From the Editor’s desk

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A symbol of our collective history

The Lord surrounds us at all times!
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FRONT COVER: The imposing six-metre tall 2.5 ton bronze statue of former President Nelson Mandela at Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton City. In front of the statue are four SANDF members, representing the four Services of the SANDF, paying tribute to the late former President Nelson Mandela, the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF. Fltr: Cpl Sello Letshoene (SA Army), Cpl Ally Rakoma (SA Air Force), LS Ntebaleng Ngoepe (SA Navy) and Pte Lorraine Ramalivhana (SA Military Health Service). (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)
This Special Edition of SA Soldier is dedicated to the first Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), the late former President Nelson Mandela.

This global icon and Nobel Peace Prize winner – Madiba - as the world fondly remembers him, passed on peacefully at his home in Houghton, Johannesburg, on 5 December at 20:50 at the age of 95 years.

I was honoured to be one of the thousands of people who went to pay their last respects to Tata Madiba while he was lying in state at the Amphitheatre at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. What an emotional affair … I will cherish that solemn moment for the rest of my life.

As we mourn Madiba’s death, let us reflect on what he meant to us and remember what he inspired us to strive to become – humane citizens who believe in goodness … This icon of humility, selflessness and forgiveness, the world’s very symbol of humanity, is no more.

Read in this edition all about the role that the SANDF played during the 10 Days of National Mourning as the nation bade farewell to Madiba.

For three days (11 to 13 December 2013) thousands lined the city streets to bid farewell to Madiba. Every morning at 07:00 the procession left 1 Military Hospital in Thaba Tshwane with the casket with Madiba’s mortal remains to take him to the Union Buildings to lie in state. The ceremonial display of the military over these three days consisted of a guard of honour and a military band, including a military procession of 16 Military Police members on motorcycles and an Oryx helicopter of the SA Air Force hovering over the cortège on its way to the Union Buildings.

After the send-off ceremony held at Air Force Base Waterkloof on 14 December 2013 two Gripen fighter jets escorted the C130 Hercules cargo aircraft of the SA Air Force with Madiba's mortal remains to Mthatha Airport.

Over the weekend of 14 to 16 December 2013 the village of Qunu was taken over by the military ahead of one of the biggest funerals in history on Sunday, 15 December 2013, at the family graveyard. The area was declared a no-fly zone, and the SA Air Force had Gripen in the air to monitor the airspace around Madiba's Qunu home.

The soldiers stationed in a “tent town” at 14 SA Infantry Battalion in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape were geared for the influx of the large number of heads of state, media representatives and local and international visitors.

Let us continue to share our memories of Madiba - the father of our nation - for a life lived well. His legacy will live on.

May his soul rest in peace.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

* Translation into Luwenda by Mr Lufuno Nsetsirebe
Madiba’s legacy will live on

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

“During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013
It is with deep sadness that the Government has learnt of the passing of the father of South Africa’s democracy – Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on 5 December 2013.

Following an extended stay in hospital, he was returned to his home in Houghton, Johannesburg, where subsequently, former President Nelson Mandela peacefully passed on, surrounded by family.

The man who was to become one of the world’s greatest icons was born in Mvezo, Transkei on 18 July 1918, to Nongaphi Nosekeni and Henry Gadla Mandela. His father was the key counsellor/advisor to the Thembu royal house.

After his father’s death in 1927, the young Rolihlahla became the ward of Chief Jongintaba Dalindyebo, the acting regent of the Thembu nation. It was at the Thembu royal homestead that his personality, values and political views were shaped. There can be no doubt that the young man went on to bring about some of the most significant and remarkable changes in South African history and politics.

It is through Mandela that the world cast its eyes on South Africa and took notice of the severe and organized repression of black South Africans. Yet it was also through Mandela that the world would learn the spirit of endurance, the triumph of forgiveness and the beauty of reconciliation. Indeed, the story of Nelson Mandela is so much the story of South Africa.

When he was only 25 years old, Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress. His political career would span decades more – as he himself said: “The struggle is my life.” The young Mandela also qualified and practiced as a lawyer. Together with Oliver Tambo he opened the first black legal practice in Johannesburg.

Mandela married Evelyn Nomathamsanqa Mase in 1945. They were married for fourteen years and had four children: Thembekile (1946), Makaziwe (1947), who died at nine months, Makgatho (1951) and Makaziwe (1954). The couple divorced in 1958. He was instrumental in the formation of the radical African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) in the 1940s which was de-
determined to change the face of politics. Mandela was elected the league’s National Secretary in 1948 and President in 1952.

Much of the years that followed saw Mandela deeply involved in activism, rallying for political change against the increasingly aggressive apartheid government. He was a key player in the ANC’s Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws in 1952 and the Treason Trial in 1961. During this time he was incarcerated several times under the apartheid laws and banned from political activity. Realising that the ANC needed to prepare for more intensive struggle, he became an instrumental force behind the formation of a new section of the liberation movement, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), as an armed nucleus with a view to preparing for armed struggle. Mandela was commander in chief of MK.

On 14 June 1958 Nelson and Winnie Madikizela were married at a local Bizana church. They had two children, Zenani (1958) Zindziswa (1960). In April 1992 they were separated and finally divorced in 1996.

He left the country in 1962 and traveled abroad to arrange guerilla training for members of Umkhonto we Sizwe. On his return to South Africa he was arrested for illegal exiting the country and incitement to strike. Mandela decided to represent himself in court. While on trial, Mandela was charged with sabotage in the Rivonia Trial. This is his famous statement from the dock made in 1964: “I have fought against White domination, and I have fought against Black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

In the same year Mandela and the other accused were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial and sent to Robben Island, near Cape Town. While in prison, Mandela rejected offers made by his jailers to be released on condition that he renounced violence. “Prisoners cannot enter into contracts. Only free men can negotiate,” he said. He served a total of 27 years in prison for his conviction to fight apartheid and its injustices.

Released on 11 February 1990, Mandela plunged wholeheartedly into his life’s work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost four decades earlier. In 1991, at the first national conference of the ANC held inside South Africa after being banned for decades, Nelson Mandela was elected President of the ANC while his lifelong friend and colleague, Oliver Tambo, became the organisation’s National Chairperson.

In a life that symbolises the triumph of the human spirit, Nelson Mandela accepted the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize (along with FW de Klerk) on behalf of all South Africans who suffered and sacrificed so much to bring peace to our land.

The era of apartheid formally came to an end on the April 27, 1994, when Nelson Mandela voted for the first time in his life – along with his people. However, long before that date it had become clear, even before the start of negotiations at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park, that the ANC was increasingly charting the future of South Africa.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was inaugurated as President of a democratic South Africa on 10 May 1994.

This world icon worked tirelessly even after the achievement of democracy in South Africa to continue improving lives. Even as he retired from politics, his attention shifted to social issues such as HIV and AIDS and the wellbeing of the nation’s children. As a testimony to his sharp political intellect, wisdom and unrelenting commitment to make the world a better place, Mandela formed the prestigious group called The Elders – an independent group of eminent global leaders, who offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.

