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FRONT COVER: “Save our Rhino” Project. Fltr: Maj Mariska Vogel, Environmental Officer Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof, F Sgt Coert Theron, Environmental Assistant AFB Waterkloof, and Sgt Godfrey Modirwa, Procurement Non-Commissioned Officer AFB Waterkloof, with the decoupage rhino “Richie”. Read all about “Save our Rhino” Project on pages 22 and 23. (Photo: F Sgt Colin Kapp)
This month we focus on preserving Mother Earth and our heritage as the two go hand in hand. When we care for Mother Earth not only are we protecting our fauna and flora, but also our heritage, which will be conserved for our children’s children …

Our front cover story concentrates on saving our rhinos. Air Force Base Waterkloof Environmental Services Section recently launched the “Save our Rhino” Project to contribute to the fight against rhino poaching. Read on pages 22 and 23 how innovative and create our members have been on this very sensitive issue of preserving our rhinos.

Let each of us play our part in protecting our rhinos from extinction. We do not want to see them only in pictures tomorrow …

Another must-read is the recently held annual Department of Defence Environmental Awards ceremony on pages 24 and 25. During this awards ceremony the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, highlighted the fact that our planet’s capacity to sustain an increasing population is exponentially reaching its peak. He stressed that it is imperative that everyone, as responsible citizens of Mother Earth, must meet our social and moral responsibility to minimise our footprint, our unnecessary demands and our negative impact on the non-renewable natural resources that remain available.

Trees are a vital part of life and a heritage for our society. On Arbour Day all the citizens of the world are called to plant and care for trees. It is never too late to plant a tree: our forests – our future. Read more on page 35 about indigenous trees and how the SANDF College of Educational Technology (COLET) celebrated Arbour Day.

Also read how the SA National Defence College displays its heritage (page 38) and about the rich history of the SANDF COLET (pages 40 and 41).

Let us learn of and appreciate each other’s cultural diversity as a nation. And preserve Mother Earth and her precious animal kingdom.

Please let us save our rhinos.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

van die redakteur se lessenaar

Hierdie maand fokus ons op die bewaring van Moeder Aarde en ons erfenis aangesien die twee hand aan hand loop. Wanneer ons vir Moeder Aarde omgee, beskerm ons nie alleenlik ons fauna en flaura nie, maar terselfdertyd ook ons erfenis wat bewaar sal bly vir ons kinders se kinders …

Ons voorbladstorie konsentreer op die bewaring van ons renosters. Lugmagbasis Waterkloof se Omgewingsdienste Afdeling het onlangs die “Bewaar ons Renosters” Projek geloods om die goeie stryd teen renosterstropping te stry. Lees op bladsy 22 en 23 hoe innoverend en kreatief ons lede was rakende dié baie sensitiewe saak om ons renosters te bewaar.

Kom, laat elkeen van ons deel doen om ons renosters te red van uitwissing. Ons wil hulle tog nie eendag net op foto’s sien nie …

Nog ‘n moet-lees is die onlangse jaarlikse Departement van Verdediging se Omgewingstoekenningseremonie op bladsy 24 en 25. Gedurende hierdie toekenningseremonie het die Hoof van die SA Leër, Lt Genl Vusi Masondo, die feit beklemtoon dat ons planeet se kapasiteit om die toenemende bevolking te verduur besig is om eksponensieel haar toppunt te bereik. Hy het benadruk dat dit noodsaaklik is dat elkeen, as verantwoordelike bewoners van Moeder Aarde, ons sosiale en morele verplichtinge moet nakom om ons voetspoor te verklein asook om onnodige eise en ons negatiewe impak op die oorblywende nie-hernieubare natuurlike hulpbronne te verklein.

Bome is ‘n onmisbare deel van die lewe en die erfenis van ons samelewing. Op Boomplantdag word ‘n beroep aan al die wêreldbewoners gedoen om bome te plant en na hulle om te sien. Dit is nooit te laat om ‘n boom te plant nie: ons woude – ons toekoms. Lees meer op blady 35 oor inheemse bome en hoe die SANW Kollege vir Opvoedkundige Tegnologie (KOLOT) Boomplantdag gevier het.

