SA SOLDIER
The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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FRONT COVER: SA Navy Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members preparing themselves to lift a canon for the gun-run display during the MSDS Passing-out Parade at SAS Saldanha. Read all about the parade on pages 24 and 25. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
Although this is the July edition **SA Soldier** cannot yet publish the good deeds performed by our DOD members for the 67 Minutes in honouring International Mandela Day. **SA Soldier** is compiled one month in advance of publication, but next month you will be able to enjoy reading all the Good Samaritan endeavours.

The **SA Soldier** Editorial Team would like to salute and welcome our new Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula, into the military family. Not only is she the second woman in a row to head our Department, but she is also the first woman to be appointed for the second time as the Minister of a security cluster government department. Please read the most impressive curriculum vitae of Minister Mapisa-Nqakula on page 5.

I would encourage you, our readers, to read the Chaplain’s message on page 46. I am sure you will agree that there is power in living with a clear conscience. I dare you, let us all make a deliberate decision not to allow our consciences to be corrupted ever again.

Cases of Government tender fraud are the headlines in almost every newspaper and on every news channel nowadays. If you feel that a tender process or procedure has been compromised to favour certain individual(s), you could report corruption anonymously. There are several channels one can follow. Let us persist in living with a clear conscience. Read “Take a stand against corruption” on pages 32 and 33.

The article “A Commissioner of Oaths in the SANDF” on pages 36 and 37 is worth reading.

Please take note that World Hepatitis Day is on 28 July. Hepatitis is widely acknowledged as a serious illness. More than two billion people have been infected with hepatitis B alone in a global population of seven billion. It is clearly a great problem. Do not become one of these statistics. Look after your health.

*Nelda Pienaar*

**Editor SA Soldier**
Meet our new Minister of Defence and Military Veterans

By Mr Sonwabo Mbananga, the Ministerial Spokesperson

It could be said that South Africa’s 18 year-old democracy is coming of age as it is a little over three years ago that the fourth democratically elected government of the republic appointed the first-ever woman Minister of Defence.

Historically the world over such key and critical positions as safeguarding our territorial and sovereign integrity have always been assigned to men, and up to 2009 South Africa had been no exception.

Perhaps this stereotyping of womenfolk is rooted in history and is often confused with the cultural school of thought that women should not do hard or labour intensive work.

While males may be predominantly more endowed in the brawn department than their female counterparts, since the advent of our democratic system of governance, which espouses open and equal opportunities for all, women have proved their mettle in almost all spheres of life and have gained the respect of their countrymen for their strengths, particularly in leadership.

It is barely four years since a watershed appointment that was widely viewed as a boost to the Progressive Women’s Movement (PWM) and as breaking the stereotype. President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma has once again appointed a woman to this senior post in Government and the Executive.

The Hon Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, a veteran of government administration serving under the mandate of the African National Congress which she represents in Parliament as a member, is no stranger to being charged with a serious task such as that of overseeing South Africa’s collective armed forces on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief, the President of the Republic.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans first took up public office as a Member of Parliament in 1994 shortly after the watershed first democratically held general elections of that year.

As a Minister she is admired, respected and affectionately referred to by her peers and commentators alike as the “cleaner”, alluding to her record as Minister of large government departments that require turn-around strategies to optimise service delivery. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula was the first woman Chief Whip of the governing African National Congress in the houses of Parliament. A teacher by training and a psychology student, the Minister was appointed South African Parliamentary Mission Leader to the 2002 Zimbabwean Presidential election, during which she was lauded for presiding over an observer mission credited with conducting its work in an objective manner.

In the same year, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula was appointed Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and later went on to become Minister of Home Affairs. Following the election of the fourth democratically elected government in 2009, the Hon Mapisa-Nqakula was appointed Minister of Correctional Services. She oversaw the overhaul of legislative frameworks regulating parole, medical parole, the care and improved conditions of incarceration of vulnerable people in correctional centres, such as children living with their mothers behind bars, the mentally handicapped, juveniles, the elderly and her department achieved a clean audit in 2014.

A former Secretary-General and President of the ANC Women’s League, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula, already an active organiser and social and gender activist in her community by the time she was a young adult, she decided to leave South Africa in 1984 to join the ANC’s military wing in exile as an Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) combatant and underwent military training in Angola and Russia in 1984.

The African National Congress soon after acknowledged the Minister’s leadership qualities when she was appointed the head of a commission that was set up to investigate desertions of ANC Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) members to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Angola.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula has years of experience in dealing with security sensitive matters and related tasks in government. She is a member Minister of the Justice Crime Prevention Cluster and now also chairs the International Co-operation Trade and Security Cluster by virtue of being Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

The Minister’s move to the portfolio was as a result of the Cabinet reshuffle announced by President Zuma in June 2012.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula was born on 13 November 1956. She is a mother of four boys and is married to former Minister of Safety and Security, Defence, Political Advisor to the President and current South African High Commissioner to the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Charles Nqakula.
AN EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS TOOL FOR SUPERVISORS

If you want to succeed as a Warrant Officer (supervisor) in developing your subordinates as a disciplined and dedicated team in their work environment, you should consider the following:

If you want to be respected, you need to be knowledgeable. As a supervisor, you do not always have to have the right answer, but you should show that you are constantly in search of it. For example, many non-commissioned officers (NCOs) have been cross-trained into new jobs. Obviously they do not have as much experience as the Privates/Airmen/Seamen they supervise in this new field. They should be constantly trying to learn new information to get up to speed quickly.

The best supervisor attempts to learn as much as he or she can and as quickly as possible. Learn from those you supervise on their daily activities and their specialties. Show subordinates that you know how to ask for help.

Privates/Airmen/Seamen know more than NCOs when it comes to certain tasks. That’s OK. Everyone has his area of specialty. When an NCO asks for help, it shows the Private/Airman/Seaman that it is good to ask how to do something. Give your subordinate the benefit of the doubt. All of us make mistakes, but most of us do not make them on purpose.

Believe your subordinate when he or she tells you why he or she did something and explain the consequences of his or her actions. But do not hammer the subordinate for first offences, because often this destroys his or her self-esteem. I have seen my instructor really fighting to keep a Private in the service while everyone else was ready to give up on that troop. Someone who is willing to stand up for you inspires you to work hard for him or her.

Establish clear and fair standards and make them known to your troops. Too many times subordinates have no idea what their supervisor expects of them. They think they are doing a good enough job, but their performance report says otherwise.

Try the following supervisor technique with your subordinates: Bring everyone in for a meeting after each quarter. Let all know what is expected and answer questions about their concerns. This lets subordinates know where they stand. No matter what subordinates are going to complain about. Let them. Complaining is a stress reliever. Learn to take them aside to listen to their complaints when they are frustrated. Advise subordinates on what they can do to fix the problem. If there is nothing that can be done, tell them that. Give positive reinforcement. It goes a long way toward making your troops feel appreciated.

The more your work is appreciated, the better you feel about working and the more your productivity will increase, even a simple pat on the back and a “way to go”.

Supervisors must constantly give praise, especially to new subordinates. It is definitely motivating. Do not treat all of your subordinates the same.

Your super troops should get more rewards than the average troops; they are working harder for them. This way, you make it known that you appreciate their hard work. Also, you motivate average troops to work harder. Be careful not to make the goals too high or they will seem unattainable. Stick to one policy. Do not hold their hands when they do everything and then punish them when they make a mistake because they should have known better. You can have it only one way. The motto should be: “Make us responsible and hold us accountable for our actions.”

My desire to continue being treated as an adult motivates me to take care of things correctly. Always remember that you are the supervisor. If you want people to work for you, they need to respect you. You do not have to be their friend.

Your subordinates have enough “buddies”. They need a mentor and a leader. You should demonstrate the proper customs and courtesies towards your superiors and, in turn, expect the same from your subordinates. Your troops are always watching. The most important key to motivating subordinates is: Get your hands dirty! Show your troops that you would not give them something to do that you yourself would not do. They will respect you more.

Supervisors work late consistently to get things done, so when you ask your subordinates to work late, they will not get upset as they know you will be there helping them out. And that is the best way to motivate anyone under your command and control to build the best SA National Defence Force in democracy through effective and efficient leadership.

SWO S.S. Mothapo, Warrant Officer
Military Police Doctrine

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. 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 thoughts or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor.

ERRATA

The photo captions on page 32 regarding the article “National dialogue on the 2012 SA Defence Review” published in the June 2012 edition of SA Soldier wrongly referred to Mr Sagaren Naidoo (Head of the Defence Review Secretariat) as Mr Cyder Naidoo and wrongly referred to Mr Sandile Mlambo as Mr Pule Ditseng. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused. – Ed.
VOTE OF THANKS TO MINISTER SISULU

On behalf of my comrades in arms, I would sincerely like to take this opportunity to thank a very special person for an outstanding job: well done, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu. It took a woman who could stand boldly with confidence in attending to the SANDF challenges that were previously dealt with by former Ministers of Defence that were believed by some to have been incompetent. There were so many doubts surrounding her appointment by the President, especially in regard to being led by a female minister who might possibly have had no military insight, but a chance was given to her to show what she was capable of. It did not really take long before things in the SANDF as a whole started changing. Transformation started taking place very soon, and the pieces of the puzzle began to fall into place. In time the doubts that SANDF members had towards the Minister’s appointment faded away because of the outstanding improvements she implemented. Some members might not really have seen the good the Minister had done in the SANDF, but on behalf of all those who wished that the Minister had served longer we salute you. The Cabinet reshuffle by the President was sudden and came as a surprise. Minister Sisulu had a mission, vision and goal for SANDF members and the SANDF as a whole. She is a woman with so much dignity. She had much support from SANDF members that really supported her appointment as she proved that the appointment was not in vain, but served a purpose. She led and performed her duties as the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans according to God’s wish and yes, she did it. She proved that changes could be made if she had the full support of the people she commanded. Keep on excelling and doing good in all things touched by you or words said by you because you are a gift from God. Good luck with the new appointment. A vote of thanks to you! Cpl A.D.J. Francisco, School of Signals

THANK YOU MINISTER SISULU

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Minister Sisulu for a job well done during her period in charge of a defence force which had so many problems in terms of low morale, underpayment and poor infrastructure, which led to poor leadership. I also want to say that the commission which was created under her leadership did a fantastic job; well done! Therefore you deserve the blessing of all the members of the SANDF in your new post as the Minister of Public Service and Administration. I hope that our new minister will take the implementation of the new dispensation for SANDF members farther. My minister, the ship which you were steering to the harbour of South Africa at large. One of his major and outstanding contributions is the annual opening of Parliament in Cape Town.

He has been part of the opening of Parliament for a number of years through being in charge of the Military Police motorcyclists that escort both the President and the Deputy President of South Africa during the opening of Parliament, and he has always risen to the occasion by exceeding our expectations.

Once he took a risk by taking a few African women motorcyclists for the first time to Cape Town for the opening of Parliament. Some commanders were against the idea, but he was adamant and believed that these women were equal to the task.

On the day of the opening of Parliament we were all glued to our television screens in our homes watching the historical event. When the motorcycles appeared escorting the President, I stood up in disbelief that it was indeed happening and I was so proud, both as a Military Police member and a fellow South African.

Surely Col Selowa knew that to achieve the possible you have to attempt what seems to be impossible to others. He was an extraordinary person who visualised not what was possible or probable, but rather what was impossible and, by visualising the impossible, began to see it as possible.

Col Selowa was a gentleman, a disciplined soldier, a friendly person, a person with a good rapport. He was a dedicated, committed and hard-working commander who hardly missed deadlines. He was one person that would always approach any challenges with a smile and would not shun them.

When he took over one of the biggest regions in the Military Police Division, the Northern Military Police Region (NMPR) a lot was expected of him. But we knew that he would be guided by his vision before acting, for vision gives purpose, somewhere to go. It’s the compass that keeps us going in the right direction; the blueprint with which we build tomorrow, today. It is so unfortunate that he passed on at a time when he was needed most by the NMPR.

How could we forget his...
GONE TOO SOON

Contribution to the historic first-ever 2010 Soccer World Cup hosted on the African continent. Col Selowa worked tirelessly to ensure that the Military Police were also part of this event, and today most military policemen and women can proudly pause and say: “We were there”.

He was the kind of leader that was always obedient to his superiors. He knew that the foundation stones for balanced success were honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty. His successful involvement in the Africa Aerospace on Defence (AAD) Expo in 2010 in Cape Town was indeed the icing on the cake.

He will be immensely missed by all of us in the SANDF, especially in the Military Police Corps. May his soul rest in peace; until we meet again.

Capt E.M. Mathebula, SO3 Personal Staff Officer to the Provost Marshal General.

CHIEF ARMY VISITS 7 SA INFANTRY BATTALION

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masedo, visited 7 SA Infantry Battalion (7 SAI Bn) on 14 May 2012. The Officer Commanding 7 SAI Bn, Lt Col Khathu Nethononda, welcomed all the members to the unit, and expressed his appreciation at having an opportunity to give a presentation to the Chief of the SA Army. He also highlighted a few challenges the unit were facing, including the successes achieved over the years. Thereafter a tour of the unit was conducted and the Chief of the SA Army had the opportunity to address the unit members and the members of 524 Squadron that came to join in the event.

