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FRONT COVER: Soldiers providing protection during fighting in a built-up area (FIBUA) exercise. (A key part of combat skills is situational awareness.) Read all about the demonstration of combat skills during the Open Day of 21 SA Infantry Battalion on pages 24 to 25.

(Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)
Having received a pristine new year let us discover what God’s unique plan is for each one of us for 2012. I can assure you that His individual dream plan for each one of us is much bigger than what we can possibly imagine.

When we are willing to work towards accomplishing our set goals and they are in line with God’s will, we shall fulfil our dreams.

Let us be positive in 2012 and allow God to work in our lives.

Put Psalm 37: 3-5 into practice – “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass”.

Then we shall be able to echo the words of Ecclesiastes 2:10 at the end of 2012, “And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour”.

Let us make our dreams come true …

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

(*Translation into Sepedi by Kgabo Mashramaite and the Bible translation taken from the “Bibele-Taba ye botse” published by the Bible Society of South Africa, Sepedi second edition of 2011.)
Financial misconduct, fruitless and wasteful expenditure can bring the National Defence Force to a halt!

“Prevention of Irregular and Fruitless Expenditure: Starts with me”
SCHOOL OF MILITARY LEADERSHIP

I always wanted to write about the SA Army Gymnasium as a military institution. First and foremost my impression of the place was that it was like Alcatraz (a federal prison in the USA between 1933 and 1963) where physical endurance determined you attitude. It has all the facilities of a modern national recreational area.

I heard rumours regarding its ugly side, but for once gossip was wrong and misguided. I experienced an institution entrusted with the responsibility to train soldiers. Under the stewardship of Col I.K. Mbathe, this military establishment has become the epitome of a resounding success in military leadership training.

We have become a team and it has become our way of life. It was a team of SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) professionals that had defied age, undergone training. The hospitality was great and the SA Army Gymnasium evokes an image of dedication, resilience and professional training. One is encouraged by the fact that the role of a leader is to work through others and to motivate them to achieve extraordinary results. If leaders are not credible and inspiring, subordinates will be the same. Training is inextricably linked to discipline and it provides the primary source of discipline and professionalism in the SANDF.

The biggest challenge is not to allow corruption and greed to taint perceptions of the organisation. Our teachings must embrace the fact that success must come from hard work and determination, not through short cuts. I quote: “The real action is always between what you have done and what you are capable of doing. You measure yourself against yourself and nobody else.” - Geoffrey Gаберино.

“The ultimate leader is not afraid to develop people to the point where they surpass him or her in knowledge and ability.” - Fred A. Manske.

Training like schooling is hard to erase therefore bad training will not necessarily bring memories of despair and lost time. We are brimming with confidence and simplicity due to good training, so now we understand how our personal style of management and preferences relate to the organisation’s collective values.

In essence the more subordinates are informed, engaged and understand how their roles contribute to the success of the SANDF the more they tend to take ownership. What fascinated me though was how Col Mbathe and his administration worked tirelessly with great success in realising this concept. Their agenda was clear-cut.

In this way you increase self-awareness and improve communication with others and adaptability. Capt G.C. Kganyago, Thaba Tshwane S

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Mazondo, and Army Headquarters personnel held a Remembrance Day memorial service on 11 November 2011 at the SA Army Headquarters Parade ground in Pretoria.

Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed throughout the world in memory of the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty since World War I. This day is observed to recall the official end of World War I and the hostilities that ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918 after the Germans signed the Armistice.

South Africa’s own Sir Percy Fitzpatrick initiated the Two Minutes of Silence pause as a tribute to the fallen heroes and to those who survived. One minute is dedicated to the fallen soldiers and the other minute to survivors.

In his speech, Lt Gen Mazondo addressed the members on parade and reminded them of the responsibility they had to recognise and acknowledge the prominent role played by the fallen soldiers of the World Wars, and their sacrifices to restore the dignity of the profession of arms, of which the foundation stones are discipline, patriotism and self-sacrifice. He furthermore wished that this day could inspire all members to achieve more in the quest to create a better SA Army for all, an army that the people of South Africa could be proud of. Mimi Sithole, 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@military.com. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor.
A MILITARY DAY

Kindly help me if you have any information about a military day (military holiday) to honour our heroes and heroines who died fighting or on duty defending our liberty. Please bring back mess dress and formal dinners because some of our young soldiers are not familiar with them. Cpl M. Guduza, email

MILITARY MASS CASUALTY DISASTER MEDICINE TRAINING


This exercise was based on the disaster risks that are on the increase throughout Southern Africa due to changes in the development process, settlement patterns and conflicts.

SERIOUS TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS

Serious transport accidents are among the severe emergencies that the medical services are facing. Learners were expected to manage mass casualties and evacuation of patients from the scene of a plane crash to the medical institute. The creation of an artificial situation was the only method available to allow the disaster managers to train and test clinical and operational decisions. Participants had to respond to these with clinical decisions and managerial interaction.

The purpose of the simulation was to evoke responses very similar to real ones.

The students demonstrated their skills in facing a chemical spill, in handling mass casualties, calculating resources to meet emergencies and in increasing emergency preparedness. These were among the urgent questions that few medical institutions were able to answer confidently.

During the exercise students were able to plan and manage a refugee camp. Scene management and transportation of patients to the hospital for further treatment also took place.

The course was presented over a period of three weeks, from 14 November to 2 December 2011, at the Military Health Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane. Some students from Lesotho and Zimbabwe also attended the course which consisted of lectures, assignments and group work aimed at the development of practical skills.

The course programme was designed for senior medical officers, health planners and hospital administrators responsible for medical responses in major emergencies and for the management of mass casualties.

Pte Tshogofatso Rakoma, Pretoria

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Reserves, attended the St Josephs School and Red Cross Hospital services respectively. Lgr (Brig Gen) John Del Monte (Ret), Branch Manager of the SA Legion (Cape Town Branch), attended the annual Remembrance Service held at the WP Preparatory School. The WP Preparatory School boasts Acting Squadron Leader John Dering Nettleton, VC, as one of its former learners.

Captains Ian Long (Cape Town Highlanders) and Joe Dorrington (Cape Town Rifles) attended the annual Rondebosch Boy’s High School Remembrance Day service for the second year. They also arranged a Mamba vehicle, two soldiers in camouflage uniform, and a display to market the SANDF. This complemented the school’s permanent memorial display in honour of all the fallen past learners and staff. Their initiative was well received by the school and especially by the boys and Old Boys who had requested that the SANDF consider a marketing day at the school. This will hopefully include opportunities offered by the SANDF and the Defence Reserves, i.e. opportunities for the youth to enrol and participate in the Young Lions (SA Army), Young Falcons (SA Air Force) and Sea Cadets (Naval/Maritime) training programmes. This would also greatly assist in attracting a diverse leader group to these youth organisations and to a potential military and/or maritime profession.

Any school or organisation that wishes to arrange Remembrance Day services for 2012 and would like to approach the SA Legion in this regard may contact Brig Gen John Del Monte (Ret) on 021 689 9771 or email: salegregation@mweb.co.za. Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, email

2012 MOTIVATION

- List all the things you want most.
- List the ones that are a necessity to you.
- Think of what you want for your future.
- Say what you want, not what you don’t want.
- Change all the things that belong to “I don’t want”, eg I don’t want to be sick. Instead say: “I want to stay healthy.”
- Don’t wait for someone to change you, eg I want my section head to stop criticizing me. Instead say: “I want to be strong and confident inside myself even when my section head is criticizing me.”
- Make sure your future goals are for your benefit not for someone else’s.
- Whenever you are excited about your future goals motivate yourself.
- Do something to show your belief in the future, eg plant a small tree and say: “In future I will sit under your shade”.
- Start with an easy one in order to be successful: act-stop-look-correct-act-again. Cpl M. Guduza, Ladysmith

Letters to the Editor

S A S O L D I E R
THE SA NAVY REBUILDS LIVES IN MADULE VILLAGE

The SA Navy acknowledges its role in the social rejuvenation of its people by improving the lives of ordinary South Africans who are less fortunate.

It is also an imperative of the SA Navy to expand its reach to all parts of the country by educating its people on its core mandate which is upholding the integrity and protecting the country’s sovereignty. As pillars of society the SA Navy and the DOD/SANDEF as a whole must utilise the resources at its disposal to bring about change in peoples’ lives.

With this mandate as a guideline the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, identified the remote Madule Crèche nestled in the Madule Village near Hoedspruit as the perfect project for making a difference to those less fortunate. Through extensive dialogue a partnership was established between the Defence Works Formation and the SA Navy and an agreement was reached to help renovate and expand the dilapidated crèche.

Construction started on 19 September 2011. The Defence Works Formation under Brig Gen David Masters and the Regional Works Unit Limpopo under Col Yssel initiated the project, spearheaded by Maj Page.

Three months later the R80 000 project culminated in the form of a colourful and festive handing over ceremony overseen by the Chief of the SA Navy on 2 December 2011.

The Madule Crèche was established on 11 January 1991. It caters for 147 learners and has nine staff members and two social workers. Each teacher has to look after 50 children on any given day. Five classes were in use before the renovation.

The Principal of Madule Crèche said: “I am absolutely speechless about what has transpired at this school and I am very happy, and God bless the people that made it possible.” The Chief of the SA Navy reciprocated by saying: “Members, this is living proof that together we can achieve more; let this be a lasting legacy for the community of Madule Village.”

The wonderful occasion was concluded by Minowo Setsho (traditional Tsonga women’s dance) and feasts to rival all feasts as the community slaughtered a cow to honour the occasion. LS Zulu, SA Navy
letters to the editor

NIGHT OF THE STARS

Fabulous people, fashion and exceptionally great vibes had me on cloud nine. This was the scene at the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) Gala Evening held at the SAMHS Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane on 11 November 2011. The other surprise was that the fabulous people were the senior officers of the Department of Defence, all clad in their mess dress. The Moulin Rouge themed awards encouraged the invited guests from the Department of Defence and other industries to join in the fun as the SAMHS congratulated members from units and formations who had distinguished themselves during 2011. They were thanked for their dedication and loyalty.

It is a well-known fact that the organisation is its people - without them, failure is inevitable. The individuals, units and formations that received awards and certificates were acknowledged and commended for their hard work and world-class clinical service. This year’s host, the SAMHS Training Formation, made a supreme effort to ensure that the evening went down as one to remember; the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejay Ramlakan, could not praise the organising committee enough for a superb job. In his address the Surgeon General mentioned that within the SAMHS innovation among own employees was encouraged, particularly those innovations that are people orientated and result in improved service delivery, better governance, and a better life for all. Lt Gen Ramlakan said: “These awards tally well with our attempts to reward our members for work well done. It is my belief that these awards will serve us well in encouraging all members of the SAMHS to become problem-solvers, rather than obstacles in delivery, e.g. passing the buck between departments. They should see themselves as part of the whole organisation working towards a single goal, namely Unity of Command!”