Mr Mandela is survived by his wife Graça, three daughters, 18 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

* Information provided by the GCIS (Government Communication and Information System)*
The Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), General Solly Shoke, called off his medal parade which was scheduled to take place at Pretoria Military Sports Grounds in Thaba Tshwane on 6 December 2013. This followed the sad news of the passing on of former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF. Members and units of the SANDF were identified to provide support during the period of 10 days of national mourning. Their leave was cancelled with immediate effect and they were to report to their home units. All flags were flown at half mast until after the funeral.

The SANDF salutes Madiba

Former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the first Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) after the birth of a democratic South Africa, passed away on 5 December 2013. The SANDF grieves the death of one of the greatest sons of Africa together with the Mandela family, all the people of South Africa and the people of the world.

We will treasure his unrivalled contribution to our country; as soldiers we will stay focussed on realising his dream of a better life for all; we will remain committed to his vision of a united people; as servants of our country, we shall continue on the footpath he left in his long walk to freedom.

We are thankful to God Almighty who has blessed us with a leader without equal.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

27 APRIL 1999, FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDF. The late former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF.

SANDF MEMBERS’ VIEWS ON THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA

Compiled by Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

“Mr Mandela was a man of honour. He taught us not to be selfish. It is up to us and our leaders in the Public Service and Government to follow in his footsteps” - Maj Alex Anathi September

“I am so heartbroken about the passing of Mr Mandela; I hoped that he would live longer as he deserved to live longer. I am proud to be a South African because of Tata Madiba. He has done so much for this nation without wanting anything in return. I know the angels in heaven are rejoicing because a special angel has joined them.” - Able Seaman Dineo Tefo

“The world is a poorer place since the passing of Tata. However, we can honour his legacy by preserving the ideals he lived for.” - Col Andre Retief

“We have lost a great man. Tata your legacy will live on, the children of SA will follow your legacy. Thanks for showing us how easy it is to forgive.” - Ms Anisa Khan

“Madiba was more of a Christian for me; he lived a life of a Christian in actions, which is important for me because most people preach but lack in actions. May his soul rest in peace.” - Col Sarah Phasha

“Education is a weapon for life. I strongly believe that education can get us far. Thanks Tata for the opportunities we had for better education and schooling.” - Mr Mpho Rasehloka

“Mandela was a hero to everyone, father of our nation, he believed in creating a better life for all in education, protecting the children, etc. Mandela’s legacy will live on as long as we carry on where he left.” - Pte Keaoleboga Medupe

“Mr Nelson Mandela was a universal being, his life impacted on all humanity. I am humbled by his love and compassion for all. He was a genuine man of integrity, an extraordinary man, our gift from God. We rejoice as South Africans to have lived under his guidance. We are a chosen nation to have been blessed with Madiba.” - Sgt Tebogo Sathekge

“I feel humbled for I live in a generation where Tata was alive; he showed us the power of forgiveness and how to respect each other regardless of colour or race. I quote from him: ‘Lead from the back so that everyone will think you are in front’. He may no longer be with us in flesh but
SANDF MEMBERS’ VIEWS ON THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA

he will always be in our hearts.”
- Pte Lindiwe Mashoboko

“A leader is somebody who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. Tata symbolised all that. As a nation, we must continue to rise and embrace what he stood for. Mr Nelson Mandela taught the values of respect and sharing. Even in the face of despair, he gave us hope of a better tomorrow. He was so much part of us all; he was a teacher who bestowed his values on us.”
- Cpl Sandile Nkosana

“Mr Nelson Mandela was a unifier. The greatest lesson I learnt from the late Mr Nelson Mandela is to have a forgiving heart. No man in our lifetime gave so much, to so many. We salute you Madiba, our first Commander-in-Chief and we will carry your legacy into the future through our work as daughters and sons of this glorious nation.”
- Cpl Lebo Maseko

“Mother Nature suffered a monumental blow when the departure and untimely death of my first decorated and emblematic first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Mr Nelson Mandela, was announced. This leader of note superseded human limitations in his political career when he exhibited unflinching gallantry during apartheid. The world, particularly South Africa, is mourning in unison. My boundless gratitude to my fellow SANDF members for according Madiba a funeral befitting his stature; he was indeed a semi-omnipotent man and a household name. His departure has left a void in many people’s hearts; I will bask in your legacy. Hamba kahle Madiba!”
- Lt Motsamai Romeo Mabote

TRIBUTES TO TATA MADIBA

Tributes to the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela - Ed:

REFLECTIONS

I reflect on everything that is going on at this momentous time. The first democratically elected President of South Africa, Mr Nelson Mandela, has died. He lay in state at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, our capital city, for three days. It is estimated that 100 000 people were privileged to pay their respects. Significantly, in Mandela style, this was open to the public as well as to dignitaries. Yesterday he was “home” and laid to rest forever.

Former President Nelson Mandela is widely acknowledged as “the most well-known man in the world” and it is not surprising that his funeral is the biggest event of its kind in world history. The list of current and past world leaders visiting South Africa for this event again made world history. These included international royalty and scores of business icons and celebrities. Indeed it was the biggest world event of all time. Mr Mandela dedicated his life to his principles and political and social ideals. Wow! He was jailed for them for 27 years! His release, followed by free and fair elections; his presidency and peaceful transition bear testimony to this. And I reflect on all of this …

I am a soldier - a proud South African National Defence Force soldier. I know no other system. I have no experience of the five defence forces that amalgamated to become the SANDF, which event the Unitas Medals commemorate (awarded to members serving during the elections in 1994). We, the “post 1994 generation” are “the new SANDF”.

This is a respectful and humble suggestion from my generation, from members of some 25 units that I am in touch with, namely that the SANDF commemorate former President Mandela’s death by means of a Commemorative Mandela Medal for every member of the SANDF as a Celebration of Democracy. The SANDF is the finest example I know of the fruits of democracy that Mr Mandela so vigorously pursued. Transformation has taken place and racism does not exist. Every soldier I know is passionate and dedicated to “The Service” and Soldiering. The SANDF is the living Celebration of Democracy that former President Mandela and the men and women of our parents’ generation fought to achieve.

Lt Mthandeni Phakathi, Adjutant 19 Field Engineer Regiment, Durban

On the iconic Nelson Mandela Bridge in Johannesburg, the largest suspension bridge in Southern Africa, are four SANDF members, representing the four Services of the SANDF, paying tribute to the late former President Nelson Mandela, the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF. Fltr: Cpl Sello Letshoene (SA Army), Cpl Ally Rakoma (SA Air Force), LS Ntebaleng Ngoepe (SA Navy) and Pte Lorraine Ramalivhana (SA Military Health Service).
The Military Command Council pays homage to the Mandela family

Compiled by Ms Nelda Pienaar
Photos: Capt Matthew de Jager

The Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), General Solly Shoke, and members of the Military Command Council (MCC) visited the Mandela family at their home in Houghton, Johannesburg, on Monday, 9 December 2013, to pay homage to the late Mr Nelson Mandela who was the first democratically elected President of South Africa and the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF.

The SANDF salutes and honours the memory of their first Commander-in-Chief.

ABOVE: Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, the Chaplain General of the SANDF, comforting the Mandela family at their home in Houghton, Johannesburg.

ABOVE: Col (Rev) Tobias Masuku singing a hymn when the Military Command Council visited the Mandela family at their home.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

LEFT: Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, the Chaplain General of the SANDF, delivers his sermon to the Mandela family while Col (Rev) Tobias Masuku listens attentively.

