SOUTH AFRICAN
SOLDIER

fallen
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FRONT COVER: S Sgt Deon Naidoo from the SA Irish Regiment at the National Civic Remembrance Service and Wreath-laying Ceremony that was held near the Johannesburg City Hall at the Cenotaph. Read more about this year’s Armistice Day that was held on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour (11 November at 11:00) on page 18. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

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k wil julle graag groet met die Kersfeesgebed van Solly Ozrovech, een van die gewildste Afrikaanse geestelike skrywers.

GEBED

Immanuel, God met ons.
Here Jesus, Kind of Bethlehem, ons aanbid U.
Ons sien met verlang uit na die viering van u geboortedag.
Laat ons Kersfees met ’n opregte gesindheid tegemoetgaan.
Suiker ons gees van bitterheid en haat, en maak ons vry van sonde.
Laat elke geskenk in opregte liefde gegee word en elke groetekaartjie ’n belydenis wees van ons geloof in U, ons Verlosser.
Gee, deur u gees, nuwe betekenis aan bekende Kersmelodieë.
Gee dat Kersfees weer versoening bring tussen God en mens sodat elkeen U Vader sal noem.
Bewerkstellig ook versoening tussen mens en mens.
Mag die vrede waarvan die engele gesing het nie net ’n ydele droom of ’n onmoontlike ideal wees nie, maar laat ons deur ons geloof dit ’n werklikheid maak.
Gee dat die wonder van Kersfees nie net vir ’n kort rukkie ons harte sal verbly nie, maar dat dit ook by ons sal bly wanneer ons weer moet terugkeer na die pligte, die bekommernisse en verantwoordelikheid van elke dag.
Ons vra dit in die Naam van Jesus wat gekom het om die mens van sy sonde te verlos en om vir die ganse mensdom Immanuel – God by ons – te wees. Amen
– Solly Ozrovech.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

I would like to greet you with the Christmas prayer of Solly Ozrovech, one of the most popular Afrikaans spiritual authors.

PRAYER

Immanuel, God with us.
Lord Jesus, Child of Bethlehem, we worship Thee.
We long for the celebration of Thy birthday.
Let us approach Christmas with a sincere attitude.
Purge our spirit of bitterness and hate, and take our sins away.
Let every gift be given with true love and let every greeting card be a confession of faith of our belief in Thee, our Redeemer.
Grant, through Thy Spirit, new meaning to well-known Christmas carols.
Grant that Christmas should bring reconciliation between God and man so that everyone should call Thee Father.
Also bring about reconciliation between people.
May the peace of which the angels sang not merely be an idle dream or an impossible ideal, but grant us to that it becomes a reality through our faith.
Grant that the wonder of Christmas does not gladden our hearts only for a short while, but that it should remain with us when we have to return to the duties, cares and responsibilities of every day.
We ask this in the Name of Jesus who came to deliver us from our sins and to be Immanuel – God with us – for all mankind. Amen
– Solly Ozrovech.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

* Translation into English by Mr Eugene Muller.
extend my best wishes and season’s greetings to you and your families.

Since becoming Defence Minister in June 2012, I have had the pleasure of meeting a range of Defence personnel, who serve both within the country and externally. During my trips I have learnt of the great patriotism that resides in the hearts of each member of the DOD/SANDF. I am impressed by the level of commitment, focus and professionalism of the men and women in Defence, both military and civilian.

Your hard work propels us in the leadership to work even harder to improve your service conditions.

On behalf of the leadership of the DOD, I would like to honour the brave South Africans who lost their lives in the service of our country during 2012; our eternal gratitude is due to them and the nation’s thoughts are with their families and friends at this time.

I wish all members of the DOD and their families a peaceful, safe and happy new year. I look forward to a productive 2013 and to working with you in meeting the challenges of the year ahead.

Ms N.N. Mapisa-Nqakula
Minister of Defence and Military Veterans

Ms N.N. Mapisa-Nqakula, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.
THE PATRIOT

“Daddy please don’t go!”, said the son as he looked straight into his father’s eyes, while holding firmly to his hand. “You promised to look at my drawings and pray with me before I sleep to chase away the nightmares,” his son continued. The man, a member of the SANDF, knew there were many like him, family men and women. There was an urgent call for reinforcement in the peace desiring African sister country of ours after violence had increased.

He knelt down, kissed his son on the forehead and promised to return before his graduation from creche and celebrate his birthday. He then rushed to his unit where they where mobilised to go to the deployment centre.

It was a rough six months as two great brothers fought over the land of their fathers, each striving for supremacy.

Graduation came and “Daddy” did not return in his camouflage and medals on his chest like he promised, a promise was broken.

Just before dawn the doorbell rang and the son rushed to open. Daddy’s colleagues were there, but daddy was not. They had come to tell mom that daddy had made the ultimate sacrifice and would live never to fulfil the promise he made, for now he was an engraved memory.

We might not know or understand each other, but once we wear our uniform, we merge all our different walks of life for we live to defend the sovereignty of our country.

The man or woman beside you, they too have a child, parent or partner; protect them, as you would expect them to protect your loved ones. Cpl R.T.N. Sikhwivhilu, Air Force Base Ysterplaat.

SANDF MUSIC FRATERNITY EMBED DURING A BURIAL

The SANDF music fraternity embedded their rich organisational heritage in Mogwase during the burial of the late S Sgt Buthiaseroke.

I am an ordinary South African citizen who was not aware that our National Defence Force has such a rich heritage when performing at burials and paying tribute to the loss of their co-workers. The manner in which the funeral was conducted under the leadership of Maj Lesego Mosingathi and retired Chaplain Ditshweni showed great value to life and honour to profound military culture; respect and discipline were at the order of the day.

The Kroonstad Military Band also gave an outstanding performance as they bade farewell to S Sgt Seroko. Their well-orchestrated performance kept the members of the community at a standstill and indicated proper synergy among the SANDF members in time of grief.

Chaplain Ditshweni introduced Maj Mosingathi as the main speaker, before he ascend the stage the Military Band performed the wonderful piece of music and he did not disappoint the audience nor fail his organisation, he indicted that the pass on of S Sgt Seroko was a huge loss to the SANDF and Ceremonial and Military Music because music is instrumental to the esprit de corps of soldiers in general.

In his speech he highlighted the various career opportunities in the SANDF though he never made promises but encouraged the youth to consider a career as military practitioners. He also gave a brief detail of the role of the SANDF.

Lastly, I would like to request Maj Gen Norman Yengeni and Lt Gen Vusi Masondo to dispatch their team to bring a Career Exhibition to Matetenini and surrounding high schools in Bojanala District together with the Military Band. Ms Susana Ntisane, email

I BLAME THE DEPARTMENT

It is true that young people, especially those who are coming from rural areas, do not understand the SA National Defence Force (Military). I am one of them as I come from a rural area. I thought that to be a soldier was about handling a gun, killing people. I thought soldiers did not have sympathy at all, and they treated people as animals.

But now I realise that I was wrong. I wonder why young people, especially those who are coming from rural areas, think that to be a soldier is about handling big guns, and killing people. But the answer is so easy: it’s because they are the Department of Defence.

At last I want to appreciate all members of the SA National Defence Force (Military) for their good work for us as South Africans and all over the world. I want to thank those soldiers who fight for freedom in South Africa and in Africa. We will never forget their contributions!

Khulekani Nhleko, email

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

Normally when we hear the word success, we automatically associate it with winning and achieving something. The question is: what makes a person a winner? What distinguishes those who succeed from those who fail? It’s all in the mind. When we were young, we visualised about lots of things, such as when I grow up I would like to be a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a nurse, a pilot, but seldom a soldier. Images are not thoughts; they are vivid mental pictures that a person has of his or her successes, failures, competence and incompetence. The language of images consists of pictures and imagination. The language of thought consists of logic and intellect.

Imagery is a mental rehearsal to reach a desired goal, and can transform your state of mind. Just as we “recall” past experiences by bringing into our minds images of events that have already taken place, we also “forecast” by bringing into our minds’ images of future events before they happen.

Visualisation is using your imagination to see yourself in a situation that has not yet happened, picturing yourself having or doing the action you desire, and successfully achieving the results you want. The process is similar to directing a film. To produce the precise results you want, you have to manipulate what others will see and hear. You set the scene. If you want to be inspired, you’ll arrange the music, the lighting, and everything else on the screen to produce the required effect. You can do the same with the screen of your mind. You can direct your mental activity with the same skill. You can turn up the light and sound of the positive messages in your brain, and you can dim the pictures and sounds of the negative ones.

Frank Bauers said: “Imagination has brought mankind through the dark ages to its present state of civilisation. Imagination has given us the steam engine, the telephone, the talking machine and the automobile, for these things had to be dreamed before they became realities. So I believe that dreams … daydreams, you know, with your eyes wide open and your brain machinery whizzing … are likely to lead to the betterment of the world.” Creative visualisation is powerful, but it’s far from magic. It involves working with natural laws and or energies, and being creative in directing your own innate power.

Experience yourself doing and having the right thing you want, not as some future reality that might happen or could happen. Live in your mind as if it’s really happening to you now. Create your own inner film clips. Robert Collier said: “The great successful people of the world…think ahead and create their mental picture, and then go to work materialising that picture in all its details.”

The exciting thing is to note that the key to success is available to us all if we activate the power within. The truth is that to achieve success, we need to develop the necessary consciousness. A successful person has a success consciousness; a wealthy person has a prosperity consciousness, with thoughts on abundance, success and prosperity. We live at a time where people achieve wondrous things almost overnight – successes that would have been unimaginable in earlier times. The question is: why do some people generate amazing results, while others just make do?

Bear in mind that to achieve true success, maybe you do not have to be the richest, strongest, smartest, fastest, or most knowledgeable, but each person’s success must be in accordance with his or her own strengths and weaknesses. Perhaps the true meaning of success is trying your hardest and performing to the best of your ability. We are almost at the end of 2012 and most people made resolutions last year which were supposed to guide them throughout the year (2012) and most did not stick to their plans. What is it that we need to do to ensure that we are not diverted from our resolutions? The answer is to visualise yourself going through each step, and experience the feeling of success. By so doing you would be able to convert your imaginations into actions because if you want to be successful, it’s just this simple. Know what you are doing, love what you are doing, and believe in what you are doing. In achieving your goals you will definitely require discipline because discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment and the cornerstone of success.

You might be discontented because you are stagnant in the same rank or position for a long time and you have exhausted all the necessary promotional/development courses on your level, so what now? Remember you are the architect of your life, create your own opportunities and make things happen. Set yourself specific goals and monitor your progress. Always know that true achievements lie in the will to become the best that you can be.

Capt E.M. Mathebula, SO3 PSO to Provost Marshal General, Pretoria

Peter Kobbie.

The surprise of the day was the BUDO JIGGA (Taeba) demonstration. The aim of the demonstration was to invite and show the unit members what BUDO JIGGA was and to encourage them to participate to improve their fitness. All the sections also participated in volleyball, tug-of-war, soccer and netball, and the festivities continued until late.

The day ended with people reminiscing about JSB Garrison’s year and its achievements. Sgt Jacqueline Damons, Pretoria

JSB GARRISON CELEBRATES WORLD AIDS DAY

“I am my brother’s and sister’s keeper.” This was the message given to the residents of Thaba Tshwane by the Joint Support Base Garrison on 30 November 2012 when the unit had an AIDS awareness walk to celebrate World AIDS Day on 1 December 2012. This was followed by their end-year function. The members of JSB Garrison walked the streets of Thaba Tshwane with banners carrying the message: “I am my brother’s and sister’s keeper.” We do not judge our brothers and sisters suffering from AIDS, but embrace them with love and protection. The unit members were positive and full of energy, and everyone was singing and clapping as the AIDS awareness walk commenced. They wanted their voices heard in Thaba Tshwane. JSB Garrison continued the day with their end-year function at the Pretoria Military Sports Club after a sports day filled with fun and games. There were certain unit members who were awarded the General Officer Commanding Commendation Certificate for their zeal, commitment and dedication to JSB Garrison during 2012 by Brig Gen

Peter Kobbie.

