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FRONT COVER: To ascertain that the patient does not have respiratory problems Lt Mamello Mahloko checks the breathing of a learner at Mzimohle High School in East London. Read more about the community outreach programme at Mzimohle High School in East London on pages 12 and 13. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)
What an honour it is to dedicate this edition of SA Soldier to our first democratically elected President, Mr Nelson Mandela, who just recently celebrated his 95th birthday.

SA Soldier rejoices with the rest of the world because Tata Madiba was discharged from the hospital on 1 September 2013. We wish him a comfortable recovery at his home.

We hope you, our readers, will enjoy reading how our members showed compassion by spending 67 minutes doing good in celebration of International Mandela Day as much as we have liked compiling these stories of kind-heartedness for you.

This dearly loved and respected global icon is a true humanitarian who personifies forgiveness, modesty and dignity.

Let us spread Madiba’s kindness every day.

And let us unite in living his words: “I cherished this ideal to have a democratic and free society where all people can live together in harmony with equal opportunities”.

I salute Tata Madiba as the father of our nation.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

* Translation into Setswana by Ms Keabetswe Kempe, Intern at SA Soldier.
Funeral of the late former Chief Justice Pius Langa

Article and photos by WO2 Mathebula Moraile, PRO Naval Station Durban

The funeral service of the former Chief Justice Pius Langa was held at the Durban City Hall on 3 August 2013.

Judge Langa has been described by mourners as a man of “great humility,” an extraordinary intellectual and an “outstanding jurist,” in the league of George Bizos and Arthur Chaskalson, a lawyer for the people.

The Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng said: “He was a humble man, not a loquacious leader, but his intervention in our country and in the Constitutional Court always left a mark. As a Constitutional Court Judge Langa protected the public purse. With his departure our country needs to produce many dedicated lawyers who will look after our people and our country’s Constitution. That man was a mentor and a Judicial Father to some of us and we are grateful to his family for agreeing to share him with this nation and the world.”

The former Chief Justice’s daughter, Ms Phumzile Langa, said: “We cannot change the fact that our dad is gone, but we can choose to honour him in our daily lives. Tata was generous right up to the end. He was a brilliant legal mind and jurist, but at home he was Tata.”

We must immortalise Judge Langa as the University of KwaZulu-Natal did by naming one of their residences after him. Like a soldier, Judge Langa is not dead, he lives on as the model of the great lawyer he was. It was Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela who once said: “Discipline is the most powerful weapon to get liberation.” Judge Langa understood that to be the excellent judge that he was, he needed to be disciplined, firm and loyal to our country.

Rest in peace gentle giant, freedom fighter and incorruptible spirit. Your resilience, will power and firm commitment to ensuring justice for the poor and oppressed will make us remember you for all eternity.

ABOVE: The Pall bearers in Durban.
LET US COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

As a country and force, we indeed come from far. Surprisingly, the road that we travelled on as we embarked on this pilgrimage to freedom and to everything that we ultimately grasped, has been trodden upon by many others who unfortunately have not necessarily reached their destinations in the same way as we did or perhaps did not even reach their destinations at all just yet, despite numerous decades of struggle. In this case we may with all due respect mention countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic (CAR), the Sudan, Burundi and other African brothers and sisters of ours that are not necessarily paying for any fault that we might be innocent of, but still the results of their journeys and sometimes the circumstances along their respective paths are really disheartening.

I do not say this in ignorance of what our own country has had to go through to be where we are, but have we for a second noticed that other countries do the same and still things are hectic? Let us take a giant mirror big enough to send back a reflection of our whole history versus our current state: we come from a regime of segregation that did really put us through a lot as a country: people getting killed every day along with many other sad situations, having numerous forces in one country, of course others considered as terrorists, and the only objective that was explicitly explained was that all forces had the objective of protecting their respective backyards.

Fast forward to 1994 when all the different forces were integrated into one force, namely the SANDF. The almost miraculous project was successfully completed and now are so united that we see it more as one force called the SANDF. This giant united force called the SANDF is scattered all over the Africa successfully solving domestic issues in countries on the continent, of course under the wise guidance of our experienced Generals and senior Warrant Officers.

I have just summarised the journey to where we are today because the purpose of this letter is not to remind us of our past unfortunate history, but to help us notice what we have been able to achieve, even better than other countries that have not had the same experience of course with all due respect. Now the big question is: how did we get it right where others failed? The answer is: we did not get anything right on account of our own wisdom, and our African brothers and sisters are not necessarily doing things wrong, God did it all for us. Let us pray for our African brothers and sisters.

Lastly, we as the SANDF might still have some room for improvement, but who does not? Instead of concentrating on our leaders’ faults, let us honour and appreciate them for bringing us together in harmony like this. Let us count our blessings. May God bless South Africa.

Lt D.O Mabonyane, 15 SA Infantry Battalion, Venda

Thank you!

This goes to our colleagues and comrades in arms who are currently deployed to make peace in the DRC, the Sudan and on the RSA borders.

We are so proud of you and thank you for your great service to our nation and to the world. We think of you daily in our prayers and hope that your work will be complete soon so that you can return to be with your loved ones. We want you to feel our support and encouragement.

Thank you for your efforts and dedication. You are missed, remembered and honoured at home. Please come back home safely.

Rfn K.C. Matsepane,
2 SA Infantry Battalion

JOINING HANDS IN KZN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Defence (DOD) and the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DEA) jointly celebrated Environmental Day recently at Marianhill (Dassenhoek) Mamdekazi Ward 13 in the interests of environmental awareness as part of a community outreach and upliftment project of the Regional Works Unit KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) under Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Solomon Mashigo.

Ms Nomalanga Hope from DEA and Capt (SAN) Steven Netshishivhe, SO2 Regional Environmental Manager at Regional Works Unit KZN, were instrumental in initiating this outreach project for the local community to preserve the natural and physical environment for sustainable utilisation of food, clean air, clean water and a safe environment. Members of the DOD, DEA and the Dassenhoek community collected paper, plastic bottles and tins on the main street of Marianhill and cleared blocked drains of illegal waste dumped in them to minimise the environmental impact on the adjacent river. The community was made aware that litter not only looked terrible, but also polluted the environment and blocked waterways.

This joint venture between the DOD and DEA will be conducted annually and will target various communities in KZN to educate and encourage them to keep their environment clean by emphasising its importance. The theme for this year’s environmental day was “THINK, EAT and SAVE.”

WO2 Mathebula Morale, Naval Station Durban

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.
COL “BLESSING” MBUYAZI BECOMES PRESIDENT OF SAMCF

It is with much joy that the SA Military Christian Fellowship (SAMCF) wishes to announce the appointment of Col S.B. “Blessing” Mbuyazi, the newly commissioned SAMCF President. He took over the baton from Lt Col Owen Witbooi, the outgoing SAMCF President.

The Commissioning Ceremony coincided with prayer and planning for the AMCF Global Interaction 2014, which attracted approximately 1 500 delegates from 150 countries to South Africa to attend this worldwide gathering of Military Christians hosted by the SAMCF.

Warrior training was also conducted to equip serving soldiers from the SANDF and surrounding southern African countries to host and assist in teaching international AMCF delegates attending the Global Interaction from 23 to 29 November 2014.

The SAMCF is hoping to have 600 SANDF members attend the AMCF Global Interaction 2014.

To learn more about or to join the SAMCF, please have a look at the SAMCF website: http://samcf.org.za or email: samcf3@gmail.com or write to: SAMCF, PO Box 1545, Sun Valley, 7985.

For further details of the AMCF Global Interaction 2014, please have a look at the website: http://www.amcf2014.org or contact the Global Interaction office on 021 785 4429 or 082 940 4304, email: admin@amcf2014.org or fax on 086 530 4496. Capt (SAN) Peter Louwrens (Ret), email

FLYING OUR FLAG HIGH

A sense of national pride among the SA Army Specialised Infantry Capability (SAASIC) family filled the air as their country’s flag was hoisted during the monthly unit parade. It was an ordinary day filled with the colours of patriotism when unit members stood to attention in front of the Battalion Headquarters for the flag hoisting ceremony.

It is the military culture and custom to hold ceremonial parades at the units. This one started with the reading of the Code of Conduct, followed by the flag hoisting ceremony and the singing of the National Anthem. Thereafter the Chaplain offered special prayers to seek the blessing of the Almighty for the nation, the unit, its members and families.

A flag hoisting ceremony is a demonstration or symbol commemorating the lives of military men and women who have devoted their lives to their country and to honour those who served and still serve under the National Flag.

This military custom sends a message to the young soldiers and future officers to instal military etiquette, values and moral principles in their leadership. The flag hoisting ceremony is a firm contribution to heightening our sense of nationalism, love for our country and projecting a positive image of the military.

Seragi David Mothapo, email

FORGING TIES ON THE GREENS

Defence Foreign Relations (DFR) organised a mini golf day for the spouses of the Military Attaché Advisory Corp (MAAC) recently at Silver Lakes Golf Estate in Pretoria. This event was desirable as continuous liaison with the MAAC members is vital at all times. DFR is primarily responsible for promoting contacts between the representatives of the MAAC and the DOD.

During the proceedings, the spouses of the MAAC were divided into different groups, after which they received golf lessons covering the fundamentals and etiquette of the game, including techniques of golf, such as how to swing a club, and aspects of pitching, chipping and putting by the instructors of the Silver Lakes Golf Academy.

The occasion provided DFR with an opportunity to interact and strengthen relations with their stakeholders, so they took the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by them in meeting their constitutional mandate.

Substantive and fruitful discussions on a wide range of issues of common interest were held, such as working together to meet any challenges and collective efforts to deliver quality service to ensure that South Africans live and feel safe.

S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaoale, Pretoria
WEAPON DESTRUCTION AT ARCELORMITTAL

Millions of illegal weapons end up in the wrong hands on this giant African continent. These weapons are utilised to commit crime, such as terrorism, coups, etc.

In the South African context we also have thousands of illegal weapons that are used in criminal activities, for example armed robbery, cash in transit heists, gang violence and other crimes.

On 30 July 2013 history was made when more than 19 000 illegal weapons were destroyed by ArcelorMittal in Vereeniging. This was an initiative of the SA Police Service (SAPS) in which all illegal weapons collected or confiscated were destroyed.

On this day high-ranking officials from the SAPS were present to ensure the smooth execution of the operation. Also present was the Minister of Police, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, his deputy, Ms Maggie Sotyu, and the National Police Commissioner, Gen Riah Phiyega.

The SA Army also joined hands with the SAPS on this historic operation and handed over more than 10 000 unserviceable weapons for destruction. Weapon repair technicians had confirmed they could never be repaired and were only fit for disposal or destruction. DOD Main Ordnance Depot delivered these weapons to the SAPS. Col Dennis Makeke, the Officer Commanding of DOD Main Ordnance Depot, led the SA Army members to witness the destruction of these weapons.