BELOW: General Solly Shoke, the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, pays tribute to the Mandela family at Madiba’s home. Rev) Andrew Jamangile, the Chaplain General of the SANDF (right) and Col (Rev) Tobias Masuku.

ABOVE: A member of the SA Military Health Service doing guard duty at the home of the Mandela family in Houghton, Johannesburg, during the Military Command Council (MCC) visit to the Mandela family.

LEFT: One of the Military Police members ready to escort the military convoy from Defence Headquarters in Pretoria to the home of the late former President Nelson Mandela in Houghton, Johannesburg.

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LEFT: Soldiers ready to provide their services during the visit of the Military Command Council to the Mandela family at their home in Houghton, Johannesburg.

ABOVE: Military Police members ready to provide escort duties in the military convoy from Defence Headquarters in Pretoria to the home of the late former President Nelson Mandela in Houghton, Johannesburg.

LEFT: Soldiers safeguarding the premises in front of Madiba's home in Houghton, Johannesburg.
TRIBUTES TO TATA MADIBA

Tributes to the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela - Ed:

GONE, BUT NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN - MY ACCOLADE TO MADIBA

I hear the news ... I'm shattered and then I remember the words...
“Never again shall we experience the oppression and suffer the indignity of being the scum of the world ... The sun shall never set
LET FREEDOM REIGN, GOD BLESS SOUTH AFRICA!”

Father of the nation, a father to all ... He made all problems seem so small ... A man with such human dignity, such a humble man ... If someone should've asked me: Who can change the world? I would say: ONLY MADIBA CAN!

He was the giant of justice, the maker of peace ...
Reconciling and uniting the nation with ease ...
Always full of possibility, always full of hope
For OUR freedom, he paid that price ...
What a sacrifice!

I'm proud to be a South African, proud to be a citizen of this world ...
Madiba made this possible ...
A global impact he made on young and old
The Madiba stories will still long be told ...

Thank you Madiba, for inspiring us all ...
Thank you for caring for the big and the small
Thank you for unity, thank you for peace ...

Thank you Madiba for crying RELEASE!
God has spared you for 95 years,
And you've spent those years well ...
Now your job on earth is done ... and heaven is your new home ...
You will know no more suffering; you will know no more pain ...

AND ME ...

I rejoice just knowing that we will meet again!

R.I.P. MADIBA,
Ms Hilary Sauls, Directorate Fleet Quality Assurance PA

AAH DALIBHUNGA!

Namhlanje izizwe, intlanga ngenzilanga zimanyene ngobukho bakho
Ukusandulela kwakho kwesothusile yaye
Watshabalalisa uRhulumente
Ukuze sonke eMzantsi Afrika sibhale
Ngokulinganayo ngothando nangoxolo

Ndlyakukhalela Nkosi yabaThembu
Ndithi Ahh Dalibhunga!
Uzuthi nalapho ukhoyo ufike ubumbe isandla nakwezinye inNkokheli ezawa
Zisizwa idabi lencinede
Nkokheli ezifana John Langalibalele Dube, Sefako Mapogo Makgatho
Zacharias Richard Mahabane, Josiah Tshangana Gumede, Alfred Bitini Xuma
J.S. Moroka, Chief Albert Luthuli, Oliver Reginald Tambo, Chris Thembisile Hani
Joe Slovo, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki
Raymond Mhlaba, Arthur Goldreich
Andrew Mlangeni, Harold Wolpe
Dennis Goldberg, Lionel Bernstein, Elias Motsoaledi

Mayibuye IFRIKA
AAH DALIBHUNGA! Sgt A.C. Qongqo, Air Force Base Ysterplaat

*Here follows the poem translated into English by F Sgt Siyabonga Mafanya from Defence Corporate Communication:

COMEBACK AFRICA!

Today nations and all races are gathered in your honour. Your passing came as a shock to us. You destroyed the apartheid regime, for all South Africans to be united in love and peace.

I salute you Ba Thembu King Aah

COME BACK AFRICA!

Dalibhunga! Greet fellow struggle leaders that have also fallen fighting in the struggle, leaders like John Langalibalele Dube, Sefako Mapogo Makgatho, Zacharias Richard Mahabane, Josiah Tshangana Gumede, Alfred Bitini Xuma, J.S. Moroka, Chief Albert Luthuli, Oliver Reginald Tambo, Chris Thembisile Hani, Joe Slovo, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Arthur Goldreich, Andrew Mlangeni, Harold Wolpe, Dennis Goldberg, Lionel Bernstein, Elias Motsoaledi.

South Africans are happy and free today because you took out the thorn of the apartheid using the Spear of the Nation.

Rest in Peace, you had a long walk to freedom. Rest in peace, you have endured the pains, hardships and the colds of Robben Island.

A dilemma has fallen upon us
We have not seen Mandela

Hoorah to you Tata Madiba
Hoorah Dlomo, Vela bambhentsele,
Sopitsho, Ngqolomsila, Yem Yem (a praise for Madiba's ancestors and himself)

COME BACK AFRICA!

Ms Hilary Sauls, Directorate Fleet Quality Assurance PA

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
18 July 1918 - 5 December 2013

December 2013
The SANDF celebrates the monumental legacy of its first Commander-in-Chief

By Cpl Ally Rakoma and Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: WO2 David Nomtshongwana, S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole and Mr Frans Setlau

Over 100 Heads of state and people from all over the world had arrived in South Africa to pay their last respects to the global icon fondly known as Madiba. Prominent figures were seen in attendance at both the National Memorial Service at the FNB Stadium near Soweto and at the viewing of the mortal remains of the late Tata Madiba at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

On Tuesday, 10 December 2013, the senior leadership of the SA National Defence Force (SANDEF) led by the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, joined world leaders, representatives of the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), royalty, scores of foreign and local dignitaries and countless millions of people around the world to pay homage to the late former President Mandela and first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDEF at the National Memorial Service held at the FNB Stadium outside Soweto.

It was a moment in history that was a global celebration of the life of a profound leader who set an example that all humanity should aspire to and who embodied all of humanity’s hopes and dreams.

People from all walks of life, young and old, stood up to whistle, sing, dance, cheer, bear flags, banners and posters of Madiba, with fists clenched in the air, chanting “Long live the spirit of Nelson Mandela”. They celebrated Tata Madiba as a revered statesman and global icon.

At the memorial service the President of the United States of America, Mr Barack Obama, in his eulogy paid his last respects to Madiba, saying: “Nelson Mandela taught us the power of action, but also ideas, the
Madiba’s legacy will live on
S A S O L D I E R

LEFT: Ms Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, a former wife of Tata Madiba, accompanied by family members arrives at the FNB Stadium for the National Memorial Service.

BELOW: Former President Frederick Willem (“FW”) de Klerk and his wife, Elita, arrive at the FNB Stadium for Tata Madiba’s National Memorial Service.

RIGHT: Fltr: V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy, and Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, Chief of the SA Air Force, Dr Sam Gulube, Secretary for Defence, and Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, Chaplain General of the SANDF, at Air Force Base Waterkloof before their departure for the FNB Stadium near Soweto for Tata Madiba’s National Memorial Service.