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Peter Kobbie.
I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to you and your team. You are doing a very good job and I would like to give you a round of applause for that. In particular I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best in your teamwork. I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate the outstanding service of your SA Soldier magazine team. This team is indeed doing a great job and we are very happy because you make sure that we, the soldiers on the ground, are updated regarding day-to-day events within the military environment. You guys deserve a big round of applause. S.D. Mothapo, email

* Thank you for the kind words. We do it with a smile for you, and our readers – Ed.

EMPOWERING OUR MSDS MEMBERS

The SANDF calls up youth from all over the country for a two-year contract. With this two-year contract its aim is to equip the young generation with skills. However, to some of these Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members this comes as an opportunity of a lifetime. As we all know, we are members this comes as an opportunity. These MSDS members are the mirrors of what this organisation is all about. This organisation will always be used as a reference when they apply for a job. Let us all mentor our MSDS.

SICKBAY PHALABORWA BADE FAREWELL TO A STALWART

The personnel of the Phalaborwa Sickbay recently bade farewell to one of its longest serving members, who was going on retirement - S Sgt Motale Rodgers Mhlarhi. A big function was held at the Sasavona Guest House in Lulekane Township. (S Sgt Mhlarhi joined the South African Defence Force in 1980.)

The Nursing Officer in Charge of the sickbay, Maj Mokibelo Sekgobela, said the following about S Sgt Mhlarhi: “It was 59 years ago on 23 July 1952 when a son was born to the late Mr Hodela and the late Ms Mlonene Mhlarhi. He celebrated his 60th birthday on 23 July 2012.

“S Sgt Mhlarhi retired on 31 July 2012, after serving our organisation for 32 years. He has worked for 19 years at Sickbay Phalaborwa, and as a result he became the longest serving member of our sickbay.”

“Members came to Sickbay Phalaborwa and left through death, resignations and transfers, but S Sgt Mhlarhi stayed. It’s the first time in the history of the Phalaborwa Sickbay that we have had a function of this kind. S Sgt Mhlarhi is the first member of our sickbay to go on pension in the SANDF since 1994.

We are here today to wish him a happy retirement, and to celebrate his loyal and dedicated service in the SA Military Health Service. We are happy and proud to honour him as an unsung hero while he is still alive.”

According to Maj Simson Chauke, SO2 Logistics Area Military Health Unit Limpopo HQ, who also spoke as S Sgt Mhlarhi’s friend, the event was the first of its kind in the entire unit. Female members of the sickbay entertained the visitors by singing songs and dancing to Tsonga music played by signallers from 5 Special Forces Regiment.

The function was closed with a prayer by Chaplain Silas Rangwaga. Thereafter the guests were invited to refreshments where a delicious meal was served. Maj Mokibelo Sekgobela, Sickbay Phalaborwa

I AM A PROUD SOLDIER

I stand in parade for hours,
Waiting for my Commander-in-Chief
Mother City lights are on
Here I am standing at ease
I’m about to stand to “ATTENTION”
Because my Commander-in-Chief
Has arrived

Nkosi sikele’ iAfrika plays
What a beautiful Anthem
I feel like I’m playing for Bafana Bafana
As I see Jack followed by ensign
Reminds me of the Springboks in 2007/8
Six colours flying high

South Africa, the country that I will protect
without fear or any favour

I won’t go on strike
I will go on deployment
For PEACE keeping
I will sail to the borders of Mozambique
Together with real Sailors
And patrol the pirates

As I salute the way I was taught by my instructors
How I wish they see me, I don’t make those mistakes anymore

My boots are shining, my weapon is clean
Simply because I am a proud soldier

You are reading what I wrote in SA Soldier
You know why?
Simply because I am a proud soldier

Are you one? I hope you are
I am one, come and soldier with me
I promise you, I will save your lives

I am a proud soldier.
AB Lawrence Rambau,
Naval Base Simon’s Town

I AM TOMORROW’S VETERAN

When I am old
With my medals on my chest
I will be grateful
That I did my very best

When I am old
Will those words still haunt me
“We shouldn’t have been there”
Even though, I helped keep you free

When I am old
And tears for my comrades fall
Will any of you understand
Side by side, we stood proud and tall

When I am old
Will you forget about me
Because if today you don’t acknowledge us,
then …

Tomorrow our parades, you won’t want to see! Seragi Mothapo, email

members - this should be in the spirit of nation building. L Cpl Mmatli Maditaba Lucia, Pretoria

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SA SOLDIER

DECEMBER 2012

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TEAMWORK TEAM RECEIVED ACCOLADES

“The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. Man’s goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished,” Mr Nelson Mandela.

Members of the emergency and rescue services personnel perform acts of courage every day that often go unrecognised. They give their all, their effort and life-saving skills and put their lives at risk to save the lives of others. On 9 October 2012 members of the TEAMWORK team received accolades for their exceptional feats of courage.

On 18 January 2012 cyclone Dando swept inland as a low-pressure system, bringing heavy rainfall to the Lowveld and escarpment regions of Limpopo and Mpumalanga. Dando was likened to tropical storm Demoina of 1984 and cyclone Eline of 2000. About half a metre of rain fell in 12 hours and the Olifants River was flowing at just over 3100 cubic metres per second. The Blyde River, 14km below the Blyde Dam, was flowing at 689m3/s. The Komati River peaked at 1600m3/s and the Lower Sabie River at 650m3/s. The Mohlabetsi, a perennial river between Hoedspruit and the Air Force Base, burst its banks and washed part of the bridge away. Nine bridges and sixteen culverts were washed away in the Mpumalanga Province.

AFB Hoedspruit received distress calls from flood victims. By 07:00 an emergency call centre was established in the Drakensig Military residential area as well as at the Air Force Base. By 08:00, the Mopani Emergency Communication Centre had activated Disaster Management and set up a Joint Operation Centre (JOC). Within this reaction contingent were rescue teams from various agencies.

The floods affected close on 1 000 households. A large team of people were responsible for the rescue, recovery and support of all victims of the floods. This included rescue, relocation to safe areas, administering emergency medical services, supplying clothing, water, food and shelter.

Search and rescue operations continued for about 72 hours, standard procedure for such a rescue phase. Altogether 1 599 food parcels were distributed during flood relief operations. Losses as a direct result of the floods were estimated to be in the region of R261 million. It is not possible to quantify the expected losses in terms of tourism, jobs and crops. Teamwork, integrated effort, liaison and co-ordination resulted in a world-class rescue and relief operation that saved many lives during the floods. These brave men received accolades for their exceptional feats of courage. The TEAMWORK team consisted of members of AFB Hoedspruit, SAPS Hoedspruit, Maruleng District Municipality Disaster Management Centre, Africa Safe-T, Hoedspruit Farmwatch, Mopani District Municipality Fire, Rescue Services and the Disaster Management Centre, the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Limpopo Province, SAPS Water Policing and Diving Services Limpopo Province, SAPS Air Wing Nelspruit (Mpumalanga), Working on Fire Mpumalanga, Off-road Rescue Unit Mpumalanga, Mpumalanga Disaster Management Centre and ER24 Mpumalanga.

As the semi-finalist of the 2012 Centrum® Guardian Project, the team received R2 000 in prize money to share. Proceeds from SMS votes came in at R1 357 (R0,20 cents per SMS vote). The semi-finalists were presented with an opportunity for further training in the Snake Identification and Bite Treatment course sponsored by Eskom and International Medical Service, Basic Petrochemical Firefighting course sponsored by Sasol Secunda and Basic First Aid Level 1-3 sponsored by Netcare 911 School of Emergency and Critical Care.

Cpl Ally Rakoma, email

CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Cancer Awareness Campaign of Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal (AMHU KZN) was launched jointly with the King Edward VIII Hospital on 17 October 2012. Our Unit was invited to participate in the campaign together with other government departments. Our role included breast examination and presentation on psycho-social effects on family members and the society at large. The Unit’s contribution was highly appreciated by the King Edward VIII Hospital management and staff. The participation of AMHU KZN has built a strong relationship with King Edward VIII Hospital and other KZN institutions.

AMHU KZN hosted a Cancer Awareness Day on 26 October 2012 at the Bluff Military Base Auditorium, to which all units in the Durban area were invited to attend. AMHU KZN felt that it was vital to educate DOD members and their dependants about the importance of testing and early detection for cancer and other diseases that affect our communities.

The proceedings of the event were taken care of by Capt Nozipho Mdlatlose (Programme Director), while words of wisdom and hope were spoken by Chaplain Thamsanqa Shange in opening the event. Col Trevor Pillay, the Officer Commanding, welcomed all the DOD members and guests who attended the event and thanked the Co-ordinating Committee that made it possible for the Unit to host this event. L Cpl Lindokuhle Malinga entertained the audience with music.

We had guests from other medical institutions who showed an interest in strengthening the relationship with the King Edward VIII Hospital. Our Unit guests were members of King Edward VIII Hospital led by Mr Bhekisisa Khoza, Senior Service Nursing Manager, and Dr Nirvadha Singh with members from the SA National Cancer Association (SANCA). Their contributions and inputs in educating members who attended the event were certainly beneficial.

The Co-ordinating Committee consisted of Lt Col Tsikiishi Thabethe, Maj Mpho Biyela, Maj Maria Buthelezi, Maj Sandy Bheemans, Maj Nomusa Nhlumayo, Capt Khumub Khumalo, Capt Nozipho Mdlatlose, S Sgt Menzi Cele, S Sgt Bhekile Cele, S Sgt Nkosinathi Gumede and Ms Magaret du Toit.

AMHU KZN extended a word of thanks to the Bluff SAFI Canteen and the Old Mutual Group for their willingness to assist when requested to do so.

The contributions of all role-players were highly appreciated by the Officer Commanding AMHU KZN. S Sgt Menzi Cele, email
The SANDF is currently deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on Operation MISTRAL, in the Sudan on Operation CORDITE, in the Mozambique Channel on Operation Copper and is on an internal deployment in the form of Operation CORONA, said Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, during his briefing at Swartkop Park in Pretoria on 28 November 2012.

He said that 121 SA Infantry Battalion (121 SAI Bn) was deployed in the DRC, north of Kivu Province, with the responsibility of protecting civilians against armed groupings that harass the local population. The Battalion took over from 2 SAI Bn that left the mission area on 7 November 2012.

10 SAI Bn is also deployed in the Sudan and it will be relieved by 21 SAI Bn, which is undergoing the mobilisation process in Bloemfontein at the Mobilisation Centre. He said 10 SAI Bn was conducting patrols and escort duties as tasked by the sector headquarters.

Internally, the SANDF is involved in a number of operations, including border safeguarding (Operation CORONA), disaster support and humanitarian assistance (Operation CHARIOT), safety and security (Operation PROSPER) and Operation PHEFO for the 2013 African Cup of Nations.

Lt Gen Mgwebi explained that the battalion in Kivu also had an engineering component to construct roads in the area. It also has Oryx helicopters and cargo handlers available. He mentioned Bukavu would be used for flying in supplies due to the volatile conditions at Goma Airport.

Lt Gen Mgwebi said recent casualties suffered by the SANDF were the result of stray bullets fired between the rebels and the DRC armed forces. He maintained that the fatality in the Sudan resulted from an ambush by a militant group on the way to Kutum.

The role of the SANDF in these United Nations (UN) missions is to keep peace, secure property and protect the local population. Lt Gen Mgwebi said they were also tasked to ensure the safety of personnel and are expected to support government forces.

On Operation CORONA, Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, Chief Director of Operational Deployment, at the media briefing.
Inspiring Visit from International Delegates

Defence Attachés recently visited Joint Tactical Operations in Musina to engage with the deployed soldiers. These international defence delegates expanded their knowledge of operational duties and the area of responsibility commands and its key programmes and objectives during a familiarisation visit to the Joint Operations in Musina.

The aim of the visit was to benchmark the issue of border control and the safety of integral territory. The Military Attaché Advisory Corps (MAAC) was provided an opportunity to address misconceptions about the borders, and to engage in dialogue, and to conduct question and answer sessions.

