Exercise SEBOKA
The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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Shereno Printers
10 Atlas Road
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EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor: Ms Nelda Pienaar
Deputy Editor: Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Editorial Staff: Mr Kgabo Mashamaite
S Sgt Lebogang Thaole
Sgt Elias Mahuma
Cpl Ally Rakoma
Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

Text Editor: Mr Eugene Muller
Translation Consultant: Directorate Language Services
Distribution: Mr Jim Tshabalala
Tel: (012) 355 6341

Layout & Design: Mr Werner van der Westhuizen
Running in the night on the runway

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FRONT COVER: Exercise SEBOKA. Read how the SA Army demonstrated the combat readiness of the SANDF with an impressive display of armoured vehicles, aircraft and infantry as part of the live-fire Exercise SEBOKA on pages 14 and 15. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za

ABOVE: Mr Thabang Makwetla, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, pays tribute to deceased South African soldiers of World War II during the SANDF’s commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein at the El Alamein war cemetery on 20 October 2012. (Photo: Mr Kgabo Mashamaite)
W e start this edition on a sombre note as we pay tribute to one of our young heroes - Pte Vincent van der Walt (23). He strove to create peace and stability in the Sudan and served South Africa with loyalty and pride until the end …

Pte Van der Walt was killed in an ambush on 17 October 2012 while travelling in a convoy in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

Our sincere condolences go to his family and friends. They are in our thoughts and prayers. May the Almighty carry them through these difficult times. Read about our hero and peacekeeper on page 5.

On a lighter note we would like to boast about our first SA Military Observer Commander deployed on the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Congo. Through this appointment Lt Col Randall Williams became the first African Military Observer Commander since the establishment of the Mission in 1999. Read all about a true ambassador of the Republic of South Africa on page 10.

On page 13 we thank our selfless warriors on deployments. These SANDF members are aware that they will be away from their families and loved ones during the festive season. It is for this reason that the Goodwill Parcel Project was established, namely to acknowledge and appreciate their sacrifices over the festive season.

This month our Senior Journalist, Mr Kgabo Mashamaite, covered the 70th Commemoration of the Battle of El Alamein in Egypt. Read of South Africa’s tribute to fallen soldiers of World War II in Egypt on pages 24 to 26.

Regular readers of SA Soldier will know that Mr Mashamaite has been responsible for many of the informative features that have appeared in SA Soldier over the past few years and for an impressive number of sport and front cover stories as well. Sadly, Mr Mashamaite has decided to join the SA Police Service and will be writing for them in future. I am sure you will join us in wishing him all the best on his new career path.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

S iqala lolushicilelo ngomoya ophansi ngoba sikhumbula elinye laqaghaweho ethu asemancane-Pte Vincent van der Walt, obeneminyaka engamashumi amabili nantathu (23). Ubelwela ukudala uXolo nozinzo kwelase Sudan, lafho esebenze khona emmele iniNgingizimu Africa ngokuzimisela, nokwethembeka kanye nokuzigqaja kwaze kwaba sekuqinceni.

Pte van der Walt washona emva kokuthi yena nozakwabo belalelele unyendile ngosuku luka 17 ku Mfumfum 2012 ngesikhathi besendleleleni endaweni yase Darfur e Sudan.


Kwezijabulisayo, siziqcqa ngowokuqala waseNgingizimu neAfrika woMhlabho weZeMphi onguMhloli noMkhuzi ojutshwe iNhlanganano yamaZwe oMhlabho yomsebenzi woZinzo e Congo. Ngakelo kuqokwa kwakhe u Lt Col Randall Williams ungowokuqala kulelizwekeza lase Africa ukuba anikezwe lesisikhundla sokuba uMkhuzi noMhloli kuloku kwasungulwula lomsebenzi wokuzukazulula noxolo ngo nyaka ka 1999. Funda konke ngalesi sethenjwa esiqotho sase Ngingizimu ne Africa ekhasini leshumi (10).

Ekhasini leshumi nantathu (13) sibonga izigquqgulu ezijutshwe ukudala uXolo emazweni ahluahlutukene. Lamalunga ombutho wezokuvikele ayakwazi kakhwe ukuba azobe esenza kude nemindani kanye nabathandiveyo babo, kulekhismizuzi. Ingxena yalesizathu kwakwasungulwula uhlelo lokuphangesihle ukuzu kugqakambiswe futhi kwaziswe ukuzincikela kwabo ngesikhathi sikanjibijane.

Kulenyanga, intatheli yethu enkuku, uMnuz Kgabo Mashamaite, uhambele umgubho wamashumi ayisikhombisa (70) weMphi yase El Alamein e Gibhithe. Funda ngomlando wamasotosha ase Ngingizimu ne Africa, a phangalala kwimpi yoMhlabo yesibili e Gibhithe ekhasini lamashumi abali bani (24) kuya kwelamashumi amabili nesithupha (26).


Nelda Pienaar
UMhleli SA Soldier

* Translation to isiZulu by Mr Manelisi Ndaba.
A Hero and Peacekeeper died in the Sudan

Former President Nelson Mandela is the hero of the world, someone who strives for peace. Our own hero - Pte Vincent van der Walt - strove for peace and stability in a war-torn part of the world - the Sudan, North Darfur. He served his country, South Africa, with loyalty and pride.

Pte Van der Walt started his military career in 10 SA Infantry Battalion in January 2011 as part of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake in Mahikeng, North West. He was well respected by his peers and superiors and after his appointment as the chairperson of the troops’ forum he assisted in the upgrading of the unit.

He was a well trained soldier who was prepared to serve the SA Army in external operations beyond the borders of the Republic of South Africa. It was a great honour for him to serve his country on such a prestigious mission.

God had His plan with this young soldier. He did God’s work at a very young age by touching our hearts and teaching us the meaning of life. He had brilliant dreams for the future and was not afraid to go for them. Now he has left us behind to go to Heaven. Pte Van der Walt might have become the General of tomorrow. His inspiration, love and positive attitude would have changed a nation. He followed in the footsteps of his hero, Mr Mandela, because he had the same wishes and dreams for a better life for all people.

He is our hero of the present, our hero who sacrificed everything that mattered to him so that he could make his country - South Africa - proud. He will be honoured by many, remembered by many and his legacy will live forever. A hero is never forgotten and, Pte Van der Walt, your name is written in the history books. Those who come after us will know about your heroism and courage in striving for peace. You left your footprints on the soil of the Sudan, footprints of peace.

Pte Van der Walt, we salute you. May your soul rest in peace. Maj S.P. Strydom (10 SAI Bn: Operation Cordite 2IC) and Pte T.A. Nelson (a colleague and close friend), email

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

The mortal remains of Pte Vincent Mthuthuzeli van der Walt were received at AFB Waterkloof on 2 November 2012. The members of the SANDF led by the General Officer Commanding of Joint Operations Headquarters, Maj Gen William Nkonyeni, media representatives and family members received the body during the Receival of Mortal Remains Ceremony conducted by 21 SA Infantry Battalion members in honour of the brave South African soldier who laid down his life for peace and stability in Africa and the world.

The body was received and then transported to Klerksdorp for a full military funeral service conducted on 3 November 2012. Pte Van der Walt (23) was killed in an ambush on 17 October 2012 while travelling in a convoy in the Darfur region of the Sudan. During the ambush two other SANDF members, Cpl Kabelo Ronald Sebe and Pte Thabiso Sydwell Makhena, sustained injuries.

The funeral was attended not only by senior SANDF members but also by provincial politicians and members of the public who appreciated the efforts of the SANDF in ensuring the return of the body.

To create a better South Africa and a better Africa in a better world, we need members of Pte Van der Walt’s calibre who are prepared to SERVE, SUFFER and SACRIFICE. Capt (SAN) Z. Sithole, email
WHAT MAKES A TRUE LEADER

We live in a world suffering greatly from a crisis in leadership; in this issue we examine what makes a true leader. It is given that leadership is the heart of any organisation. It is important to ensure that leadership structures are in place before we start any project or organisation. Most of the people are not aware that obtaining a position of leadership is determined by the way we conduct ourselves when we are in authority, our responsibility and our ability to make a decision.

The best leaders are those who inspire others to come together towards the achievement of higher aims. Most innocent people lose their way and sometimes their lives due to manipulation, control and the resulting satanic carnage. In order to be a true leader it is important to know how to win power and influence people around you. We live in a world where people have to be liars and hypocrites before they can be considered as true leaders.

Today, we see leaders failing to display good leadership because they have a myopic and distorted view of themselves and things become worse as they gain more power. Through this experience it is clear that power tends to corrupt many leaders and the problem lies in the human heart. God warns against selfish leadership and He instructs them to be true, unselfish leaders.

A true leader might well enjoy the company of some more than others, but he still intends and strives to treat everyone with fairness and equity. It is a fact that human beings are given suffering; some of them do not even have homes. The biggest question is: why do we not give soldiers what they deserve? Now they are like tractors that build the road for small cars. The Zulu expression: “into enhle iyaconowywa” means if a person does something good for you, you have to say thanks to that person. As a young South African I want to take this opportunity to say thanks to all the soldiers who have played a very important role for our country to get freedom and those who offered their blood - may they rest in peace! Khulekani Nhleko, Nongoma

THE DEATH OF THE SERGEANT MAJOR AND THE NCO

When I joined the army in 1995 I was trained at Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. Our Company Commander was a Major and the Second-in-Command was a Captain. There were seven platoons, each with a Lieutenant as a Commander. A Sergeant Major Class 2 was in charge of the company. One Staff Sergeant and seven Corporals were in charge of each platoon.

During our training we were taught that there were two rank groupings in the SA Army - the officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs). Both these rank groupings function parallel to each other and are equally important to the defence force - the officers at the command and the NCOs at the supervisory level.

All the platoon sergeants were Corporals and the most respected were nicknamed “leaders of men”. The Sergeant Major rank was the unique one, as it was the link between the officers and NCOs. As a link the Sergeant Major was an officer and an NCO at the same time. We were taught that a Second Lieutenant was equal to a Lance Corporal, a full Lieutenant to a Corporal. A Sergeant was equal to a Captain; a Staff Sergeant who was a senior NCO was equal to none. A Major was a company commander equivalent to a Sergeant Major Class 2 and their salaries were more or less the same.

There are three companies in a battalion and the Commander is a Lieutenant Colonel assisted by a Sergeant Major Class 1. In this case the Sergeant Major Class 1 is not the subordinate of the Lieutenant Colonel; they are equally in charge - the Lieutenant Colonel in command and the Class 1 Sergeant Major at supervisory level. The battalion commander and the Sergeant Major Class 1 are subordinate to the regimental commander who is a Colonel and the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM). Under no circumstances is the RSM a subordinate of a

I SAY THANKS TO THEM!

I want to extend my appreciation to all South African soldiers who spent their time fighting for freedom in our country. Most of the time we do not appreciate soldiers for their contributions in South Africa’s freedom. Now those who were soldiers during apartheid are

THE WINNING LETTER

Capt Paulos Mlangeni,
AFB Bloemspruitz

Capt Paulos Mlangeni,
AFB Bloemspruitz

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters concerning the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be published - Editor.
A SERGEANT MAJOR CLASS 1. How can he be taught that on parade he is equal to everybody wants to be an officer - to the NCO rank and as a result rank has been amplified to be superior to the Platoon Commander? Please help subordinate of a Lieutenant who is the Formation Sergeant Major.

The Formation Commander and the Brigade Sergeant Major: in our case to the Brigade Commander and the Officer Commanding is subordinate to the Colonel. The Colonel who is a unit Captain, a Major or a Lieutenant Colonel, let alone a Lieutenant, a

Africans I gave you a land to live on, yet you are not pleased with that. I gave my name to you, so you are the ones who bring me grief and sorrow. I produce food on my soil for you, yet you do not appreciate that. I kept you on my land, yet you are the ones who bring sorrow to me. You do not appreciate anything. Am I not doing enough for you Africans? You are a burden that I am tired of bearing. Oh Africans why, my people why?

You spill innocent blood on my soil, yet you expect me to be pleased with you. You abuse children on my land, yet you expect me to be pleased with you. You do terrible things in my caves, on my mountains, in my lakes and you call part of my land battlefields, yet you expect me to keep quite. Have you forgotten your principle? The principle of UBUNTU? Where is brotherhood, where is sisterhood?

Even when you lift your hands in prayer, I do not look at you. No matter how much you pray, I am not pleased, for your hands are covered with innocent blood. Now listen to what I expect you to do. Wash yourselves and be clean. Let me no longer see your evil deeds. Yes stop doing evil on my land, then I will be pleased with you and you will live in peace on me Africa. Learn to do good, seek justice, defend the orphans and fight for the rights of the widows. Keep the principle of ubuntu with you at all times. F.K.L. Pogo, Middelburg

MONEY CANNOT BUY LOVE

Life is so precious that to lose it unnecessarily is unacceptable because we are all “images” of God and it must only be He who decides to answer everyone’s call not just a certain individual for reasons of his or her own.

My concern is the pain that some of us are experiencing caused mainly by “money”. Our brothers and sisters are “leaving” this world because they lose their lives for reasons only known to the perpetrator. There are many husbands and wives who spend their lives behind bars because some have terminated their partner’s lives for reasons of greed and wanting to live well.

Sometimes it is hard to figure out why many relationships are falling apart. For some, relationships are painful lessons in life as they end up losing their partners because of unfaithfulness to each other or because of certain problems that are part of any relationship, some of which can be fixed and some not. We must also understand that to have a future in our relationships we must be glad about our lives and appreciate it, and not say: “Life is not worth living”.

The killing of partners for commercial gain must be condemned. The worst part of it is that it impacts negatively on children. Imagine what your children will say when they find out that their dad’s death was caused by their mom, who will spend the rest of her life languishing in jail. Surely hatred and anger will be felt by the children for the perpetrator.

