NEWLY QUALIFIED ARTISANS IN THE SA AIR FORCE
4 From the Editor’s desk

5 The SA Army Warrant Officers Dedication Service

6 Letters to the Editor

10 News from abroad

22 Never too late to develop new skills

24 Logistic Division Education and Training

26 72 newly qualified artisans in the SA Air Force

28 SA Navy means music to learners

29 Promoting Occupational Health and Safety

30 Induction and Reorientation Programme for interns

31 Transformation Management Social Cohesion Programmes

32 Engineering student learns the ropes at TS Woltemade

36 Regional Works Unit KZN under new command

38 Re-uniting fallen MK cadres with their families

39 Poachers, be aware, the scouts are in the Kruger National Park

40 SA Navy interacts with members of the media

41 Inauguration of the Engineering Test Bed

42 The People’s Navy showcasing its expertise

STREET ADDRESS
Defence Headquarters
com Nossob & Boeing St
Erasmuskloof
PRETORIA

POSTAL ADDRESS
SA SOLDIER
Private Bag X158
PRETORIA, 0001

TELEPHONE
Tel: (012) 355 6341
Fax: (012) 355 6399
email:sasoldier@mil.za
website: www.dod.mil.za

CONTRIBUTIONS:
Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot take any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.

2005 - Winner of the Government Communicator of the Year Award (GCIS).
2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).

REPRODUCTION, PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION:
Shereno Printers
10 Atlas Road
Dunsart, Boksburg
Tel: (011) 894 4150
Fax: (011) 894 4153
email:nirans@shereno.co.za

EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor: Ms Nelda Pienaar
Deputy Editor: Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Editorial Staff: S Sgt Lebogang Thaole
Sgt Elias Mahuma
Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Cpl Ally Rakoma

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

Layout & Design: Mr Werner van der Westhuizen
SA SOLDIER is published monthly - 12 issues per year. The views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the Department of Defence (DOD). Acceptance and publication of advertorial and advertising matter in SA SOLDIER do not constitute DOD endorsement or warranty in respect of goods or services therein described. The DOD does not assume any liability in respect of any claims made in advertisements.

COPYRIGHT: No article or picture in this magazine may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.

FRONT COVER: Brig Gen Mariette Hartley, Director Air Capability Plan, presents a trophy to Cpl Thembinkosi Vimba, the runner-up performing artisan. Read more about the newly qualified artisans’ reclassification and passing-out parade at 68 Air School on pages 26 and 27. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
For the latest news from our deployed soldiers be sure to read their letters on pages 10 to 13 in this month’s electronic copy of your official magazine, SA Soldier.

South Africans are currently bombarded by negative publicity regarding rhino poaching in our country. Read on pages 16 and 17 how soldiers from 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment are doing great work in protecting the rhinos in the Kruger National Park by assisting members of the SA National Parks and the SA Police Service (Special Task Force).

It is never too late to develop new skills. Read on pages 22 and 23 about opportunities that were provided for Department of Defence members and employees to be reskilled in an attempt to ensure that they have greater marketability for a career outside the SANDF.

This edition features the reclassification and passing-out parade of 72 newly qualified artisans in the SA Air Force. Read about these skilled youngsters on pages 26 and 27.

In shaping the lives of our children the SA Navy recently saw fit to make a much needed donation of 22 musical instruments to Northridge Primary School (see page 28). Now these learners are playing to their hearts’ content with musical instruments such as the wind and brass instruments, flutes, French horns, euphoniums, trumpets, clarinets, tenor saxophones, alto saxophones, trombones and tubas.

Burns are a leading cause of death and injury for young children in our country. This is because more accidents are taking place involving fire and electricity. On page 40 SA Soldier shares advice on how to keep our children safe while we are trying to stay warm.

Next month you will be able once again to read your printed magazine of SA Soldier. For those readers who got used to reading the electronic copy of SA Soldier, you can continue enjoying to do so …

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier
A well-attended dedication church service was held by the Warrant Officer of the SA Army, SCWO Charles Laubscher, at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall on 3 May 2013.

The aim of the event was to give glory and praise to God. Chaplain Petrus Mokone from the SA Army Support Formation conducted the Sermon and prayers. He could not have said it better than when he read from Scripture - John 19 vs 34-35. He encouraged the SA Army Warrant Officers to give the testimony, as they constituted the important link between officers and other ranks.

SCWO Laubscher expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the Warrant Officers of the SA Army as they had attributes which set them apart from other ranks and for being role models to non-commissioned officers.

The service was also attended by Maj Gen Luvuyo Nobanda, the SA Army Chief Force Preparation, Brig Gen Deon Holtzhausen, General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery Formation, CWO Patric Deblauwe, Assistant Attaché for the Defence Office: Belgian Navy and F Sgt 1 Taweep Thungkaew from the Thai Defence Attaché Office.

ABOVE: Chaplain Petrus Mokone from the SA Army Support Formation conducts the Sermon and prayers.

ABOVE: SCWO Charles Laubscher, the Warrant Officer of the SA Army, expressing his gratitude at the dedication service.

ABOVE: Fltr: SCWO Charles Laubscher, the Warrant Officer of the SA Army, CWO Patric Deblauwe, Assistant Attaché for the Defence Office (Belgian Navy), Maj Gen Luvuyo Nobanda, the SA Army Chief Force Preparation, F Sgt 1 Taweep Thungkaew, Thai Defence Attaché Office, and Brig Gen Deon Holtzhausen, General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery Formation.
UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY, THANK YOU 2 SAI BN!

It is with great appreciation for the privilege that we have been granted by 2 SA Infantry Battalion (2 SAI Bn) Commander, Lt Col Monnakgotla Moralo, Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, as part of the 2011 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake that we acknowledge the opportunity of extending our wings with pride, confidence, loyalty and trust that we can explore our skills obtained through training, hard work, muscles straining and emotional factors during Basic Military Training. This has made us the good, disciplined, strong and productive soldiers we are today.

Most of us were deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and remember the words of Maj Hendry Jaggers during our passing-out parade: “I am a proud man today to announce to each one of you gathered here today that these are disciplined, good soldiers I am taking with me to deploy to the DRC in 2012”. And this he did, to fulfil the promise he made us.

To Capt Pappie Mokgosinyane, your words will never be forgotten.

In the spirit of peace you shared with us the DRC during the roll-call parade when you said: “Be strong, execute your task, cooperate and perceive for I know a confused soldier is dangerous; so strive to satisfy the mission we are here for as our main core business”. Be blessed! Pte P.J. Machete, 2 SAI Bn

TO OUR BRAVE UNIFORMED MEMBERS

My heart goes out to you who have suffered injury and been hurt on the field of battle. You were willing to put yourself in harm’s way. You trained hard and left the comforts of home and family. You sacrificed so much and have come so far. I hope and pray that you will not lose heart, but continue to fight this day forward for your own health and recovery. We need you, your family needs you, your country still needs you. I believe you are now a visible reminder to people of how valuable and important our freedom truly is. Your scars are those of a national hero, and those like me will always be there to salute you. Please know that your sacrifice and commitment are not going unnoticed. We appreciate your efforts and your achievements. Rfn K.C. Matsepane, 2 SA Infantry Battalion

WEDDING BELLS AT AIR FORCE BASE SWARTKOP

Tying the knot on 27 April 2013 are Lt Albert Hanekom and his bride, Cpl Nicolene Schenk. Lt Hanekom is the Communication Officer at 21 SA Infantry Battalion and Cpl Schenk is a stalwart at 4 SA Infantry Battalion in Middelburg.

The couple wanted an unusual venue for their wedding, and after speaking to the Officer Commanding of the SA Air Force Museum at Swartkop Air Force Base they obtained authority to use the Museum’s DC 4 for the ceremony!

They were married by Col (Chaplain) Adam Bert from the SA Air Force and the marriage was witnessed by close friends and family of the bride and groom. Ms Jennifer Render, Pretoria

LEFT: Lt Albert Hanekom and Ms Nicolene Hanekom leaving the aircraft after making their wedding vows.

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.

PHOTO CAPTION

The photo caption published on page 13 in the March edition incorrectly referred to the Cape Town Highlanders Pipe Band instead of the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums. We apologise for the inconvenience. - Ed
S A SOLDIER

FAREWELL FUNCTION FOR S SGT MKIVA

The members of Regional Works Unit Eastern Cape (RWUEC) recently bade farewell to one of their long-serving members, S Sgt Mandisile Michael Mkiva, who left for greener pastures where he will be working at Defence Work Skills Administration in Pretoria.

It is bad when you lose someone you have known for such a long time and the worst part is that the particular person has served his unit with pride, courage, loyalty and dedication. For the person concerned it is an opportunity he cannot decline as he will benefit in terms of promotion, unlike some loyal members who are about to go on pension in one or two years, only to find that they are still in the lower ranks (Rifleman) although they have been in the organisation for more than 25 years. Luckily, S Sgt Mkiva is one of those fortunate members who will now be a Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) in Pretoria.

S Sgt Mkiva joined the former Transkei Defence Force on 1 July 1985. He joined the non-commissioned officer (NCO) ranks as far back as 1989 when he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. He did NCO courses and in 1992 was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and in April 1994 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In September 1994 he attended the Master Instructions Course at Infantry School - he was one of the members who passed the course with flying colours. He changed his corps to become a Personnel Service Corps member in 1995. In 2001 he did his Personnel Orientation and in 2005 the Human Resource Support Personnel Course and was promoted to the rank Staff Sergeant in January 2005. In 2006 he did the Chief Personnel Clerk Course in Pretoria.

He was one of the members who started the Service Corps in 1995 at 35 Regiment at Dunnottar. He trained the members in different skills through outsourcing to the Service Providers at companies in Gauteng, such as Chamdor. He worked with demobilised members and members who had retired from the DOD.

In 1996 he was sent to Devon Air Force Base, which was earmarked for demobilised members. In 1998 he joined the Employment Services and was sent to Service Corps HQ to understudy the duties of Employment Services. On 4 January 1999 he established the Service Corps Regional Office in Port Elizabeth (SCROPE) with WO1 Zandisile Zikhali (both of them were then Sergeants).

During the merger of SCROPE and RWUEC in April 2012 S Sgt Mkiva worked at Human Resources as a Senior Personnel Officer under the leadership of WO2 Christel van Biljon, the Chief Clerk. WO2 van Biljon said she was upset at losing a person of S Sgt Mkiva’s calibre because he was a very hard working man. Nevertheless she was pleased for him as he was up for a promotional post, but if it was up to her she would have preferred to keep him in her office as the bond created by the working relationship was growing day by day and the unit as whole (RWUEC) was singing the same song - we will all miss you.

Rfn Herbert Damente, email (Letter shortened – Ed.)

ABOVE: Maj Patience Peter, the Acting Second in Command of Regional Works Unit Eastern Cape, presents a token of appreciation to S Sgt Michael Mkiva.

SA MASTERS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Three members of the Pretoria Military Walking Club (Col Celeste Scheepers, WO2 Mariaan Serdyn and Ms Retha Knoetze) participated as part of the Gauteng North Team in the Race Walking events at the SA Masters Athletics Championships in Oudtshoorn in April 2013.

They excelled at the Championships and returned with no fewer than six medals. WO2 Serdyn won a gold medal in both the 5000m and 10 000m, while Ms Knoetze won silver for the same distances. Col Scheepers won a gold medal in the 20 000m and a bronze medal in the 5000m. The fact that all three athletes hail from a relatively small club is remarkable, as is the fact that they are on the way to obtaining National Colours.

Col Celeste Scheepers, email

ABOVE: The three members of the Pretoria Military Walking Club who excelled in the SA Masters Athletics Championships, fltr: Col Celeste Scheepers, WO2 Mariaan Serdyn and Ms Retha Knoetze. (Photo: Col T. Nortmann)
Women’s World Day of Prayer (WWDP) was recently commemorated. This is an ecumenical service that dates back to the 19th century. The first service was held in Scotland in 1932. This is the 83rd year that South Africa is a part of it. Every year a different country prepares the programme and that country becomes the focus of the world’s prayers on the day itself. This year the programme was prepared by the women of France with the theme: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”.

Joint Support Base (JSB) Garrison honoured this day by inviting all their clients, 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment in Potchefstroom, some SA Air Force units and SA Military Health Service units in the vicinity to come and celebrate with them. The Thaba Tswane City Hall was filled almost to capacity as scores of women attended from all over.

The Chaplain of JSB Garrison, Chaplain (Cpln) Fredolene Manganye, also invited female Chaplains from various units, including Cpln Melanie Spannenberg from 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment in Potchefstroom, Cpln Jennifer van der Ross from AFB Waterkloof, Cpln Erika Boshoff from Personnel Service School, Cpln Brenda Sixaza from Technical Service Unit and Cpln Pearl Rasebopela from Central Procurement Service Centre. Some female civilian ministers from churches in the area also participated, for example Rev Jen Botha and Pastor Itani Radzilani.