Lees ook hoe die SA Nasionale Verdedigingskollege hul erfenis ten toon stel (bladsy 38) en oor die ryk geskiedenis van die SANW KOLOT (bladsy 40 en 41).

Laat ons van mekaar se kulturele diversiteit leer en dit waardeer as ‘n nasie - en Moeder Aarde en haar kosbare diereryk in stand hou.

Asseblief kom ons bewaar ons renosters.

Nelda Pienaar
Redakteur SA Soldier
Learning while treasuring our trees

By Mr Pilusa Thulare, Learning Media Development Director, COLET

Photo: Mr Charel Bezuidenhout

Arbour Day is a day on which all the citizens of the world are called to plant and care for trees. In South Africa it is a week-long celebration, and this year the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries chose the period 1 to 7 September 2013 for this purpose. The SANDF College of Educational Technology (COLET) celebrated Arbour Day by planting indigenous trees on 5 September.

Prior to the day the organisers of the event put up posters on the walls of the unit about indigenous protected trees. The aim was to raise awareness, educate and prepare staff members to celebrate Arbour Day. The posters highlighted trees protected in terms of section 12(d) of the National Forests Act No 84 of 1998. From a layman’s point of view, it was interesting to read the generic names of trees that we grow up knowing, but not really understanding. To name just a few: the “Ceriops tagal” is the Indian Mangrove that grows mostly in northern KwaZulu-Natal. The “Colubrina Nicholsonii” or the so called Pondo weeping thorn grows mostly in southern KwaZulu-Natal and the north Eastern Cape. Another interesting name is the “Combretum imberbe”, popularly known as “Motawele” in Northern Sotho and “Impondondlovu” in IsiZulu. This tree grows mostly in Limpopo. One name that will ring a bell in the Pedi and Afrikaans community is the “Sekhukhune boesmanstee”. The generic name for this tree is “Lydenburgia cassinaoides”. It is also found in the southern-eastern parts of Limpopo and northern Mpumalanga.

The tree planting ceremony was opened by the Reverend Erika Boshoff who read from Psalm 1:3 - “And he shall be like a tree firmly planted and tended by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper and come to maturity”.

In her sermon Rev Boshoff touched on some of the characteristics of trees that people should emulate. She said that we must be like trees in that we have the ability to grow, just as trees began as seeds before growing tall. Trees have the ability to persist and to withstand different weather conditions. In the process they endure these conditions just as we are expected to endure our challenges in life. We should also be able to bear fruit like trees and allow others to feed from us. Like trees we must have integrity by standing out, being noticed and making an impression. Trees grow as part of a group, which allow them to withstand storms. She said: “A lone tree can be easily uprooted by storms and water erosion.” We can emulate the unity of trees by uniting with other people and become shields against storms: unity is strength. She also alluded to the fact that we must have roots that are deeper like those of trees. This allows us to be anchored and not fall easily. As people of God, we must be rooted in our faith and the tree must always remind us of the cross at Golgotha.

As the day progressed Dr Annelize Voges, the Head of the Core Training Branch and Chairperson of the Environmental Committee at COLET, began by asking attendees about the trees of the year. Last year’s tree of the year was the water berry and this year it is the blossom tree. Those who managed to answer correctly received prizes.

As the day progressed Dr Annelize Voges, the Head of the Core Training Branch and Chairperson of the Environmental Committee at COLET, began by asking attendees about the trees of the year. Last year’s tree of the year was the water berry and this year it is the blossom tree. Those who managed to answer correctly received prizes.

The rest of the attendees received pens, rulers and water bottles. She announced that COLET would be planting five trees on that day.

Each of the four branches of COLET, together with the Command Group of COLET planted a karee tree, popularly known as “Mushakaladza” in Venda. The karee is a small to medium-sized evergreen tree that can grow up to seven metres or taller, depending on environmental factors. The COLET Support Branch planted the leadwood, known as “Mondzo” in Shiswana. When the leadwood is fully grown it presents an imposing display with its white trunk and gigantic main branches that soar above the surroundings. The Advanced Training Branch planted the yellowwood or “Unkhoniba” in Xhosa.