If this trend does not stop, it will lead to partners being afraid to discuss their financial problems for fear of their lives being ended. This is enough to destroy many marriages as there will be no communication, which is one of the pillars of a good relationship. Let there be trust between each other for the sake of peace and prosperity.

Loyalty, faithfulness and love for each other unconditionally form the basic foundation of living a happy life and both partners will be committed to each other. Let us be there for each other and build the future of our beloved children, as our precious rainbow nation need us all and we must remember that we enjoy life when we give with passion and live with compassion and life is hard by the yard, but by the inch, life is flinch. Pte P.H. Damente, email

AFRICA REPRIMANDS HIS PEOPLE

My name is Africa. I am the biggest continent whose population knows what the spirit of ubuntu means. I have something to tell you my good people of Africa. I mean you Africans. Now listen to what I have to tell you Africans. You spit on me, yet you expect me to be pleased with you. You burn down my vegetation, yet you expect me to be pleased with you. What wrong have I done to deserve this? What wrong have I done to you Africans? I am drowning in a pool of blood, yet you do not seem to care. You bury my children all over my land, yet you want me to bless you. You cannot wait to commit murder, yet you want me to keep you safe. Even my leaders do not take my advice anymore.

You do not care about me at all, but I gave you a place to stay. When I tell you this, you tell me that. You do not take my advice anymore. When I call you, you seem deaf to say. When I tell you this, you tell me that. You do not care about me at all, but I gave you a place to stay. When I tell you this, you tell me that. You do not take my advice anymore. When I call you, you seem deaf to say. When I tell you this, you tell me that. You do not care about me at all, but I gave you a place to stay. When I tell you this, you tell me that. You do not take my advice anymore.
“AS I MOVE OUT OF THE DOOR, I DO SO WITH HUMILITY AND GRATITUDE”

Now that the time has come for me to exit the SANDF and the DOD on retirement, and to join those who left before me, I would like to thank the great men and women who led me and commanded me during my stay in this wonderful organisation.

This is an organisation that opened opportunities for me to develop further and for the good and success of our nation and country. In it I found a home and space to work cordially with fellow countrymen and women who proudly served this organisation with honour and love for the country.

I have become doubly enriched with knowledge, particularly of the value system that characterise the nature and image of this organisation as sustained by its distinguished membership and its exemplary leadership. The governance system that I have lived with and positively experienced in the organisation is guided by such profound and far-reaching values such as teamwork, team-spirit, team-allegiance, team-goals, team-effort, team achievement, collective spirit and esprit de corps. They guide our conduct, our behaviour and our way of doing things in a manner that encourages discipline, respect, adherence to the command system, acknowledgement of seniority, and sustain the ethos that is relevant to the nature and culture of the organisation.

Once again, guided by the able leadership that we have, these values have become the cornerstones of unity, togetherness, oneness, synergy and cohesion across all the ranks, and they affect both the members and employees of the DOD. These values have encouraged me to think as part of a collective, to behave in a manner such that I can account to the collective, trust the collective and the leadership under any circumstance and at any time. So many members that I came across impressed me with their open readiness to work with anybody that can build them up, that can nurture maturity in them, that can guide and enrich them with knowledge while at the same time learning from one another.

In my humble opinion this mutual existence, mutual concern, mutual growth and the spirit of extendedness to one another has made and continues to make this organisation the greatest in government. I am grateful to be associated with this organisation because it is pro-everybody in terms of its stand against unfair discrimination based on gender, race, language, disability and a plethora of other things. It strengthens the weak through its military culture, it disciplines the undisciplined through a variety of constructive modes, including the courts, without fear or favour, and it transforms those clinging to the old ways of non-progressiveness, non-accommodation of equity, intolerant of new perspectives in a military system that is anti-nobody.

The people that led me were great people. Their demeanour showed readiness to mentor me, to guide me, to advise me and to show me the light in cases where I saw only darkness. They advised me to stay away from partisan politics and to be totally a-political, since the military profession is that of unequivocal allegiance to the state at all times. They exhibited their humanity and mature leadership by not discriminating against me, by not exposing my weaknesses in public, by not developing hatred against me, and by not excommunicating me or subjecting me to ridicule. I am so grateful to them because through their leadership I enjoyed working for the SANDF, the DOD and the government. Through their effort, selflessness, and sacrifices I became a proud and happy member of this organisation and now that I have to withdraw, I do so with humility and gratitude with immeasurable respect for them, from the organisation.

I also do so with a feeling of loss because I will certainly miss the military culture and the ethos embedded in it. I shall miss the salutes, the attentions, the pressure of work, the joy and happiness I had in the military, the instructions and the vigour with which they were issued, including the constructive reprimands I received to spur me on, to give me courage and to truly make me a servant of the nation.

I shall miss this wonderful uniform, the boots, the ranks I wore, the parades, the order of military life and the camaraderie that characterises it. I shall miss the military and the DOD community, including the good and selfless leaders that guided me throughout my life as an SANDF member. It is through this objective-focused leadership that I gained substantial knowledge of how to do things.

They understood my weaknesses and nurtured me in various ways to function as they required. I am deeply touched by their professionalism, honesty, hearts dedicated to the National Defence Force, belief in the empowerment of their personnel, and the level of trust they had in me despite the many follies and mistakes I committed in the whole process of gaining knowledge and learning from them. May they prosper and grow from strength to strength in the exercise of their leadership as they discharge their duties on a daily basis and their command responsibilities for the good of the organisation and country. May they flourish and tower tall above all the challenges that come their way, and may God bless them abundantly!

The scheme of life dictates that there will always be a beginning and an end. For me this is the end of an era and the beginning of another in a different environment with its own challenges, uphills and uncertainties.
As I move out of the door, I do so with humility, fulfilment and profound gratitude to the government, the DOD leadership, the SANDF leadership, the Chief of Human Resources and his Deputy, including my last supervisor, Maj Gen M. Mabuza. You are great and may the Good Lord bless all of you at work, bless you in your meetings, bless you in your offices, bless you on the roads, bless you in your homes, bless and strengthen you as you defend this great nation, and bless you with good health and happiness wherever you are.

I wish to part with a traditional Gaelic blessing quoted from former Officer Commanding Army Support Base Potchefstroom, Col A.H. Louw’s foreword to the Oak Indaba as follows: “May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

TSE SA KOPANENG KE DITHABA, GE E LE BATHO BA A KOPANA (meaning: We will meet again.) Brig Gen T.Z. Manyama, Pretoria

CHIEF JOINT OPERATIONS PRESTIGE GOLF DAY

A wonderful spring atmosphere reigned at the Services’ Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane on 31 August 2012 when various invited guests reported to participate in the 7th Chief Joint Operations Prestige Golf Day.

With Old Mutual as the main sponsor for the day, and various companies from the defence industry providing welcome relief in the form of refreshments at the various “waterholes” around the golf course, participating players were hard pressed not to enjoy themselves!

This annual event was officially opened by the Chief Joint Operations, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, and parachutists from the SA Air Force’s Golden Eagles and Special Forces. Thereafter the competition kicked off.

This day on the corporate calendar of Joint Operations Division is of importance to Chief Joint Operations, not only as a way of thanking long-standing friends and new stakeholders in the defence industry and business sector, but also to facilitate informal networking among military and civilian guests.

In his welcoming address Lt Gen Mgwebi stressed that the core business of force deployment by the Division, both inside and outside the Republic of South Africa, would not be possible without the support of these friends and partners. After a successful day of golf, members attended a prestige dinner hosted by Lt Gen Mgwebi.

The winning teams for the day received prizes – in the first place: SAAB (Market Area), second: SAAB SSG and third: SA Army Foundation. Mr Clint Carey had an interesting day and achieved the longest drive and came closest to the pin! Lt Gen Mgwebi had great pleasure in recognising the generous sponsorships that contributed to this day and presented certificates of appreciation to Old Mutual and Denel as the main sponsors. Margaret Retief, email

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A FERAL CAT

Ms C.J. Carstens from SA Army Signal Formation sent the following letters (request) on behalf of Madona, after she died:

You do not know me, though perhaps you have seen me. I am a feral cat staying at Wonderboom Military Base at the classrooms used by School of Signals for years. I am the one that makes sure the rats do not destroy the electric wiring in the vehicles. I also keep rats away from the dustbins by doing my own pest control! - feral cats are good at that.

My name was “Hobo Cat”. I was once starved and very dirty, my fur was in knots, my eyes and face not a pretty picture to look at, and I was thin and toothless. I was looking for food at the dustbins, the only feral cat food source before I was saved by a human. I did give her a hell of a fright she almost jumped into the dustbin, but she took pity on me.

She felt sorry for me and started to feed me on a daily basis, which is why she won my trust. She always talked to me and fed me on a daily basis, over weekends and during her leave. I am writing this letter because we as feral cats need help - your help!

My human is already paying to feed me, but I am not alone. I am eating soft food because I am toothless so I was thinking perhaps somebody will help me to help her with donations or to fund this project on a permanent base so that all of us territorially residents on this base can live a happy, healthy life!

I am old, but the males are starting to “fax”. I try to discourage them by showing my teeth, but since I am toothless they think I am smiling and willing - “typical”.

We have to go for a hysterectomy (sterilisation). I am ill and it is not that expensive because we (feral cats) are classified as wild animals.

I will be booked off, but I will not stay away from work too long, I promise.

Please thank all the members at the School of Signals that used to leave food away from work too long, I promise. Love.

Madona, email

Another letter from Madona:

I phoned my caretaker with bad news. According to the doctor I am between 14 and 17 years old and dying, the decision was made to put me to rest. The organ failure is irreversible because of malnourishment over the years.

I am grateful to my caretaker: she gives me love, life and good food and treats me like a queen: she cared for me when I needed it the most. My wish is that others learn from her and start taking care of us as we are also God’s creation. My caretaker cried for me because her love for me was pure and it came from the heart. I know that she will care for others as well when I am not around any more.

Thanks for the clean area where the dustbins are kept. Please keep it like that to prevent other feral cats from suffering the way I did. Love. Madona, email

letters to the editor

S A S O L D I E R

KOPANA

DITHABA, GE E LE BATHO BA A KOPANA

(letters)

S  A   S O L D I E R

(letters to the editor)

N O V E M B E R  2 0 1 2  •  S A   S O L D I E R

9
Lt Col Randall Williams of the SANDF (SA Army) was selected and appointed as Military Observer Commander, among twelve of the top Military Observers (Lt Col) on the MONUSCO (United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Congo) on 12 September 2012.

Through this appointment he became the first African Military Observer Commander since the establishment of the Mission in 1999. He came into contention for the post with other candidates such as from Pakistan, India, Paraguay, Uruguay, China, Nepal and Egypt, to mention but a few.

Historically members of the aforementioned countries have occupied the post of Military Observer Commander in each of the six operational brigades. In the end, Lt Col Williams was identified as one of the best team leaders and subsequently received the functional promotion as Military Observer Commander to the Ituri Brigade of MONUSCO. The Ituri Brigade is responsible for the safety and security of the largest province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), namely Orientale, which has the largest number of Military Observers from across the world. The six Military Observer Commander posts in the six operational brigades of MONUSCO are awarded as functional promotions to those who have exceeded the standards and have shown true commitment as team leaders in the 50 team sites of MONUSCO.

Lt Col Williams joined MONUSCO on 27 January 2012 as a Military Observer and was posted to various places in the DRC within the last eight months in the mission. He successively held the appointments as team leader of both TS 125 Tshikapa and TS 111 Mbandaka of the Western Brigade. This Senior Officer has received much praise for the good work he has rendered, and he also received a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Brigade Commander for the exceptional work he has done. Lt Col Williams is a true ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, and is known as a professional, creative and talented person. His positive energy and eagerness are known to MONUSCO.

Asked about his recent appointment, he commented as follows: “It is a true honour and privilege to serve South Africa in the International Operations Theatre. I am thankful to God for this blessing, and I am also thankful to my superiors in the SA Army who granted me this opportunity to deploy as a Military Observer. It is not nice to be away from your wife and kids, but if you work hard under immensely difficult circumstances with difficult characters from all over the world and the effort is recognised, I suppose it is all worth it. I am proud both to be a South African and at the level of training we receive in the SA Army. It has been proved that we are world-class soldiers who can compete against the best. It is very tough to be a Military Observer, and especially a Team Leader in the DRC. You must manage people, resources and challenging situations. In the end you can only fall back on what you have learnt back home, and make every minute count. The fact that you are well trained, well disciplined and enforce discipline and procedures makes it even worse because you also need to make friends at the same time. I am honoured to have been recognised as one of the best Team Leaders and for the functional promotion to Military Observer Commander. The challenge is now to make the SA Army and RSA even more proud by making a success of this huge responsibility. I am humbled at the faith shown by the MONUSCO hierarchy in entrusting this position to me, and the only thing that matters now is to excel to the benefit of the overall success of the mission in order to pave the way for peace and stability in the DRC and in Africa. I am just glad I can be a part of it and I hope I can represent the country well”.

The Military Observer Commander is responsible for the Military Observer functions of the Brigade, which entail the reporting and recording of all events concerning armed groups, the monitoring of embargoes, human rights violations, providing inputs to the Intelligence Collection Plan, liaison with all armed groups as neutral participants in the conflict, with the main aim of protecting civilians. These functions are carried out on a 24/7 basis in very tense conditions and without arms. Your only weapon is dialogue, impartiality and finding a peaceful agreed solution in the midst of life-threatening situations.