The gathering was graced by the presence of Brig Gen Winnie Bobelo, Chief of Staff at Chief Joint Operations Headquarters, and the following male Chaplains: Cpln Nathi Ngcobo from the SA Army Support Formation, Cpln Tlholo Bathobakae from the SA Army Intelligence Formation, Cplns Matome Molefe and Frans Manganye from Main Ordnance Depot, Cpln Ndola Mbuyisa from ASB Johannesburg and Cpln Muradeli Siebani from Area Military Health Unit Gauteng.

The city hall became a house of worship as women and men sang and danced to the glory of God. Each hymn was spirit-filled and contributed to the atmosphere of the service.

Chaplain Manganye’s message was in line with the theme: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”. Members were encouraged to reach out to one another and make a stranger in their environment feel at home.

The Main Ordnance Depot Choir serenaded the congregants with beautiful song and the National Ceremonial Guard provided a soloist to render selections.

Upon arrival each person was given a ribbon, either warm colours or grey ribbons. After the sermon the women had to tie each end of their ribbon to the person on their left and right. In the end there was a picture of one long ribbon with different colours, which symbolised that we are interconnected, despite our differences. “Our experiences of being a stranger and then being welcomed empower us to build connections and create community where all are welcomed,” is a concept that came out strongly from the French-written programme.

After the service the members expressed their contentment with and their gratitude to have been part of such a warm-hearted service. JSB Garrison’s Women’s World Day of Prayer has indeed become an event that the members look forward to. We hope and pray that it spreads throughout the SANDF community.

Chaplain Fredolene Manganye, email

SA ARMY GYMNASIUM SALUTES ITS OUTGOING COMMANDING OFFICER

“Regard your soldiers as your children, then they will follow you into the deepest valley; look upon them as your beloved sons and they will stand by you even unto death”. These were the words of the outgoing Officer Commanding of the SA Army Gymnasium, Brig Gen Maphelo Mbatha, during the recently held Change of Command Parade.

As the SA Army Gymnasium said goodbye to Brig Gen Mbatha, they welcomed the newly appointed and incoming Officer Commanding, Col Vusi Jabavu Mtshiselwa.

Col Mtshiselwa served in the SANDF as a Platoon Commander and subsequently a Company Second-in-Command at 117 SA Infantry Battalion, in the same capacity at 118 SA Infantry Battalion, the National Ceremonial Guard and at Group 2 in Oudtshoorn as an Adjudant, at Infantry School as the Junior Leader Branch Commander, Battalion Commanders Course Leader, Junior Training Wing Second-in-Command and at the Joint Operations Division as Staff Officer Grade 1 Doctrine Development.

In his farewell speech, Brig Gen Mbatha said the importance of the occasion marked an important phase on the calendar of the unit and its entire staff. He said: “Remember one thing, to achieve success might be easy, but to sustain that success might not be easy.”

He then addressed his successor and told him to succeed in leading the unit where it ought to be and to enjoy the fruits of its success with the entire staff; he will be accessible, strong, disciplined and very firm when it comes to decision-making. Brig Gen Mbatha said to Col Mtshiselwa that he did not doubt his ability and wished him good luck with his new position.

The outgoing Officer Commanding said that he was very sad to say goodbye, but at the same time his heart was filled with excitement and joy because of the successes the unit had achieved.

He had a personal word of gratitude to each and every member of his staff, and said: “My journey with the SA Army Gymnasium will remain memorable as I am a General today because of this unit”.

Councillor Lerato Maloka, Mayor of the Lesedi Local Municipality, addressed the attendees and said the SA Army Gymnasium was an irreplaceable part of the town’s being.

The Mayor said: “There is a human element, the touch and feel you bring to our community and society in general. During March 2012 this facility gave us refuge under the leadership of Brig Gen Mbatha.

“General Mbatha, it was during your term of office in this town were relationships between this facility and the municipality took a turn for greater things to come. On behalf of the municipality, I wish you success in your new deployment and in the same vein open my arms wide to welcome your replacement and wish him every success in his new role. May your contributions to the institution not go unnoticed.” Maj Prof Xaba, email
MILITARY ACADEMY OUTREACH

The Military Academy, as a Faculty of Stellenbosch, is doing its best to help the community by means of community interaction each year. The student body of the Military Academy is committed to doing something to better the lives of the less fortunate. This is done through a committee called “Masiza”. Masiza is derived from a Zulu word, which means “to help”.

The aim of this project is to enhance the social responsibility of the Military Academy towards society at large. It also helps the students to display and show their significant leadership abilities, to enhance their command and control as military personnel and to show society that they are capable of performing the primary task, which is to defend the country and its citizens in whatever way possible.

The first project for 2013 was the “Outreach” in which school uniforms were donated. It was arranged by Lt Genevieve Winster, the Masiza representative of the student body. The students bought different school uniforms and stationery with their own money to make a difference in the lives of children not so fortunate. Sometimes you do not have to come from previously disadvantaged communities to know how people struggle; it just takes a little observance and a warm heart.

Upon arrival at the predetermined schools, the Military Academy students immediately started to interact with the learners. They were at first amazed and intimidated by the uniforms; however, they opened up to the students and the fun and laughter started. The Military Academy students were received with open arms and shared lots of laughter with the learners. They also learned a lot from each other, as some students had gone through the same hardships when they were children.

SOCIAL WORKERS HIT THE ROAD

At the beginning of 2012 three social workers from Area Military Health Unit North West (AMHU NW) embarked on a new and exciting journey. Capt Mari van Heerden, Lt Mthobeli Mzobotshe and Lt Ivan Kanes got out of their offices and hit the road.

Capt Van Heerden decided to upgrade her quality of life and took the walking challenge. Lt Mzobotshe and Lt Kanes opted for running.

Capt Van Heerden recently represented AMHU NW in the Friendly Forces and Dias “Vasbyt”. She was also the winner of the 2012 Ottosdal Night Marathon in the female walkers’ category. Lt Mzobotshe represented Central North West in the South African Cross-country Championships while Lt Kanes qualified for the 2013 Comrades Marathon in a good time.

Not only do the social workers’ new lifestyles benefit their physical health through increased fitness, weight management and overall health, but it also benefits their psycho-social health through combating stress, socialising with others and satisfying their need for success. Their running and training pact has also benefited the Social Work Department’s team cohesion as a whole, as their colleagues are on board and support the athletes and walkers’ efforts wholeheartedly. The Social Workers’ goals for 2013 include ultra-marathon walking, completion of the Comrades Marathon and ensuring “very fast times” in the National Cross-country Championships.

All three social workers started doing what was necessary, what’s possible, and suddenly they were doing the seemingly impossible.
MAINTAINING ESPRIT DE CORPS IN THE SUDAN

Members of Operation CORDITE XVI entered the late deployment phase, which is typically characterised by feelings and emotions of excitement, anticipation at going home, uncertainty about rotation, a growing sense of frustration, increased stress and decreased tolerance.

In anticipation of these factors, preventative programmes were implemented to assist members to cope with them. The aim of the programme was to enhance focus and commitment to the mission. The Social Work Officer, Maj Nontobeko Makhanda, the psychologist, Capt Didi du Toit and the Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Officer, Capt Kagiso Motsisi, collaborated to increase the levels of resilience of members. These professionals acknowledge the feelings associated with this late phase of deployment, namely loneliness, boredom, frustration and looking forward to be reunited with their loved ones back home. The professional team utilised their specialised skills to reduce the impact of these factors and thus promote the success of the mission.

A group facilitation programme was designed and implemented, which consisted of a variety of exercises, games and discussions focused on enhancing teamwork, problem-solving, communication, interpersonal conflict and trust. Throughout the programme motivation, perseverance, tolerance and commitment to the mission were encouraged. The programme consisted of the following exercises and associated outcomes:

• Exercise 1 “pass the ball” focused on enhancing teamwork and interaction between members. It also emphasised the importance of strategising during operations, despite differences, and assisted them to overcome tough situations as a team.

• Exercise 2 “group name and characteristics” focused on identifying and understanding the shared characteristics of the group, which assisted the facilitators to identify the impact of late deployment stressors on the members.

• Exercise 3 “magic T” – aimed at promoting vigilance and focus and stimulated concentration, encouraging collective and alternative problem-solving within the mission area.

• Exercise 4 “trust-building” - created awareness of the current level of trust among members, the need to trust one another and the impact of group dynamics on a relationship of trust.

• Exercise 5 “fire-on-the-mountain” - accurate execution of commands was improved through this exercise with a physical and interactive component that served as a stress release and energy booster. It enhanced communication and diversity management (language) and encouraged interpersonal awareness.

• Exercise 6 “burst-a-balloon” enhanced observation skills, responsibility and accountability for operational safety, teamwork and reaction time. It was a physical and interactive component promoting physical health and fitness.

• “Stress management handout” focused on strategies for coping with stress experienced in the deployment area. Programme evaluation and feedback from the participants were processed anonymously to allow for openness and honesty in their feedback. This was done to measure the success of the programme and identify areas for enhancement. The following are quotes from some of the participants that reflect how they experienced the programme:

“The teambuilding must be done more often in order to stay alert and vigilant at all times. It brings back concentration. We all learn to do things in many different ways.”

“It is one of the most important exercises as it shows the value of trusting each other and working together as a team.”

“It made us feel happy at the end of the day; I liked it because it changed me. I was so stressed this morning, but I enjoyed the exercises.”

“Yes, it was a great exercise or awakening programme with greater emphasis on teamwork. We learnt a lot from each other and by doing so we also had fun. It was proof that by working together we could do more.”

“Everything was excellent. It must be done more often to boost our morale. It makes us play and laugh and even cry together, which shows we are a team.”

Members enjoyed the programme and showed enthusiasm, energy, motivation and focus throughout the programme. The success of a mission is the responsibility of each and every member, yet this can only be achieved through unity, commitment and perseverance.

“Simunye” (we are one). Capt Didi du Toit, RSA Battalion 11, Sudan
FORCE COMMANDER’S FAREWELL FUNCTION

The farewell function for Lt Gen Patric Nyamvumba, the outgoing Force Commander of the United Nations African Union Mission (UNAMID) in El Fasher left a permanent mark on the Sudanese people and the participating countries.

In a packed Zam Zam community hall a large audience, including many Sudanese, was eager and impatiently waiting to see the group from the country where Nelson Mandela hailed from, but certain traditional protocols had to be followed first on such occasions.

The event was officially opened by two Majors, one representing the Christians and the other the Muslims. The UNAMID Force Chief of Staff, Brig Gen Shahid Mahmood, gave a short informative speech highlighting the successes and challenges he encountered during his tenure as the Force Commander, and wished his successor success in occupying such a powerful seat in Africa.

After the Force Commander had taken his seat, dinner was served. Dishes were served from all the countries that participated in the event. Then the Ethiopian cultural group came onto the stage. They were considered the second best by the organising committee, and performed very well, followed by the Nepalese, the Egyptians, the Gambians and the Rwandese.

Then Pte Balulwa Mchiza recited her poem, called “Peace” (see poem below). The audience cried when they heard the touching words from the ever smiling young lady from 17 Maintenance Unit who was being utilised as a chef in Kutum Base.

Then the rest of the South African group took to the stage with the tune, “Ntate Nthekele Sana Marena”. The women were dressed in long skirts, their shoulders covered with saris and the gentlemen wore black hats. They made a big impression in the green and gold decorated hall. Everyone, including the dignitaries, stood up and joined the group in singing a Xhosa song, “Amajola APhuma Enti-longweni”. At this stage the audience was trying very hard to imitate the choir in their well practised steps. From then on the hall was turned into a mini-festival with everyone forgetting for a moment the reality of being on foreign soil. When they exited the stage with the song, “Heela Banna Motha Wela”, the audience was shouting: “We want more, we want more!” Others were adding: “Mandela! Mandela!” Cpl Luvolwethu Tivi, Medic in the Sudan, Kutum team site

PEACE!