The Surgeon General challenged us all: “Let these achievements be an example to all of us. Let us make every effort to ensure that the SAMHS is an organisation of world-class service. This is only possible through commitment and excellence.”

Lt Sello Segone, Pretoria

ARTILLERY FORMATION MADE A DIFFERENCE

Mamelodi as bridge builders across cultural and socio-economic barriers.

Can you imagine people being physically at risk and vulnerable because of floods, fires or other disasters? This is the kind of story that makes us shudder and reflect on everything we have to be thankful for. The generosity of the SA Army Artillery Formation helped to alleviate suffering and turned it into a virtuous cycle of life and hope. They met the challenge and it’s quite clear that the members of the SA Army Artillery Formation really know how to support the community and put smiles on the faces of needy people.

The day ended well, and in future the SA Army Artillery Formation will again extend a helping hand to communities and the people of South Africa.

May the SA Army Artillery Formation inspire other formations and units to do the same in 2012. “Those who are ready to join hands can overcome the greatest challenges.”

Lt Gen Vejay Ramlakan, the Surgeon General, hands over the Quality Award for Performance Excellence (third place) achieved by 2 Military Hospital to Brig Gen Peter Maphaha from 2 Military Hospital.

Fltr: Chaplain Elsabé Francis from the SA Army Artillery Formation with the Head of Funanani and two of its co-workers.

Lt Sello Segone, Pretoria

– Nelson Mandela. Chaplain Elsabé Francis, SA Army Artillery Formation

May the SA Army Artillery Formation inspire other formations and units to do the same in 2012. “Those who are ready to join hands can overcome the greatest challenges.”

Lt Gen Vejay Ramlakan, the Surgeon General, hands over the Quality Award for Performance Excellence (third place) achieved by 2 Military Hospital to Brig Gen Peter Maphaha from 2 Military Hospital.

Fltr: Chaplain Elsabé Francis from the SA Army Artillery Formation with the Head of Funanani and two of its co-workers.
Good Commanders lead from the front

This is the motto and message of the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Joint Operational Headquarters, Maj Gen Duma Mdutyana, to the South African deployed troops all over Africa. His visit to the deployment area took place from 23 to 30 October 2011.

The General invited members of the SANDF and the DOD who could have an influence on improving conditions for the SANDF troops deployed in various areas to accompany him on a very important visit. The team consisted of Mr Kopano Lebelo, Chief Director Materiel Governance, Maj Gen Monde Mbiza, GOC Logistic Support Formation, Maj Gen Luvuyo Nobanda, Chief Army Force Preparation, SSO B Vehicles, Directorate Army Product System Management, Col Ebenezer Masetle and his Personnel Staff Officer (PSO), Maj Aubrey Motlogeloa, the Chaplain of J Ops HQ, Chaplain Thabo Masweu, and CWO Johan Pretorius, Chief Warrant Officer of Joint Operations HQ.

The delegation was welcomed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by the chargé d’affaires, Mr Andrew Maswangaye, Senior Military Adviser to the DRC and Mission Commander of Operation Bulisa, Maj Gen William Nkonyeni, and the military attaché, Col Sipho Mguni. The hosts briefed the delegation on the political and military developments in the country and the preparations for the general election as well as on South Africa’s expectations.

The delegation proceeded to meet the Force Commander (FC) MONUSCO, Lt Gen Prakash Chander Wadhwa, at the MONUSCO Headquarters in Kinshasa. (MONUSCO is the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC whose mandate is to protect civilians, aid workers and human rights defenders under imminent threat of physical violence, as well as the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment.) The RSA delegation and the Force Commander discussed a number of issues in relation to the RSA deployments under MONUSCO. It was great to hear the FC praising the RSA contingent for the sterling work they were doing in their area of responsibility in terms of bringing peace and stability to the North Kivu Province.

The FC promised to look into various challenges that the RSA contingent was facing, including the installation of hardened surfaces in all the permanent bases. In response the delegation thanked the FC for the warm welcome and the opportunity to see them and the continued support to MONUSCO and the DRC at large.

The delegations then visited SANDF SPEC where they were briefed on challenges and opportunities. The military base was happy that they had very low accident levels despite having to drive in difficult conditions. The unit submitted a request for more appropriate equipment, such as global positioning systems, fire-fighting equipment, ambulances, breathalyzers, camera speed guns, reflective vests, holsters. They expressed their concern about the long procurement lead time and felt that accommodation for women was inappropriate and insufficient. They were happy to be deployed as they were given good exposure and career opportunities in the military. Lastly, they praised the RSA Embassy in the DRC for their undivided support.

In response to all these challenges the GOC promised to follow them up personally and emphasised that the correct channels of command should, however, be followed. The unit promised that in future they would send all their completed reports to J Ops HQ. Maj Gen Mdutyana went on to emphasise that there would be no tolerance of ill-discipline.

The delegation then visited the Central African Republic (CAR) where they were welcomed by the Mission Commander of Operation Vimbezela, Col Motshiri Ramoshaba, who took them to the HQ in Bangui (the capital city of the CAR). During his presentation, Col Ramoshaba deliberated on the mission’s mandate which was to provide military assistance in the form of training to the armed forces of the CAR. He also presented a situational analysis, including the unit strengths and challenges. He asked the delegation about the lack of medical evacuation procedures and about the poor serviceability of their vehicles. Mr Lebelo answered: “I am waiting for J OPS to initiate a formal tasking for his office to negotiate a contract for an air ambulance for air medical evacuation.”

The delegation then proceeded to a south-western town called Bouar, where the RSA contingent’s tactical training headquarters is situated. Col Ramoshaba informed them of the forthcoming parade for CAR soldiers who were trained under Operation Vimbezela and said that President Francois Bozize of the CAR would attend the ceremony. Maj Gen Mdutyana stated that the invitations should follow the proper J Ops HQ channels and once received would be processed through Chief of Human Resources for further action.

The GOC then led his delegation to the MONUSCO Mission in North Kivu in the DRC where they visited all the military bases and spent time with the soldiers on the ground to listen to their concerns and brief them on developments in South Africa. The GOC and his team were touched by the positive responses they received from all the soldiers. There was a general feeling of appreciation that the senior commanders of the SANDF cared about them. Some of the challenges they presented included the limited communication system due to the mountainous terrain, the long lead time in replacing temporary tented accommodation with more permanent structures and limited road infrastructure.

The SANDF engineers have meanwhile been working tirelessly on new road construction since their deployment. Everywhere the delegation went villagers greeted them by raising their thumbs and cheering “MONUC, Africa du Sud” (MONUC was the former peacekeeping UN mission before the current MONUSCO Mission in the
must be accepted by the UN.

Despite all these challenges the unit succeeded in protecting local villagers from abductions and muggings, and broke down the legal barriers raised by rebel groups. The Unit organised social projects in the mission area with their own funds. These projects included support to Mama Jane's Orphanage and celebrating African Child Day. They also celebrated Mandela Day by helping in the Goma general hospital, for which they received a letter of appreciation. The RSA contingent successfully celebrated both National Women's Day and Heritage Day with the local Congolese communities. Maj Gen Mdutyana commended the RSA battalion for their contribution to improving the lives of our African brothers and sisters in support of the UN.

Mr Lebelo asked WO1 Gerrie Hansen, the RSA Technical Officer, whether he regarded the GOC's visit as a success. WO1 Hansen responded: “Yes, the visit was a success. We are happy and believe that the GOC leads from the front.” This he had said previously at the mobilisation centre when he addressed us before deploying. I was encouraged to drive to Kichanga base to deliver a generator, despite the difficult driving conditions. The base is situated 193 km from the main city of Goma. It took me 15 hours to drive there at an average speed of 14,5 km per hour, while it took the delegation 25 minutes to fly the same distance with a UN Oryx helicopter flown by a young SA Air Force pilot.

All the deployed forces were thankful for the visit by the GOC and his delegation, and especially that they could experience the challenges they were facing. The delegation returned to South Africa happy after a successful visit but plotted their responses to all challenges faced by the SANDF members in a foreign country. Mr Kopano Lebelo, Chief Director Materiel Governance, email

The SANDF delegation with members of the armed forces of the Central African Republic.
Goodwill Parcel Project cements business ties

Article and photos by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

The first SANDF contingent to be deployed in Burundi on a peacekeeping mission was on 1 November 2001 under Operation FIBRE. This peacekeeping mission was not an easy exercise, but in spite of all the hurdles the aim and objective of the SANDF were achieved. Once the mission was accomplished, the troops were withdrawn. Since the official SANDF withdrawal from Burundi there have been no reported incidents of violence.

The peacekeeping mission helped to establish a new democratic government in this previously war-torn and poverty stricken country. Once the political stability was established economic stability and eventually economic growth could be stimulated. The South African business community through the sponsorship of the Goodwill Parcel Project (GPP) saw an opportunity to invest in Burundi. The investment deals would further fortify the relations that already existed between the two countries.

On 16 December 2011 the South African military and civilian delegations arrived in Burundi and were welcomed with a welcoming function. As Mr Membathisi Mdladlana, the ambassador to South Africa, was on official duty in South Africa, Mr Chris Botha, the Chargé d’Affaires, took over the responsibility of hosting the delegation. On this occasion Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the Patron of the GPP and the SANDF Chief of Joint Operations, highlighted the type of relations that South Africa and Burundi enjoyed. After the speeches Ms Charlotte Shoke, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum and wife of the Chief of the SANDF, handed over the GPP Christmas gifts to the embassy personnel.

On 17 December 2011 it was time to get down to the serious business of talks between the Agence Burundaise de Promotion des investissements (API)/Burundi Investment Authority and South African business community that sponsored the GPP and the SANDF Sponsors Forum. In officially opening the meeting Mr Botha welcomed the attendants. In his speech Lt Gen Mgwebi highlighted the need for this business meeting. He explained that the GPP was not the custodian of this initiative, but rather was used together with the SANDF Spouses Forum to facilitate this drive to stimulate economic growth in Burundi.

Mr Emanuel Niyungeko, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Burundi, told the delegates that...
After the most important business of the day was concluded the SANDF Spouses Forum visited the Musaga Women’s co-operative that empowered disadvantaged women who were affected by the conflict. Next they visited one of the poorest orphanages in Burundi under the custodianship of Ms Mbonimda Capitdine. At the orphanage the SANDF Spouses Forum handed her some of the much needed necessities to the children who were living in squalid conditions. The gifts included soccer balls, kitchen utensils and toiletries.