The yellowwood is one of South Africa’s most valued timber trees and it is also our national tree. The Core Training Branch planted the white stinkwood, known as “Usinga lwesalukazi” in KwaZulu-Natal. The white stinkwood is a good tree for gardens as it gives shade in summer and can grow in a wide range of weather conditions. The fifth tree that was planted (by the Educational Media Section) was the popular wild olive, “Mohluare” in Northern Sotho. The wild olive produces wood for furniture and is resistant to frost, drought and wind. These attending acknowledged that they learned a lot during this celebration. These lessons surely changed the perception that trees are only for wood and shade. They are a vital part of life and a heritage for our society. Our forests – our future.
RULES OF FINDING FULFILMENT

A father, an uncle, a brother’s rules for finding fulfilment. Here’s how to live: Be courteous, be punctual, always say please and thank you and be sure to hold your knife and fork properly; others take their cue from how to treat people by your manners. Be kind, considerate and compassionate when others are in trouble, even if you have problems of your own: others will admire your selflessness and will help you in due course. Show moral courage: do what is right even if it makes you unpopular. Always thought it was important to be able to look at myself in the mirror every morning and not feel guilt or remorse. Show humility; stand your ground, but pause to reflect on what the other side is saying, and back off when you know you’re wrong. Never worry about losing face; that happens only when you’re pig-headed.

Learn from your mistakes; you will make plenty so use them as a learning tool. If you keep making the same mistake or run into a problem, you’re doing something wrong. Avoid disparaging someone to a third party, it’s only you who will look bad. If you have a problem with someone, tell them face to face, hold fire. If someone crosses you, do not react immediately because once you say something it can never be taken back and most people deserve a second chance. Have fun; if this involves taking risks, so be it.

Average minds discuss events, great minds discuss ideas, poor minds discuss people. To live like a king you must work like a slave. Shimmy Dimakatso Boshomane, Seshego

LITTLE SOLDIER

Little soldier born free in Africa, the seed of the green grass of Eden, where the rainbow smiles over the horizon on a land of laughter and flying dreams.

Down in the valley, Snaked the mighty Tugela, the drink of the forefather spirits.

Here hope and freedom entwine, in mystic memories of legendary Indunas.

Here the mighty Impis of yesterdays stamped in thunderous dances.

Their singing floated in the dusty clouds, while their voices faded

In the crimson sunrays.

This is the stomping ground of little soldier as he pierced the blue sky with his spear and punched the air with his shield.

None dare challenge this five year umfan.

The cow’s mull about in the rusty sunset, the fires were lit

For the meat and phutu pots.

Slowly Africa bowed down

To the God of peace.

The reverence of the misty night,

settled like silver dew over a land so endless.

With effort and grace the full moon arose,

in all its pearly shine to pose.

The last chirp of the guinea-fowl faltered.

The hungry jackal wailed his weep,

while the distant lightning

Slapped the Drakensburg.

The little soldier became an Impi, a Warrior.

Manhood erased forever the little soldier.

At his mother’s feet, he laid down

His shield and spear,

his birthright attire and knob kieries.

It was time to spread his wings as eagles,

because in the city little soldier became an SA soldier. Lt Col Tinus van Rensburg (Ret), Port Elizabeth

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@milibza. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters concerning the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be published - Editor.

SPONSORSHIP FOR SOCCER JERSEYS

As the owner of a football team I am looking for sponsorship to help our team look better like others.

I am appealing to you on behalf of talented and skilled young youth who are suffering from bad things like drugs, gangsters, etc. I hope you will assist me with this huge challenge facing our youth, I will be grateful if you help in sponsoring my team with soccer kits and jerseys.

If you are interested in sponsoring our team, please get back to us on 071 7686 686 or 084 7846 803.

Sekhonyane Mzwandile, Botshabelo

PROUD OF SANDF MEMBERS

Expressing pride in the organisation you serve might seem unfair. But the organisation which works hard to make South Africa one of the respectable countries in Africa and the world deserves recognition.

Organisations are made up of people; the SANDF is no exception. I would like to salute the soldiers deployed in the Kruger National Park who have raised hopes that rhino poaching can be wiped out. SANDF members are responsible for border security with Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. How can I forget members outside South Africa in places such as the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and other countries? I can imagine their families taking pride in them as we all do. I would like to salute all uniformed members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) who are serving the SANDF with pride. The SANDF members are all over South Africa, whether in logistics, human resources, hospitals as signallers, musicians, etc. Thank you for bringing that pride to the SANDF.