When the sun goes down
When the dark hours come
When quiet moments come
Their souls start being scared
They are restless
Their eyes are full of fear
There is no peace

Innocent souls are being killed
The blood is shed
Black nation is being murdered
Our black nation is being slaughtered
like animals
How sad
How painful
Where is the peace

It is not okay
It is not alright
People are helpless
Families are with no home
Parents lost their children
Children lost their parents
Husbands lost their wives
Wives their husbands
It’s a tragedy
No peace

Children are wandering around with no hope
They are lost looking for help
Looking for food
Their stomachs are empty
With no hope of food what happened to our humanity
No hope no love no peace

The rain comes and goes
The wind blew and stopped
But still with no sign of peace
Anger and hatred builds no forgiveness
They are furious!
Maybe about who?
Maybe their ancestors who started this war
Children are being born in this mess
Maybe they are angry with their God
Maybe they don’t understand
I don’t know

What happened to us?
What happened to our humanity?
kwenzekani na kwizazela zethu (what happened to our conscience?)
Peace upon this place
Usani olungakhaliko tuf’elembelekweni (a baby that does not cry, dies in the womb)
Maybe their voices have been taken away from them
Maybe they do not have a voice at all
No rights; no say

I say no to violence
I say no to suffering and poverty
I say no to killing and hatred
And I say yes to unity
Yes to love and
Yes to the peace

What happened to the government of this place?
Where are the dignitaries, authorities of this country?
Don’t you see that your people are perishing?
Intervene
Let them feel your presence and your warmth
Your nation needs you
Leaders bring love, joy and a smile to this people
Bring something they lost long time ago
Dignity, love and peace! Pte Balulwa Mchiza, Sudan

YOU ARE THE RULER OF YOUR LIFE

Life is full of challenges, disappointments and things that discourage us. But many people misunderstand the idea of “facing reality”. When times are hard you think that what you are going through is just “reality”. I would urge you to change the way you think. You are the ruler of your life. Know, accept and embrace this idea. Then next, when times are tough, you will be able to stand up to any challenges that might come your way. Think and speak about the good life you desire, then make that your reality. It is within your power because you are the ruler of your life. Everything you want is possible. Everything starts in your head. Maj G.I. Gaboutlwelwe, Sudan
FORCE COMMANDER’S VISIT

The outgoing Rwandan Force Commander of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Lt Gen Patric Nyamvumba, and his entourage recently visited the deployed soldiers of RSA Battalion 11 in Sector North.

The last leg of the delegation’s visit was to Kutum Base after it had visited other RSA team sites, such as Mellit and Malha. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Bonginkosi Fanuel Vilakazi, introduced his staff to the delegation in the conference room. Before the Force Commander could address the soldiers the Commanding Officer gave a short overview of the situation in his area of responsibility, including the challenges faced by the Battalion. In his short speech to the soldiers, the Force Commander mentioned two main reasons for his visit, namely to welcome the Battalion to the Sudan, even though the rotation was already in its final stage and the soldiers were about to be demobilised, having met its commitments despite the tight schedule. Secondly, he wanted to congratulate the soldiers on their discipline and hard work under difficult conditions. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation for the support he received from the RSA Battalion during his tenure as a Commander and encouraged them to continue giving the same support to the incoming Force Commander. He mentioned that his tour of duty was ending and expressed confidence that the Battalion would succeed and make the UNAMID and the RSA proud. Maj G.I. Gaboutlwelwe, 21 SAI Bn in the Sudan

ENGINEER CONFERENCE IN BUKAVU

The Integrated Engineer Conference, under the auspices of the Military Engineers, was recently held in Bukavu in South Kivu Province. This conference is held every six months in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

This year’s meeting was attended by all the Engineer Companies (in SA we are called a Squadron) that are deployed in the DRC. There are six different Engineer Companies, viz from South Africa, Uruguay, China, Bangladesh, Nepal and Indonesia. Included in the conference were the SO Engineers from the different Brigades, a number of civilian engineers and the Head of Office for Roads.

The performance of the engineers and future major projects to upgrade roads and bridges were planned and discussed. Maj Dave O’Halloran, RSA Engineer Squadron Commander, Goma, DRC

HANDBOMADE SOCCER TROPHY

I made a soccer trophy from scrap metal to uplift the spirit and morale of soccer players and to start a competition among the soldiers deployed at Kutum Base in the Sudan.

The soccer tournament was played as follows: Charlie Company versus Delta Company; Officers versus Warrant Officers; and the winner versus the Egyptians.

Charlie Company won their quarter-final match with penalties, while the Warrant Officers won the Officers (2-1) and they went through to the semi-final in which Charlie Company won (2-0). In the final Charlie Company beat the Egyptians (2-1).

This handmade soccer trophy, the first of its kind, will remain in the Sudan for as long as the RSA deployment remains in the Sudan. WO2 M.D. Dhlamini, 21 SAI Bn (deployed in the Sudan)

BIG UPS TO

SANDF operations and deployments go well due to the integration of the different forces. 17 Maintenance Unit will be responsible for logistical supplies to the mission. Personnel Corps (Human Resource) will manage all the allowances of members and the necessary administrative arrangements, including leave and notices, in case there are personnel losses.
MEDAL PARADE IN THE SUDAN

21 SA Infantry Battalion (21 SAI Bn) held its first external deployment Medal Parade under the auspices of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in Kutum Base in the Sudan on 19 May 2013.

The occasion commenced just before midday with Chaplain Dorah Nnini Mphahlele requesting the Almighty to bless the occasion after reading a few verses from Scripture. By this time everybody had already assembled around the well prepared parade ground, among them the invited representatives from Egypt, the UN security office, the Military Observer team leader and the Kutum Base Camp Manager.

The parade ground proudly displayed four Mamba vehicles at each corner, a recovery vehicle in the middle and two large RSA National Flags on each side, thus confirming a proudly South African patriotism. One big tent housed the medal recipients and the other the spectators.

Immediately after the inspection of the parade by the dignitaries and the handing over of the medals, the RSA Battalion 21 Commanding Officer, Lt Col Bonginkosi Vilakazi, delivered an interesting speech on behalf of the Sector Commander who could not make it to the parade due to unforeseen circumstances.

He began his speech by quoting from one of the great philosophical writers, Mr James Allen: “Of all the beautiful truths pertaining to the soul which have been restored and brought to light in this age, none is more gladdening or fruitful that you are the matter of your thought, the moulder of your character, and the maker and shaper of condition, environment and destiny”.

He also emphasised his appreciation for the manner in which the soldiers portrayed themselves in terms of discipline, commitment, dedication and perseverance amidst the very difficult and trying conditions they encountered throughout the previous six month period. He thanked every one for their efforts and for the ambassadorial role they played.

After the speech the 21 SAI Battalion parade led by Capt Aldrige David Lass and WO2 Clement Vusimuzi Nkabinde, marched proudly past the podium as a sign of accomplishment. It was followed by loud applause. It is also worth mentioning the fact that a medal is worn on the left-hand side on the chest and close to the heart, which shows how dear it is to peacekeepers. Maj Gaopalelwwe Ignatius Gaboulwelwe, Kutum Base, Sudan.

SANDF INTERVENTION FORCE TO THE DRC

6 SA Infantry Battalion (6 SAI Bn) has been earmarked as the SANDF Intervention Force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for the period of June 2013 to June 2014.

It has been confirmed that the deployment will be for the duration of a full year and the force is enthusiastic about carrying out their tasks with diligence and professionalism.

The current Officer Commanding, Lt Col Alton John Gysman, with the RSM, MWO Casper Coetzee, and the unit, commenced the journey with a Freedom of the City Parade when the Executive Mayor, Mr Zamuxolo Peter, and the Makana community used the platform to wish them well in their endeavour. He also took the opportunity to commend the unit for their hard work and loyalty in providing services over the years. The parade, however, also allowed the deploying men and women of the unit to bid the Makana community farewell.

The Officer Commanding added that notwithstanding the danger, it was part of our duty to support neighbouring countries with peacekeeping. This will be the fourth deployment of the Officer Commanding, who has served twice in Burundi and once in the Sudan. He is now preparing for this deployment as the Officer Commanding. Lt Col Gysman deems the Freedom of the City Parade very important as it confirms that the community is behind the unit.

A valedictory service followed the parade. Prominent clergy, the Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University and councillors of the Makana Municipality took part, and the unit choir gave an excellent performance.

CO Roydan Vlotman, email

OPERATIONAL DRIVERS

These logistical supplies and personnel documents must be delivered from office to office. Sometimes vehicles are needed owing to the proximity of these offices. One should see how skilled these convoy drivers are. When they move out the last vehicle will close off the road while the front vehicles get on the road; only skilled drivers can do that. In Lohathla on Exercise SEBOKA Open Day they entertain the guests with Infantry combat vehicles and fire and movement, where troops move forward on foot next to the vehicle.

With good drivers no vehicle will overrun anybody.

In the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) they are faced with the gigantic task of driving in heavy sand where, if the first vehicle gets stuck, the whole platoon will get stuck, which will mean a lack of security at what is sometimes a very dangerous place because recovery from the base unit takes too long owing to the condition of the road. In the tropical regions of Africa, eg the DRC, it rains almost daily and roads are slippery, but our drivers, or should I say our well trained and dedicated drivers, handle the situation well.

Sometimes some of them drive long distances and for days without rest due to the shortage of skilled drivers. Without this component a section cannot undertake operations, a platoon cannot do escort duties and a company cannot advance. Let us treat them with respect and acknowledge their vital contribution to our effectiveness, knowing well that the safety and success of military operations rest on their shoulders. Capt T.J. Mabula, email

MAY 2013 • 13
Many of our people perished during the struggle against apartheid and the letter and spirit of our Constitution enjoins us to heal the divisions of the past as part of going forward as a new democratic nation.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Desk together with the Department of Military Veterans jointly officiated during a ceremony to hand over the remains of ten former Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) members who were exhumed by the TRC Unit and returned to their families at a ceremony held at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 14 June 2013. These heroes were prepared to offer their lives for our freedom and democracy and for this reason were honoured and celebrated.

The activists died under different circumstances during the liberation struggle and were reported missing to the TRC. They were exhumed by the Missing Persons Task Team (MPTT) in line with the TRC’s recommendations. Their remains were positively identified and handed over to their families for subsequent burial.

The families were at last able to bury the remains of their loved ones. This is part of a process undertaken by the Government to help restore the dignity of those whose lives and rights were grossly violated by the apartheid regime, and through the TRC we have come to know of some of the atrocities committed by the apartheid regime and the gruesome murder of heroes who served in the liberation movements.

A total of ten exhumed remains were handed. They were as follows:

- Battle of Mutale River – 25 March 1988, Limpopo
  - Daniel Nkabinde (MK Vusi Mthembu) from Tembisa
  - Oupa Willie Lukhele (MK Dan Mabaso) from Tembisa
  - Abram Moroe (MK Happy Batho) from Tsakane
  - Sipho Nkosi (MK Peter Molotsi) from Alexandra

- Mofolo 3 – 27 July 1989, Soweto
  - Nceba Suma
  - Caswell Khumalo
  - Richard Ngwenya
ABOVE: The remains of ten former Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) members who were exhumed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Unit to be reunited with their families at a ceremony held at Freedom Park on 14 June 2013.

25 March 1988 Derdepoort, North West
- Kunyamane Ranyaoa

11 and 12 September 1987 near Alldays, Limpopo
- Matthews Mmutlane (MK Chillies or Nicolas Moyo)

During the ceremony the Government reaffirmed its support for and solidarity with the families and as they reburied the remains of these heroes of our people in a manner befitting the human dignity recognised and enshrined in the Constitution for which they struggled and untimely gave their lives.

LEFT: Families of the former Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) cadres who died during the struggle sitting in the gallery to receive the mortal remains of their loved ones.
Poachers, be aware, the scouts are in the Kruger National Park

The local news is currently flooded with negative reports and articles on the carnage affecting our precious rhinos. The SA Army Intelligence Formation is therefore proud to announce the great work that the soldiers from 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment in Potchefstroom are doing to assist in protecting our national treasures in conjunction with other Services.

1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment has been deployed at the Sandrivier Base near Skukuza in the Kruger National Park since 12 December 2012.

The task of this group is to support the staff of SA National Parks and the SA Police Service (Special Task Force) with an intelligence surveillance capability. This deployment forms part of Operation CORONA whose purpose is the protection of our borders, including a sub-operation, Operation HORIZON, which focuses on the protection of the rhinos in the Kruger National Park.

These scouts are deployed in the surrounding areas in order to detect possible poachers, poaching activities and illegal crossers that enter the park. They are currently using the Tactical Intelligence System (TIS).

ABOVE: Precious rhinos in the Kruger National Park.
The members walk long distances with this heavy equipment, as well as a water supply for the whole team for the time spent in their observation posts. The areas are also highly populated by the Big Five, snakes and baboons, but the biggest irritation is the unwelcome ticks that manage their way into the most uncomfortable places.

The poachers are neither afraid of the dark nor of the full moon, or as they call it, the African torch. The full moon is effectively used by the poachers, and then the soldiers have to be extra vigilant and alert.

This group has already had numerous successes in preventing poaching in cases where they had visual surveillance of the poachers and where they were able to warn the SA National Parks and the SA Police Service timeously. A spokesperson of the group indicated that in some cases they were too late, but the weapons that were used by the poachers were confiscated and some rhino horns were retrieved. The gruesome slaughtering of the rhinos remains one of the most disturbing experiences, but they are all proud of the small role they can play in securing our national heritage for our children.

ABOVE: An Oryx helicopter circling above the Kruger National Park in order to identify possible rhino poachers.

ABOVE: Flt: S Sgt Abel Fana Ndimande from Area Military Health Unit Mpumalanga, Capt Hendrik (Sam) Samuels and Lt Jacques Nel (both members from 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment) providing medical assistance for a captured poacher.
SA Navy interacts with members of the media

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, hosted a media breakfast on the state of the SA Navy at Admiralty House in Simon’s Town on 4 April 2013. This event afforded V Adm Mudimu an opportunity to interact and engage with members of the media on key issues pertaining to the SA Navy.

