lightweight materials subjected to blast - A hybrid metal-composite material.*

*Examples of lightweight materials subjected to blast - A honeycomb core (computer simulation).*
History of the SA Corps of Signals

By Walter Volker

At long last we have a comprehensive and insightful published history of the South African Corps of Signals (SACS) and its antecedents. Walter Volker has written a superb trilogy of books directly relating to the fragmented and complex history of the various Telegraph and Signalling Corps within South Africa, and the subsequent formation of the South African Corps of Signals and its development over the years. This is a monumental work and includes details on individuals, unit history and corps history as well as insignia and many photographs. A veritable cornucopia of communications.

Signals are an invisible elite, providing communications so that command and control can be effectively maintained. Without Signals there will be no victory. The ability of an army can be often measured by the size and quality of its Signal Corps. The validity of this statement can be recognized by reading the history of the South African Corps of Signals. Its complexity will surprise many.

The SACS showed a huge ability to adapt and change to new technologies and doctrine, and very interestingly its close association with Industry to produce and introduce all types of new and bleeding edge means of communication. For the military historian the SACS history fills in a long anticipated gap in the knowledge of military communications based on the old Royal Signals values but adapted to the needs of the region, politics and the Information Technology age. A comparison between Australia, Canada, UK, India and other Commonwealth countries would be most interesting.

Walter Volker has done great service to the SACS and has set the standard for military history in South Africa. His books are:

- *Army Signals in South Africa: The Story of the South African Corps of Signal and its antecedents*.
- *Signal Units of the South Africa Corps of Signals and Related Signal Services*.

* The books are available from Veritas Books at the cost of R450 each, or R1 200 for a set of three, plus postage. Information or orders can be addressed to:

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The South African Military Skills Team competed in the 2011 CIOR (Confédération Interalliée des Officiers de Reserve) Summer Congress Competition held in Warsaw Poland during August 2011.

The Reserve Force Council under the chairmanship of Dr John Job was awarded Associate Membership of the CIOR in 2010, which allowed South Africa to enter more than one team for the prestigious competition, which was attended by over 11 different North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries.

This military competition for reservists of all ranks consists of the following disciplines:

- Rifle and pistol shooting competition (using the service rifle and pistol of the host nation). In this competition the P-83 pistol and Beryl Rifle (the NATO version of the AKM) was used.
- Land obstacle course (using the NATO standard military pentathlon obstacle course).
- Water obstacle course (using the NATO standard military pentathlon water obstacle course). This is done in full combat uniform.
- Military orienteering march (based on the civilian sport of orienteering) and incorporating the following additional events along the route: map-reading competition, range estimation competition and hand grenade throwing competition.

A First Aid Competition and Law of Armed Conflict Competition also took place.

The South African competitors were selected from participants in the South African competition that was held in Potchefstroom in November 2010.

An initial training group was selected, and after rigorous training two teams of three members were selected, including one reserve (Lt Sifiso Nene from Transvaal Horse Artillery). Col Wim Alberts of the Defence Reserves Division was the coach and manager of the team.

South Africa 1: Lt Zakes Ditshego (Mobile Deployment Wing), Sgt Leon Daniels (Transvaal Scottish) and AB Rock Muchlanga (Navy Reserves).

South Africa 2: Maj David Labuschagne (3 Parachute Battalion), Capt Dougie le Roux (3 Parachute Battalion) and 2Lt Edward Murray (Cape Town Highlanders).

The Netherlands invited the South African team to train with them in Oirschot near Eindhoven in Holland. The team then attended an orienteering

The prestigious competition was attended by over 11 different North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries.

Lt Sifiso Nene (third place with International Team), Col Wim Alberts (Manager and Coach) and 2Lt Edward Murray (third place in the Rifle and Pistol Combined Competition).
training exercise at Marburg in Germany before departing for Warsaw for the competition.

Lt Nene was allocated to an international team consisting of all the reserves of participating countries, which then took part as an international team.

The Polish Defence Force built a special new land obstacle course with high quality finishing, which impressed all. The track was covered with a rubber coating, which made the track rather fast, thus benefiting participants.

All teams had cadets allocated to them as guides and translators. They assisted our team and went out of their way to make our stay memorable.

The South African team did very well in the shooting and land obstacle competitions. Unfortunately Capt Dougie le Roux ruptured his patella tendon jumping off one of the obstacles and had to withdraw from the competition.