A Military Observer is the closest link to the public. Their function is also closely linked to the restoration of confidence in the public while collecting information and advocating peace. A Team Site functions as a rainbow concept of the respective nationalities from across the world and with all inherent unit functions, such as G1, G2, G3, G4, G5 and G6. The Team Leader co-ordinates the Team Site activities and takes the lead with all tasks in the required disciplines. He or she thus needs to have good knowledge of the Area of Responsibility (AOR) and have good knowledge of the different staff functions. The Military Observer Commander in turn is overall accountable to the Operational Brigade Commander for the effective Command and Control of all the Team Sites in the AOR and for all the functions of the respective disciplines indicated above.

Lt Col Williams has proven himself as exceptional in all the respective disciplines of the Operation and most who are closely associated with him describe him as a motivated, enthusiastic workhorse. He spends endless time at the office and this new post will suit him just fine, as his
attitude is that of a Commander. All his former team members agree: “He talks a lot, writes a lot and works a lot, but it is a sincere attribute which we appreciate. Each meeting and each patrol starts with a motivational speech, which can last up to 10 minutes”.

Lt Col Williams will be ending his mission in January 2013 and we trust that MONUSCO and the Ituri Brigade will benefit greatly from the passion and commitment of this Senior Officer. We salute Lt Col Randall Williams, wish him well in his new appointment and encourage him to keep the RSA flag flying high! Well done.

Maj Zola Nombinda, deployed in the DRC

PEACEKEEPERS

When I see peacekeepers
I see another chance to
Live, to smile
To laugh, to sleep
To wake up
To see
To dream
To run

To walk
To sit
To stand
To play
To talk
To keep quiet or talk
To eat
To drink

To sing
To dance
Unlike my relatives
My friends
My parents
My brothers
My sisters
My neighbour

Who paid the ultimate price with their lives
How long will the suffering carry on, Almighty we need Your divine intervention
God bless Africa

Capt T.J. Mabula, deployed in the Sudan

GOD-GIVEN TALENT

An outstanding and remarkable creative talent is that of Pte Lehlohonolo David Nyembe from 7 SA Infantry Battalion who was deployed at Zonstraal Military Base on the Swaziland border from 4 April to 9 October 2012. He has designed, built and sculpted an identification wall at Zonstraal Base with the aid of four members from the company. This is not his first work of art. He has also created art works at Modderfontein Base in Burundi and Pinga Base in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Charlie Company would like to applaud Pte Nyembe’s talent, although he is just a normal infantryman. His only wish is to be accepted at Works Regiment or Engineering Corps to realise his full potential.

L Cpl N.A Mkhatshwa, email

Pte Lehlohonolo David Nyembe has designed, built and sculpted an identification wall at Zonstraal Military Base on the Swaziland border.

PROUD LOGISTICIAN

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SANDF for the person that I am today. I joined the SANDF in January 2003 – the first intake of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS). I chose the Ordnance Service Corps. I have worked in different sections in the logistic environment of the SANDF.

I started to work at GSB Garrison in the procurement section as the order clerk. Then I went to work at DOD Maintenance Ordnance Depot as the verification clerk in January of 2005. In 2006 I went to the DOD Logistics Support Formation to do a National Codification System Course where National Stock Numbers are created. After the course I was detached to Logistics Support Formation.

In 2007 I went to Chief Logistics at the National Codification Bureau to create supplier codes. In 2008 I went for Officers Formation, after which I went to work at SA Army College as the Logistic Officer for two years. Then I was transferred to the DOD School of Logistics Training where I taught a lot of Ordnance Service Corps personnel about logistics.

Currently I am deployed in the Sudan for Operation CORDITE XV as the Procurement Officer.

In all the different sections where I have worked in the SANDF I have learnt a lot and it is all thanks to the SANDF. With the experience that I have in the logistic division I can go very far.

I thank the organisation and the people that I have worked with as I now have more knowledge and experience in logistics.

With my experience in logistics at the Ordnance Service Corps I am now giving back to the organisation as a facilitator at the School of Logistics. Not everyone can be a facilitator. The work of grooming and developing the youth of South Africa does not go unnoticed.

Capt T. Matanzima, currently deployed in the Sudan for Operation CORDITE XV
Minister opens her first DOD Strategic Planning Work Session

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, addressed delegates of the Department of Defence Strategic Planning Work Session at the Mabula Game Lodge in Bela Bela from 10 to 12 October 2012.

In her first official address at a DOD Strategic Work Session since she assumed office, the Minister highlighted some of the key areas that needed the attention of the delegates during the deliberations.

She mentioned that the work session was important as it came at a time when the Department was about to finalise the Defence Review and the government budget bidding processes for the next financial year.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “It is a period all over the world where governments are faced with the pressure of defence budget reductions and the need to balance military requirements with other competing social needs.”

The DOD has received an unqualified audit report for the financial year 2011/12 since 1994. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula praised the hard work of members of the National Defence Force: “I therefore take this opportunity to congratulate each and everyone of you on the sterling work you have done in this regard”.

She indicated that the DOD should base its long-term strategic planning on a solid policy framework and the Government’s outcome plan. She said that landward capabilities were in dire need of expansion in infrastructure and human resources, as the capacity of the SA Army had been negatively affected in terms of carrying out its mandate.

There has been progress in maritime security, particularly in the Mozambique channel. However, the Minister said she was concerned that commitments to regional maritime strategies were not funded. She pointed out that the DOD should work hand in hand with the Treasury to ensure that they afforded the necessary funding.

On the Defence Works Capability, the Minister advised that the DOD should resolve all its outstanding matters with the Department of Public Works and allow some of its responsibilities to be delegated to the Defence Works Formation.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) needed to focus on rejuvenation and acquiring critical skills. She said: “We need to address recruitment by targeting young people at a young age at schools and universities, and absorb critical skills that are needed in the National Defence Force.”

She indicated that those who were not absorbed could be redirected to other government departments or the private sector when the need arose. She added that the National Youth Service should also serve as a feeder system for other government departments.

On peacekeeping matters, the Minister had noted with concern the SA Military Health Service’s lack of field hospitals in deployment areas. She urged that the issue should be addressed urgently.

The SA Defence Review 2012 is expected to table its report before Parliament on 30 November 2012, which will be its last sitting.
South Africa can never completely enjoy the benefits of a democratic state if Africa is not completely free. When the SANDF sends its soldiers who have selflessly volunteered to go into African countries ravaged by civil war to restore peace they do it to liberate these countries from any internal threats that may disturb peace and stability.

The Goodwill Parcel Project (GWPP) was established to acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices of members of the SANDF who volunteer to be deployed in peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Sudan under the auspices of Operation Mistral. These SANDF members are aware that their decisions mean they will be away from their family and loved ones during the festive season.

On 23 October 2012 the SANDF Spouses Forum, GWPP and event sponsors visited the Bloemfontein Mobilisation Centre to bid farewell to these selfless SANDF warriors. It has become a tradition that a farewell parade is held closest to the departure date of the soldiers to be deployed. The parade was held to send off members in high spirits, to highlight the significance of their contribution to creating a better Africa and affording their family members and loved ones an opportunity to bid them farewell. The parade was commanded by Lt Col Thabo Motaung who was going on deployment to Kinshasa in the DRC. He will be commanding the special SANDF contingent dealing in logistics.

The chief functionary of the event, Maj Gen William Nkonyeni, (General Officer Joint Operations Headquarters) warned the soldiers in his farewell speech to be extremely cautious because they were going into volatile areas where rebels were attacking military personnel, especially in and around Goma in the DRC.

Maj Gen Nkonyeni told these soldiers due for deployment that they must be alert at all times as some civilians in parts of the DRC were reported to have attacked military vehicles. He instructed battalion commanders to take responsibility for the safety of members under their command.

He said: “I am telling you about all these real incidents in the areas where you will be deployed so that you can prepare yourselves psychologically before going into a war zone.”
The SA Army conducted Exercise SEBOKA at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohathla in October. Exercise Seboka was one of the most significant training events as it allowed elements within the SANDF to test their state of readiness on conventional battle tactics coordinated at the brigade level, with greater emphasis on command of the participating units.

Exercise Seboka is primarily a force preparation exercise aimed at training and exercising the landward force to enhance landward capability and combat readiness, and to integrate the respective combined Services of the SANDF. The SA Army conducted the exercise in pursuit of the Government’s mandate of ensuring that the safety of the citizens of South Africa.

The success of the exercise was clearly demonstrated by the various landward capabilities of the SA Army during the Open Day on 25 October 2012.
where the SA Army demonstrated the combat readiness of the SANDF with an impressive display of armoured vehicles, aircraft and infantry as part of the live-fire Exercise Seboka.

The demonstrations on the open day were an attempt to maintain healthy relationships with communities and to promote the image of the DOD.

The open day is a highlight on the SA Army calendar which attracts military personnel and civilians and provides a platform and opportunity for the SA Army to interact with all stakeholders and contribute to a better understanding of the SANDF’s internal and external roles. It also provides an opportunity to showcase SA Army capabilities and combat readiness through a significant and impressive exhibition of SA Army hardware.

The DOD in its commitment to support the SA Government’s diplomatic initiatives requires advanced and interoperable technology to participate in peace missions on the continent. The technology acquired and currently operated by the SA Army was displayed and demonstrated on the open day.

Training remains high on the DOD’s priority list to ensure that members are better equipped to utilise the acquired capabilities. This training is key if the SANDF is to continue succeeding in its quest to support the Government’s diplomatic initiatives to help eradicate conflicts in the region and on the continent.

Forces that participated in the exercise under the command of 46 SA Brigade were elements of 7 SA Infantry Battalion, 1 SA Infantry Battalion, 1 SA Tank Regiment, 1 Special Service Battalion, 4 Artillery Regiment, 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment, 10 Anti-Air Regiment, 2 Field Engineer Regiment, 16 Maintenance Unit and 101 Field Workshop.
Exercise IBSAMAR III - a multinational maritime exercise

By CPO Doreen Oosthuizen,
Senior Photojournalist
NavyNews
Photos: CPO Doreen Oosthuizen,
Lt Cdr (BN) Eduardo Raposo and
MAI (PH) Jagadish Deka

Task Force 23 comprising
SAS AMATOLA (F145), INS
DEEPAK (A50), INS DELHI
(D61), BNS BARROSÓ (V34)
and SAS UMZIMKULU
(M1142) sailed from Simon’s
Town for the first sea phase of
Exercise IBSAMAR III on 16 October
2012. Exercise IBSAMAR is a
maritime exercise between Brazil,
India and South Africa that takes
place every two years.

This third exercise off the coast of
South Africa, had a bumpy start with
a strong southeaster that delayed
sailing for a day. A strong team effort
between the Harbour Master, the
tugs and the Task Force (TF) vessels
ensured the TF got to sea safely. The
submarine SAS Queen Modjadji I,
which was part of the TF, remained
in Simon’s Town until ordered to join
the TF later in the exercise.

SAS UMZIMKULU swept the
channel to ensure a safe departure
for the TF before she returned to the
harbour. During day one, cross deck
landings took place, which provided
an opportunity for the helicopter
pilots and flight deck crews to
certify qualifications. These were
particularly challenging as they were
conducted in a very strong wind and
high swell conditions.

The Brazilian Lynx tested its landing
capabilities in gusting winds of over
20 knots before hooking safely onto
the harpoon grid of SAS AMATOLA
and being lashed down by the flight
deck crew for a few minutes. Still
closed up for flying stations, SAS
AMATOLA anxiously awaited the
arrival of the enormous Indian SEA
KING helicopter.

With ease the “beast”
touched down for a few
seconds while the flight deck
crew stood pinned to the
hangar door overwhelmed
by both the size of the
helicopter and the precision
with which the pilot handled
the helicopter. The Indian
Alouette cross-deck landing
serial was postponed
because of the strong wind
that exceeded the helicopter’s flight
safety parameters.

In an overcast and windy night, the

ABOVE: INS DELHI in the background while INS DEEPAK and SAS AMATOLA conduct light line transfers.

ABOVE: The seamanship party of SAS AMATOLA cheering the INS DEEPAK on completion of a successful light line transfer.

ABOVE: The Brazilian Lynx tested its landing capabilities in gusting winds of over 20 knots before hooking safely onto the harpoon grid of SAS AMATOLA and being lashed down by the flight deck crew for a few minutes. Still closed up for flying stations, SAS AMATOLA anxiously awaited the arrival of the enormous Indian SEA KING helicopter.
TF aimed their guns to fire a volley at a STAR BUST flare. For a short 40 seconds the quiet night echoed with guns firing from four ships before the sky turned pitch dark again.

After a night of uncomfortable steaming, the Commander Task Force, Capt (BN) Lucio Malschitzky, consulted with the three Commander Task Groups on several planned serials after weather conditions deteriorated during day two in the exercise areas south of Cape Point. After the TF repositioned itself in False Bay in order to take advantage of better weather conditions, a Photo Exercise (PHOTEX) was conducted which had the TF in close formation, allowing the Brazilian Lynx helicopter to take aerial photos of the TF.

This was followed by a dry Replenishment at Sea (RAS) exercise between SAS AMATOLA and INS DEEPAK during the day where only distance lines were passed. SAS AMATOLA and INS DEEPAK lined up for the second time to conduct a light line transfer.

The Commander Task Force continuously analysed the weather conditions during day three and decided to proceed with the INS DEEPAK to refuel the INS DELHI from her starboard side and to conduct a light line transfer with SAS AMATOLA from her port side. Meanwhile, the Indian Alouette circled above to conduct a FLYEX and PHOTEX.

On completion of SAS AMATOLA’s light line transfer the BNS BARROSO took station abeam of INS DEEPAK to conduct her light line transfer. The Indian Alouette touched down twice on the deck of SAS AMATOLA before closing a third time to lower a parcel vertically.