The purpose of the media briefing was to inform the media and the public regarding the role that the SA Navy plays in executing its Constitutional mandate. The briefing also highlighted the successes and challenges pertaining to maritime security in the RSA and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. One of the issues included relations with the media industry, and the significant role the media plays in the SA Navy. V Adm Mudimu further highlighted the developments that have and continue to take place in the SA Navy.

Among others the media briefing covered topics such as naval operations and exercises, SADC maritime security strategies, operational readiness of the frigates and submarines, the utilisation of offshore patrol vessels, a wreck reduction process for the stranded Seli 1 vessel, the recently launched Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Newsletter (IONSHERE), future plans of the SA Navy, an update on the reopening of Naval Base Durban and the opening of the Electronic Test Bed.

During his address V Adm Mudimu said that ours was a profession which demands much, both in terms of competence and professionalism, and in terms of sacrifice. He said: “Indeed, the tragic events in the Central African Republic, with the loss of our men in combat, brings home yet again that ours is a profession, obligation and duty which calls on us to serve, and that the extent of this privilege and obligation knows no boundary, and does, from time to time, demand that we pay the ultimate price.”

He affirmed the SA Navy’s deepest commitment to achieving the full spectrum of its Constitutional mandate in ensuring the successful attainment of its output, including the meeting of its ordered commitments, mission ready defence capabilities, and sound defence direction and defence compliance within the Regulatory Framework. This will be framed by a value system which first and foremost upholds such values as discipline, transparency, fairness, excellence through leadership, honesty and integrity.

In terms of the Maritime Security Strategy, the Admiral said that since 2010 the SA Navy has seen an expansion of its role in terms of ensuring regional safety and security. This has brought about a significant increase in its visibility off both the East and West Coasts of our Region, and has afforded much credibility in such exercises and operations as Operation COPPER, an anti-piracy initiative, primarily off the coast of Mozambique, and Operation CORONA to safeguard our vast maritime borders.

V Adm Mudimu said: “This year we anticipate vigorous participation within the context of the African Agenda and the participation of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) countries. Certainly, such events as the Standing Maritime Committee, which took place in Tanzania, and the forthcoming Sea Power for Africa Symposium in Senegal, constitute highlights, both for the SA Navy and for the continent as a whole.”

He said this had expanded the agenda to include riverine security, and the inland countries of our region. These participated in Exercise GOOD TIDINGS on Lake Malawi, as well as extensively in Tanzania. In conclusion he said that a Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding between South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania had recently been signed, which affirmed the strategic intent of our region in a most decisive manner.
Inauguration of the Engineering Test Bed

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, officially opened the Engineering Test Bed (ETB) at Simon’s Town on 4 April 2013. This capability represents one of the finest of its type, being a world-class platform for the testing of submarine hardware and software, which allows for the development and introduction of engineering changes in a non-mission critical environment.

Cybicom Atlas Defence in conjunction with the SA Navy developed the ETB, Periscope Simulator, Navigation Sensor Emulator and Helicopter Flight Deck Trainer. The Engineering Test Bed consists of a mock submarine combat information centre, 5 high fidelity ISUS 90-45 fabricated multifunctional consoles, and an Integrated Periscope Simulator.

Included with the package are the associated electronics and signal processing hardware to provide a high fidelity test bed for integration and testing of new hardware and software. A Periscope Simulator will be used to provide training for the Zeiss Sero 400 Attack Periscope on the Heroine Class Submarines. It consists of a ceiling mounted mock Zeiss Sero 1 400 Ocular Box and Instructor Workstation.

The Navigation Sensor Emulator is a portable multi-sensor simulator and emulator system that can be used for testing or emulation purposes. It comprises multiple single board computers with multi-channel programmable serial IO daughter cards controlled via a Real-Time Operating System, proprietary software and device drives.

The Helicopter Flight Deck Trainer is designed to provide joint training for flight deck controllers and marine helicopter pilots. The simulator provides a safe, cost-effective solution for training personnel in a realistic and controlled environment.

The ETB will allow for world-class research and development in keeping with the technological sophistication of the submarines platforms, and is indeed an unparalleled capability for our country and our continent, and one of which the country may be justifiably proud.

The system will be utilised in submarine force preparedness and will be an invaluable part of the SA Navy maritime defence capabilities. The value of this system was well demonstrated during the SA Navy Submarine Officer Commanding Course conducted in 2012, and the capability is already being extensively used in broader submarine training and evaluation.

Opening the system officially, V Adm Mudimu said that the ETB spoke not only of matters technological within the world of submarines and underwater warfare. He said it also addressed the soundness of the principle so inherent in the developmental agenda of the Government, namely that the military sector can, and must, form enabling partnerships with the broader industrial sector.

V Adm Mudimu said: “It is through this that our technological and social horizons will see expansion beyond conception, creating not only prosperity and growth, but also hope and aspiration.” He said that the successful completion of the initiative speaks therefore not only of world-class technology we as a nation are proud to have within our maritime defence capability, but also of the enormous potential to be found in successful collaboration between local industry and the military sector.

ABOVE: SA Navy members utilising the Navigation Sensor Emulator, which is a portable multi-sensor simulator and emulator system that can be used for testing or emulation purposes.
The SA Navy once more showcased its expertise during the annual Navy Festival in Simon’s Town from 5 to 7 April 2013. Judging by the number of people who attended the festivities, it was clear that this event is still very popular among the public. The SA Navy’s expertise, capabilities and combat-readiness were on display, as well as an impressive exhibition of its hardware.

The event has grown significantly and as a result it is now regarded by the SA Tourism Board as a major event promoting tourism in South Africa. The event is a highlight on the DOD calendar and attracts both military members and civilians. It provides a platform for the SA Navy to interact with all its stakeholders and to contribute to a better understanding of the internal and external roles of the SANDF. The Navy Festival...
ABOVE: The Navy Festival entails displays, exhibitions, and ships and submarines open to the public at large.

Communities and schools were invited to the Navy Festival to expose especially the youth, to the military environment and to create an opportunity to educate the youth on military matters and the SANDF. The three-day show offered fun-filled educational programmes for adults and children alike with various activities, exhibitions and static displays.

LEFT: The Navy Festival is a platform for the SA Navy to educate the youth on military matters and the SANDF.

ABOVE: The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, and his entourage sail past the SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE.

LEFT: Members of the Maritime Reaction Squadron ready to demonstrate their expertise and capabilities.
The People’s Navy showcasing its expertise

The DOD in its commitment to support the SA Government’s diplomatic initiatives requires advanced and interoperable technology to be able to participate in peacekeeping missions on the continent. The technology acquired and currently operated by the SA Navy was displayed during the Navy Festival.

The demonstrations highlighted the state of combat-readiness and capabilities of the SA Navy that ensure effective participation in any mandated military operations that could be sanctioned by the Government.

The SA Navy is currently operationally deployed in Africa and along the Mozambican Coast to ensure that our country’s resources are protected and to repel any form of maritime crime or piracy.

In his message the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, urged the public to make use of the opportunity to interact with the men and women of the SA Navy regarding any military matters. He said he trusted that the visits to the SA Navy Festival would encourage South Africa’s young men and women to swell the ranks of the People’s Navy.

The ships and submarines that the public visited play a vital role in ensuring that South Africa takes its rightful place in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, the continent and on the world stage. In addition the Navy Festival was a unique experience for the public who witnessed the coming together of the SA Navy and the people it served.

Never too late to develop new skills

By Ms Antoinette Chamberlain, Control Personnel Officer and Advice and Support at Directorate Human Resource Separation
Photos: Lt Col Gawie Nienaber

Members and employees of the DOD obtain a number of skills throughout their careers. Some of these are professional qualifications obtained through formal external training at tertiary
institutes, but for the most skills are transferred through internal courses and on-the-job-training achieved as part of constant development during their careers. The Code of Conduct for Uniformed Members also states: “I will improve the capability of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, developing skills and knowledge and performing my duties diligently and professionally”.

It can be said that DOD personnel are therefore lifelong learners, and even when they leave the Department this does not stop. Here the opportunity of reskilling is provided for all authorised members and employees in an attempt to ensure members and employees have greater marketability for a career outside the SANDF.

Since January 2013 the facilitation of the reskilling process has been transferred from the former Service Corps to the Directorate Human Resource Separation (D HR Sep) through an Interim Instruction.

The reskilling process as facilitated at D HR Sep is based on internal research and fact-finding in order to assist applicants with a smooth transition to the civilian life. Progress in this environment has been achieved, some members having successfully completed their training since January 2013, while others are well on their way to achieving the same.

Feedback from the applicants to date has been largely positive in terms of their experience and the value they derived from the opportunity. Lessons were also identified that could assist in further streamlining the process to ensure that everyone would gain from this.

Pointers to remember

• Service Providers must be registered to provide a service for the DOD.
• Applications should be initiated at least four months prior to separation.

• A period of three months before separation is allowed for reskilling when approval is granted by the Officer Commanding.
• After separation a member still has 12 months to complete the reskilling training.
• Costs exceeding R13 000 must be carried by the applicant personally.
• The period of absence from the workplace is dependent on the duration of the training (three months maximum) for retirees.
• Special leave of three months is only applicable to Mobile Exit Mechanism (MEM) members and Employer Initiated Severage Package (EISP) members.

Reskilling is a golden opportunity for members to gain the skills required for their next career or to supplement their income in order to ensure that they are able to sustain a healthy lifestyle after separation. Detailed assistance can be sought through local HR offices and Dir HR Sep (012 392 3124/3135).

Reskilling can be facilitated in every imaginable field as long as some pointers are remembered and adhered to. Some of these will be mentioned later, but the most important is for the applicants to determine their exact needs in order to ensure that they receive the training, and therefore new skills, that they require.

Services and Divisions still manage and execute the payment of the services rendered, but D HR Sep acts as the nodal point for the facilitation of the process and provides advice to members and employees on the best course of action to follow. It stands to reason that different Force Structure Elements (FSEs) should ensure that planning is done for their members and employees regarding funding for this opportunity. At present the State contributes an amount of R13 000 per member or employee.
Logistic Division Education and Training

Article and photo by Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela

Former President Nelson Mandela once said: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Chapter 11 of the Defence Review, Paragraph 109, states that the sixth primary intervention with respect to transverse resource management is to be directed at formative training, functional and tertiary education within the Defence Force. Future defence leaders will require a high level of education and training if they are to succeed in future complex military environments.

The previous Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, in her budget speech indicated that every soldier should be able to convert his or her training into academic qualifications that is recognisable in the public and private sectors. She added that no soldier would leave the SANDF unqualified. He or she would leave with a certificate that would be an advantage, should an alternative career be chosen.

The Defence Review further states that functional training is the preserve of

the Services/Staff Divisions. Chapter 10 Paragraph 209 determines that the Chief Staff of Logistics will provide functional logistic training for all combat service and staff divisions.

The Logistic Division, with the full support of the Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, and his Deputy Chief of Logistics, Maj Gen Mthlamme Moadira, has committed itself to the alignment of functional training with the National Qualification Framework (NQF), the prescripts of SAQA, as stipulated in the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) Act, the Skills Development Act and requirements as currently stipulated by the Quality Council of Trades and Occupations (QCTO). The implementation of accredited Logistic Education, Training and Development (ETD) and the alignment with the NQF is firstly aimed at professionalising functional logistic training within the DOD, and secondly, at supporting the broader skills development initiatives at national level.

SA Soldier spoke to Col Kantha Boer, SSO Supply Support Resource Management at Directorate Logistic Resource Management (DLRM), who is responsible for all functional logistic training within the Department of Defence.

This Directorate (DLRM) led by Brig Gen Amanda Ruziecki has two main sections: Higher Order Logistic ETD with Capt (SAN) Godfrey Daniels as the SSO, who is responsible for Logistic Foreign training and opportunities as well as studies at State expense, while the section under my control is responsible for all functional logistic training.

This section is responsible for the research and development of the training packages managed by Lt Col Michael Mahloko, quality assurance and evaluation of all logistic training are managed by Maj Freddie Botha, training administration of all logistic courses is managed by Maj Obakeng Modisane and administration of all logistic systems training is managed by Lt Col Hester Gerber.

Col Boer stated that it was and still is imperative to understand the changing national education landscape as it was important to refocus the efforts, adjust and position the Logistic Division with the changes so as to be proactively aligned within the ETD environment. DLRM conducted a full situational, training needs and target group analysis to determine the training needs and gaps in the Services/Divisions, as they are the clients of the Logistic Division.

Benchmarks, collaboration and strategic partnerships with reputable universities and institutions are currently in progress. DLRM and integrated project teams were able to design and develop credit bearing learning programmes within the hospitality and supply support fields after extensive consultation with the SAQA, QCTO and the relevant Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs).

It was emphasised by Col Boer that even though tertiary qualifications were being used, the aim was never to lose focus of our core business within the military. She said: “We have combined both defence logistic functions with tertiary logistics to design our learning programmes. All training material is designed by considering the knowledge, skill and workplace experience of members as prescribed by the ETD legislation.”