Every year thousands of illegal weapons are confiscated and others are voluntarily handed over to the police to be destroyed, but in spite of this illegal weapons are increasingly available in our communities. This is a war that should be fought by each and every South African citizen; it should not be viewed as a police war, but one for every citizen of this country. Maj N.T. Ngcobo, email

SA AIR FORCE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS REUNION

The first ever reunion of the SA Air Force Air Traffic Controllers was recently held. The event was a nostalgic affair divided into two parts, with a reunion breakfast held at the historic Generals House at SA Air Force College in Thaba Tshwane, and an evening Gala Dinner at AFB Swartkop in Valhalla.

Both the breakfast and evening dinner turned out to be even greater successes than many had expected and will be permanently imprinted in the hearts of all those that attended.

Our special guests for the evening were Brig Gen Chris Delport, Director Command and Control Systems in the SA Air Force, Col (Ret) Max van Dyk Horst, the first SA Air Force Air Traffic Controller (ATC) Instructor for the course of 1962, along with two of the original twelve students who were on that course, namely Commandant (Ret) Mich du Toit and Commandant (Ret) George de Beer (both ATCs in the SA Air Force). We also had two of the first lady SA Air Force Air Traffic Controllers, namely Ms Adi Jones and Ms Nancy Turner, who completed their ATC Course in 1972 along with Ms Annette du Plessis. Lastly we were graced by the attendance of the first Black and Coloured lady controllers in the SA Air Force, namely Maj Jolanda Rossouw (our finance lady on the committee) and Capt Nthabi Thlagale from AFB Waterkloof. Our sponsors also joined us along with many of the current young ATCs from around the country. The support was phenomenal.

Col (Ret) Errol Hart, previously an ATC in the SA Air Force, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and assisted us in making the evening that much more memorable. We are also proud to say that all moneys remaining from the various sponsors and proceeds made on the evening from the memorabilia auctions will be given to the SA Air Force Museum for the purpose of creating an ATC display, as well as to preserve the story (history) of the SA Air Force ATC for future generations. At the time of writing this we were still closing our account books, but we estimated that the amount to be donated would be about forty to fifty thousand rands. All posters that were made and used as décor for the evening were also given to the museum, under the care of Col George du Toit, the Chief Archivist at the museum, and who was an ATC in the SA Air Force as well.

I am happy to say that my original intention has been achieved and that the senior pioneers of our mustering were finally given the honour they deserved, and it gave all the other young ATCs of my generation an opportunity to meet these gentlemen and learn about the history of their calling. It is my understanding that very few young people are inclined to take an interest in history, and it is for this reason that many stories have gone unheard. It is to be hoped that in future other young people will work at preserving the little known heroes of our past and in turn preserve the stories which are normally forgotten owing to their not being considered relevant to the current generation. I also hope that the camaraderie we as the SA Air Force ATC Reunion Committee of 2013 pioneered will be taken up and continued by other like-minded individuals in the future.

Lt Mark Tomlinson, SA Air Force ATC Reunion Organiser.
HIP HIP HOORAY!

On 11 July 2013 Brig Gen Stanley Buhali, the Provost Marshal General, was bowled over when his secretary, Ms Kate Hernandez, and members of the Military Police Division arranged a surprise birthday party for him.

As the members of the Division waited with baited breath to surprise Brig Gen Buhali in their conference room, Ms Hernandez was getting everything ready, including tea, biscuits and the big birthday cake. A few more minutes for the Brig Gen Buhali to blow out with its candles to be lit up later.

The Division members waited a few more minutes for the Brig Gen Buhali to arrive and as soon as he entered the door, the traditional celebratory “Happy Birthday” song was sung and the cameras started flashing. The cake with candles was lit for Brig Gen Buhali to blow out.

Capt (SAN) Mokgadi Maphoto, SSO Policing, congratulated him on his birthday and said he was honoured to do this. Then Capt (SAN) Maphoto read the birthday cards received by Brig Gen Buhali.

The floor was then given to Brig Gen Buhali, who said he was thankful for those who could attend and celebrate his birthday with him. He thanked everyone who was involved and had made an effort to surprise him, although it did not work out, he said jokingly. He insisted that the same must be done for others as well, not just for himself. He said: “Hopefully I will live long enough to see the next one”. Lt Col Manie Smit, SO1 Safeguarding, read from the Bible and gave this advice to Brig Gen Buhali: “Despite any adverse circumstances, God is always with you. Then he said a prayer and blessed the birthday man. Thereafter refreshments were served to everyone’s delight.

Ms Lebo Mohapi, Pretoria

THE SA AIR FORCE EAGLE

It is vital for the members of the SA Air Force to know the reasons that influenced its founder, Sir Pierre van Ryneveld, to visualise the SA Air Force as an eagle. There were reasons that led him to that decision. He had a great vision and that vision was to see the SA Air Force flying like an eagle. Maybe one of the reasons that led him to choose the eagle was that the bird is clean and its cleanliness is related to good discipline. That is why it is important for members of the SA Air Force to be neat and disciplined at all times, as represented by the SA Air Force eagle, and not to lose sight of this. Maybe he chose the eagle because it is very strong and has been used as a symbol of war since Babylonian times.

The SA Air Force eagle is unique because it is known for its unique flight characteristics. It is a bird that builds its nest on the top of the tallest tree so that it can overwhelm its prey on the ground. It tends to nest in inaccessible places so that it is protected at all times. It is a bird that prefers to hunt and kill its prey because it believes that things that you get for free may kill you. That characteristic clearly challenges members of the SA Air Force to work hard for what they achieve, without favour. It has sharp eyes that are able to look far into the distance. That is why it is emphasised that real soldiers must have sharp eyes at all times, which is one of the characteristics of the SA Air Force eagle. Though it has sharp eyes, it can look towards the sun without being blinded, which indicates that nothing is impossible for the members of the SA Air Force.

Most leaders of countries are trained to be like the SA Air Force eagle. They do not fail because an eagle does not fail in life. It is the only bird that looks for storms to overcome and it flies over them. This clearly means that the SA Air Force eagle faces any challenge in life in order to become a hero. The SA Air Force eagle believes that you can only learn in life through challenges and the storms you face. The SA Air Force eagle teaches its offspring to fly the hard way without being spoon-fed, so that when it is no longer around the same offspring can make it in life. This clearly tells us that members of the SANDF must work hard and learn fast as in the case of the veterans of the SANDF. Offspring of the SA Air Force eagle are given a proper briefing before they start flying. In this they are told that if they are not responsible in life, they will die with their time.

The beak of the SA Air Force eagle is sharp so that it can fight its enemies and win its battles. It is also expected of SANDF members to fight their enemies and win the battle by being ready at all times. Two eggs, from one of which a male chick and from the other a female chick is hatched, help balance the ratio in the eagle family. This is something that the entire SANDF must adopt by ensuring that there is balance in terms of race, gender, ethnicity and equality.

NB: I ask all the members of the SANDF to be unique like the SA Air Force eagle so that they can be victorious and excellent for the rest of their lives. Capt Paulos Mlangeni, 87 Helicopter Flying School: AFB Bloemspruit
Promoting cooperation across national borders

By Cpl Ally Rakoma  
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

It has often been said that South Africa cannot become an island of prosperity in a sea of poverty. South Africa’s greater involvement and cooperation in regional trade, sectoral cooperation programmes and joint development of regional resources and infrastructure can make a great contribution to efforts to promote a climate of regional peace and stability conducive to sustained economic growth and development within the region.

The Angolan Chief of General Staff, Gen Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda, and his delegation visited South Africa as the guests of the Chief of the SA National Defence Force, Gen Solly Shoke. They met at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 23 July 2013.

The aim of the visit was to strengthen ties between the two countries’ armed forces and to explore areas of military cooperation. Another objective was to explore the possibility of exchanging practical knowledge and the training of military personnel.

Both Generals discussed issues of mutual interest, for example military health programmes and veterinary and environmental matters. They realised that the need for military cooperation between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) States would ensure good neighbourliness and will have a positive effect on our collective well-being.

Gen Shoke said that the two countries and armed forces had strong relations that had developed under difficult conditions. He pointed out that the Presidents of the two countries were united in seeking an end to the various conflicts and crises on the continent.

Gen Nunda said that in the historical context the relationship between the two countries dated back to the time of the liberation struggle.

During the official welcoming parade a guard of honour was provided by the National Ceremonial Guard, the SA Air Force Band played the National Anthems of both countries and a 21-gun salute was fired by the Light Artillery Regiment.
Focus on planning, budgeting and risk management

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Among the initiatives introduced by Government is an integrated approach to policy formulation, planning and implementation. The National Planning Framework for Government gives impetus to Cabinet’s functioning with regard to policy setting, aligning policy setting with budgeting, monitoring and reporting, and ensuring cooperative governance in all spheres of Government.

The Chief Defence Policy Strategy and Planning, Dr Thobekile Gamede, hosted the DOD Guideline Workshop for Planning, Budgeting, Reporting and Risk Management at the SA Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria from 24 to 26 July 2013.

The aim of the workshop was to help train DOD planners or planning functionaries within the Services and Divisions in the practice of planning, integrating risk management, balanced budgeting, audit control, the performance expectations of the organisation, asset management and balanced dimensions that enhance the ability of systems to monitor and assess progress and reporting.

The Chief Director Strategic Management, Mr Dumisani Dladla, welcomed the workshop participants and highlighted some key activities that needed to be undertaken to guide decisions. He said that following the directive from the Commander-in-Chief and the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, it was important to identify key outputs and activities required for the achievement of the outcome and pointed to the increasing significance of the turnaround strategy aligned with the Department’s strategic objectives and plans, with the full compliance of the Government Regulatory Framework.

Mr Dladla added that the DOD was governed by Constitutional principles, policy frameworks and budgetary processes, which ensure that it is directed and managed in an effective, efficient, economical and transparent manner to meet national imperatives and critical government priorities.

The outputs of the DOD are achieved through various programmes: Defence Administration, Force Employment, Landward, Air, Maritime Defence and Military Health Service, Defence Intelligence and Joint Support.

During her address Dr Gamede said that the workshop marked the beginning of the annual DOD planning cycle for the financial year 15/16 Medium-term Expenditure Framework. She pointed out that Government is at present in the process of formalising the implementation of the National Developmental Plan which will be integrated into the new Medium-term Strategic Framework for the period 2014 to 2019, as the first five-year building block of the National Development Plan. She pointed that all government departments and parastatals are expected to play a vital role in the realisation of the vision of the National Development Plan.

Dr Gamede added: “Planning, budgeting, reporting and functional guidelines for planning ensure that strategic plans, annual performance plans, functional and resource plans are developed to ensure efficient and effective use of resources.”