The defence attachés represented countries such as Kenya, the United States, Romania, Germany, Sweden, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Cameroon and Angola. The visit was valued by the Joint Operations at large and the Officer Commanding, Lt Col Stone, who welcomed the MAAC committee. He presented the mandate and the vision of the mission. Soldiers from all walks of life spoke about illegal smuggling, illegal immigrants, human trafficking and other incidents.

12 SA Infantry Battalion together with government officials, the SA Police Service, the SA Revenue Service, Customs and other government departments such as Home Affairs and Social Development work together. Topics discussed included security co-operation, government partnership programmes, the global peace operation initiative, transnational crime, border tension, piracy and illicit traffic of arms and people.

The international delegates were taken to the store where smuggled goods are stored after they were confiscated.

Citizens from all of Africa are leaving their country because of starvation, economic collapse, political issues and social challenges. Most of these people are coming to South Africa. Emigrants from central Africa are repatriated after they reach a certain number. This can cost the Government a lot of money.

The MAAC Committee visited the deployed soldiers on the borders and the Echo Commander briefed them on the day-to-day tasks in their area of responsibility.

The visitors were quite impressed with what they saw during the visit. Pte S.D. Mothapo, email
Spreading the message of goodwill

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, conveyed the annual Goodwill message on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF during a service held at the Armscor sports grounds in Pretoria on 8 November 2012. Each year the Chief of the SANDF holds a service in which his message of goodwill is conveyed, while the Chaplain General offers spiritual and moral support during the service as well. Goodwill messages are an integral part of religious tradition and are celebrated as such during the festive season.

Lt Gen Nkonyane said: “During 2012 all of you responded in a magnificent and incredible fashion to the challenge of getting ready to conduct operations, both at home and outside of the country on peacekeeping missions in Africa - Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Ivory Coast, the Union of Comoros Islands, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau and the Sudan.”

He added that the organisation continued to do the work they did because South Africa’s security, stability and economic development were linked to the stability of the entire continent. South Africa also participates in these missions conscious of its responsibility as a member state of the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU).

Lt Gen Nkonyane extended his greetings to all SANDF members and their families and commended them for the work done this far: “I trust that each one of you will enjoy a safe festive season and that we will all be back at work with renewed energy to serve the people of our country. The impact of your work is significant and is recognised by our nation and the international community, particularly when the...

Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, the Chaplain General, singing and dancing jovially with the SA Air Force Choir.
All is well – Always on duty

By Brig Gen (Rev) M.A. Jamangile, Chaplain General of the SANDF

As we celebrate the birth of Christ once again for the year 2012, we automatically reflect on the passed year. Without delving into all the bad experiences and disasters, both personal and national, we keep in our hearts the wonderful verse in Hebrews 13:5 “I will never leave you nor forsake you”. Truly all is well when we trust the Lord to be with us, everyday. All is well because of Christ, we are never alone in pain or hurt, His grace is sufficient for us all. His perfect gift to the world so many years ago, in a lonely stable in Bethlehem, assures us today of His continuous presence and assistance in our lives.

As your Chaplain General, I would also like to confirm that all is well, because we call on God to care for us. That gives us as the SANDF ample assurance that in this festive season we can also play our part in this wonderful country as ensurers of peace and security, externally as well as internally, as we deploy to our different areas of responsibility.

Truly we can also say we are always on duty. On duty means never allowing time for rest or relaxation. The apostle Paul makes the same assumption in Hebrews 13:17. “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.”

As the SANDF, our nation expects us to watch over them, and to be ready to give an account. We are responsible. That is why I have the confidence to say to us all – all is well, we are always on duty. It is true that our tasks are demanding. During our deployments we experience difficulty and many times our families are far away during this festive time without us, but as true peacemakers we are always on duty. As we are always there, so our Lord God is also, He will never abandon us. His words to us are: All is well – Always on duty, we experience His calm in the midst of fear, so whatever happens in life or death God is our Saviour: it is He who has business with us and our families. If our faith is in Him, we will receive His peace.

To all the members of our beloved SANDF on duty all over our continent and here at home, I pray that the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will surround you during this festive season; may it be well with you and may you prosper in all things as your soul prospers in the Lord. May you be safe and your family at peace.

I also pray that the year 2013 will be an exceptional year, that every challenge we meet and problem we face will confirm that “All is well, God is on duty” in our lives. Please take the lessons of the past year and apply them successfully in the New Year. From my office and my family I wish all the members of our beloved SANDF “a wonderful, blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year, a bright future and a secure nation”.

Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, Chaplain General of the SANDF.

SANDF is requested to lend a helping hand to other government departments in times of need.”

The Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, shared words of spiritual wisdom with those present at the service when he said: “We give God glory and honour for his love and mercy bestowed upon us during the course of this year and the many blessing which have been ours. We thank Him for family, friends and fellowship. We have come thus far by faith. We walk by faith and not by sight. We know that when all is said and done God must get the glory”.

He continued: “We are in the season of advent, preceding Christmas. It is a time characterised by goodwill, benevolence and joy. Yet we must confess that peace and goodwill are not present in every area of our society.”

The SA Military Health Service Band complemented the mood of the Goodwill Service with their musical renderings.
Goodwill Parcel Project bids farewell to soldiers to be deployed to the Sudan

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Members of the SANDF and the private sector bade farewell and symbolically handed over goodwill parcels during the parade held at the DOD Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein on 4 December 2012 to members of the SANDF that were about to deploy to the Sudan.

The SANDF will be deployed to the Sudan to help restore peace and economic development to this African country. The SANDF has placed South Africa among the world’s largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations. This is done to support democracy, facilitate economic and social stability and create a better world for all.

The Goodwill Parcel Project is a joint venture between the SANDF and the private sector. Every year this team visits the internally and externally deployed soldiers as a gesture of goodwill to reaffirm appreciation for their continued efforts to instil security in the RSA.

The aim of the project is therefore not to reimburse soldiers for their efforts, but to show appreciation and support to deployed members and their families over the festive season by means of hamper packs.

The Goodwill Parcel Project recognises the important role of the SANDF in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building, as well as the importance of its participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Over the years the project has become one of the most significant events in the calendar of the DOD.

The project has since grown and evolved to include a gift to all deployed members, both internally and externally, and hamper packs for the members’ families back home. The sponsors are from the private sector and the SANDF Spouses Forum. Currently the SANDF Spouses Forum is the custodian of the hamper packs and actively looks for sponsors. It also determines the contents of the hamper.

Through this project, the SANDF has been able to spread
its wings to cultivate, maintain and enhance partnerships with community-based structures. These include business, churches, schools, orphanages and old age homes that have benefited from these partnerships.

These projects not only touch the hearts of the deployed soldiers over the festive season but also their family members back home. Those unfortunate to be in hospitals or hospices also share in the project do those who are on duty on Christmas Day.

The success of the project is clearly demonstrated by the gratitude shown by the different recipients of the gifts or parcels. All activities of the Goodwill Parcel Project carry the good wishes and appreciation of the entire SANDF and the RSA community as a whole, and have an important impact on the morale of deployed members and their families over the festive season.

LEFT: Brig Gen Linda Selepe, Director Peace Support Operations, and his entourage inspecting the parade.

LEFT: These giftpacks brought smiles and excitement to the newly deployed soldiers to the Sudan.
The Commander in Chief honours the heroes and heroines of our democracy

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Hard work, sacrifice and the role played by the Military Veterans in bringing the democracy that we enjoy today was acknowledged and appreciated at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria on 6 December 2012. The Commander in Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma, honoured the heroes and heroines of our democracy by conferring medals on them.

Mr Zuma said: “Our Constitution enjoins us to honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land. We therefore memorialise our Military Veterans, not as a favour or gesture, but indeed as a constitutional and legal obligation to which we are committed.”

President Zuma thanked the Military Veterans for their bravery, courage and sacrifice in the quest for liberation.

Platinum Class II

The Military Veterans Decoration Medals in Platinum Class II, instituted by a warrant dated 28 July 2012, were awarded to members of the first National High Command of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the functionaries of MK who were arrested at Rivonia and were sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island. This medal was bestowed on members of subsequent National Politico-military Commands (PMC) of MK that had been in exile after the Rivonia arrest, namely the Revolutionary Council and the PMC.

These leaders distinguished themselves by their spirit of defiance of no surrender under perilous conditions, demonstrating exemplary resilience and love for the country. They provided strategic leadership by leading South Africa’s black majority, arms in hand, after more than half a century of colonial conquest, raising the MK’s campaign against apartheid to a level that contributed to the capitulation of former apartheid rulers to a negotiated political settlement in South Africa in 1990.

President Zuma and former President Thabo Mbeki had medals conferred on them by Isithwalandwe, Mr Andrew Mlangeni on behalf of the first Commander in Chief of the MK, Mr Nelson Mandela.

The Commander in Chief, Mr Zuma, bestowed medals on Mr Josiah Jele, Mr Mac Maharaj and Mr Reginald September. The following people were awarded the medal posthumously: Mr Alfred Nzo, Mr Mzwayi Piliso, Mr John Gaetsewe and Mr Thomas Nkobi.

Platinum Class III

The Military Veterans Decoration Medals in Platinum Class III,
instituted by a warrant dated 28 July 2012, were awarded to members of MK who were in the first regional command structures in 1961, and those who subsequently served in regional command authorities of MK in exile until the suspension of the armed struggle in 1990.

These members distinguished themselves by implementing MK’s programmes and operations, thereby contributing to the organisational growth and fighting capacity of MK with total devotion, exemplary courage and self-sacrifice for freedom and democracy in South Africa.

These medals were awarded to the following people: Mr Laloo Chiba, Mr Aziz Pahad and Mr Mavuso Msimang (in absentia). The following people were awarded medals posthumously: Mr James Kat, Mr Peter Lesogo, Tshikare, Mr Gert Sibande, Mr Simon Sipho Makan and Mr Stanley Mabizela.

Bravery in Gold

The Military Veterans Medals for Bravery in Gold, instituted by a warrant dated 28 July 2012, were awarded to MK members who performed outstanding acts of valour in battle, and ensuring the success of the various missions under perilous conditions, without regard for danger to their own lives in the struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa.

These medals were awarded to Mr George Tau, and posthumously to Mr Ghandi Hlekani.

Merit Gold

The Military Veterans Merit Medal in Gold, instituted by a warrant dated 25 October 2012, was awarded to MK members who distinguished themselves through exceptional service beyond the call of duty and for displaying exemplary conscientious leadership at all times, thereby providing the organisation with the crucial capacity to solve its challenges in the struggle for liberation and democracy in South Africa.

This medal was awarded to Ms Nomzamo Winnie Madigizela Mandela.

Sabotage Campaign Medal

The Sabotage Campaign Military Veterans Decoration Medals, instituted by a warrant dated 25 October 2012, were awarded to MK members who were trailblazers of the move to arms by South Africa black majority after the colonial conquest through their participation in the sabotage campaign which heralded the formation of MK in 1961.

These medals were awarded to eight Military Veterans, while 49 Military Veterans received the Sabotage Campaign and Luthuli Detachment Commemorative Medal posthumously.

Luthuli Commemorative Medal

The Luthuli Commemorative Medals, instituted by a warrant dated 25 October 2012, were awarded to MK who heeded the call to take up arms by going into exile under perilous conditions to acquire the necessary skills and proficiency to take the struggle to a higher level. As exemplary patriots they refused to surrender to the repression of the apartheid state and they laid the basis for the successful armed challenge against white minority rule by the young generation which swelled the ranks of MK after 16 June 1976.

These medals were awarded to 26 Military Veterans.
The National Civic Remembrance Service and Wreath-laying Ceremony was held near the Johannesburg City Hall at the Cenotaph on 11 November 2012. This day is known as Armistice Day or Poppy Day and is held annually on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour (11 November at 11:00) to remember those who laid down their lives fighting battles, wars and struggles to secure a democratic future for South Africa. On this day we honour them for the supreme sacrifice made for their country in the quest for eternal freedom.