To the members who stand at the gates (guards/sentries) thank you for keeping our units and offices secured. The SA Army Foundation members are always there to give support, guidance and dedication. DOD members are always up to date because they are dedicated men and women who provide information to all of us at SA Soldier magazine and the other media.

Indeed, the heart of the SANDF pumps 365 days 24/7 non-stop because of dedicated members. SALUTE! Pte D.M. Tshivhula, 1 Parachute Battalion
AIR FORCE BASE CELEBRATES ARBOUR DAY

The Officer Commanding Air Force Base (AFB) Makhado, Brig Gen Schalk van Heerden, urged members of the base to preserve the environment to the benefit of the community.

Speaking during a tree-planting ceremony held at AFB Makhado on 6 September 2013, Brig Gen Van Heerden told base members to leave a legacy behind by planting trees that will benefit future generations. He mentioned that since nature played an important role in people’s lives, we should take good care of the land.

Eleven trees (the White Stink Wood, Wild Olive and Karee) were planted by senior leaders of the base as part of the celebration of National Arbour Week.

He also made an appeal to all to take care of the environment and not cut or burn trees, since trees prevent erosion and at the same time support life by providing food, health, wood, warmth, fire for cooking, fruits, shade and even medicine for the nation.

Brig Gen Van Heerden concluded: “By preserving the land, we will be strengthening our own roots as the SA Air Force.”

The day was celebrated in two ways: first as Arbour Day it educated people about the importance of “greening”, and then as Casual Day by members cleaning the base.

According to the Senior Environmental Officer of the base, Maj Trudie Vosloo, the focus of the day was to encourage everybody to participate in community “greening” events to improve the health and beauty of the local environment and to propose a “green” future for South Africa. This was done by planting trees, cleaning the area and caring for different species of plants and animals at the base. The Environmental Officer, Capt Lerato Marelele, whose task is to care for the Flurian Nature Reserve at the base, highlighted some of the seven most common tree species found there: the umbrella thorn and the red bush willow. The marula and baobab are protected tree. The following are the trees of the year: cross berry, powdery puff tree and blossom tree.

Capt Marelele said that each species has its own purpose. Marula fruits are high in Vitamin C and marula bark can be used as a medicine against diarrhoea. The pods of the scented thorn (acacia spp) can be used to make a type of dye, the sicklebush roots are good too, the baobab tree roots can be used to make porridge, the shepherd tree roots can be used to make coffee and the buffalo thorn has medical uses for stomach and chest problems.

According to Capt Marelele, Arbour Day originated in 1972 in Nebraska. “Mr J. Sterling Morton, a newcomer to the treeless plains of Nebraska was a keen proponent of the beauty and benefit of trees. He persuaded the local board of agriculture to set aside a day for planting trees and as editor of Nebraska’s first newspaper, encourage participation in the event by publishing articles on the value of trees for soil protection, fruit, shade, shelter and building material. Mr Morton’s home, known as Arbour Lodge, is a testament to his love of trees, and inspired the name of the international day: Arbour Day.

In South Africa, Arbour Day was first celebrated in 1983. The event captured the imagination of people who recognised the need for raising awareness of the value of trees in our society. Collective enthusiasm for the importance of this issue in South Africa inspired the national government in 1999 to extend the celebration of Arbour Day to National Arbour Week from 1 to 7 September of each year. Sgt Thomas Mulaudzi, AFB Makhado

IN YOUR HONOUR

Unselfishly you left your fathers and your mothers, you left behind your sisters and your brothers.
Leaving your beloved children and wives, you put on hold, your dreams - your lives.
On foreign soil, you found yourselves planted to fight for those whose freedom you granted.
Without your sacrifice their cause would be lost, but you carried on, no matter the cost.
Many horrors you had endured and seen. Many faces had haunted your dreams.
You cheered as your enemies littered the ground;
You cried as your brothers fell all around.
When it was over, you all came back home. Some were left with memories to face all alone;
Some found themselves in the company of friends as their crosses cast shadows across the land.
Those who survived were forever scarred emotionally, permanently marred.
Those who did not now sleep eternally ‘neath the ground they had given their lives to keep free.
With a hand upon my heart, I feel the pride and respect; my reverence is revealed in the tears that now stream down my upturned face as our flag waves above you, in her glory and grace.
Freedom was the gift that you unselfishly gave. Pain and death was the price that you ultimately paid.
Every day, I give my utmost admiration to those who had fought to defend our nation. Pte S.D. Mothapo, email