Orienteering is still one of the South African weak points and although some team members took part in the Gauteng orienteering championships before they left, the level of the European countries is just so much higher than what we find in South Africa.

2Lt Murray caused a stir when he won the training day competition. However, he could not maintain the high standard he set for himself and slipped back to third position. His third position is a great achievement and motivation for other team members.

Lt Nene as part of an International team came third in the category for International Teams. This was also a great achievement as the competition in that category is very fierce.

Both teams performed rather well and we now have a solid base to work from for the near future. Special thanks are due to the Reserve Force Council for funding the athletes and to Defence Reserve Division which is a co-organiser of the South African Competition, and to the Light Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom which always hosts the competition and subsequent training weekends. (Next year the competition will be in Copenhagen in Denmark.)

We are looking forward to the South African Championships that will be held in Potchefstroom over the period 17 to 23 October 2011.

Any Reserve Force member of any rank can take part in the competition. The competition is divided into different age categories as well as a female category. Any person that wishes to take part in this exciting Military Skills competition can enter via their Reserve Force units.

It is anticipated that more than 200 soldiers will enter this year’s competition. Four countries have already indicated that they would send teams. We are looking forward to competing against the USA, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Italy.

The team: Lt Sifiso Nene, Maj David Labuschagne, Lt Zakes Ditshego, Col Alberts, AB Rock Muchlanga, Sgt Leon Daniels, 2Lt Edward Murray and Capt Dougie le Roux.

The team: Lt Sifiso Nene, Maj David Labuschagne, Lt Zakes Ditshego, Col Alberts, AB Rock Muchlanga, Sgt Leon Daniels, 2Lt Edward Murray and Capt Dougie le Roux.
A world united by sport

Being fit to fight in a war and to hunt has been a necessary condition for survival since the beginning of mankind.

By Nelda Pienaar
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On the evening of 11 July 2011 Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the then Chief of Human Resources, came to wish the delegation of 89 members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and their Southern African Development Community (SADC) counterparts farewell and good luck for the 5th CISM Military World Games at a send-off function held at the National Ceremonial Guard Mess in Pretoria. The Peace Games were held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil from 16 to 24 July 2011.

The International Military Sports Council (CISM) was founded in 1948 with the purpose of contributing to world peace by uniting the various armed forces through sports. The role of CISM since its creation is friendship through sport.

The armed forces have a deep connection with sports and one of the explanations for this relates to the individual’s body efficiency, both in regard to his physical strength and his specific skills. Being fit to fight in a war and to hunt has been a necessary condition for survival since the beginning of mankind. The need for tools and techniques to do these things has given rise to a large number of modern sports modalities, which have originated in this context.

Capt Charles Beaurain (in front) competed in the triathlon at the Games where he beat all his male competitors from South Africa.

The SANDF team marching through the stadium during the opening ceremony of the 5th CISM Military World Games in Rio.
Let the Games begin

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 President of CISM, Col Hamad Kalkaba Malloum from Cameroon, thanked the President of Brazil for hosting the Peace Games in Rio. Then he added: “I wish you all good luck. Let the best win!” The President of Brazil, Ms Dilma Rousseff, then officially declared the Games opened.

The theme of the opening festivities for the Peace Games was the Brazilian fauna and flora, including the role of the Armed Forces in peacekeeping. Included among the special effects was the mascot, Arion, who appeared with other characters representing the Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force), Firefighters and the Military Police (auxiliary forces) - the peacekeeping troops of Brazil.

Arion was a boy who was transformed into a military super athlete, and whose mission was to promote peace through sport. His name has a Greek origin and means “He that has energy”. Arion was accompanied by his loyal sidekick, a white dove, and the Peace Troops, representing the Armed Forces (Navy, Army and Air Force) and the auxiliary forces. The Peace Games Messenger - Arion - aspired to strengthen the union between nations and to encourage bravery among the military athletes.

Approximately 6 000 athletes from 110 countries, including 2 000 coaches and members of technical commissions paraded in front of the audience - more than 45 000 people. The evening also included musical shows and a fireworks display.

The well-known Pelé (Edson Arantes do Nascimento) a member of the Brazilian Army Football team in the fifties, participated in lighting the Pyre (the flame of peace) at the end of the opening ceremony. (Most people recognise Pelé as the greatest football player the world has ever seen.)