Topics such as understanding the planning, strategy, budgeting, risk management, reporting frameworks and processes that could affect long-term planning were discussed in depth.
Spending 67 minutes
simply being humane

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SANDF has heeded the call of the previous first democratically elected President of South Africa and Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Mr Nelson Mandela, affectionately called Tata Madiba (meaning father Madiba) who South Africans see as the father of the South African nation. During his 90th birthday Tata urged the citizens of South Africa to give 67 minutes of their time to help the less fortunate. It was a call to add value to the lives of others and to spread the concept of UBUNTU. UBUNTU is an African concept that seeks to promote and acknowledge harmony in people’s lives; it literally means “we all are what we are because of the existence of someone”.

On 18 July 2013 the Office of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans took time off from its daily duties to host a community outreach programme at Mzomhle High School in East London. The Mzomhle High School is one of four schools that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, has adopted as part of her social responsibility outreach.

Talking to SA Soldier on behalf of the Minister, Mr Sonwabo Mbananga, Spokesperson of the Minister, said that Minister Mapisa-Nqakula saw the need and the significance of bringing the SANDF to this impoverished community to raise awareness of what the SANDF was all about. The Spokesperson of the Minister said: “The Minister wanted to let people know that the SANDF has various career options that can be backed by either regular
It is important that people must know that doctors, engineers, pilots (submarines and aircraft) and other various qualifications are needed in the SANDF. It is therefore important to bring the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service to the people in this democratic era as its future progress is dependent on them.”

Mr Mbananga encouraged the youth to complete their studies in order to qualify to be enlisted in the Department. He hastened to mention that those young qualified people who might not necessarily get employment in the Department due to limited space could be employed in other government departments through a Department of Rural Development and Land Reform initiative called the National Youth Development Programme. This initiative seeks to empower the youth with life orientation skills, which are useful not only in the Department, but in all government departments.

The Principal of Mzomhle High School, Ms Nomzi Jilaji, referring to Mapisa-Nqakula by her first name (Nosiviwe) enthusiastically recalled her days as a learner at her alma mater and said she appreciated that she did not forget where she came from. Ms Jilaji said: “We are proud that Nosiviwe brought the soldiers to the people, to show us that being a soldier was not all about carrying rifles and “sjamboks” as it was done during the previous regime. The exhibition today will not only benefit the learners, but the unemployed youth in this community too. This changes the attitude that soldiers are not educated, because we see here today that various careers paths exist in the military that need highly qualified people.”

The SA Military Health Service offered free primary medical testing to the community close to the school, eg optometry services by which many senior citizens benefited, as well as general check-ups, including blood pressure checks. Where serious health problems were suspected or detected the patients were referred to local clinics. Also offered to the learners was oral hygiene testing, including lectures on how to brush one’s teeth, floss, and the do’s and don’ts involved in improving oral hygiene and fitness. Volunteers were taught how to keep their bodies and minds in tip-top condition.
The DOD Logistics Division took on the Mandela Day celebrations at full swing on 18 July 2013 following their successful bid to honour Madiba’s ideal society of humility, peace and caring for other people.

The DOD Logistic Support Formation and the Defence Works Formation combined efforts to bring joy to the Rhirandzo Old-age Home in Klipgat near Pretoria. The home also gives support to physically challenged people and has a day-care centre.

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, accompanied by the Deputy Chief of Logistics, Maj Gen Motlamme Moadira, paid a visit to the centre to observe some of the reconstructions and upgrades that the Department had committed itself to. Gen Shoke indicated that he was pleased to see the SANDF being part of such an initiative that aims to change people’s standard of living.

Gen Shoke said that the SANDF was instructed by the Commander in Chief to render support and assistance to less fortunate people in South African communities. He added that instead of organising a function for Mandela Day, it would be appropriate to give assistance where needed. He pledged R10 000 from the budget of his fund-raising projects to the centre.

The owner of the home, Ms Noami Maluleke, said she was humbled by the gesture of the SANDF: “We identified elderly people who needed to be cared for and then we consulted their families. We then rented a

ABOVE: Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, hands over a blanket to Ms Noami Maluleke, owner of the Rhirandzo Old-age Home, as a token of goodwill on Mandela Day, while Maj Gen Motlamme Moadira, Deputy Chief Logistics, looks on.

LEFT: Defence Works Formation members repainted the entire building on Mandela Day.
property for them to be cared for and have a place to stay here in Klipgat.

“I managed to inform the community by calling on people who were interested and managed. Three women and one man reported. We then found a vandalised building in Beruit, Winterveldt, which the Government offered to us to use for the elderly.”

She added: “We provide care by feeding and washing them.” Altogether 26 members are accommodated on the premises and another 15 are cared for during the day. Ms Maluleke said elderly people in their community were left to fend for themselves when their family members were at work or school.

The Defence Works Formation has fixed toilets, drains and leaking pipes, and has painted and refurbished the building. They have also promised to fix the lights and install a geyser. Gen Shoke also asked them to build extra rooms in the yard.

LEFT: SA Military Health Service medical officers taking the blood pressure of an elderly woman at the Rhirhandzo Old-age Home.
**Defence Inspectorate Division celebrates Mandela Day**

By Mr Frans Mthimunye, Financial Planner for Defence Inspectorate Division

Photos: Capt Kguri Selesho

The Defence Inspectorate Division celebrated Mandela Day on 18 July 2013 by painting and preparing the vegetable garden at Pfunzo Ndi Tshedza Primary School in Mamelodi East. The school is situated in a poor community and is a no-fee school. It has 1 689 learners and was built to accommodate 1 100 learners.

Members of the Defence Inspectorate Division (Inspectorate General) organised the event and obtained donations in order to purchase the paint, brushes and vegetable seeds. On arrival at the school, the Principal, Ms Joyce Ndhlovu, welcomed the members of the Defence Inspectorate Division and expressed her appreciation to them for choosing her school. She thanked the members for their enthusiasm, love and dedication to the school, and the time members spent with them. She stated that this event would encourage some of the learners to consider a career in the SA National Defence Force. Furthermore, she expressed the wish that the school would not only be visited on Mandela Day, but that it would have a long-term relationship with the Defence Inspectorate Division.

The Inspector General of the DOD, Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, gave a brief overview of the responsibility of the Department of Defence to support the people of South Africa. In closing he thanked the members of the Defence Inspectorate Division for having made a difference.

RIGHT: Col Celeste Scheepers, Performance Audit Manager (left), and Col Engela Brink, SSO Divisional Planner, hard at work.

ABOVE: Members of the Defence Inspectorate Division and the Pfunzo Ndi Tshedza Primary School.
Painting and donating on Mandela Day

By Ms Loretta Ledwaba, Intern at CD HRD
Photo: Maj Adele Harmse

On 18 July 2013 members of Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (CD HRD) celebrated Mandela Day by dedicating time and effort to improving conditions at Seshegong Secondary School, one of the disadvantaged schools in Olievenhoutbosch. It accommodates 1 200 learners between Grade 8 and 12 from all provinces.

The day started with the learners presenting a short programme consisting of musical items rendered by the school choir and some learners read messages about what Madiba meant to them.

The members of CD HRD contributed different toiletries, for example soap, deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary pads and toilet rolls, as well as fruit packs to the learners.

“Build it” hardware in Blue Hills sponsored paint and paintbrushes for the school. The members of CD HRD painted the fence of the school and a classroom.

The School Principal, Ms Irene Shongwe, said that it was heart-warming to see SANDF members dedicating their time and effort to assist the school. She challenged the Class of 2013 to honour Madiba by passing their Grade 12 exams at the end of the year.


Honouring our global icon

By Capt Kopano Likhakanyane, Bravo Company Second in Command: 2 SAI Bn (Operation CORONA)
Photos: S Sgt Neo Senne

Bravo Company of 2 SA Infantry Battalion (2 SAI Bn) under the command of Maj Molefe Diseko, deployed as part of Operation Corona in Mpumalanga province at Zonstraal Operational Base. Maj Diseko said: “We took part in helping the community, especially the children, to celebrate Mandela Day. We served 67 minutes in honour of our global icon, Mr Nelson Mandela.”

Bravo Company visited the Good Hope Day Care Centre at Dundonald Location where proceedings commenced. The Second in Command of Bravo Company, Capt Kopano Likhakanyane, gave a short briefing on the significance of Mandela Day.

He reminded the members that in 2009 the United Nations Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, had declared 18 July as International Mandela Day. He added: “Today we have dedicated Madiba’s birthday towards a good cause. Children are close to Tata Madiba’s heart. He is a symbol of peace, trust, hope, unity and prosperity.”

To make a difference in life is to be able to pick up the pieces and put a smile on a child’s face, even if it is only for a while. One of the famous quotes of Tata Mandela in this connection was: “There can be no keener revelation of society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children”.

The members cleaned and painted the crèche, while members of Bravo Company donated groceries and toys to the more than 20 children enrolled at the Good Hope Day Care Centre. After painting the crèche they had lunch together. It was a very enjoyable day spent in the company of the community and the children.

In wrapping up the day Capt Likhakanyane said: “We do not give because we have a lot; we give because we know how it feels not to have”. Happy today, tomorrow and forever Mandela Day.
Members of ASB Kimberley celebrating the legacy of former President Nelson Mandela.

Members of ASB Kimberley marching to celebrate the legacy of former President Nelson Mandela.
This year for Mandela Day, SANDF COLET decided to visit the Dove’s Nest in Lyttelton, Pretoria. The Dove’s Nest is a place of safety that provides care for abandoned children. The purpose of the visit was to spread love among the orphans and to roll up sleeves for 67 minutes for Mandela Day.

The place is run by Ms Esilda Felix who had a long-time dream of giving of herself to make a difference. Ms Felix exudes energy complemented by tons of love. This is evident when she is in the company of the children. Her small stature allows her to work with these children on their level, which makes her the right person to look after the little angels. She has a staff of four women to help her look after the children.

She told us she had three children of her own who are now grown up and out of the house. In 2001 she turned her house into a place of safety for abandoned children. In 2004 she was able to register the place as a non-profit organisation (NPO). There is no direct support from the Government. However, Dove’s Nest is linked to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) called Tshwane Child Welfare for support.

The Dove’s Nest gives shelter to seven infants and eight school-going children. The babies are at the stage where they can be placed in foster homes. As a result, it is not allowed to show their faces on the photos as some of them had been given up for adoption, which could jeopardise the process. According to Ms Felix more than 100 children have passed through this house. Although each child receives a social grant of R16,50 per day, this is not enough to feed, shelter and accommodate the daily needs of a child.

Eight of the children attend the local primary school that caters for children from well-off families. To keep the boat afloat, a couple of anonymous donors sometimes give a helping hand when they have excess resources. Ms Felix says that she prays every morning and trusts that God will provide so that she is able to take care of the children in this dire situation. What keeps her going are the little faces of the children looking up at her every morning when she wakes up.