The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, was the main functionary at the event. The Speaker of the City Council of Johannesburg, Councillor Conny Bapela, was present on behalf of the Mayor of Johannesburg. The military were well represented by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, who presided on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF. He was accompanied by senior officials from the Services and Divisions. The General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Lindile Yam, and his Infantry units’ Officers Commanding around Johannesburg also attended the event. The service was also attended by members of the SA Police Service, the Johannesburg Metro Police Department, Emergency Services, Military Veterans Associations and Youth and Civic Associations.

The next-of-kin of those in whose memory the service was held were present to lay wreaths in remembrance of their loved ones. Military attaches laid wreaths on behalf of the fallen combatants of their respective countries.

The SA Military Health Service Band led the attendants in singing the SANDF Unity Hymn, followed by a sermon from the Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, who then ended the service with a prayer. A moment of silence was observed before wreaths were laid honouring South African heroes and heroines.

The SA Army Infantry Formation remembers and honours the following members who lost their lives in the line of duty during 2012:

1. Corporal Matlhomola Mooki – Parachute Training Exercise (Progressive Jumps) on 14 February 2012
2. Rifleman Ndivhuwo Thagwana – Operation CORONA (Musina) on 12 May 2012
3. Private Tladi Mahlophe – Parachute Training Exercise (Basic Static Line Course) on 31 August 2012
4. Recruit Elvirshna Bruinjies – Military Skills Development System (Basic Military Training) on 4 June 2012
5. Recruit Nkokozo Ngcobo – Military Skills Development System (Basic Military Training) on 27 August 2012
6. Rifleman Vincent Mthuthuzeli van der Walt – Operation CORDITE (Sudan) on 15 October 2012

“...They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM!”
– Laurence Binyon

Mr Thabang Makwetla, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, laying a wreath during the National Civic Remembrance Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Johannesburg on 11 November 2012.

The SA Army Infantry Formation remembers our fallen heroes and heroines.
Fallen heroes and heroines commemorated

Article and photo by S Sqt Lebogang Tlhaole

On 11 November 2012 the fallen heroes and heroines of World War I were commemorated during the annual Remembrance Day Memorial Service held at the War Memorial at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. The memorial service was to commemorate Commonwealth war dead.

Remembrance Day, also known as Poppy Day or Armistice Day, is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth countries since the end of World War I to remember members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

Remembrance Day is observed every year on 11 November to recall the official end of World War I. On that date in 1918 hostilities formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.

The day was specifically dedicated by King George V on 7 November 1919 as a day of remembrance of members of the armed forces who were killed during World War I. This was possibly done following the suggestion of Edward George Honey to Wellesley Tudor Pole, who established two ceremonial periods of remembrance based on events in 1917.

The poem “In Flanders Fields” has led to the red remembrance poppy becoming a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day. These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, their brilliant red colour an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

Those attending remembered the sacrifices made by people of different races in pursuit of freedom. They gathered as one people sharing a history and as friends sharing a human story. They recall that history, keep it clear in their consciousness, and pass it on to the future generation. They have come to know of our fallen heroes and heroines who paid the ultimate price by laying down their lives.

We acknowledge this painful history and cherish this abiding human story. We celebrate this way of living and we show our gratitude for having learned it, a way of living that values personal effort, courage, humility, sacrifice, resilience and self-belief.

Units gain freedom of entry into Johannesburg

By Maj Faith Mokou, SO1 Corp Com SA Army Infantry Formation

As Johannesburg celebrated its 125th anniversary, it honoured the SANDF units in their area. Units around Johannesburg have been traditionally honoured in the past by the City Council through an annual Entry of Freedom of the City Parade for their consistent commitment and loyalty to the people of the city of gold.

Out of the thirteen units that participated in the event, seven were Infantry Formation units, namely 21 SA Infantry Battalion, Johannesburg Regiment, SA Irish Regiment, Regiment President Kruger, Transvaal Scottish, Witwatersrand Rifles and Rand Light Infantry.

The Speaker of Johannesburg City Council, Councillor Conny Bapela, officiated at the event that was held on 10 November 2012, and she was accompanied by General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Lindile Yam, as the military functionary. The parade was led by the Parade Commander, Lt Col Leubane Malakoane (Officer Commanding Witwatersrand Rifles) and the Parade Sergeant Major was WO2 Johan Potgieter (Regimental Sergeant Major Rand Light Infantry).

After musical entertainment rendered by 1 Transvaal Scottish Pipes and Drums Band, the parade marched to music played by the SA Irish Regiment Pipes and Band. Among the ‘SA Army Infantry units’ colours displayed were those of the Light Horse Artillery Regiment and 2nd SA Air Force Squadron.

Councillor Bapela inspected the parade and thereafter delivered an address. In her address, she thanked the SANDF units for contributing to the security and economic stability of the city. She said the City of Johannesburg was grateful having most of the country’s first citizens in their midst. In closing, Councillor Bapela granted the Regiments the Right of Freedom of Entry into Johannesburg.

The parade then marched freely through the streets of Johannesburg to show the inhabitants of the City of Johannesburg that they were a force for the people. As civilians followed the parade in jubilation, ululating and singing, there was no doubt in the soldiers’ minds that they belonged to that community – the City of Johannesburg was indeed their “Home”!

Yes, I am proud to be a part of this family – one that makes waves . . . SA Army Infantry Formation – My home, My pride!

“The parade was planned under the guidance of the Chairperson of the Freedoms Association, Lt Col Godfrey Giles, and was blessed by Padre Hendrik Lottering with Scripture reading and prayer.
Chief of the SANDF recognises members who distinguished themselves

By Mr Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Altogether 58 members of the SANDF from all Services and Divisions had their outstanding achievements recognised during the Chief of the SANDF Medal Parade held at the Armscor Sports Grounds in Pretoria on 23 November 2012.

The Chief of the SANDF Medal Parade is a prestige event. At this year’s event recipients of various medals were recognised by Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF. The Medal Parade is aimed at acknowledging individuals who have distinguished themselves in terms of merit, leadership and long service during their careers within the organisation.

In his keynote address before a packed Armscor stadium Gen Shoke said that the milestone was a result of their discipline and dedication as professional soldiers.

Gen Shoke said: “The medals that I have handed over indicate your readiness to give your very best to your unit and your country. This accords with the Military Code of Conduct which states that I will strive to improve the capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, skills and knowledge and performing my duties diligently and professionally. You have indeed upheld this military commitment to the letter. As members of the SANDF, you have done us proud by going beyond the call of duty and have proved your worth as dedicated soldiers over a number of years, soldiers who are ready to defend the territorial integrity of the Republic. And I must say how impressed I am by the sight of the men and women with us here today who are about to receive their well-earned recognition. It is therefore my honour today to confer medals in the categories of gold, silver and bronze, and congratulations to all recipients. Wear your medals with pride, for you have served your country and its people with distinction. You have earned them with your hard work.”

The Chief of the SANDF assured members of the public regarding the safety of South African soldiers currently deployed in the troubled Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as part of a peacekeeping mission.

He said: “I wish to mention that although the security situation is currently tense our forces are not in danger, contrary to reports in our media. The SANDF and the country will continue to ensure that our forces remain safe, and plans are in place to ensure their safety.”

ABOVE: Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, pins a Medalje vir Troue Diens (30 Years) onto L Cpl Johannes Dibakwane from ASB Mpumalanga for his diligence, discipline and dedication as a professional soldier.
Chief SANDF hosts an Ugandan General on courtesy visit

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

The Deputy Chief of the Uganda People’s Defence Force (UPDF), Lt Gen Ivan Koreta, paid a courtesy visit to the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 7 November 2012. Uganda participated in the Joint Committee of Co-operation with South Africa between 7 and 10 November 2012 to discuss issues of common interest.

Lt Gen Koreta extended his greetings and conveyed his apologies from the Chief of UPDF who was not able to make it owing to other commitments. He said that they appreciated the different training slots offered to members of the UPDF on various levels in the SANDF.

Lt Gen Koreta also asked Gen Shoke if they could push for more training opportunities and if they could send some of their senior officers and non-commissioned officers for training with the SANDF.

Gen Shoke said that they needed to develop a programme on the training requirements regarding objectives, timelines, personnel and the level of training. He said that the UPDF had come to their rescue at some point and that had strengthened their relations.

He added: “Our relationship comes a long way and we need to co-operate closely and collaborate in a number of areas.” Gen Shoke also suggested the possibility of using exchange programmes and other logistical and technical co-operation.

Policy writing in the DOD

By Col Jan Kotzé, Departmental Policy Adviser
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Following a very successful 10th DOD Policy Writers Course in September 2012, the Directorate Departmental Policy Support was once again on the roll having been requested to assist the Joint Operations Division. Some of the Division’s members were earmarked to write Level 1 policies, as well as doctrine, and it was felt that the Policy Writers Course would lay an ideal foundation for them.

The full course (presented over a period of 10 days) is the result of an urgent need in the Department of Defence (DOD) to equip identified personnel within the policy writing environment with the necessary skills, knowledge and attributes to initiate, develop, communicate and control departmental policy according to DOD prescripts.

Although a full course could not be presented to the Joint Operations Division, the members were given an abridged four-day version of the course over the period 20 to 23 November 2012 at Joint Operations Headquarters Unit in Pretoria. The learners received instruction on the most salient aspects of policy writing and the Departmental Policy Development Processes.

According to the newly appointed Director at the Directorate Departmental Policy Support, Dr Susan Breytenbach, one should seize every opportunity to share knowledge on policy writing. This is especially true and useful at this time when the Department is at a disadvantage as many of its Level 1 policies are not meeting their target dates for revision or completion. She mentioned that the continual training of policy writers formed part of a turnaround strategy to address this backlog and she welcomed the initiative of the Joint Operations Division in this respect.

Owing to the dire need to have more qualified Level 1 Policy Writers, planning for the 2013 Course is already under way.
IBSA Defence Joint Working Group visits the SA defence industries

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Defence Joint Working Group embarked on a week-long tour of South Africa from 11 to 17 November 2012. The visit by the defence forces of India and Brazil was the last in a series of three, which was first to India and then to Brazil. The Defence Joint Working Group arose from an IBSA Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2010 on Trilateral Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The aim of the visit was to explore and identify potential areas of co-operation in the fields of military science, technology and defence industries among IBSA countries in the medium and longer term and also to assess capacity and address specific needs.

The Chief of Defence Materiel Division at the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Antonie Visser, served as head of the mission and of the South African delegation. The Division encouraged the participation of local defence industries and other stakeholders, including Armscor Defence Institute (ADI), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Navy contingent and the Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association of South Africa (AMD).

The Brazilian delegation was led by Lt Gen Aderico Visconte Pardi Mattioli, the Director of the Department of Defence Products at the Brazilian Ministry of Defence, while the Indian delegation was represented by Mr PK Mishra, the Joint Secretary Department of Defence Production at the Indian Ministry of Defence.

AMD opened the floor with their presentation representing over 60 companies that are affiliates of the association. Mr Simphiwe Hamilton,
When we receive a document, we can convert it into text that we can read, too.

AMD Executive Director, said its members were from a business organisation with over 15 000 employees and an annual turnover of about 12 billion rands. Their exports amounted to over six billion rands.

AMD Chairperson, Mr Dean Mogale, said they should use the visits to explore any available opportunities. He said that the industries needed to start working together to create better products to best serve the market and that he hoped the excursion would be a resounding success.

The South African Defence Industry (SADI) provides a lot of technology products for the Services of the SANDF, particularly the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Navy. Mr Hamilton said: “We have a strong capability in producing guided munitions, missiles and UAV’s. We are also good at systems designs and integration.”

He indicated that the SADI also produced armoured personnel carriers, including modifications and upgrades on hardware. Their key area of capability is electronic systems and sub-systems, including electronic warfare, radars and avionics.

Mr Hamilton emphasised the importance of industry collaboration and how they could help business, even in the face of global defence budget constraints. He said they needed to enhance relations with stakeholders and create favourable policy changes for business operations. He also said they needed to prioritise on urgent operational requirements through collaboration.