On completion of these seamanship manoeuvres, the TF entered Cape Town harbour. The following day (19 October), the Brazilian and Indian Defence Attachés and Commander Task Groups exchanged gifts during their courtesy calls on the Port Captain, Capt Sabelo Mdlalose (met by the Deputy Port Captain Sydney Minnaar in his absence), the Magistrate of Cape Town, Mr Mzukizi Dimbaza, and the Executive Deputy Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Ian Nielson. A reception was held on board INS DEEPAK while the TF was docked in the V & A Waterfront.
SANDBF bids farewell to the Chairperson of the Defence Force Service Commission

Members of the Defence Force Service Commission and SANDF senior officials bade farewell to the Honourable Justice Lebotsang “Ronnie” Bosielo during a hearty and well deserved function at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 16 October 2012. The Service Commission started its work in September 2009 under the former Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu. Its scope of work was to research and improve the working conditions of the soldiers.

“Judge Bosielo will be remembered for his meticulous work, quick intellect and above all the apt legal language he used during our liberations in the boardroom,” said Maj Gen (Ret) Bantubonke Holomisa, MP, who was the Master of Ceremonies for the function.

Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SANDF, expressed his gratitude for the sterling work achieved by the Commission under the Command of Judge Bosielo. Gen Shoke said: “It is because of the work of the Commission that we have soldiers of high morale and you were able to restore the dignity of the soldiers in the community. The SANDF has achieved a programme of action based on your great recommendations.”

SA Soldier spoke to the honourable judge in the comfort of his home. He expresses gratitude for the support of his team, saying: “This was a team project and without my fellow team mates this progress would not have been made”.

The Honourable Justice “Ronnie” Bosielo, the Chairperson of the Defence Force Service Commission, addressing the guests during his farewell function.

What was your first reaction when you heard about your appointment?

When Minister Lindiwe Sisulu phoned me on a Saturday morning requesting me to come on board and telling me to head the Defence Force Service Commission, I was puzzled. I consulted with my bosses at work and explained my position to them. They said to me I should go for it as it was a national call. I took the post without any expectations, but all I knew was that the commission should make a difference.

Where to from here?

I returned to my job as a judge in the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein, but I will still come in should my help be needed. The commission is in good hands and can only improve.

As the Department of Defence we would like to wish Judge Bosielo all the best as he takes up his permanent appointment as Judge in the Supreme Court of Appeals in Bloemfontein.

Tell me about your highs and lows in regard to the commission.

This is easy to answer as I worked with a group of dedicated professionals who understood Minister Sisulu’s guidelines. She indicated that she wanted a unique dispensation for the National Defence Force. We worked around the clock to make sure we delivered positive recommendations and our highlight was the salary increase and youth development programme.

How did you adjust from the civilian environment to the military?

It took a while to adjust, especially as the military is such a highly disciplined force, so we had to learn the ranks and channels of command quickly.

Are you satisfied with the work your commission has achieved thus far?

I am more than excited as we achieved more than what was expected of us. Indeed we managed to build a strong and dignified SANDF in our communities.
The role of 11 Field Postal Unit (11 FPU) was recognised when a philatelic of 10 postal stamps was unveiled on World Post Day on 9 October 2012 at AFB Waterkloof.

The aim of the event was to honour the communication role of 11 FPU which connects the families and members of the SANDF on peacekeeping duties in various countries across the continent.

During her keynote address Ms Stella Ndabeni, Deputy Minister of Communications, said that the commemorative stamps had been issued to honour special occasions of national, continental and international interest and significance.

Ms Ndabeni said: “Today we are gathered here to launch a stamp in commemoration of 11 Field Postal Unit for its dedication in providing an efficient field postal service for the SANDF and its members, wherever they may be deployed on operations or large-scale field exercises. 11 FPU, a Reserve unit, is fully operational in Africa at this time. It is the only Reserve unit that has been deployed continuously since the first South African soldiers were deployed in the Central African Republic in 2001. Members of 11 FPU are Reserve Force members and full-time employees of the SA Post Office who sacrifice their time to serve their fellow combatants. Furthermore, 11 FPU plays a major role in support of the SANDF as a leader to ensure that communication channels between deployed soldiers abroad and their families are maintained and its activities regulated and supported by the SA Post Office.”

Representing the Chief of the SANDF and the Chief of the SA Army, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, Chief of the SA Army Reserves, said: “The event marks a milestone in relations between the SANDF and the SA Post Office. It strengthens the relationship that started in 1964 when the then SA Defence Force realised the need for a Reserve component of the SA Army to play an important role in assisting the post office to deliver on its mandate. The Reserves are a national strategic asset for enhancing the country’s security. The SANDF relies on its Reserve component to provide an expansion capability. As an integral element of the ‘One Force Concept’, we deliver combat and support capabilities for all internal and external military deployments.

“11 FPU is a specialist unit with the mission to ensure that wherever soldiers are deployed they can get in touch with their families so that they are able to concentrate on their core tasks. With Field Postal Unit 3 based here at AFB Waterkloof, the unit has two other post offices in Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), one in Lubumbashi in Katanga Region, two in Darfur in the Sudan and one in Bangui in the Central African Republic. Great strides have been made over the years with FPO 3 offering a wide range of value-added services, such as electronic money transfer, PostBank transactions, municipality accounts, prepaid phone cards, Internet services and various types of cash transactions.”

Ms Nobuhle Mthethwa, Board Member of the SA Post Office, said that the SANDF played an important role as a peacekeeper on the continent and served all deployed men and women; the service rendered by 11 FPU was invaluably as they could send home curios and mementos bought in the countries where they were deployed.

The programme of the day was directed by Col Clyde Hepburn, SSO SA Army Reserves. The stamps and first day covers were designed by Mr Jerry Lion. The National Anthem was played by the SA Military Health Service Pretoria Band.
The Military Attaché Adviser Corps (MAAC) under the auspices of Defence Foreign Relations embarked on its biannual tour of Polokwane and Mpumalanga to learn about the country and the SANDF’s military set-up. The Dean of the MAAC tour and Head of its Executive Committee, Col Ibrahim Omari, from Kenya said that the visit was undertaken to promote mutual understanding between the SANDF and the South African defence industries.

The MAAC tour, organised from 14 to 19 October 2012, was officially opened at the Meropa Casino in Polokwane. The SSO Africa and Middle East Defence Foreign Relations, Col Ben Mbanjwa, welcomed the attachés on behalf of the Director Defence Foreign Relations, Brig Gen Nombulelo Maphoyi, in her absence, “Normally we have two such tours a year where we introduce members of the defence attaché committee to our country. We try by every means to maximise our co-operation in the fields of training, defence industry and people-to-people contact”.

The function was also attended by a representative from the office of the Mayor of Polokwane, Mr Phorwane Modikwa, the Chairperson of Governance. He welcomed those attending the visit to the province on behalf of the Mayor. He said: “You are in the Limpopo province, which is known for its peace, stability and tranquillity.”
You are welcome in the city of stars were you will enjoy our game parks and other sights here in the province. Here is a lot to offer and you are welcome to enjoy these things with us.”

Col Omari presented a gift to Mr Modikwa in recognition of the support and hospitality of the Mayor’s office. He thanked the Mayor’s office for the freedom of the city, and allowing the attachés and their families to explore and interact positively with people in the province.

Defence Foreign Relations is primarily responsible for the promotion of foreign relations with the representatives of the MAAC and the community of the Department of Defence. The spouses and children were treated to interesting activities that included visiting the Kruger National Park, while the attachés visited the border to get first-hand information from SANDF soldiers deployed in various mission areas.

The MAAC members visited the Joint Tactical HQ Limpopo to see first-hand how the SANDF was managing the border situation. The members had an opportunity to be driven along the border where the soldiers were deployed. They reached as far as Beit Bridge - a major entry point into South Africa from Zimbabwe.

SO1 Landward Operations of Joint Tactical HQ Limpopo, Lt Col Velaphi Mlondobozi, who has been in the operational unit since March 2012, shared some of the success stories that Operation CORONA had been able to achieve in his area of responsibility.

A fleet of impounded vehicles and stacked up piles of illegal goods that are stored in the SA Revenue Service warehouse in Beit Bridge proved the effectiveness of Operation CORONA. Lt Col Mlondobozi remarked: “It is proof of the effectiveness of our soldiers. We are hard at work and the troops are well trained. Once you see success then it means people are serious about their work on the border.”

He said that he appreciated the confidence the Government and the people of South Africa had placed in the SANDF and they would continue to work hard and stay committed. He added: “The border is the responsibility of the National Defence Force. I just want to thank the South Africa community for putting their trust in us and we will not let them down. We will make sure that they feel safe and protected.”

The next leg of the tour was to Mpumalanga where the MAAC members were briefed on operations in the Macadamia area. SO1 Landward Operations from Joint Tactical HQ Mpumalanga, Lt Col Victor Nxumalo, said that they had experienced numerous attempts by smugglers trying to smuggle contraband.

The crossing of stolen vehicles during the night is a type of cross-border crime. The killing of rhinos for their horns is also rife. The Joint Tactical Headquarters Mpumalanga covers about 190 km of the border with Mozambique from where much of the rhino poaching originates.

Dagga smuggling activities are prevalent on the Swaziland border. Lt Col Nxumalo said there had also been reports of illegal crossings, vehicle smuggling, other cross-border crimes, including stock theft.
The Deputy Chief of Corporate Staff, Maj Gen Lungile Dlulane, awarded merits and service medals as well as certificates to deserving SANDF members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) at a divisional medal parade held at the Armscor sports ground in Pretoria on 26 October 2014.

Maj Gen Dlulane said: “Medals symbolise the military achievements of members of the SANDF. A medal is one of the tangible and symbolic means by which the SANDF can acknowledge service of a high standard.”

He said that each medal was unique and told its own story of dedication and sacrifice and granted the proud bearer recognition. He added: “The wearing of medals and insignia on one’s uniform is a very old military tradition which displays to the world the bravery and commitment of soldiers.”

Medals originated as a form of personal decoration, which were intended as a mark of favour or as a reward for services rendered. They all stem from the same original idea of a form of personal decoration.

Medals are awarded to all ranks in the SANDF for campaigns, devotion to duty, service and commemorations. The awarding of medals to servicemen or women for gallantry or service is a comparatively recent addition to long established military traditions.

Maj Gen Dlulane commended recipients for their achievement. He said: “I would like to congratulate all recipients of the medals on their outstanding service to the SANDF. You have served the SANDF with loyalty, pride and professionalism over a long time.”

Medals awarded during the parade included the General Service Medal, the Operational Medal for Southern Africa, the Tshumelo Ikatelaho Medal, the Unitas Medal, the Good Service Medal Bronze 20 Years, the Good Service Medal Bronze 10 Years, Long Service Certificates for 20 and 30 Years for PSAP and the Secretary for Defence Certificate 10 Years Service.
Financial misconduct, fruitless and wasteful expenditure can bring the National Defence Force to a halt!

“Prevention of Irregular and Fruitless Expenditure: Starts with me”
South Africa pays tribute to fallen World War II soldiers in Egypt

Article and photos by Mr Kgabo Mashamaite

For the first time since 1994 a full scale special tribute to the brave and gallant South African soldiers from all races who perished during a series of World War II campaigns was given by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) on 20 and 21 October 2012 for the 70th Commemoration of the Battle of El Alamein in Egypt.

Seven wreaths were laid to commemorate the South African soldiers who fell in battle. The proceedings were led by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and Ms Noluthando Mayendeni-Sibiya on behalf of the South African Government, and the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, representing the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke. Three government representatives also participated at the commonwealth event on 20 October 2012, namely the High Commissioner of Canada in Egypt, Mr David Drake, Defence Attaché of India to Egypt, Col Girisha Kalia, Staff Colonel Wail El Sharly on behalf of the government of Egypt and the Egyptian Armed Forces, as well as Capt Sifiso Nene on behalf of the SA Army Artillery Formation.

In his speech delivered before 350 international guests, diplomatic corps and representatives of the governments during the South African commemoration ceremony, Deputy Minister Makwetla said: “These fallen soldiers we honour on this day may have had reservations about being conscripted for a war far from our shores for a colonial power, but they made the ultimate sacrifice for the greater good of mankind. The ruthlessness of these campaigns is evident, as an entire generation of the 22 to 23 age group was wiped out, young lives cut off and others as young as 19, while a few above the age of 30 years had to unselfishly sacrifice their lives for world peace and stability. They fought a good battle and their blood was shed in the Mediterranean Sea, the Nile, Lake Victoria, the

ABOVE: The SANDF participation at the 70th Commemoration of the Battle of El Alamein afforded Col Sammy Mosiane an opportunity to locate and positively identify the grave of his grandfather, Pte Phineas Mosiane, at the El Alamein war cemetery.

ABOVE: Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, Chief of the SA Army, being ushered by Cpl Mavis Ndlovu to pay tribute on 20 October 2012 to the deceased Union Defence Force soldiers who perished during the Battle of El Alamein over the period 23 October to 4 November 1942.
“During World War II human values were threatened; it was a war that not only involved the West or the African continent. It was a war that was fought in different parts of our world and had the potential to alter our lives forever. The victory we speak of today was not only for the people of Egypt, but for humankind and liberty for the entire world. Egypt may be at the horn of the continent and South Africa at the foot of the motherland. History such as the victory of Alamein narrows the gap between our nations that may be geographically far apart but we are brought closer in pursuit of democracy, human dignity, peace and world security.”

LEFT: Mr Thabang Makwella, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, pays tribute and inspects the graves of the fallen South African World War II soldiers buried at the El Alamein war cemetery on 20 October 2012.

ABOVE: Capt Sifiso Nene pays his respects on behalf of the SA Army Artillery Formation in remembrance of the slain South African soldiers who participated in World War II over the period 23 October to 4 November 1942 at El Alamein, Egypt.