When the COLET members arrived, the babies were napping in their room and the older children were at school. COLET brought in some food for the children and donations for the home. COLET staff painted the room where these children watch television. Ms Felix had been planning to paint this room for ages, but could not find the time because of her busy schedule.

It was obvious that she did not have the support that she so desperately needed to help with the maintenance work. Some of the COLET members fixed a broken gate while others worked in and cleaned the garden. They also dug up furrows in the garden in preparation for a sprinkler system that she was planning to instal in the near future.

The learners arrived in the afternoon from school and were excited to see their haven buzzing with guests. The members were later joined by the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Opera South Africa, His Royal Highness Unathi Phathuxolo Mtirara, one of Tata Mandela’s grandsons and a prince in the chieftaincy of the Mandela family. Mr Deshi Baktower, who is a legendary soccer player and currently a soccer commentator on SABC, also visited the Dove’s Nest. It was so amazing to see the COLET team rubbing shoulders with these celebrities as they rolled up their sleeves and put shoulders to the wheel in dedication to the world’s great icon.
Spouses join in the joy of giving

July 2013 marked the 95th birthday of Mr Nelson Mandela - a living legend and stalwart whose selfless work for humanity has shaped the history of our country and inspired many citizens around the world.

Members of the SANDF Spouses Forum and the spouses of the Military Attachés and Advisory Corps (MAAC) heeded the call to “Take action, inspire change and make every day a Mandela Day” by visiting Refentse Primary School in Mamelodi to give inspirational talks and donate paint to refurbish the school.

Kicking off the proceedings at the school Brig Gen Nombulelo Maphoyi, Director Defence Foreign Relations, urged the young people to become the captains and masters of their own destiny.

Ms Charlotte Shoke, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, delivered the message to the young people that through the power of education they could change the world. She said: “Through the power of education you learners standing here today could one day work for the SANDF and be messengers of peace for our country and our continent.”

Expressing his sentiments to members of the SANDF Spouses Forum, Mr Hendrick Maponya, the School Principal, said that today’s exercise would perpetuate the lasting legacy that Madiba represents.

From Refentse Primary School, the Madiba magic continued and a convoy was formed to drive to the Itlhokomeleng Association for the Aged and Persons with Disabilities in Alexandra Township. Members were welcomed by the CEO, Ms Marjorie Manganye, who said that the centre cared for the elderly and vulnerable residents in the community and for homeless people. She said that they were grateful for the spouses’ visit to the centre to put smiles on the faces of the elderly. She added: “Keep on giving, never stop, because you are giving us hope.”

On behalf of the spouses of the MAAC, Ms Sylvia Bangue, wife of the Cameroon Assistant Defence Attaché, said that all spouses must shoulder the responsibility of building a caring society that takes care of the aged and those less fortunate.

Ms Charlotte Shoke, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum (2nd from left), presents a token of appreciation to Ms Marjorie Manganye, the CEO of Itlhokomeleng Association for the Aged and Persons with Disabilities, in honour of a living legend, Tata Madiba.
Improving the lives of others

By Maj Daniel Solomons,
SO2 Base Protection Officer
Photo: Capt Angelina Malema

“T
here can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way it treats its children” – Mr Nelson Mandela.

What is the significance of celebrating the birth-day of Madiba - one of the greatest men in human history - by contributing 67 minutes of our time to uplifting and improving the lives of others? Well let me take you back, way back into history.

On 18 July 1918 a boy was born in the small village of Mvezo in the district of Mthatha in Transkei. His father named him Rolihlahla, which means “pulling the branch of a tree”, or more colloquially “troublemaker”. The name Nelson was given to him by his primary school teacher who believed each child should have an English name. He became actively involved in politics while studying at Fort Hare University. He devoted 67 years to improving the plight of the oppressed and campaigning for human rights for all South Africans. The idea of “67 Minutes” was inspired by Mr Nelson Mandela on his 90th birthday when he said: “It is time for new hands to lift the burdens. It is in your hands now”.

Therefore members of Joint Support Base (JSB) Garrison started by forming a committee under the leadership of Chaplain Marks Sekoba and Lt Col Ntladi Moseka, the transport officer. Their tasks were to identify a charity or organisation; to determine what should be done; collect the required resources; determine the activities; and ensure maximum participation.

JSB Garrison celebrated Mandela Day by visiting the Olievenhoutbosch Secondary School in Olievenhoutbosch on 18 July 2013.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC), Brig Gen Peter Kobbie, opened the celebrations by emphasising the importance of the day, in particular at JSB Garrison and assured the school of the commitment of the unit in upholding the new relationship. The opening speech was attended by learners, teachers and more than 200 unit members.

The different sections were given different responsibilities, and from the start it was obvious what the day meant to the unit members as everyone, from Colonels to Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) eagerly started working. Rakes were shared, wheelbarrows were pushed and rubbish was collected and burned. Seniors and juniors, including young and old, were eagerly at work while members of the Hospitality Service were preparing refreshments and ensuring that stomachs were filled. Within no time the school premises and surroundings were cleaned and it was time for the next event.

The GOC, the Principal and unit members planted trees to symbolise the growth of a new relationship and commitment between the unit and the school. While the trees were being planted the members were entertained by the School Choir with some unit members joining in singing and dancing.

The day ended with an emotional speech by the Principal in which she expressed the school’s sincere gratitude and appreciation towards the unit members and the SANDF. She always knew that soldiers had human dignity, warm-heartedness and the will to help others. The members were then invited for lunch by the school while members of the Hospitality Services gave hot dogs and juice to the learners.

Everybody involved made a change in people’s lives on that day and it was indeed a heartfelt experience to see so many members getting involved and unselfishly giving back to the community.
Caring for our children

Article and photo by Ms Tebogo Bopape, Assistant Director Human Resources Corporate Communication

As the world joined South Africa on 18 July 2013 in showering tributes and wishing Madiba a Happy Birthday, members of the Human Resources Divisional Staff took part in a charitable initiative at Mohau Creativity Centre at Kalafong Hospital in Atteridgeville. Mandela International Day is not just an ordinary day; it is a day of which we need to take action in order to inspire change.

Mohau Creativity Centre is generating funds from donations and fund-raising efforts. Members of Human Resources Divisional Staff made a difference by donating food, clothes, lunch-boxes, and by cleaning and painting the creative centre for the children.

Enthusiastic members of the Human Resources Divisional Staff cleaned and painted the play area at the centre. While the members were still hard at work, they commented as follows when asked how they viewed the day:

- “It is a wonderful opportunity for the love of the Lord for Madiba Day; if it was not for him we would not be doing this good deed today.”
- “It is a great community building day; it feels good to be here for these children who have less than others.”
- “As people we need to learn to give not only on Mandela Day. Our SANDF leaders must also participate in such good deeds. Let us look at the food we waste at our messes and rather give to the needy the food that cannot be consumed. The SANDF must seriously take part in social responsibility programmes to make a difference in South Africa - let us have the spirit of UBUNTU everyday.”
- “It is time that South Africans stand up and return what Mandela gave to us. We are trying to stand together to be One Nation. We can see these moments during the 67 minutes for Madiba, but we feel ashamed of those people who think they are better than others, but they are sober and do nothing on Mandela Day even for just 67 minutes because they have more important work to do, what does this say about our people?”
- “Mandela Day still does not get the recognition that it deserves. We need to acknowledge that International Mandela Day is not just an ordinary day, it is a day that we need to take action in order to make a difference within our society and our country.”

Mohau Creativity Centre is a residential care facility for children infected with HIV and AIDS. The children’s home was started to care for orphaned and abandoned children who are also HIV positive. The need was especially experienced at Kalafong and Pretoria Academic Hospitals as it was there where babies were often abandoned by their mothers who were infected by the HI virus. There is still a stigma attached to being HIV positive and mothers are concerned that should this information be known in their communities, they will be rejected, which in turn affects their ability to care for their children.

The Centre renders services, such as permanent and temporary residential care for children according to the Child Care Act. The children and their families are served by social workers who facilitate specialised therapies, health care services, services to mothers and families of terminally ill children, and they provide a foster care and adoption programme.
The father of our democracy
honoured through charity

By LS Nkululeko Zulu, Internal Corp Com Clerk, SA Navy HQ
Photos: WO2 Johannes Mbiza

As the father of our democracy and one of the most celebrated international icons in history, Tata Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela spent his seventh week in hospital recovering from a recurring lung infection. Celebrations and acts of charity in his name were observed throughout the country and abroad to mark Mandela Day on 18 July 2013. The day was officially declared by the United Nations (UN) in November 2009 as a day which commemorates the 67 years that our former President spent fighting for the liberation of this country from the apartheid system and the overall recognition of human rights for all of humanity.

As all spheres of society spent Mandela Day making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate for 67 minutes, the SA Navy also heeded the call and spent Mandela Day at Northridge Primary School in Sinoville, Pretoria. The school is one of the SA Navy’s adopted social responsibility projects. Earlier this year the SA Navy with the assistance of Old Mutual and Nedbank purchased musical instruments to the tune of R250 000 for the school. The initiative was conceptualised by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, who envisaged Northridge Primary School partnering with the SA Navy Band in a performance at this year’s SA Navy Gala Concert.

In his official address on the occasion the Chief of the SA Navy said: “Here we are assembled together at Northridge Primary School, each of us with a different journey in life, a different story to tell. Yet different as we are, today we are truly forged into the strongest team, a team united in the recognition that we might make a small difference to the lives of the young children who spend their days here”.

Representing Northridge Primary School, the School Governing Body Chairperson, Mr Strike Madiba, said he was delighted to have the support of a reputable organisation such as the SA Navy on this special occasion. He added that Mandela Day should be spent in doing something good and dedicating our energy, strength and time in contributing towards a better life for all. Mr Madiba said: “His legacy is about us selflessly giving our all to nation building.”

Thus Mandela Day culminated in the SA Navy and Northridge Primary School celebrating the occasion through sporting activities and musical performances, with everyone enjoying a cooked meal after the festivities.
July is a very special day since it is former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mr Nelson Mandela’s birthday. The day has been declared International Mandela Day, and as South Africans we embrace the chance to celebrate Mr Mandela’s life. It gives everyone the opportunity to heed the call to action and recognize their individual power to make an imprint and change the world around them. SAS SALDANHA in support of Mandela Day reached out to their surrounding communities on 18 July 2013.

The unit identified various communities around Saldanha that were in need of assistance. The members donated food, clothes and books to Huis Van Heerden in Moorreesburg. This is a safe home to children, from newborn to 18 years old. The Officer Commanding of SAS SALDANHA, Capt (SAN) Sello Malepe, and his command team did the honours by handing over the donations to Huis van Heerde on 18 July 2013.

The senior ratings mess also donated a TV and clothes to the centre and the catering team baked a big birthday cake to celebrate Madiba’s birthday and put smiles on the faces of the children. On completion of the event the MTR2 learners also donated R1 000 value worth of food, sufficient to provide meals for the children for the next few weeks. The School Principal, Ms Helen Pretorius, was so touched by the gesture that she broke down in tears when the Officer Commanding handed over the envelope with money to her.