During the presentation he highlighted some of the benefits that could materialise though industry collaboration. Skills enhancement, technology transfer, industrial stimulation and export earnings are some of the key areas he specified. Mr Hamilton mentioned that the industry needed international linkages between firms and national agreements to produce designs and meet developmental requirements.

The Defence Joint Working Group spent time at the CSIR where they received briefings on its technological support to the SANDF. It also visited Protechnic and Ergotech, divisions of ADI, to receive briefings and a tour of their facilities and capabilities.

The visit to the Gauteng area also included briefings by Denel Dynamics, Aerosud and GEW Technologies where scheduled presentations were given by SAAB, Thales and Aerosud. They also visited Gerotek for an orientation drive round the facility and were given a presentation on armoured vehicles from a few manufacturers, including Twiga Services and Logistics, OTT Technologies, Osprea Logistics and BAE Land Systems South Africa.

The delegations also spent time at Western Cape defence industries, namely Reutech Radar Solutions (RRS), Tellumat, Denel Overberg Test Range (OTR) and the Institute for Maritime Technology (IMT).

The foreign visitors left the shores of the RSA having had an excellent exposure to the Defence capabilities and possible areas of technological co-operation. It is intended that the group should provide feedback to the IBSA Defence Committee (DEFCOM) on a possible way forward in order to realise the planned co-operation.
Angolan officers pass an anti-corruption course in the SANDF

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Six members of the Angolan Armed Forces received their certificates after completing the Anti-fraud and Anti-corruption Course presented at the SA National War College (SANWC) from 17 September to 9 November 2012.

Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, DOD Inspector General, said during the certificate ceremony that his division had met its commitment with the Acting Inspector General of the Angolan Armed Forces, Lt Gen A.D.L. Liahuka, to organise such a course.

Lt Gen Liahuka said that he appreciated the efforts of Maj Gen Petane in preparing the course for his delegation and providing available training personnel. He added that their divisional relationship had come a long way.

During the 2012 Angola/South Africa Defence Bilateral Committee meeting, the Angolan Armed Forces indicated that they had a need to have their members trained in the anti-corruption and anti-fraud field, as they were in the process of establishing this capacity within their own inspectorate division.

The highlight of the course was that the Angolan students managed to develop an anti-corruption strategy as well as a corruption and fraud prevention plan to be implemented within the Angolan Armed Forces.

Though the students only communicated in Portuguese, Candidate Officer Lena Fernandes (official translator) and Capt Snyman minimised the language barrier to ensure that effective learning and communication took place through translation. Through the presentation of the learning opportunity, the SANDF was afforded the opportunity not only to educate a member state’s officers in the concepts of fighting corruption and fraud, thus strengthening relations between the two countries, but also to underline the SANDF’s commitment to eradicating corruption and fraud in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

As the leading nation in the SADC, South Africa can ill afford to stand alone in the regional fight against corruption and fraud. It is therefore of critical importance that the SANDF shares its knowledge and expertise with member states of the SADC, as the fight against corruption and fraud moves from local to regional to African and eventually to a global context.

News of the success of the course has already travelled beyond the borders of South Africa, and the Ugandan and Congo Brazzaville Defence Forces have already indicated that they would like to receive similar training for their Armed Forces.

RECIPIENTS OF CERTIFICATES

Front, fltr: Col Felizardo Kabanga, Brig Gen Lou van Vuuren (a main facilitator of the course), Lt Gen A.D.L. Liahuka, Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane (DOD Inspector General) and Capt (SAN) Jacobus Snyman (a main facilitator of the course). Back, fltr: Col Francisco Manuel, Maj Alberto Pires, CO Lena Fernandes, Lt Col Augusto Belo Mundo, Capt Jose Da Costa Andre Quinguari and Capt Ferreira Sakala.
Making inroads in fighting HIV and AIDS

World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1 each year around the world. It has become one of the most recognised days internationally and is a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

“Our common vision of an AIDS-free world is now possible and attainable; let’s continue to strive towards its realisation,” said Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, while commemorating World AIDS Day in Potchefstroom on World AIDS Day on 1 December 2012.

The Minister of Health, Mr Aaron Motsoaledi, urged the nation to play safe in curbing new HIV infections. He said: “As a nation, let’s play safe to curb new HIV infections. We want to encourage each South African to undergo an HIV test once per year.”

In view of the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations in 2013, the 2012 World AIDS Day campaign uses football and HIV prevention to drive the overall message and promote healthy lifestyles. In this respect the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) commemorated the day with an outreach action to the Atteridgeville community and the members of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans. This took place at the Lucas “Masterpieces” Moripe Stadium in Atteridgeville. As part of the commemoration, the SAMHS also used the occasion to launch uniquely packaged condoms.

According to a United Nations report, South Africa increased its scale of HIV treatment by 75%, thus ensuring that 1.7 million people had access to the life-saving treatment. This has led to a decrease of more that 50 000 (41%) in new HIV infections in the past two years.

The report also noted an increase in South Africa’s sustained investment in HIV treatment, such as antiretroviral therapy, which has seen many lives being saved in the past six years.

As reflected in the report, “South Africa is the country that has made the highest domestic investment in AIDS among all low and middle-income countries”.

Addressing those in attendance, Maj Gen Aubrey Sedibe, Chief Director Military Health Force Preparation, said: “As the military we pledge to uphold our commitment to an AIDS-free generation, but we will need you to strengthen our hands. Support us unwaveringly in this endeavour just as you are supporting our peacekeeping operations.” He emphasized: “As the Department of Defence we realise that HIV and AIDS is a threat to international peace and poses a risk to stability and security. Conflict and post-conflict related violence and instability could worsen the epidemic not only because of sexually related violence, but also large-scale movements of people. The disease has a potential to affect peacekeeping and support personnel.”

The theme “Score against HIV and AIDS and TB”, incorporating football and HIV prevention as sport, is a powerful tool for advocacy from the global to the community level and it provides an ideal space for HIV prevention campaigns to reach large numbers of people.

Young people participating in sport usually have trusting relationships with their coaches and sport can provide a forum to discuss HIV openly and the need to address the stigma and discrimination among players, coaches, administrators and friends. The SANDF embraces a diversity of sporting codes.

World AIDS Day is a pit stop on the road to the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations. Provinces and organisations, such as the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, are to have clear pre and post World AIDS Day activity plans that should be implemented in the lead-up to World AIDS Day and right through until the end of the Africa Cup of Nations in February 2013. South Africa has a unique opportunity to utilise the power of the biggest sporting event to be hosted in the country since the 2010 Soccer World Cup – the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations 2013 - to bring HIV and TB prevention and other health messages to players, coaches, administrators and, most importantly, fans.

To conclude the day’s activities, a friendly football match between the Young Tigers from Atteridgeville and a SAMHS team was held from which the SAMHS emerged victorious with a 5 – 3 win.
SA Army Week depicted excellence

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Tshwane Event Centre became centre stage for the pre-festive activities that signified the end of the SA Army Week. The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, hosted the SA Army fraternity and associates at an eventful Awards Ceremony and Gala Evening over the period 6 to 7 November 2012.

Members were awarded in eight categories. Lt Gen Masando said the proficiency in musketry was fundamental to the make-up of a soldier. Skills developed in this regard determine the outcome in any battle space and can be the determining factor in victory or defeat.

“This afternoon we awarded deserving members with trophies and certificates for excelling in different fields of soldiering. Awards were presented to both Regulars and Reserves to underline the “One Force Concept” we strive for in the SA Army,” said Lt Gen Masondo after the presentation of the awards.

He mentioned that their top performances should be measured against the fundamental focus areas of professional soldiering in the SA Army. Discipline, fitness and shooting underline the essence of soldiering, complemented by sport.

He said: “These are discipline, fitness, technical skills and the ability to think and acquire a hunger for knowledge. All of these characteristics are acknowledged here today as necessary achievers in the fields of fitness, shooting, sport and writing skills”.

Lt Gen Masondo reported on the recent SA Army deployments and said: “South African soldiers in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are operating under increasingly volatile and hostile conditions. One of our soldiers was tragically killed in an ambush by belligerent forces in the Sudan earlier this year. Two of our members were also wounded in the contact.”

He said that the South African contingent escorting the convoy was, however, very professional and succeeded in repelling the attackers. BAE Systems SA pledged a sum of R20 000 for the first three prize-winners of the 2012 SA Army Writing Competition. Lt Gen Masondo said that the competition was one of the SA Army strategic objectives initiated four years ago.

He said that its purpose was to encourage all members to think about contemporary and future challenges that the organisation might face and to develop their research ability, to realise our concept of creating a learning organisation.

After this military bands and re-
Discipline, fitness and shooting underline the essence of soldiering, complemented by sport.

enactments of operational activities took place on stage.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “Tonight has highlighted the contribution of the SA Army to internal stability and, more specifically, our role in border security, our support to government programmes and other government departments and to our people.”

He concluded his speech at the Gala Dinner, saying: “On this occasion I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to all our strategic partners and stakeholders for the support they gave to the SA Army throughout the year”.

ABOVE: Maj Charles Beaurain was selected as the SA Army Sportsman of the Year.

ABOVE: The combined SA Army bands entertain the guests during the SA Army Week at the Tshwane Event Centre.
Chief Directorate Transformation Management hosted a sexual offences management workshop at the SA Air Force College in Thaba Tshwane on 5 December 2012. It was held in recognition and in support of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign for No Violence Against Women and Children. The task was to define sexual harassment and raise awareness of what constituted sexual harassment.

The DOD defines sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical behaviour of a sexual nature. Submission to such behaviour is made either openly or insinuated as a requirement or a condition that should be met for the recipient to retain his or her job, pay or career. It involves threats to the victim in case of refusal to adhere to or submit to such behaviour and an impression is created that the decision by the victim will affect his or her career. Such behaviour interferes with an individual's performance and creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

In her welcoming address Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, the Chief Coordinator and the chief functionary of the event, emphasised that sexual harassment should not be tolerated in any shape or form in the Department. She said the highest officer at unit level must be responsible for implementing the means to curb this kind of misconduct. She indicated that sexual offences needed to be rooted out of the DOD so that it did not become somewhat acceptable and one should not turn a blind eye to it. Brig Gen Mohale indicated that there was a need to define clearly what victims of this abhorrent conduct must do or where they could go and who to consult in order to get help, eg counselling or instituting legal action against the perpetrator. Brig Gen Mohale said: “It is the responsibility of all stakeholders in the DOD to inform management of their role in dealing with sexual harassment and that they should know how to help the victim step by step. The stakeholder should bear in mind and be sensitive to the fact that the perpetrator does not always come from the lower ranks, which makes it hard for the victim to report or press charges against the perpetrator.”

Col Jaco Combrink from Defence Legal Services Division at Defence Headquarters explained the legal framework concerning the matter. Conduct of a sexual nature was defined as behaviour, either physical or verbal, that a reasonable person would find sexual in nature. This also includes behaviour that belittles or shows hostility toward an individual because of his or her gender. Sexual conduct does not need to be noticeably sexual, and can be toward the same sex or opposite sex (but will not generally include conduct, which affects both sexes equally, unless the impact is unequal. The conduct can be displayed by the supervisor,
co-worker, senior, subordinate, or client. An example of such behaviour in the workplace could be touching, whistling, sexist jokes and comments, terms of endearment (unnecessary and unwelcome complimenting), and undressing with the eyes.

The perpetrator’s intention might not necessarily be to offend the recipient but the impact of what he does may be perceived as offensive. It is at this point that the conduct would be considered or perceived as sexual harassment because it is unwelcome. Assessing whether the behaviour was appropriate or offensive must be done from the perspective of the recipient, not of the alleged harasser.

Acts amounting to sexual harassment may also constitute certain offences, for example if a person touches another inappropriately, it may be regarded as sexual harassment, but the actual offence to be investigated will probably be indecent assault.

Did you know?

Sexual harassment requires three main elements: unwanted conduct, conduct of a sexual nature and behaviour expressed in a physical, verbal or non-verbal way.

Sexual attention, even though it may be a single incident, can also constitute sexual harassment. The recipient must have made it clear that he or she considers the conduct or behaviour to be offensive and the perpetrator should have known/or been informed that his or her behaviour is regarded as unacceptable and inappropriate.