LEFT: The National Memorial Service began with jubilant celebratory songs and dance outside the stadium, but the mood soon turned sombre as speakers delivered their eulogies to the departed icon.

importance of reason and arguments, the need not to study those you agree with, but those who you do not agree with”. He added: “And while I will always fall short of Madiba’s example, he makes me want to be a better man. He speaks to what’s best inside us”.

President Obama hailed former President Mandela as a hero and a symbol of hope for many around the world. He said that former President Mandela has emerged as the last great liberator in the 21st century. President Obama said: “Nelson Mandela reminded us that it always

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Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013

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seems impossible until it is done.”

The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, said that the world was joining South Africa in the celebration of Mandela’s life. He said that South Africa had lost a father; the world had lost a beloved friend and mentor.

Other dignitaries, including the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-

ABOVE: General Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA National Defence Force (right), greets Lt Gen Jeremiah Nyembe, Chief of Defence Intelligence, while Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, Chief of Logistics, looks on.

ABOVE: Military Veterans also joined the SANDF and the entire world to bid Tata Madiba farewell.

ABOVE: The military convoy on its way to the FNB Stadium near Soweto for the National Memorial Service.

Zuma, the President of Cuba, Mr Raul Castro, the President of Namibia, Mr Hifikepunye Pohamba, and leaders from three BRICS nations, the President of Brazil, Ms Dilma Rousseff, the President of China, Mr Li Yuanchao, and the President of India, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, also paid their last respects.

In his keynote address, President Jacob Zuma praised the late former
Madiba’s legacy will live on

LEFT: Mr Frans Setlau, a photographer from Engineer Terrain Intelligence Regiment, wearing an SA Soldier jacket, was proud to be part of this historic moment.

ABOVE: President Barack Obama, President of the United States, hailed Tata Madiba as a man who took history in his hands and bent the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

ABOVE: Mr Ban Ki-Moon, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, said that Tata Madiba was a giant for justice and a down-to-earth human inspiration.

President Nelson Mandela for being an outstanding leader, not only in South Africa but also in the world. President Zuma said: “Madiba believed in collective leadership and never wanted to be viewed as a messiah or saint.”

President Jacob Zuma said former President Nelson Mandela was a fearless freedom fighter who fought for the liberation of his people. He mentioned that the memorial service came against the backdrop of former President Mandela 20th anniversary of being awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

President Zuma announced that the Amphitheatre at the Union Buildings in Pretoria was to be called the Nelson Mandela Amphitheatre.
Final tributes and mourning for a giant of humanity

By Cpl Ally Rakoma and Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: WO2 David Nomtshongwana, S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole and Mr Frans Setlau

The respect appropriately accorded to the late first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, former President Nelson Mandela.

During the three days that the late Mr Mandela’s body was lying in state at the Union Buildings in Pretoria a number of military parades were conducted. Every morning before 07:00 members of the SANDF formed a guard of honour at 1 Military Hospital in Thaba Tshwane, after which the body of the late former President Nelson Mandela was transported to the Union Buildings.

For the period 11 to 13 December 2013 members of the public also lined the route and formed a public guard of honour for Madiba when his body was being transported from 1 Military Hospital to the Union Buildings.

During the three days that Madiba’s body was lying in state at the Union Buildings ordinary South Africans

LEFT and ABOVE: SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) members forming a Guard of Honour at the entrance of 1 Military Hospital for Tata Mandela’s mortal remains en route to the Union Buildings.

RIGHT: The military convoy including 16 Military Police members on motorcycles escorting the hearse as it passes SA Police members lining up on both sides of the road as it makes its way to the Union Buildings where Tata Madiba’s body will lie in state to allow members of the public to mourn and pay their last respects.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

LEFT and ABOVE: The Military Police procession escorting the cortège bearing the casket of Tata Madiba’s mortal remains is greeted on its journey to the Union Buildings by singing people lining the streets. An Oryx helicopter hovering above the military procession escorting the cortège is visible above.

ABOVE: Members of the Department of Correctional Services lined up along the route to form a guard of honour in commemorating and honouring the life of a global icon as a gesture of respect.

LEFT: People spontaneously decorated the route of the cortège bearing the casket of Tata Madiba’s mortal remains is following enroute to the Union Buildings.

and guests were given an opportunity to pay their last respects to him. (The Government Communication Information System (GCIS) hired 430 buses to transport an estimated 80 000 people

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Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013
Every day large crowds of people gathered outside waiting to see the cortège bearing the casket draped with the National Flag on its way to the Union Buildings. When the military helicopters flew overhead to provide aerial escort and to signal when the cortège was approaching, the crowd broke into song as they carried posters, roses, flags and portraits of Madiba. Some climbed onto roofs of buildings while others hung out of windows to get a clear view.

Asked how has it been for him to be part of this historic event the Convoy Commander, Col Tembalakhe Mangqishi, SSO Strategy, Plan and Policy at Joint Operational Division Headquarters, said that the departure of Mr Nelson Mandela was a monumental loss to South Africa, Africa and the world.

LEFT and BELOW: The military convoy escorting the hearse as it passes SA Police members lining up on both sides of the road as it makes its way to the Union Buildings where Tata Madiba’s body will lie in state to allow members of the public to mourn and pay their last respects.

RIGHT: An Oryx helicopter from the SA Air Force circled over the Union Buildings as the cortège carrying Tata Madiba’s casket made its way to the seat of government.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

LEFT and BELOW: The passage of Tata Madiba’s cortège through the streets of Pretoria led by Military Police members on motorcycles evoked a range of emotions from those who turned out to bid the global icon farewell.

LEFT: Members of the SA Navy honouring former President Nelson Mandela, the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, during his lying in state at the Union Buildings over the period 11 to 13 December 2013.

RIGHT: Ms Graça Machel, widow of the late Tata Madiba, solemnly pays her last respects to her beloved husband at the Union Buildings.

He said that as the Convoy Commander, having to lead his team, there was no room for mistakes. He was grateful to the leadership of the SANDF and the members of the SANDF during the final tribute to Tata Madiba. He added that the task was an emotional affair, as he had to come to terms with the final moments of the most loved and unique human being.

The SANDF did its first Commander-in-Chief proud, from the first day of the announcement of his passing to the commemorative activities during

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Madiba’s legacy will live on

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the 10 Days of National Mourning, Col Mangqishi said: “It was a moment of deepest sorrow. It was hard to believe that we had reached the last mile of Madiba’s life. It’s a privilege for me to be part of this historic and momentous occasion.”

He said that the approach of the SANDF regarding this landmark event was excellent, and expressed the view that the departure of former President Mandela was a monumental loss to South Africa and the community of nations, as his legacy reached far and wide.

Col Mangqishi pointed out that from the first day of the SANDF’s escorting the body and family members from their home in Houghton in Johannesburg to deliver the body at 1 Military Hospital, every movement and associated security tasks at various deployment areas were under control. Col Mangqishi reiterated: “It was hard to believe we had reached the last mile and the end of Tata’s life. It’s a privilege for me to be part of this historic and momentous occasion.” He applauded his team members, the SA Police Service, traffic officials and the

LEFT: President Jacob Zuma being saluted by SA Police Service members after he accompanied the Mandela family to view the mortal remains of Tata Madiba. Behind him is Ms Graca Machel, widow of the late Tata Madiba.