A memorial service was held on 3 May 2012 at Army Support Base Port Elizabeth to honour the sudden passing away of our beloved brother, compatriot, comrade, friend and peace-loving child of God who passed away on 28 April 2012 and was buried on 5 May 2012 at his home at Ngxwalane village near King William’s Town. L Cpl Knox Mbuulo Zibi was born on 5 September 1962. He did his primary education at Ngxwalane Primary School and his higher education at Amantinde High School at Mdini village and Nobuzwe High School at KwaMasele village, both near King William’s Town. He furthered his studies at Zwelethemba Technical School as an artisan, specialising in carpentry, in Zwelitsha near King William’s Town. In 1988 he joined the then Ciskei Defence Force and was integrated into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in 1994, while he was working at 16 South African Engineering Corps in Port Elizabeth. After 16 SA Engineering Corps was closed down he was transferred to Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, where he was valued for his carpentry skills. While still working in the SANDF he completed the course in Biblical Studies and obtained a degree in Theology at the International Theological Academy of Southern Africa and was duly ordained as a Minister in the Congregational Church. He was a member of St Marks Congregational Church under the Rector, Dr Bruce Woolard, who is a sociologist. The Department of Defence (DOD) came up with the idea of reskilling its uniformed members and he enthusiastically took that opportunity by joining the Regional Works Unit Eastern Cape in 2011 where he did carpentry. He did his theory at East Cape Training Centre in Port Elizabeth and is currently busy with his practical phase at one of the Construction Companies which is helping our uniformed members to develop their skills in the construction environment. The DOD has lost one of its loyal and dedicated members who through thick and thin has always shown a passion in everything he has been assigned to do. The death of L Cpl Zibi was a moment of great sadness, so the Regional Works Unit Eastern Cape would like to extend condolences to his family and we hope that they remain strong in their time of bereavement and have faith in the Almighty. L Cpl Zibi is survived by his wife, three children (two boys and a girl), his mother and sisters. May his soul rest in peace.

Pte P.H. Damente, Regional Works Unit Eastern Cape

THE CORPS OF SIGNALS

I was pleased to see my short piece commemorating the life and work of the late Col Bert Howes SACS in SA Soldier of March 2012. However, there is one small correction to be made. The SACS is not the South African Corps of Signallers, as it appears there (and certainly not as I wrote it). The Corps title follows the British tradition - from which it sprang in 1923 - in that it is known as the Corps of Signals. Both its motto Certa Cito, meaning Swift and Sure, and its colours follow the Royal Corps of Signals tradition. But instead of being light blue, dark blue and green to signify the sky, the sea and the earth - the domain of radio signals - the order of those colours was changed at some point in South Africa to become green, light blue and dark blue. A strange quirk in an otherwise long tradition of association with the “mother corps” which began as early as 1926.

Dr Brian Austin (Major retired, SACS), West Kirby, England

FRONT COVER

I’m a Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) member of the Department of Defence and I enjoy reading SA Soldier immensely! My husband used to think that all high school drop-outs were soldiers. And now thanks to SA Soldier he knows better! We at 10 SA Infantry Battalion normally receive the issues late, eg the February issue in March. I would be very happy and proud if I could one day see the front cover of SA Soldier with a face of a PSAP (level 2-7). If that has already happened, my sincere apologies. PSAP member, email

* Thank you for your keen interest in SA Soldier. We shall endeavour to make your wish come true - Ed.
RETREAT CEREMONY AT LOHATHLA

The Retreat Ceremony is one of a few unique South African military traditions. It derives from the old British military custom of “Beating the Retreat” by drum, which originated in the sixteenth century. In its original form the custom has been interpreted as a signal to literally “Retreat” at the end of a day’s fighting, or as a means of summoning those soldiers required to stand the night’s watch.

By the eighteenth century, however, the British treatise on military discipline explicitly defined the practice as follows: “Half an hour before the gates are to be shut, which is generally at the setting of the sun, the drummers of the post guards are to go upon the ramparts and beat a Retreat to give notice to those outside, that the gates are to be shut. As soon as the drummers have finished the Retreat,

The Chief of Staff, Col H.S. Uithaler, who was the chief functionary at the Retreat Ceremony, delivers his address. (Photo: S Sgt Helena Gordon)

CELEBRATING AFRICA DAY

7 SA Infantry Battalion, in conjunction with Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, celebrated Africa Day on 25 May 2012. This event was aimed at making the members of the community around Ba-Phalaborwa realise the importance of being an African and to celebrate our differences in the world.

The programme of the day included traditional dances, poems and speakers. The communication officer was interviewed on the local radio and he encouraged the listeners around Ba-Phalaborwa to attend the event. The local media and Ba-Phalaborwa FM were on hand to provide coverage. The support that was shown by the traffic department, the SA Police Service and neighbouring units facilitated matters for the unit.

Various cultural groups were also there to entertain the members while 7 SA Infantry Battalion conducted a street parade and a platoon drill. We hope for an even bigger event next year. Lt Miyelani Mathebula, email

SAYING GOODBYE TO A GENERAL

This is our story: it all started with a communication period at Thaba Tshwane City Hall where the Chief Director Human Resources Management, Maj Gen Enoch Mashoala, said his last goodbyes to his directors and subordinates. We proceeded with the farewell function for Maj Gen Mashoala at the SA Air Force Museum at Hangar 6 on 25 May 2012. Wow, how is one going to survive without the help of this dedicated person who added value and played a leadership role in the SANDF, mainly in the Human Resources (HR) environment? Maj Gen Mashoala joined MK in 1978. He occupied several positions before integration took place in 1994. In 1995 he was appointed as S01 Intelligence Collection at Gauteng Command as Colonel. From 2000 to 2002 he occupied the position of Army Inspector General as Brigadier General. From 2003 to 2008 he was the Deputy Chief Director Army Corporate Services. From 2008 to 31 March 2012 he was a Major General and Chief Director Human Resources Management. During his tenure as Chief Director Human Resources Management he managed to direct, orchestrate and maintain a human resource capability that delivered support and service to the DOD and implemented departmental internal control measures over HR support capabilities. He was a “jungle master” serving in the Department of Military Veterans as Acting Deputy Director-General Improvement and Stakeholders Management. Maj Gen Mashoala will continue his service within the Reserve Force. He was a courageous and enlightened leader who added value to the quality of the organisation. His farewell function was supported by his lovely wife, Ms Cordelia Mashoala, their two sons and a daughter. In saying goodbye Maj Gen Mashoala quoted Andy Shaw: “Set me anything to do as a task and it is inconceivable that I have the desire to do something else”.

Maj Gen Enoch Mashoala, Chief Director Human Resources Management.

Maj Josinah Kgomo, PSO Chief Director Human Resources Management, email
VIVA REGIMENT WESTELIKE PROVINCIE VIVA

On 13 November 2011 I went to De Brug to join 9 SA Infantry Battalion on its mission to the Sudan. I was detached to Delta Company, which is mainly Reserve Force. It was the first time in my 20 years’ career as a Rifleman that I worked with the Reserves. I looked at them very closely because most of them are fathers and mothers. My question was: Are they capable of doing the job in the Sudan because we all know that that mission is very tough. When we arrived in the Sudan I got the surprise of my life to see how these people were doing their work so professionally and with such diligence. They are very fit and in they ask God to guide them. Physical training (PT) is their daily routine: no one reminds them to do PT. Their experience and tactical deployments are out of this world. My message is simple and straightforward for those who think otherwise about the Reserves. They are like any other soldiers and their experience is world class. Take note, I do not take anything from the Regular Force.

To Maj Herald Gertse I say it was very nice to be your subordinate as I learnt a lot from you as a Company Commander. Your open door policy did wonders. You taught me that a leader is a leader through his subordinates and listening is a skill. “Do not be afraid of me, respect me as a Commander I am willing to listen.”

God bless you and give you more years to lead.

I want to thank everybody who made the mission a successful one. Thank you Regiment Westelike Provincie (RWP), you will be missed. Each one teaches someone, no one is perfect. Rfn M.B. Jabana, Kutum

DO GOOD ANYWAY …

By now people have heard or read what happened to Thabo Siavhe and his colleagues who were captured by the Sudan Armed Forces recently while executing their duty, but only a few know what happened behind the scenes to ensure their release and to keep them motivated.

When my ambassador requested me as the Defence Attaché to see what I could do. I immediately realised that anything good I did today would be forgotten tomorrow, but I still continue to do good, because this is what is expected of us as leaders, patriotic civil servants, parents, and last but not least, as Christians.

Although not much, receiving a letter of thanks and appreciation from the CEO of Denel will inspire me to continue to do “good” despite the fact that it will be forgotten tomorrow.

With the celebration of Mandela Day around the corner I wish and pray that people around the world, especially we South Africans, will continue to do “good”. Col Neville January, Defence Attaché Sudan

FAREWELL OPERATION CORDITE XIV

We cannot tell how difficult it is to describe how sad and happy we are at the same time because we are leaving. When we got here so many months ago we connected with the warm community of people. Many times we have been humbled by their kindness. When we look back at our farewell party we will always remember it.

Dear colleagues, soon we will wake up in another life, full of yet-to-be realised opportunities, but without your company. We have helped each other through some difficult times and shared fun times together. Some people judge others’ lives on what they do, others on who they are. We want our lives to be judged on the friends we keep. Brothers and sisters, if God permits, we shall meet again. To see some of us for the last time together is a picture we will treasure for a long time.

Farewells are not forever, although we may be separated by time and distance. In the interim nothing will diminish the important role that each one will always play in the lives of others as during our peacekeeping mission in Darfur. We will never forget what we have done, nor will the people of the Sudan.

Lt V. Dlulane, Sudan (Operation CORDITE XIV)

CELEBRATING YOUTH DAY

Members of the SANDF, the SA Police Service (SAPS) and Traffic Officers who were deployed at the Swaziland border, led by Maj Zakhele Hlophe of 7 SA Infantry Battalion, gathered at Zonstraal Base of Charlie Company 1 SA Infantry Battalion (Mech) to celebrate Youth Day on 16 June 2012. Thanks to S Sgt Ngoako Moloto who organised the whole event.

Even if you are deployed you can still have fun and maintain your fitness. The day started with a walk and ended with volleyball. All the different SAPS stations around Charlie Company’s area of responsibility competed against Traffic Officers and SANDF members. During the day members had fun running with tires, sand bags and poles. L Cpl Ntfokoto Mkhathwa, email
The 2012 Goodwill Parcel Project is in full swing

By Mr Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

The sixth Goodwill Parcel Project was in full swing when Massmart Holdings Limited invited the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and senior members of the SANDF to a breakfast in Pretoria on 25 May 2012.

The aim of the breakfast session was to review the achievements of the Goodwill Parcel Project during the past year and to acknowledge the valued contributions of the food suppliers towards the Project.

Delivering her address the former Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, said that she was touched by the generosity of the corporate sponsors towards the members of the SANDF.

Minister Sisulu said: “Our National Defence Force is eternally grateful to the sponsors and we appreciate their efforts in bringing happiness to the families of the members deployed, who also cannot be with their respective families owing to their national commitment. Equally, we would also like to extend our deepest gratitude on behalf of the recipients of the parcels that you help us to recognise their sacrifices in offering the services of their children, spouses and parents in answer to our national call and we will always be grateful for that.”

According to Mr Graham Rebello, Channel Executive Massmart Holdings Limited, the experience of distributing food parcels to various families is always moving. He said: “What touches me most is the response of families to the goodwill parcel. The fact that the SANDF and the corporate sponsors appreciate the contribution of their family members on the continent is overwhelming.”

Speaking on behalf of the SANDF Spouses Forum, Ms Dinah Masondo appreciated the support of the business community towards the Goodwill Parcel Project.

Below: Corporate sponsors of the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project are thanked for their continued support of the Goodwill Parcel Project.

Celebrating Youth Day in the DRC

As Youth Day was commemorated and celebrated back home in Mzansi in remembrance of young lives lost, bloodshed and injuries sustained, the RSA Engineer Squadron of Operation Mistral 19 found it very apt and fitting to celebrate Youth Day too!

It was a day filled with fun sports and nostalgic music in memory of our rich South African history to commemorate the 175 lives lost in Soweto in 1976 when youth countrywide stood up with the aim of boycotting Afrikaans as a language of instruction.

The commemoration was officially opened by the Squadron Chaplain, Chaplain Lazarus Moepya, who narrated the story of a Roman Catholic Priest, Father Hendrison, and one of our fallen heroes, Solomon Mahlangu who, when about to be executed, requested that his Bible be brought to him and he read from Psalm 23, uttering the words: “My blood will flourish the tree of freedom”.

Having fun together as a Squadron made us forget we were in a foreign country as members participated enthusiastically to show how much the day meant to us as South Africans.

Thereafter we had fun with a wheelbarrow-water relay, sack races, musical chairs and ball sports. As the Squadron is dominated mostly by youth, we took time out to ask our Squadron elders, WO2 Moagi Marumo, Chaplain Moepya, WO2 Ntshegedzeni Mafara and others, as to what exactly triggered the youth of our now rainbow nation to engage in the massive revolt of yesteryear.

The Youth Day celebrations were concluded with music entertainment, a braai and swimming in Lake Kivu, as swimming is our culture and tradition as Sappers. Spr Kolobe Lebepe, email...
Promoting peace and stability in the SADC region

**Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole**

The Chief of the SA National Defence Force, Gen Solly Shoke, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SADC Defence Sub-committee hosted the SADC Chiefs of defence forces at Hazyview in Mpumalanga from 4 to 8 June 2012.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss security matters affecting the SADC region. The meeting took place against the backdrop of continued conflict on the continent, despite the tremendous strides made towards the promotion of peace, security and stability.

The committee reviewed and shared experiences on the prevailing military security situation in member states, explored areas of multilateral military co-operation and exchanged views and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the continent and in the region.

Among other issues discussed during the meeting was the need to intensify efforts aimed at strengthening the SADC Standby Force as an important pillar in the African Peace and Security Architecture. The strengthening of the SADC Standby Force, other security structures and the development of the action plan will assist in meeting the daunting challenges of peace, security and stability, particularly in deploying forces for peace support operations.

South Africa is regarded as the leading country in contributing military personnel and major equipment for peace missions to promote peace and stability on the continent. The country’s important role in mediation to end conflicts has earned it a good reputation and respect among SADC member states, other African countries and the international community in general.

They also recognised the need for the member states to contribute more significantly to the African Union peace support operations and, more generally, the efforts geared towards the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and peace building.