The Logistic Division currently has four accredited training providers, viz the DOD School of Logistic Training, the DOD School of Catering, the DOD School of Ammunition and the Works Training School. Plans are under way to expand these logistic and catering schools into defence academies with supply and cookery schools as satellites per Service for Service specific training.

Col Boer provided a thorough insight into the development of the new hospitality, ammunition and supply qualifications that had been developed and rolled out. The first supply qualification for supply clerks was recently piloted (alpha testing) which proved successful and can be rolled out later this year. This will mean that Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members who are not retained within the DOD after their two-year period would leave with credit bearing results that are recognisable within the public and private sectors.

It is imperative to maintain continuous training and development of our members as education is knowledge. Col Boer ended our interview on a passionate note saying that the motto that DLRM is driven by is: “EACH ONE TEACH ONE by Mr Nelson Mandela”.

Insight
72 newly qualified artisans in the SA Air Force

By Ms Tebogo Mampa, Intern SA Soldier
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The artisan reclassification and passing-out parade of 72 newly qualified artisans in the SA Air Force took place at 68 Air School in Pretoria on 24 April 2013.

These students had completed a three year apprenticeship programme. Their training began at the SA Air Force Gymnasium, which was followed by an intensive 18 month training programme at 68 Air School.

The training comprised a school block and a workshop phase at the Tshwane South College, followed by studied electrical communication.

Brig Gen Mariette Hartley, Director Air Capability Plan, presented the certificates to the students. Trophies were awarded to the best students. The trophy for best performing artisan went to Cpl Scelo Mpontshane, while the runner-up was Cpl Thembinkosi Vimba. The best academic performer was Amn Duty A, Technical Training 1 (TT1) and Technical Training 2 (TT2) at 68 Air School. After completing training at 68 Air School, some students were transferred to different SA Air Force bases throughout South Africa for a year to undergo practical training on different types of aircraft and systems. The general electrical, aircraft structure, fitters, turners and motor mechanic students remained at 68 Air School to continue and complete their training at 68 Air School. Between January and April 2013 they underwent a trade test. They are now all newly qualified artisans within the SA Air Force. Eighteen students studied aircraft mechanical electronics, 16 studied aircraft instruments, two studied aircraft survival, 17 studied radio radar, four students electrical radar and 15 studied electrical communication.
ABOVE: The newly reclassified artisans presented with certificates.

MIDDLE: Brig Gen Mariette Hartley, Director Air Capability Plan, presenting certificates to the newly qualified artisans.

ABOVE: The newly reclassified artisans with Brig Gen Mariette Hartley, the Director Air Capability Plan (middle) and Col Dirk Blom, Officer Commanding of 68 Air School (4th from right) during their certificate ceremony at 68 Air School.

Nishen Sing and the most disciplined learner was Cpl Tsakane Mashava.

Brig Gen Hartley congratulated the students and said: “To all of you who are being reclassified today I would like to congratulate each and every one of you. You have made us proud and you should be rightly proud of yourselves and your achievements as well. You have achieved what many have failed to do, but do not be too confident because what you have done is only the first of many steps you need to take in your career.”

SA Soldier spoke to one of the qualified artisans who also happened to be the best performing artisan, Cpl Scelo Mpontshane. He is now based at Air Force Base Makhado as a fully qualified aircraft mechanic. Cpl Mpontshane said: “It is an awesome feeling being a qualified artisan, but it comes with a lot of responsibilities, unlike when I was still a student. Now I have to account for everything that I do and make informed decisions. I know with every work comes responsibilities.”
SA Navy means music to learners

The SA Navy presented musical equipment to Northridge Primary School on 23 April 2013. The occasion marked another significant milestone of the SA Navy in its resolve to work with communities to improve the lives of the people. The SA Navy embarked on a social responsibility project to develop the Northridge Primary School Band to a professional standard.

This initiative was conceptualised by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, while attending a DOD function at CSIR in Pretoria in October 2012. The school band was invited by the DOD to entertain the guests and the Chief of the SA Navy realised the potential of the band regardless of the meagre resources at its disposal.

In realising this project a task team was formed consisting of Capt (SAN) Prince Tshabalala, Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Labane Twala and CPO Nombali Magubane. The task team was mandated to engage in dialogue with the Northridge Primary School representatives consisting of the School Principal, the Chairperson and the Secretary of the School Governing Body, the school teacher responsible for performing arts, Ms Faith Makhoali. With the transfer of Capt (SAN) Tshabalala to Defence Headquarters as SSO Media Liaison, R Adm (JG) Emily Masanabo, Director Naval Transformation, was assigned the task of co-ordinating the work.

Funds for this project were obtained from donations and private sponsorship in the context of the Public Private Partnership. Old Mutual and Nedbank unwaveringly extended a helping hand and through their combined efforts they donated R250 000. They were instrumental in strengthening the projects and their efforts culminated in the purchasing of the musical equipment.

In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the school, the SA Navy expressed its willingness and support to assist in developing the school band to a professional standard. The SA Navy will present musical lessons to the learners as part of its social responsibility. They will also provide tutors to teach music, but the supervision and extra musical lessons will not be a substitute for the curriculum of the school, which is the responsibility of Northridge Primary School.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Jethro Jacobs, a Grade 7 learner at Northridge Primary School, said that he felt very grateful for this donation. He added that their talents could now improve and he feels that he will go further with his music. He said: “Maybe one day I will be a world-class musician.”

The School Principal, Mr John Robertson, said that the donation of the SA Navy had further inspired the learners’ passion for music. Mr Robertson added: “From a small choir, we have now become more interested and dedicated learners. This is a unique opportunity to develop many learners who prior to this initiative may not have had the chance to experience music at this level.”

During his speech, V Adm Mudimu said that through this project he wanted to develop children that are able to identify and exploit opportunities to make a positive difference in their country. V Adm Mudimu said: “As we hand over the instruments to the school, the SA Navy envisages a situation where many children will get new hope, joy, peace, and happiness; children that will build a formidable school band that can compete internationally, raising the flag of our nation high.”

The SA Navy saw fit to make a much needed donation of 22 musical instruments. The learners are now playing to their hearts’ desires with musical instruments like the wind and brass instruments, flutes, French horns, euphoniums, trumpets, clarinets, tenor saxophones, alto saxophones, trombones and tubas.

It also serves as a gesture by the Chief of the SA Navy to reaffirm his appreciation of community development.
Promoting Occupational Health and Safety

By S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole
Photo: Lt Sizakele Malope

An Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Awareness Week was held at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria over the period 22 to 26 April 2013. The aim was to promote OHS at 1 Military Hospital and in the SANDF, and to promote compliance with OHS legislation. The International Labour Organisation celebrated the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April 2013 with the theme: “Prevention of occupational diseases”.

The focus of the awareness campaign and conference was to provide the workers and management with insight into their important role and responsibilities as stipulated by the OHS Act, and also to give them hands-on knowledge of their roles, duties, functions, rights and legislated powers to manage OHS effectively and successfully.

OHS is concerned with the safety, health and welfare of working people. The goal of the conference was to foster a safe and healthy work environment. OHS is important for moral, legal and financial reasons. All organisations have a duty to ensure that employees and any other person on their premises remain safe at all times.

The moral reason for the campaign was to advise on how to protect the employees’ lives and health, and how to reduce injury and illness related costs, including medical care, sick leave and disability benefit costs. Participants were involved in many interactions in different fields, including occupational medicine, hygiene, public health, safety and occupational health psychology.

They were taught that OHS should aim at the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and social well-being of workers in all occupations, the prevention of hazards at work, the reduction of risks, and ensuring that the worker is in a safe occupational environment.

The awareness campaign was based on three objectives, namely the maintenance and promotion of workers’ health and working capacity; the improvement of the working environment in terms of safety and health; and the development of a health and safety culture at work with a view to promoting a positive social climate for smooth operation and enhanced productivity.

The OHS representatives were also made aware of their roles and responsibilities, which included evaluating the working environment, developing, endorsing and encouraging measures to help prevent injuries and illness, providing OHS information for employers, employees and the public, setting examinations and assessing the success of worker health programmes.

To make the required changes, it was essential for all members to be fully engaged in taking their responsibilities seriously. In promoting the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases the intention was to focus on emerging trends in the field of OHS and on the extent of work related injuries, diseases and fatalities, as prevention is more effective and less costly than treatment and rehabilitation.

ABOVE: Members who attended the Occupational Health and Safety Awareness campaign.
The Core Competence Development Training Centre presented a one-day Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme to 101 new interns appointed in the Department of Defence (DOD) at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 25 April 2013.

The objectives of the programme were:

- To provide the interns with the basic knowledge and understanding of the core business of the DOD/SANDF.
- To assist in the creation of employer and employee expectations.
- To initiate a developmental process and encourage productive input.
- To create a feeling of belonging, as well as acceptance.
- To promote efficient and effective use of resources.
- To help reduce anxiety and uncertainty.
- To create a positive image of the DOD/SANDF as a desirable employer.
- To encourage a high standard of professional ethics.

The programme also focussed on the following: Mission and vision, macro-structure, the four Services of the SANDF, the Chief of Joint Operations and Divisions and his core business and where they fit into the DOD structure, military rank, the dress code and corporate communication in the Department.

The programme was facilitated by Ms Madie Haynes, Assistant Director, Ms Hanlie van Zyl, Senior Training Officer, Ms Victoria Mamabolo, Training Officer, and Mr Mpho Rasehloka, Education, Training and Development (ETD) Performance Management.

In welcoming the newly appointed interns, Maj Gen Kenneth Mokoena, the Chief Director Human Resources Development, said that our country was faced with the major challenge of unemployment, especially among young graduates. He added that the internship programme was a mechanism to help address the skills shortage and unemployment by giving the youth skills and valuable work experience that expose them to specific occupations. He pointed out that the effectiveness of internship is also helping to improve the quality of the skills pool from which the DOD and other sectors can draw future employees. Maj Gen Mokoena said: “You are the generation that will take our country to the next level of prosperity.”

In conclusion, Maj Gen Mokoena thanked the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) for working together with the DOD in contributing to the strategic occupational needs of the DOD/SANDF, and in monitoring and supporting the programme.

In 2002 the Cabinet approved the Human Resource Development Strategy for the Public Service, which included an Internship Framework and a Scarce Skills Strategy. The framework seeks to establish an effective and efficient internship programme aimed at bridging the gap between academic study and competent performance in the workplace by offering structured internship opportunities to students and unemployed youth that will enable them to gain practical work experience over a maximum of 12 months.

Some of the interns had this to say after attending the programme:

Ms Rebecca Modiba (30), a BA Communication graduate, who is currently working at the Media Liaison Office as an assistant, said that the programme was valuable and she came to realise that the DOD was very broad-ranging. She said: “We gained an overview of the core business of the DOD, and of Services and Divisions within the SANDF. It has also assisted me to know what is expected of me so that I can fit into the culture and values of the DOD.”

Ms Keabetswe Kempe (24) who has a National Diploma in Public Relations and is currently an assistant at the DOD Information Centre said: “The workshop was an eye-opener. I have gained relevant information that has increased my knowledge and understanding of the DOD/SANDF. It has also assisted me to know what is expected of me so that I can fit into the culture and values of the DOD.”

Ms Tebogo Mampa (26) who has a N6 National Certificate in Public Relations and is currently working at SA Soldier as a journalist said: “My experience of the programme was that the DOD is diverse as it consists of various Services and Divisions. It is an independent department that deals with internal publics as well as external stakeholders. I found it informative to learn about the different ranks in the military and the services the SANDF/DOD provide for the country and its people.”

In 2002 the Cabinet approved the Human Resource Development Strategy for the Public Service, which included an Internship Framework and a Scarce Skills Strategy. The framework seeks to establish an effective and efficient internship programme aimed at bridging the gap between academic study and competent performance in the workplace by offering structured internship opportunities to students and unemployed youth that will enable them to gain practical work experience over a maximum of 12 months.

Some of the interns had this to say after attending the programme:

Ms Rebecca Modiba (30), a BA Communication graduate, who is currently working at the Media Liaison Office as an assistant, said that the programme was valuable and she came to realise that the DOD was very broad-ranging. She said: “We gained an overview of the core business of the DOD, and of Services and Divisions within the SANDF. It has also assisted me to know what is expected of me so that I can fit into the culture and values of the DOD.”

Ms Keabetswe Kempe (24) who has a National Diploma in Public Relations and is currently an assistant at the DOD Information Centre said: “The workshop was an eye-opener. I have gained relevant information that has increased my knowledge and understanding of the DOD/SANDF. It has also assisted me to know what is expected of me so that I can fit into the culture and values of the DOD.”

Ms Tebogo Mampa (26) who has a N6 National Certificate in Public Relations and is currently working at SA Soldier as a journalist said: “My experience of the programme was that the DOD is diverse as it consists of various Services and Divisions. It is an independent department that deals with internal publics as well as external stakeholders. I found it informative to learn about the different ranks in the military and the services the SANDF/DOD provide for the country and its people.”
Chief Directorate Transformation Management
Social Cohesion Programmes

By Ms Hessa Ely, Assistant Director Transformation Management Empowerment

The Chief Directorate Transformation Management (CDTM) has been mandated “to direct, orchestrate, monitor, evaluate and report on human rights and equity principles within the Department of Defence (DOD) and thereby contribute decisively towards mission readiness.”