In the Central African Republic (CAR) on 20 December 2011 the GPP delegation distributed the annual GPP gifts to the SANDF soldiers who were training the CAR’s soldiers. The deployed SANDF soldiers in CAR were accommodated at Villa 14 ministerial residence in Bangui. In the CAR, Maj Gen Duma Mdutyana from the SANDF Joint Operations Division presented the gifts on behalf of Lt Gen Mgwebi who could not make it to the CAR due to other official engagements. The occasion was graced by the CAR Chief of Staff, Brig Gen Guillaume Lapo. Brig Gen Lapo is the Chief of the Defence Force (basically the equivalent of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke). In his speech Maj Gen Mdutyana pointed out that the ultimate goal of the relations between the CAR and South Africa needed to reach the level where the CAR and SA could negotiate to establish business/economic ties.

Burundi was indeed a good country to invest in as it had become stable politically and promised good returns on investment for potential investors as there were many opportunities in this virgin niche market. Some of the business opportunities available were in the food industry where there was a need to set up tomato production plants and a cassava flour mill on KUMOSO plain. Investments were also required in modern pineapple and passion fruit processing plants. In the construction industry there were opportunities to build houses and schools. API further indicated that there was a need for financial aid to build 2,000 houses in the next five years and more than 15 buildings for ministries and other government agencies. In the tourism sector there was an opportunity to increase tourist infrastructure by building hotels and other tourist facilities in Bujumbura and along Lake Tanganyika.

After most of the investment opportunities and investment invitations were put on the table it was time for the GPP and the SANDF Spouses Forum sponsors, on behalf of the South African business community, to exchange ideas on how they could be of assistance to Burundi. The banking, insurance, health and food sectors gave their different presentations on how they operated back home in South Africa.

The South Africa-Burundi business meeting was held at Hotel du Lac Tanganyika (Lake Tanganyika Hotel) and Chaired by Mr Christian Nkengurutse, the General Sectary of Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Business sponsors of the 2011 GPP (in no specific order) were: the Bible Society, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Liberty Life, Metropolitan, AVBOB, SA Army Foundation, SAFI, SA Air Force Benevolent Fund, ABSA Group, Novare, BAE Systems, Navy Fund, Defence Institute, Clinix Health Group and various Massmart business categories, namely Colgate Palmolive, Nestle, Premier Foods, Snackworks, Tongaat Hulett’s Sugar, Tiger Brands and Oceana Brands. Without these sponsors the GPP would not have been as successful as it was.
A fruitful high-level discussion on defence and security between South Africa and Namibia was concluded during a ministerial session in Cape Town on 24 November 2011.

The 11th session of the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) between South Africa and Namibia was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 22 to 24 November 2011. It was aimed at reviewing implementation of the decisions taken at the 10th session of the JPCDS that took place in Swakopmund, Namibia, in 2010, regarding mutual co-operation in the areas of defence, public and state security.

On the agenda were the two countries’ commitment to eradicating trans-border crime and to combating the illicit economy within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

During his opening address the Minister of State Security, Dr Siyabonga Cwele, said that the engagement would help to strengthen diplomatic relations between the two countries. He said: “This is an important milestone in deepening ties between the two countries that share a lot, especially in the commitment to promoting peace and stability within the region. It also serves as a harbinger of great things to come, especially concerning the maritime strategy that was adopted in Angola to fight piracy and other maritime crimes in our waters. This will be done to a backdrop of military to military co-operation, including a number of joint training activities between the two defence forces. These will serve as a building block in the implementation of the SADC Maritime Security Strategy endorsed by SADC Heads of State, which will require that liaison programmes between the defence forces are improved with a view to conducting joint patrols on land, in the air and at sea.”

In his reply, the Namibian Minister of Defence, Maj Gen (Ret) Charles Namoloh, said the event was well timed in order to guarantee regional economic growth. He added: “With economic uncertainties and instability brought about by regime changes in the North African region, it is important for the two countries to help the SADC countries in maintaining peace and stability in order to guarantee mutual economic growth, so that the region can enjoy trade and other relations without any threat to their security.”

Maj Gen (Ret) Namoloh also extended an invitation to the South African delegates to the 12th JPCDS to be held in Namibia on a date and venue to be announced. The South African delegation accepted the invitation.

The South African delegation was led by Minister Cwele, and included the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Ngoako Ramathlodi, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Ms Fatima Chohan, the Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Makhotso Sotyu, the High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Namibia, Ms Yvette Myakayaka-Manzini, and other senior Government officials.

The Namibian delegation was led by Maj Gen (Ret) Namoloh, and included the High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to the Republic of South Africa, Mr Marten Kapewasha, the Consul General of the Republic of Namibia in Cape Town, Ms Elise Aunio, and senior Government officials.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, extended a warm welcome to the Namibian delegation during her special gala evening function aboard the SAS ISANDLWANA frigate on 23 November 2011.

The SAS ISANDLWANA Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Musavenkosi Nkomonde, announced that the frigate would be deployed in the next few months to RSA/Mozambican waters to help fight maritime crime in the Mozambique Channel.
SA Defence Industry hosts the President of Benin

The President of the Republic of Benin, Dr Boni Yayi, paid a State visit to South Africa. The visit happened in the context of consolidating the African Agenda through the enhancement and deepening of bilateral social, economic and political relations.

President Yayi arrived in South Africa on 23 November 2011 and was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Ministers and senior Government officials.

During the visit, which was aimed at further strengthening the ties of friendship and co-operation that existed between the two countries, substantive and fruitful discussions were held on a wide range of issues of common interest across the bilateral, regional and international spectrum.

The two countries assessed their relationships and agreed on ways to further strengthening the bilateral ties. The two Presidents discussed issues such as co-operation in trade and investment, transport, defence and health.

During his visit to South Africa, Dr Yayi laid a wreath at the Gugulethu Seven Memorial. President Yayi also held extensive meetings with South African business leaders with the objective of enhancing trade and investment between South Africa and Benin.

On 25 November 2011 President Yayi was hosted by the South African Defence Industries at the Gerotec Testing Facilities in Atteridgeville. President Yayi appealed to South African business investors to visit Benin to explore opportunities offered by his country and its economic potential and assets.

At the end of his visit President Yayi expressed his deep gratitude to President Jacob Zuma, to the South African Government and the people of South Africa for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation.
SANDF signs agreement with Cuban Government

By Bibi Sibanyoni
Photo: WO1 David Nomtshongwana

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Lindiwe Sisulu, and the Vice President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Mr Ulises Rosales del Toro, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Defence Co-operation between the two countries at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 10 January 2012.

The agreement is aimed at strengthening co-operation in areas such as military veterans, defence industries, military health, military education, training and development and exchange programmes on defence related matters. Minister Sisulu praised the Cuban Government for its discipline and deep sense of patriotism.

Minister Sisulu said: “Our relations are cemented by the blood and sweat of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, whose members laid down their lives and paid the supreme price for the freedom of our country.” She expressed gratitude to the Cuban Government for the support it had given during the apartheid era and for the liberation of South Africa. The greater part of the Non-statutory Forces was trained by Cuba and therefore that country’s culture lives on in us.

Emphasising the importance of discipline and patriotism, Minister Sisulu said: “I was honoured to have witnessed the 50th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. When the President spoke you could hear a pin drop, which was an indication to me that indeed we should send our youth to Cuba to learn about discipline”.

The agreement will also benefit the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the country in terms of health-care systems. Minister Sisulu said: “The Cuban health system is the best in the world and we can learn a lot from them. It is this type of expertise that we want to tap into and we may ask for assistance in our peacekeeping operations in Africa. We also believe that we can learn from Cuba’s military veterans programmes to develop our own programmes; similarly we can learn from how they have developed their civilian force, which can be called on in time of need.”

Cuba’s Vice President of the Council of Ministers said: “We wish you well in the quest to adopt our systems for the betterment of your organisation. Discipline has helped us solve many of our problems and overcome challenges. Our signing of this memorandum is our commitment to our long-term relationship with South Africa.”

Vice President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Mr Ulises Rosales del Toro, and the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, signing a memorandum of understanding on defence co-operation between the two countries.
We cannot live an individualistic life and think only about our individual well-being, as opposed to our collective well-being. Hardly a day goes by without a debate on television, radio and the press about civil unrest, disease, drought, security, underdevelopment, war and conflict across the continent and the world at large. These activities can have negative affects on human security.

On 17 January 2012, the SA National Defence College held the opening ceremony of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 25/12. Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, the Training Command, was the main functionary on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF. R Adm (JG) Laura van Vuuren, the Commandant of the SA National Defence College, welcomed the guests and programme members. The programme will be presented over the period 16 January to 8 June 2012 at the SA National Defence College in Pretoria.

National security means more than being safe from traditional military threats. It also concerns the environmental impact of human activities, e.g. poaching, climate change, food and energy resources, disease and other stress factors such as poverty, globalisation, poor governance, inequality, mass migration and displaced persons deprived of their means of livelihood.

During his keynote address Maj Gen Mabuza mentioned that the programme placed a high premium on human security and increasingly addressed national security issues at both the bilateral and multilateral level.

Maj Gen Mabuza said: “The programme concentrates on national security issues in a domestic, regional, continental and international context against the background of global issues. The central theme of the programme is national security. The main issues affecting it are what should be done to improve it and what the national security policy should be. This involves the four pillars of any state, viz politics, economics, social and military.”

SA Soldier spoke to two foreign learners on the programme. Col Michael Kazungu from the Burundi National Defence Force told SA Soldier that the ENSP 25/12 was a sign of progress and hope as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) states whose aim is to reduce the developmental gap regarding security, geographic and economical resources, including capital and technology. The ENSP guarantees a better outcome for national security within this shifting global environment.

Col Jose Langa from the Mozambican Air Force said: “Despite the many challenges our continent faces, these initiatives of the SA National Defence College can be regarded as the beginning of a long process to fulfil a dream of no longer allowing ourselves to be conditioned by circumstance, and together we can secure the future for all humanity and engage the global terrain with national security and development strategies.”
Approximately 110 senior medals were presented to worthy recipients and honours were bestowed on men and women of the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by providing excellent service to our country and in their soldierly duties and who have displayed exceptional abilities in the SANDF.

The medals were presented by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, at the Armscor Sports Ground in Pretoria on 25 November 2011. The medal parade was his first as the Chief of the SANDF and he was impressed by the sight of the men and women standing before him to receive their well-earned recognition.

General Shoke said:
“It was a momentous occasion to witness our contingents coming together, men and women from different units and divisions, to renew the SANDF’s pledge to the people of our land. Equally important, the medal parade gives us all an opportunity to celebrate as we reflect on the contribution made by our fellow soldiers to the security of our country.”