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**SANDF has earned the respect of its neighbours**

**By Cpl Ally Rakoma**

**Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole**

The Inspector General of the Congolese Armed Forces, Maj Gen Norbert Dabira, and his delegation visited South Africa on a week-long visit as the guests of Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, the Inspector General of the South African Department of Defence. They met at the South African Defence Intelligence College (SADIC) in Pretoria on 26 June 2012.

The aim of the visit was to strengthen ties between the two countries and armed forces and to explore areas of co-operation in the domain of inspection and auditing. Another objective was to acquire more knowledge about the Defence Inspectorate Division of the South African Department of Defence and to explore the possibility of exchanging knowledge and training military personnel.

Maj Gen Dabira, accompanied by Maj Gen Petane, paid a courtesy visit to the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke. Cordial greetings were exchanged. Gen Shoke said that the two countries and armed forces had strong relations and had developed under difficult conditions. He also pointed out that the Presidents of the two countries were united in seeking an end to the various conflicts and crises on the continent.

Speaking to *SA Soldier*, Maj Gen Dabira said that South Africa was a developing country and roundly endorsed its positive role that it was playing since becoming a member of the international community in 1994. He said that in the historical context, the relationship between the two countries dated back to the time of the liberation struggle. Maj Gen Dabira added that President Denis Sassou Nguesso, the President of Congo-Brazzaville, had also been very involved in the eradication of apartheid and the release of former President Nelson Mandela. Maj Gen Dabira said: “As a developing country, South Africa, through the SANDF, continues to show its good neighbourliness and has had notable achievements in building peace on the continent. Today we are here to continue building on our friendship, learning about the practical integration of defence inspection and the implementation of auditing.”
Financial misconduct, fruitless and wasteful expenditure can bring the National Defence Force to a halt!

“Prevention of Irregular and Fruitless Expenditure: Starts with me”
Ensuring that security in Africa stays a priority

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: WO2 David Nomthongwana

African security remains a top priority in most African states and their respective defence forces. It is for this reason that innovative ways and means to enhance security are always being sought. Every year the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) hosts the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) in the quest to improve African security and to realise a dream of a secure continent.

The 2012 ENSP was held at the South African National Defence College from 17 January to 6 June 2012. To mark the end of the programme a prestigious award ceremony was held that was attended by the President of Uganda, Mr Yoweri Museveni, and the South African Minister in the Presidency, Mr Collins Chabane.

Sixteen SANDF students from the four Services attended the 2012 ENSP. Local students from other government departments were Mr Mbuso Khwela from the Department of Mineral Resources, Brig Azwinndini Negovhela and Maj Gen Jeremy Vearey both from the South African Police Service (SAPS). Students from the business sector were Mr Sipho Dludlu and Mr Jones Tshabalala both from State Security Agency (SSA), and Mr Lazarus Molope from Armscor. Students from foreign defence forces were Brig Gen Sisusa Dlamini from Swaziland, Capt (Navy) Setson Hangula from Namibia, Col Muhozi Kainergaba from Uganda, Col Mitchell Kazungu from Burundi and Col José Langa from Mozambique.

The ages of the students ranged from 35 to 57 years. They had qualifications ranging from matric to doctorates.

The Chief Senior Directing Staff, Col (Dr) Llewellyn Xabanisa, called all the names of the ENSP 2012 participants to come forward to receive their certificates, which were handed to them by Mr Chabane. Thereafter, the Chief Senior Directing Staff presented the other ENSP academic awards and trophies as follows:

The Commandant’s Research Paper Trophy was awarded to the first three programme members whose individual research tasks were classified as the best.

Capt (SAN) Neil Watts wrote the best commandant’s research paper. The paper entitled “Tackling a Hydra; Identifying and Eliminating the Drives behind Somali Piracy” exhibited an understanding of the multidimensional and multi-layered problems of Somali piracy. It was indeed a “hydra” - in Creek mythology it refers to a nine-headed serpent with two heads emerging from the one that has been cut off that is, piracy as a multifaceted and persistent problem that presents a new set of impediments as soon
The candidate was incisive in dissecting the problems in the area and highlighted the key drivers that make piracy a lucrative business. The paper outlined a combination of factors influencing Somali piracy, ranging from the absence of political authority, social deprivation and economic interests that are inextricably intertwined, and thus complicate international efforts to resolve the problems.

The quality of the paper allowed Capt (SAN) Watts to qualify with top honours; making him a winner of a trophy, prize money of R2 000 and a new laptop sponsored by Microsoft SA.

The candidate extensively discussed problems regarding the supply of houses as well as supplied houses lacking infrastructure. Brig Gen More presented her material in a relevant and credible manner by making, amongst others, use of examples covering South Africa. Her paper contained enough material to treat the title fully and convincingly and also allowed her to make some pertinent concluding remarks.

The runner-up and the two third place winners each won a trophy and a book prize sponsored by Microsoft SA and Old Mutual.

The Ibandla Trophy was awarded to the Syndicate 4, supervised by Col (Dr) Xabanisa, for scoring the highest overall marks for Exercise SIVUKILE.

Maj Gen Jeremy Vearey of the SAPS received the “Golden Rivet” Trophy. The Programme awards this trophy to a member, or in exceptional circumstances members who, according to their colleagues on the Programme, made the most valued contribution to the success, morale, esprit de corps, or any other aspect of the Programme.

Capt (SAN) Watts was awarded the Commandant’s Trophy for the best overall academic achievement during the Programme.
The Defence Review Committee held its public participation programme at Hoyo Hoyo High School in Cunningmore in Mpumalanga on 9 June 2012 to enable the committee to draft views of members of the public wanting to contribute to the short and long-term Defence Policy of South Africa and learning what South Africans expected of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

Various community members of Cunningmore expressed their concerns about recruitment, border safeguarding, unemployment, poverty and education. They mentioned that the SANDF must be adequately equipped to help the country in alleviating poverty and helping the SA Police Service to reduce crime. They also congratulated the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans on appointing Mr Roelf Meyer as the Chairperson of the committee, as his record speaks volumes.

The 2012 Defence Review moves significantly beyond the narrow and internal focus of the 1998 Defence Review. It unpacks the constitutional mandate, other statutes and South Africa’s international obligations and sets out the work that Government expects the SANDF to do. The point of departure of the 2012 Defence Review is that the SANDF exists to fulfil a very important role in society and it describes this role.

The aim of the 2012 Defence Review is to provide a strategic overview of the Defence Review process, the key Defence Review Determinations and Thematic Areas. In its consultative process the Defence Review Committee is required to provide a defence policy that is supportive of the Government’s priorities and strategic intent and a reviewed or confirmed defence mandate with associated defence functions, high-level tasks, strategic concepts, doctrine, capabilities, level of effort and structure.

The Defence Review is further required to address the primary objective of the SANDF arising from Constitutional imperatives and the defence statutory framework as well as the defence contribution to South Africa’s developmental priorities, the strategic security environment, trends and predictions, and emerging sources of insecurity.

Mr Roelf Meyer, Chairperson of the Defence Review Committee, at the public participation programme held at Hoyo Hoyo High School in Mpumalanga.

The defence contributions to national security are an expression of South Africa’s national interests, South Africa’s strategic purpose being the role that South Africa must play on the continent and the Southern African region in particular, and the continent’s expectations of South Africa.

During its deliberations the Defence Review Committee is to reflect on what place South Africa occupies in the world, on the continent and in the Southern African region, what the Southern African region and African continent expects of South Africa, what type of SANDF South Africans want, what Government’s defence commitment should be and what South African’s future defence posture should be.

In addition the question had to be answered: what state of readiness and what capabilities and force levels are required to meet present and future defence commitments; what should be the high-level defence doctrine and on what should it be based; what is the ideal relative size of the Regular Force and the Reserves of the SANDF; what is the required military culture; and what is the nature of the Defence Industry required to support the future SANDF?
At Africa’s first ever Joint Simulation and Training Conference, Dr Terrence Kommal, a military doctor, received commendations by Chief Director Operations Development, Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, and other senior military leaders for sharing innovative insights into the current and future challenges and opportunities in Military Health Training in Africa. The conference took place at the CSIR in Pretoria from 25 to 28 June 2012.

Speaking at the seminar Dr Kommal addressed the challenges of training Medics and Doctors for Emergency Medicine in the Battlefields as well as the opportunities for faster, and more comprehensive medical training for both medical and non-medical personnel. He stressed the following: “It is the medics and doctors, who are the custodians of the wellbeing and efficacy of the soldiers in Africa. In spite of any other innovation in armed forces, it has minimal value if the person that needs to utilise it is compromised, or harmed.”

Dr Kommal added: “The fact that we know what the challenges are, should be a driving force to make sure that the lives of the people that everyday work to protect the sovereignty of the Republic and those currently involved in peacekeeping operations in Africa are protected and saved by immediate innovations in training in the healthcare sector. Utilisation of virtual training and online training, supported by short and compact practical training sessions, needs to become mainstream, as it is both cost-effective and easy to implement.”

Maj Gen Hlatshwayo was indeed impressed by the fact that there are still a few doctors who are comprehensively military trained and medically trained (very few are in service today). He commended the doctor, who is also an officer and Captain in the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) and the SANDF, for providing useful insights into both the challenges and the cost-effective innovations in training that can be affected. He said: “We need more doctors and soldiers who have a good oversight and understanding of the challenges and are willing to be a part of the solution, in innovative ways. We need to nurture such talent.”

Dr Kommal was invited by IQPC, a global company that organised multinational conferences, to present as an expert presenter, due to his history of first becoming a comprehensively qualified soldier, and then training to become a medical doctor (known as MILDENT).

After he matriculated with six A’s, he joined the SAMHS (SANDF) in 2001. He has also worked with the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Special Forces, both as a doctor and operationally.

Dr Kommal (29), the youngest lead presenter at the conference, has diverse other qualifications, including the Senior Management certificate: Advanced Health Management Programme from Yale University. He is currently completing an MBA with the Edinburgh Business School (UK). He was part of the Medical Task Team and of the Extended Presidential Medical Unit for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. He is also a full member of the Royal Society of South Africa, an academic body that comprises senior researchers, academics and vice-chancellors from around South Africa.

Dr Kommal is currently employed at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He also works closely with the School for Military Health Training, the Regional SADC Training Centre and is involved in military health training. He is also an accomplished businessman.
SA Army receives the Tactical Intelligence System

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

Photos: Sgt Ellias Mahuma

The SA Army received the Tactical Intelligence System under Project CYTOON at the School of Tactical Intelligence in Potchefstroom on 29 May 2012. This complex and technologically advanced system enhances surveillance on the battlefield, and with this the SA Army is set to gain the advantage in various military mandated tasks ranging from borderline safeguarding to curbing rhino poaching, as the system is able to gather intelligence that detects and differentiates animals from human beings.

The system was designed and developed to address exclusive SANDF information gathering requirements and challenges. The SA Army received 14 square ground surveillance radars, 65 thermal imagers, processors and intelligent/smart deployable communications equipment. To prepare uses for the intelligence equipment the SA Army conducts classrooms where they receive practical or simulated computer training.

Surveillance radars are used to detect and classify moving targets from 20 to 30 kilometres away depending on the terrain. Square man-portable system can identify a pedestrian at 10 kilometres away, a vehicle at 21 kilometres away, a tank at 28 kilometres away, a helicopter at 21 kilometres away, a boat at 12 kilometres away and a ship 48 kilometres away. The Tactical Intelligence System was designed to be undetectable to the enemy. The thermal cameras, binoculars and imagers allow the user to see objects or targets even in complete darkness and can detect the heat radiated by targeted objects. The hotter the target, the easier it is to see. Humans and animals are especially easy to spot since both are warmer than their surroundings, which makes it possible to see even camouflaged targets.

L Cpl Tebogo Tsotetsi, a team leader of Alfa Squadron, who is responsible for the imagers, told SA Soldier that he enjoys his job and the new advanced system keeps him wanting to stay abreast of technology.

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Special Forces members receive their coveted operator badges

Article and photo by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Special Forces School awarded the Silver Operator Badge to the new operators who successfully completed the gruelling ultimate military endurance challenge at the operators’ qualification parade for the 01/2011 Training Cycle on 23 May 2012 at the Special Forces School at Murrayhill near Pretoria.

A group of new operators received training over a period of 17 months. Ten international members representing the armed forces of Tanzania, Namibia, Lesotho and Angola were also awarded the operator badge.

Receiving a Special Forces operator badge distinguish the recipients as members who can make future sacrifices, people with great responsibility and loyalty and, above all, are able to reach new heights.

The parade was more than just a graduation day for operators; it was a moment of pride for families, friends, instructors, mentors and the SA Special Forces. This was a celebration of young people who chose to serve instead of opting for self-fulfilment. The type of young person who chooses to serve is passionate, dedicated, fit, healthy, and very bright and eager. These are some of the traits that the Special Forces is searching for.

In order to achieve this training goal realistically, the 17 month Training Cycle requires the students to undergo thorough initiation training in all Special Forces’ disciplines, that is in land, seaborne and airborne operations, in any terrain or environment, in any climatic conditions, under any amount of stress or strain, in a focused, calm and professional manner.

A Special Forces Operator is the most well rounded soldier that one can find in a military environment, in terms of his unparalleled military knowledge, skills and experience, as well as in his well-rounded and balanced psychological profile.

The SA Special Forces’ training is the most arduous of any special forces training in the world. It is carefully designed so as to be physically impossible for the human body to complete it on finite physical resources alone. It is the ultimate challenge.

In the evening Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the Chief of Joint Operations, officially opened the Special Forces Urban Warfare Training Facility. The SA Special Forces, as a strategic force, will utilise this facility to train their personnel in urban warfare to enable them to carry out special operations independently or in co-operation with other state departments or Services to achieve national objectives, internally or externally, during peace or war. These operations comprise landward, airborne and waterborne capabilities.