The MTR1 learners assisted in this endeavour by digging a volleyball court and, to add the cherry on top of the cake, they assisted in cleaning the Diazville sports field and the central business district of Saldanha.

This day was all about giving back to the communities within which we exist and SAS SALDANHA did just that. They selflessly opened up their hearts and warmed the hearts of others while celebrating the birthday and legacy of one of the greatest freedom fighters of our time - Tata Madiba.

Members of SAS SALDANHA dedicating their 67 minutes to Huis Van Heerden, a safe home to children, in Moorreesburg.
Officer honour a distinguished citizen

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Capt Keneilwe Mafole

On Mandela Day the DOD HQ Unit Officers Forum gave 67 minutes of their time to the Itireleng School for the Blind at Ga-rankuwa to honour a truly distinguished citizen of the world under the slogan: “No birth is an accident, no experience is without meaning and no life is without value.”

After the formalities, the high-spirited members rolled up their sleeves, cleaned and swept the floors and had paint and brushes ready to give the school a major facelift. Speaking to SA Soldier, Capt Keneilwe Mafole, the Corporate Communication Officer of DOD HQ Unit, said that it was hard to explain how Tata Mandela influenced our outlook on life as proudly South Africans.

She mentioned that their visit to the school was to show their love and care, adding that the majority of people with disabilities have been excluded from mainstream society. Because of Madiba, who is an equaliser, we are celebrating the betterment of our greater humanity on Mandela Day. Her message was: “Let us continue the spirit of community service by putting others before ourselves. These are value-added characteristics to strive for collectively and individually.”

Maj Jacob Kwadi from DOD HQ Unit Internal Support Services said: “We need to play a broader role in the communities in which we live. Our support on Mandela Day is about making a difference to uplift our communities.” He added that despite being visually impaired, learners at the Itireleng School for the Blind inspired the members to realise that disability should never be an obstacle in reaching one’s dreams.

Col Chris Ngcama, the Officer Commanding of DOD HQ Unit, thanked all the forums for sharing the spirit of UBUNTU in honouring Tata Madiba. He said that the 67 minutes spent helping others went towards ploughing back into our communities.
Army Support Base (ASB) Mpumalanga participated in various activities in support of the 67 minutes initiative for Mandela Day during July 2013. The contributions in this regard were conducted by various forums and a significant impact was made in different sectors of the community.

The Officers’ Forum visited Sakhasive Day Care Centre in Mataffin. This centre provides day care for 20 children and receives no government subsidy. The building and terrain were in a bad condition. A water bunker was utilised to fill up the water tank at the school. The members built a step to the main door and a screen for the outdoor toilet. They also cleaned the garden. Owing to circumstances at this school, which will need more attention, it was decided to make this a long-term project. The plans are to renovate the building, provide a playground and lay out a garden. Food was also donated to the centre.

On another occasion the Warrant Officers’ Forum visited Silver Days Old Age Home at Waterval Boven. Although it receives a small government subsidy, it is not enough to take care of all the needs of the 30 people living there. The Warrant Officers held numerous fund-raising activities and were able to donate food and personal toiletries to the amount of R6 000 to Silver Days Old Age Home.

The Staff Sergeants Forum visited the Uthando House of Safety in the Masoyi Area near Hazyview. This orphanage is responsible for 14 orphans between the ages 3 and 13 and was founded in June 2008. Although the centre receives a government subsidy, like most charity organisations there is not sufficient means. Therefore they largely depend on donations and support from the community. The Forum donated groceries to the centre and each child received a special gift parcel. The members also worked in the garden, cleaned the building and assisted with the laundry.

The Corporals’ Forum spent their 67 minutes at the Good Hope Centre in Mataffin. The centre is a pre-school for children from three months to six years of age. A lot of renovations were recently undertaken by university students, so the Corporals assisted with general cleaning tasks in the building (floors, windows and dishes). They also did some painting and cleaned the garden.

The Lance Corporals’ Forum visited Betty’s Orphanage in Nelsville, Nelspruit, which was established in 1995. The owner is Ms Betty Mandlazi who is responsible for supporting 23 children of all ages. She receives no government support and is completely dependent on donations and the goodwill of the community. The visitors also had the opportunity to view the living quarters and to speak to some of the children. Ms Mandlazi also has a vegetable garden on the premises to assist with the high cost of looking after these children. It is certain that a great job is being done at this facility. The Forum members donated fruit and snacks to the children and trimmed the grass and hedges of the orphanage.

The Forum of the Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) levels 4 to 7 did something completely different. They visited the Pro-Life Animal Rescue Centre in White River. Ms Karin Erasmus and Mr Nkosikhona Manyathi are volunteers who care for sick animals, including 100 adult dogs and 25 cats that do not have a chance to be adopted. Puppies and kittens are also taken in, but they usually find homes. This centre provides food and shelter for the animals. Their expenses run to R42 000 a month. They depend on fund-raising activities and donations in order to survive. Food worth of R1 600 was donated by the PSAP and they also had the opportunity to play with the dogs and take them for a walk.

It was decided to turn these activities into long-term projects, and not only occasional visits, in order to make a real difference in the community.
67 years were reduced to 67 minutes of significance to give South Africans an opportunity to touch the heart of at least one person on Mandela Day. The members of Main Ordnance Depot in Lyttelton, Pretoria, could not allow this momentous opportunity to pass.

The members spent their 67 minutes at Dr Fabian and Florence Ribeiro Treatment Centre at Zonderwater in Cullinan where they touched and warmed the hearts of about 120 patients with substance abuse and alcohol problems. This was done by cleaning the entrance to the patients’ quarters. After the cleaning was done it was time for potted sports with items, such as egg and spoon racing, sack races and tug-of-war, which were presented by the PT instructors of Main Ordnance Depot and GSB Thaba Tshwane (SAMHS). The activities were well presented and at the end of the day trophies were awarded to the best groups, which included members of the MOD in each group. A certificate of appreciation was awarded to the Centre for its efforts to restore the human dignity of patients.

The patients were next treated to a braai. This was a day filled with sights and sounds which lifted the spirits as the members realised they had provided an opportunity for new and wonderful memories. As members of Main Ordnance Depot, we feel we have achieved something and will always cherish these memories, while at the same time we are confident that our brothers and sisters will rise above this scourge that keeps on dividing our communities.
Caring by giving back to Mother Earth

By CPO Keith Linderoth, Ecological Manager Naval Base Simon’s Town
Photos: AB Ofentse Deeme

Naval Base Simon’s Town Environmental Services received an invitation from Sunray Primary, a school at Delft on the Cape Flats, to celebrate Mandela Day with them.

The school had a full programme with various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) contributing to the success of the special day. The day started with various activities in the hall where learners presented song and dance items in honour of Madiba. SLt Tammy Michaels, Environmental Manager of the Environmental Section, addressed the assembly on the role of the SA Navy in looking after our ecology and why it was important to look after our ecosystem.

The Environmental Service Section proceeded to the school’s indigenous garden with a group of learners where two trees were planted. The learners were shown how to plant properly, take care of a plant and nurture it until it was fully grown.

ABOVE LEFT: A newly planted indigenous tree at Sunray Primary.

ABOVE: SA Navy members planting a tree at Sunray Primary on the Cape Flats on Mandela Day.

RIGHT: A learner of Sunray Primary about to plant a tree.
Government officials, politicians, non-governmental organisations (NGO) workers and others fanned out across the whole country and, in a collective flurry of good neighborliness, rolled up their sleeves to make a contribution to Madiba’s legacy on Mandela Day.

It was a wonderful morning filled with love, caring, spirit of giving and joy. It was a remarkable day indeed. The SA Army Specialised Infantry Capability (SAASIC) and the police visited Tlhabologo Primary School in Rooi Poortjie, six miles from the central business district (CBD) of Potchefstroom. On our arrival at the farm the School Principal welcomed everyone warmly and the learners were afforded the opportunity to interact with the uniformed members. The SAASIC joined forces with police officials to help clean the school premises. The initiative was aligned with the SA Police Service’s endeavour of changing the lives of learners and making them better citizens of tomorrow.

Mr Nelson Mandela spent 67 years of his life making the world a better place. The celebration of International Mandela Day is a global call to encourage people to “recognise their individual power to make an imprint and help change the world around them for the better”. By devoting 67 minutes of their time - one minute of every year of Mandela’s public service - people can make small gestures of solidarity with humanity and take a step towards a global movement for good.

SAASIC celebrated the birth of this international icon by devoting 67 minutes to community work with police officials by giving free service to the needy school on the farm. This was mainly done to honour the great man for his courage, strength, wisdom, tenacity, forgiveness, humility, respect and integrity.

We are participating in Mandela Day because through his selfless life today our worth, pride and dignity as people of colour are affirmed and respected all over the world. We must ensure that discipline is maintained in the school. Mandela Day is all about encouraging the rest of us to do the same. If we all can spend just 67 minutes of our time every year on 18 July doing something to the benefit of others, we will be honouring Madiba’s dream of empowering every citizen so that all can fulfil their potential.

We owe Madiba a debt of immense gratitude for the mark he made in history. His legacy is commemorated in national monuments, statues, movies, books, academic institutions, street names, concerts, museums and a municipality. Let us all do good not only for ourselves, but for the values and morality that Mr Mandela stands.
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On 8 August 2013 the Chief Directorate Human Resources Management visited Kwanele Home in Soshanguve South to contribute their 67 minutes for Mandela Day. Kwanele Home cares for the less fortunate, the destitute and children who are terminally ill.

So often the less fortunate are sidelined, but today in a very small measure, the Chief Directorate Human Resources Management sought to show the less fortunate that they are able to stand on their own, with little assistance, and that they can forge ahead with meagre means and great aspirations.

In the course of July the Chief Directorate Human Resources (HR) Management, which is composed of the Directorate HR Acquisition, Directorate HR Maintenance, Directorate Career Management, Directorate HR Separation and Section Ceremonial and Military Music, collected clothes, toys and donations. The donations of money were used to purchase non-perishable food items which were all delivered on the day of the visit. The personnel of Chief Directorate HR Management gave voluntary contributions and their efforts could be seen in the many parcels, boxes and food items collected and purchased.

The members were warmly welcomed when they arrived at Kwanele Home. Ms Portia Ngoma, the Kwanele Home Mother, expressed her sincere appreciation of the efforts undertaken to collect donations from the personnel of Chief Directorate HR Management. These will address their immediate needs, particularly food security for the children.

Kwanele Home is a home for children aged between three months and six years. It is a registered home whose purpose is to promote the children's well-being in their formative years. Kwanele Home has tried to secure sponsorships to maintain the household and has obtained the services of the mothers in the community to help the young ones in various ways. Some sponsorships have come from the private sector, but the home remains destitute. It goes without saying that even with all this support, Kwanele Home battles to make ends meet and to provide a comfortable shelter and furniture appropriate to the age of the children, medical care and food security for the young ones in its care.