To be a member of the SANDF today means to be entrusted with a responsibility to defend the country’s sovereignty in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the country, which require each member to perform his or her duty with honour, dignity, courage and integrity and to serve with loyalty and pride. All the members that were honoured during the parade embodied the requirements, and deserve the accolades they received.

A medal parade is a reflection of diligent and professional behaviour. This behaviour is in accordance with the Military Code of Conduct. The last part of the Code of Conduct states: “We will strive to improve the capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, developing skills and knowledge, and performing my duties diligently and professionally”. The parade is in line with the military culture of recognising all those who have provided extraordinary and professional service to the SANDF.

Among the medals presented were the IPHROTHIYA ye SILVA (PS) Medal, which was awarded to members who distinguished themselves by outstanding leadership or outstanding meritorious service and particular devotion to duty, as well as the IPHROTHIYA ye BORONSE (PB) Medal, which was awarded to members who distinguished themselves by leadership or meritorious service and particular devotion to duty.

50, 40 and 30 Years Good Service Medals were awarded to members...
whose character and conduct have been irreproachable and who have completed 50, 40 and 30 years’ qualifying service. The Chief of the SANDF also awarded Merit Medal Silver (MMS) and Merit Medal Bronze (MMB) to the deserving members.

During his address, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, said that he sincerely hoped that the youth in the SANDF were taking lessons from the members on parade. He added that as future leaders of the SANDF it was important for them to follow suit or even do better in executing our constitutional mandate with dignity and honour.

Gen Shoke said: “As we look at the years ahead, we do so with confidence as we are a disciplined force that operates in accordance with the law of the country, and we will continue to do so.” He extended his sincere appreciation to the spouses, families and friends for their unconditional and selfless support, which has largely contributed to these members’ achievements. He further congratulated the recipients and the members who worked around the clock to deliver the job well done. He urged them to keep up the good work.

The Chief of the SANDF concluded by wishing all the members of the SANDF and their families a happy and safe festive season. He said: “I trust that next year we shall all resume our duties with renewed vigour to serve our country.”

ABOVE: The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, accepts his 30 Years Good Service Medal from the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke.
A combat-ready South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is key to the Department of Defence (DOD) succeeding in its quest to support the Government’s diplomatic initiatives and help eradicate conflicts in the region and on the continent. The SANDF held Exercise Ndlovu to test its reaction and combat capability in the Northern and Western Cape respectively over the period 20 October to 22 November 2011.

During this exercise the SANDF tested its force employment strategy and doctrine in order to improve its operational reaction capability, including command and control. All Services of the SANDF pledged forces and equipment to the exercise to demonstrate the interoperability of the various forces. The SANDF conducted the exercise under the auspices of the Joint Operations Division in pursuit of the Government’s mandate of ensuring that South African citizens are and feel safe.

The DOD values this training as the foundation on which we can build a solid National Defence Force that is fully capable of defending the country’s territorial integrity and its people. The SANDF demonstrated its capabilities and combat-readiness during the exercise at St Helena Bay on 4 November 2011. Operational demonstrations such as a boarding display, an anti-warfare demonstration, a submarine display, a sail-past and an Oryx landing were demonstrated.

The Force Employment Strategy of the SANDF dictates that the SANDF’s reaction capability be tested every four years. The previous exercise of this nature was held in 2006, but owing to South Africa’s hosting of the 2010 Soccer World Cup, this objective was shifted to 2011.

The exercise commenced on 20 October 2011 when the first elements began with tactical road movement to the two major assembly areas in Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein respectively. Military convoys converged on these two centres from 36 different units based all over South Africa.

The exercise was executed by three operational structures, 43 SA Brigade, 46 SA Brigade and a Joint Maritime Task Group under the eye of an Exercise Joint Task Force Headquarters at Kimberley in the Northern Cape.
The exercise was based on the three theatre levels and executed at the campaign level, while allowing the achievement of objectives and the participation of Services and Divisions in a joint manner. The exercise was designed to execute and practise various aspects of strategic, operational, tactical and technical military actions within the campaign with the main emphasis being on command and control procedures.

These aspects of operations were practised to enhance the joint operational preparedness of the SANDF. The landward focus of the exercise was in the Northern Cape, with smaller maritime elements and Special Forces operating in the St Helena Bay area in the Western Cape. The exercise culminated in a final showdown of the participating forces at the SA Army Combat Training Centre near Lohathla on 17 November 2011.

**Tribute**

Regrettably, two soldiers died on 12 November 2011 in a vehicle accident on the N12 near Stilfontein while en route to the SA Army Combat Training Centre for Exercise Ndlovu.

The deceased, Corporal Phodiso Honest Botsime from 1 Special Service Battalion and Trooper Donald Tebogo Mokgele from the School of Armour were laid to rest during a military funeral with the honours due to them on 19 November 2011.

ABOVE: During Exercise Ndlovu SA Navy Gunners demonstrate how to bring down an aircraft.

ABOVE: A sail-past of SA Special Forces components and maritime elements that took part in Exercise Ndlovu, which took place in St Helena Bay after the Open Day demonstration.
The inaugural of the SA Army leadership

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of the SA Army Generals’ Inauguration Ceremony comes a few months after Gen Solly Shoke was appointed Chief of the SANDF. The inauguration took place at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 30 November 2011.

The leadership echelon of the SA Army has been rearranged, including the introduction of newly created deputy posts for the SANDF Services and Divisions, such as that of the Deputy Chief of the SA Army, Maj Gen Leslie Rudman.

At the inauguration ceremony the newly appointed Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, said that the SA Army had also introduced female Generals.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “The appointment of new Generals shows that we are moving ahead; some people are promoted while others have retired or moved to other positions. This is part of the dynamics of an organisation that has progressed and moved with the times, and the SA Army is an organisation that is moving with the times.”

He stated that leaders who could lead the Pride of Lions, the SA Army, must always be ready to do what was expected of them and give guidance and care. They must also allow those under their supervision opportunities to work and progress in their field.

“We must lead by example and therefore I expect you to lead an exemplary lifestyle, and to remain fit and looking neat in uniform. Work hard and do not misuse your power, but also remember that you are part of the SA Army Pride of Lions and as the Pride we work together, and together we can lead the SA Army to greater heights,” Lt Gen Masondo said.
Military Academy bids farewell to two luminaries

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

“Time will always be a time to say hello and a time to say goodbye.” These were the sad words of the two senior management members of the Military Academy, a Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University, as they bade farewell to an institution that they used to call home since 2006.

Maj Gen Lindile Yam, the former Commandant of the Military Academy, and Prof Edna van Harte, the previous Dean of Military Science, were bade farewell during a sparkling ceremony at Saldanha near Cape Town on 18 November 2011.

Their reasons for leaving differed, with Maj Gen Yam assuming his new Commanding of SA Army Infantry Formation, while Prof Van Harte decided to retire.

Relating his experience on his arrival at the institution in 2006, Maj Gen Yam said the reception he received was heart-warming. He remarked:

“Immediately after my arrival here I was met by Capt (SAN) Vee Pillay, the Officer Commanding of the SAS Saldanha, and already I felt at home. He invited my family and me over for dinner and helped us to settle in quickly. I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the staff members, students and the community because together we made a formidable team to take this institution from where it was to the position it is today. Together we managed to turn this institution into an intellectual institution producing wise warriors that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) top management can be proud of.”

For Prof van Harte, on the other hand, it was not an easy ride to persuade and sell her new ideas about the institution to the SANDF top management. Prof Van Harte said:

“At times it was not easy to follow the command and control channels as I was a free thinker with an academic background who believed that some decisions needed to be taken in order to advance the institution to the next level. Sometimes, when decisions could not go my way, I thought that maybe it was because I was a woman, but as time went on I learned to appreciate and operate in this unique military environment. I came to learn that the two environments, the military and the academic, operated and thought differently. What I will miss a lot about the institution is the warmth and commitment from my colleagues, staff members and students who have made my time here as pleasant as possible. I would also like, from the bottom of my heart, to thank Maj Gen Yam for believing in me and supporting me throughout my career at the institution.

Also, I would like to thank the Department of Defence/SANDF for its appreciation and patience in allowing us time to build the institution into what it is today. I would also like to encourage the Military Academy students to study hard and continue to shine in order to have a brighter future with the Department.”

Representing the Chief of the SANDF was Lt Gen Themba Nkabinde, the Chief of Human Resources, delivering his address during the farewell function of the former Commandant of the Military Academy, Maj Gen Lindile Yam, and the outgoing Dean of the Faculty of Military Science, Prof Edna van Harte. He thanked the two on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF for their contributions to the Military Academy.
21 SA Infantry Battalion
Open Day

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On 1 December 2011, 21 SA Infantry Battalion (21 SAI Bn) in Doornkop, Johannesburg, held an open day. The event culminated in the unit’s 35th anniversary celebration and the official handing over of the newly refurbished bungalows, kitchen, and the mess facilities to the unit by the Department of Public Works.

During this event the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, accompanied by Maj Gen Lindile Yam, the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation, also handed over buses to transport unit members with disabilities to and from work.

During the parade Lt Gen Masondo said that an organisation without discipline was like a ship without a compass. He elaborated by saying that the military was one of the noblest of callings and that every member needed to ensure that this was appropriately projected. He stressed that soldiers were a significant group in society and all levels of Government needed to rise above and appeal to the hearts and minds of the people they served. Lt Gen Masondo could not overemphasise the importance of discipline.

On the unit’s birthday he said that if others were doing well, we tended to be interested in what they were doing. We should reflect on this, review progress and offer lessons on pitfalls to avoid.

It was the culmination of the unit’s 35th anniversary celebration and the official handing over of the newly refurbished bungalows, kitchen, and the troops’ and officers’ mess facilities to the unit by the Department of Public Works.

The day ended with a demonstration of combat skills in a fighting in built-up area (FIBUA) exercise. The exercise included house clearing, as well as a search and rescue mission in a targeted house. The demonstration showed the changing nature of land battle. It was all about real-time situational awareness, rapid reaction, decision-making and
communication in order to achieve unity of effort among the fighting force.

BELOW: Fltr: Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, Chief of the SA Army, Ms Tebogo Phiri, Director Special and Major Projects: Department of Public Works, and Maj Gen Lindile Yam, General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation, during the official handing over of the refurbished facilities.

ABOVE: Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, the Chief of the SA Army, handing over the keys of the new IVECO bus for transporting unit members with disabilities, to Lt Col Bongie Vilakazi, the Officer Commanding of 21 SAI Bn.

ABOVE: Cpl Thabiso Radebe boards the new bus that is wheelchair user-friendly, while Col Don Mashele, SSO SA Army Disability, looks on.