The SA Special Forces is an affordable, dynamic and effective force that boasts specially trained personnel equipped with specialist equipment. International recognition of the SA Special Forces’ capabilities makes the SA Special Forces a credible force – one to be reckoned with.
Joint Operations presents bi-national training with the Netherlands

By Maj Emoret Serfontein, SO2 Op Com Joint Operational Headquarters
Photos: Capt Matthew de Jager

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) has once again excelled by setting the standard of training in bi-national exercises when Exercise SEROLANE was successfully completed at the SA Army Combat Training Centre (CTC) in Lohatla on 23 June 2012. Elements from the SANDF and the Royal Netherlands Army participated in this exercise over the period 30 May to 23 June 2012 in which they conducted mainly infantry training and tested medical capabilities in the field.

After the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between South Africa and the Netherlands, one company of 1 Parachute Battalion, under the command of Lt Col Dugmore Mziki, and a company of the Dutch 11th Infantry Battalion of the 11th Air Mobile Brigade (Air Assault) under the command of Lt Col Lucas Schreurs, gathered at the CTC to conduct their combined training. During this training exercise the main focus was on the exchange of information and experience, and interoperability at all levels. The infantry training comprised mainly airmobile operations, offensive operations, and command-and-control training at battalion level.

Initially the soldiers of both countries were introduced to and orientated in regard to the vehicles, weapons and other equipment utilised by the various levels of the infantry. The Dutch soldiers were impressed with our R5 gun. The two armies combined training in attack. True to custom at the CTC, Exercise SEROLANE commenced with a rock piling ceremony on Saturday, 9 June 2012. During the ceremony the Commandant of the CTC, Brig Gen Nontobeka Mpaxa, symbolically handed over the training area to the unit commanders of both countries to commence with training. Each participant then piled a rock to indicate his or her commitment.
The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) continues to build capacity for high-quality care and for strengthening military health systems through improved resources.

On 1 June 2012, Area Military Health Unit Gauteng (AMHU GT) celebrated the opening of the Hospice Clinic at Lenz Military Base. The hospice facility will provide comprehensive, compassionate palliative care for terminally ill patients and those facing problems associated with a life-threatening illness through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification, assessment and treatment of pain and other problems.

The multi-professional team at the hospice will also offer a support system that will integrate psychological and spiritual assistance to patients and family members to help them cope during the patient’s illness.

Brig Gen Debbi Tempelhoff, General Officer Commanding Area Military Health Formation, addressed the gathering and said that there was no end to caring. She highlighted commitment in the treatment, care and support of patients. Brig Gen Tempelhoff said: “Let us recognise the important and critical role that the hospice will play to achieve the best possible quality care for patients and families.”

Bi-national exercises are planned and executed by the Joint Operational Headquarters and are part of the responsibility of the Directorate Conventional Operations to improve the level of training conducted in the SANDF by, among others, learning from other countries. In the same way, the SANDF also has good skills and capabilities to share with other countries.

Opening of the Hospice Clinic at Lenz

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The medical teams also succeeded in reaching their objectives by the successful deployment of field hospitals and by resuscitating and evacuating “injured” soldiers. 8 Medical Battalion Group (SANDF) deployed elements in the field to test their capabilities for future deployments with great success. Their Dutch counterparts comprised elements of the 421 Medical Field Hospital Company and they conducted realistic casevac exercises in such a manner that one had the impression that the persons were actually injured and that the exercise was not a rehearsal. They even physically cut off the patients’ clothes, completed X-rays and put drips on the “patients”.

Front, fltr: Maj Elvalena Klopper, Dr Yumna Minty, Capt Grace Magagane, Sister Elizabeth Ndengane and Brig Gen Debbie Tempelhoff. Middle, fltr: Col Jostinah Moswatsi and Col Thembi Mkhulise. Back, fltr: Lt Col Skhumbuzo Gumede and Col Phillip Knoetze after inspecting the wards of the Hospice Clinic at Lenz Military Base.
A symbolic identity change for the Defence Works Formation

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever, its loveliness increases and will never turn into nothingness, all institutions, organisations, structures and creations do not arise out of nothingness, it is always brought about by a need, a requirement to improve well-being, survival and continuum of life,” said Brig Gen David Masters, Acting General Officer Commanding Defence Works Formation, during a colourful parade held at Thaba Tshwane on 1 June 2012 to unveil new flags for the Defence Works Formation.

During the parade the Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, presented the new flag and emblem of the Defence Works Formation to Brig Gen Masters. The unveiling of new flags constitutes a visible symbolic identity change for the Defence Works Formation.

This was the largest numbers of flags to be unveiled at one time since the unveiling of the flag of the SA National Defence Force in 2003. Eleven flags were unveiled, namely the Defence Works Formation flag, the Works Training School flag and nine Regional Works Units flags.

The Defence Works Formation was officially established on 1 April 2011 to provide a cost-effective solution to facility management and the maintenance services for the immovable assets of the Department of Defence.

The establishment of the Defence Works Formation was due to a dire need, an organisational gap that was affecting the SANDF in its ability to provide effective force preparation, force employment and force sustainment. It thereby directly affected the core business of the SANDF and the image of the Department of Defence.

If you wish to make a perfect omelette, you have to sacrifice a perfect egg and add some quality additions to it. Similarly, to establish a cost-effective capability and to avoid an unaffordable structure, it is necessary first to utilise what is available before you acquire something new.

Symbolic description of flags

The Defence Works Formation falls under the Logistics Division. To reflect the membership of the Logistics Division the same green and yellow colours are in the design and there is a chain around the outside of the emblems and flags. The central elements in the Defence Works Formation designs are inspired by the functions of the formation.

The spade represents earthworks and construction. The pickaxe was inspired by the Dolabra of the ancient Roman legions, which was used not only to dig but also to fell trees and shape timber to construct Roman camps and fortifications (thus representing both civilian and military construction).

The trowel represents those functions of the formation related to building work. The lightning flash represents those functions of the formation related to electrical work. The Defence Works Formation Headquarters Unit has the crossed swords at the top of the design, as do all SANDF formation headquarters.

The castellated border belongs to the Formation Construction Unit. The design was inspired by the battlements of a castle and represents involvement in major construction works. The rising sun represents the Works Training School, which provides the light of knowledge.

The Regional Works Units are distinguished by elements derived from the provincial coat of arms or elements traditionally associated with the location of the unit, eg:

- Regional Works Unit Eastern Cape has an elephant
- Regional Works Unit Free State has a cheetah paw print
- Regional Works Unit Gauteng has a bee
- Regional Works Unit KwaZulu-Natal has a Christmas Star
- Regional Works Unit Northern Cape has the Kimberley Diamond
- Regional Works Unit North West has a mealie cob
- Regional Works Unit Limpopo has a baobab
- Regional Works Unit Mpumalanga has the head of a kudu
- Regional Works Unit Western Cape has purple grapes

The Regional Works Units will be directly responsible for facility maintenance and repairs requirements, as well as the operational environmental management, lease management and the management of municipal revenue.

The Works Training School will be responsible for providing the technical skills training that will be in direct support of the technical expertise to enable the units to provide an excellent service for all SANDF force structure elements, and thus meet the needs of the Defence Works Capability as a strategic management system to ensure its sustainment.
On 15 June 2012 the SA Air Force College in Thaba Tshwane held the Candidate Officers Commission Parade to bestow commissions on 21 young men and women who had qualified as officers in the SA Air Force.

Joining the SA Air Force Officers’ ranks implies great responsibility, loyalty and exemplary moral conduct. The SA Air Force requires a highly skilled cadre of experts, strategists and planners, military aviators, scientists, navigators, engineers, leaders and commanders with insight and intellectual standing.

The Officer Commanding of the SA Air Force College, Col Wessel Janse van Rensburg, in officially handing over these well-trained young men and women for utilisation in the SA Air Force, said that for the past 22 weeks the SA Air Force College had put these young men and women through their paces. He said: “Today, I can confirm that these fine men and women have displayed the required commitment to the profession of arms and officership.”

Addressing the parade, the Deputy Chief of the SA Air Force, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga, said that the newly appointed young officers chose to serve instead of responding to the need for self-fulfilment. He added that from this day onwards the principles of officership and leadership would set the standard for them and dictate what they should and should not do. He reminded them that they had a moral obligation to provide quality leadership for those entrusted to their care.

Maj Gen Malinga said: “Your rank does not automatically make you a good leader. You must remember that you work with people, and the fundamental secret of leadership is to earn the trust, confidence and respect of those placed under you, and to treat them well without compromising moral, ethical or professional standards.”

It is a tradition of the SANDF to acknowledge and reward members who have distinguished themselves. Awards were also presented to the best students on the Officer Forming Course (01/2012). Lt Delia April was awarded the Chief of the SA Air Force Fitness Trophy for being the fittest soldier. The Academic Floating Trophy was presented to CO Tshogofatsl Ratseke for achieving the highest overall academic results during the course. The Old Mutual Floating Trophy went to Lt Annah Kganyedi for displaying outstanding officer characteristics during the course, while CO Adolph Gossmann was awarded the Leadership Floating Trophy for displaying outstanding leadership characteristics during the course. He was also awarded the Air Squadron Sword for the best overall achievement in the following: officer potential, academic achievement, leadership and fitness.

SA Soldier conversed with one of the newly Commissioned Officers, Lt Thabang Bapela, who said that if you have a dream, you should dedicate every living moment to accomplishing that dream. He said: “Being commissioned today symbolises the confidence placed in us. The responsibilities vested in us as young officers are very demanding. Furthermore, we serve as role models for our subordinates and our actions and behaviour should be a point of reference. The values of professionalism and patriotism will be the anchor in our lives. I am truly honoured to be part of the SA Air Force’s elite group.”
SA Navy bolsters new blood

By Mr Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SA Navy held a passing-out parade for approximately 270 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members at SAS SALDANHA in the Western Cape on 14 June 2012.

These members should fill some of the scarce skills shortage gaps in the SA Navy to enable the latter to fulfil its maritime security constitutional mandate successfully.

These MSDS members, aged between 18-22 years, who came from across the country, were a group of the 2012/01 Basic Military Training intake at SAS SALDANHA who had been successful in their applications to join the SA Navy MSDS in 2011.

In his address at the event R Adm Samuel Hlongwane, the Deputy Chief of the SA Navy, said: “Discipline and courage earned during your Basic Military Training will be tested in your respective units and vessels in which you will be serving. Remember, you are no longer ordinary persons like you were six months ago, but members of the highest standing in society because you belong to this prestigious National Defence Force. Continue to conduct yourself properly as you have now become role models in your community. We would now like to welcome you officially to this esteemed institution which is capable of winning at sea.”

R Adm Hlongwane added that these recruits would provide the SA Navy with a pool of personnel to assist in other regional responsibilities, such as fighting piracy and patrolling, thus contributing to regional peace and stability. Currently, the SA Navy frigate, SAS ISANDLWANA, has been deployed to patrol Mozambican waters.
to help the region curb maritime criminal activities in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) waters.

In thanking the guardians and family members of the graduating MSDS members for support rendered during their six-months of military training, the Officer Commanding SAS SALDANHA, Capt (SAN) Valason Pillay, said: “I am sure that parents, family members and friends have noticed a big change in behaviour, discipline and conduct of their children who were given to us just six months ago. Today the SAS SALDANHA would like to present to you fully transformed and well mannered young men and women of whom you can be proud. I would therefore like to thank every family who afforded us this opportunity to train and develop their children for the past six months. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank President Jacob Zuma, the SANDF Commander-in-Chief, for affording the unit the opportunity to transform and shape lives of the youth as part of nation building.

“I therefore would like to challenge the members to make use of this opportunity to promote the good conduct and discipline necessary if they want to succeed and enjoy the benefits of this noble career, because they are the fortunate few to have been afforded an opportunity to become part of the SA Navy family. I am confident that they will continue to represent us proudly in all the SA Navy functions as determined by the country.”

AWARDS

Admiral Mudimu Floating Trophy for Leadership: Seaman Ratanang Moletsi
Best Academic Sailor on Course: Seaman Waldie van der Westhuizen
Best Learner in Field Craft/Map-reading: Seaman Johannes Prinsloo
Best Learner in Seamanship: Seaman Mamashia Motapane
Smartest Sailor/Stickman: Seaman Wayne Beukes
Fittest Female on Course: Seaman Menia Fick
Fittest Male on Course: Seaman Emmanuel Seabo

Best Overall Instructor: Petty Officer Anthony Sengo
Best Mess Deck: Dean Building (women)
Best Division in Esprit de Corps: Spioenkop Division
Best Division in Sport: Mendi Division
Best Support Department: Sickbay SAS SALDANHA

Members of the public who graced the event were treated to spectacular events such as the mast display, gun run display, precision squad drill, fast roping exercise and a retreat ceremony.

A cultural night before the passing-out parade was also conducted by the graduating MSDS members. At least 13 cultural acts were performed by the members. Among these were drama in English, Afrikaans, cultural dance in isiZulu, Indian, Xitsonga, isiNdebele, isiSwati, Tshivenda, isiXhosa, Sesotho, Setswana, Sepedi, while the Cape Coloured community introduced the crowds to their unique culture of fishing and other traditions.

These Military Skills Development System members should assist the SA Navy in delivering on its constitutional maritime security mandate.
MSDS injects new blood into Human Resources Corps

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

Personnel Service School held a passing-out parade of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members at its parade ground in Thaba Tshwane on 6 June 2012. They were recruits of the July 2011 MSDS intake who completed basic military training and went to their respective new units and reported for the Human Resources (HR) Course at Personnel Service School in March 2012.

In his keynote address the chief functionary, Brig Gen Tawana Manyama, the Commandant of the SANDF College of Educational Technology (Colet), encouraged the successful Human Resources students to be professional and to observe and adhere to the principles of Batho Pele (Putting People First). He emphasised that they should further their studies at state expense.