LEFT: Pipe Major WO2 Craig Herwill of the SA Irish Regiment leads the SANDF in the 70th Commemoration of the Battle of El Alamein at the El Alamein war cemetery in Egypt on 20 October 2012.

LEFT: These are some of the 550 graves found at the El Alamein war cemetery of South African soldiers who fought and were killed during battles across North Africa in a series of campaigns from 1940 to 1943.
The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans also took a mini-tour of the cemetery to inspect and pay tribute to the deceased soldiers buried in the El Alamein war cemetery.

According to the Republic of South Africa’s Ambassador to Egypt, Ms Noluthando Mayende-Sibiya, the commemoration marks a new chapter in the lives of South Africans united in paying tribute to those soldiers who bravely gave up their lives during the Battle of El Alamein in pursuit of peace. Ms Mayende-Sibiya also promised to make everything possible to assist the relatives of the deceased to locate the resting places of their loved ones in Egypt. The National Anthem was sung by the SA Navy Band while the Pipe Major, WO2 Craig Herwill of the SA Irish Regiment, led the wreath-laying ceremony.

Meanwhile, Maj Gen Stephen Marumo, General Officer Commanding SA Army Support Formation, led the SANDF delegation at another wreath-laying ceremony at the Heliosipolis war cemetery in Cairo on 21 October 2012. The aim was to remember those soldiers who sacrificed their lives for global peace. Maj Gen Marumo was accompanied by Mr Tshepe Motumi, Director-General of the Department of Military Veterans, and Ms Mayende-Sibiya.

Lt Gen Masendo who represented the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, also paid his respects at the 70th Commemoration of the Battle of El Alamein earlier on 21 October 2012.

History

A substantial number of South African soldiers of all races of the old Union Defence Force (UDF) took part in battles across North Africa in a series of campaigns from 1939 to 1945. The second Battle of El Alamein fought over the period 23 October to 4 November 1942. It was code named “Lightfoot” and marked one of the most decisive battles of World War II.

It all started when a declaration of war was made by the then UDF Commander-in-Chief and the Prime Minister, Field Marshal Jan Smuts, in September 1939. He sent the UDF contingent to the Western Desert with the aim of repelling an invasion of North Africa by Axis powers. The contingent arrived in Egypt in May 1941, consisting of divisions and independent forces, but was later attached to other British formations under the command of the Eighth Army of General Claude Auchinleck and later Lt Gen Bernard Montgomery, while Field Marshal Erwin Rommel led the Axis forces.

The Allied soldiers suffered heavy losses at Sidi Rezeg in November 1941 and Bardia in January 1942. The fall of Tobruk in June 1942 resulted in a large contingent of the second South African division being captured. All the forces suffered substantial losses.

The Allies suffered some 13 500 soldiers killed, wounded, captured or missing while their Axis adversaries suffered 37 000 casualties. The mortal remains of the deceased Allied soldiers were then buried at the El Alamein war cemetery, also known as the Commonwealth War cemetery.

The El Alamein war cemetery is currently home to about 7 200 graves of Allied soldiers from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, the former Free French Forces and Greece while their Axis foes, mainly Italians and Germans were buried at the Italian and German Military cemetery at Tel el-Eisa Hill, north of El Alamein. The enemy forces took part in a series of campaigns designed to secure control of the shore of the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal, Middle East oil and the supply route to Russia through modern day Iran.

Among those deceased soldiers who found their resting places at the El Alamein war cemetery were 550 South Africans, while the mortal remains of 816 others were buried as death unknown. It is also believed that other South African soldiers were buried as unknowns as they were able to be identified only through items of uniforms as South African soldiers, while the injuries of others were so severe that their remains were dismembered beyond recognition.

However, one of the graves at El Alamein war cemetery was that of Pte Phineas Mosiane, a member of the former Native Military Corps whose life was cut short in the battle on 4 July 1942. His grave was positively identified by his grandson, Col Sammy Mosiane, based at the Defence Headquarters Unit.

It is believed that Pte Mosiane and his African, Coloured and Indian colleagues participated in the campaigns after their recruitment for the UDF to supplement inadequate numbers of white military personnel conscripted to do military service in accordance with government policy. They took part as full-time volunteers in non-combatant roles, such as those of drivers, stretcher-bearers and hospital orderlies due to the political situation at the time. Other corps such as the Cape Corps for the Cape Coloured people and the Indian and Malay Corps are also represented at the cemetery.

*Additional information obtained from the Military History Journal Vol 11 No 5 published in June 2000 on the article: “The First two years of war: the development of the Union Defence Forces September 1939 to September 1941 by Associate Professor Andre Wessels, MA, DPhil, University of Free State, Bloemfontein. This can be accessed on: http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol115aw.html, Wikipedia: Second Battle of El Alamein. Other information was obtained from the El Alamein Military Museum and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, El Alamein in Egypt.
The SA Air Force’s sole Casa CN-235 aircraft that was retired from service in 2011 was delivered to the SA Air Force Museum at Swartkop in Pretoria earlier this year.

The SA Air Force’s CN-235 was a unique model. As the prototype it differed in many ways from the later production models. Maintenance issues and the non-availability of spares made the operation of the aircraft too costly and counterproductive.

The aircraft was eventually retired from SA Air Force service in 2011 and transferred to the Air Force Museum at Zwartkop on 17 July 2012. It was flown by Maj Chanel Burnell, while the current Officer Commanding of 44 Squadron, Lt Col Ruan Potgieter, was the co-pilot.

The Officer Commanding SA Air Force Museum, Lt Col Mike O’Connor, indicated that the new acquisition would be kept in a groundrun condition, with the possibility of maintaining it airworthiness. The availability and cost of spare parts was obviously the main issue.
Act against abuse

Article courtesy Martina Nicholson
Associates News Desk


Let us take action and support the international campaign of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children which takes place every year from 25 November to 10 December. This year’s national theme is: “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let’s Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women”.

The period starts on 25 November 2012 when we commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on 10 December - International Human Rights Day.

Join in the campaign by wearing a white ribbon during the 16-day period. The white ribbon symbolises peace and the commitment of the wearer never to commit or condone violence against women and children.

Equality of women

Violence towards women was overlooked for a long time. In many cultures it was believed that women did not have many rights and that they were the property of their fathers, and after marriage of their husbands. This is no longer the case. Many brave women have broken the silence for the benefit of future generations, including our own. Without the battles won by them, women would still be unable to have professional careers, vote or be equals in their relationships. More importantly, women would not have a platform to raise issues that affect them.

No discrimination

Those who commit violence against women do not discriminate. Violence can be committed against anyone, from any background. It may be by a stranger, but it is mostly by someone close to the women. Abuse takes many forms, ranging from psychological, sexual and physical abuse. Violence against women is regarded as a violation of human rights.

The United Nations General Assembly defines violence against women (VAW) as: “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women – including threats to commit such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or in private life”.

The startling truth

One in three women worldwide is raped or beaten. This amounts to one billion women. South Africa has the highest incidence of rape in the world. It is estimated that a woman is raped every 17 seconds. One in two women is raped, making it more likely for a woman to get raped in our country than it is for her to learn how to read. Surprisingly, less than one per cent of rape cases are reported to the police. That is one in every 36 cases.

One in four women in South Africa is in an abusive relationship. It is difficult to get statistics on domestic violence against women as many cases go unreported. This is made even more difficult by the fact that the police...
do not keep separate statistics on assaults by husbands and boyfriends. According to the findings of Gender Link’s Gender Based Violence Indicators Research Project, in South Africa 51% of women in Gauteng and 45% of women in the Western Cape have been victims of gender-based abuse. Domestic violence, in one form or another, affects as many as one in two women in some parts of South Africa.

Getting help

Even though there are channels that abused women can make use of to escape their abusers, many choose not to. The fear and embarrassment that overwhelms some victims prevents them from ever leaving the perpetrators. Many women in these circumstances feel isolated and alone. They are unaware that there are other women in the same position as they find themselves in.

You can get free counselling at the organisations listed below. If they are unable to help you, they will refer you to other organisations.

**People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)**
Helpline: 083 765 1235

**Branches**

**Berea (Head Office)**
64 Mitchell Street, Berea
Tel: 011 860 2858

**Soweto**
Room 10, Nthabiseng Centre
Chris Hani Hospital
Tel: 011 906 4259/1792

**Katlehong**
667 Monise Section, Katlehong
Tel: 011 860 2858

***Vosloorus***
1620 Ditshego St,
Vosloorus Rehab Centre
Tel: 011 906 4259/1792

**Tembisa**
Tel: 084 843 2644

**Evaton**
Tel: 081 383 7698

**NISAA Institute for Women’s Development**
19 Link Street, Ext 1
Lenasia, Gauteng
Tel: 011 854 5804/5

**Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT)**
128 2nd Street, Wynberg, Bramley
Tel: 011 885 3305/9

Days like the “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women” bring the problem of violence to the fore as well as some options that are available to victims, and give them a sense of hope.

**References**

All Africa, [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com)
The Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy centre, to end violence against women, [www.tlac.org.za](http://www.tlac.org.za)
The Rape Survivor’s guide to Criminal Justice in South Africa, 2012 One in Nine campaign

The bi-annual DOD Anti-criminality Conference

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

The fourth bi-annual DOD Anti-criminality Conference took place in Pretoria on 12 October 2012. The theme of the conference was: “Combating Criminality from a Management Perspective”. The conference was officially opened by Maj Gen Sazi Veldtman, SA Army Corporate Services, on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF.

In his opening address he mentioned discipline in the DOD among other important issues. To the managers and commanders in attendance he said that they were to lead by example, instead of blaming juniors for ill-discipline; they must examine themselves to determine whether they are disciplined before pointing fingers. Maj Gen Veldtman added that commanders and managers in the DOD must not be like crabs that in practice walks sideways, but will always teach its offspring to walk straight. He said the way things were going in the DOD was leading to anarchy. We are supposed to protect our hard-earned democracy and, while discipline remained a command responsibility, the Military Police are there to help commanders where necessary. He also said there are efforts by members of the DOD to root out fraud and corruption, but it was crucial for this Department to rid itself of members wanting to spoil the hard work of fighting crime of dedicated members of the DOD. The Department must at all time comply with systems and enforce firm discipline and sound management; it is no place for complacency, corruption and crime.

There were several presentations by DOD speakers and other outside professionals. The first presentation was by Prof Moses Montesh from Unisa. His topic was “Combating Criminality from a Management Perspective”. He first provided a brief background on the history of fraud and corruption and said that corruption and fraud had been in existence for decades. It was interesting to learn that South Africa was ranked number 64 in the world among countries with the least fraud and corruption cases, but there was still a lot to be done. According to Prof Montesh the causes of corruption include the ambiguous legal framework, weak legislative framework, greed, a weak judicial system, poor governance and political instability.

He also asked commanders and managers to be on the look-out for corruption indicators (behaviour at work) such as:

- Unusually high personal debt
- Living beyond one’s means
- Excessive gambling habits
- Alcohol/drug problems
- Undue family or peer pressure to succeed
- Feeling of being underpaid
- Feeling of insufficient recognition for job performance
- Close association with suppliers
- An attitude that promotes wheeling and dealing
- Desire to “beat the system”
- Criminal records
- Not taking vacations
- Not allowing someone access to one’s area of responsibility

Indicators for fraud

- An employee who always seems to stay at work a little bit later than everyone else or who wants to leave after the supervisor has gone
- A formerly outgoing employee who has become withdrawn
- An employee showing signs of drug or alcohol abuse
- An employee who refuses to take any vacation or other time off
- Signs of altered time sheets that a supervisor is requested to approve
- Signs of a correction or override made to stocktaking records or goods received vouchers and indications of photocopies or otherwise suspicious looking supplier invoices submitted for approval
- Signs of non-business expenditure incurred while on a business trip that are being charged to the organisation

The second presentation was by Prof Marthie Grobler from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Her topic was “Digital Evidence and the Military Police”. There are some other things that can also constitute evidence in court, such as SMSs and emails. What is digital evidence? Digital evidence is information or data stored or transmitted in binary form that may be relied on as evidence. Examples of digital evidence are:
game console devices, mainframe computers, servers, desktop and laptop computers, answering machines, fax machines, landline telephones, hard disk drives, memory cards, flash memory devices, optical devices (CD and DVD), magnetic devices, television decoders, digital devices, mobile phones and smart phones.

The need for digital forensic evidence

Digital forensic discipline combines elements of both law and computer science to collect and analyse data (potential digital evidence) from computer systems, networks and storage devices in a way that is admissible as digital evidence in a court of law. The process involves “…the exploration and application of scientifically proven methods … to gather, process, interpret and utilize digital evidence in order to provide a conclusive description of all cyber-attack activities”.

It provides the ability to retrieve hidden and deleted data. Under normal circumstances, there is no fear of forensic investigators overwriting or modifying evidentiary data obtained from a forensic acquisition. It also provides an ability to retrieve volatile information specific to the suspect system’s network settings.

What is cyber-crime?

The 10th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders includes cyber-crime as a misdemeanour. It involves unauthorised access; damage to computer data or programmes; sabotage to hinder the functioning of a computer system or network; unauthorised interception of data to, from and within a system or network, and computer espionage.

The South African Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002 adds the following instances to the definition of cyber-crime: intentional and unauthorised access to, interception of or interference with data, as well as computer related extortion, fraud and forgery, and attempting, aiding or abetting the above.

“To attach criminal sanction to deviant behaviour, whether in cyberspace or in the physical world, the behaviour must have constituted a contravention of a designated crime, common-law or statutory, by a law that was in force before the contravention.”

The third presentation by Lt Col Henoch Moll from Risk Management Anti-Criminality was on “Combating Criminality from an Anti-fraud and Corruption Perspective”. He highlighted, among other things, risk measures, ethics development and the training processes.