ABOVE: Ms Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, a former wife of former President Nelson Mandela, and her family members paying homage to Tata Madiba.

ABOVE: Lt Gen (Ret) Themba Matanzima, the Military Ombud and the spokesperson of the Mandela family, was among family members as they moved past the casket to pay their last respects.

LEFT: Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister of National Planning and Development in the Presidency, pays his last respects to former President Mandela.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

LEFT: Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, the Deputy President of South Africa, bids farewell to the late former President Nelson Mandela at the Union Buildings.

ABOVE: Former President Thabo Mbeki and his wife, Ms Zanele Mbeki, pay homage to the global icon.

ABOVE: Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, accompanied by Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, pays homage to the late Mr Nelson Mandela, a remarkable man, who achieved great success by helping to shape the country to what it is now: a democratic state in which everyone has equal rights.

ABOVE: South Africans and international visitors continued to pour in to the Union Buildings to view the mortal remains of the late former President Nelson Mandela.

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Madiba’s legacy will live on

Metro Police Department for working closely with each other to make Operation UXOLO a success.

Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, indicated during a television interview with the SABC that it was an honour for the SANDF to be given such a responsibility, adding that they were doing their best to make sure that everything was running smoothly.

Brig Gen Mabanga said that the daily procession was made of the Guard of Honour and pall-bearers consisting of senior Warrant Officers in the different Services and Divisions within the SANDF.

The spokesperson of the Mandela family, Lt Gen Themba Matanzima (Ret), the Military Ombud, mentioned that it was appropriate for Madiba’s body to be placed in the Union Buildings. He stated that it was the same place where former President Mandela was inaugurated in 1994, when thousands thronged the area to witness the dawn of democracy.

He said Madiba would be happy to know that he was surrounded by thousands of South Africans whom he loved and served. Lt Gen Matanzima (Ret) added: “It is accordingly a fitting tribute that the nation returns him to the seat of government on his way to his final journey, to his resting place.”

LEFT: Dr Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia, mourns the passing on of Madiba, the man who shaped South Africa to become a democratic beacon of hope.

ABOVE: Mr Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe, accompanied by his wife, Grace, came to pay tribute and commemorate the life of the late Madiba who lived his entire life striving for the emancipation of all people.

ABOVE: The late former President Nelson Mandela’s passing was mourned by all South Africans and our loss was shared by the entire world.

LEFT: Ms Helen Zille, the Premier of the Western Cape, pays tribute to the late former President Nelson Mandela.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

LEFT: Former President Frederick Willem (“FW”) de Klerk and his wife, Elita, solemnly paid their last respects to the man with whom he shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. (Mr Nelson Mandela accepted the honour on behalf of all South Africans who suffered through the years.)

ABOVE: The South African National Defence Force grieved and mourned the death of its first Commander-in-Chief, former President Nelson Mandela - one of the greatest sons of Africa. Men and women in uniform saluted and honoured him.

ABOVE: Fltr: Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, Chief of the SA Air Force, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy, Lt Gen Aubrey Sedibe, Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, Chief of Logistics and Lt Gen Jeremiah Nyembe, Chief of Defence Intelligence, awaiting the arrival of the cortège of former President Nelson Mandela at the Union Buildings.

ABOVE: Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, and the Mandela family paying their respects to the late Tata Madiba as his casket is carried to the Amphitheatre at the Union Buildings.
Famous quotes by the late Tata Madiba

Famous quotes of the late Mr Nelson Mandela, the first democratically elected President of South Africa and the first Commander-in-Chief of the SA National Defence Force:

“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.”

“A good leader can engage in a debate frankly and thoroughly, knowing that at the end he and the other side must be closer, and thus emerge stronger. You don’t have that idea when you are arrogant, superficial, and uninformed.”

“I detest racialism, because I regard it as a barbaric thing, whether it comes from a black man or a white man.”

“We can’t afford to be killing one another.”

“Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another.”

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

“After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.”

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”

“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.”

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

“No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated.”
“I do not deny that I planned sabotage. I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness nor because I have any love of violence. I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of the political situation that had arisen after many years of tyranny, exploitation and oppression of my people by the whites.”

“Let us give publicity to H.I.V./AIDS and not hide it, because the only way to make it appear like a normal illness like TB, like cancer, is always to come out and say somebody has died because of H.I.V./AIDS, and people will stop regarding it as something extraordinary.”

“My son has died of AIDS.”

“Give a child love, laughter and peace, not AIDS.”

“I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.”

“In countries where innocent people are dying, the leaders are following their blood rather than their brains.”

“Courageous people do not fear forgiving, for the sake of peace.”

“I was not a messiah, but an ordinary man who had become a leader because of extraordinary circumstances.”

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.”

“Any man or institution that tries to rob me of my dignity will lose.”

“Let freedom reign. The sun never sets on so glorious a human achievement.”

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

“I have been influenced in my thinking by both West and East.”

* Photos were originally published in SA Soldier in February 1998
The DOD conducts a moving multilingual service in memory of Tata Madiba

By Pte Phillip Pitso
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Timothy 4:5-8: “But watch thou in all things, endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

This is the Scripture that resonated with all those who came together as part of the ongoing process of paying tribute to the fallen giant, Nelson “Tata Madiba” Mandela. The Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, issued an order that military units and bases should organise their own SANDF prayer services on 12 December 2013 to allow members of the SANDF an opportunity to pay homage to the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF.

On 12 November 2013 the office of the Chaplain General organised a memorial service in honour of the late Madiba, led by Chaplain Mantsha Ndakula at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria. Many members of the Department of Defence (DOD) came together to pay tribute and reflect on Tata Madiba’s life.

Both uniformed members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) took the time to come to the Assembly Hall in Defence Headquarters where Tata Madiba was remembered with praise and prayers. This was an opportunity for those who did not have a chance to view Madiba’s body at the Union Buildings. This was an open service where members were given the opportunity to come forward to pray and sing hymns in their own language during the memorial service.

The service continued with prayers. People came to pray in English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, and Venda; Chaplain Mantsha Ndakula saying it was good as people could express themselves properly in their own languages. “Mandela was a peacemaker” said one of the speakers. The spirit was one of celebration, as most believed the life of Tata Madiba had to be celebrated as he had lived a full life of honour and integrity.
“My 10 year old son, Khwezi, has always wanted to fly aeroplanes. Old Mutual let him spend a day in the cockpit with real pilots to experience his dream job, 15 years before it happens. I have peace of mind knowing that he will have the means to make his dream come true no matter what happens to me. I’m glad I started saving and have life cover in place to help secure his future.”

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Madiba’s legacy will live on

Final send-off ceremony at Air Force Base Waterkloof

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Former President Nelson Mandela once said: “When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace. I believe I have made that effort and that is, therefore, why I will sleep for eternity.”

On Saturday, 14 December 2013, the mortal remains of the late former

ABOVE: A Guard of Honour made up by SA Air Force members salute and pay their last respects to the cortège bearing former President Nelson Mandela’s mortal remains escorted by Military Police members on motorcycles.