These Human Resources students passed the following subjects in order to qualify as Human Resources practitioners in the SANDF:

- Conventions of Service Writing
- HR Functions
- Labour and Service Relations
- Record Management
- Client Service
- HR Maintenance
- Persol Orientation
- Leave System
- Inland Accommodation Expenditure.

The three best students on course were Seaman Nthabeleng Rampokane (first position), Pte Thembakazi Tshivhase (second position) and Amn Pumela Dlodlo (third position). Seaman Rampokane said: “The training was challenging for the first two months, but I found the HR Course easy except some aspects of computer training. I intend to continue with my degree in Industrial Psychology.”

Pte Tshivhase enjoyed the basic military training despite its hardships, especially the computer courses, but this did not demoralise her as it provided an opportunity to bond with her fellow students. She was most grateful to her aunt, Maj Caroline Madisa, who is also in the HR field at SA Military Health Service (SAMHS).

Amn Dlodlo, who obtained a diploma in HR before joining the military, said: “Basic military training for me was a complete change from what I was used to. I had to adapt to the way the military do things. The training was tough because of the physical aspect, but the academic HR Course was reasonably easy compared to physical basic military training”.

The parade commander was Maj Wayne van Zyl, while the parade warrant was S Sgt Ntsieni Mudau assisted by the SAMHS Band under the command of WO1 Johan le Roux. The Commandant of the Personnel Service School is Col Petra van der Merwe.

Fltr: Brig Gen Tawana Manyama, Commandant of the SANDF College of Educational Technology (Colet), with the three best students on course: Pte Thembakazi Tshivhase (second position), Seaman Nthabeleng Rampokane (first position), Amn Pumela Dlodlo (third position) and the Commandant of the Personnel Service School, Col Petra van der Merwe.
Launch of automated wheelchair ramp at Air Force

By Sgt Thomas Mulaudzi, journalist of Ad Astra
Photo: WO2 David Nomtshongwana

The first automated wheelchair lift was launched by the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, at the SA Air Force Headquarters on 12 June 2012. This was the first equipment of its kind to be installed in the SA National Defence Force.

According to Lt Gen Gagiano the key aim of this state-of-the-art machinery was to enable persons with disabilities to gain access to the SA Air Force Headquarters. He noted that the installation of an automated wheelchair lift step would be extended to other military bases, where such conveniences are not available.

He added that this showed that the SA Air Force cared for its people. The Transformation Management Section of Directorate Human Resources, which also implemented this awareness project for people with disabilities in the SA Air Force, and the DOD Disability Equity Forum, played a pivotal role in identifying the area in the headquarters that could benefit people living with disabilities.

This facility, which is installed in the corridor of the reception area of the SA Air Force Headquarters, is user-friendly and custom-made. It was manufactured in Italy and is designed to carry one person at a time.

Lt Gen Gagiano thanked the SA Air Force Council which was behind this project and also SFM Electrical Construction and members of the Department of Public Works for having completed the project successfully.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Curamus Association at 1 Military Hospital, Mr Kobus Swart, initiated the project in 2007. He said that this happened while he was still serving as Deputy Director at the DOD Disability Equity Section at that time, with the support of the then Chief Director Transformation Management of the DOD overseen by Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi.

The Project Manager of Public Works, Mr Andisile Nombewu, handed over the key that opens the wheelchair stair case to Lt Gen Gagiano, who then handed it to the Deputy Chief of the SA Air Force, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga, during the opening ceremony.

Mr Nombewu said that in his department he was responsible for all capital projects of the SA National Defence Force. He had to monitor, design, manage and sign the certificate for completion or closure. According to him it took at least six to eight weeks for the wheelchair staircase to be manufactured.

On testing the automated wheelchair lift Mr Swart found the mechanism working well in the way and as it was designed to function.

SAMHS educates learners about wellness

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

The Social Work Department in the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) took the initiative as part of its social responsibility to interact and educate the learners of Paratus Primary School in Thaba Tswane about issues of sexuality, physical and psychological well-being. The Wellness Programme that ran from 19 to 21 June 2012 was urgently needed to address issues affecting teenagers it was run by the SAMHS Social Work Department. Topics around sexuality and self-awareness were among some of the issues discussed.

The life lessons presented by social workers from SAMHS enabled the young people about to become teenagers to understand things about their sexuality and make them aware of the health risks. Capt Vivian Ngwenya, Chief Social Worker from Area Military Health Unit Gauteng, said her unit was extending its services to schools to educate and develop teenagers in their different stages of their lives. The other reason was that most learners were children of SANDF members.

A study in Sexuality and Body Awareness Development suggests that while many people believe that sexual development does not become an important issue until puberty and adolescence, children actually begin showing an interest in their sexual functioning from infancy. It also indicates that distracting children and guiding them towards more socially appropriate behaviour are good ways to get children to refocus without shaming them in the process.

Another area of concern is the issue of teenage pregnancy. The lack of education about safe sex, whether it is by parents, schools, or otherwise, is a cause of teenage pregnancy. Many teenagers are not taught about methods of birth control and how to deal with peers who pressure them into having sex before they are ready.

It is alleged in some reports that the other issue contributing to the rise of teenage pregnancy is that some engage in intercourse with people a little older than themselves. Sexual intercourse between a minor and an adult is not considered consensual under the law in South Africa because a minor is believed to lack the maturity and competence to make an informed decision to engage in fully consensual sex with an adult.
Great leaders are transparent; leadership is something that cannot be faked. A leader assesses current strengths and areas for improvement and sets out specific plans of action for personal development. They are curious, have goals and know their profession by taking courses and studying. Great leaders listen to experienced people and they ask a lot of questions because successful people leave a trace,” said Dr (Col) Irvin Khoza. He is the Honorary Colonel of Logistics Division of the SANDF.

The Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, invited Dr (Col) Khoza to Logistics Division in Centurion on 20 June 2012 to speak to the leadership and members of the Division to inspire and motivate them.

Dr (Col) Khoza spoke about leadership principles, responsibilities and serving with honour and dignity in order to achieve professional competence and pursue self-improvement.

He said that members of the SANDF are a significant pillar and building block to ensure South Africans live in peace and that our Constitution is protected. He added that the SANDF was an organisation built on a value system that was unshakable if upheld. The values of dependability, discipline, trust and honour defined the SANDF. He mentioned that if these values were compromised, men and women could pay with their lives.

Dr (Col) Khoza urged the members to remember that ours was the first generation to live in a democracy, which gave meaning to our Constitution. He said that we must not allow the disruptive influence of money to compromise and erode our values.

He told the packed hall that if they were to succeed when the odds were stacked against them, they had to develop a thick skin and totally disregard the naysayers. They were not to listen to the naysayers. In the end they would be filled with doubt and hopelessness. They were driven by forces and interests motivated by what they wanted to defeat in the first place. You have to transcend paralysis by analysis.

Make choices. For example, Africa has to make a tough choice between being a trading partner or being an aid dependent subordinate in its relationship with the world. The world will treat us in accordance with the choices we make. We did not go to FIFA and the world and ask them to do us a favour, drop standards and leave us to host a B-grade African Soccer World Cup. From the beginning we sought to prove not only to the world but to ourselves that we were willing and capable, and had the capacity to undertake the mammoth task.

Speaking to members of Logistics Division they said Dr (Col) Khoza was humble and pleased by the confidence shown in him by Lt Gen Nkonyane.

Dr (Col) Khoza

Dr (Col) Khoza is a highly experienced soccer administrator and the Chairperson of Orlando Pirates Football Club. He is also the Chairperson of the SA Premier Soccer League (PSL) and was also a Vice-President of the SA Football Association (SAFA). As the Chairperson of the PSL, he was instrumental in securing sponsors for the league, such as the ABSA Group Limited.

He was also the Chairperson of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Committee in South Africa from 2004 to 2010. He served as the Chairperson of South Africa’s 2010 FIFA World Cup Bid Team, which secured the right to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

In 2004 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Zululand. Dr (Col) Khoza was also awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Gold for his hard work and dedication in helping South Africa win the right to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup, and for ensuring that the tournament was a success in the eyes of the entire football fraternity. He was also honoured for his contribution towards the development and transformation of the game of soccer in South Africa.

In March 2009 he was inaugurated as the newly appointed Honorary Colonel of Logistics Division in the SA National Defence Force.
An officer aims to reduce unemployment

Article and photo by Mr Kgabo Mashamaite

Perseverance and hard work paid off as a senior member of Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) recently received a Senior Management Programme certificate from the University of Pretoria.

Lt Col Lesley Rakhibane, SO1 Staff Support of DCC, is the proud recipient of a Senior Management Programme (SMP) certificate. The course was presented by the Gordon Institute of Business Science at the University of Pretoria. The course modules included Business in Context, Innovation Strategy, Strategic Finance, Leadership and Strategy.

During the graduation ceremony Mr Carlman Moyo, Chief Executive Officer of DuPont Africa, said: “The SMP class of 2012 should strive to work together to deliver solutions that will improve the lives of the African people. The continent is currently facing a series of challenges, chief among which are the lack of resources and skilled people to help her move forward. It is for this reason that they should show up and implement a renewed commitment to an African solution.”

Mr Moyo challenged all the graduates to go out there and make a difference after obtaining their SMP certificates, which was precisely what Lt Col Rakhibane did. Having obtained his SMP certificate, he is already busy implementing plans to make a difference in the lives of many unemployed citizens in South Africa.

He said: “Through studying for the SMP I was inspired to change the lives of ordinary people by reducing the levels of unemployment. Unemployed people should also take charge of their destinies as they have a lot of untapped skills and, by using the right tools, we could be able to bring them back into the economic mainstream of the country. As much as we believe that the sun will rise tomorrow, we must also believe that the unemployed can also change the country’s landscape for the better.”

While Lt Col Rakhibane continued spending many nights studying towards his SMP certificate, he was inspired to develop a non-profit organisation for the upliftment of communities, namely Vuka Lova eMzansi (meaning stand up the unemployed).

Vuka Lova eMzansi aims to transform the lives of the millions of unemployed South Africans in both urban and rural areas through the provision of various skills. The purpose of this non-profit organisation (NPO) is, among others, to utilise the skills of unemployed people through addressing the poor infrastructure, improving access to health care and reducing poverty among families by providing them with stipends for their hard work.

It is envisaged that once the NPO starts running in September 2012, after the Executive Director and various role-players have given the exact date, an opportunity will be provided for economically inactive adults and youth community members across the country to participate actively in the country’s economic mainstream. Vuka Lova eMzansi will also help to accelerate the Government’s drive towards job creation in an attempt to reduce poverty among the citizens of the country. Funding and donations for Vuka Lova eMzansi will be sourced by the Government, captains of industry, corporate institutions and other interested citizens wishing to plough back into community upliftment projects.

* Readers wishing to obtain more information on Vuka Lova eMzansi can contact Lt Col Lesley Rakhibane on his email address: lesrakhibs@gmail.com
Celebrating SANDF young model citizens

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Chief Directorate Transformation Management, under the helm of Maj Gen Ansuyah Fakir, through its DOD Youth Section, the Services and the DOD Ceremonial Warrant Officers has put together an event which is very close to the hearts of all South Africans.

The successful hosting of the 2012 DOD Youth Day celebrations is a true reflection of the SANDF’s ability to develop young soldiers as role model citizens of our country. The event reflected our shared history, vision, experience and common ideals. This resonates well with some of the key elements of the Government’s initiatives and policies, chief among which is youth development, the renewal of the moral fibre of our young generation and the National Youth Service Programme whose aim is to transform youth from being job seekers to being job creators.

On 22 June 2012 the DOD observed Youth Month to mark the 36th anniversary of 16 June 1976 - the Soweto uprising - by celebrating its young model citizens at the Thaba Tshwane Military Sports Grounds with the theme: “Entrenching our Democracy by Promoting Youth Cohesion through Discipline and Sport”.

Members of the military community and scores of local people came to celebrate with the SANDF’s elite groups of young soldiers drawn from the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake comprising all four Services (SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and SA Military Health Service).

The day commenced with a guard of honour formed by the National Ceremonial Guard, followed by a drill competition as the main event. The SA Air Force came first and the SA Navy second. In the third position was the SA Army, and the SA Military Health Service came fourth.

Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the Surgeon General, was the chief functionary on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. Addressing the gathering he said that throughout the month of June it was customary for nationwide celebrations to take place. He said: “As the DOD we join in these celebrations to remind ourselves of where we come from as a people and where we are headed.”

He added that today’s youth must pride themselves on the fact that those who came before them laid the foundation that has seen the youth of our country playing an active role in determining their future. Lt Gen Ramlakan said: “Like the class of 1976, find your space in making a difference in your workplaces, schools, homes and communities in order not to undermine the self-sacrifice made by the architects of our democracy.”

Lt Gen Ramlakan read the message of Minister Mapisa-Nqakula and said: “Bantwana bam (meaning my children), I would be failing in my duty as a mother if I did not address the serious matter of drug abuse in our society. I think drugs are responsible for the moral decay of this country’s youth. Therefore we ought constantly to speak against drug abuse in our homes, places of work, churches and communities. We can never allow our youth to perish as a result of drugs. We have lost a lot of talented young people already; we do not wish for more body counts and faded dreams.”
Inspire our youth to improve their tomorrows

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

In our country 16 June (Youth Day) is celebrated as the day when the youth of South Africa changed the course of the country’s history. The day brings back memories of sadness and pride.

On 14 June 2012 the young soldiers of Swartkop Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing (140 Squadron) commemorated Youth Day and took inspiration from the youth of 1976 in encouraging each other to focus on education and personal skills development.

Col Eddie Crous, the Officer Commanding of Air Force Base Swartkop, addressed members and said that the youth of 1976 had earned the honoured title, the Young Lions. They were courageous and united in pursuit of a cause.