Sport modalities

The sport modalities that were competed in during the 5th CISM Military World Games were divided into four groups: military, combat, individual and collective sports. The SANDF athletes competed in three of the four groups, namely military (naval pentathlon, military pentathlon and shooting), combat (boxing, judo and taekwondo) and individual (sailing and triathlon) sports.

Naval pentathlon

The naval pentathlon is composed of five events: obstacle race, life-saving swimming, obstacle swimming race, seamanship race (rowing) and an amphibious cross-country race. The amphibious cross-country race includes running, grenade throwing, shooting, and rowing in an inflatable dinghy.

Altogether 11 countries participated in the naval pentathlon held at the Admiral Adalberto Nunes Physical Education Center Sport Complex at Cefan. It boasts a state-of-the-art obstacle course (recently inaugurated for the naval pentathlon events), an athletics track, a water park, multi-sports courts, tennis courts, two football fields and a multi-sports gymnasium.

The SA Navy team entered two men as individuals and two women in the women’s team competition. Unfortunately CPO Candre Roodman developed a cyst in an armpit, which severely compromised her mobility, resulting in the women’s team ending second last. The two men fared well and obtained personal best times in several races.

In the obstacle race LS Siphiwe Goba’s time was 2:18 sec and LS Siyabonga Xhala’s time 2:09 sec. Although the swimming events have traditionally not been the strong point of the team’s performance, LS Goba came 22nd in the men’s life-saving race and recorded a personal best of 1 min 12 sec. He also fared exceptionally well with a 39th position in the utility swimming race.

The team on average fared well in the seamanship race with LS Goba’s time 2:18 sec and LS Xhala’s time 2:09 sec. Although the swimming events have traditionally not been the strong point of the team’s performance, LS Goba came 22nd in the men’s life-saving race and recorded a personal best of 1 min 12 sec. He also fared exceptionally well with a 39th position in the utility swimming race.
their personal best. Cdr Carl Gerstner, team captain of the SANDF naval pentathlon team, said: "Swimming is still a big problem and a swimming coach will have to be identified to assist the athletes with year-round programmes."

He added: "It must be borne in mind that this has and always will be an elite sport and that only a handful of athletes will be good enough to be able to participate at a very high level. All events are, however, naval related activities, which can be scaled down or adapted to accommodate members on a much lower level, thus encouraging greater participation. This is done annually during the SADC Sea Week Competition, where countries such as Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe participate."

CPO Clive Isaacs, the team coach, commented: "It was a great experience for us to participate in the CISM Military World Games."

Military pentathlon

The military pentathlon includes shooting, obstacle race, utility swimming, grenade throwing, cross-country race and relay. These events were hosted at the Colonel Eric Tinoco Marques National Modern Pentathlon Center situated in the Vila Militar.

Altogether 162 male athletes from 32 countries competed in the Military Pentathlon Championship. The SANDF Team managed to obtain 21st place. China came first with the Republic of Korea in the second place and Brazil third.

Capt Charles Beaurain obtained 59th position (individual category) with a total of 5112 points and was the best South African athlete in the Military Pentathlon Championship. He also competed in the triathlon at the Games where he beat all his male competitors from South Africa (he obtained an overall 42nd position out of 102).

WO2 Piet Smit, the coach, said: "The Championships were of a very high standard and the pressure was immense on each individual athlete for the duration of the competition. It was a great experience to participate against the best of the best in the world and to excel during the competition. Congratulations to the team that flew the South African Flag high in the most difficult military pentathlon competition in the world."

Lt Col Johann Zietsman, team captain military pentathlon, said: "The availability of facilities plays a tremendous role in the preparation of athletes. The use of indoor shooting ranges with electronic targets and indoor swimming pools give a tremendous advantage to athletes from other countries."

obtained 119th position with a total of 4 549 points and Trooper Chief Nesengani 124th position with a total of 4 364 points.

Personal best times were also achieved by Capt De Wet (in shooting and obstacle swimming), Trooper Watkins (in obstacle running and obstacle swimming) and Trooper Nesengani (in obstacle running).

Although there are no training facilities for military pentathlon in Nelspruit (where Capt Beaurain lives) he invariably beats his South African competitors. He has never been beaten by any other South African in a World Military Pentathlon Championship and he still holds the record for the highest total of points scored.

Capt Eugene de Wet, one of the other SANDF athletes, obtained 116th position (individual category) with a total of 4 597 points, while Trooper Martin Watkins obtained 119th position with a total of 4 549 points and Trooper Chief Nesengani 124th position with a total of 4 364 points.