THE THEOREM OF CHANGES

Here I sit not knowing what tomorrow will bring. Life is forever about change.
I sit and think and think, but get no further. I just have a lot of worry and constant dread.
Each year that goes by I’m a little greyer, the body is a little more worn and it gets harder to face the day.
I remember a time when I was young and full of energy and thought I was immortal and all so grown, but now that I’m older I see that I was totally wrong.
We do not stay the same, for life is forever changing, just like the seasons change. Our youth was the spring when we felt there was nothing we couldn’t do, the summer was our 20s when we felt wild and free just like summer with the sun and the flowers and flowing sea.
Our 30s were like the end of summer when freedom has gone and life takes on a serious form, things become important as we realise time is ticking on.
Our 40’s were like the fall when life takes on a new spin and we realise we’re not as young as we used to be and we don’t dance as much: we just sit and grin.
Our 50’s were like winter and the falling snow upon the ground like the grey sits upon our head like a crown, opening another chapter for us in life.
Growing old like the rose that is withered underneath the snow; where did the time go?
Yes, here I sit and think and think until I want to pull out my hair because all the thinking in the world will not change what is meant to be. How the rest of life goes is totally up to me.
Take a word from the old and the wise and do not just sit and think about us.
Yes, here I sit and think and think about us.
Seragi David Mothapo, Oudtshoorn
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Most managers/leaders will tell you that performance assessment has been the most tedious and boring of their tasks since the introduction of PMDS and that it involves the most administration as well. Most subordinates will tell you that the aspect of their work they hate most is performance assessment.

But assessment can also be a positive experience. If we as leaders/managers give subordinates an opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do instead of trying to find out what they do not know or how they underperform, they might even look forward to the experience.

If the assessment tasks are meaningful and given in such a way that they are exciting to subordinates, they might put in more effort and if they are given the freedom to be creative and use their own strength, the results may well be astounding. This will not only benefit subordinates but will also make our tasks as leaders/managers more interesting and fulfilling.

The sheer numbers we have to deal with might easily make us despondent and there are many reasons to question the existing assessment system (PMDS). There are, for instance, very legitimate concerns about the use of the PMDS approach and the previous system. Some of the concerns are: why can the FSEs not be allocated a certain amount and the commanding officer of the unit then ensure that they are distributed fairly. Others say that the total amount (bonus money) cannot be distributed equally among the SANDF members since all of us are basically equally important.

Regardless of the system that is chosen, there will always be problems and criticism. Usually the problem is not the system itself; it is the way the method is implemented. Whichever system is chosen, there is a possibility that one or more of the following common problems will be realised: lack of objectivity, personal bias, halo effect, leniency, strictness, central tendency, recent behaviour, bias, manipulating the evaluation, etc.

As managers/leaders we cannot allow the above to keep us from making the best of the system we have to utilise. Of course we should be critical and not accept everything about PMDS as gospel, but we have a duty towards our subordinates to use the system to their best advantage.

People react differently to the introduction of a new performance system (and its assessment approach). For example, some try to ignore it and keep doing what they have always done; others make a token effort to change, but will in fact not change anything substantial; others may be very positive and will support change, but nothing much will change in their workplace (mostly because of lack of ability) and, despite the misgivings they might have, will do their best to master it and implement it successfully (usually by combining their best practice with the new requirements).

Leaders/managers that put their subordinates first can only be in the last category and will strive to master the system and make a success of implementing a new performance assessment system, depending on their knowledge of the new approach after comprehensive training. This includes comprehensive assessment in training as well.

Although the instructions and guidelines provided for PMDS are aimed at assisting the assessors (leaders/managers) they may serve as additional raw material for leaders/managers and subordinates wanting to learn and understand more than just the basic assessment. This will put them in good stead when they face the challenges of assessment in practice. S Lt Molefe Lebohang, SAS MENDI

MISUSE OF DOD AND GOVERNMENT GARAGE VEHICLES

It should be understood at the outset that this letter was written after lengthy consideration of the subject matter.