ABOVE: SA Air Force members lining up at the entrance to Air Force Base Waterkloof as they await the arrival of the cortège bearing the casket of Tata Madiba.

ABOVE: The cortège bearing the casket of former President Nelson Mandela is saluted by members of the SA Air Force as it makes its way to Air Force Base Waterkloof.

RIGHT: Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, accompanied by General Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA National Defence Force, at the AFB Waterkloof before the final send-off ceremony for the late former President Nelson Mandela’s mortal remains to his homestead at Qunu for his burial.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

President Mandela were transported to Air Force Base Waterkloof from 1 Military Hospital in Thaba Tshwane. The SANDF took charge of his final journey to Mthatha Airport for the funeral in his ancestral homestead of Qunu.

Members of the SANDF lined up at the entrance to Air Force Base Waterkloof for the arrival of the cortège and formed a guard of honour for the final part of the service in Gauteng before the departure for the official state funeral in the Eastern Cape.

LEFT: Tata Madiba’s cortège escorted by motorized members of the Military Police before his final journey home to Qunu on Saturday 14 December 2013 at Air Force Base Waterkloof.

ABOVE: Motorized Military Police members gave Tata Madiba a dignified send-off as they bade him farewell in the most respectful way with all the dignity he deserved in acknowledgement of the role he played in ushering in South Africa’s democracy and beyond.

ABOVE: Lt Gen Themba Matanzima (Ret), Military Ombud, arrives at Air Force Base Waterkloof for Tata Madiba’s final send-off ceremony before his final journey to Qunu.

LEFT: Tata Madiba’s casket carried by senior Warrant Officers from all four Services of the SA National Defence Force acting as pall-bearers.

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President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, former President Thabo Mbeki, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, relatives and senior prominent figures in Government were all in attendance and stood on the runway of Air Force Base Waterkloof to salute the casket.

Hangar 5 of Air Force Base Waterkloof reverberated with song and praise as speakers took turns to pay tribute to this fallen hero. Military officials arranged the carrying of the casket to the hangar and back to the C130 Hercules transport aircraft. The casket was then transported to Mthatha Airport by the SA Air Force C130 Hercules, escorted by two Gripen fighter jets. The Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, led the march to the aircraft.

LEFT: After nine days of nationwide mourning, the casket with the mortal remains of former President Nelson Mandela is carried by SANDF members into the C130 Hercules, a military cargo plane, to be transported to Qunu, his boyhood village where he was to be buried on Sunday 15 December 2013 with state honours and tribal rites.

ABOVE: SA Air Force members from Protection Services providing security for the C130 Hercules, a military cargo plane, carrying former President Nelson Mandela’s casket at AFB Waterkloof.

ABOVE: The C130 Hercules carrying Tata Madiba’s mortal remains is escorted by two Gripen fighter jets of the SA Air Force after the final send-off ceremony at Air Force Base Waterkloof.

ABOVE: Fltr: former President Thabo Mbeki, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and President Jacob Zuma, being escorted after witnessing the final send-off ceremony conducted by members of the SANDF.
THE SA ARMY FOUNDATION

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over this festive season.
The inauguration of Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela as the first democratically elected President of South Africa on 10 May 1994 inevitably made him the Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Mr Mandela passed away at his home in Houghton, Johannesburg, on 5 December 2013.

The SANDF officially bade its final farewell to its first Commander-in-Chief on 15 December 2013 in the Eastern Cape which was where the late Mr Mandela spent his childhood. The Commander-in-Chief was accorded a full military funeral (state funeral) at his homestead in Qunu.

On 14 December 2013 Madiba’s body was transported by the South African Air Force in a C130 Hercules cargo aircraft escorted by two Gripen fighter jets from Air Force Base Waterkloof to the Eastern Cape where only the C130 aircraft landed at Mthatha Airport. On the arrival of the mortal remains of the late former President Mandela at the airport the military performed category 1 funeral drills in honour of Mr Mandela.

The body was then transported under strict military guard to Qunu. The security measures that were put in place included guards provided by the SA Air Force, escorting of the hearse by 18 Military Police members on motorcycles, ten Casspits, ambulances of the SA Military Health Service and various military vehicles. The Mandela family and guests were taken to the Mandela homestead in Qunu.
Madiba’s legacy will live on


ABOVE: Casspirs parked at 14 SA Infantry Battalion Headquarters ready for Operation UXOLO.

ABOVE: Members rehearse in Qunu in the street before the Mandela homestead.

RIGHT: Maj Gen Luvuyo “Spinks” Nobanda, the Commander of Operation UXOLO, with General Bantuboke Holomisa, an appointed elder of the Madiba family.

get a glimpse of the casket draped in the South African National Flag citizens formed a human chain along the route that the convoy took all the way to Qunu.

On Sunday, 15 December 2013, members of all four Services of the SANDF assisted during the state funeral procession from Mr Mandela’s family home to the burial at the private burial ground of the Mandela family.

14 SA Infantry Battalion (14 SAI Bn) served as the headquarters for the military planning for the programme to be executed from the time of Madiba’s death until his burial. The unit and operational brigade were under the command of Maj Gen Luvuyo

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Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013

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“Spinks” Nobanda for the operation, called Operation UXOLO.

The time frame for this operation, considering its magnitude and significance, put a lot of pressure on Maj Gen Nobanda. He said: “Even though there were challenges, they were not catastrophic ones and were quite manageable. The worst kind of challenge I faced was the weather as it rained heavily for most days, which meant that at times rehearsals had to be delayed or stopped. We had to make sure that everything was in place between the time of Tata Mandela’s death in Johannesburg and the burial in Qunu. This meant that all equipment and personnel had to be deployed to 14 SAI Bn in no...

ABOVE: The local community came in large numbers to witness the historic event as it unfolded to get a glimpse of the casket of the deceased first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, former President Nelson Mandela, in the hearse as it passes.

RIGHT: Local community members form a guard of honour as the convoy passes them, while SANDF and SAPS members provide security.

LEFT: Military Police members stand guard at Qunu.

ABOVE: On 14 December 2013 the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, and the Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, arrive at Mthatha Airport.
LEFT: Inside the marquee are members of the Department of Defence and the SANDF, front, fltr: the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, the Director-General of the Department of Military Veterans, Mr Tsepe Motumi. Behind them are, fltr: the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, and other SANDF dignitaries.

ABOVE: Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, the Chaplain General of the SANDF, leads the pall-bearers as they leave the marquee for the burial site.

ABOVE: The casket of the deceased first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, former President Nelson Mandela, on the gun carrier in Qunu.

ABOVE: National Ceremonial Guard members leading the procession of the late first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, former President Nelson Mandela, to his final resting place in Qunu.

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less than four days after 5 December 2013 when the passing away of Tata Mandela was announced. Some of the members who were chosen earlier to be part of this operation had been deployed externally, which meant that in some instances they had to restart the nomination process at a very limited and extremely crucial time.”

Regardless of the challenges he had to deal with Maj Gen Nobanda, as a well-trained and steadfast soldier, was ready to execute his mandated tasks. He said that he was deeply humbled and honoured to be chosen from among a plethora of capable SANDF leaders to head Operation UXOLO. He was thankful to the Operation UXOLO command group who were

LEF T: The Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, followed by the Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, slow march in front of the Samil 20 as it tows the casket of the late first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, former President Nelson Mandela.