He urged the young people to develop themselves and be at the forefront in confronting moral decay, social ills, illiteracy, alcohol and drug abuse. Col Crous borrowed the words of former President Thabo Mbeki, who once said: “Whereas the youth of 1976 went into exile to train as soldiers of liberation, the youth of today should go to schools and colleges or universities to acquire the skills that they would use for the advancement and development of our country and continent.” The co-ordinator of the event, Capt Annah Mogobe, the Unit Social Worker, reiterated that the commemoration of the historic day allows us to acknowledge the sacrifices made by the class of 1976. She said that the day also brought to mind how far we had come as a country. Capt Mogobe added: “Today’s generation needs exemplary inspiration and guidance to motivate them to achieve something worthwhile because there are many opportunities.”

Conversing with SA Soldier, the young soldiers of Swartkop Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing said that although a lot had been achieved, more still needed to be done to rescue young people from unemployment and poverty. They mentioned that 16 June 1976 had touched their hearts in a special way and left a mark that could never be erased. Today they are proud to serve and therefore have something to help them improve their tomorrows.

In conclusion Lt Gen Ramblakan wished the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Tata Nelson Mandela, a happy 94th birthday in advance. He said: “The values that Madiba epitomises – dignity, grace, justice, tolerance and forgiveness - these are the values that the SANDF will always embrace.”

SA Soldier interviewed one of the 2012 MSDS members. He wished to remain anonymous and said that the youth of 1976 showed that the future of a country depended on the determination of its youth. He added that the vision of those young heroes and heroines had always been the driving force in achieving the freedom we enjoy today.

He said: “As the youth of today are called the ‘born free’ we need to be freethinkers. We should not commit immoral acts. We need to start addressing the issues that affect us today. When we do that then a lot of issues will start falling into place. Lastly, I acknowledge the essence of being a soldier with unquestionable patriotism.”

SA Military Health Service members performing the quick march during the drill competition.
Corruption Watch is a non-profit organisation whose objective is to curb corruption in South Africa. In pursuit of their objective this civil society organisation gathers and analyses information obtained from the public and builds alliances with all the stakeholders to ensure that the custodians of public resources act responsibly to advance the public interest. The organisation promotes transparency and accountability and protects the beneficiaries of public goods and services.

The information collected from the public and other sources is compiled as data that helps Corruption Watch identify corruption in its various forms. This may lead to legal action against perpetrators.

Any wrongdoing must be reported to the police

The Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act of 2004 requires that any person “who holds a position of authority” and who knows or suspects that corruption is being committed must report this to a police official. If you fail to report corruption to the police, you commit a criminal offence punishable by up to 10 years’ imprisonment.

The law protecting whistle-blowers against victimisation, reprisals and discrimination is called the Protected Disclosures Act, 2000. This act only applies to employees. The Companies Act of 2008 also has whistle-blower protection, which extends to a broader range of people, including shareholders, employee representatives and suppliers, but this act is limited to corruption committed by companies.

There are several channels for reporting corruption anonymously or subject to guaranteed confidentiality, namely:

1. **Crime Stop** - the South African Police Service’s toll-free, anonymous hotline: 08600 10111.
2. **The Public Protector** has the power to investigate and take action against any misconduct of a public body or official. Information submitted to the Public Protector’s office is treated as strictly confidential:
   - Complaints office: 0800 11 20 40 (toll-free)
   - Emailing: registration2@pprotect.org
   - Completing the online complaints form at: http://www.pprotect.org/lodge_complaint/complaints_form.asp
   - Visiting the office for an interview or consultation. Addresses for offices are on the Public Protector’s website: http://www.pprotect.org
   - Writing a letter with the following information:
     - The nature of the complaint
     - Background and history of the complaint
     - The reasons why you feel the complaint should be investigated by the Public Protector
     - The steps you have taken to solve the problem yourself (if applicable). You should mention the names of the officials you have been dealing with, on what dates, and what was said. Copies of any correspondence between you and the officials should be attached to your letter
     - A telephone number where you can be reached.

3. **The Public Service Anti-corruption Hotline**: 0800 701 701. This toll-free, 24-hour hotline has been specifically set up to address public sector corruption. You can choose to remain completely anonymous (and be identified by a reference number only) or partially anonymous (in which case, the call centre retains your details but does not pass them on to the investigating officer or publish them). To facilitate
the investigation, you should give as many details as possible (names, dates, places and proof). Also email integrity@publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za or send a toll-free fax to 0800 204 965.

4. Corruption Watch. You can register a complaint online using our Incident Reporter by visiting the corruption watch website below. You can do so anonymously.

Contact Corruption watch office:
Tel: 011 447 1472
Website: www.corruptionwatch.org.za
General email: info@corruptionwatch.org.za
Postal address: PO Box 113, Parklands, 2121

5. The Media. You can approach the media with your information. The media must keep your identity secret if you request such confidentiality.

Disclose any business interest you or your family may have

National Treasury regulations require that if an official involved in awarding a tender or any “close family member” has “any private or business interest” in the awarding of the contract, the official must: (a) disclose that interest; and (b) “withdraw from participating in any manner whatsoever in the process relating to that contract”.

Government tender fraud: Who takes the rap?

Punitive action should be taken against official(s) who unscrupulously award tenders to non-deserving companies. Depending on the role the officials played in awarding such tenders, the department would be entitled, or even required, to recover the money from the officials personally. The other members of the bid adjudication committee may not be criminally liable for failing to ensure a legal tender process, but they may be investigated and disciplined depending on their precise role.

Rival tender far more expensive than mine

If you feel that the tender process or procedure has been compromised to favour certain individuals or companies, you could make an application in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000, to the government department concerned for all of the information regarding the tender, including the tender documents submitted by the successful tenderer and the agreement concluded between it and the department.

If you are more confident of the information you currently have, you could consider going to court to review the award of the tender. Once you bring a review, the rules of court entitle you to the record of the decision. It should contain all of the information you need.

Beware of friends bearing gifts

As a civil servant involved in awarding contracts, you are obliged under the constitution and the Public Service Act to display a high standard of professional ethics, to perform your duties fairly and impartially and to be vigilant in guarding against corruption. The danger of accepting gifts from service providers in your sector, even if you consider them friends, is that you open yourself to possible corrupt practices. Bribery and corruption occur when gifts, courtesies or other payments or hospitalities are offered or given to obtain an advantage - for instance, by persuading someone in position of power to award a tender in that person’s favour.

The Public Service Act also rules out accepting any gifts or benefits, as these may be construed as bribes. The code emphasises that gifts or items of monetary value from any person seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by, the official’s duties, may only be accepted with the written approval of the head of the department.

To avoid any difficulties follow the code of conduct. This means declining all gifts from people you work with as a general rule. Where you are certain that the gift is offered for an innocent reason (for instance, as a “thank you” for supporting a friend through marital troubles), or where cultural protocol demands that you accept the gift, you should get the written approval of your head of the department.

Corruption is a serious offence and can carry a penalty of life imprisonment.

Corruption Watch wants to hear your stories (if you have been affected by corruption).

*Source: www.corruptionwatch.org.za*
**Presenting sound management practices**

By Mr Kevin Ntozinkulu, Senior Personnel Practitioner: PSAP ETD

Photo: WO1 Linda Moore

Altogether fifty Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 3 – 5 attended the Foundation Management Development Programme on two occasions. One group attended the Programme over the period 7 to 11 May 2012 and the other group from 11 to 15 June 2012.

The programmes were presented by Chief Directorate Human Resource Development (PSAP: Education, Training and Development) through the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) in Pretoria. The programme covers the basic principles of management with the objective of introducing sound management practices to first line supervisors and aspiring supervisors in order to “grow” good managers for the future.

The Foundation Management Development Programme (FMDP) is an accredited training opportunity that comprises two blocks. Block 1 focuses on gaining understanding of oneself and the team, while Block 2 focuses on supervision. The training modules include, among others, self-management, working in teams and management functions.

**Feedback from participants**

The two programmes with their content, logistics and facilitators, were rated excellent. Learners indicated that the programmes equipped them with knowledge of their roles as aspiring supervisors. Comments by some learners:

Ms Queen Ntuli, Senior Secretary: Military Psychological Institute (SAMHS), said: “The course was concise, factual and very informative. The facilitator presented the course clearly and it was educational. We look forward to the next level.”

Ms Buyiselwa Gaba, Administration Clerk: 14 SA Infantry Battalion, said: “Attending the FMDP has been a wonderful opportunity for me. The programme has developed and transformed my knowledge when it comes to management and leadership skills and I will definitely use this knowledge.”

Mr Mongezi Matiwane, Administration Clerk: SA Army Armour Formation (Tempe) said: “I want to thank Mr Kevin Ntozinkulu, Senior Personnel Practitioner: PSAP Education, Training and Development (ETD), and Ms Karin Swart, Assistant Director: PSAP ETD, who made it possible for us to attend this training opportunity. This FMDP empowered us with the necessary knowledge and skills that will increase our overall performance and improve the service at our workplaces. Finally this FMDP was a success because of our facilitator, who was outstanding and smart.”

Mr Joseph Booysen, Senior Personnel Clerk: DOD Ammunition Depot (De Aar) said: “PSAP in the past never had this kind of opportunity to equip and develop themselves, let alone a chance to become supervisors or managers. Having had this opportunity of equipping me with the necessary skills was a dream come true. Thanks to PALAMA and associates for designing this excellent programme. I also want to thank our facilitators for imparting their knowledge to us.”

Chief Directorate Human Resource Development (CD HRD) acknowledges the effort by Services and Divisions in nominating PSAP for the FMDP, thus contributing to the commitment of CD HRD to promoting the continuous development of PSAP in the DOD.

**Participants of the two Foundation Management Development Programmes for PSAP on salary levels 3 – 5.**
Just start

Deciding where to put your hard earned cash, with the plethora of savings and investment options available, can be quite daunting. However, we don’t need to be investment experts to make our money work for us, says Rosie Wilson, market development manager at Old Mutual.

How do I start putting something away for a rainy day?
Here, the important thing is that you DO start. Get that spare cash into an interest-bearing accessible savings account as soon as possible. Certain financial institutions now offer attractive interest rates on day to day savings accounts. The next step would be to draft a financial plan in which you clearly set out your goals.

These should be achievable and attached to a timeline, such as I would like to buy a car in January 2014, or I would like to put down a deposit on a home in August 2016, or my fridge is about to pack up and would need to be replaced in about six months.

Now calculate how much money you would need, identify what you would need to sacrifice to free up that money, then go shopping...by this I mean shop around for the right product to suit your needs.

How do I choose the right investment for me?
There are many savings or investment options available, from simple accounts to more complex investments. You don’t need a thorough knowledge of investing to get going, but once you’re on your way, it’s always smart to enlist the help of an accredited financial adviser who will know exactly where to get the best growth on your money.

Choosing the right investment depends on various factors such as your age – are you starting out in your career or are you approaching retirement; your risk profile: how much can you afford to risk in order to earn the highest possible growth; your goals – the things you are investing for; and your investment horizon – do you need this money in the short, medium or long term.

What are the differences between short, medium and long term investing?
Short term investing usually spans a period of between 12 and 24 months, and would require a savings vehicle that offers easy accessibility and some form of growth, such as a bank account or unit trusts. This would give you immediate access to your funds, which is useful in cases of emergency.

Over the medium term of between 2 to 5 years, unit trusts are a viable option, where you not only have access to your money should you need it, but where you receive better growth than with an ordinary bank savings account. Here you could opt for low to high risk where the higher the risk, the better the growth.

Your long term needs, for periods of five years and longer, such as retirement, or tertiary education for your children, would be better serviced in a product that offers protection against inflation and higher growth. This could be an endowment policy or retirement annuity which would be a forced saving via debit order, restricting access to your funds.

I’m still young. Do I need to start planning for my retirement now?
Many people believe that with time on their side they can delay saving for their retirement. The truth is the longer you wait the less time your money will have to grow. Many company pension funds do not adequately support a comfortable lifestyle at retirement and without supplementation in the form of a retirement annuity or other investment, you could easily come up short at a time when you are no longer earning. Job hopping throughout your career could also leave you short if you do not reinvest your pension fund proceeds.

How can I ensure that I achieve my long term goals, receive good growth and have some sort of flexibility?
Many of us need to have our money “locked in”, so that we are not tempted to dip into it when a crisis arises. A vehicle such as Old Mutual’s Max Investments is flexible in that it allows you to decide whether you want to invest on a regular basis, or ad-hoc. Your investment is also structured to provide you with the most tax-efficient growth, based on your personal income.

Old Mutual’s Max Investments allows you access to your funds before the time, and also delivers good long-term growth. However, it is important to remember that if you are investing for a particular long-term goal, then you should try not to dip into your money prematurely.

For more information call 0860 60 4500, or if you need advice, please call 0860 INVEST now.
A Commissioner of Oaths in the SANDF

By Maj André Smit, SO1 Policy and General Legal Support: Defence Legal Services Division

A Commissioner of Oaths (COO) is a person who has been appointed as a COO or designated (meaning the same as “declared”) as a COO by virtue of the office that the person occupies (also referred to as an ex officio appointment). A COO may administer an oath or affirmation, or take a solemn or attested declaration from any other person subject to certain requirements and restrictions. In simple terms, you would usually require a COO if you wanted to sign an affidavit.

Who is a Commissioner of Oaths?

The starting point in determining who a COO is is the law. For those who are legally inclined, the reference is the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 1963 (Act No. 16 of 1963). The law provides that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development designate the holder of any office as a COO by notice in the Government Gazette. Notices have been published to the effect that the following persons (among others) connected to the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) are designated as COOs by virtue of the office that they occupy:

• All ranks of the Military Police.
• Reserve Force officers of and above the rank of Captain (or equivalent).
• Adjutants of Reserve Force units.
• Warrant Officers of the Regular Force.
• Any office held outside South Africa (ie as Military Attaché) by an officer in the Regular Force.