Transformation in the DOD can be described as “the continuous improvement that would result in, among other things, the achievement of a cohesive, mission-ready force; a shared value system; the building of an efficient, just, caring and better performing organisation; as well as the creation of a disciplined, credible, legitimate and representative force” (Joint Defence Policy on Process and Procedures for Transformation Management, 2008).

Section Transformation Management Empowerment (TME) within CDTM, under the leadership of Col Raymond Africa, has been tasked to present programmes that will deepen members’ and employees’ understanding of human rights and equity issues through constructive engagement. These programmes include the Transformation Management Social Cohesion Campaign, Seminars and Trainer–of–Trainer (TOT) programmes.

The aim of the Social Cohesion Campaign is to raise members’ and employees’ awareness of CDTM and the concept of transformation as they apply within the DOD. During this session, the CDTM structure, mandate, vision, mission and purpose are presented to provide a better understanding of the place of CDTM within the bigger organisation, followed by a brief discussion of various laws, for example the Constitution (108 of 1996), Chapter 2 (Bill of Rights) Section 9, the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (No 4 of 2000), the Employment Equity Act (EEA No 55 of 1998), the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service 1995, and the White Paper on Defence, 1996, from which a number of key transformation concepts emerge. These concepts include equal opportunity (equity, equality) and fair treatment, discrimination, affirmative action, designated groups and diversity. Directorates within CDTM are Directorate Transformation Management Empowerment and Directorate Equity Strategic Direction. Brig Gen Kefihwe Mathibe is in command of Directorate Transformation Management Empowerment. Sections under her command are Education, Training and Development (ETD), Peace and Security, TME and Evaluations, Brig Gen Thandi Mohale is in command of Directorate Equity Strategic Direction.

Sections under her command are Youth and Support to the People of the RSA, Disability Equity, Gender Equity and TM Strategic Direction. The purpose, functions and programmes of these sections are presented, followed by the end states envisaged by CDTM. The audience is allowed to ask questions regarding the content of the presentation and transformation within the DOD. The Social Cohesion Campaigns are scheduled to be presented at units within the DOD across the country. The target groups are entire units, including military members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP), regardless of their respective ranks or salary levels.

The aim of the three-day seminar is to sensitise participants to all transformation and equity policies, plans and programmes. The first objective of this seminar is to create a broad understanding of specific subjects relating to transformation management and equity. The second objective is to create an environment in which participants can, through practical exercises and discussions, explore the impact of their stereotypes, perceptions, attitudes and behaviour on mission readiness, thus establishing and promoting a cohesive working environment. The topics that are covered include Legislative Imperatives, Diversity and Socialisation, Shared Values, Discrimination, Disability Equity, Racism, Sexism, Fraternisation, Sexual Harassment and Affirmative Action. Focus groups are smaller, approximately 25 to 30 members or employees per seminar and are scheduled per rank and salary level groups, eg Sergeants to Warrant Officers (PSAP equivalent salary levels 7 to 9).

The TOT is new, and two programmes were originally presented in 2012. The first TOT programme was presented at the SA Army Gymnasium from 1 to 26 October 2012 and the second at the SA Army Combat Training Centre at Lohathla from 19 November to 7 December 2012. The target groups are instructors within the DOD and the aim is to deepen their understanding of transformation imperatives. This programme lasts four weeks and is presented at training institutions within the DOD. The programme has no accreditation status. However, it is CDTM’s wish that the programme should be accredited in future.

A total of 6 895 members and employees within the DOD attended a Transformation Management Programme in 2012, where they were exposed to the concept of transformation. Section TME is also presenting Transformation Management Awareness Seminars at the request of Services, Divisions and Units.

The following Transformation Advisers can be contacted: Col Raymond Africa on 012 355 5458, Lt Col Patricia Mokgagane on 012 355 5035, Lt Col Dale de Zeeuw on 012 355 5237 and Ms Hessa Ely on 012 355 5927. Alternatively a fax can be sent to 012 355 5469.
An Engineering student learns the ropes at TS WOLTEMADE

Article and photos by Lt Cdr Glenn Von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves

Midshipman Masego Mosupye, a third-year Chemical Engineering student and a Subwarden from Woolsack residence at the University of Cape Town (UCT), joined the Sea Cadets at TS Woltemade as an Instructor early in 2012 while waiting to be considered for the University Reserve Training Project (URTP).

The URTP aim is to recruit and train students with the critical skills required by the SA Navy and to afford them an opportunity of joining the Reserves of the SA Navy as Officers. Similar projects have been successfully implemented by the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Medical Health Service.

Initially she visited TS Woltemade with a group of student leaders from UCT residences as part of practical leadership team building. She was impressed with the values, commitment and discipline which the Officers and Instructors imparted to the young Sea Cadets and especially the determination and passion showed by the young men and women.

In her own words Midshipman Mosupye describes her experience at TS Woltemade: “There are no ordinary people” - C.S. Lewis. This is what I got to learn in my six months as a Cadet Instructor at TS Woltemade. I attested in April this year and every Saturday morning I would go to Lakeside expecting to be amazed, and every week the Sea Cadets did just that, they amazed me. What caught my attention the most was the determination that these young people had. Whenever I was allocated to a class I would first ask them why they were there and the reply was mostly: ‘I would like to join the Maritime Industry/Navy someday, so I am here to learn about working in such an environment’. The one response that got me thinking though was: ‘I want to become a better person’. This was from a learner in Grade 10, and when I asked him to elaborate he just blew me away with the things he said. This then got me thinking. If he was here to better himself, then who am I to come and waste his time here every Saturday? I then set out to acquire more knowledge about what was done each week and made it my mission to conduct as many classes as I possibly could in order to help this Sea Cadet and more like him to achieve their goals.

“The other characteristics that the Cadets have that made me comfortable in my time there were the discipline and willingness to carry out their duties without having to be told. They knew what needed to be done, when it had to be done and who was responsible for it. This made me so happy because I love working with people who are efficient and always on the ball. None of the Sea Cadets were lazy; there would be troublesome ones once in a while, but they also managed to find their way in a very short time. I learnt a lot from them and would like to think that they learnt something from me as well.

“Being a third year UCT Chemical Engineering Student and committed to being at TS Woltemade every weekend was a little challenging at times, but being there gave me the motivation to study when I got back to Woolsack residence because I had a chance to interact with the Sea Cadets and shared my knowledge with them whilst also studying the various manuals. We did theoretical and practical activities such as sailing, pulling (rowing) and rope work, personal hygiene, ranking systems, etc. I myself also learnt how it felt
to function in a maritime/naval environment and had so much fun while learning.

“I started off as a staff instructor for the first three months, during which time I got to help out in teaching a class of New Entry Sea Cadets. The group passed out in July (I was so proud to see them). I was then promoted to a Midshipman (Candidate Officer) in the Sea Cadet Corps and taught my own class. It was a wonderful experience and I will cherish it forever! I cannot wait for next year to continue my journey with the Sea Cadets and staff at TS Woltemade.

“The support provided by the Commanding Officer, Officers and Instructors at TS Woltemade was excellent as they are all volunteers and committed individuals who also provide a service to the community. My interaction with them was positive and assisted me in adjusting and my experience with them was most enjoyable.

“I want to close by quoting C.S. Lewis again: ‘There are no ordinary people’ and can confirm that it is true as I have not met a single ordinary person at TS Woltemade. They are all extraordinary people and I am very grateful to have met them all.

“I hope that I will be able to convince other students at UCT to volunteer their skills and share with the Sea Cadets at TS Woltemade so that they can learn while sharing their experience. Maths and Science students would also be able to assist with developing these skills which are required in the maritime/naval environment.”

As maths and science are skills critical to the Maritime Industry and SA Navy would it not be appropriate to recruit some university students as Officers and Instructors to assist in tutoring and sharpening these skills? Should this be adopted as a strategy it will ensure that the Maritime Industry and the SA Navy are provided with a source of skilled and trained leaders on a sustainable basis.

The SA Navy, UCT and Woolsack residence can be proud of Midshipman Mosupye for seeing and seizing the opportunity to make a positive contribution to society and the community. Contributing positively towards a balanced and positive future, especially regarding youth development and in this case towards a career at sea, is a value which residence life at the UCT fosters.

Midshipman Mosupye’s positive involvement has also assisted TS Woltemade in achieving the diversity which is required for a leader group of Officers and Instructors in attracting, growing and developing a unit to reflect the modern South African society and its values.

Seizing the opportunity and “learning the ropes” has meant that she has not wasted time in preparing herself for the next URTP while gaining confidence and making a positive contribution.

ABOVE: Many smiles at the Change of Command Parade at TS Woltemade, fltr: Ensign Abe Metrz, Ensign Stuart MacNaughton, Midshipman Nicolene Davids, Midshipman Masego Mosupye, and Lt Lucile Jacobs.
First qualified military “Green Scorpion”

By Capt (SAN) Adri Liebenberg, A/SSO Military Integrated Environmental Management: Strategy Management and Planning, Logistics Division

Lt Col Marius Laubscher from the Regional Works Unit Western Cape became the first qualified Environmental Management Inspector, otherwise known as a “Green Scorpion” in the DOD. This was after he successfully completed the Environmental Management Inspector (EMI) Course presented by Unisa under contract to the Department of Environmental Affairs. During the course he achieved three distinctions in the four modules that had to be completed.

The course consisted out of the following modules:

- The legal context for environmental compliance and enforcement (Compulsory)
- Becoming an Environmental Management Inspector (Compulsory)
- A choice between:
  - Environmental management compliance inspection and investigation - Industry
  - Environmental management compliance inspection and investigation – Biodiversity
- Environmental management enforcement and prosecution – Practical applications (Compulsory)

An EMI’s function is to ensure compliance monitoring and enforcement within his or her mandate. The implication for the DOD in having EMIs in their midst is that individuals can be prosecuted for actions that are in contravention of national environmental legislation. This, however, does not mean that in the process of fulfilling the functions of an EMI Compliance Notices will be issued left, right and centre for non-compliance. Normal environmental audits will be carried out as part and parcel of an Environmental Management Practitioner’s tasks, followed up by an audit report in which cases of non-compliance will be highlighted. However, in the event that Officers Commanding, on whose shoulders the responsibility rests or any other member blatantly refusing to comply with legislation, Compliance Notices can be issued in terms of the National Environmental Management Act No 107 of 1998. Failure to comply with a Compliance Notice can result in an individual being convicted of an offence and being liable to a fine of up to five million rands or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or to both the fine and imprisonment.

There is a ranking system for EMIs, which entails their being designated by the Minister of Environmental Affairs to fulfil certain functions, a Grade 5 EMI being the lowest and a Grade 1 EMI being the highest designation. At this stage Lt Col Laubscher is in the process of receiving his designation as a “Green Scorpion” but this, however, does not mean that individuals within the DOD can carry on with non-compliant activities. In the interim, the services of an external designated EMI can be obtained who can accompany Lt Col Laubscher on an investigation, after which legal action can be taken against a specific individual. In the event that an Officer Commanding decides not to allow access to a designated EMI, he will be in contravention of legislation and legal action can be instituted against such an Officer Commanding. On conviction he will be liable to a fine or to imprisonment, depending on the severity of the case.

There are numerous reasons why Lt Col Laubscher decided to seize this opportunity. The nature of the activities of the DOD is inherently destructive to the environment and therefore the DOD must ensure that we are compliant with legislation or there should at least be mitigation measures in place to minimise our impact. Furthermore, the DOD manages large tracts of land which are frequently situated in sensitive areas. Since we are accountable to the public at large on the way we manage our areas of responsibility for current and future generations, it is incumbent upon us that we have to manage our land in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. Lastly, there are still personnel in the DOD under the impression that the DOD is above the law and that they can therefore do as they please and not be liable for our actions. However, based on the Constitution, this is no longer true.

The ultimate goal will be for us members of the DOD to strive towards voluntary compliance without the necessity of “Green Scorpions” or the public scrutinising our activities to ensure that environmental compliance is achieved.
Protecting Our Borders.
Regional Works Unit KZN under new command

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

On 26 April 2013 members of Regional Works Unit KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) witnessed a change in command at their unit. Col Motebang Martin Potlaki handed over command of the Unit to Capt (SAN) Solomon Mashigo.

Addressing the members, Col Potlaki said: “The amalgamation of the Regional Facilities Interface Management (RFIM) Durban and the Service Corps KZN saw the birth of the Regional Works Unit KZN on 1 April 2011. I was appointed as the Acting Officer Commanding of this great unit at its inception.

“We did manage to pull it off and work together for the betterment and improvement of the Regional Works Unit KZN. The Unit is now going from strength to strength. Unit members have long since found their feet and the unit is running well. At present we have 32 qualified artisans, 11 qualified supervisors and 54 students who are still studying in their various fields.