I am concerned as a long-serving member of the SANDF about the visible and routine abuse of the DOD and Government garage (GG) vehicles by serving members. My concern has increased because the primary culprits using military vehicles between their places of work and residence are invariably senior members, at least according to my own observations. This matter requires general and specific control measures, application of policy and, perhaps more significantly, incorporation within the military corporate culture.

Have you, the reader, ever stopped to view the number of military vehicles being used after hours and wondered where they are going and for what purpose? Certainly there may be any number of reasons, such as inspections, early or late duty, stand-by, etc and yet the first trip to work and the last trip home remain the responsibility of each member. And when one’s name is published for duty, one should keep in mind one’s monthly prescribed duty allowance which caters for expenses incurred as a result of tasks to be conducted outside of normal hours.

Admittedly there are concessions, such as transport by duty bus or overnight housing of military vehicle at home. However, these are exceptions to the rule. And yet one has only to stand outside the gates of formations, commands, headquarters, bases or units in the mornings or afternoons to witness the misuse of military transport. For the residents of Pretoria and its outlying suburbs one need only examine the local shopping centres around Thaba Tshwane between 16:00 and 17:00 to count the military vehicles stopping for household shopping. Another local example is the dropping off and picking up of children from schools near military areas.

I am no expert in sociology or criminology, but it seems that to a lot of members the Government and the DOD are things without identity which one may use and abuse or steal from with impunity. Or perhaps it is viewed as an organisation of such immense resources that the actual loss inflicted by the single individual is so minute that the improper conduct itself is thereby excused.

In these days of national and government accountability and responsibility for eliminating corruption within the Government, as well as the DOD and ever increasing budgetary constraints, such behaviour and attitudes are untenable. I therefore urge that should you observe anybody misusing a DOD vehicle or GG vehicle, please record and report the necessary particulars of the incident, such as the date, time and location, also with the vehicle registration and the number of occupants, to your officer commanding, RSM, transport officer or intelligence officer. At the same
BE DISCIPLINED SOLDIERS

This year I celebrated 21 years with pride in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), and so naturally ill-disciplined soldiers are a great concern to me.

To the lady Corporal of Joint Support Base Wonderboom driving a white Toyota Yaris who on 19 September 2013 entered the Post Office in Ben Viljoen Street in Pretoria North in her uniform, in public without her headdress and who defied and ignored me when I tried to rectify her for not being correctly dressed.

Do we as the SANDF really need soldiers like you? Are you proud of yourself to behave in that manner while wearing the uniform of a professional National Defence Force?

Please Corporals, Sergeants, Staff Sergeants and Warrant Officers, let us not allow this; please let us bring discipline back to the SANDF of our beloved country. WO2 S. Buitendach, Joint Operational HQ

UNIFORM WORN BY CIVILIANS

I am writing this letter with a heavy spirit. I am a soldier at heart and will always be a soldier. I have often witnessed the uniform, especially the camouflage uniform, being worn by civilians and it sends chills down my spine.

I remember when we did Basic Military Training how we were taught the value of our uniform and the respect we must give it.

I am infuriated by how our uniformed members have degraded our camouflage uniform and brought it to naught by giving it to civilian members who do not know anything about the military.

These civilian members cannot go to the Q-stores and draw the uniform for themselves, which means some of our own members have given it to these people.

Soldiers, I beseech you to take pride in your uniform and treat it with the respect it deserves.

As ex-military members we volunteer to become ambassadors of the SANDF and we strive to elevate and speak proudly of our National Defence Force. We can do this much, but with your cooperation we can do even more. Let us lift our National Defence Force flag higher.

Vusumzi Luti, email

A YOUNG SOLDIER MOMMY’S HEART

My mind can know, but my heart doesn’t understand
My beloved sweet boy becoming an angry young man. The Army life is unknown to me, I try to understand, but you say “let me be!”