Lt Col Magriet Boswell, one of the SANDF shotists, competing at the Games.
Focus on sport

The SANDF Taekwondo team, fltr: Lt Col Gerrit Jansen van Rensburg, Maj Willie Pakade, Capt Alfred Sehone, Sgt Rodney Ahrends, Sgt Desmond Lakey, AB Mbuso Ngwabe and Maj Andrew April.

Pistol shooting and rifle shooting

Another military sport was shooting, which was hosted at the Guilherme Paraense National Shooting Sport Center (CNTE) located in the Deodoro Olympic Complex with a capacity of 1 000 people. The SANDF competed in two shooting disciplines, namely pistol shooting and rifle shooting.

Competitors in the shooting competition required training, discipline and precision, as each trial demanded a minimum of 60 shots on target. The shooting competition had 16 bouts, 8 for men and 8 for women.

After shooting on 22 July 2011 Lt Col Magriet Boswell, one of the SANDF shotists, said that she did not have such a good day at the shooting range. She explained: “Every millimetre makes a huge difference if one’s arm does not lie correctly...” Then she laughed: “Although, if it was the enemy or a buck we would definitely be having biltong tonight!”

Lt Col Boswell added: “The shooting range is excellent. If we could have such a shooting range, it would be fantastic.”

The most notable score by an SANDF shotist was achieved by Amn Juanette Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) events because of his specific skills and knowledge.

Lt Col Evert Potgieter, the SANDF team captain for pistol shooting and rifle shooting, said: “Firearm preference for specific ammunition for the best weapon cycling and accuracy is a known factor, but the shotists did not have access to bullet weight and charge deviations as presented by various manufacturers of ammunition.”

He added: “Ammunition in the cali-

ABOVE: The SANDF taekwondo team, fltr: Lt Col Gerrit Jansen van Rensburg, Maj Willie Pakade, Capt Alfred Sehone, Sgt Rodney Ahrends, Sgt Desmond Lakey, AB Mbuso Ngwabe and Maj Andrew April.

ABOVE: In her first judo contest Lt Bianca Visser (female u/63kg) lost against Mariana Silva from Brazil who is currently ranked 18th on the IJF World Ranking list.

Viljoen (rifle shooting) in the prone event over a distance of 50 m (individuals) with a final score of 590/600. Even though it was Amn Viljoen’s personal best, her position overall was 15th.

The competency level of South African judges was highly rated. WO1 Hendrik Dreyer, who served as a judge at the CISM Military World Games, has been identified for future employment as a judge at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) events because of his specific skills and knowledge.

Lt Col Evert Potgieter, the SANDF team captain for pistol shooting and rifle shooting, said: “Firearm preference for specific ammunition for the best weapon cycling and accuracy is a known factor, but the shotists did not have access to bullet weight and charge deviations as presented by various manufacturers of ammunition.”

He added: “Ammunition in the cali-

Rtn Sandile Hlatshwayo (64 kg) boxing against Tejeda (Dominique).
Bre 22 LR as used by the rifle shotsists were readily available for practice, but high-grade premium target ammunition was funded and bought privately to offer the shotsists an increased option of success.

Although the blame for less than perfect scores cannot be put solely on ammunition, it was a major factor in the preparedness not being fully up to standard.

Lt Col Potgieter said: "Enhancement of target and scoring systems will provide a more accurate environment for shotsists to prepare for competition in major international events."

**Boxing**

The competition included 10 men's categories divided according to the boxers' weight. The fights were divided into three rounds of three minutes each and the boxers were fitted out with gloves and head protectors. Constructed for the boxing competition, the gymnasium of Admiral Méclades Portela Alves Instruction Center is located at the Guando do Sapê Naval Complex in Campo Grande, and has a capacity of 400 spectators.

Brig Gen Gordon Yokelo, Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, had the following to say about the standard of our boxers during the Peace Games: "Our boxers are talented and met the standard. However, for all of them, except Cpl Sivuyile Dingiswayo (81 kg), this was their first experience at this level. Despite that the majority of them fought credibly and can hold their heads high. We will return better prepared."

On 19 July 2011 Rfn Siphamandla Notyandela (56 kg) beat Kadri Kordel (Tunisia). Unfortunately Rfn Notyandela injured his hand and could not fight the next day. Brig Gen Yokelo had the following to say about the ill-timed injury: "The competition (boxing) Commissioner, Mr James Hunt, has advised us to send him to a specialist for examination in order to avoid any possible aggravation of the hand injury. In the same breath Brig Gen Yokelo said that Rfn Notyandela showed bravery and commitment and was obviously a better boxer than his opponent.