Forms of sexual harassment include the following: Unwanted physical contact, from touching to sexual assault and rape, strip search by or in the presence of a member of the opposite sex, verbal forms of sexual harassment, such as unwanted sexual innuendoes, suggestions and hints, persistent requests for dates, requests for sexual favours, electronic and other forms of communication with sexual overtones, comments with sexual overtones, graphic comments about a person’s body made in their presence, inappropriate enquiries about a person’s sex life or sexual orientation, whistling, hissing or any other type of remark or noise are examples of sexual harassment.

The DOD respects the right of an individual to be able to work without being subjected to sexual harassment. All individuals working in the DOD, whether PSAP or DAP, should condemn sexual harassment in any form or shape.
ENSPP members awarded for their achievement

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Members who successfully completed the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) Course (26/12) were awarded at a certificate and awards ceremony held at Air Force Base Swartkop in Thaba Tshwane on 28 November 2012. The ENSP is the most senior programme in the SANDF and was presented over the period 9 July to 29 November.

In order to attain the ENSP qualification members were required to undergo intensive individual assessments at the end of each field of study, a syndicate assessment for Exercise SIVUKILE and pass the Commandant’s Research Paper. Members were also required to demonstrate cross-field outcomes throughout the programme: problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, organisation planning, written communication, oral communication and lastly had to demonstrate a set of related systems.

With the exception of African and International Studies, all assessments were conducted by reputable external assessors in order to guarantee objectivity. The following awards were given to members who excelled during the course:

Maj Gen Robbie Robberts from the SA Police Service was awarded the Golden Rivet Trophy for the most valued contribution to intra-group support, interpersonal communication, positive energy levels, mutual trust, cooperation, tolerance and sensitivity towards diversity.

The Ibandla Trophy was awarded to Syndicate Four for the highest mark in Exercise SIVUKILE.

Each of the four syndicates, with a programme facilitator, were required to reach consensus on the concepts of national power, national will, interests and values as a precursor to identifying domestic, regional, continental and global strategic trends that have an impact on South Africa’s national security and designing scenarios up to 2033 in order to formulate national security policy recommendations. The exercise concluded with a presentation to a panel of invited guests.

Mr Raymond Naidoo from the Defence Secretariat was the winner of the Commandants Research Paper. The SA National Defence College greatly values the independent thinking of the members of the ENSP. The research paper is normally done after hours, thus demanding a high level of self-discipline from each member. Mr Naidoo was the author of the paper on eliminating corruption in Government procurement processes and practices.

Capt (SAN) Mark Blaine was the overall winner and was awarded the Commandant’s Trophy. The member received the highest mark for overall academic achievement.

ABOVE: Syndicate Four receiving the Ibandla Trophy from Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, Chief of the SA Army, for their achievement in Exercise SIVUKILE.
The SA National War College held its graduation ceremony for the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (11/2012) at the Peace Mission Training Centre in Thaba Tshwane on 15 November 2012.

During the graduation ceremony the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, paid tribute to the men and women that had through hard work, determination and a strong belief in themselves excelled in their respective fields and awarded them certificates and trophies to highlight their achievements and the high standards achieved during the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme.

The event symbolised that another phase in their lives had ended and with the next sunrise would come a new day, new challenges, new experiences and the next step in their military careers.

**Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme**

The Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme is a one year training programme for Lieutenants Colonels. The Programme focuses on campaign level warfare and prepares students to be operational commanders. Its aim is to prepare selected officers for senior appointments at the operational level by developing their command, staff and analytical skills, and by broadening their professional understanding of single-service, joint and combined operations, the management of defence and wider aspects of conflict.

In order to achieve this training goal realistically and to attain the Staff Qualification Badge, the College requires the students to undergo thorough individual assessments at the end of each field study, a syndicate assessment and a Commandant Research Paper.

**S A N D F members and international fellow students attain Staff Qualification Badges**

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA National War College has over the years established itself as a world-class centre of excellence for education, training and development services.

Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, Chief of the SA Army, presents certificates to the SANDF members and international fellow students during their graduation ceremony at the Peace Mission Training Centre.
University Reserve Training Programme recruits commissioned as officers in the SA Army

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

“People need maintenance and upgrades even more than machines do, retraining is maintenance, training is an upgrade, development is the next generation model.” These were the words displayed on the banner during the commissioning parade of young officers after completing their officers training on 12 December 2012 at the School of Armour in Bloemfontein.

The members were part of University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) of the SA Army and were recruited from the University of the Free State and the Central University of Technology. The SANDF introduced the URTP with a view to sourcing junior leaders from the best and brightest of the undergraduate and postgraduate student bodies.

Officer Formative Training was stage two and was aimed at equipping them with skills, knowledge and attributes of leadership, management, officership and conduct so that they could function within the military environment as junior officers.

The Reserve Force has developed a shortage of leaders at the junior officer level who will eventually develop into the senior commanders of the future. This shortfall downgrades defence efficiency and impedes transformation in the SANDF.

Hence the URTP was introduced into the SANDF to enable officers to confront future challenges, both civilian and military, with inspiration and motivation and...
so that URTP recruits can at the same time become fighters in wartime, leaders of character, and members of a profession, and to serve the nation.

A tried and proven source of such leadership lies in the student bodies of universities and other tertiary institutions and has been recognized and successfully utilised for over a century in many countries. The core purpose of the programme is the enhancement of the professional and intellectual capacity of the SANDF Reserves.

The officers were selected by a process of interviews and prescribed tests. Following the normal acquisition processes within the DOD, they received two years of training and were commissioned as second lieutenants. Members already holding a degree or diploma can serve voluntarily in the Reserves.

To be commissioned as an officer implies the willingness to make sacrifices in the future, and should result in great responsibility and loyalty. A commissioned officer parade is more than just a graduation day for officers. It is also a moment of pride for families, friends, instructors, mentors, the SANDF and South Africa, and all because of a young person who has chosen to serve instead of responding to the need for self-fulfilment first.

This particular type of young person is usually passionate, dedicated, very bright and eager; exactly what the SANDF is searching for. The Reserve Force is an integral part of the SANDF. The group of young soldiers represents all volunteers who are prepared to sacrifice whatever spare time they have in their civilian lives and careers to serve in the SANDF.

The leadership and management training given to these potential officers is applicable to both military and civilian sectors, and provides them with an additional dimension of personal development as part-time volunteers. This should contribute materially to further achievement and success for the students in their chosen career paths, both civilian and military.

Through this programme the member’s leadership is developed, which will play a major role, not only in developing individual management skills, but also in establishing self-awareness, self-discipline and self-confidence. The students are exposed to a challenging military training course and additional complementary social activities that will broaden their outlook on life.

Students develop teamwork, which is essential in the military and they developed a sense of responsibility and respect towards fellow members in the group. This will not only develop their social interaction capabilities, but will also facilitate their induction into new career environments. As members of the SANDF they have become part of a highly technological and exciting organisation that can offer many career experiences and opportunities.

All training that they receive is aligned with the SANDF training philosophy of decentralisation and modularisation of content, and is strongly supported by aspects of leadership and management skills development. Combined with complementary social, adventure and cultural training, it provides them with a balanced military and civil education.
The mission of the School of Engineers is to train skilled Military Engineers in order to enhance the mobility and survivability of Landward Forces. This is done by presenting courses such as the Foldable Floating Bridge, Advanced Bridge Building and Driving and Maintenance.

The School of Engineers is known as a centre of excellence and the members of the unit are committed to keeping the unit as a centre of excellence. The Engineers come to the School of Engineers to do specialised and promotional courses so that they are combat ready.

From 17 September to 2 November 2012, the unit hosted the Foldable Floating Bridge Course, which was under the command of Capt Claudine Ryan, the course leader, assisted by S Sgt Moloantoa Nkaota and S Sgt Kallie Letsopa. The foldable floating bridge is used for assembling rafts and floating bridges. The components of the system are the inner and ramp units, the work boat and the transport vehicle, with a special launching system. These components are transported by a Samil 100 Mk1 - “kwêvoël”.

The inner and ramp units are in a W-shape and they automatically unfold as soon as they have been lowered into the water by the launcher vehicle. Once the bridge has been assembled, the effective road width is 4,1 m for single lane traffic and 2.05 m wide for footpaths on each side of the roadway.

For the learners to be declared competent they must know the operating instructions, be able to do the first and last parade, find faults, do maintenance and repair and adhere to safety precautions and be able to assemble the bridge.

As the course was ending the members had to do “practicals” by being tested on their practical application of the learned outcomes. The unit members, particularly section heads, were invited to take a ride with the Ho Leboa Ferry to ensure that the members were really competent as requested by the Captain. The members performed the task at the Machlaglan training area stretch of river in Kroonstad.
**Working together for the enhancement of the youth**

*Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole*

In support of the Government’s drive to achieve more with less, more partnerships are pursued with other organs of state to assist in alienating the socio-economic needs of rural areas and at the local level. The Department of Defence (DOD) supported the Department of Social Development (DSD) in hosting a National Youth Camp at DOD Mobilisation Centre at De Brug, near Bloemfontein, from 1 to 7 December 2012.

The hosting of the Youth Camp was the flagship programme of the DSD and was based on moral regeneration principles with the aim of developing youth ambassadors’ nationwide. The youth were mobilised by the DSD and seconded to the DOD for a week-long training session to create platforms for youth to discuss issues affecting their communities, and to teach youth important life skills and values.

This specially designed foundational training of a non-military nature was introduced to train the youth in, among others, personal discipline, civic education, patriotism and civic participation (voluntarism).

This initiative seeks to contribute to the enhancement of the youth, who represent our present and future social capital. Our investment in youth is the only way to ensure their meaningful participation in the political, social and economic life of our country.

It is also aimed at developing youth with multi-disciplinary skills through civic education to equip them with basic concepts, methods, techniques and practical application, based on identified needs, to provide them with knowledge and skills.

During his address Lt Gen Fabian Msimang, Chief of SA Air Force, said that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans was delighted to assist the DSD to host the camp. He said that the Minister wished to assure the DSD that in the DOD they had chosen a better and more compatible partner for this programme.

Lt Gen Msimang said: “The SANDF already shares your commitment and passion for the improvement of the quality of life of our youth. We believe that the most important feature of this improvement is the provision of skills and opportunity for the youth.”

He said that while the SANDF was providing its facilities for the youth camp, it was not expecting them to become soldiers at the end of the camp. He concluded by saying that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans was convinced that in working together the two departments would succeed in creating a better future for the youth.

**ABOVE:** Lt Gen Fabian Msimang, Chief of SA Air Force, delivering his speech on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans during the launch of the National Youth Camp.

**ABOVE:** The Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, and the Director of Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, briefing the members of the media regarding the two departments’ involvement.

**ABOVE:** The SANDF provided its facilities, physical training instructors and other instructors for the youth camp.
The Military Academy bade farewell to its Sergeant Major

By Maj E. Meintjes, Military Academy Communication Officer
Photo: Mr Reinart Ellmann

Master Warrant Officer Robert John de Morney has not only come to the end of his term at the Military Academy, but in the Defence Force as a whole. MWO De Morney retired from the SANDF on 31 October 2012, following his 60th birthday earlier in the month. The Military Academy presented an impressive farewell parade on 31 October 2012 in Saldanha, with several SANDF members in attendance.

MWO De Morney was born on 16 October 1952 in Cape Town and spent much of his childhood there. He attended Christian Brothers College in Kimberley and Fish Hoek High School.

He started his military career on 4 July 1973 at the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg as an infanteer. After successfully completing his Junior Leader Course as an Instructor he was transferred to the Castle in Cape Town where he gave instruction to school cadets and Citizen Force units within Western Province Command.