“I wish to thank all the members of the Regional Works Unit KZN for working together to make this unit the success it is today. Yes, it was a huge learning experience, but your teamwork was fruitful and has been noticed in the corridors of the Defence Works Formation. I should like to thank the Chief Logistic for entrusting me with the task to establish the Regional Works Unit KZN and to the Defence Works Formation, thank you for your outstanding support.

“Lastly, I wish to thank all members of the Regional Works Unit KZN for their support, and humbly request that you will all give your complete co-operation to the new Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Mashigo.”

New Officer Commanding

Capt (SAN) Solomon Mashigo was born on 3 January 1968 in a little village in Limpopo, called Gareagopola. He completed his matric at Phatametsane High School in 1989.

He joined the ANC’s military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, in 1989. When he integrated into the SANDF, he joined the SA Navy and was posted to Simon’s Town in 1994. As a junior rating, he served on board the SAS DRAKENSBERG as a radio operator.

Capt (SAN) Mashigo was commissioned as an officer in 2000 and served as a Logistic Officer on board the SAS OUTENIQUA. In 2004 he was appointed as Fixed Asset Officer. He was promoted to Commander in 2006 and appointed as Facility Manager at Naval Base Simon’s Town. In 2009 he was transferred to the Naval Headquarters in Pretoria as the Senior Officer (SO) Foreign Relations and in 2012 as SO Maritime Co-ordinator.

Capt (SAN) Mashigo has completed all the required military courses, as well as the Senior Management Programme and the Joint Command and Staff Programme and has obtained a Senior Programme Project Manager Certificate. He is currently studying International Relations and Diplomacy at Unisa.
Applications for the 2014 SA Army Foundation and Maxi Credit Solutions “Adopt a Student” Merit Bursaries closes on 31 July 2013

IMPORTANT: The Bursary Programme does NOT provide financial study aid to all applicants. A maximum of 3 applicants per year will be awarded a bursary based on merit, performance and successfully meeting all the qualifying criteria.

Do you qualify to apply for a bursary on behalf of your child?

- Are you a contributing member to the SA Army Foundation for more than 24 consecutive months?
- Are you currently and actively in the employ of the SANDF?
- Is your combined gross household income less than R15 000 per month?
- Does your child want to study on a fulltime basis?
- Is your child in Grade 12 or First Year at University at the time of applying? Remember, only learners up to the age of 20 can apply.
- Does your child meet the qualifying criteria of their selected course at the Tertiary Institution of their choice?
- Can you provide us with a full breakdown of the costs involved in the Further Studies of your child’s choice?
- Have you checked that you have all the required supporting documents to include with your application?

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.

Further information and application forms are ONLY available at any of the SA Army Foundation’s nationwide offices. Terms and conditions apply.

Members can enquire about the Bursary Programme in the following ways:

Visit your nearest Army Foundation office
Call us on 012 675 9400
Email us on info@armyfoundation.co.za
The SA Naval Museum was established at its current location in Simon’s Town on 1 April 1993.

The origins of the SA Naval Museum date back to 1966 when a naval historical collection was displayed at the Castle Military and Maritime Museum in Cape Town. In the mid 1970’s this collection was transferred to the Martello Tower in Simon’s Town and thereafter to Fort Wynyard in Cape Town where it was enlarged to include a much wider display of naval artifacts.

With the decentralisation of museums of the former Director Military Museums to the Services in June 1987, the Martello Tower was transferred to the functional control of the SA Navy, while Fort Wynyard was transferred to Western Province Command (SA Army).

Investigations to establish a dedicated museum for the SA Navy in Simon’s Town were launched during 1988 and the project, dubbed Project OUBOS, was registered at Navy Headquarters. It was eventually decided that the most appropriate location for the new museum would be the former Royal Navy Mast House that dates back to 1815 and the adjacent Dutch Store House that dates back to 1743. Both buildings are located in the historic West Yard of Naval Base Simon’s Town.

The new SA Naval Museum was opened by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Robert Simpson-Anderson, on 1 April 1993. The first phase of the new display comprised exhibitions...
of the historic clock tower and part of the sail loft, while the second phase of the development included the utilisation of two display areas at ground level of the historic Mast House depicting the history and functioning of the Submarine, Divers and Weapons branch.

Under the skillful guidance of the curator, Cdr Mac Bisset, a huge amount of work was done to prepare the building and displays. The SA Navy itself assisted with much of the work to transform the building from store to museum. Units of the SA Navy took ownership of the new museum and contributed greatly by donating numerous items and mounting the new displays themselves.

SAS ASSEGAAI Submarine Museum

In November 2003 the SA Navy decommissioned the last of its three Daphne Class submarines, the SAS ASSEGAAI (formerly the SAS JOHANNA VAN DER MERWE), in preparation for the introduction of the new Type 209 submarines. A submission was made to the Chief of the SA Navy and the Naval Board to preserve the SAS ASSEGAAI as an exhibit at the SA Naval Museum in Simon’s Town.

Approval was duly given and in December 2010 the submarine (still in the water) was opened to the public on a trial basis. Africa’s first submarine museum was officially opened in Simon’s Town on 1 March 2011 by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu.

The project managing team consists almost entirely of retired naval personnel and volunteers. They provide guided tours of the submarine on a daily basis. The main purpose of the project is to preserve the submarine as a museum and to promote technology and science among the youth. The official opening marked the first step in the Assegai’s eventual placement ashore at the SA Naval Museum.

Transformation display

The SA Navy has been in the forefront of transformation and integration since the early 1970’s. The successful absorption of previously excluded groups, such as the SA Coloured Corps, Indian Training Corps and even women (SWANS) into naval service was significant in its time.

The success of the 1994 integration training programme at SAS SALDANHA served as an example for the rest of the SANDF and would eventually lead to the development of the successful present-day Military Skills Development System (MSDS) being followed at Saldanha by new recruits.

This new display is currently under construction and it is anticipated that it will be open to the public by mid 2013.

Curators of the SA Naval Museum

Cdr Andrew Dutton (2005 – 2008)
Cdr Cara Pratten (2008 – 2010)
Lt Cdr Leon Steyn (2011 –

ABOVE: SAS ASSEGAAI In November 2003 the SA Navy decommissioned the last of its three Daphne Class submarines, the SAS ASSEGAAI (formerly the SAS JOHANNA VAN DER MERWE), in preparation for the introduction of the new Type 209 submarines.
 Burns are a leading cause of death and injury to young children in South Africa. It has been estimated that one fifth of all deaths in children under the age of one year is as a result of burns. According to experts, the numbers of cases among children could be reduced if parents had a greater awareness of burns and what steps they could take to protect their youngsters from such injuries.

May 2013 is Burns Month and it is held every year to make people aware of the important challenge that burns pose in South Africa and to look at how these injuries can be prevented.

As we head towards our winter season once more we should keep in mind that this is a time when more South Africans are burnt, according to the experts. This is because there are more accidents involving fire and electricity as people try to stay warm.

Burns may be caused in a number of different ways, including from fire, gas explosions, electricity and chemicals. Hot substances like boiling water are especially dangerous for children. Every year thousands of South Africans are burnt by fires that are caused in various ways, for example by knocked over paraffin lamps and candles, cooking accidents (such as fat catching fire), heaters that have been left on unattended and poorly or incorrectly wired electric cables.

Serious burns are very painful and can cause disfiguring injuries. People who have been seriously burnt, particularly children, are usually also traumatised. Many burn victims require months in hospital to assist them in their recovery.

The most seriously burnt victims can be saved today if they are treated properly and quickly at a specialised medical burns unit. For this reason it is important to get anyone who has suffered a severe burn to a hospital as soon as possible. Each case is different as people are burnt in different areas of their bodies and some burns are more serious than others.

The most seriously burnt victims can be saved today if they are treated properly and quickly at a specialised medical burns unit. For this reason it is important to get anyone who has suffered a severe burn to a hospital as soon as possible. Each case is different as people are burnt in different areas of their bodies and some burns are more serious than others.

Do not leave young children unsupervised around burning candles.

Protecting your children

To protect their children parents should make sure they put all hazardous chemicals, lighters and matches out of reach of their little ones. They should never leave youngsters unsupervised around heaters, candles, paraffin lamps, open fires or braais. Avoid leaving your bar and gas heaters on when going to sleep as they may set fire to bedding or other inflammable materials.

One of the most common ways children get seriously burnt is when they scald themselves with hot liquids. In some cases youngsters pull hot pots of food or water or a hot beverage on to themselves. Parents can take precautions against this. For example, they can keep their children out of the kitchen and as far as possible cook using the back plates of their stove, which cannot be reached by children. One should also take care not to drink hot cups of tea and coffee when a child is present and also always keep these items out of the reach of children.

The emergency services in this country have to attend to many children who have been burnt after falling into hot baths. It is advisable that parents rather run the cold water into a bath before the hot to ensure the safety of their little ones.

Some homes have not been properly wired by an electrician and have dangerous electrical cabling lying around, which can cause fires and electrocute children. One should get an electrician to wire one’s home properly and not to do major electrical work oneself.

Childsafe, a campaign of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, has a number of additional tips to help parents keep their families safe:

Teach children about the dangers of fire and heat and not to play with matches or lighters. They should understand that they should stay away from anything that can burn, including fires and candles.

Keep matches, candles, lighters and paraffin lamps away from children.

Never leave a child unattended in a room with an open fire or burning candle or lamp.

A child may pull a tablecloth off a table along with a hot pot of food. Avoid using tablecloths and rather use table mats.

Avoid placing hot liquids and food near the edge of the table or counter top. Always make sure that they are in the middle of the table and out of reach. Never pass hot food or beverages over a child.

Never try to put out a fire in a saucepan on a stove with water as this may cause the fire to flare up and spray hot fat around the room. To get the fire under control rather switch off the stove and cover the saucepan with a lid, plate or wet cloth. Avoid using leaking or broken gas or paraffin stoves. Avoid smoking in bed as bedding can catch fire.

Avoid hanging clothes over a heater or too close to a fire to dry as they may catch fire.

Avoid pouring inflammable liquids onto a fire, especially when there are children about.

Take care not to overload your electrical power points/plugs as this could cause a fire.

*References:

Nurses - the heartbeat of healthcare

By Martina Nicholson
Associates News Desk
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

May 2013 - International Nurses Day is celebrated every year around the world on her birthday (12 May) and the Nightingale Pledge is taken by nurses today.\n
"Nursing services are the heartbeat of primary healthcare. Without them hospitals would cease to function, vaccinations would not be given and the inroads made in increasing South Africa's life expectancy from 56 years in 2009 to 60 in 2011 might not have happened thanks to the role nurses played in expanding HIV programmes."

It is worth remembering the contribution nurses make to ensuring a healthy population. On 12 May 2013 - International Nurses Day - we pay tribute to nurses throughout South Africa for their commitment and hard work in taking care of people.

When did nursing start?

According to Travel Nurses Now, the first nurses where not women dressed in scrubs with a stethoscope around their necks, but rather men. The first nursing school was established in India in about 250 BC, strictly for men. This, however, changed in the 1800s when nursing was developed in an organised fashion by Florence Nightingale. In 1860 she laid the foundations of professional nursing when she set up her nursing school at St Thomas’ Hospital in London – the first secular nursing school in the world. In her honour International Nurses Day is celebrated every year around the world on her birthday (12 May) and the Nightingale Pledge is still taken by nurses today.

What nurses do?

There are several types of nurses, ranging from auxiliary to registered nurses.

- Auxiliary nurses work in hospitals or in a community setting under the guidance of a qualified healthcare professional. Their role varies, depending on where they are employed. Their duties include washing and dressing patients, feeding patients, helping people to mobilise, making beds, assisting patients with toileting and their overall comfort, monitoring patients’ conditions by taking their temperature, pulse, respiration and weight.

According to NursingWorld, registered nurses practise in all healthcare settings, from hospitals to nursing homes, where they:

- Conduct physical exams and health histories.
- Provide health promotion, counselling and education.
- Administer medication, wound care, and numerous other personalised interventions.
- Interpret patient information and make critical decisions about needed actions.
- Coordinated care, in collaboration with a wide array of healthcare professionals.
- Direct and supervise care delivered by the healthcare personnel, such as auxiliary nurses.
- Conduct research in support of improved practice and patient outcomes.

NursingWorld also mentions the following types of nurses:

- Advanced practice nurses is an umbrella term for registered nurses who have at least a Master’s education and clinical practice requirements beyond the basic nursing education and licensing required of all registered nurses and who provide at least some level of direct care for patients. Under this umbrella there are several principal types of advanced practice nurses, says NursingWorld, including:
  - Nurse practitioners working in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals or private offices. Nurse practitioners provide a wide range of primary and preventive health care services, prescribe medication, diagnose and treat common minor illnesses and injuries.
  - Certified nurse-midwives provide well-woman gynaecological and low–risk obstetrical care in hospitals, birth centres and homes.
  - Clinical nurse specialists working in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, private offices, and community-based settings where they handle a wide range of physical and mental health problems. They also work in consultation, research, education and administration.
  - Certified registered nurse anaesthetists - the oldest of the advanced nursing specialties.