WO1 Nigel Friesland, the referee, said the boxing during the Peace Games was a wonderful experience for him. He was asked more than any other to judge/ref during the boxing competitions. He was ecstatic and said he was going to attend the first international referee course he could. WO1 Friesland said that all boxers could take ballroom dancing lessons to teach them to be on their toes the whole time; it would help them in their boxing ...

**Judo**

Miécimo da Silva Sports Center, located in the district of Campo Grande, housed the judo competition in the Zenny Azevedo Algadão Gymnasium, which has a capacity for 3 835 spectators. There were seven categories for men and seven for women, with fights of five minutes. It was one of the events with the largest number of competitors signed up. Altogether 55 countries were represented at the Games. The categories for the men's competition were: up to 60 kg, up to 66 kg, up to 73 kg, up to 81 kg, up to 90 kg, up to 100 kg, and over 100 kg. In the women's competition the categories were: up to 48 kg, up to 52 kg, up to 57 kg, up to 63 kg, up to 70 kg, up to 78 kg, and above 78 kg. In most weight categories the players were ranked in the top 100 on the International Judo Federation (IJF) World Ranking list.
The SANDF Judo Team consisted only of members that had excelled at SA National level and the three members are currently ranked in the top four in South Africa. Cdr Henriëtte Möller, the SANDF Judo team captain/coach/international referee, was also requested by the CISM Judo Committee to act as a CISM observer at the official weigh-in every day.

The u/63kg division had the most competitors in all the female weight categories. In the first fight Lt Bianca Visser (female u/63kg) lost against her competitor from Brazil who is currently ranked 18th on the IJF World Ranking list. In her next fight she lost against Croatia in a very equal contest. This placed her 9th overall.

There were 35 judokas in the male weight category (the most competitors of all the male categories). LS Justin Johannes (male u/81 kg) drew an opponent from Poland (ranked 100th on the IJF World Ranking list) but unfortunately lost the contest. The Polish judoka finally ended third in the tournament. Cdr Möller said: “Although LS Johannes lost the fight, he showed potential to compete at this high level as he managed to control the fight during the initial phases. His lack of international experiences cost him the fight in the end. Owing to the fighting system used, it was not possible to determine his final placing.”

There were 34 judokas in the male u/73kg weight category. AB Daan Bosman (male u/73kg) drew an opponent from Algeria (ranked 82nd on the IJF World Ranking list) in the first round. He lost the fight by “Ippon”, and the Algerian went through to achieve 7th place. Cdr Möller said: “AB Bosman is only 21 years old and has a bright future in this sport at international level. Owing to the fighting system used, it was not possible to determine his final placing.”

Taekwondo

Taekwondo is a Korean martial art for personal defence without weapons, the name of which reflects its main characteristics. The words “Tae” and “Kwon” mean “feet” and “hands” respectively, while “do” means “the way”.

Altogether 48 countries participated in the taekwondo competition held at the Admiral Adalberto Nunes Physical Education Center Sport Complex at Cefan.

It was the first time that the SANDF Taekwondo Team participated in the CISM Military World Games, but the members were well prepared and had been selected at the SANDF Championships. All the SANDF members were internationally registered black belts in Taekwondo. The SANDF entered only five male members, as no women qualified.

Maj Andrew April, the SANDF Taekwondo team captain, said that all the members did well in their first competition in the CISM Military World Games and one member, Capt Alfred Sehone (under 58 kg) went through to the quarter finals, but lost. Maj April said: “It was a very good experience. We made lots of friends and were invited to go and train in Korea.” The next Military World Taekwondo Championship is scheduled to take place in Vietnam in 2012. The team captain concluded: “We have a lot of experience and will be better prepared for the 6th CISM Military World Games in South Korea in 2015.”

Lt Col Gerrit Jansen van Rensburg, the coach, said: “It was really a learning experience. The members had to get used to electronic equipment that had never been used by the team before. The members did attack and kick, but the points were not registered by the system as the sensors were not at the
The Green Village is one of three athletes’ villages in Rio. For the first time in the history of the CISM Military World Games, the athletes’ villages were of an Olympic standard.

SANDF members in the audience cheering on our team ...

area of impact. Everyday that the members participated there was an improvement in performance.