The fourth presentation was by Ms Karin Neil, Assistant Director for Financial Misconduct. It concerned “Fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the DOD”. She defined irregular expenditure as expenditure, other than unauthorised expenditure which may be incurred in contravention of or that is not in accordance with a requirement of any applicable legislation, including the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA); or the State Tender Board Act, 1968 (Act No 86 of 1968), or any regulations made in terms of that Act or any legislation providing for procurement procedures. She defined fruitless and wasteful expenditure as expenditure, which was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised.

She provided managers and commanders in attendance with the “must do” things to ensure that internal procedures and internal control measures are in place: The internal controls should provide assurance that all expenditure is necessary, appropriate, paid promptly and adequately recorded and reported.

She further presented examples of the most common irregular expenditure incurred by managers to procure goods and services:

- Without financial authority
- Splitting of requirements
- Exceeding delegation limit
- Avoiding a specific procurement process
- Deviation from the bidding process
- Deviation from the payment process
- Contract irregularities
- Declaration of interest

The fifth presentation was by Lt Col Jacobus Steynberg, the Operational Cluster Co-ordinator for the South African Police Service (SAPS). His presentation was called “Combating Criminality from a SAPS Perspective”.

The left triangle demonstrates that for crime to occur there must be a victim, there must be an offender and there must be an environment. The second triangle demonstrates that for an offender to commit a crime he or she must have a desire to commit a crime and the desire may be prompted by socio-economic factors. The offender must have the ability to commit the crime and this could mean, eg that the offender wants to hijack a car and has a firearm and has been trained in firearm control. Opportunities can arise, eg a person is working at the finance office and has access to the safe keys where the money is kept, and will then make use of that opportunity to steal money.

It was the feeling of the delegates that in future this type of conference should be attended by more senior managers of the DOD, since their attendance might enhance the implementation of the deliberations emanating from the conference. The Provost Marshal General, Brig Gen Tsepo Buhali, appealed for co-operation and the involvement of all Services and Divisions in order to achieve positive results against crime, including fraud and corruption in the DOD.
Empowering PSAP as active participants in the DOD

By Ms K. Swart, Assistant Director
PSAP ETD
Photo: F Sgt J.P. van der Merwe

In relation to management development and leadership, the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) has constructed an Integrated Management Development Model for the Public Service that identifies transversable competencies required by managers on an advanced and executive level to perform effectively in their appointments as managers. With reference to the Defence Review Update 2012, a heading on civilian development has been added that emphasises the following aspects:

- Defence shall ensure that education and training programmes are aligned with the integrated development programmes as recommended by the Defence Service Commission.
- It is compulsory for all civilians, including interns in Defence, to attend organisational and functional induction programmes.
- The same applicable and appropriate education, training and development (ETD) programmes for civilians and military members will support the Defence Personnel Strategy. This aims at minimising duplication of learning programmes and ensuring mutual understanding.
- A learning path must be developed for civilians that is based on a coherent competency framework that guides Services and Divisions in identifying functional and development ETD for civilians. Both the compulsory and recommended ETD must be linked to the specific requirements of the organisation and the profile requirements of the employee.

Participants in the seminar

Forty Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 9 to 12 from diverse backgrounds attended a seminar facilitated by Stimela Infrastructure Management Services (SIMS) Khula at the SA Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria on 11 October 2012.

The one day high-impact seminar included group work and feedback sessions. The theme of the seminar was “PSAP empowered as active participants in the DOD of the future”.

The objective of the seminar was to strategically reposition the development of PSAP to effect the Defence Review Update 2012, with the aim of achieving the following main outcomes:

- To create an understanding of the background to the Defence Review Update 2012, with special reference to PSAP.
- To provide a conceptual analysis of organisational empowerment.
- To define organisational attributes for active participation.
- To highlight enablers for growth and prosperity.
- To highlight future prospects in terms of growth models for strategic repositioning.

The seminar presented an opportunity for networking, personal growth and practical exposure. Delegates were delighted that special reference was made to PSAP in the Defence Review Update 2012 and requested that PSAP should be involved in planning for the implementation of the Defence Review Update 2012.

Ms Natasja Sebonka, a Deputy Director from Chief of Defence Supply Chain Integration, commented on the seminar as follows: “The day allowed various networking opportunities with co-workers. SIMS Khula managed and conducted the day with the utmost professionalism. They were certainly assertive and sensitive to the diverse group and their presentation style accommodated the visually challenged delegates. It clearly emerged that PSAP do count in a dynamic DOD. What was even more apparent was that as a united PSAP component in the DOD we can achieve more, and that the more diverse we are the better chance we have to make lasting decisions. The facilitators have certainly wet our appetites for future prospects in terms of growth modules for strategic repositioning. Every day is a repositioning statement and the choice for change remains within each of us. The seminar has undoubtedly left a lasting echo of assurance that PSAP do and will count in the DOD of the future. The only certain thing about the future is change”.

Flr: Brig Gen (Dr) Annemarie van der Walt (Director ETD), Mr Daan de la Rey (Deputy Director PSAP ETD), Ms Karin Swart (Assistant Director PSAP ETD), Mr Johan Jordaan (Stimela Infrastructure Management Services (SIMS) Khula Facilitator), Ms Hester Verwey (SIMS Khula Facilitator) and Mr Fezile Dantile (SIMS Khula Facilitator).
Mr Peter Ausell Levy joined the SA Air Force on 27 February 1942 at 18 years of age. He worked as a radio mechanic on 19 Squadron Beaufighter aircraft during World War II.

19 Squadron was one of the many squadrons that were part of the newly formed Balkan Air Force. They were stationed on the Adriatic coast halfway up the leg of Italy. Their task was to work with the Yugoslav Partisans to drive the Germans out of the Balkans. Mr Levy was discharged after the war on 8 March 1946 after four years and ten days’ service.

On 8 June 2012 Mr Levy kindly donated a photo album and an old plaque of 19 Squadron to Maj Henk Pietersen in Johannesburg. The albums contain photos of his experiences and travels during the war. The plaque and album will find a special place in the 19 Squadron crew room and will be available for viewing to anyone interested.

ABOVE: Maj Henk Pietersen (left) with Mr Peter Levy.

ABOVE: One of the most famous photos of World War II.

ABOVE: The plaque and album that Mr Peter Levy donated to 19 Squadron.
Young Human Resource functionaries graduate

By Mr Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Approximately 71 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members who qualified as Human Resource functionaries celebrated their achievement during their passing-out parade at Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane on 3 October 2012. Recruitment of new SANDF members and empowering them through the MSDS contributes towards the realisation of the constitutional requirement to rejuvenate the SANDF.

These members are competent in subjects such as the Conventions of Service Writing, Human Resource Functions, Labour and Service Relations, Record Management, Client Service, Human Resource Maintenance, Persol Orientation, Leave System and Inland Accommodation Expenditure.

According to Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, the General Officer Commanding Training Formation, the members will help the SANDF to address the critical skills gap the organisation has been experiencing.

Maj Gen Mabuza said: “The training you are completing this morning is not just ordinary training as you have been trained in Human Resources competencies required, namely that of Personnel Clerk, Functional Training and Computer Mainframe Training. These have been carefully designed and packaged. In our quest to build a professional SANDF, you are entrusted with the responsibility to contribute towards the development of our organisation. We are this morning celebrating your single step that becomes a building block for the future, as the future of this organisation firmly rests on your shoulders and this is something to be proud of.”

Three members received awards for their outstanding academic achievements during the course. They were the Best Academic Student: Pte Deon van der Merwe, the runner-up: Pte Marinda Fourie and Seaman Sepudutsoana Tshehlana in third place.
Blessed is the hand that gives rather than the one that receives. It was against the background of this saying that 68 Air School Motorcyclists Association, in conjunction with 68 Air School, hosted a charity breakfast run in aid of the Tshwane Welfare Centre Eersterus on 19 October 2012.

According to the Chairperson of 68 Air School Motorcyclists Association, WO1 Chris Lieber, this initiative began two years ago at 68 Air School. It was established as an alternative to the Wednesday sport afternoons. Those interested felt they could use their motorbikes to serve the less fortunate communities, and after they presented their constitution to the unit Officer Commanding, permission was granted to have the Motorcyclists Association at 68 Air School.

A request to provide humanitarian aid to the Tshwane Welfare Centre Eersterus came from a unit member whose mother worked at the centre. After visiting the centre to ascertain the merits of the case it was found that the centre did need assistance in refurbishing their community hall. It was agreed that the request would be honoured as the 68 Air School Motorcyclists Association’s project for 2012. When the refurbishment of the hall is completed, the welfare centre will start raising funds from the local community who hire the venue for a nominal fee. This money should sustain the centre in terms of administration and feeding, clothing and school stationery for the 175 orphans in their care. This was the second project of 68 Air School Motorcyclists Association.

Altogether 176 participants attended the 2012 68 Air School Charity Breakfast Run and R10 100.00 was raised for the Tshwane Welfare Centre Eersterus. A variety of prizes were awarded to the participants, including a printer donated by Centurion Technologies, biking accessories donated by Centurion BMW Bavaria and Honda Menlyn and knives from a Valhalla hairdresser. The criteria for winning the prizes were based on a lucky draw that took place at Kitty Hawk Aerodrome. Other sponsors included Builders Express which donated the ceilings, and Hennops Glass which donated windows. Paint was also donated to paint the community hall.

Last year 68 Air School Motorcyclists Association held its first fundraiser when they assisted a pastor in Mozambique. The money raised during that exercise was used to buy a motorcycle to enable the pastor to reach far-flung areas difficult to reach by car.
Capt (SAN) Francois du Toit, SSO Mine Counter Measures, recently became the first SA Navy officer and the third South African to graduate from the National War College of the US National Defence University in Washington DC.

The US National Defence University is the premier centre for US Joint Professional Military Education and is under the direction of the Chairperson of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. The University’s main campus is in Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, DC and consists of five colleges, namely the National War College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the College of International Security Affairs, the Information Resources Management College and the Joint Forces Staff College.

Capt (SAN) Du Toit was a member of the International Fellows Program of the university in terms of which senior officers from allied and friendly nations are invited by the Chairperson of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff to complete a year-long course in either National Security Strategy at the US National War College or National Resource Strategy at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Last year 57 officers from 54 countries participated in the programme. Capt (SAN) Du Toit and 33 other international officers studied at the National War College along with 221 members of the various US armed services and government that included the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the US Aid and Development, the FBI, the CIA and the Secret Service, to name but a few. Capt (SAN) Du Toit successfully completed a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy.

The National Defence University also provides a Distinguished Lecture Program (DLP) in which prominent and influential leaders are invited to address the faculty and students of all the colleges. The DLP during Capt (SAN) Du Toit’s academic year included addresses by the US Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton, the US Secretary of Defence, Mr Leon Panetta, the US Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Martin E. Dempsey, the Director of the CIA, Mr David Petraeus, as well as the Commander, US European Command and NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Adm James G. Stavridis.

The International Fellows Program runs parallel to the academic year of the Colleges and includes extensive travel throughout the US to provide the international officers with first-hand experience and exposure to the history, values, culture, industry, government and politics of the US. Last year the travel programme covered more than 20 states and 100 institutions and entities. The programme also provides an excellent and unique opportunity for its participants from all over the world to build working and personal relationships with one another, as well as with their fellow American students at the colleges.
On 31 October 2012 the SA Army bade farewell to Capt Nathan Theodore Titus after an exceptionally successful musical career of 17 years, during which he served as a Chief Musician at SA Army Band Western Cape, Group Leader Trumpets at SA Army Band Limpopo and Assistant Director of Music for the National Ceremonial Guard Band in Pretoria.

Capt Titus was born into a gifted musical family on 19 January 1977 in Bishop Lavis, Cape Town. As a congregant of the SA Dutch Reformed Church he was selected to join the Regimental Brass Band of the SA Youth Brigade under the baton of Col James Flowers. At the tender age of nine he started playing the trumpet, an instrument that was to transform his life. He had a natural talent for playing the trumpet and through hard work and dedication he soon became the principal trumpeter in this band. His exceptional leadership qualities from a very young age saw him through the ranks of Bugle Sergeant, Band Warrant Officer, 2nd Lieutenant (Bandmaster) and later 1st Lieutenant. He was also appointed National Band Training Officer and travelled extensively to present music courses to thousands of SA Youth Brigade members all across the country.

At the age of sixteen he was enrolled as a student with the Hugo Lambrecht Music School by his brother, teacher and mentor, Mr Michael Tobias. He was selected to play first trumpet in the Senior Symphonic Wind Band while studying under world-renowned trumpetist and conductor, Mr Johan Pretorius. He was also selected as principle trumpeter for a tour to France, Prague and Vienna with the school’s much-acclaimed 78 piece Symphony Orchestra conducted by the late Leon Hartshorne.

Capt Titus started his military music career during his matric year when he joined the Regiment Westelike Provincie Reserve Force Band in Cape Town. The same year he was afforded the privilege of performing the Last Post and Reveille at the Jan Smuts Memorial Service in Pretoria. On 22 November 1996 he started his Regular Force career with the SA Army Band in Cape Town. Because of his extensive experience and knowledge of marching band displays he was soon given the responsibility of composing for the band. He excelled as a trumpeter and passed his Chief Musician exam in 1999.

Capt Titus developed a huge passion for conducting under the baton of Maj Chris Nicholls (Ret) and qualified himself as a Group Leader (WO2) even though he was only a Corporal. He performed as a trumpeter, percussionist and vocalist for numerous concerts and also acted as drum major.