ABOVE: During the fighting in built-up area (FIBUA) exercise the attacking force dismounted from a 4x4 Mamba vehicle.
Pride, drill, dress and discipline

The SA Army Infantry Formation can be proud of its own. With a lot of preparation by the Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders for the first-ever International Berlin Tattoo, the hard work paid off.

For the band it was a tough tour with two days of rehearsals and then the Tattoo in full gear. The Pipe Major was a taskmaster demanding nothing less than perfection from his drummers and pipers. We landed in Berlin early on the Tuesday afternoon and by 18:00 we were on our way to our first rehearsal. Wednesday started at 05:30 followed by breakfast at 06:00, and at 07:30 we were at the O2 Arena for a full day of rehearsals. Thursday was the same, but this time we went to practise at the venue called O2 World. In fact, however, it was three performances that day - rehearsal, dress rehearsal and then the show.

All the hard preparation paid off when we were asked to be the centre rank of the massed pipes and drums, and the bass drummer was the lead drummer for the massed pipes and drums.

I picked up on a comment by the Director of massed pipes and drums when he was asked whether there had been enough preparation for the massed pipes and drums as it was made up of bands from six different nations and this was only their second day together. His reply was: “I'm not worried; between the Cape Town Highlanders and the Royal Air Force (RAF) they will make it work.”

I was proud, our drill was perfect, we set the pace and the dressing, our uniforms were great (although I know the RSM would like to see more polish on the colour dogs and buttons) and our discipline was impeccable. Those in the band are truly great ambassadors for our country and the SANDF.

The Tattoo was a truly international event with bands from the UK, the USA, Canada, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Oman, Sweden and of course South Africa.

We were guests of the Bundeswehr (German Federal Defence Force). We had a Lt Böhnetzrieder as our Liaison Officer and translator. The one thing that struck me as a mechanised soldier was that we were all members of a great fraternity. It does not matter where you are, we as soldiers are just like a band of brothers.

As an aside, army food is army food.
wherever in the world you are - in Germany it was just German Army food. After eating that I think I can say “Ich bin Berliner” not like President Kennedy said “Ich bin ein Berliner” (I am a jelly doughnut).

On the Friday the Bundeswehr supplied us with a tour guide and we went on a guided tour of Berlin to hear about the city’s ancient history and its more recent history. It is a city well worth a visit.

Saturday morning we took our tour bus to the Brandenburg Gate to take a group photo. While we were at the Gates we decided to march through them. This was a first for a South African band and very likely a first for a Southern Hemisphere pipe band.

So with pipe banners flying and with much cheering from the tourists and locals visiting this historical site, the Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders marched through the gates playing “Cock of the North”, our Regimental march, followed by an impromptu mini-concert for the hordes of people around.

The Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders are a Defence Reserves’ mechanised unit. We are not just a ceremonial unit, although we participate in the Opening of Parliament and any other parades we are asked to attend. We have also had mechanised training, comsim exercises, mechanised exercises at Lohathla, continuation training, cadre training and, to top it all, members on the military skills team are doing well. Go Mech Infantry!
The Chief of the SA Army Awards Ceremony

By Capt Hamilton Ngubane, SO2 Internal Com SA Army
Photo: S Sgt Legogang Tlhaole

As part of combat ready concepts the awards were based on various aspects, ie the SA Army Fittest Soldier, the SA Army Fittest Formation, the Taekwando Competition and the Most Organised Formation.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, hosted the SA Army Awards Ceremony on 1 December 2011 at Denel Land Systems Production, which saw SA Army members receiving trophies as a form of recognition for their achievements and contributions to the SA Army.

As part of combat ready concepts, the awards were based on a variety of aspects, ranging from the SA Army Fittest Soldier, SA Army Fittest Formation, Taekwando Competition (courtesy of Commander Ahn of the Republic of Korea) to Most Organised Formation. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the prizes to the winners of the SA Army Writing Skills Competition.

Maj A.J. de Vos (Defence Intelligence Division) received the winning prize of R10,000 while the runner-up, Maj L.J. Toerien (43 SA Brigade), won R7,000 and Maj C.S. van der Spuy (SA Army Intelligence Formation) who was in the third place received R3,000. These prizes were funded by BAE Systems, which has been a life-long partner to the SA Army.

Lt Gen Masondo congratulated the winners on behalf of the entire nation and thanked them for the courage they had shown. He emphasised that the SA Army was a leader in any combat action, including sport and physical training. He challenged SA Army members to promote a combined force concept in which members were ready and willing to protect the citizens of South Africa and its borders. He furthermore urged SA Army members to be disciplined in executing their core business.

He added that nobody in the SA Army should be rewarded for a task he or she had never done. In his closing remarks Lt Gen Masondo expressed the wish that 2012 would be a year of achievement, in spite of the challenges ahead. He urged SA Army members to remain disciplined and serve the nation with their Pride of the Lions and cherish the achievements of the nation’s fallen heroes.
Chief SA Army urges Army members to soldier on

By Capt Hamilton Ngubane, SO2 Internal Com SA Army
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Lt Gen Masondo said that he would follow the example of the great leaders the SA Army had produced.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, hosted the SA Army Gala Evening at Denel Land Systems Production on 2 December 2011.

This event afforded the Chief of the SA Army an opportunity to interact with the sponsors that finance SA Army events, and with various committees within the Department of Defence, retired SA Army Generals and former members of the SA Army Council.

The SA Army Gymnasium Choir ensured that guests were well entertained with their musical performances. Guests were also treated to spectacular performances and music by various SA Army bands, such as the Kroonstad Band, the National Ceremonial Guard Band, the Transvaal Scottish and Irish Band.

Lt Gen Masondo thanked the sponsors, members of various committees and retired SA Army Generals for their contribution to the SA Army. He also bade farewell to a few SA Army Generals who will be furthering their military careers in other Divisions and Services.

He urged SA Army members to soldier on and to take up their responsibilities. Lt Gen Masondo said that he would follow the example of the great leaders the SA Army had produced.

In conclusion, he gave his festive message and warm wishes to the families of all SA Army members and sponsors. He wished them a prosperous Christmas and a happy New Year. He further offered his condolences to the families of the soldiers and heroes which the SA Army had lost in 2011.

ABOVE: The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, delivering his address highlighting the achievements of the SA Army.

ABOVE: The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, and his guests enjoying the evening.
Honouring former commando members

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA Army Closure Commemoration Medal Parade in honour of the group headquarters and commando units that played a role in South Africa’s military history was held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 30 November 2011 to award medals to members who served in these now disbanded components.

Following the decision and the announcement on 27 April 2003 to disband the Army Territorial Reserve or commando component of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), proposals were received from several quarters for the award by the President of a medal to commemorate the role and contribution of the commandos to South Africa.

The Warrant on behalf of the President signed this medal on 17 March 2010 whereafter the administration was distributed to more than 100 different military establishments throughout the country for the handing over of the medals to former commando members. The period for qualifying was from 1998 until the closure of the commando unit.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, said that former members of the commandos were afforded the opportunity if they complied with certain criteria and had joined the Army Conventional Reserve or the SA Police Service (SAPS) as reservists. Most of these members have joined the Army Reserves and have undergone conversion training over the last four years.

He indicated that some of them were actively involved in peace support operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and in border safeguarding. The closure commemoration medal may be awarded to officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officers.

Historical overview of the commandos

The first commando was established in 1715 in the Swellendam area and consisted of 30 men under the command of two elected leaders. The first commandos in the Cape were established under Council of Policy Resolutions dated 20 November 1715. From its inception, and up to the present time, the commando system has been regulated by law and has always been regarded as a separate system within the military.

This was the start of the commando system in South Africa, and although there have been various changes through the years, there
are many characteristics that have remained the same since their inception.

The South African commando system proved to be highly effective and became world famous during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) when commandos from the Orange Free State and the “Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek” consisting mostly of farmers, took on the mighty British Empire.

After the Anglo-Boer War these commandos ceased to exist and continued only as rifle associations (“Skietverenigings”) after 1912.

The commando system since 1948

It was only in 1948 after the National Party won the general elections and formed a new Government, that we saw the rebirth of the commando system.

Following legislation, the commando system was re-instituted on 16 December 1948. It was to be known henceforth as the Rifle Commando Organisation (“Skietkommando’s”) as set out in the Government Notice of 19 May 1950.

The rifle commandos were established one after another. At the end of the first year of the existence of the organisation (in 1949), there were 147 units with a total membership of 65 000.

The commandos since 1957

In 1957 the Defence Act laid down that rifle commandos were in future to be known as “Commandos” and that the Commando Forces would be incorporated into the SA Defence Force and would enjoy a status equal to that of the Permanent Force and the Citizen Force.

The commandos since 1992

Since 1992, when transformation of the country and the Defence Force began, the commandos have played an important role.

When it transpired only days before the 1994 election that the police were 35 000 members short of the minimum required to provide basic election security during the general elections, thousands of commando members answered a last-minute call and were instrumental in securing free and fair elections. So important was this contribution that they were publicly thanked by the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission. The commandos assisted again in the 1996 local and 1999 national elections.

When they were given the choice after the historic democratic elections in 1994 the majority of serving members volunteered to stay on in the new voluntary system and signed voluntary service agreements with the SANDF.

The commandos have also played a major role in supporting the SAPS in crime prevention since 1996 when the SANDF was employed by former President Nelson Mandela in this role.

As in many other countries that have systems and structures designed to provide territorial defence in time of war, and/or to provide assistance to the civil authorities in times requiring civil defence, natural disaster or other need, the commandos proved to be an effective and efficient system on the ground. Their major contribution to flood relief, foot-and-mouth disease control and control of veld fires are fairly recent examples.

After 1996 the commando system provided in excess of half a million man-days per year in service to communities either through supporting the SAPS in crime prevention operations or assisting other government departments with disaster relief. For a volunteer organisation, this is a reflection of the level of commitment to both the SANDF and to society in general, and must be commended.

Members of the disbanded Army Territorial Reserve or commando units who received closure commemoration medals to commemorate their role and contribution to South Africa.
The South African National War College is accredited by the Safety and Security Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) and has developed a programme that aims to empower and prepare senior officers for command positions within SANDF ranks. This cutting-edge safety and security training programme includes the Senior Management Programme, followed by a 44-week long residential Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme.

Both these programmes qualify for a National Diploma in joint and multinational operations. Presented annually to the four Services of the SANDF, an invitation was also extended to neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe, Namibia, Kenya and Lesotho.

Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, General Officer Commanding Training Command, took the opportunity to present certificates and achievement awards to learners during the graduation ceremony of the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme at the Centre for Conflict Simulation at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 17 November 2011.

Maj Gen Mabuza indicated that by 2013 it was envisaged that the college would migrate, in collaboration with a tertiary institute, to the Council of Higher Education, in which a postgraduate diploma (honours level) would be awarded. Learners who successfully complete this postgraduate diploma will be able to enrol for a master’s degree at a university.