A B O V E :  Cannons firing the 21-gun salute.

A B O V E :  SANDF pall-bearers slow marching with the casket containing the mortal remains of Tata Madiba, as required at a state funeral; behind with traditional headband is Chief Mandla Mandela, the grandson of the late Tata Madiba.

R I G H T :  An aerial view of the Mandela homestead.
Directorate Pace Support Officer at the Joint Operational Headquarters, WO1 Simplisio “China” Chinanayi, was responsible for all operational and logistics matters pertaining to this operation. Like all other officials he was very happy to be part of this once in a lifetime operation.

Base Commander and Second-in-Command of Operation UXOLO, Col Sesiko Nombewu, was very happy to serve in this operation and do his bit in this intricate yet emotionally overwhelming operation. He was thankful to other members who cooperated well to make the operation a success.

Oryx helicopter co-pilot, Capt Zanele Vayeke, joined the military in 2004 and qualified as a pilot in 2007. Capt Vayeke was ecstatic to be part of this operation and was thankful to take part in the departure arrangements for the late Mr Mandela because of the monumental role he played in bringing positive progress to South Africa. “It was through the efforts of Tata Madiba that I today can stand here as a pilot. It was previously unheard of that a young person of my race could be free to choose being a pilot. I am thankful to him for his unwavering commitment to the principles he believed in.”

The late Tata Madiba’s grandson, Chief Mandla Mandela, who is a Chief in Mveso in the Eastern Cape, has been seen by Madiba’s side ever since his death as per customary requirement.

The SANDF has assisted the Mandela family through the ordeal and supported them logistically during the various events.
The Day of Reconciliation is a significant day in the history of South Africa. The day came into effect in 1994, under the leadership of the late former President Nelson Mandela, who championed reconciliation. It is a day to reflect on our past and foster national unity.

On 16 December 2013 (Day of Reconciliation) President Jacob Zuma unveiled the 9 metre high bronze statue of the late former President Nelson Mandela at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, the day after Madiba’s funeral in Qunu in the Eastern Cape. The statue resembles Tata Madiba and depicts him walking with arms outstretched and smiling.

President Zuma said: “You should notice that in all the statues of Madiba he is clenching his fist, but this one is different as he is stretching his hands out and the feet denote that South Africa is now a democratic country”. He said that Madiba was advancing to the nation to say: ‘Let us come together, let us unite with both hands embracing the entire nation’.

The unveiling of the statue was followed by a military parade, a 21-gun
Madiba’s legacy will live on

LEFT: President Jacob Zuma unveiled a 9 metre bronze statue of the late former President Nelson Mandela as part of the Day of Reconciliation celebrations at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. The day also marks the commemoration of the centenary of the Union Buildings as one of the most iconic structures in South Africa.

RIGHT: It is envisaged that Madiba’s statue will serve as a symbolic reminder of his legacy of peace, reconciliation and nation building, and hopefully it will become a site of pilgrimage for domestic and international visitors.

salute and a fly-past by the SA Air Force. Addressing the gathering, President Zuma said that under Madiba’s leadership the Day of Reconciliation became a symbol of our collective victory over our divided past as a nation.

Part of the day’s celebration was also to celebrate the countdown to 20 years of democracy, marking 20 years since the late former President Mandela was inaugurated.

This year’s theme was: “Nation Building, Social Cohesion and Reconciliation”. The Day

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ABOVE: President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and former President Thabo Mbeki took turns in front of Madiba’s statue to take pictures with the Mandela family, Government officials, prominent people from all walks of life and ordinary South Africans.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

of Reconciliation also marked the commemoration of the centenary of the Union Buildings, which is a highlight of the one hundred year celebration of one of the most famous and beautiful landmarks.

Marking this centenary milestone, in keeping with its stature as the seat of government, the Union Buildings reflects its iconic status as a symbol of South African statehood and our common democratic citizenship.

The grandson of the late Mr Nelson Mandela, Chief Mandla Mandela, expressed his gratitude to the South African Government and the entire nation. He reiterated that it was an honour for a statue of his grandfather to stand in the place where he was inaugurated as the first democratically elected President of the country in 1994 and where he had laid in State. Chief Mandela said: “This is where ordinary South Africans could come and pay their last respects to my grandfather.”

In memory of the late Tata Madiba, SA Soldier conversed with a young poet from Mafikeng, Mr Baile Kgomanyane (21). He said that a nation without history is a lost nation. He added that

ABOVE: President Jacob Zuma (right) and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, US civil rights activist, in front of Madiba’s statue at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

ABOVE: President Jacob Zuma (third from right) in front of Madiba’s statue that was cast by the sculptors, Mr Andre Prinsloo and Mr Ruhan Janse van Vuuren, in conjunction with Mr Dali Tambo.

LEFT: President Jacob Zuma and Chief Mandla Mandela, the grandson of the late Tata Madiba, standing in front of Madiba’s statue that was erected as part of the Government’s ongoing work to develop new symbols and monuments that reflect our collective aspirations as South Africans and the new values we stand for.
Madiba’s legacy will live on

history defines who we are, where we come from and where we are going. He added: “It is important to reflect back on the history of our country and embrace it.”

In conclusion, he borrowed the words of Chinua Achebe: “Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter”.

Mr Nelson Mandela once said: “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

ABOVE: A fly past at the Union Buildings during the ceremonial parade to mark the Day of Reconciliation.
ABOVE: The Madiba’s statue depicts a smiling Mandela with his arms outstretched, embracing all people. Madiba’s feet symbolise South Africa as being on the move and changing from an oppressive to a democratic state.
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The Lord surrounds us at all times!

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

Psalm 5:11-12 - “But let all who put their trust in You rejoice; let them always shout for joy, because You defend them. And let those who love Your name be joyful in You. For You, O Jehovah, will bless the righteous, with favour You will surround him as with a shield.” (MKJV)

What a comfort it is to know that the Lord surrounds us at all times! He is Almighty God and yet He is Abba Father who is near to us. When I read this Scripture, I instantly think of the many members of our beloved National Defence Force standing their ground for the safety and protection of South Africa.

There have been so many moments over the past year that I have felt a tremendous sense of gratitude toward all our members. In fact, when I think of the accomplishments over the year, I can think of no other way to express the fact, as your Chaplain General, that “You will surround him as with a shield”, so we can call on God to care for us.

In taking the upcoming festive season into account, in the manger in Bethlehem, we see that God played a part in this world, so you play a part in this wonderful country by ensuring peace and security, externally as well as on our borders. When God surrounds us He is ever on watch, never allowing time for rest or relaxation, so must you too, for the greater cause of our nation.

As members of the SANDE, you have accepted this mission to maintain peace and stability. I am sure that in doing what is expected of you, God goes before you and guides you from every side. It is reassuring to know that even when you experience anxiety during dangerous operations, God is with you. As the Psalmist said: “But let all who put their trust in You rejoice; let them always shout for joy, because You defend them” (Psalm 5:11).

This year many of our soldiers have been slain in the line of duty and their families bereaved. In recalling the sadness when honouring them as heroes at their memorials and funerals, I am compelled to ask everyone to please join me in a prayer for these special families. My prayer is that everyone receives the help they need and experiences God’s shield around them.