Notice the general absence of Regular Force officers in this list, save for the last mentioned. The “secret” of

To return for a moment to officers serving in the Regular Force, you may be relieved to hear that they are indeed COOs, although indirectly. Officers in the Regular Force have been declared Justices of the Peace, and all Justices of the Peace are also COOs in addition to the other powers and duties that have been conferred on them by law. Among others, the holders of the following offices in the SANDF have been declared ex officio Justices of the Peace:

• The Chief of the SANDF.
• Commissioned officers of the Regular Force.
• Commissioned officers of the Reserve Force while rendering service, undergoing training or performing any duty in accordance with defence legislation.

Regular Force officers will be revealed in due course.

Although many other persons have been appointed as COOs or as holders of certain offices designated as COOs, only some of them may be of interest to members of the SANDF, for example:

• All members of the SA Police Service (SAPS).
• Certain officials of the Armaments Corporation of South Africa Limited (Armscor).
• The President, Acting President, Ministers and Deputy Ministers.
• Attorneys and Advocates.
• Justices of the Peace.
• Peace Officers.

It should become clear now that all Regular Force officers (notwithstanding rank) are COOs by virtue of the fact that they are Justices of the Peace. However, Reserve Force members have to pay particular attention to the distinctions made with regard to them:

• All Reserve Force officers (irrespective of their rank) are Justices of the Peace while rendering service, undergoing training or performing any official duty, and they are therefore also COOs for that period.
• Whether or not a Reserve Force officer is rendering service, undergoing training or performing any official duty, a Reserve Force officer of the rank of Captain (or equivalent) and above is always regarded as a COO.

• Despite the rank of the Adjutant of a Reserve Force unit, and irrespective of whether the adjutant is rendering service, undergoing training or performing any official duty, the adjutant remains a COO.

Operational exceptions

Where the SANDF is deployed internally in cooperation with the SAPS in accordance with the Constitution, 1996, and the Defence Act, 2002 (Act No. 42 of 2002), it is possible for SANDF members of any rank (including those with no rank) to be COOs for the duration of that deployment. The reason is that such members are Peace Officers for that period, and therefore also ex officio COOs. Other powers may also come into play in such situations under the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No.51 of 1977), the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995) and other laws. However, such a situation falls outside the scope of this article. Members are still cautioned not to take this power as a licence to exercise all the powers connected with such an office as operational instructions will frequently limit the powers of SANDF members.

How does a COO perform his or her functions?

Any COO who administers an oath or affirmation, or takes a solemn or attested declaration from any person must perform those functions or exercise those powers in accordance with the law. If the COO has reason to believe that the person in question is unwilling to make an oath or affirmation or such a declaration, the COO may not fulfil this function.

The law prescribes the manner and form of the administration of the functions of a COO. Before a COO administers the prescribed oath or affirmation, he or she must ask the deponent (the person who will swear to the truthfulness of the statement) whether the deponent

1. knows and understands the contents of the declaration;
2. has any objection to taking the prescribed oath; and
3. considers the prescribed oath to be binding on his or her conscience.

If the deponent replies that he or she knows and understands the contents of the declaration, informs the COO that he or she does not have any objection to taking the oath and that he or she considers it to be binding on his or her conscience, the COO is to administer the oath as prescribed by insisting that the deponent utter the following words: “I swear that the contents of this declaration are true, so help me God”.

If the deponent objects to taking the oath or informs the COO that the oath is not considered to be binding on his or her conscience, the COO is to administer the affirmation as prescribed by insisting that the deponent utter the words: “I truly affirm that the contents of this declaration are true”.

The administration of the oath or an affirmation by a COO is customarily accompanied by the raising of the right hand of the deponent, although it is not required by law. In the military context, the administration of the oath or affirmation is preceded by the removal of headdress. After the administration of the oath or affirmation, the deponent is to sign the declaration in the presence of the COO, or if the deponent cannot write, the deponent must affix his mark at the foot of the declaration in the presence of the COO.

Having obtained the deponent’s signature or mark the military COO must certify that the deponent has indicated that he or she knows and understands the contents of the declaration and must also state the manner, place and date of taking the declaration. The COO must also sign the declaration, print his full name and unit address below the COO’s signature, state his or her rank and indicate that the function is performed ex officio. SANDF members acting as ex officio COOs do not have to state the area in which they hold their appointments as their appointments are not area bound within South Africa.

Note that there is no legal requirement that a pre-printed ink stamp be affixed, although a pre-printed stamp is sometimes used in order to eliminate excessive writing. SEE THE STAMP EXAMPLE. A COO may not charge any fee for administering any oath or affirmation or attesting to any declaration, and may also not administer an oath or affirmation relating to a matter in which he or she has an interest. However, a declaration taken by a COO (who is not an attorney) and whose only interest in the taking of the declaration arises from his or her employment is, in the course of duty, exempted from the prohibition relating to a matter in which the COO has an interest.

Conclusion

If you are a member of the SANDF designated as a COO, you will perform your duties “diligently and professionally” in the words of our Code of Conduct. Whether a person can be prosecuted subsequently for being untruthful in an affidavit, affirmation or solemn or attested declaration depends on the diligence and professionalism of the COO. Note that any person who has made a false statement in an affidavit, affirmation or solemn or attested declaration made before a COO, knowing it to be false, could be prosecuted and be liable upon conviction to the penalties prescribed for the offence of perjury (ie lying under oath).

You, as a COO, are a cornerstone of the management and legal (and even sometimes the commercial) environments as you hold the key to ensuring that critical information supplied to third parties can be relied upon to be the truth!

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of the Defence Legal Services Division or the Department of Defence and have been expressed in the writer’s personal capacity.
Initiatives of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Reserve units were rolled out during the 2012 Royal Agricultural Show in Pietermaritzburg that ran from 25 May to 3 June 2012. The aim was to provide a platform for the communities to interact with the Reserve units in their area and to introduce their military equipment to them.

Among those units were the Umvoti Mounted Rifles, a Reserve Force tank unit, which introduced a colouring competition to the learners. Learners are required to provide an outstanding colour portrait of a soldier to win a static Rooikat display at his or her school for one day.

This is the first year that Umvoti Mounted Rifles has decided to introduce this competition. The competition consists of three categories, namely Pre-primary, Primary and High School. The successful learners will be notified after a rigorous selection process and a date will be set with the governing bodies to display an armoured vehicle to the successful schools.

According to Pte Leon Jacobs, a Rooikat 105 Loader, the competition is aimed at enhancing community relations with the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). Pte Jacobs said: “This initiative helps us as members of the SANDF to showcase the role of the SANDF during peace-time. It will also help us to attract the best talent from schools in order to accelerate the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) recruitment drive.” The Rooikat combat vehicle proved to be a hit with learners, as Pte Jacobs provided them with the vehicle’s capability during combat situations.

The learners were also impressed by a diesel stove used by members to cook their food while doing duty in the field. According to Pte Jacobs, members can also draw diesel from the vehicle to fuel the stove to prepare meals.

Other KwaZulu-Natal based regiments also came to the fore to introduce their tools of the trade.

The Natal Mounted Rifles, the country’s oldest regiment, was formed in 1854 as the Royal Durban Rangers and was reformed as a Mechanised Infantry regiment after some elements were retrained to operate tanks after World War II.
Members of the Natal Mounted Rifles had their hands full with community members who were curious to learn more about the role and function of a battle tank in combat situations. Community members were fascinated by the big rounds used to load the Olifant Mk1A main battle tank, such as the High Explosive Squash Head for use in air strike combat role.

The prospective SDS recruits were prepared for the Basic Military Training phase by Cpl Simon Bhengu from 15 Maintenance Unit (KZN). This unit is responsible for providing maintenance and logistic support to units and regiments, for example vehicles, food, camping units, weapons and ammunitions.

Cpl Bhengu explained the requirements needed to become a member of the SANDF. He demonstrated how a recruit prepared for inspection during Basic Military Training, while Pte Sibusiso Dladla, also from 15 Maintenance Unit, unpacked the ration pack and explained the contents to the curious community members.

The Natal Carbineers showed the Vickers machine gun which was used during World War I. According to the information supplied by the Regiment, the Vickers machine gun can operate for 24 hours non-stop, as it is water-cooled, but it needs to be mounted on a tripod or in a specific position for support as it is able to rotate 360 degrees and it can also shoot straight to the target or provide indirect fire support for the troops on the ground. The Natal Carbineers provided the SANDF with highly trained members capable of being deployed on the borders.

84 Signal Unit (KZN) also came to display various types of communication equipment used in combat situations. Signalman Busani Ngcobo was at hand to explain the roles and functions of this equipment. On display were the C21 radio used to make international calls, as it has a long-range signal capacity, the A33 antenna tuning unit that provides a radio network, a tactical data terminal (TDT 200) for typing, transmitting and receiving messages and a generator to supply power for the equipment.

LEFT: 84 Signal Unit exhibits various items of communication equipment at the 2012 Royal Agricultural Show.

BELOW: Learners admire the Rooikat 105 combat vehicle cockpit during the Umvoti Mounted Rifles’ static display at the Royal Agricultural Show.
The SA Army impresses the Gauteng Motor Show

Article and photo by Maj Merle Meyer, SA Army Corporate Communication

The SA Army was well represented at the Gauteng Motor Show that took place at the Zwartkop Raceway, west of Pretoria, from 2 to 3 June 2012.

The “Tiffies” from the SA Army Technical Training Centre brought a variety of recovery vehicles, including a very impressive 1939 Ward de la France and a 1942 Diamond T. Of course, no exhibition will be complete without the well-known Zebra 8 x 8 Recovery and Maintenance Vehicle that drew remarks from big and small. A young boy, Dominique (3), said he wanted to drive the Zebra onto the skidpan where manoeuvres were being carried out on a wet driving range. In 15 years’ time he will definitely be a “Tiffie” driving a recovery vehicle.

The SA Army Armoured Corps members were there with their Rooikat and Ratel ZTR 3. Dads were telling their sons how they previously went on deployments with the Ratels. These sons are now ready to join the SA National Defence Force.

The Gauteng Motor Show is the biggest motor show in Africa and over 50 000 visitors attended this year’s event. Though the SA Army exhibition consisted of Army green and brown vehicles, and of course without young girls in mini’s and high-heeled boots, the civilians were impressed with the knowledge of the communicators and the variety of vehicles on display.

Celebrating Father’s Day

Article and photo by Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

All the men at Technical Service Unit were treated to a special Father’s Day celebration at the unit on 22 June 2012. This was the initiative of Chaplain Brenda Siqaza from Technical Service Unit to give recognition to the men for contributing and assisting their female counterparts in working efficiently and for their role as fathers. The idea of this get-together was to recognise their worth as fathers and to boost their morale in the workplace.

The function was organised for the men to realise their importance and unique talents. Fathers are important to the well-being of their families and they sacrifice so much for them.

Dr Buti Makwakwa, from Revival Christian Outreach Ministries, who is a Pastor of Revival Christian Church and the Dean of Faculty at Revival Christian Training College, was invited to share a word of wisdom to uplift the spirit of these fathers. He praised them, saying that a father is a role model; he is a hero in the family; he is a provider and a caregiver and the one to bless those who leave his house.

He said: “We are living a history that follows us. Some men were not fathered properly and this also affects your children’s lives.”

Dr Makwakwa indicated that a successful man was successful in his work and at his home, which means that a man can achieve all academic qualifications, financial freedom and other accolades, but would have failed if his home was not in order. He added: “It is important to be a father who can achieve things and get his house in order.”
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SANDF Rugby Week 2012

By Col Gerrit van Eeden, SANDFRA Vice-President Media, Communication and Finances
Photo: F Sgt Bernadette Gildenhuys

SANDF rugby players from all over South Africa convened in Vredenburg in the Boland over the period 25 to 29 June 2012 for the SANDF Rugby Association’s (SANDFRA) Rugby Week 2012.

As in the past all nine rugby regions, with the exception of KwaZulu-Natal, participated in this year’s event. Limpopo and Mpumalanga entered a combined team, called the Limpumas.

Botswana again participated in this year’s event. Initially they planned to send two teams, a Botswana Defence Force team and a national development team. The latter unfortunately had to withdraw.

All gathered at 07:30 on Monday, 25 June 2012, for the official opening ceremony of the 2012 Rugby Week at the rugby fields of Vredenburg High School where the various matches for the week were to be played.

R Adm (JG) Koos Louw, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon’s Town, welcomed all present to the 2012 Rugby Week. With nostalgia he spoke of his childhood days when he played rugby barefoot on the same field.

In the Senior League Boland lost 8 - 46 against Western Province, while Free State beat Gauteng 50 – 20. In the President’s League Western Province came out on top in their game against Northern Cape with a score of 18 – 17.

Two women’s matches were also part of the first day’s play. Free State beat Gauteng 31 – 7, while Northern Cape lost 0 – 10 against Western Province.

On 26 June 2012 Gauteng and the Botswana Defence Force met each other in the Senior League. Gauteng won the match 15 – 10, followed by Boland beating South Eastern Cape 41 – 5. In the President’s League Free State lost against Gauteng by 24 – 25 and the Limpumas lost 18 – 21 against Northern Cape.

The Botswana Defence Force and Free State met each other on 27 June 2012. Free State was the winner by 45 – 12. Thereafter Western Province clashed with South Eastern Cape. The final score was 28 – 24 in favour of Western Province.

In the women’s League matches of the day Northern Cape beat Gauteng 10 – 0, while Western Province and Free State drew 12 – 12.

A colours and sponsors function took place on the Wednesday night.

Botswana trying to get possession of the ball during their match against Boland.
The SA National Sky-diving Club held its Sky-diving Championships at the Wonderboom Airport near Pretoria over the period 25 April to 2 May 2012. Various members from across the country and others from abroad participated in this event. All participants were judged according to specific criteria, such as formation sky-diving, canopy parachuting, style accuracy and individual classic accuracy.