He remarked: “I would like to stress the fact that with your newly acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes, comes a responsibility to maintain your level of preparedness. This can only be achieved by disciplined, self-motivated officers who are prepared to develop and maintain these skills by, among others, keeping abreast of international trends and applying creative thought within their new working environment.

“Remember that the SANDF is expected to meet its obligations to play a meaningful role in helping solve the problems faced by the African continent and being ready to undertake whatever tasks are given in the future. To be realistic, most of the tasks will require an in-depth knowledge and a background of jointness and most likely also multinationalism.”

He mentioned that the Senior Management Programme was followed by a residential phase that started with the Joint Foundation Term, including both corporate management and security studies, which were aimed at enhancing management skills and shedding light on the strategic level environment.

An operational level commander must be able to interpret the strategic guidance as tactically and operationally attainable objectives.

The final module, Military Operations Other Than War, required learners to conduct and apply the military decision making model within the environment of peace support operations. The programme was put into practice in a Combined Joint African Exercise in conjunction with the Botswana and Zambian staff colleges and was seen as a highlight in the year’s training programme.

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Education opens up a whole new world

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

I t is said that education is the key to knowledge and personal development. It broadens common sense, helps one to engage in discussions within a frame of reference and it opens up a whole new world.


The Warrant Officers’ Academy was responsible for the presentation of the Senior Warrant Officer’s Programme aimed at ensuring that Warrant Officers are empowered with an improved understanding of the critical dimensions underpinning safety and security operations and knowledge of matters pertaining to sustainable development over the period 6 February to 23 November 2011.

In his speech Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, the General Officer Commanding of Training Command, expressed his good wishes to the graduates and inspired them saying that one cannot discover oceans, unless one has the courage to leave the shores, and the first step to achieving prosperity is to appreciate what you already have.

He said that by successfully completing the Joint Warrant Officer’s Programme they had achieved a milestone in their professional development and military careers. Maj Gen Mabuza said: “Of course, with this qualification comes the responsibility of making a positive difference in your working environments and the broader SANDF.”

In conclusion, he urged them to consider that the knowledge, skills and experience they had gained are worthless, unless they are reinvested in the SANDF as they are the custodians of discipline and, if the sharp end of the SANDF is looked after by them, the same applies to the blunt end.

ABOVE: Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, the General Officer Commanding of Training Command (right), presenting the best overall achiever award to WO1 Roberto Alexander during the graduation ceremony.

ABOVE: After a year-long programme the hard work finally paid off for graduates of the Joint Warrant Officers’ Programme.

ABOVE: Graduates listening to Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, the General Officer Commanding of Training Command, praising their achievements.
In October 2011, the South African Post Office and SA Army Signal Formation again joined forces when 27 employees of the SA Post Office were allowed to do Basic Military Training, while being employed. The previous occasion was two years ago.

On 3 October the 27 employees from all over South Africa embarked on their military journey when they reported to 3 SA Infantry Battalion (3 SAI Bn) in Kimberley. In less than two months they showed what they were capable of, and their persistence and training culminated in a passing-out parade held at 3 SAI Bn on 1 December 2011.

During his address, the General Officer Commanding of SA Army Signal Formation, Brig Gen L.L. Eggers, commended the SA Post Office for taking such a bold step in South Africa. He said that the SA Post Office could be seen as a role model for all corporate industries. Brig Gen Eggers thanked the SA Army Training Formation for their support in making the training happen.

The following top achievers were awarded with trophies:

- Pte G. Vister from Kimberley walked away with two trophies for being the fittest male student and the neatest student.
- Pte C.R. Britz from Welkom received the trophy for being the best shottist on the course.
- Pte M.D.M. Matsetela from Pretoria was awarded a trophy for being the fittest female student.
- Pte B. Stryjdom from Pretoria was chosen as the best overall student.

The 27 members will now be posted to 11 Field Postal Unit (11 FPU) at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria. They will assist in fulfilling the critical requirement of distributing mail to and from the mission areas.

11 Field Postal Unit (11 FPU) plays an integral part in raising morale among all deployed soldiers in the SANDF, as they are responsible for getting the all-important letters and packages filled with goodies from home to the deployment areas. Here are some interesting statistics about 11 FPU: In 2009 it distributed 260 tons of mail to a postage value of R553 000; in 2010 it distributed 200 tons of mail to a postage value of R546 000; and in 2011 it distributed more than 200 tons of mail to a postage value of R536 000.

Ftlr: Pte C.R. Britz (best shottist), Pte M.D.M. Matsetela (fittest female student), Pte B. Stryjdom (best overall student), Pte G. Vister (fittest male and neatest student).
GOOD NEWS!

From 1 January 2012, members of the SA Army Foundation will receive

R23 100 life cover

with NO increase in monthly payments!

AND: The new expiry age for Group Life

Cover is now 85 and no longer 80!
Reserves excel in tracking course

By Capt Benje Hlalele (acknowledgement to Lt Dirk Gouws and WO2 Chris Craucamp) Photos: Courtesy Regiment Oos Rand

Students were taught how to distinguish between male and female movement, whether the subject was moving forward or backward, identifying signs of carrying weight, determining whether the subject being followed had injuries, its age and how to count tracks.

Cpl Lerato Phiri from Rand Light Infantry, a Reserve unit, became the first female soldier to complete the Tracker Course that was presented at Air Force Base Hoedspruit in September 2011.

Twelve students from different SANDF Reserve units attended this course. Lt Dirk Gouws from Regiment Oos Rand was the instructor. The course was eight weeks long course, but was completed in 18 days due to the Defence Reserves having other commitments outside the SANDF. This course formed part of their continuation training.

Cpl Phiri (34) was the only female student among 12 male students. (There were 45 candidates, but only 12 were selected.) She is the first Reserve member from Rand Light Infantry to complete this challenging course, something the Course Leader was not familiar with. WO2 Chris Craucamp (51), a Reserve member from Regiment Oos Rand, was the oldest student to complete the course. The selection itself was very challenging (one of the exercises was a 25 km walk with a full sandbag). No favours were granted. The instructor’s objectives were very clear. They only wanted the best of
the best and it was during the early stages that Cpl Phiri distinguished herself by showing courage and proving that her fitness was above average.

The course was presented in severe and extreme conditions: hot and cold, rainfall, different kinds of terrain ranging from soft to hard surfaces, covered, overgrown, gravel, muddy, sandy and rocky. The most important training aid in a tracking course is the terrain and here this was an excellent challenge for the students. In the training area there are various kinds of wild animals, birds and snakes.

The course consisted of two parts, namely tracking and survival. Different subjects were presented in this regard. Students in general learnt about tracking, anti-tracking, backtracking, age and counting of tracks. They also learnt how to interpret signs, and this was exercised in a track garden. During this phase the students were taught to distinguish between male and female movement, if it was going forward or backward, carrying of weight, whether the subject being followed had injuries, its age and how to count tracks. All of this is essential if one is to read the story that the tracks are telling one.

The students also discovered that there was a big difference between following tracks in the sand and doing actual tracking by following air signs to be confirmed by ground signs. Tracking is therefore the ability of the individual to follow and interpret signs left behind by humans, animals or a mechanical object, such as a vehicle, when moving along. In the survival part the students were taught about things such as the building of a shelter (bashas), finding water, making fire, plaiting ropes and finding edible fruit or plants.

Students were also exposed to various exercises such as Southern Cross, a combined tracking and navigational exercise and Exercise Egg, which is a mental and survival exercise.

Students were evaluated at the theoretical and practical level and had to pass both evaluations with a pass mark of 60%. A unique scientifically designed practical evaluation sheet had to be completed that takes into consideration speed, momentum, time, concentration, type of terrain, position of the sun, etc. The evaluation sheet was worth 300 marks, and on that basis the percentage of each individual student was determined.

The last evaluation was an endurance exercise in which two students had to carry a railway sleeper, R4 rifles, a battle jacket and ammunition for 25 km.

Cpl Phiri was the best overall student and she outclassed her fellow male students by achieving 82.73% for theory and 83.84% for practical respectively. Her average percentage was 84.36%, which she achieved under difficult and challenging circumstances. WO2 Craucamp was the runner-up with an overall mark of 83.29%.

The rest of the students did exceptionally well and gave meaning to the following words: “You can run, but you cannot hide”. 

ABOVE: Making a print from a spoor.
Internship at Military Psychological Institute an amazing journey

Article and photo by Yasmeen Ebrahim, Military Psychological Institute

There comes a time at the end of every year when we look back in retrospection and evaluate where we have been, and look forward, in hope and anticipation to where we may be going. In order to embrace the new we must release the old. Release it, but learn from it. We, the Military Psychological Institute (MPI) interns, look back at 2011 with mixed feelings: sad that the year is at an end, proud of all we have achieved, excited (and a little nervous) to be entering the world of work as registered psychologists, and thankful to all the members of MPI who, through their guidance and advice, have played a role in getting us to the brink of this new beginning.

The year 2011 was a year filled with learning, hard work and growth. We realised that even though we were “masters” of human behaviour in the workplace, we still had a lot to learn when it came to applying our knowledge in practice and managing our relationships with others. Each project we worked on not only allowed us to apply some of the knowledge we had acquired through our studies, but also gave us the opportunity to gain new knowledge and experience that could be carried forward to the next project. This was due to the mentorship of experienced individuals at MPI, who were never too busy to offer us advice and guidance. Working in different teams gave us the opportunity to discover the strengths of our team members as well as to build on our own.

I would like to share a handful of thoughts and reflections from some of the interns, with you.

The Beginning. David Schoeman said: “I was excited to start at MPI and enjoyed the first week’s orientation and induction. The members at MPI were all very welcoming and friendly. We felt accepted and included.”

Time for Tea. Azaria Beukes said: “Most of our experiences at MPI had an element of fun. We worked hard, but we also played hard. One morning we found not one, but two worms in our bottle of Douwe Egberts coffee. Dried out worms were not exactly our idea of breakfast that morning. We were ready to send a letter to the manufacturer of the coffee to tell them how disappointed we were, but on our way to our laptops our supervisor came in, grabbed a worm and started chewing on it! They were Mopani worms, put in our coffee by one of the seniors to ‘keep us out of the tea room’. When our supervisor choked on the worm because it was practically dust already we struggled to keep our composure and we all had a good laugh.”

Wisdom Gained and Challenges Faced. Renier du Toit said: “I learned to listen to other people and not just follow my own head.”

Abrie Malherbe said: “… the experience of MPI has shown me how to control myself better and that it is okay to cut loose and have some fun at times.”