At the beginning of 1976 he was transferred to the South African Cape Corps as an instructor and helped with the training of the first Cape Corps Mortar Platoon and at the end of that year he accompanied the first Cape Corps Infantry Company on active service in South West Africa, just after Operation SAVANNAH. He served as an instructor at the unit until the end of 1979, whereafter he was transferred back to the Castle in Cape Town as the senior instructor of the training wing. At the end of 1983 he was transferred to the operational area of South West Africa and was stationed at Oshivelto where he helped with the training and preparation of the infantry battalions before they were deployed for operational duty. He spent five and a half years at Oshivelto, and after the withdrawal of the South African Forces from South West Africa in mid-1989 he was transferred to 4 SA Infantry Battalion (4 SAI Bn) in Middelburg, Transvaal.

MWO De Morney became the RSM of 4 SAI Bn in 1993 and served as the RSM until the end of 1999 before being transferred to the Military Academy at Saldanha. During his term of office as the RSM of 4 SAI Bn he accompanied the Battalion on numerous occasions to Lohatlha for Battalion exercises and took part in numerous exercises such as Exercise Sweepslag.

He has served as the RSM of the Military Academy for the past 13 years. During his military career he has been awarded the following medals: Good Service Medals (10, 20 and 30 Years), the Unitas Medal, the General Service Medal, the Pro Patria Medal, the Military Merit Medal and numerous accommodation certificates for outstanding work.

MWO De Morney has been a keen sportsman during his military career and has obtained colours for cricket, tennis and rugby. He served on the Head Committee of Defence Rugby for 15 years and accompanied the Defence Team on two international tours abroad.

In his speech at the parade, MWO De Morney mentioned that one of the most important qualities for a soldier that he learned from his mentor, Sergeant Major Spuds van Eeden, was discipline, and especially self-discipline. He said that if you developed these qualities and took them with you along your path and future career in the armed forces of our great country, you would be successful. The personnel of the Military Academy will surely miss MWO De Morney in the hallways of the unit, but we wish him a happy retirement and hope that he will enjoy his sunshine years with his wife, Angie, their children and grandchildren.
From ordinary to extraordinary

On 4 December 2012 the monthly SA Army Signal Formation General Officer Commanding (GOC) Information Period and South African Corps of Signals (SACS) Evening was transformed from ordinary to extraordinary.

The event was made special through the announcement by the GOC, Brig Gen Leon Eggers, regarding new warrant officer appointments and 19 newly qualified artisans who qualified in radio (electronic) and electrical fields after three years of studying and hard work. Their perseverance and loyalty to the SACS is truly an example to all.

The newly appointed warrant officers ceremoniously received their ranks from their current Officers Commanding, with all the SA Army Signal Formation members in attendance.

New appointments

Master Warrant Officers (MWOs)
SWO Vishnu Govender (RSM Joint Support Base Wonderboom)
SWO Lethlhogonolo Kgotong (RSM 3 Electronic Workshop)
SWO Festus Kriel (RSM 1 Signal Regiment)

Senior Warrant Officers (SWOs)
WO1 Doreen Peters (Ministry of Defence Signal Unit)
WO1 Mantibe Monyane (RSM Gauteng Signal Unit)
WO1 Anna Sebothoma (RSM 52 Gauteng Signal Unit)
WO1 Andrew Cedras (RSM 71 Signal Unit)
WO1 Innocencia Kgwadi (RSM 23 Signal Unit)
WO1 Engela Koorzen (RSM 54 Signal Unit)
WO1 Rabia Benjamin (RSM 84 Signal Unit)

The last and most important warrant officer appointment in SA Army Signal Formation was confirmed by Brig Gen Eggers himself when he appointed CWO Motshwarateu Mositi as the Formation Sergeant Major of SA Army Signal Formation. The change of office parade between CWO Eric Kahn and CWO Mositi will take place on 1 February 2013.

The appointments of SWOs Kgwadi, Koorzen and Benjamin made history in the SACS, as it was the first time that female SWOs were appointed to SACS Reserve units. It was also a historic occasion as it was the first time so many female warrant officers had been appointed as SWOs.

The lateral placements of MWO Oscar Gwija to 4 Signal Regiment, SWO Ralph Modumo to 21 Signal Unit and SWO Gys Botes as RSM of 11 Field Postal Unit were also confirmed.

In his closing address to the warrant officers, Brig Gen Eggers said: “As a leader you have certain qualities that set you apart from the rank of non-commissioned officers. These are your competence, experience and thorough knowledge of military activities. You, as appointed warrant officers, as well as all the rest of the warrant officers are the cornerstones of this Formation. Stand steadfast and we will build around you. Get out of your offices and be RSMs”.

The more than 800 members in attendance at the last GOC Information Period and SACS Evening of 2012 will certainly agree that it was an extraordinary event.

Proud medal recipients inspire others through excellence

By S Sgt Marumo Machete,
SA Army Support Formation
Corporate Communication

A Army Support Formation descended on the Dequar Road Correctional Services sports field in Pretoria on 2 November 2012 to honour members who had distinguished themselves through loyal service to the SANDF with medals and good service certificates.

Addressing members during the Formation’s Medal Parade, Maj Gen Stephen Marumo, the General Officer Commanding, commended the 16 recipients for their selfless service to the nation and the sacrifices they made to help safeguard the interests and territorial integrity of South Africa.

Maj Gen Marumo called on all commanders in uniform to marshal members of the SANDF to embrace a life of discipline, commitment and dedication.

He urged members to recognise that it was only through discipline that they could have fulfilling careers within the military. He added: “Your toils could not have yielded desirable results had it not been for your unwavering discipline, which acted as a pillar that kept your careers intact.” He reiterated that discipline was a prerequisite for success in any organisation.

Maj Gen Marumo shared with both spectators and recipients on parade the sentimental value and immense pride of those on whom medals had been bestowed. He said: “Military medals, in the nature of things, bring joy and add value to the life of servicemen. Awarding medals is a centuries old tradition through which men and women are honoured for their distinguished and selfless contribution to the communities and organisations they serve.”

He elaborated that medals were not “mere tokens of appreciation or decorations to brag about” but are mainly an identity that tells a story about individuals, where they come from and what makes them stand above the rest. Maj Gen Marumo said: “Medals are associated with excellence, respect and honour.”

Maj Gen Marumo also took this opportunity to urge force structure elements under his command to strive towards an impeccable service delivery record during the coming year, in support of the SA Army. He said: “The formation is again expected to lead the army into yet another year that should be characterised by flawless service delivery. In 2013 our focus and attention should be on creating sound administration and client satisfaction.”

Sixteen members serving at various army support bases and units under the SA Army Support Formation were decorated with Good Services Medals. Good Service Certificates were also awarded to Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) at a ceremony following the parade. PSAP honoured with long-service certificates were Ms Salome Manyama, Ms Thandeka Phasha, Ms Miriam Kalolo and Mr Peter Botolo.

The parade was accompanied by all the necessary pomp and ceremony – courtesy of the SA Army Support Formation’s ever impressive National Ceremonial Guard and Band, which was a delight to witness. It culminated in rousing applause when the guard of honour marched past the functionary’s podium.
How strong is your safety net?

If you’re one of those people that always tries to look on the bright side of life - wonderful! Keep it up, says Rosie Wilson, market development manager for Old Mutual. A positive attitude is a great personal attribute that gives us resilience and helps us cope in the face of adversity. It allows us to keep a realistic perspective on life, because, let’s face it, we know tragedy doesn’t only happen to other people. It can happen to us and our immediate families too.

Unfortunately, some people believe they are immune to tragedy and as a result go through life with blinkers on. This failure to see things as they really are translates into a failure to make provision for misfortune occurring in their own lives.

We all live with a certain amount of risk in our daily lives, from crossing a road and driving to work to taking the stairs and eating a meal. There could be potential risks in any of those activities. In other words, any number of incidents can occur at any given moment. But if we were to dwell on this all the time, it would stop us from enjoying our lives or ever leaving our homes. While these are risks we knowingly take, we do everything possible to minimise these risks as we would not intentionally put ourselves in immediate danger. These are situations we have control over. But there are external factors that are out of our hands, such as other people’s behaviour. This, we have no control over.

Says Wilson: “We don’t know what the future holds. You need only look around you to see how many people’s lives are affected on a daily basis, by circumstances beyond their control.”

“In the face of it all, it’s easy to become overwhelmed by all the potential threats to our lives, but imagine how overwhelmed you’d be if you neglected to make financial provision for it. This could leave you crippled in more ways than one. By putting a safety net in place in the form of a simple risk protection plan for the entire family, you will be able to cover all your risks at once,” says Wilson. Old Mutual’s GREENLIGHT takes care of all major risks under one umbrella. Each risk cover is designed to work together, not only offering a flexible risk solution and peace of mind, but as a bonus, it recognises the need for emotional support during traumatic events in the form of Care4U - a programme which offers 24-hour assistance, advice and support for clients and loved ones.

GREENLIGHT risk protection offers the following different covers:

- Life Cover - This is the foundation of your Personal Cover Plan and offers three different life cover benefit options to choose from.
- Earning Ability Cover to protect your most valuable asset - your ability to earn an income - should you be prevented from working or become physically or functionally impaired.
- Lifestyle Adjustment Cover - Illness or injury can leave you vulnerable and recovery is often long and difficult. This cover is designed to make life easier when you need help the most - to give you independence.
- Future Needs Cover to protect your future goals whether tertiary education for your children or a new car.
- Business Cover - Business assurance to protect business owners against a variety of risks.

Many people procrastinate when it comes to risk protection mainly because they are uncertain about which risks to protect. This hesitation could come at a steep price. When procrastination is due to confusion or uncertainty, we recommend that you do not attempt to do this yourself. There are many variables and factors that need to be taken into account because each situation is as unique as the individual that is seeking cover. In most cases, it would be wise to consult a financial adviser or broker for the most comprehensive and effective solution for your personal circumstances.

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An evening of musical delight at the SA Navy Gala Concert

By LS Nkululeko Zulu, Internal Communication Clerk: Navy HQ
Photos: CPO Bafana Nkosi and PO Boniswa Ntshangani

The ancient Greek Philosopher, Plato, once reflected in true philosophical fashion that “Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” If there was any doubt to that philosophy, it would certainly have been dispelled by the enthralling performance of the SA Navy Band at the annual SA Navy Gala Concert at the Z.K. Matthews Hall, Unisa, in Pretoria on 3 November 2012.

The Gala Concert is one of the annual highlights on the SA Navy’s social calendar as it is regarded as the single most prestigious event in the Gauteng area. The evening not only provides an opportunity to showcase the SA Navy in general, but also the musical finesse of its Navy Band to its internal and external stakeholders. Authoritatively rated as the premier military band in the country, the SA Navy Band once again dazzled audiences with its musical genius by entertaining music connoisseurs, enthusiasts, family and friends with its dynamic renditions and that are the centre-piece of this annual occasion.

The evening’s repertoire took audiences down memory lane with the childhood classic - the Lion King’s “Circle of life” on a journey through the classics. The performance also included a tribute to a music legend who many say died before her time, namely Whitney Houston, by playing her classical hit, “The Greatest Love of All”. Whether it was rock, classic, military marches or a tribute to jazz icon Jonas Gwangwa, the evening’s programme broadened the audience’s musical horizons and the hearts and minds of some were touched in a transforming way.

The evening would not have been complete without the official address of the key custodian of the annual occasion, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu. In his address he offered this insight: “It is always a privilege and a pleasure to preside at our annual Gala Concert, given that it affords us the opportunity of personally registering our considerable appreciation to you all, and giving recognition to your long-standing friendship and support in matters maritime in general, and in the affairs of the SA Navy in particular. This is first and foremost an opportunity for us to engage collectively as stakeholders and to renew our commitment and pledge to service in support of the strategic intent of the Government.”

ABOVE: V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, addressing the audience during the annual SA Navy Gala Concert.

ABOVE: V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, and Cdr Neo Mahlangu, the master of ceremonies, on the dance floor.
The Defence Inspectorate Division had its annual Potjiekos Competition at the SA National Defence College in Pretoria on 2 November 2012.

The competition consisted of three categories, namely the Best Potjiekos, won by the DEA Bikers Club, Best Team Spirit won by the Rasta Movement and Best Team Theme won by Firetech.

Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, the DOD Inspector General, thanked all the personnel who assisted in organising the event and all the sponsors who pledged their support to make the day a success.