My heart will ache with each passing day
That I don’t hear from you, far away.
Mistakes of the past, I wish you’d forgive
At least just agree to live and let live

KISWAHILI - THE LANGUAGE OF AFRICA

Swahili or Kiswahili, as it is often referred to, is of Bantu origin. The language which is predominately spoken in East and Central Africa contains many borrowed words from Arabic, and some from German, Portuguese, Persian, French and English as a result of different colonial powers having ruled in the region.

Trade and migration helped to spread the language to Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, Congo, the Central African Republic (CAR), Burundi, Uganda and Mozambique. The language has also gained popularity in other countries such as Malawi, Zambia and South Africa because of the relations Tanzania has with the region.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Charter (1963) states the following: “The working languages of the Organisation and all its institutions shall be, if possible, African languages, English and French, Arabic and Portuguese”.

This statement indicates the language commitment that the African continent has had since independence.

In January 2012 the first Kiswahili class was launched at the Language Centre of the African Union. Kiswahili was identified as one of the fastest growing languages in Africa.

The SANDF has been involved in more than 15 peace support operations in several countries, which include but are not limited to, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Sudan, Côte d’Ivoire, CAR, Nepal, Liberia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Liberia. This illustrates that the SANDF is active in terms of peace support operations in countries that use Kiswahili as an official or third language.

Effective communication is of primary importance in peace support operations, as a simple linguistic misunderstanding in the real world may not be so innocuous on such operations, as misunderstandings of this nature may lead to severe mistakes that may unintentionally lead to casualties.

The spread of Kiswahili on the continent of Africa makes it vital that the Department of Defence starts investing in the language training of its members for purposes of operational deployment in an attempt to keep up with the rest of the continent and to be at an advantage in our efforts to establish peace on the continent. Capt Syphiwo-Sakhe Feni, Language Practitioner Directorate Language Services, Pretoria

letters to the editor

S A S O L D I E R

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news from abroad

PRAYER OF A SOLDIER’S WIFE

Give me the greatness of heart to see,
The difference between duty
And his love for me.
Give me the understanding
So that I may know.
When duty calls him, he must go.
Give me a task to do each day,
To fill the time when he is away.
When he is in a foreign land,
Keep him safe in your loving hand.
And Lord, when duty is in the field,
Please protect him and be his shield.
And Lord, when deployment is so long,
Please stay with me and keep me strong.

Pte S.D. Mothapo, email

TO OUR DEPLOYED SOLDIERS

This goes to our colleagues/comrades in arms who are currently deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in the Sudan, along South Africa’s borders and all over the world, making peace.

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

Thank you for your effort and dedication. You are missed, remembered and honoured at home.

Rfn K.C. Matsepane,
2 SA Infantry Battalion

A SOLDIER’S PRAYER

Our General, who art in Joint Operations
Hallowed be thy rank
Thy mission come

They will be shot in Goma as it was in CAR
Give us this day, our daily ammunition
And forgive us for shooting,
As we forgive those who shoot against us

Lead us not into war
But deliver us from rebels
For a troop is a troop

Amen. LS Abinos Monaheng,
SAS IMMORTELLE

A PRAYERFUL INFANTRY BATTALION COMMANDER

The mobilisation for Operation MISTRAL XXI, the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Congo (MONUSCO), deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was under way when I reported to De Brug Training Centre near Bloemfontein. The members were busy with a field training exercise and their minds were preoccupied with what they were doing. I was appointed as the Contingent Military Police Commander for the deployment and was told to report to the Battalion Commander, Lt Col Altin John Gysman.

After reporting to him, he said: “Welcome; there is your computer, forget about greeting other people for now, you will do it later”. I then went to my desk. In my military career I had been taught to do factor analysis in any given situation. I started analysing the character of this commander at that particular moment. In the evening I attended the first after-action review of the exercise. The Battalion Commander requested the Chaplain to open the gathering with a prayer. Remember, they had been there throughout the day, and of course they started the daily activities with a prayer.

We moved to 6 SA Infantry Battalion in Grahamstown where we underwent in further training. Before each meeting, no matter how often it took place, we prayed.

After intense training we finally flew out of the RSA to Goma in the DRC to one of the battalions of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB). National and international communities expect the FIB to make a radical change to the conflict in the DRC. The RSA is the centre of attraction, especially after the battle of Bangui in the Central African Republic. Despite the immense pressures and challenges of establishing a new base in Sake, Goma, Lt Col Gysman did not change his attitude in terms of his approach to meetings, gatherings and order groups. Prayer was always the first thing to take place. By this time I had analysed this commander and discovered that he was very prayerful.