The number of children at Kwanele Home is growing. As such the home requires extensive services, building contributions, furniture, equipment and food supplies. Kwanele Home is a venture established by caring citizens, like the mothers who offer their services free of charge in the spirit of UBUNTU - care of others who are less fortunate.

Chief Directorate HR Management has initiated an assistance programme among its personnel to contribute to the well-being of the children of Kwanele Home. Any person is welcome to contact Maj Josina Kgomo, PO Lerato Makgomathe or Cpl Khomotso Selowa on 012 339 5201 or the noted senior officers to indicate their contributions or assistance on behalf of the children at Kwanele Home.
Bravo Company of 9 SA Infantry Battalion (9 SAI Bn), currently deployed along the Mozambican/RSA border, under KwaZulu-Natal Joint Tactical Headquarters, embraced the opportunity to celebrate Mandela Day by giving of their time and service to improve the lives of the community.

Bravo Company honoured Madiba’s legacy and celebrated his 95th birthday on 18 July 2013 by visiting Manguzi Hospital in Manguzi. On their arrival at the hospital they were welcomed by the Superintendent, Dr Sipho Vumase.

The Company Commander, Capt Zukisani Buyana, and his members donated food parcels to the patients, while the rest of the members spent the morning interacting with and talking to the patients in their various wards. A project that was initiated one month after their arrival in the deployment area. The aim of the project was to fight poverty and make a difference to the Ndumo community.

Bravo Company later that day went to Ndumo Village where they donated two beds and food parcels to the Hlatwayo and Gumede families. These two families struggle to make a living as they do not have any sources of income. The Project Committee saw the need to help and their contribution benefitted the community.

Honouring Madiba

By Maj Ndumiso Ngcobo,
Communication Officer
SA Army Support Formation

SA Army Support Formation HQ (ASF HQ) took part in honouring Madiba on this day and converged on the Precious Pearl Place of Safety in Sunnyside to celebrate Mandela Day. To show their goodwill members of ASF HQ donated food and clothes to the home.

The members also did some general cleaning in and around the facility to afford the home helpers a day off. The SA Army Foundation with their partners through ASF HQ also donated 40 blankets, clothes and groceries to the home. Maj Gen Steven Marumo, the General Officer Commanding ASF, presented these items to the home. The home, which is a non-governmental organisation (NGO), relies on donations like these to keep the home going. The helpers at the home were ecstatic about the donation.

After the presentation the National Ceremonial Guard Entertainment Band entertained everyone with some wonderful performances while the residents (children) also performed for the members of ASF HQ.

It was a well spent day for members of ASF HQ and everybody was happy about the day’s activities, more especially the residents of Precious Pearl Place of Safety.
Military Academy donates 67 minutes

The staff and students of the Military Academy this year once more gave 67 minutes of their time towards making a change for the better in the Saldanha Bay community. The Military Academy Event Co-ordinator, Lt Col Zithulele Eric Mpusula, commented: “The call went out for people everywhere to celebrate Mr Nelson Mandela’s birthday by acting on the idea that each person has the power to change the world. The United Nations officially declared 18 July as International Mandela Day in November 2009, recognising Mandela’s value and dedication to the service of humanity, and the Military Academy members responded positively to the call.”

On 18 July 2013 students and staff members took up spades and forks and cleaned the grounds and refuge from the play area at White City Creche. This is a new creche and a lot had to be done to clean the play area and make it safe for the children. The members removed the weeds, stones and debris lying around, cut the grass and filled up holes. Some members helped inside the creche by feeding the children and putting them to sleep.

A second group visited the Albertina Sisulu Day Care Centre at Middelpos. This is also a new day care centre and the members prepared the soil for the lawn to be planted. The Military Academy had also donated several trees, which were planted around the Centre by the Military Academy students.

A third group assisted the St Helenabaai Sandveld Hospice by attending to one of the patient’s houses in Vredenburg and cleaning the garden. The family really appreciated the effort, since they were not able to do it themselves.

Inside the military base another group cleaned the children’s play park. The lawn was mowed and the fence and some of the play equipment were fixed. Members also cleaned the historic graveyard of the Sadie family inside the base and whitewashed all the headstones.

The day ended with a visit by the Mayor of Saldanha, Mr Francois Schippers, who addressed the Military Academy members and thanked them for their efforts. His message was highly appreciated and he mentioned that the Military Academy’s 67 minutes were spent doing something that showed a level of commitment worthy of the aim of the day.
Military Academy presents
the Senior Military
Management Programme

By Maj Bontle Monnanyane,
Lecturer in Military Management
at the Military Academy

The Military Academy, which
falls under the Faculty
of Military Science of the
University of Stellenbosch, is
responsible for the professional
education of our future military
leaders.

As part of the Military Academy’s
community interaction with the
broader Department of Defence, a
partnership was formed with the
SA National War College (SANWC)
to present the Senior Military
Management Programme (SMMP)
on the premises of the SANWC. In 2013
the Military Academy presented its
second SMMP as a prerequisite for
senior officers of the SANDF attending
the Joint Senior Command and Staff
Programme (JSCSP).

The previous Senior Management
Programme (SMP), which was
presented in 2012, was realigned
at the request of the SANWC. The
new improved SMMP includes unit
standards in Security Studies that were
not included in the previous SMP or
the SMPs presented at other learning
institutions.

The new improved SMMP bears 65
credits and requires a residential
phase at the SANWC, followed by
an Interactive Telematic Education
phase during which learners must
submit assignments. The programme
comprises nine unit standards which
are divided among four topics, namely
Financial Management, Record-keeping,
Corporate Leadership and Security
Studies.

After successful completion of the pro-
gramme, learners graduate with an ac-
credited certificate from the University
of Stellenbosch, and successful
candidates are eligible for nomination to
the JSCSP by their respective Services.

The programme is presented by
lecturers from the Military Academy’s
School for Defence Organisation and
Resource Management and by lecturers
from other departments, who have
the necessary expertise in the fields
of management, economics and
accountancy.

In 2012 the programme accommodated
80 learners, but owing to the
realignment of the SMP to the new
SMMP this year, 30 additional
places were made available for SMP-
qualified learners, thus totalling 110
learners. These 30 extra places allow
SMP-qualified learners to pass the
additional unit standards (Security
Studies) and so become SMMP
qualified.

As there is now a backlog of learners
waiting to complete the SMMP, the
Faculty of Military Science at the
Military Academy will present an
additional Security Studies short
course to make provision for members
who have to complete the outstanding
unit standards. The two-week course
will be presented in Saldanha at
the Military Academy at the end of
November 2013.

All career managers are encouraged to
consult with the Military Academy if
they have enquiries about the course
and nominations.
The Change of Office Parade between the outgoing Warrant Officer of Joint Operational Headquarters, CWO Johan Pretorius, and his successor, CWO Molefe “Chiefmore” Kgosimore, took place at Air Force Base Swartkop in Valhalla on 31 July 2013. This marks the end of the military career of CWO Pretorius, who served the SANDF for almost 42 years.

Members of the SA Military Health Service were on parade to send off this stalwart on his deserved retirement and at the same time welcomed CWO Kgosimore, who comes highly recommended from the Directorate Peace Support Operations.

Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, Chief Director Operations Development, hailed CWO Pretorius as a true patriot who worked diligently with honour and integrity at all times. Maj Gen Hlatshwayo said: “He is a true example to follow. He is not afraid of hard work, is steadfast and true to himself and the people working with him.” He added they would miss him and that he was most welcome to come and visit.

In accepting the reigns CWO Kgosimore said that he was aware of the shoes he had to fill, but promised to give his best.

Taking to the stage an obviously emotional CWO Pretorius thanked and acknowledged all who had supported him during his career, specifically his wife, Annatjie, and his children. He added: “Thank you to the SANDF for allowing me the opportunity to live my dream of being a member of the armed forces of this country.”

He thanked all those who had worked with him of all ranks, and his advice to the remaining soldiers was a quote from the Code of Conduct for uniformed members: “I will strive to improve the capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, developing skills and knowledge, and performing my duties diligently and professionally”.

In an interview with SA Soldier, CWO Pretorius said that he was proud to be part of a force that had succeeded to a certain degree in building new patriotic values. He mentioned that the SANDF existed to serve the nation. Asked about the highlight of his career, he mentioned the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project for members deployed externally and internally, and for their families. He said that this is to express the appreciation of the leadership of the SANDF, the SANDF Spouses Forum and partners in the business sector – the sponsors of the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project.

He also took us back to 1994 when some members of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) came home from exile to report for integration at the Boston Military Base in Hoedspruit. It was a long process to go through for their incorporation into the SANDF. CWO Pretorius said: “It was history in the making and, as the Brigade Sergeant Major of the Boston Brigade in Hoedspruit, I saw all members rising above the past to shape the future in the interests of our country.” CWO Pretorius has reached his milestone. He takes with him a lifetime of experience in soldiering, but his contribution to this organisation will never be forgotten as the rest of the soldiers bid farewell to this stalwart; we say: SALUTE.

CWO Pretorius was born on 17 July 1953 and joined the military at the then Danie Theron Combat School in Kimberley in 1971.

Throughout his career he served the military diligently; in his time he contributed a lot to the organisation, and served critical posts. He had the privilege of serving as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 7 SA Infantry Battalion in Phalaborwa, as Brigade Sergeant Major of the Boston Brigade in Hoedspruit and as Formation Sergeant Major of the then SA Army Battle School in Lohatla. CWO Pretorius regards these appointments as the highlights of his career.
ARMY FOUNDATION RISK (PTY) Ltd: helps you look after those you love – even when you’re gone

From 1 July 2013, all SA Army Foundation members will have the added benefit of Army Foundation Risk funeral cover of R15 000 for a monthly premium of only R20 for single members and R40 for married members. The R40 premium for married members include cover for children from R3000 to R10 000 (depending on age)

Visit your nearest Army Foundation office / Like us on Facebook
email us on info@armyfoundation.co.za/ SMS ‘funeral’ to 45963

From 1 July 2013 your Army Foundation membership of either R80 (single) or R140 (married) per month will now include the following:

- Group Life Benefit cover of R32 345 for you or you and your spouse
- Funeral cover of R15 000 for you or you and your spouse
- FREE membership of the Rainbow Holiday Club (4 options available)
- FREE membership of the SA Army Foundation, including discounted products and services like funeral cover, iNkomo funeral provider, IT Combo, transfer fees on home loans, micro loans, wills & testaments, holiday resorts and more!
- Gratuity on Retirement
- Access to the SA Army Foundation Bursary Programme (terms & conditions apply)
We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference,” were the wise words spoken by former President, Mr Nelson Mandela. It is this message that has inspired many across the globe to make a difference.