Colette Lourens said: “Writing the board exam was quite challenging. Having studied for five years and not having much practical experience, I was fearful of having to apply my theoretical knowledge to a practical, complex work context.”

In Short. Liz Louw said: “MPI is like a family and it was wonderful to be able to share unique experiences and challenges. We had the opportunity to visit places and do work specific to the military - something we would not be able to do elsewhere. Absolutely an enjoyable year!”

Philip Yazbek said: “It was a year which proved to be great. We grew a lot and developed true and lasting friendships, creating memories of hard work, fun and leisure. We are grateful to our supervisor whose support meant a lot to us and would also like to thank everyone who contributed to this amazing journey.”

We look forward to the year ahead, confident and ready to embrace the new year with the skills and knowledge that our internship has provided. We hope that the interns of 2012 enjoy their experience and create memories to treasure during their year at MPI.
Robben Island diversifies rich historical attractions

Article and photo by Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserve

On 4 March 2011 the CEO of the Robben Island Museum, Mr Sibongiseni Mkize, at the opening ceremony of the restored heavy coast gun on the island, indicated that the World War II De Waal Battery display would incorporate an additional historical layer to the already impressive set of products at Cape Town’s world heritage and premier tourist site. This added another diverse narrative to the island’s rich history, which would be of interest to military tourists.

The Robben Island Museum together with the Department of Public Works, the Department of Arts and Culture, the SA Navy, MLB Architects and Armsgcor Dockyard all played a role in restoring the De Waal Battery and the 9.2-inch No 3 gun. Capt (SAN) Chris Dooner, SA Navy Fleet Logistics Division, played a significant role in restoring the gun and as a result this working display is able to traverse 360 degrees and its elevation has now been increased from -5 to 35 degrees.

Since the inception of international maritime trade the sea route around the Cape has been of strategic importance and coastal defences have been set up, beginning with the Dutch in 1652. The sites of over 60 forts, batteries and redoubts dating from the Dutch occupation can be identified around the coast of the Cape Peninsula, most of them on the shores of Table Bay. Most were positioned to defend the anchorage. Technology has since changed from smooth bore cannon firing round shot to more modern breech loading guns using streamlined ammunition, as typified by the restored gun.

During World War II Robben Island was fortified against attack by ships and aircraft. A gunnery school was situated on the island. Naval control of the degaussing range (it demagnetised ships’ hulls against magnetic mines) was operated from the island and in addition a separate naval control station for the anti-submarine loop system was also situated there.

Col Lionel Crook, former Deputy Director Artillery (Field) and the author of “Island at War”, in the opening address of the ceremony, indicated that “No 3 gun had a range of almost 30 km at supercharge. It represented the peak of coast gunnery development and remained so until coastal guns were declared obsolete in 1955”.

No 3 gun was manufactured by the Royal Gun Factory at Woolwich, London, in 1901 and was first issued on 23 September 1904. It arrived at the Cape in November 1940. It weighs 140 tons. Each piece was brought to Robben Island from the mainland using a barge specially constructed for this purpose. The gun was erected by human muscle, using only a hand operated 20 ton gantry.

The restoration of No 3 gun and the adjoining buildings, magazines and bunkers will give tourists an insight into the coastal defences on the island and around the Cape coast during World War II. While the restoration of the De Waal Battery was under way the rich hidden history associated with this period of the island emerged. This included the Women’s Auxiliary Army Service (AS WAAS) trained in coastal gunnery, the South African Women’s Auxiliary Naval Service (SWANs) trained in anti-submarine operations and the Cape Corps Gunners who had artillery and anti-aircraft roles.

Attending the opening ceremony were, among others, several former servicemen and women who had served on the island during World War II: Maj Gen Graham Moodie (Ret), Robben Island, Joan Rabkin, ex AS WAAS, SWANs Lucy Edwards and Jane Bates.

The Guard of Honour provided by the Maritime Reaction Squadron, Cape Field and Cape Garrison Artillery regiments did themselves proud by ensuring that the strong traditions and commitment of the artillery, past and present, were witnessed.

Anyone wishing to arrange a visit to Robben Island to view the De Waal Battery should contact the Robben Island Museum Media Officer, Shone Khangala, on 083 628 3428.
Mitchell’s Plain Festival brings the SANDF to the people

Article and photos by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

The Mitchell’s Plain Festival is an event that inter alia provides information and entertainment.

Every year this event also draws together business, youth and community organisations to celebrate the Cape Flats’ diversity. The first Mitchell’s Plain Festival was held in 2009. At this annual event exhibitors and traders have the option of selling or marketing their goods and services in an open or enclosed area. The festival also creates at least 200 part-time employment opportunities for people in and around Mitchell’s Plain, including Khayelitsha, the closest township, so it is a good medium for nation building.

The 2011 Mitchell’s Plain Festival was no different from the previous ones. The West Ridge Garden abounded with the usual activities and displays associated with this event. What was noteworthy this year was the fact that the SANDF participated for the first time from 25 to 27 November 2011. This was as per instruction of the Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke.

Gen Shoke deemed it prudent that the SANDF should take part as a perfect opportunity was presented to bring the SANDF in its entirety to some of most impoverished people in South Africa. By so doing the SANDF promoted awareness and understanding of the SANDF and its constitutional mandate. The Mitchell’s Plain Festival created a good platform for recruiting the youth, and therefore the need to rejuvenate the SANDF (Regular Force and Defence Reserves) with youth from different South African demographic groups was highlighted. The participation of the SANDF and the display of its military equipment at the Mitchell’s Plain Festival was aimed at assuring South Africans from all walks of life that the SANDF had what it took, that it was combat-ready, and therefore capable of protecting South Africa as an independent state.

The four Services, namely the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service brought their tools of the trade to the display for all to see what made them a formidable force.

The SA Army displayed its battle equipment, ranging from historical communication equipment to the recent sophisticated type. Squadron Warrant Officer, WO1 Andrew Cedras from 71 Signal Unit at Fort iKapa, was a member of the communication team at the Mitchell’s Plain Festival. He explained the importance of communication in a battle, saying: “Professional communication, co-ordination and information protection in a combat situation can be the defining factor between losing or winning, as command, instruction and clear comprehension are vital in the military”.

An SANDF show would not be complete without a display of guns, after all a healthy defence force must be able to flaunt its firepower with confidence. An array of guns was on display. Cpl Leonard Harris, Operational Clerk from 9 SA Infantry Battalion, did a splendid job of explaining and pointing out the different guns and their functions and how the SANDF utilised them in combat.
focus on youth

The Cape Town Highlanders’ mechanised unit displayed its newly acquired Ratels. These battle vehicles had been only three months with the unit. Not only did the public have a chance to see them at close range, they were also afforded an opportunity to enter them freely.

The SA Military Health Service took this opportunity to offer an invaluable service, namely of raising awareness about HIV and AIDS, with the theme: “Know your status”. Voluntary HIV testing, pre and post HIV and AIDS testing, counselling and referrals were done. Basic first aid kits were freely distributed. Safe sexual behaviour was also promoted by distributing both male and female condoms. The SANDF’s participation in these community activities always causes public excitement and helps unravel the mystery of the military.

ABOVE: Seaman Johan de Klerk from the Protection Services, Simonsberg Unit, showing a young person who is interested in joining the SA Navy how to operate a 12.7 mm Browning machine-gun.

ABOVE: WO1 Gerhardt Minnaar, SO3 Machinery and Recruitment: DHR Acquisition Regional Office, Western Cape, explains how to join the SANDF to members of the public who were intrigued by the display.

ABOVE: Cpl Leonard Harris, an operational clerk at 9 SA Infantry Battalion, behind the 40 mm y3 AGL machine gun.

ABOVE: Young and old alike were excited about the military, as may be seen in the photo of father and son on the De Kat tanker.
Defence (WP) Golf Club again the SANDF Golf Champions

Article and photo by S Sgt Colin Fitch from Defence (WP) Golf Club

If golf is your passion, then I suggest you try and find a post in Cape Town. 2011 went down as a year of major advancements and achievements for military golf in the Western Cape. Owing to the enthusiastic Chairmanship of Col Tol Snyman and his dedicated committee, the Defence (WP) Golf Club has continued to grow from strength to strength.

The club has five very exciting and competitive leagues running from January right through to November. These are the Inter-services Betterball League, the Inter-services IPS League, the Matchplay league, the Ocean Basket Challenge and the Fed (WP) Cup. The Fed (WP) Cup competition is on similar lines to the very successful FedEx Cup on the PGA tour in the USA, the Matchplay. The Matchplay League is contested by the top 32 players from the previous year’s league ratings. The Ocean Basket Challenge Cup is held over the best 18 holes in various clubs in and around Cape Town from January to November.

A total of 10 teams and well over 120 golfers participated in the league and club events in 2011. They were made up of currently serving, retired and Defence Reserves from the SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy, and SA Military Health Service and an invitational team from the Correctional Services.

In addition to these events the club also competed in an Inter-forces Challenge over three rounds with members from the SA Police Service and Correctional Services in the Western Cape. This series was immediately followed by another two days of a President’s Cup format event by the same teams.

The Defence (WP) Golf Club also ran their annual Club Championship over two days and has been actively involved in hosting an event in the Sanlam Cancer Challenge. This is combined with the many WP Golf Union events that the club supports and participates in.

Defence (WP) golfers have continued to dominate the annual SANDF Golf Championships and 2011 was no exception.

The Defence (WP) Golf Club has implemented a very strong and active development programme, which has seen many new young golfers of colour hitting the fairways and greens. The development clinics are being run by the newly appointed Development Officer for the Club with strong support from the Cape Town Military Sports Club. These clinics are held at the ASB Western Cape, Simon’s Town and the Vodacom Golf Village on a regular basis. There are currently 33 golfers under development, 15 of whom are women.

Defence (WP) Golf Club National Results in 2011

- SANDF Golf Champions: Defence (WP) Golf
- SANDF Golf Championships’ Veteran Champion: Sgt M. Jacobs (SA Army)
- SANDF Golf Championships - B Division Champion: S Sgt P. Layman (SA Army)
- WO2 A. Prins (SA Navy)
- Matchplay Cup Champion: Mr L. Saayman (Correctional Services)
- Matchplay Plate Champion: WO1 P. Capes (SA Navy)
- Inter-forces Challenge Cup Champions: SAPS
- Inter-forces Presidents Cup: SAPS
- Defence (WP) Golf Club Championships A Division Champion: WO2 A. Prins (SA Navy)
- Defence (WP) Golf Club Championships B Division Champion: Col T. Snyman (SA Army)
- Defence (WP) Golf Club Championships C Division Champion: WO2 V. Seini (SA Navy)
- Defence (WP) Golf Most Improved Player: WO2 E. Seymore (SA Navy)
- Any aspiring military golfers in the Western Cape who would like to find our more about the club or would like to join can contact Maj Kevin Bence on 021 5902806 or 083 3003915.