The coach was very positive about the development of the members participating in Taekwondo. He felt that the objectives of the CISM Military World Games had been realised. Lt Col Jansen van Rensburg said: “The members did well despite competing against Olympic medallists in the event.”

Sailing

Individual sports of the Peace Games included, inter alia, sailing and triathlon. The SANDF competed in both sporting codes.

The Naval School with its gorgeous view, the oldest higher education institute in Brazil is on Villegagnon Island, in Guanabara Bay, where the Olympic lane for the sailing race assembled.

Altogether 25 countries participated in the sailing. The teams sailed a maximum of three races per day – depending on the weather – for five days.

WOI Dave Herman, the coach of the SANDF sailing team, said: ‘Competitive sailing gives young sailors the opportunity to grow both mentally and physically. It also enhances management and leadership skills, while a valuable spin off is the camaraderie that develops between sailors.”

He added: “The sport of sailing within CISM is unique in that you only get to practise in the chosen craft the day before your competition begins. This put us at a disadvantage as we did not having a similar vessel in South Africa, so the only solution was to watch videos and discuss what we saw.”

The SANDF sailing team finished 12th out of 25 countries with their best place in one race being third.

It is almost impossible when visiting Rio to resist the appeal of its 80 km of beaches, especially the renowned Copacabana beach seen here.

The Green Village is one of three athletes’ villages in Rio. For the first time in the history of the CISM Military World Games, the athletes’ villages were of an Olympic standard.
The greatest concern of the sailors was the strong wind, as wind is the only way to propel the boat in this sport. WOS Herman said: “The tide played an important role in how the competitors approached the racing; we do not have such big tides in our country, so for us it was a learning curve on a daily basis.”

**Triathlon**

In a single day, with no interval or rest, the triathletes took on swimming, cycling and running. Just as in the Olympic Games the distances for the competition were 1.5 km for the swimming (the athletes could use any stroke they wished), 40 km for cycling and 10 km for running.

It was the first time that an African country was represented in triathlon at the CISM Military World Games. Capt Marsha Wessels, the SANDF Triathlon Chairperson, said: “Acknowledgement was given and our representation was recognised.”

Capt Wessels added: “Although the race was held on the last day of the Games, the triathletes still kept their spirits high as they knew they were representing our country. This made it all worthwhile.”

All members achieved their personal best times after coming from the winter season in South Africa. The team consisted of all four Services. All members had a wonderful experience and carried the flag with honour and pride.

Capt Wessels concluded: “The road to Brazil was made possible by people within the SANDF, Denel, officers commanding and members’ commitment to their training.” The race was well organised and of a high standard.

**Accommodation**

For the first time in the history of the CISM Military World Games, the athletes’ villages were of Olympic standard. The three athletes’ villages were built in Campos dos Afonsos, Campo Grande and Deodoro, boroughs in the suburbs of Rio. There were 106 buildings with 2106 apartments and a total of 4824 acclimatised rooms. After the Games they remain as a legacy for the military families who serve the Armed Forces in the city. The Green Village will also be used during the 2016 Olympic Games as the umpires/referees village.

**Culinary diversity**

Each athletes’ village boasted its own restaurant that offered exquisite meals. To enable the foreign delegations to taste a little bit of the veritable culinary diversity of Brazil the restaurant also offered a typical Brazilian dish on a daily basis.

**Tourist attractions**

A must see is the Statue of Christ on Corcovado Mountain - one of the Seven New Wonders of the Modern World. The 38 m tall carioca icon was overwhelming and the panoramic view on top of Corcovado Mountain breathtaking. One could see the islands and Tijuca Rain Forest … Another must see is Sugar Leaf Mountain: the cable car to Sugar Leaf Mountain reaches 396 metres.

It is almost impossible when visiting Rio to resist the appeal of its 80 km of beaches, including the renowned Copacabana beach with its striking pavement made of Portuguese black and white stone, creating a wavy mosaic.

**Closing ceremony**

After ten days of intense competition it was time for the closing ceremony at the João Havelange Olympic Stadium on 24 July 2011. Military bands and members of the delegations and volunteers paraded on the field, the CISM Flag was lowered and passed on to the next host country (South Korea) while highlights of the Games were showed on big screens. The closing show, with the quenching of the Pyre and a fireworks display, marked the farewell to thousands of athletes and other members of the delegations.