With the focus on celebrating 20 years of democracy the SA Special Forces have heeded this call to volunteer 20 hours of community service to this year’s 67 minutes initiative.

The focus was on both the young children and the elderly and, to this end, the Special Forces Headquarters personnel reported to the Beyers Bytjies Nursery School in Danville, which takes care of children aged 5 to 6 until 12:00 each day. The school does this because the parents have no fixed income and only do odd jobs during the day. This means that the school has to rely entirely on sponsorships. It is for this reason that the Special Forces Headquarters decided to support them. An array of activities was planned. The preparation started on 17 July 2013 at the school and the actual work on 18 July 2013. The activities included:

- Providing hot dogs and cold drinks for 184 children and a lunch box for every child.
- Fixing and painting the ceilings of the entire veranda, which had been damaged by water.
- Painting the fascia boards at the back of the building.
- Varnishing and painting the large wooden jungle gym and two slides.
- Cleaning the two large sandpits and refilling one with new sand.
- Repainting 13 small classroom desks in one class.
- Installing new curtain rails and curtains for the Wendy house serving as an additional classroom.

At the same time other members of the Special Forces Headquarters visited the Trichardt Old Age Home across the street in Danville to treat the 84 residents to cakes and hot beverages. Each member received a toiletry bag filled with the basic toiletries they needed on a daily basis. Most of them have no relatives taking care of them or helping them financially.

The members of 5 Special Forces Regiment visited Lesedi Children’s Centre and the Mashishimale Centre for People with Disabilities in Namakgale. They provided the children’s centre with new playing equipment, including new swings for their jungle gym. They also assisted in the vegetable garden by helping the people with disabilities with the maintenance thereof.

The members of 4 Special Forces Regiment, in collaboration with the Spur at the Weskus Mall, visited Moorreesburg Child Youth Centre for abused and abandoned children. They painted two bedrooms, prepared meals for the children, did face-painting and played games with the children. Clothes and six boxes of food were also donated to the centre by the regimental staff.

The SA Special Forces School visited the Mogodu Children’s Home in the North West where they cleaned, painted and reconstructed the restrooms and donated clothes to the children.

The Special Forces Supply Unit went to the Adelaide Tambo (Pyramid) Clinic for young people where they fixed tables and chairs, did painting, helped in the garden and chopped down some trees. Their main effort was the planting of a vegetable garden.

The smiles and appreciation of the young children and the elderly deeply touched everyone’s heart. It was indeed a day filled with compassion and humble service to the people.

The South African Special Forces pledged on this day that it would not end there; this was only the starting point of the 20 hours of volunteerism. They pledged to make quarterly visits to each of these institutions to provide continual care and support throughout the year, if needed. It was the members’ way of trying to make a difference not just for a day, but for a year. Making the world a better place and caring for the needy is after all a Biblical principle paid forward by Mr Mandela.

The SA Special Forces School with the members of the Mogodu Children’s Home in the North West.
GIVING BACK TO THE POOREST OF THE POOR

By Maj Lizette Lombard, SO2 Corp
Com SA Army Signal Formation
Photos: Ms Christel Smit

On 18 July this year members of the SA Army Signal Formation Headquarters celebrated Mandela Day at the Lilly Mpolokeng (L.M.) Mokoena Special School for children with mental disabilities. The school is located in the Mogogelo village about 58 km north of Pretoria, in the North West Province. The school has 106 learners of various ages and with different disabilities in its care.

Members of the SA Army Signal Formation gave 67 minutes of their time for this worthy cause. They showed they were committed to social responsibility, and in this way they honoured South Africa’s most respected icon, former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who celebrated his 95th birthday on 18 July.

The children received hot dogs and a gift bag containing a stationery set and both they and the staff members were showered with donations, including clothing, shoes, perishable and non-perishable food.

SA Army Signal Formation Headquarters helped as much as they could; some members built a new sandpit for the school. The first two gift bags were ceremoniously handed over by Lt Col Lamla Wellington Nkoloti, on behalf of the General Officer Commanding SA Army Signal Formation, to Ms Margaret Ramolobeng, the Principal of the school.

One of the biggest challenges at the school is storm water; another is developing the sports grounds nearby, which were donated by the municipality. The sports grounds need fencing, security and further development to ensure safe and proper sporting facilities for the learners.

Members of the SA Army Signal Formation Headquarters were evidently emotional because they knew many of the children did not always have food at home or a warm bed to sleep in, as they are among the poorest of the poor.

If anyone would like to make donations to the school, or assist them in any way, please contact the Principal, Ms Margaret Ramolobeng, on 083 208 6261 or the school’s landline on 012 715 5934.
Students visit military installations

A altogether 26 students from universities in Limpopo, Western Cape, Mpumalanga and Gauteng were invited on a three-day educational tour of military installations in and around Pretoria from 31 July to 2 August 2013.

The aim of the visit was to inform the students about the roles and functions of the Department and to give a comprehensive overview of capabilities and career opportunities in the SANDF.

Lt Col Nokwanda Dondolo, SO1 Visits and Events at Defence Corporate Communication, welcomed the students’ representatives. She said: “You are here to experience the life and culture of the SANDF and at the same time be empowered as the youth of our country. It is our responsibility to communicate with you on behalf of the Department, to develop interest and understanding and be able to represent us in different communities as ambassadors.” She further gave the students a breakdown of what exactly awaited them over the three-day visit.

The students had an opportunity to see military vehicles being tested at the Gerotek Testing Facility. Thereafter the students were to prepare their own military camp for the night and had to arrange tents to sleep in groups.

The following day the students visited the Swartkop SA Air Force Museum. Col Graham du Toit, the Historical Research Officer, gave an overview of the functions of the SA Air Force and highlighted career opportunities available for young people. He also explained the functions of the various aircraft, including instruments and uniforms that were used in the past. The students were intrigued and ask many questions.

Lt Fakazile Dlamini, the Logistics Officer, briefly elaborated on the roles of the SA Navy. He said that the SA Navy moulded future leaders and highlighted various career opportunities available in the SA Navy that the youth could pursue.

The students also received briefings on the Defence Reserves, the Military Psychological Institute, the Aviation Medicine Institute and the SA Army Engineering Formation.

Mr Lutendo Ronald Motshidza, a student at the University of Limpopo, a final year LLB student and SRC Faculty Chairperson of Management and Law, said: “The visit gave me the opportunity to realise the importance of the safety of the country. I have developed a serious affection for the SANDF. South African youth must also take a step forward to assist the SANDF to accomplish its mission, vision and objectives.”

The visit ended with a lunch at the SA Army Engineering Formation where the students were given the opportunity to comment on what they had seen and heard.

The main concern was to change the perception of the careers available in the SANDF and to enhance the image and credibility of the Department of Defence, so that the youth could follow successful careers in the SANDF.

Students accompanied by SANDF members visiting the Institute for Aviation Medicine.
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SPEAK TO YOUR METROPOLITAN FINANCIAL ADVISER OR CONTACT US ON 0860 724 724.
The DOD Logistic Support Formation has reopened the SAFI Combined Club Shop at Tek Base on 19 July 2013 following its long closure. The Combined Club will oversee the running of the shop. The SAFI General Manager, Brig Gen Vusumusi Ngobese, said the aim in reopening the shop was to provide the basic necessities to members of the Tek Base community and anyone else and to raise the morale of members.

He said the SAFI concept was to provide basic necessities for soldiers. Brig Gen Ngobese said: “For the past 100 years that SAFI has been operating, outsourcing to contractors has turned out to be a failure as the shop claimed it was unable to compete with other businesses. For the past 20 years we have been unable to cope, so we have decided to turn things around. This is one of the concepts we have come up with. We promise you low prices and the best of everything.”

On Friday morning, a big crowd gathered when the Deputy Chief Logistics, Maj Gen Motlhamme Moadira, formally cut the ribbon and opened the SAFI Tek Base Combined Club Shop. Chaplain Linky Ngwato opened the proceedings with a prayer and read Psalm 105:41-42. Chaplain Ngwato noted that people in the area were inconvenienced by the closure and never thought that SAFI would be reopened, but mercifully it would not now be necessary for people to travel far any more and she advised the community to support the shop.

The Programme Director, Col Zakhele Mngabi, said that they were grateful as a lot of money had been spent to upgrade the place. He said: “Thanks to every one who came to witness the opening; we promise to provide good service.”

People were given the opportunity to view the SAFI Tek Base Combined Club Shop and celebrate its reopening with the release of balloons into the air.
Logistic Support Formation unveils its 3D emblem

By Ms Lebo Mohapi, Intern at SA Soldier
Photo: Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela

DOD Logistic Support Formation unveiled its emblem at Tek Base in Pretoria on 17 July 2013, on the eve of the iconic former President Nelson Mandela’s birthday.

The honoured guests and members of DOD Logistic Support Formation waited patiently in front of the Logistics Support Headquarters at Tek Base for the ceremony to take place. They were entertained by the SA Army Band as they made an entrance led by the DOD Logistic Support Formation members on parade, and were proud to have been involved in such a memorable event.

Lt Col Themba Twala, Officer Commanding Logistic Support Formation Headquarters Unit, was the Master of Ceremonies for the day. The Codes of Conduct for both uniformed members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) were read which gave rise to a feeling of patriotism. This showed that DOD members were proud to be serving their country.

Chaplain Linky Ngwato opened the ceremony with a reading from the book of Joshua 4:7. She said that the unveiling of the emblem was meant to help the members not to forget what God had done for the soldiers and that their children would be able to see it long after their fathers and mothers had passed on, and would be a place worth visiting.

Thereafter R Adm Frederick Hans, Director Supply Support and Service Management, unveiled the fountain to the left side of the entrance door to the DOD Logistic Support Formation Headquarters. He was followed by Brig Gen Amos Skosana, Director Product System Support, who unveiled the plaque situated to the right of the building near the entrance. Shortly afterwards, the 3D emblem situated in the shade of a palm tree on the lawn was unveiled. This symbolises an oasis in the desert and therefore sustenance and support in adverse conditions.

Maj Gen Monde Mbiza, the General Officer Commanding DOD Logistic Support Formation, said that it was not a coincidence that the unveiling was taking place on the eve of former President Nelson Mandela’s birthday. He said the chain enveloping the emblem was a reminder of strength, good values, norms and security.

Col Willem Odendaal, Director Technical Maintenance Support Services, explained that it took exactly three weeks to plan, execute and finish the 3D emblem because they wanted it to be ready for the birthday of Lt Gen Justice Konyane, Chief Logistic Support Formation, as they regard him as a logistic icon. The idea was to present Maj Gen Mbiza with a tangible asset to unify members of the Services and Divisions into a joint collective unit with a sense of belonging, symbolised by a formation emblem that created esprit de corps and forged pride and loyalty.