His exceptional leadership qualities saw him flying through his promotions and in 2006 he was offered the Trumpet Group Leader Post at the SA Army Band Limpopo. Here Capt Titus was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 and became the youngest ever Warrant Officer appointed to the SA Corps of Bandsmen. In 2007 he successfully qualified as a bandmaster by passing the required orchestration, conducting and parade exams of the Interdepartmental Music Advisory Committee. This qualified him for appointment as an officer within the SANDF and the SA Police Service (SAPS) bands.

In 2008 he was promoted to the rank of Captain and appointed as Assistant Director of Music for the National Ceremonial Guard (NCG) Band in Pretoria. Capt Titus qualified himself to be Director of Music in 2010, a qualification held by only a few highly esteemed musicians over the years, and he served as the youngest qualified Director of Music in the SANDF in his last few years. Capt Titus has breathed new life into the NCG Band, especially when it combines with the Entertainment Band, which has performed to the enjoyment of every audience they have entertained.

He conducted the NCG Band for many high-profile parades with President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and former President Thabo Mbeki, and at venues such as Parliament, the Union Buildings and the Presidential Guesthouse. Other parades were for visiting Heads of State, foreign Chiefs of Defence, Ministers, the Chief of the SANDF and the Chiefs of other Services. Capt Titus will surely be remembered most for his Band Displays which turned every parade into a momentous occasion.

Over the years Capt Titus travelled to various SANDF and SAPS bands across South Africa as an examiner for the Interdepartmental Music Advisory Committee. He was the secretary both for the latter and for the Military Bands Management Committee and is widely respected by Directors of Music, Bandmasters and...
The abilities of a naval engineer

Am a secure, self-motivated individual with a keen sense of commitment and integrity. I treat my peers and subordinates with respect and dignity, and at all times strive to motivate and inspire my staff in order to bring out the best in them. To the youngsters in the DOD who would like to become naval engineers or engineers in the DOD, just persevere with your dreams. Despite the hardships faced by the Naval Engineering Section it would be an act of patriotism and in pursuance of your dream. This will motivate you day by day.”

Cdr Hollis said: “For one to qualify as a naval engineer, one has to have a university degree from an accredited institution. Not a diploma or any lesser qualification.” He went on to explain the difference between a marine engineering officer, a technician and a naval engineering officer. He added: “First, to qualify as a marine engineering officer, you need a Marine Auxiliary Watch-keeping Ticket and have to undergo various types of specific endorsements that will lead to a Marine Engineering Officer’s Ticket.”

If you are a keen technical or mechanical fan with an intimate appreciation of hydrostatics and hydraulics, perusing Cdr Hollis’ achievements would certainly impress you. Cdr Hollis obtained his B. Eng (Mech) degree from the University of Stellenbosch in 1996, including Ship Hydrostatics and Stability Certificate of Competency, Marine Engineering Course (Ship Propulsion), Ship Hydrodynamics Course and the Autodesk Inventor 3D Modelling Course.

Cdr Hollis also boasts some international experience. He has 10 years’ experience in undertaking preliminary investigations and feasibility studies for engineering change packages, structural design and strength calculations, ship stability analysis, on-board inspections and acceptance trials, technical investigations, compilation of specifications, computer-aided engineering drawings and vetting of technical drawings and documentation.

Naval engineers such as Cdr Hollis are responsible for keeping the ships at sea functional, doing engineering drawings, on-board investigations, flight deck markings and engineering supervision of new naval acquisitions.
Get in the picture

When you weigh up all the things you have in your life - your family, your home, your car, your annual holiday, your job - on the face of it, it appears to be the perfect life, a life that most people strive for. There appears to be nothing more you need. And you are probably quite right. But can you spot anything missing in this picture? asks Rosie Wilson, market development manager for Old Mutual.

If you look quickly, probably not. "Look again," says Wilson. "The one thing that’s missing is YOU - the person who makes it all happen." What if you took yourself out of this equation? Imagine what the picture would look like then. What if you suddenly developed a crippling disease that prevented you from working, or met with an accident that left you permanently or temporary disabled? How would you maintain this happy, cheerful picture, if your income was reduced or suddenly stopped? No more money for holidays, but at worst no more money for even the essentials.

Picture this

Life is moving along swimmingly, the wife and kids are happy and you have absolutely no complaints. With a song in your heart, you leave work, in a hurry to get home and relax after a long day. You step off the pavement, deep in thought, and a car comes from nowhere. You wake up in the ICU greeted by concerned family and friends. No one wants to tell you you’ll never walk again. This gloomy, depressing scenario is unfortunately a reality for some, who are faced with the challenge of replacing the lost income of their breadwinner. This situation not only leaves the victim disabled but, actually may disable the entire family.

Look out for Number One

Usually, the very last thing on our agenda is looking after ourselves. We place everyone else’s needs first, which is highly commendable and selfless. We were taught by our parents and teachers to think of others first, and rightly so, but with one exception. Without you, your family’s present lifestyle would not exist. This effectively translates into needing to protect ourselves from the possibility of losing our income due to permanent or temporary disability, in the same way that we would protect our home and assets with short-term insurance and our health with health cover. How about protecting the income that provides all these covers, and protecting the lifestyle that is so easily taken for granted. Wouldn’t it make more sense to place this at the top of the protection list?

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- Your entire life and not just to age 65.
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The game of cricket was ultimately the winner

By Sgt Lester Meek, Communications Officer SANDF Cricket Association

The 43rd SANDF Cricket Championships was hosted by 4 SA Infantry Battalion in Middelburg, Mpumalanga, from 12 to 20 October 2012.

The Championships were contested by all four Services of the SANDF and all ten regions within the borders of South Africa, namely the defending champions – Gauteng, North West Province, Northern Cape, Free State, South Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and combined teams from Mpumalanga, Limpopo, West Coast, and Western Province.

An exciting week of action-packed cricket was played by all, and during the run-up to the finals, it was even commented that this year’s championships was probably the most competitive in a long time, as the standard of SANDF Cricket has only gotten better and stronger this year.

The SANDF Cricket Championships culminated in a nail-biting final between Gauteng and Western Province, but eventually the match was abandoned owing to bad weather and rain. The match was therefore declared a draw and first place had to be shared by the defending champions - Gauteng - and the challengers, Western Province. Both teams were declared the winners of the 2012 SANDF Cricket Championships.

The Championships was concluded by the hosting of an elaborate Gala Evening held at the Ratel Hall at 4 SA Infantry Battalion in true SANDF Cricket Association style, and the function is said to have rivalled even that of international events. The Gala Evening was attended by Maj Gen Morris Moadira, the Patron of the SANDF Cricket Association, Mr Max Jordaan, Manager Amateur Cricket and Development: Cricket South Africa, Lt Col Willie Madikoto, Officer Commanding 4 SA Infantry Battalion, Mr Thabo Maphisa, Key Account Manager of Liberty Life, and senior members from Liberty Life.

The SANDF national side which was selected during the week of the Championships was also announced at the Gala Evening and these members will now represent the SANDF in the upcoming South African Forces Week in 2013.

It should be mentioned that the successes of the Championships were also due to the dedicated team responsible for the arrangements and the planning done by the Local Organising Committee (LOC), led by Capt Eugene Leonard of 4 SA Infantry Battalion, the Regional Chairperson and Chairperson of the LOC, who worked tirelessly to ensure that all went well.

The assistance of 4 SA Infantry Battalion, the Mpumalanga Cricket Union which provided the playing fields and, not forgetting the main sponsor of the event - Liberty Life - made the 43rd SANDF Cricket Championships possible thanks to their commitment and unwavering support.

National Ceremonial Guard Band says farewell to Capt Titus

He is currently studying towards a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology at Faith Bible College in Johannesburg and a Diploma in Office Administration through Fernwood Business College in Centurion.

He is the Assistant Pastor at Emmanuel Assemblies of God in Sebayeng Polokwane and is the Manager in the Office of the Executive Director for the Flames of Fire Ministry. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer for the Limpopo Marching Band Association, which comprises selected musicians from numerous brass bands in the Limpopo Province.

We trust that Capt Titus will endeavour to sustain this remarkable reputation and that he will achieve even greater things in the years to come. We wish him and his family all the best and trust that they will be successful in everything they undertake. God bless you, and we salute you.

Thank you for the music.

If music be the food of life, play on, play on, play on. (W. Shakespeare)
Chief SANDF plays golf to raise funds for an orphanage

By Amn Bibi Sibanyoni
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, spent time at the Thaba Tshwane Services Golf Course with prominent business people and Defence Industry officials on 26 October 2012. The purpose was to raise funds for the orphanage of the Department of Defence in Bloemfontein.

Gen Shoke encouraged the players to pledge money towards this initiative of the Department and said: “Soldiers give their lives to protect the sovereignty of the people of this country. This orphanage is for the children whose parents have lost their lives in the line of duty. It is our prerogative to make sure we take care of these children.” He also praised all those who had contributed money to the Department for the building of the Hospice in Lenz. Gen Shoke said: “Without your generous contributions, this would not have been achieved.”

There were big pledges, with Transnet opening the floor with R250 000. The total amount of all the pledges was R650 000 in support of this good initiative that would benefit the future generation of this country.

SA Road Walking Championships

By Col Celeste Scheepers
Photo: Ms Tanya Leendertz

Four members of the Pretoria Military Walking Club were selected for the Gauteng North Team to participate in the SA Road Walking Championships in Cape Town on 13 October 2012.

All four members did well: Col Celeste Scheepers from Defence Inspectorate Division received a gold medal for the 20 km race walk, while Lt Col Pieter Hudsenberg from GSB Garrison received a silver medal. Both WO2 Mariaan Serdyn from Joint Operations/Defence Intelligence and Ms Retha Knoetze, civilian club member, received gold medals for the 10 km race walk in their age categories.

Well done to them on their achievements in this healthy, but demanding sport.
The SA Army Foundation hosted yet another successful Day at the Races at the Turffontein racecourse in Johannesburg on 3 November 2012.

The theme of the day was the Mardi Gras. The Mardi Gras carnival theme is associated with good friends, a lively spirit and great food and drink. Popular features of Mardi Gras include wearing masks and costumes, dancing and sporting competitions – a tradition that was upheld with gusto by guests at this year’s event.

This year the Mardi Gras carnival theme included a vintage photo booth where guests could capture their flamboyant outfits, masks and Mardi Gras beads for posterity.

Over the years this event has had various themes, for example in 2011 it was the Speakeasy theme with all the guests dressed up in 1920’s jazz outfits, complete with fedoras and feather boas. Several of the guests walked away with prizes for “Best Dressed Couple”.

This annual event has grown to be synonymous with a jovial mood in celebrating another successful year maintaining and building new relationships and partnerships to the benefit of the SA Army Foundation members.

Historically the inception of Day at the Races of the SA Army Foundation can be traced back to the first such event that took place in 2003 at the Gosforth Park racecourse in Germiston.

This spectacular event was the brainchild of the marketing team, led at the time by Mr Angel Ramphele, as a novel way of thanking the SA Army Foundation’s business associates and Board of Control for their support throughout the year. Most importantly, the event served as an original alternative to hosting a Golf Day as a networking opportunity between several of the Foundation’s central stakeholders.

From November 2007 the event was officially held at Turffontein racecourse in Johannesburg and it was such a success that it became an annual highlight in the diaries both of elite business groups and the Chief of the SA Army.

The first event at Turffontein in 2007 was attended by Gen Solly Shoke (the then Chief of the SA Army) at the invitation of the former Chairperson of the SA Army Foundation Board of Control, Maj Gen Lungile Dulane (currently the Deputy Chief of Corporate Staff). Since then Gen Shoke has been a staunch supporter of the Day at the Races. He again attended it this year as the new Chief of the SANDF with his wife, Ms Charlotte Shoke.

He was joined at this year’s function by Lt Gen Vusimuzi Masondo, Chief of the SA Army, and his spouse, Ms Dinah Masondo, and Maj Gen Leslie Rudman, Deputy Chief of the SA Army, and his wife, Ms Elsje Rudman. The guests were hosted by Maj Gen Luvuyo Nobanda, the new Chairperson of the SA Army Foundation Board of Control, and Mr Angel Ramphele, the newly appointed General Manager of the SA Army Foundation, along with their spouses.

Various stakeholders, including non-military guests were invited on the basis of their business association with the SA Army Foundation. The following companies attended the event this year: Assupol, Avbob, BAE Systems, Liberty Life, MFS Holdings, Maxi Credit Solutions, Minute Man Press, Paysmart Africa, Old Mutual Group Scheme, Old Mutual Life, Old Mutual Life Assurance, Rainbow Holiday Club, SA Army Foundation, Sanlam and SAFI.

In his speech Mr Ramphele thanked all who attended the 2012 event, extended his gratitude to the sponsors of the event and expressed the wish that all attendees should enjoy the day as intended. In his good-humoured manner he reminded everyone that while the idea was to network and socialise, attendees should bear in mind good sportsmanship when betting. He concluded: “May the best horse win.”

The best dressed couple according to the theme: Mr Johan Delport from Maxi Credit Solutions and his wife, Ms Louine Delport, with Ms Emma Kolobe, the Programme Director of the 2012 Day at the Races.
The SA Army Foundation enters a new era

It has been 100 days since Mr Angel Ramphele took up his new leadership position on 1 July 2012 as General Manager of the SA Army Foundation and since then he has applied himself to “Changing the future of the SA Army Foundation and its members”. Ramphele, who has been with the Army Foundation for sixteen years as its former Marketing Manager in charge of Marketing and Business Development, took over from Maj Gen Keith Mokoape who retired from the Foundation at the age of 65. Besides over three decades of experience and a variety of post-graduate business- and law degrees and achievements, Mr Ramphele has also been a member of the Institute of Directors (Southern Africa) for 13 years and was elected to the Chartered Institute of Logistic and Transport (UK) in 2010 as a Chartered Fellow.