In this time of joyous celebration we have lost our beloved Tata Madiba, a man that has had accolades showered on him throughout the whole world, a man that is synonymous with words and actions such as love, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, mediation, nation building, and so I can go on. As our first democratically elected Commander-in-Chief, he laid the foundations for this National Defence force. Let us therefore strive to live by the standards that he not only demanded from us, but lived as an example to us.

The Chaplain General and the Chaplains Service, guided by the Chief of the SANDF, were privileged to play a leading role in the ceremonial and religious aspects to ensure that Tata Madiba received the dignified farewell that only he so richly deserved. Well done to all the Chaplains that supported the SANDF during this time of national mourning in our country. Well done to all the SANDF members that answered the call to serve in any way possible to ensure that the State funeral of Madiba was executed with the correct decorum. The world was watching and we did them proud!

May I reiterate by saying thank you for answering the call to serve and thank you for caring for this country by serving. You must never forget who you are and why you are here! To all the members of our beloved SANDF, on duty over this festive season, I pray that the presence of God will surround you. May I wish you according to 3 John 1:2 - “Beloved, in regard to all things I pray that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers”.

My prayer for the year 2014 is that every challenge we meet and problem we face will confirm verse 12: “For You; O Jehovah, will bless the righteous; with favour You will surround him as with a shield”.

From my office and my family I wish all the members of our beloved SANDF a wonderful, blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year, a bright future and a secure nation.
Captivating information about Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Article researched and compiled by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is sometimes called by other names. Each name has its own special meaning and story. When you use them you should know what you are saying and why. So here is a brief explanation of each name.

Rolihlahla – This is Mr Mandela’s birth name: it is an isiXhosa name which means “pulling the branch of a tree”, but colloquially it means “troublemaker”. His father gave him this name.

Nelson – This name was given to him on his first day at school by his teacher, Miss Mdingane. Giving African children English names was a custom among Africans in those days and was influenced by British colonials who could not easily, and often would not, pronounce African names. It is unclear why Miss Mdingane chose the name “Nelson” for Mr Mandela.

Madiba – This is the name of the clan of which Mr Mandela is a member. A clan name is much more important than a surname as it refers to the ancestor from which a person is descended. Madiba was the name of a Thembu Chief who ruled in the Transkei in the 18th century. It is considered very polite to use someone’s clan name.

Tata – This isiXhosa word means “father” and is a term of endearment that many South Africans use for Mr Mandela. Since he is a father figure to many, they call him Tata regardless of their own age.

Khulu – Mr Mandela is often called “Khulu”, which means great, paramount, grand. The speaker means “Great One” when referring to Mr Mandela in this way. It is also a shortened form of the isiXhosa word “uBawomkhulu” for “grandfather”.

Dalibhunga – This is the name Mr Mandela was given at the age of 16 once he had undergone initiation, the traditional Xhosa rite of passage into manhood. It means “creator or founder of the council” or “convenor of the dialogue”. The correct use of this name when greeting Mr Mandela is “Aaah! Dalibhunga”.

Other names – Of course Mr Mandela’s family use many terms of endearment for him. His grandchildren use variants of “Grandfather”, like “Granddad” for instance. His wife, Ms Graça Machel, frequently uses “Papa”.

Mr Mandela has received more than 1 000 awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize and the US Congressional Medal. He also has scores of honorary degrees, honorary citizenships and honorary memberships of organisations.

Interesting facts

Many streets and buildings have been named after him. Many streets, boulevards, avenues, bridges and highways have been named after former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 125.

How many stadium, squares, plazas, parks, gardens, trails and areas have been named after former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 83.

How many halls, buildings, housing developments and structures have been named after former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 41.

How many schools, universities and other educational institutions have been named after former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 43.

How many bursaries, scholarships and foundations have been named after former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 15.

How many awards and events have been named after former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 38.

How many sports-related honours and awards have been given to former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 43.

How many student union honours and awards have been given to former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 8.

How many civic honours, freedoms of cities/towns, and honorary citizenships have been given to former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 138.

How many statues, sculptures, art works and monuments have been dedicated to him? – More than 33.

How many musical and theatre tributes have been conferred on former President Nelson Mandela or have been dedicated to him? – More than 101.

How many statutes, sculptures, art works and monuments have been named after, or dedicated to former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 91.

How many patronages are held by former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 43.

How many educational institutions have been named after former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 1 340.

In total, how many tributes and awards have been given to former President Nelson Mandela? – More than 1 340.
Our father has fallen, our mentor, 
A father to the nation, 
He was born in 1918 
The son of Henry Mandela, the key 
councillor 
He was raised in the Abo-thembu tribe, 
And lived in the land of Qunu 
Nelson, Rolihlahla, Madiba Mandela 
Sepela botse Tata 
The soil has given birth, 
The soil has produced a hero, 
The son of South Africa 
A legend, our hero 
The world’s icon 
Mandela 
Our father has departed 
Sepela botse tate 
He left his family for the country, 
To fight for peace and humanity 
He left his family to fight against oppression 

He was imprisoned for opposition to 
apartheid regime 
Mandela - a legend 
Our mentor, our hero 

The great grandfather to our children 
Ooh we love you Mandela 
We will live by your legacy 
We will be guided by your principles 

Mandela 
Mandela, he left a legacy of peace 
He left a legacy of humbleness 
And a legacy of self-sacrifice 

Sepela botse sekwankwetla 
(Farewell our warrior) 
Sepela botse mogale 
(Go well our hero) 
Wena molwedi w arena 
(You, our freedom fighter) 
Re leboga tokologo 
(Thank you for freedom) 
Sepela botse lesole la naga 
(Farewell our soldier) 
Kgosi gare ga dikgosi 
(King among kings) 

The water has fallen. 
The soil was stolen 
The country has lost 
The nation has lost an icon 
Sepela botse tate 

He was the democratic president, 
He ended the racial segregation 

The beneficiary of Nobel Peace Prize 
The father to the fatherless 
He strived for humanity, 
He believed in the wisdom of education 
Mandela 

Robala ka kgotso 
(Rest in peace) 
Mandela our father is now at rest! 
Pte Sylvia Mokoena, Regiment 
Christiaan Beyers, Polokwane 
*Pte Mokoena is a full-time student 
at the University of Limpopo 
studying for the degree of Bachelor 
of Social Work and only responds 
to call-ups during school holidays. 
She was inspired by the life of our 
former Commander-in-Chief and 
decided to write a poem in honour 
of him.

Mandela, a product of a missionary 
school 
Mandela, a product of Fort Hare 
University and Unisa 
Mandela, a lawyer by profession 
A founder of Umkhonto we Sizwe 
A commander-in-chief of 
Umkhonto we Sizwe 
The MK 
Our father 
He was a political activist, 
He spent 27 years in prison on 
Robben Island 

He fought for freedom – to free the 
country 
Long walk to freedom 
Mandela 
He fought for social justice 
For me and you 
Mandela 
The father of Nobel Peace Prize 
The father to the fatherless 
He strived for humanity, 
He believed in the wisdom of 
education 
Mandela 

Background photo: On the iconic Nelson Mandela Bridge in Johannesburg. (Photo Sgt Elias Mahuma)