Further details regarding the club can be found on www.defencegolf.co.za or follow us on Facebook at Defence (WP) Golf Club.
Interacting with stakeholders through golf

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Chief of the SANDF Golf Day was held at the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane on 13 December 2011. The event was also meant to provide an opportunity to inform the relevant stakeholders about pertinent issues affecting the DOD/SANDF as well as to strengthen relations with stakeholders.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, welcomed members and other invited guests on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, and wished them an enjoyable day.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “In the SANDF we always try to establish and maintain healthy relationships with our stakeholders. These relationships are important to us and assist in meeting our mandate to provide effective defence for our democratic state. We are therefore appreciative of your support, which over the years continues to grow.”

It was envisaged that the Golf Day would achieve objectives that could render the organisation recognisable and effective. This includes building new relations and strengthening existing ones between the DOD and its stakeholders, promoting the image of the DOD and providing an opportunity for professionals from different industries to compete against each other in an informal environment.

Lt Gen Masondo said that the SANDF continued to win the trust of ordinary citizens of the country by supporting the state whenever called upon to do so. He added: “Our support to other security agencies has helped to reduce criminal activities. Whenever the health system has challenges the people of our country can count on the SANDF to continue providing access to essential health care. This includes the work we do in rural communities that find themselves in distress because of natural disasters.”

He paid homage to and proclaimed his admiration for Minister Lindiwe Sisulu’s ability to address long-standing challenges in the SANDF, which includes the transformation of service conditions in the SANDF and the formulation of the Permanent Service Commission. Lt Gen Masondo said: “These challenges are informed by the new defence environment that we live in today. The new environment requires new thinking and new approaches. To this end, as leadership in defence, we remain committed to creating a dependable, agile and flexible Human Capital Base in the National Defence Force. We in the SANDF shall continue to carry out our mandate as a disciplined force for good.”
SANDF athletes from all over South Africa descended on Port Elizabeth for the SANDF 42.2 km Championships on 3 December 2011. In attendance were 80 male and female athletes, officials and executive committee members representing territorial teams from parts of Gauteng (Pretoria and Johannesburg), the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West and Western Cape. Athletics SANDF road running in conjunction with SANDF Eastern Cape presented the SANDF Marathon Championship.

The SANDF 42.2 km Championship formed part of the Aspen PE City Marathon running event, which was an open race over distances of 10 km and 42 km presented by the Crusaders Athletic Club. The route was an Out and Back, a very fast and flat course through scenic and residential smallholdings. The difference between the highest and lowest point is only 70 metres. The 10 km race was run as an out and back course over the first five kilometres of the marathon route. Weather conditions did not favour the runners as it was raining with a very strong south-westerly wind, which influenced the runners’ performances. A total of 525 athletes finished the 42.2 km race, and 285 the 10 km race.

42.2 km open race

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was S Sgt S. Mkize from the Athletic Club Free State (1 SA Tank Regiment), an overall 6th position out of the 525 runners who finished in a time of 2 hours 39 min 38 seconds. The SANDF runner-up was Rfn F.G. Nkoane from the Athletic Club Mpumalanga (4 SA Infantry Battalion) in a time of 2 hours 44 min 42 seconds, in overall 9th position. The third SANDF runner was Pte N.L. Dladla also from Athletic Club Mpumalanga (4 SA Infantry Battalion) in a time of 2 hours 45 min 42 seconds in overall 12th position.

The first SANDF Veteran was Sgt I.P. Mokhobo from Athletic Club Free State in a time of 2 hours 47 min 42 seconds, in overall 16th position.

These runners obtained their silver medals for running under the three hour cut-off time. The first SANDF female was Lt Col J.J. Austin from Athletic Club Gauteng - Pretoria (SA Army College) in a time of 4 hours 31 min 21 seconds. Head Committee members ran the 10 km as they had to be back before the 42 km runners to finalise the results for the 42 km race.

Winners

Provinces were divided into an A and B league according to athletes’ strength during the Sandf 42.2 km Championships.

Winner in the Women’s category:
Lt Col J.J. Austin from Athletic Club Gauteng – Pretoria (SA Army College) in a time of 4 hours 31 min 21 seconds.

Winner in the Senior Men’s category:
S Sgt S. Mkize from Athletic Club Free State (1 SA Tank Regiment) in a time of 2 hours 39 min 38 seconds.

Winner in the Team category:
League A: Gauteng – Pretoria
League B: Mpumalanga

Winner in the Veteran Men’s (40 to 49) category:
Sgt I.P. Mokhobo from Athletic Club Free State (Army Support Base Bloemfontein) in a time of 2 hours 47 min 42 seconds.

Winner in the Team category:
League A: Free State

Winner in the Master Men (50 to 59) category:
CPO J. Paul WP (Naval Base Simon’s Town) in a time of 2 hours 58 min 30 seconds.

Winner in the League A category:
Western Province

* Members of the SANDF and DOD are invited to become members of a road-running club or walking club by signing up at the various SANDF road-running or walking clubs in each province.
In the belly of “The Beast”

By Sarah van Rooyen, a potential SA Air Force member

As many might know I am an aviation nut. I love working with aircraft, learning new things and getting my hands dirty, which is no problem for me. My love has grown for the military and the military aircraft because I have worked with them at a few air shows and on Saturdays at the Harvard Club of South Africa.

The first time I laid eyes on the C-130 Hercules was three years ago at the Swartkop Air Show. It is also known as “The Beast”, and is a medium transport aircraft. I had only seen it in pictures before that and I knew there was something different and special about this plane. I knew from the minute I saw the Hercules that that was the aircraft that I wanted to fly.

I had never been allowed in or around the Hercules and this made me want to experience it, see it, smell it and touch it even more. Every time I see the Hercules fly past my heart jumps for joy and I take flight with the Hercules. It is almost as if my heart is doing a dance to mimic every move of the Hercules.

I had wanted to visit 28 Squadron for a long time and F Sgt Benjamin William Pearce, a tactical and operational operator, was kind enough to organise a tour for me around 28 Squadron to learn more about the C-130.

It all started when I entered the gate of the Squadron and seeing all the Air Force guys around me made me feel honoured to be there. The mechanics were in and out all the time. You could see they were busy at work because of the oil on their arms and how they talked to each other gesticulating with their spanners and not just with empty hands. It gave meaning to their conversations.

The ops room is neatly organised so that they can find things on request and not have to fumble around when something or someone is needed in a rush and everybody knows where they must be and what they must do.

WO1 Hennie Pretorius, Log for Ops, was kind enough to take me on a tour around the Hercules and tell me a little bit about the aircraft and just what it was capable of.

The moment I walked into the hangar the wonderful aroma of fuel, oil, rubber and metal filled my nostrils.

I learnt things about the C-130 Hercules that I had not known before, and the more I learnt about things like where it could land, the number of passengers, paratroopers, casualties, fuelling, crew, where the best seats are in the belly, the cockpit, how the engines are started with compressed air and the cargo that it can take, the more I wanted to know. The places that 28 Squadron has been to are amazing and it shows the passion that each person has for this Squadron. I also learnt that it could land on and take off from an aircraft carrier and virtually any other surface, from snow to tar, and it has truly uncanny capabilities. Aircraft companies are not going to be able to replace “The Beast” anytime soon.

After the design was completed the prototype took to the skies on 13 August 1954. It then entered service in December 1956. The SA Air Force received the Hercules in service in 1963. It can carry 92 troopers, 64 paratroopers and 74 stretchers. The Hercules became a favourite among pilots. It has served the SA Air Force for 49 years and there should be many more to come.

I had the privilege of meeting Maj Caro “Chucky” Duven, our lady pilot on the C-130. She is an amazing woman who has achieved so much. Maj Duven is a true inspiration to me and I am sure many can say the same! Hard work pays off and dreams can be achieved, as she has achieved her dreams!

Seeing the many squadron badges on the passageway wall shows how many other squadrons have come to love 28 Squadron, its people and of course the Hercules. You can spend a whole day talking about the history of each squadron and the things they do.

When I ended my visit to 28 Squadron I felt like I had travelled the many journeys that the crew and the Hercules had travelled. I was also sad that I was leaving my little bit of heaven; I wanted to stay there.
Break the pattern of abusive behaviour

By Col (Rev) Pieter Oberholzer, Chaplain General HQ, SSO ETD

A talented young rugby player tells the story of how he and his mother were abused by his alcoholic father. “We were intimidated, threatened, humiliated, verbally abused and physically assaulted. Sometimes we had to hide from him and sometimes we had to run away from his violent behaviour and ask for a place to sleep with friends or neighbours.”

“After a night of violence my dad reacted in a number of ways. Sometimes there was absolute denial. On other occasions he put the blame on us. Or he minimized the situation: ‘it is not so serious.’ And then the ultimate: he instilled fear in us by threatening to commit suicide.”

These are typical situations that people who are subject to abusive behaviour have to deal with. Rape, domestic violence and child abuse are some of the most common forms of abusive behaviour, but abusive behaviour has many faces. It includes emotional, physical, sexual, financial and other forms of abuse. Abuse and domestic violence occur within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds and economic levels. Not only women and children are abused. Men are also often abused through manipulative behaviour and even verbal and physical attacks.

Wherever people live in fear, are humiliated, criticised, belittled and forced into things that they do not want to do, there is a strong possibility of abusive behaviour. Let us put it straight: none of these things is acceptable. Neither is it acceptable for one person to slap, punch, kick, choke or bite another person or to point a gun at that person.

Every person has the right to feel valued, respected and safe. From a Christian perspective you are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). You are his representative on earth and very precious in his eyes. Therefore you must break this cycle and free yourself and your children from it.

How can it be done? First you must understand that you are not the guilty party. You do not deserve to be treated in such a disrespectful way. You must also break away from a victim mentality. God did not create you to be abused by anybody. You were created to fulfil your potential and to enjoy life in abundance (John 10:10).

The following steps are useful in breaking the pattern of abusive behaviour. Stop the abuse! Get help if you cannot do it on your own. Then identify your own feelings of denial, resentment and anger and deal with them. Reconstruct the situation in your mind. (Turn it from a negative, destructive situation into a positive situation.) Then forgive the transgressor. Feelings of hatred can withhold you from a new start. Forgiveness through the help of God makes you free. Finally, let go of the past and move on! And what if I am the abuser? God is also prepared to start all over with you (Isaiah 1:18). Confess your sins, make a strong decision that you will not fall into that destructive behavioural pattern again and ask God to help you.

This is a good start, but you (abuser and abused) may need professional help to overcome the situation. Do not hesitate to contact your chaplain, social work officer or a psychologist for assistance.
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