WO2 S. Fernandes from the SA Special Forces School received first prize in the individual classic accuracy senior sky-diving category, while Maj D.C. Benade from the Special Forces Headquarters received fourth place in the same event.

WO2 Fernandes received a gold medal and the Victor Malec Memorial Floating Trophy for 2012 and has been selected to participate during the Olympic Games 2012.

Colin Brand of Western Province was appointed as the Player of the Week in the Senior League, Themba Bhengu of the Limpumas in the President’s League and Nadia Forbes of Western Province in the Women’s League.

The Rugby week ended with a closing ceremony that commenced with Scripture reading and prayer by Chaplain Melanie Smith from Air Force Base Langebaanweg, followed by the announcement of the achievers of the Rugby Week.

Colin Brand of Western Province was appointed as the Player of the Week in the Senior League, Themba Bhengu of the Limpumas in the President’s League and Nadia Forbes of Western Province in the Women’s League.

Western Province took the honours in both the Senior and President’s Leagues, while Free State won the Women’s League.

Then the selected SANDF Senior Team, the President’s Team and Women’s Team were announced as well as a men’s and a women’s seven-a-side training group.

Lt Gen (Ret) Temba Matanzima, the outgoing patron of SANDF Rugby, was the main functionary at the closing ceremony. He congratulated the members of the teams who won the respective leagues and presented each member with a medal.

Back on the podium Lt Gen (Ret) Matanzima announced that the 2012 Rugby Week was his last Rugby Week as patron of SANDF Rugby as he had recently been appointed as the Military Ombud and will in this capacity no longer be able to serve SANDF Rugby as patron.

Col Pieter Oberholzer, the President of SANDFRA, thanked Lt Gen (Ret) Matanzima for his dedicated and loyal service to SANDFRA and handed him an engraved pen as a token of SANDFRA’s gratitude and appreciation.

The Rugby Week was concluded with a social function at the Warrant Officers’ Mess at Air Force Base Langebaanweg. During the function Col Oberholzer also bade farewell to MWO Rob de Morney, the RSM of the Military Academy, who will be retiring in the near future. WO1 De Morney was involved with SANDF Rugby for years and was the main co-ordinator of the 2012 Rugby Week.
SA Infantry Association launches the history of the SA Infantry

Compiled by SA Army Corporate Communication with the support of the writer, Mr Willem Steenkamp

The SA Infantry Association launched the first volume of the history of the Infantry soldier – both foot and mounted – in South Africa during a function held at the Bronberg Winery in Pretoria on 6 June 2012.

The SA Infantry Association commissioned the book that is titled: “Assegais, Drums and Dragoons”. It was written by Mr Willem Steenkamp, the well-known military researcher and writer and book covers the development of the South African Infantryman between 1510 and 1806.

The book is about the genesis of the South African foot soldier of today – that small, usually dirty, frequently overtired and often hungry figure, and aims to foster the respect that real fighting soldiers have for one another, according to Maj Gen Jack Turner, Honorary President of the SA Infantry Association, and Brig Gen John Lizamore, the National Chairperson of the SA Infantry Association.

It begins with the battle in 1510 between a Portuguese punitive force led by a Portuguese nobleman, Dom Francisco d’Almeida, and the Khoina in the vicinity of what is today called Salt River.

In 1652 the first professional fighting men came to southern Africa with Jan van Riebeeck, and the result was a blending of European military doctrine and Khoina fighting techniques which ultimately resulted in the birth of the ultra-mobile commando system, the principles of which were adopted and adapted by various Southern African races and tribes in the next 150 years.

It also traces the birth of the part-time military service concept, to the “Burgher Militia”, which was made compulsory for all burghers between 16 and 60 from 1680 onwards.

The book goes on to cover the role of the trek boers and even of the freed slaves, who formed and describes the “Cape Pardooren” of 1793, the forerunner of the famed Cape Corps of later years. The book also mentions the skirmishes and cattle raids that were later called the First Frontier Wars.

The writer also describes the Battle of Muizenberg (1795).

The two British invasions of the Cape are described, including the Battle of Blaauwberg (1806) an almost forgotten part of Cape history. From early 1803 to January 1806 the Cape experienced its first taste of democratic rule under the Batavian Republic, the Dutch revolutionary government.

The book ends with the 1806 Battle of Blaauwberg, which led to the victory of Maj Gen (Sir) Baird, during which three small units – the Swellendam Light Dragoons, the Hottentot Light Infantry and a detachment of volunteer Malay gunners – fought to the end against an overwhelmingly larger British force. It was this that originally gave rise to the book, viz the question why these men, seemingly so different in every respect, fought shoulder to shoulder even after the Batavian Republic’s best-trained unit, the mercenaries of the Regiment Waldeck, had fled?

Several maps are provided, as well as a variety of little-seen and sometimes almost unknown illustrations, including depictions of the uniforms probably worn by the Cape units and some of their allies at the Battle of Blaauwberg, reconstructed from several different written and pictorial sources as none of the originals have survived. Illustrations and short descriptions of the key players are also provided. The writer points out that there is a direct link between what happened in 1795 and 1806 with modern events, because they both involved control of the Indian Ocean, a strategic issue that lasted right up to the end of the Cold War in 1990, and that might emerge again in the future.

Although the book ends in 1806, the writer points out that in that era certain influences arose which have an influence even today.

The second volume of the series will cover the period 1806 to the founding of the Union Defence Force on 1 July 1912, and will deal with the continuing evolution of the South African infantryman through the Eastern Cape Frontier, Zulu, Basotho and Anglo-Boer Wars. The third projected volume will extend from 1912 to the present day.

The book is a celebration of our rich early military history – told in an impartial way without any preconceived notions, and covering infantrymen of all races and nationalities – indeed a book recommended to all soldiers.

The book is printed by Jonathan Ball, and is available from Exclusive Books at R260.00 per copy.
The 87th Comrades Marathon down run

By Col Zirk Lourens, with acknowledgement to the Comrades Marathon Association

This year South Africa celebrated the presentation of the 87th Comrades Marathon, the oldest and largest ultra-marathon in the world in terms of the number of athletes participating and completing it successfully. The Comrades Marathon is still in the opinion of many South Africa’s most iconic road race.

This was further underlined on 21 February 2012 when the Comrades Marathon won the award for the “Best Sport Participation Event” in South Africa at the 2012 Virgin Active Sport Industry Awards - yet another testimony to the race’s pedigree and structure in the South African Sport Industry.

This year was a “down run”, an exception to the custom of even-numbered years being an “up run”, and the distance was 89,28km.

A total of 19 545 athletes entered this year’s Comrades Marathon, of whom 14 580 registered at the Comrades Marathon Expo prior to the race. Altogether 13 669 started the race and 11 896 successfully completed it. In total 1 773 runners did not make it to the finish line before the 12-hour cut-off time.

SANDF achievements

Altogether 132 runners from the Department of Defence, including the Reserve Force, completed the race.

The first Defence Reserve Force runner was Mr Sanele Ndlela of Natal Carbineers Athletic Club in a time of 06:03:17 and overall position 35th - an excellent achievement.

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was Sgt Samson Mkize from SANDF Athletic Club Free State (1 Tank Regiment) whose overall position was 143rd in a time of 06:44:37.

In the second position was Pte Nhlanhla Dladla from SANDF Athletic Club Mpumalanga (4 SA Infantry Battalion) in a time of 07:02:43 and an overall position of 255th. The third position was L Cpl Edward Sibanda from SANDF Athletic Club Limpopo (5 Special Forces Regiment), in a time of 07:28:28 and an overall position of 619th. (These runners obtained their silver medals for running under the 7½ hour cut-off time.)

The first SANDF woman was Cpl Benise Geyser from SANDF Athletic Club Limpopo (118 SA Infantry Battalion) in a time of 09:14:32, overall position 2924th and the 228th position among the women runners. (She also achieved second position among the Defence runners during the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Comrades Marathon.)

In the second position was Capt Nokholo Hlezupondola from the SANDF Athletic Club Eastern Province (AMHU EC) in a time of 09:30:21, overall position 3 379th and the 308th position among the woman runners. (A total of 2 339 woman runners completed the race.)

Col Zirk Lourens (10:42:02) and Mr Richard Hammil (11:44:17), both members of the SANDF Athletic Club Pretoria, completed their 28th consecutive Comrades Marathons. Lt Col Chris Steyn, also from the SANDF Athletic Club Pretoria and the Chairperson of the Athletics SANDF, completed his 21st consecutive race in 08:25:23 seconds. The last SANDF athlete to make the cut-off time of 12 hours, with only five minutes to go, was WO1 Sipho Ndebele of the SANDF Athletic Club Limpopo (5 Special Forces Regiment) in a time of 11:54:45.

In a radio interview on Radio East Coast Col Lourens supplied information to SABC2 broadcasters regarding DOD/SANDF participation in the Comrades Marathon.

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) had a special stand at the Sahara Kingsmead Stadium in Durban where all the families and friends of the runners got together to watch as the runners entered the stadium. The stand could be identified by the National Flag and the banners of the DOD and the SANDF that were displayed in front of the stand for easy identification. Lt Col Craig-Mackie and his team from the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Military Athletic Club assisted the Defence runners with their personal needs and also provided warm soup to the finishers. The Area Military Health Unit KZN also manned a water point 40 km from the finish.
Living with a clear conscience

By Chaplain (Rev) Ronnie Stanton, Deputy SSO SA Army Chaplain Service

A clear conscience is that inner freedom of spirit toward God and others that develops from knowing that God’s Holiness is not offended by one’s thoughts or actions and that no one can point a finger at you and say: “You’ve offended me, and you’ve never asked for my forgiveness”. The conscience is usually considered to be that small voice inside a person that convicts his or her wrong actions and motivates one to do well to others.

The greatest single hindrance in gaining a clear conscience is the feeling that the ones we offended were wrong too! In fact, we often feel that they were most to blame. Our focus on blaming them, balances out guilt and forces us to live with both guilt and blame. It is in our nature to find other people or circumstances to blame for what we have done wrong in order to justify or excuse our offences. The greater our guilt, the more we need to blame others. In other words, the more my conscience speaks to me, the more I am looking for an escape from my conscience by blaming others. This leads to my becoming bitter, which has devastating consequences for my mental and emotional health.

The power of a clear conscience

- A sensitive conscience is a sign of spiritual maturity.

- It puts you in a very powerful position to witness to others, especially through your daily conduct. When your conscience is not clear and others know about your wrong actions you become powerless because you will be called a hypocrite.

- A clear conscience has a positive effect on your physical and emotional health. The secrets of the past can make you sick as they have an impact on your body and your soul.

- You are always in a position to resolve conflicts.

- It gives you alertness, enabling you to make wise value-based decisions. Value-based decisions can only be made when you are not preoccupied with the wrong actions of previous days.

- You have the power to overcome temptations. An unclean conscience makes it easier to build on the lies you have told, while a clear conscience reinforces your spirit so that you do not dwell on the wrong.

- It is possible to weaken the effectiveness of the conscience by disregarding your personal convictions and values. In the same way it is possible to increase the power of persuasion in inherent in the conscience. Clear your conscience.

Look in the mirror of memory and recall all those events involving wrongs you committed against God and others. Look in the mirror of others’ attitudes towards you. Decide to ask forgiveness of each of those whom you have offended. Seek opportunities to ask forgiveness and clear your conscience in this way. Make a deliberate decision not to allow your conscience to be corrupted again.
First Troops Formal Dinner
held for School of Artillery

Article and photos by Capt Werner Joubert, Com Officer School of Artillery

The troops of the School of Artillery made history when the first-ever Troops Formal Dinner was presented at the unit on 7 June 2012.

It all started when the Troops Forum could not agree on what kind of function the troops should have for their quarterly function. Many of the members felt that it was time to do something other than the usual braai. A suggestion was then made to have a troops formal dinner because the troops only work as waiters during formal dinners that are presented at the unit, and they also wanted to see what the big fuss was about. And so an historic event in the history of the School of Artillery was born.

Because none of the troops had ever attended a formal dinner before, they did not really know what to do and where to start. So a little help here and there from staff members in the unit pointed the planners in the right direction. The organising team had to make all the arrangements and appoint their own Mess President and Vice-President.

At the end of the day the Chairperson of the Troops Forum, Pte Amukelani Chauke, was selected as the Mess President and Gnr Bathabile Migidi as the Vice-President.

The organising team decided on the menu, drew up the table plan and organised the formal dinner under the watchful eye of their Wing Sergeant Major.

On 7 June 2012 the troops spent most of the day practising for the formal dinner. They had to make sure they knew what cutlery to use and when, what glass to use for what wine and how to greet the President.

On their arrival that evening the troops started at the unit bar not really sure what to expect. From the bar they went to the sherry room for a glass of sherry and to see who was sitting where. When the Head Chef announced that dinner was to be served, an excited group of almost 50 troops moved through to the dining hall.

Everybody was concentrating so hard not to forget anything or to do something before the President had done it, that some members initially forgot to speak with the people around them. Luckily there were some senior staff members scattered among the troops who started making small talk and cracking jokes. Unfortunately the President did not think it was funny, and promptly called the members in the hall to order and told them to be quiet.

For a while after that it was only the staff members who talked (very softly), until the rest started to relax and enjoy the evening.

The Officer Commanding, Col Dawid Schoonwinkel, also congratulated the troops on their initiative and performance. He said that the troops were responsible for the success of the School of Artillery, that they were part of a winning team and that he and the command group were extremely proud of them for what they had accomplished.

The evening was concluded in the Fire Master with light snacks where Madam Vice had the opportunity to announce the fines of the evening. For the staff members it was the first they attended a formal dinner where the Vice-President issued a fine for herself, but at the School of Artillery anything is possible.

There is still a lot to be learnt about the culture and history of formal dinners, but it was a brilliant start to something, which we hope will only grow from strength to strength.
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