Afterwards it was party time at the three villages. Everyone danced the vibrant Samba until the small hours …

... Until we meet again in South Korea in 2015.
To keep on growing in your spiritual life is a challenge for many believers. After the initial spiritual energy that new believers experience, they often find themselves on a plateau where there is a lack of continuous spiritual growth.

How can I keep on growing in life? There is no single simplistic answer. It rather lies in discovering and applying the available resources for growth. Let’s name a few:

Continuous Study of the Word of God

Francis Bacon (1561-1626) said “Knowledge is power”. This is true for all disciples, not only for religion. The more you study the Bible, the more you will know what God’s will is for your life. This will contribute to continuous growth.

Very few people can read the original languages in which the Bible was written. Therefore we depend on translations. Unfortunately translations are only second best to the original. Every translation already reflects the translator’s interpretation of the original text. It is therefore advisable, to utilize not only one translation, but to use a few Bibles.

Accompanying the different Bibles it is advisable to make use of reputable commentaries and other trustworthy books to learn more about the background and situation in which the passage was written.

Fellow Believers

Spiritual growth is not only achieved in studying the Word on your own. If you light a fire, you can’t keep one log on its own burning. The moment you put a few logs together you’ll find that the fire generates heat and burns properly. Joining a regular Bible study group, call group or spiritual support group, creates the same effect on your spiritual life. Often people in the group give new insight on a studied verse. You see the verse from a fresh angle and your view can do the same for the group.

A person who is more mature than you in his/her faith life, can be a wonderful mentor to you. Paul reminded the young Timothy: (2 Tim 1:5) “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also”. (NIV Translation)

Physical Experience

It is known that people learn better when they experience things. When taking part in the sacraments, believers do not only hear or read the Word. They experience the love of God for His world when they sense the effect of the water, the bread and the wine on and in their bodies.

Holy Spirit

The most important motivator for spiritual energy is the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus ascended into heaven he promised: (Act 1:8) “But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power…” (Good News Bible). If the Spirit is not with us, and if we are not open to the Spirit, we can make use of all other resources, but it will be in vain.

Hebrews 3:14 encourage us: “For if we keep the substance of the faith which we had at the start, even till the end, we have a part with Christ”.

Resources are only helpful if it is utilized. Make the most of them and enjoy a great spiritual life, Keep it up!
Understand Government Employees Pension Fund Better

WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND?

The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) was established by consolidating the funds of the former TEEVC (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) states, self-governing states and various other funds, including the Government Service Pension Fund.

The GEPF is a defined benefit pension fund and the benefits are defined in terms of the rules. The benefits are guaranteed and are not dependent on the investment returns of the Fund or on the level of employer contributions, and the employer generally takes the risk of poor investment returns.

WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE FUND?

All Government employees are members of the GEPF, unless they are required by law to belong to another pension fund, or are excluded from membership of the fund. Membership of the fund terminates when a person retires, resigns, is discharged or passed away.

People who have retired from the government are also GEPF pensioner members.

OUR SERVICES

We administer and manage the following benefits:

Death benefits
- Death after becoming a pensioner
- Spouse’s annuity
- Orphan’s annuity
- Death in service

Retirement benefits
- Normal retirement
- Early retirement
- Ill-health and other retirements

Funeral benefits
- Resignation
- Discharge

HOW TO CONTACT US

GEPF PROVINCIAL OFFICES

GEPF HEAD OFFICE
34 Hamilton Street
Arcadia
Pretoria

Nelspruit
12 Global Life House
Circular Drive
Nelspruit

Polokwane
2736 Bole Street
Polokwane

Mafikeng
Mnabatho Mega City
Ground Floor. Entrance 4
Mafikeng

Cape Town
No 1 Thaba Thel Square
(2nd Floor)
Cape Town

Bloomfontein
No 2 President Brand Street
Bloomfontein

Kimberley
11 Old Main Street
Kimberley

GEPF SATELLITE OFFICES

Johannesburg
3rd Floor, 2nd Floor Lunga House
134 Marshall Street (Looff
Garden Square Precinct
Meadowbrook
Johannesburg

Durban
8th Floor, Salmon Grove Chambers
473 Anna Lambie Street
Herman Smith Street
Durban

Port Elizabeth
Ground Floor, Kスペース Towers
Voyage Mea-Square, next to City Hall
Port Elizabeth

Limpopo
Room 54, 8th Floor PMB Building
Sutherland Street
Limpopo

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