Letter from the new General Manager

Dear Members of the SA Army Foundation

The SA Army Foundation business model has always been to provide value to our members that they cannot get from anyone else. Yet, the changes our society is undergoing in the new technology era are revolutionising the way in which we live our lives, and as such, it will completely change the way in which the Army Foundation will communicate with our members in future, as well as the products and benefits we intend to offer.
We will do it the hard way — through new strategic direction, technology breakthroughs, the creation of client value, and driving change in how the company operates.

I believe that the result will be a fundamentally different SA Army Foundation than existed a decade ago — one that delivers historic results, even as it more fully demonstrates the company’s 56-year old character.

For over 16 years, it has been my privilege to be a part of this remarkable institution. I have every confidence that there is benefit to developing deep understanding of an industry like the SA Army and SANDF, as well as the culture of our company. Therefore, the first major work effort I launched since becoming GM was a collective “brainstorm” on who we are and why we exist. What resulted was a greater emphasis on quality service and better benefits for our members, as well as a commitment to excellence in everything we do.

We still have a long way to go to fully realise these values in our work, our management systems and our behaviour, but I think it’s safe to say that we laid the right foundation. But all this would make no sense without our members’ participation. I would like to welcome you to the world of the SA Army Foundation and invite you to talk to us through our new electronic gateways via SAArmyFoundation/Facebook; AngelRamphele/Facebook or follow me @Ramphelearmyfnd or @SAArmyfoundation on Twitter. Alternatively visit our website on www.armyfoundation.co.za.

Feel free to communicate your points of view - we’re good listeners. Your suggestions, opinions and questions collected in our offices and through these New Media channels are a vital contribution to our daily learning process and will help us to offer new services in which quality and speed are always key factors.

This is an open forum. Help us to make the SA Army Foundation better for You, the Member. We’re here to listen.

Best regards,
Angel Ramphele FCILT (UK), General Manager,
SA Army Foundation
Running in the night on the runway

By Col Zirk Lourens, with acknowledgement to AFB Ysterplaat and Defence Western Province Athletic Club for lots of interesting information
Photos: F Sgt N. Geduld

The Silver Queen Runway Night Race is an annual event hosted by Air Force Base Ysterplaat in conjunction with the Western Province Defence Athletic Club, and is an appropriate celebration of the SA Air Force’s envious aviation heritage, including the flight from England to Cape Town by two South Africans pilots in 1920.

The race has become a Western Cape institution and a firm favourite as a night race with local and visiting up-country athletes. It is quite an experience to run a race on a runway at night with the runway lights indicating the direction to follow …

The Silver Queen Runway Night Race was held at AFB Ysterplaat on 17 October 2012. Participants had a choice of two distances: the scenic 10 km run for serious runners or the 5 km fun run.

The clear starlight night and illuminated Table Mountain in the distance was a breath-taking sight. On account of the ambience the number of athletes has grown from 406 in the first race that was held on 14 February 2007 to 720 athletes this year.

The first overall runner was Mr Wanda Roro from ITHEKO Athletic Club with a winning time of 32 min, 50 sec. The runner-up was Mr Wesley Ruto from Nedbank Western Province Athletic Club with a time of 33 min, 13 sec. Mr Vladimir Kotov, a master athlete from Century City Athletic Club and a previous Comrades Marathon winner (2000 new up-record, 2002 and 2004), came seventh overall with a time of 34 min, 37 sec. The first female runner was Ms Candice Hall of Nedbank Athletic Club Western Province with a winning time of 39 min, 49 seconds.

Runners from Western Province Defence Athletic Club did not participate as they hosted the race and were involved in co-ordinating the event. Defence runners from the West Coast and Bredasdorp participated with great success, and finished among the first 50 positions.

DPS/AMG managed by Denel Aviation is proud to be involved in this prestigious event on the athletic calendar of AFB Ysterplaat. Although this is the first year that DPS/AMG has been involved as one of the sponsors, this was definitely one of the many highlights in the SA Air Force in which DPS/AMG has been involved in events of this kind. Assupol from Cape Town was also one of the sponsors.

During the prize-giving ceremony Mr Rassie Erasmus, the Customer Relationship Manager DPS/AMG, confirmed that continuous support of the event would be high on the agenda of sporting events of the SA Air Force to be sponsored in the future.

SANDF and DOD members are invited to take part in road running or walking by signing up at the various SANDF road running clubs in each province.

History of the Silver Queen

The name “Silver Queen” is derived
from the Vickers Vimy aircraft flown by Sir Pierre van Ryneveld and Sir Christopher Brand in the historic flight of February 1920 from London to Cape Town.

Aviation evolved rapidly during World War I and shortly after it was possible to travel by air from London to Cape Town. So by 1919 a feeble chain of primitive airfields had been cleared across the African Continent as a prelude to the challenge of claiming the title of having pioneered an air route between London and Cape Town. A Times of London-sponsored aviation crew of the Royal Air Force was among the first contenders to rise to this challenge.

The visionary South African statesman, Gen Jan Smuts, had grasped the merits of aviation in both war and peacetime commerce before most of his contemporaries. Gen Smuts fiercely contended for the feat of pioneering an air route between Europe and South Africa to fall to a fellow countryman. South Africans, Sir Pierre van Ryneveld and Christopher Brand were therefore designated to pilot a Vickers Vimy hailed as the “Silver Queen”, from England to Youngsfield in Wynberg, Cape Town. These intrepid aviators departed from England in February 1920, and soon took the lead in the contest as the aircraft of other contenders had to give up, one by one.

The South Africans persevered despite two accidents in which the wrecked aircraft was simply replaced. Their arrival in Cape Town signified the founding of the SA Air Force, the second oldest Commonwealth Air Force in the world.

Development of women golfers

Article and photo by Lt Col Ilze du Toit, Acting Officer Commanding SA Defence Intelligence College

The first SANDF Veterans and Women’s Development Golf Tournament took place at the Bloemfontein Golf Course from 22 to 26 October 2012.

This exclusive and long overdue tournament honours those that have been committed to the game and made it part of their lifestyle for many years. Without the veteran golfers, golf would certainly not be as successful as it currently is in the SANDF. A veteran golfer within the SANDF qualifies for this tournament if 50 years before the start of the tournament.

The Women Golf Development Clinic that was presented last year was intended to act as a platform to encourage women to become part of the golf culture. Competitive tournament skills were further assessed during the 2012 SANDF Veterans and Women’s Development Golf Tournament. The tournament highlighted and encouraged professional sportsmanship, promoted dedication and ignited a passion for golf as the active sport it is supposed to be.

On 23 October 2012 the SANDF Veteran and Women’s Golf Tournament was officially opened by the Chairperson of SANDF Golf, Lt Col Wiekus Schoeman.

The tournament was played over four days in the form of stroke play competition. Altogether 52 players from all parts of South Africa participated.

The Development Tournament for Women started on 23 October with a development clinic presented by Lt Col Karin Watts, SANDF Women’s Golf Champion. The Women’s Tournament included a three-day individual stable ford points competition.

The week ended with a prize-giving function where all the winners of the different categories were announced.

Fltr: Lt Col Ronel Janse van Rensburg, Chairperson of SANDF Women’s Golf, presents the development trophy to WO1 Riana Swart, the 2012 women’s development golf winner.
IT IS WELL

By Col (Rev) Masello Mothopeng,
SSO Reserve Force Chaplain

2 KINGS 4:26 (AMP) This passage is about the Shunammite woman who was very generous and was blessed with a son for her generosity. Elisha, the man of God, prayed to God to give the woman a son. The Bible teaches that she did not have a child and the husband was already old. But through the miracle of the man of God, the old couple had a child; the woman gave birth to a son. The sad part is that the child died at an early age. While the parents were still enjoying their parenthood and the feeling of being called a father and a mother, the child died. In that pain, the Bible says the woman took the child (the corpse) and laid him on the bed in the room that was built for the man of God. She shut the door on him and went out. With tears in her eyes she shut the door on the dead child and went out. Where was she going to? Oh! She went to the man of God.

The Bible says when the man of God saw her still afar, he sent out his servant to meet her and ask if all was well. The woman who had just lost her child, who died in her arms, replied and said: IT IS WELL. She just closed the door on her dead child, she had just lost the precious gift that changed her status into a mother, she had just experienced such a tragic loss, that of her only child; how could she say “it is well?”

This demonstrates the faith that this woman had in the man of God. She knew that in her pain, in her sorrow, there was a man a God whom she could run to. She acknowledged that she was blessed by the man of God, and again only the man of God could change her situation.

In our lives we encounter so many difficulties and sometimes we do not even know what to do. The year is almost over and some of us are still have the same challenges. These are even increasing or growing to the level that we cannot handle them anymore. Some of us have lost hope because things are not just getting better. The things we hoped for, the things we thought would change our situation are just not working for us. Just like the Shunammite woman, when things became awkward for her, when she lost the only thing that fulfilled her life, ran to the man of God. Let us run to Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul says with Christ we can do everything. Even ourselves, if we trust and have faith in Christ, our situation will change. Something may have just died in your life. Look at that and say: IT IS WELL. Let it be well even when you feel like you are going through the cold deep valley of difficulties, say it is well because your Redeemer will see you through. Even if you feel that the journey is too long and tiring for you, say it is well because the God that guided the Israelites through the desert for forty years will pull you through. Even when people lose hope in you because of your condition, do not lose hope, your condition is not your conclusion, just say: IT IS WELL.

The Lord who sees our miseries and hears our prayers will come to your rescue. Just know that if you have Him, Adonai by your side, the situation does not matter because we can safely say: IT IS WELL.
Hosting of career development day for secretaries

By Ms Sanet Stoltz, Senior Personnel Practitioner: Subdirectorate Career Services

Directorate Career Management (DCM) has identified career development days for various occupational groupings, such as secretaries. This type of intervention fits the scope of career development that can influence self-management by individuals regarding their career development.

The second career development day for secretaries was recently arranged and hosted by DCM at the Armscor Building in Pretoria. It was the second time that such a workshop was hosted for the occupational class groupings of secretaries in the DOD. In 2011 the event was organised to involve the secretaries and once again it was received with enthusiasm and enjoyment by all attendees.

Altogether 30 attendees and seven presenters (of which one was a guest speaker) convened at the Indlovu Training Venue in Armscor. A warm welcome was extended to all by the Acting DCM, Col Kevin Richards. They were reminded to have fun and enjoy the day while learning about career development. The attendees were also each provided with some coloured pipe cleaners and were challenged to create something with it during the day.

The first speaker of the day was Ms Magriet Malan, Deputy Director: Career Services, who has a Masters Degree in Psychology and is registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Ms Malan has more than 21 years’ experience in career counselling and 14 years’ experience in career management.

She explained what the word “career” entailed and discussed career pathing in the Public Service and explained in detail what career management and planning entailed. This presentation was very interesting and set a high standard for the rest of the day.

Mr Leon Kouta was the second speaker and his topic was “Personality traits of a secretary”. Mr Kouta is Assistant Director Career Management and has an Honours Degree in Psychology. He is registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. He discussed personality by using a factor trait theory concept based on the theory of Jung, which was relevant to the functioning of a secretary. He explained ideal personally traits and the types of career skills required and asked the audience to list the top ten qualities of a great secretary.

The next presenter was Ms Talana Steyn who is currently the secretary of the Officer Commanding Military Academy in Saldanha. She was a compassionate speaker and a good example of someone who started her career on a very low salary level (as a Typist Level 2 in the DOD) and then advanced through the salary ranks to a post of senior secretary, Level 7, in the DOD. Ms Steyn chose the topic; “The privilege of being a secretary” and she provided everyone with insight into the duties and responsibilities of a secretary in the DOD.

The highlight of the programme was Ms Pamela Khumalo from Telkom, who was a guest speaker. Ms Khumalo is currently the Executive Assistant in the office of the CEO Telkom Group. She has been a PA/Secretary for more than 17 years, ten of which have been at executive level. Ms Khumalo was also the 2009/2010 Winner of the Today’s Office Professional Award. Her topic of choice was “Building a professional partnership with your boss.” This speaker was an enthusiastic and entertaining presenter and was able to relay to the audience the skills, knowledge and experience required to be an outstanding and professional secretary. Ms Khumalo is a very skilled speaker and she brought her energy to the table, the trademark of a person who enjoys her job and is on top of her profession.

Just before lunch Ms Ansie Lavis spoke on the topic of “Networking.” Ms Lavis is currently a senior secretary Gr III (Level 6) to the Officer Commanding 87 Helicopter Flying School near Bloemfontein. She defined networking and emphasised the importance of business and social networking in detail.

After lunch Ms Sanet Stoltz, Senior Personnel Practitioner: Subdirectorate Career Services, shared her vision for a special web page for secretaries in the DOD - Secretaries Info Corner. It was immediately clear that the idea was popular with the whole audience and they did not hesitate to share their interest and enthusiasm for the idea.

They gave usable inputs and their written comments confirmed that the proposed web page would definitely enhance the job output of every secretary. The idea was met with 100% support and all attendees indicated they would visit such a website on a regular basis. Twenty-four of the attendees even indicated they would like to participate and contribute articles to such a info website.

The final speaker of the day was Maj Esmarie van Niekerk who is employed in the command management information system environment as a policy-writer. Maj Van Niekerk was the winner of the 2010 Lady Gracious pageant and Ms Photogenic and Miss Personality. Her topic was “Professional Dress”. The audience enjoyed her presentation very much because she dealt with what was appropriate to wear to office and what was considered inappropriate and how one should be conscious of taking responsibility for your personal branding.

The day ended on a high note with the presentation of gifts and Certificates of Attendance to all attendees and speakers. The many compliments and words of appreciation received from the attendees for the well arranged event and interesting topics presented, confirmed the need for similar career interventions in future.
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