He said: “Given the time that we were allowed and the limited resources, we knew we could create something great with diligence and if we put our minds to something we could achieve it. By using the different resources available we created something to be proud of. It does not matter what your circumstances are: you can produce something exceptional, given the opportunity.”
Empowering junior managers to spread their wings in the management arena

By Ms A.S. Marsh, Senior Personnel Practitioner:PSAP ETD

Forty-seven DOD members and employees from different Services and Divisions on salary levels 6 to 8 recently attended the two Emerging Management Development Programmes at the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) in Pretoria.

The objective of this programme is to assist achievement orientated junior managers to gain skills that will empower them to spread their wings in the management arena.

The Emerging Management Development Programmes were presented over a period of 15 working days and consisted of three blocks of five days each. Block 1 focussed on Management Overview, Block 2 on Customer Care, Communication and Quality Assurance and Block 3 on the Complete Supervisor. Training modules included, among others, Self-management, Creative Thinking, Problem Analysis, Decision-making, Diversity Citizenship, Organisational Communication Effectiveness, Customer Service Orientation, Team Membership and Concern for Others, Budgeting and Financial Management, Planning and Organising as well as Project Management.

The learners’ contributions throughout the two programmes constituted clear evidence of the success of the Emerging Management Development Programme. Learners shared ideas and common interests and found new ways of improving their own and group performance so that they were able to address developmental areas within their personal environment. This programme has played a vital role in addressing critical skills gaps encountered by junior managers.

Chief Director Human Resources Development (CD HRD) acknowledges the great effort and commitment by Services and Divisions in nominating PSAP for the Emerging Management Development Programme, which has contributed greatly to CD HRD’s ongoing effort to promote the continuous development of PSAP Emerging Managers in the Department.

The two programmes, including their content, logistics and facilitators, were rated excellent. Learners indicated that the programmes equipped them with knowledge, skills and a better understanding of their roles as junior managers.

Comments by some learners are reflected below:


"Attending the Emerging Management Development Programme helped me a lot and it was also an eye-opener concerning the Management Overview module. The whole of Block 3 was more advanced; it taught me how to deal with conflict management at the workplace, the Batho Pele Principles, how the Public Service and Government operate with a lot of different people everyday. The benefits of attending the course have allowed me to deliver a more professional service to my clients."

Ms Marcia Botha, Chief Accounting Clerk: Financial Management Division. "The documentation of the course and the facilitators from blocks 1 to 3 showed an interest in what they where teaching us; they came prepared and it was very professional. The course also taught me a lot about stress management, how to value time and be a good manager. I have learnt how I should plan and prioritise tasks as a manager. I am able to manage and organise myself to ensure that my goals and objectives for the day are met within the required time limits, and how to be a leader."

Mr Wayane Ely, Senior Provincial Administration Clerk: SA Navy (Procurement Service Centre in Simon’s Town). “The programme was very informative and useful. I learnt a lot and gained a great amount of knowledge of how to work in a team. Transparency is an important matter for employees to have in order to achieve objectives. More PSAP should be given the opportunity to attend this programme.”

Mr Ofentse Mooketsi, Senior Personnel Practitioner Further Education and Training (HRD PSAP ETD). “The Emerging Management Development Programme was of great importance to me as an emerging manager. The course content was precisely arranged and the facilitator displayed considerable knowledge of the Public Service. The programme gave me a chance to engage with the challenges that were commonly experienced at work. I was given insight into how to plan effectively, and implement and manage a project. A big salute to PALAMA for their assistance in building towards the future leadership of the Public Service and the DOD.”
SANDF kick-boxers win gold

By Lt Col Andrew April,
Chairperson SANDF
Kick-boxing/Martial Arts
Photo: Capt Josh Cloete,
National Kick-boxing Coach

Kick-boxers brought pride and honour to the SANDF sport and martial arts. Five SANDF athletes were crowned SA champions during the recently held SA National Kick-boxing Championships in Oudtshoorn. All of them were included in the National/Presidential Team to represent the country at the World Championships later this year.

Combat sport within the SANDF should receive more attention than it currently enjoys. For the last 20 years combat sport, including boxing, wrestling, judo, karate, taekwondo and kick-boxing have faded away somewhat within the organisation.

Military organisations globally, including quasi-military ones, place tremendous emphasis on the development and importance of hand-to-hand combat skills, even for non-combatants within their structures.

Indeed, soldiering is all about combat with or without a rifle. The time has arrived for us within the SANDF to equip ourselves with hand-to-hand combat skills. Combat sport is an area where the military should dominate, for a soldier must be immune to physical pain, suffering and exhaustion.

However, for years SANDF soldiers have failed to make us proud during high-level combat sport competitions. The above phenomenon could also be clearly seen within the kick-boxing fraternity, although we have national coaches within the organisation. Owing to personal issues, we have sometimes deprived the SANDF of its full potential.

At the beginning of 2013 the kick-boxing management agreed to lay their differences aside in order to restore the dignity and pride of SANDF kick-boxing within the South African kick-boxing community.

In 2013 kick-boxing training courses were held and kick-boxers participated in events throughout the country. These competitions and events were part of the preparations for the 2013 SA National Kick-boxing Championships. The SANDF envisaged producing more champions than they had in the past, bearing in mind budgetary constraints within the SANDF.

The last training camp that was held in Pretoria from 17 to 21 June 2013 was vital. During this camp all past mistakes were corrected, new techniques were learned and a deeper understanding of combat was taught. This training camp focussed to a great extent on perfect execution and the willingness to win. For the first time in years the SANDF produced five SA National Kick-boxing Champions in weight divisions and fighting categories.

At last gold medals were bestowed upon our kick-boxers, which was an honour for the SANDF. Kick-boxing is a combat sport that will restore pride and dignity to the SANDF, as we proved that our soldiers have the capacity to perform at the highest level in this country. All we now need is for the SANDF to believe this and support our martial arts. We want to encourage other sporting codes to follow suit and allow the SANDF to lead the sport in South Africa.

The last training camp that was held in Pretoria from 17 to 21 June 2013 was vital. During this camp all past mistakes were corrected, new techniques were learned and a deeper understanding of combat was taught. This training camp focussed to a great extent on perfect execution and the willingness to win. For the first time in years the SANDF produced five SA National Kick-boxing Champions in weight divisions and fighting categories.

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No man is an island

By Chaplain (Rev) Fredolene Manganye, Chaplain at GSB Garrison
Photo: Chaplain (Rev) Ben van der Walt

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another …” (Hebrews 10:23–25).

The year is slowly creeping towards December and many of us feel that there is so much we still want to do.

Many a time our biggest mistake is attempting to tackle challenges, matters or stumbling blocks on our own.

We tend to overlook the fact that slogans have been written to reiterate that there is strength in unity. Slogans such as: “United we stand, divided we fall; no man is an island; one hand washes the other and both get clean”.

As we step past the month of August, we need to be encouraged by the women who had enough courage to stand up against what was wrong.

They came together and kept on meeting together until they had collectively decided on a plan of action.

Their unity, courage and willingness to make a difference saw them walking into the pages of history.

They were making an enduring impression on generations of women (and men) that came after them.

It is essential for any unit (be it at work, a family unit or friend) to sit down from time to time and meet together. In meeting together you iron out the creases in a relationship, you get to know one another better and have an opportunity to encourage one another in the day-to-day challenges we face. We need to remind one another that together, by the grace of God, we can overcome anything.

The fact of the matter is that even though we are not in control of our situations, there is One much greater than us that watches our comings and goings.

One who made us different so that when we come together, each idea, each contribution, each creative effort enhances the other.

The final product can only be something we can all be proud of, like the pride the more than 20 000 women must have felt after their endeavour in 1956.

Nobody is an island and a word of encouragement has never done any harm. We need to look at ways to spur one another on in the work we do.

You might just make a person’s day and give him the endurance to hold on to what is good, despite the challenges along the way. No one can be accused of wrongdoing when you encourage one another. In fact, your words could bring a long missed smile to the mouth and on the heart of one who truly needs it.

The Apostle Paul urges us not to give up the habit of meeting together and continuously encouraging one another. Let us start looking at the greater good and realise that when one hand washes the other, both indeed become clean.

May the Lord bless us as we learn to be a blessing to one another.
Open hands were blessed

Article and photo by Chaplain (Rev) Ben van der Walt, Acting SSO Religious Communication and Liaison

While the South African nation continuously prays for better health for the father of the nation, Mr Nelson Mandela, numerous headquarters, formations and units of the SANDF engaged in projects of 67 minutes to commemorate his 95th birthday.

The members of the Chaplain General Headquarters reached out to the Bethesda Special School in Ga-rankuwa to dedicate their 67 minutes to support the school. The school consists of 200 children, whose ages range from 6 to 21 years.

The Principal warmly welcomed the members to the school where a full programme was presented to them comprising cultural dances, including a gumboot dance and drum renditions. Thereafter gifts were presented to the Principal and personnel.

Each learner received a parcel of sweets whereafter the members repacked and tidied the Toy and Educational Library. The satisfaction of giving is in the appreciation and joy which is expressed by the receiver; therefore it was an absolute joy to give something to these children and to make a child’s heart happy.

Some members of the Chaplain General Headquarters visited Herberg Pre-primary School on invitation, where something amazing happened …

During the visit a cheque was handed to Col Mantsi Mohapi who represented the Chaplain General. The donation was made to the Chaplain Service Fund as a contribution towards the distribution of Bibles (with a camouflage cover) and other spiritual literature. These Bibles and literature will be distributed to our soldiers on internal and external deployments during the festive season as part of the Goodwill Parcel Project. This contribution, and others, will ensure that our deployed soldiers receive literature to uplift their morale during their deployments. A big “Thank You” to Herberg Pre-primary School!

Brig Gen Ben Jonas, Director OHS: HR Division, and his delegation then planted an olive tree on the premises as part of this celebration. This illustrates that God can only bless a hand which is willing and open to give. It is impossible for God to bless a closed hand!

Back, fltr: Ms Ina van Schalkwyk (Principal of Herberg Pre-primary School), WO1 Christa van der Merwe, Brig Gen Bongani Jonas, Col Mbengeni Madiehe, Ms Ina Strydom (Tshwane Council Member), Col Gerhard van Eeden, CPO Nicky Mfundisi, Ms Lizzie Jonas (a parent) and Ms Angie le Grange (a Grade R teacher). Front, fltr: Learners of Herberg Pre-primary School: Ncedokuhle Mbambo, Lebogang Mokoena, Tyler Balie, Diego Hendriks, Keabetswe Kgonthi, Onthatile Lelake and Ryleigh de Reuck.
67 minutes in celebration of Mandela Day

"I dream of an Africa which is at peace with itself." - Tata Madiba

"If there are dreams about a beautiful South Africa, there are also roads that lead to their goal. Two of these roads could be named Goodness and Forgiveness."

- Mr Nelson Mandela