He said that the intention was to build esprit de corps among members of the Defence Inspectorate Division and its stakeholders.

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

RIGHT: The DOD Inspector General, Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, said that the members had worked hard to prepare for the Potjiekos Competition and that the event had exceeded expectations.

ABOVE: The Grand Trophy went to the DEA Bikers Club. Not only were they dressed for the occasion but they also won the Best Potjiekos Cooking Competition.

LEFT: The Rasta Movement sang with jubilation as they were announced the winners with the best team spirit.
Investing in the future through empowering the youth

Article and photos by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

Children are our future. A nation that does not take good care of its children is not secure and is not investing in its future. It is imperative that children are protected from the social ills that affect communities, and it is this responsibility that decided Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR), headed by Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo, to pioneer a Taekwando project for children. This project seeks to keep children of SANDF personnel from the streets by exposing them to various social activities and equip them with self-defence skills.

According to Capt (SAN) Majiet Ely, Senior Staff Officer Policy and Planning at Directorate PTSR, the Directorate has established relations with Kukkiuon World Friends, a South Korean organisation that promotes Taekwando. This organisation sends students qualified in Taekwando from various universities to visit countries around the world to give Taekwando lessons and training. These trainers are in South Africa on a four-month rotational basis. This free of charge project commenced on 1 October 2012. The children receive training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 15:00 to 16:30 at the Thaba Tshwane Military Sports Grounds.

The South African National Taekwando coach, Master Chow, who is affiliated to the University of Pretoria Sport School, randomly evaluates trainers to ensure that they adhere to the set standards of Taekwando and scrutinises the progress of trainees.

A secondary goal of this project is to train these children from the age of six to sixteen to create a pool of youngsters qualified in Taekwando that could participate in the Olympics. Directorate PTSR aspires to create a much larger Taekwando community that will not only include the children of SANDF personnel, but those of other communities in the vicinity of Thaba Tshgwane Military area. It is Brig Gen Yekelo’s wish to have Taekwando instituted in the Department of Defence as an official sporting code. The project has boosted the morale of the children, of whom 20 to 45 are trained per session. During the SA Soldier visit to Thaba Tshwane Military Sports Grounds the children were visibly excited at the prospect of participating in this sporting code.

This project has not only assisted the children of SANDF personnel. Pte Sheaneal George, an admin assistant and trainer in the Taekwando project, received her black belt in Taekwando on 20 September 2012.
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Sun, sea and fishing at the SANDF Rock and Surf Angling National Competition

Article and photo by Col L.G. Jacobs, SSO Log, SA Army Signal Formation

At the 2011 SANDF Rock and Surf Annual General M, the SA Army Signal Formation indicated they would like to host the SANDF Rock and Surf Angling National Competition in 2012. During this AGM more than one old angler displayed a worried face, as never before had an inland team ever presented a competition at this level. However, the General Officer Commanding SA Army Signal Formation, Brig Gen Leon Eggers (himself with National Colours for Angling), the Chairperson of SANDF Rock and Surf Angling, WO1 André Krahtz, and all the anglers of the Formation were quite prepared and willing to make this a success and thus the responsibility was entrusted to the SA Army Signal Formation.

After this initial decision the planning, discussions and coordination started in January 2012. A planning group was established to help the Chairperson with all the arrangements.

It was decided to host the competition in East London. A venue was chosen that no team knew beforehand so that it could not benefit from prior knowledge. The accommodation, meals, places for angling, authority to host the competition in that area and many more challenges had to be overcome for the 120 anglers who came from all over South Africa. This was done by September 2012 and authority was granted by Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR) for the competition to be held from 17 to 25 November 2012. The

Buffalo Volunteer Rifles, a Reserve Force unit under the command of Lt Col Malcolm Cock, provided the accommodation. It was an immense privilege to see the dedication and support of the Reserve Force members to make the event a success.

Arrival

The teams arrived on 17 November to participate over a period of five days to determine which provincial/regional military sport club was the best in rock and surf angling in the SANDF.

It was a sight to behold when seeing old friends again after a year, and it was not long before the fires were burning for a reunion braai. News was shared about friends who were no longer able to participate and what had happened over the past year. The next day the competitive natures took over and teams prepared to take each other on. Gears were checked for the thousandth time, as no one would have liked losing that once in a lifetime fish and branded as the team member who failed the team.

Community involvement

A Chinese philosopher, Sun Tsu, once said: “Teach a man to fish and you will never have to feed him again”.

The SA Army Signal Formation wanted to arrange a community development project in conjunction with the SANDF Rock and Surf Angling Committee, sponsored by Pick n Pay Greenfields Supermarket (Pty) Ltd, and the previous year’s SANDF team members taught young children of less fortunate communities in the area about fishing.

Altogether 65 learners between six and thirteen years from underprivileged schools were brought to the competition, as arranged by Lt Col Cock and his personnel. The learners came to the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles Headquarters, where rules were laid down by Lt Col Cock. Then the Chairperson of SANDF Rock and Surf Angling introduced all the SANDF anglers to the children. There was an air of anticipation all around, children were smiling from ear to ear and eager to have the experience
of a first ride on a Samil and then of course learning the secrets of angling.

On arrival, the learners were divided into smaller groups to facilitate personal contact with each child and the SANDF anglers started sharing their knowledge. Very soon you could hear the excited voices of the children staring wide-eyed at bait being cut and prepared. Nothing was too advanced or too meagre to share. There were, however, some individuals that simply could not resist the opportunity of having a swim in the tidal pool, and before long the smaller children braved the cold weather and cold water and thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the sea. After double the time allocated for this event, the children had to return to their schools and homes. Before leaving each received a food parcel and cold drink courtesy of Pick n Pay.

Two girls stepped forward and thanked the SANDF for hosting the event and said that they had enjoyed it thoroughly. It was time to say goodbye and they were escorted back to their schools by the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles personnel.

Let the games begin

The final preparations for the first day of the competition kicked off with captains meeting, and feedback from the 18 participating teams.

The first day started off as planned with a get-together followed by the opening and confirmation of safety and rules. Then it was off to compete. Each team had its own strategy, although the area was unknown to them.

It was a tough competition with clear water and a thousand reasons for fish being bait shy …

**SANDF Rock and Surf Angling Prestige Evening**

The Chairperson of the SANDF Rock and Surf Angling welcomed the guests and SANDF anglers. He summarised by saying that it was a difficult week for angling, but he was especially proud of the growth in the number of women taking part. If this growth could be maintained it might be possible to select an SANDF Women’s Rock and Surf Angling team in the near future.

It was time for the announcement of the winners of the SANDF Rock and Surf Angling Competition 2012.

**Winners**

**3 TOP ANGLERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement</th>
<th>Angler</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>WO1 André Krahtz</td>
<td>Overberg Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CPO Mark Lloyd</td>
<td>WP A Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>WO2 Bassil Woodroffe</td>
<td>KZN A Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TEAM TROPHIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trophy Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Inland Team Trophy</td>
<td>35.16</td>
<td>Signal Formation A Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Best Overall Team</td>
<td>81.03</td>
<td>Western Province A Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Best Overall Team</td>
<td>126.98</td>
<td>KZN A Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Year Winning Team Trophy</td>
<td>143.89</td>
<td>Overberg Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEW SANDF RECORDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Angler</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zebra/Wildeperd</td>
<td>2.04 kg</td>
<td>WO1 André Krahtz</td>
<td>Overberg Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Gully Shark</td>
<td>20.35 kg</td>
<td>WO2 Bassil Woodroffe</td>
<td>KZN A Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Sand Shark</td>
<td>4.65 kg</td>
<td>WO1 H.J. Doyle</td>
<td>WP Development Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Positive attitude towards your nation

By Ms Thandi Ndinisa, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Thandiwe Christian Magazine (TCM)

Those who have positive attitudes do better at all times. What is the meaning of the word “attitude”? It means “an internal position or feeling with regard to something else. Other words often used as synonyms are: disposition, feeling, mood, opinion, temper, tone, perspective, frame of mind, outlook, view or morale.

In essence, your attitude is your inward disposition towards things such as people or circumstances. According to God’s Word, when you become a Christian, a part of your new creation is the development of a new attitude, which should become like that of God. You are taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off the old self which is being corrupted by its deceitful desire to be made new in the attitude of your minds.

A bad attitude

Most of us can easily identify bad attitudes when they are displayed outwardly in our words on actions, such as negativity, criticism, rebellion, defiance, impatience, being uncooperative, discouragement, independence, presumption, arrogance, self-centredness, rudeness. These are examples of bad attitudes which we as a nation should reject. Keep in mind that attitudes are inner dispositions of the heart and thoughts; they are the hidden intentions that will eventually serve as the basis for our actions. In reality, no one knows the thoughts of your heart except you and God.

Consequently, attitude is something that only you and God can work out, a change that must take place inwardly. The right attitude to have when difficulty comes is to persevere in faith and draw nearer to God. The Bible makes it clear that God works all things together for our good when we love Him, and we are tested to our benefit. Trouble will never defeat the person with a right attitude. We must have a humble, submissive attitude towards God.

Positive attitude towards your nation, so let’s stop bad thinking.

A good attitude

Good attitudes are generally demonstrated in being positive, encouraging, loving, humble, teachable, co-operative, considerate, selfless, loyal, persevering, and so forth. To God, our attitude should be one of reverence, submission, love, trust, humility, obedience, worship and prayer. We should be a nation that loves; forgiveness should be found in us, e.g. caring, kindness, humility, encouragement, respect and impartiality. In the face of hard circumstances, our attitude should be patience, thankfulness and believing. Our attitude should be one of being helpful, willing, participating in our nation. In respect of our duties, our attitude should be faithfulness, obedience, being responsible and co-operative.

To the lost: Our attitude should be uncompromising, unaccepting, intolerant and unsympathetic.

To success: Our attitude should be humble, grateful, God glorifying and not exalting the self or being forgetful of God.

How to develop a good attitude

To change one’s bad attitude apply discipline to your thoughts. A good attitude is a matter of faith, disregarding your feelings with a determination to embrace God’s outlook and disposition. Equip and feed your attitude, dwell on the things that God’s Word tells us to, good and virtuous things. If you dwell on the negative, your attitude will reflect the same.

How to promote a positive mindset

Cultivating a positive mindset is not always easy, especially when you lose your job or a loved one is ill. Attitude and character affect happiness more than external factors like money or health. Even people with the sunniest of outlooks experience events that challenge their positive thinking. Fortunately, the fields of “happiness psychology” shows how cognitive behaviour techniques and brain exercises can help keep your mindset healthy and positive.

How to have a neutral attitude

When arguments tend to get heated, having a neutral attitude can help to lower the flames. If you are dealing with two friends who are arguing, it is important to maintain a neutral attitude to help diffuse the situation. Do not choose sides, and do not become involved in the argument. Having a neutral attitude takes some restraint and careful consideration to ensure that you do not offer any opinions that may lead to a possible rift in your relationship.

Activities to help develop a healthy attitude

Internal dialogue largely affects how you feel and how other people...
By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

Technical Service Unit Thanksgiving Service

The Technical Service Unit held its annual Thanksgiving Service in Pretoria on 9 November 2012. The South African Police Service Brass Band Johannesburg Choir was invited to entertain the unit members during the service.

The Second-in-Command, Lt Col Neville Barendse, welcomed the members and other invited guests and urged them to support each other through trying times. He said that they should take a moment to reflect on the things they achieved during 2012 and that they should celebrate and hope to do better in 2013.

Mr Phillip Kotzé was invited to talk about his life and his profession as a lawyer. He said that as a teenager at the university he was delinquent and used to get into trouble often because of his wrongdoing. After graduation he became a lawyer and specialised in handling divorce cases; this brought in a lot of money. But he never actually felt sorry for the people whose lives he may have helped to mess up.

However, one day his wife said she wanted to divorce him. Then he realised the torment that other people went through and that his work was contributing to this. He has mended his ways and is now a regular churchgoer, and uses his practice to build people’s lives.

Chaplain Brenda Siqaza from Technical Service Unit was the organiser of the Thanksgiving Service.
The Force That Cares.