*References
Travel Nurses Now http://www.travelnursesnow.com/HistoryOfNursing.aspx
NursingWorld http://www.nursingworld.org/EspeciallyForYou/What-is-Nursing/Tools-You-Need/RNvsAPNs.htm
Defence Foreign Relations (DFR) initiated the first part of its biannual tour by introducing members of the Military Attaché Adviser Corps (MAAC) to key military installations.

The Eastern Cape was chosen as the area of interest where five days were spent, from 22 to 26 April 2013, to promote foreign relations between the MAAC community and the Department of Defence.

After their arrival they attended an evening function, and the Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay, Mr Benson Fihla, was invited to share a word with the MAAC members. He said: “Military attachés are ambassadors who are doing a service for their countries by establishing better relations with various defence forces around the world.” He mentioned that South Africa had managed to establish diplomatic relations with other countries, particularly in Africa and had emerged as one of the strongest economies on the continent, adding that the city appreciated the visitors pouring into Port Elizabeth for site-seeing or business.

The Dean of the MAAC tour and Head of its Executive Committee, Col Ibrahim Omari from Kenya, said that the visit was undertaken to promote mutual understanding between the SANDF and the military attachés to South Africa. He thanked the Mayor’s office for granting the freedom of the city and allowing the military attachés to explore and interact with people in the province.

Col Omari said sharing experiences and knowledge was also part of their tour. He added that the core business of the MAAC was to observe and learn from the SANDF.

DFR is primarily responsible for the promotion of foreign relations with the representatives of the MAAC and the community of the Department of Defence. The responsibility to address international defence relations issues on behalf of the SANDF is vested in the DFR, which is also responsible for the defence diplomacy function in the DOD.

The tour started at Joint Tactical HQ Eastern Cape where the MAAC members where briefed on operations in that area. Lt Col Hans Arnoldus, Second in Command of the unit, said they planned, directed and monitored employment of soldiers in their area of responsibility.

He said that they covered the border of Lesotho and the provincial borders, including those of KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape, the Free State and the Northern Cape. Their focus was on stock theft and the port of entry from the Stella Bridge. Lt Col Arnoldus said their deployment in the Drakensberg was a challenge due to lack of mobility and accessibility.

The MAAC members also had an opportunity to visit the reserve unit in Port Elizabeth to learn about their history and current operations. They also visited Prince Alfred’s Guard and the First City Regiment. 6 SA Infantry Battalion in Grahamstown was also on the itinerary, after which a short visit was paid to monuments of the Frontier Wars.
Primary school learners visit the military

By Ms Tebogo Mampa, Intern SA Soldier
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

learners from Somcuba Primary School, a disadvantaged school in the rural area near Nelspruit, made a two-day educational tour of military installations in and around Pretoria on 22 and 23 April 2013.

It was the first time that the Chief of the SANDF hosted a visit for primary school learners, as these visits have previously involved only high school learners.

The learners’ first pit stop was at 1 Military Hospital in Thaba Tshwane where they were warmly welcomed. Here they received an orientation tour of the hospital, including the dental section and maternity ward. Thereafter the learners and educators were taken to Uitsig Primary School in Centurion where they spent the night. The next day the learners visited the SA Air Force Museum at Air Force Base Swartkop to learn more about the instruments of aircraft, guns and uniforms that were used in the past. The learners were excited and inquisitive and had many questions to ask about the military.

Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, Director Defence Corporate Communication, came to bid the learners and educators farewell on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, before they returned back home.

ABOVE: Cpl Yolokasi Myosi educating the curious learners of Somcuba Primary School about the types of aircraft that were used in the SA Air Force in the past.

Gymnasium at SA Army HQ open for action

By Ms Tebogo Mampa, Intern SA Soldier
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The new gymnasium at SA Army Headquarters in Pretoria was officially opened by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, on 7 May 2013. It has been closed for almost a year while it was being renovated.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “We are thankful for the improvement and renovations to this gymnasium, which we have been waiting for. It shows that we are committed to our Army being ready and fit. We will also make sure that it is taken care of because a lot of money was invested in this project.”

A bio-kinetic at the gymnasium at SA Army Headquarters, Maj Salomé Lambrechts, said: “I was working here when the gymnasium was being renovated and was closed to members, so today is indeed a happy day for me and other members as the waiting is about to came to an end. The gymnasium is open to members of SA Army Headquarters who want to use it. The aim of this gymnasium is to try and maintain the fitness of all the military members.” Fitness is at the heart of every soldier; a soldier participating in sport is healthy and fit enough to perform his or her duties diligently, which enhances the high standard of discipline and maintains military professionalism.

The gymnasium has a fitness trainer who works together with physiotherapists and doctors. It also deals with medical cases, rehabilitation of referrals and also works hand in hand with the sickbays. It has a cardio section which offers aerobic classes. It also has three changing rooms, one for the VIPs (eg Generals), one for men and another for ladies. Another feature is the sauna, or as others calls it, the “steam room” were people relax after a long day and after exercising. It helps to detox and relax the body. The gymnasium has cameras operating 24/7 for security purposes.

ABOVE: Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, the Chief of the SA Army, unveiling the plaque during the official opening of the gymnasium at the SA Army Headquarters.
SANDF presents the 2013 Jackie Mekler race

By Mr Richard Hammil, Assistant Treasurer Pretoria Military Marathon Club

The Pretoria Military Marathon Club is proud to announce that the 2013 Jackie Mekler race was presented at the Pretoria Military Sports Club (PMSC) in Thaba Tshwane on 4 May 2013. The 25km and 10km races started at 06:00 and were followed at 06:15 by the 5km fun run.

It is named after the Comrades Marathon icon, Mr Jackie Mekler, one of only five people to have won the Comrades Marathon on five occasions and the first to complete it under six hours. Mr Mekler has won 12 Comrades medals (10 gold, a silver and a bronze) and holds the permanent number 9. He was also the first runner to break the six hour barrier on the up run. Mr Mekler also set world track records at 30, 40 and 50 miles and finished second in the 1954 Empire Games marathon. He turned 80 last year, but is still extremely active and usually presents the prizes to the winners. Unfortunately he had other commitments this year and was thus unable to be present on this occasion.

The race was first presented by the Pretoria Marathon Club in 1980. In 1986 the Pretoria Military Marathon Club (PMMC) took over the event and the venue was moved to PMSC in Thaba Tshwane.

The race has increased in popularity over the years, attracting some of the top ultra-distance athletes in South Africa. Sponsored by Konica Minolta South Africa, the company is proud to be associated with this prestigious race for the eighth consecutive year.

A total of 2,500 runners participated in this year’s races and, judging from the positive report back, it was a resounding success. The 25km race was won by Mr Lucky Mohale from Maxed Elite Club in a time of 01:18 min and the winner in the women’s section was Ms Muchaneta Gwata from the same club in a time of 01:37 min. The 10km race was won by Mr Abraham Yator from the Nedbank Club in a time of 03:59 min and the women’s winner was Ms Ndofhiwa Mandiwana, also from the Nedbank Club, in a time of 38:01 min.

The PMMC has committed itself to social responsibility and to this end a decision was taken to make a donation to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) from the proceeds of the race. In the presence of Chaplain Jan Esau, the Chairperson of the PMMC, a cheque of R5,000 was presented at the prize-giving ceremony by Brig Gen Nico du Preez, the Chairperson of the Pretoria Military Sports Club, handing over a donation from the Pretoria Military Marathon Club to Ms Puleng Mosholi of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) from proceeds from the race in support of efforts to save the rhino.

ABOVE: Brig Gen Nico du Preez, the Chairperson of the Pretoria Military Sports Club, handing over a donation from the Pretoria Military Marathon Club to Ms Puleng Mosholi of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) from proceeds from the race in support of efforts to save the rhino.
2013 Soweto Tennis Open

By Capt Morne Gouws, Acting Sports Officer at Army Support Base Eastern Cape

The 2013 Soweto Tennis Open was hosted at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Stadium in Soweto from 27 April to 11 May 2013. The Men’s Tournament was conducted under the auspices of the Association for Tennis Professionals (ATP) for men from 27 April to 4 May 2013 while the Ladies’ Tournament, accredited by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), was held from 4 May to 11 May 2013.

The players in both events fall under the top 500 players in the world and were well represented internationally.

The SANDF was represented by Capt Morne Gouws from Army Support Base Eastern Cape. He was appointed as a Line Umpire by Tennis South Africa (TSA) for both tournaments. This was part of his training to become a TSA Referee in the future.

Capt Gouws said: “It was an unbelievable experience working with TSA officials and the international officials appointed by the ATP and ITF. Not only did I learn a lot, but I also made some great friends.

“It was hard work trying to perform well during some long gruelling matches where tempers sometimes got the better of players. The reward of being appointed as a line official during all the semi-finals and finals made it worth while though. I tried to show these guys that SANDF soldiers can do a job better than any civilian.

“Mr Adrian Wilson, the Chief of Umpires for the tournaments, was also the Assistant Referee at Wimbledon last year, while Mr Tom Sweeny umpired one semi-final of the 2013 Australian Open Ladies Doubles event. Being complimented by these big fish makes you feel good and motivated me to develop even further. Who knows, one of the major tournaments might be waiting.”

Capt Gouws, the Acting Sports Officer at Army Support Base Eastern Cape, promoted the image of the SANDF with his contribution at the 2013 Soweto Tennis Open.

Capt Gouws added: “Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, SANDF Tennis and TSA are creating many opportunities for me to develop. We recently presented a Tennis Officials Course in Port Elizabeth, attended by 12 SANDF members. The Technical Manager of TSA, Mr Iain Smith, was directly involved in this course. There is a good relationship between SANDF Tennis and TSA.”
Forgiveness (Matthew 6:12)

By Col (Rev) Masello Mothopeng, SSO Religious Communication and Liaison

In this Scripture, Jesus was teaching during the Sermon on the Mount. The gospel of Matthew states that Jesus started to teach his disciples about prayer. Luke says the disciples requested Him to teach them how to pray. John has a similar request.

The prayer that Jesus taught His disciples came to be known as the Lord’s Prayer. Others refer to it as the Greatest Prayer. There are a number of petitions and Matthew concludes with a doxology. When we look at the fifth petition, we see that Jesus taught about forgiveness. Because of their human nature He knew that the disciples were resentful and often had thoughts of revenge. Thus this petition was preparing them for the future and the knowledge that one must forgive unconditionally.

It is important to note that the forgiveness addressed in this petition is not conditional, but pure and honest forgiveness from the heart. Jesus knew that God had a divine plan of forgiveness for mankind. Thus He was preparing them in that regard, something which is still very important for us today.

We are living in a broken world with wounds of unforgivingness and resentment. These wounds become septic if we do not forgive our debtors. Some vowed that they would never forgive their debtors.

But I want you to note the following points:

- Forgiveness means freedom and being at peace with your inner being and with others.
- When you forgive you are spared from the corrosion and destruction of bitterness.
- “Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a permanent attitude.” - Martin Luther King
- “The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attitude of the strong.” - Mahatma Gandhi
- Forgiveness leads to greater spiritual and psychological well-being.

Therefore we need to understand the power of forgiveness and its importance in our lives. When you forgive you are also able to reconcile, which is the key to building healthy societies. Forgiveness also assists in building better and harmonious working relationships, which will result in better productivity than where colleagues are resentful of one another and therefore not pursuing the same goal.

Finally, if we believe that Jesus is our Lord, then forgiveness will be in the centre of our lives. We should be able to live the forgiveness He taught, knowing its importance, irrespective of the debt owed to us.
Defining Africa’s future armed forces readiness plan

Leading industry speakers include:

- Lt Gen Andrew Gutti, Force Commander, African Union Mission in Somalia
- Maj Gen Salum Mustafa Kijuu, Commander of Land Forces, Tanzanian Peoples’ Defence Force
- Brig Gen Joseph Kakoto, Chief of Staff Logistics, Namibian Defence Force
- General Lúcio Gonçalves Amaral, Commander of Land Forces, Angolan Armed Forces
- Helmoed Heitman, Independent Defence Consultant

Serving military attend for free!

Land Forces Africa would like to invite all interested serving African military to attend the conference and exhibition from 15 – 18 July. All complimentary passes include access to the pre-conference workshop on military communications, the 2 day conference, as well as the demonstration day. There are only 100 complimentary seats available and you can register online at www.landforcesafrica.com

Alternatively, contact Taryn van Zanten on +27 12 997 2552

Visit the exhibition

View, operate and test defence equipment by attending the exhibition absolutely free.

Pre-register online for exhibition attendance! www.landforcesafrica.com

16 – 17 July 2013
Pre-conference workshop: 15 July 2013
Demonstration day: 18 July 2013
CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria
KZN MILITARY TATTOO

9 - 13 JULY

www.kznmilitarytattoo.org.za

Natal Mounted Rifles

Booking @ Computicket