When there is a church service in the base, be it led by a Rifleman or any other rank, Lt Col Gysman is there and, if not, he will send a message that we should pray for him.

Patrice Lumumba, a leader of the 1960 Movement National Congolese (MNC) once said that peace in Africa would come from the southern tip of Africa. It is not a coincidence that our National Anthem is a prayer for Africa. Lt Col Gysman radiates the energy of prayer in the FIB. Each day begins with a prayer in the RSA camp, as Psalm 118:24 says: “This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”.

Operation MISTRAL XXI FIB is not a difficult one with a prayerful Infantry Battalion Commander such as Lt Col Altin John Gysman’s calibre in our midst. May God through Jesus Christ bless him with more wisdom and may we never cease praying.

Maj Twice Moganyaka, Contingent Military Police, Sake, DRC
WOMEN’S INVOLVEMENT IN PEACE BUILDING

On 2 and 3 September 2013 I was privileged to attend the Gender Focal Point Course for Troop Contributing Countries in Darfur, the Sudan. The course was presented at the Military Training Centre in El Fasher by the training cell. The focus of the course is to train officers to become gender focal points in their respective team sites. Their role will be to report and advise on gender related issues (especially sexual gender based violence) in their area of responsibility.

Concepts such as sex and gender, gender discrimination, gender stereotypes, sexual gender based violence, gender equality, gender equity, gender mainstreaming and gender balance were the main focus of the course.

The course is influenced by the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 of 2000 on Women, Peace and Security. This resolution prioritises issues that jeopardise women’s lives, bodies, psychological integrity and freedom. It further recognises the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective throughout peace support operations, structures and interventions.

The Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations has been noted in the UNSCR 1325 when it is stressed that there is an urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations. Also mentioned in Resolution 1325 is the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which affirms the necessity for gender mainstreaming in all political, social, economic and cultural spheres.

International Human Rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1996 and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1996 did not bring solace to women. In 1979 the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted. It is an effective tool that urges governments to protect and promote the human rights of women.

The UNSCR 1325 is the first UNSCR to link women to the peace and security agenda. It recognises that women are disproportionately affected by conflict and calls for their participation at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace process, post-conflict peace building and governance. It further calls for the effective protection of women from sexual and gender based violence in conflict settings. The resolution has four pillars that support its goals: Participation, Protection, Prevention, Relief and Recovery.

- Participation refers to the participation of women at all levels of decision-making, including national, regional and international institutions in mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict as soldiers, civilians and police.
- Protection refers to the protection of women and girls from sexual gender based violence and condemns the use of rape as a form of warfare.
- Prevention of violence against women and prosecuting those responsible for perpetrating violence against women and calls on States to exclude these crimes from amnesty provisions where feasible.
- Relief and recovery encourage addressing international crises from a gender based perspective and take into account the different needs of women and girls in the design of refugee camps and settlements.

In support of the resolution 1325, the Security Council has adopted other resolutions which deal with the issues of women, gender and conflict:

- UNSCR 1820 of 2008, which recognises conflict related violence as a matter of international peace and security.
- UNSCR 1888 of 2009, which strengthens the implementation of Resolution 1820 through assigning leadership and the establishing of effective support mechanisms.
- UNSCR 1889 of 2009 addresses the obstacles to women’s participation in the peace process and peace building as prescribed in Resolution 1325.
- UNSCR 1960 of 2010, which provides for an accountability system for implementing Resolution 1820 and 1888.

Equality of rights for men and women is a basic principle of the United Nations. Women’s rights and girls’ rights are human rights. Through the adoption of the aforementioned legal instruments, the United Nations encourages women’s participation in peace building and other operations and the protection of women’s rights.

Lt D.D. Kgosana, Operation CORDITE XVII, Sudan
Working together in pursuit of peace and stability

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, and the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, formally accepted the monetary pledges made by sponsors towards the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project during a Gala Evening. The event was held at St George’s Hotel in Irene on 6 September 2013 in a cordial atmosphere reflective of the good relations that exist between the two entities.

The occasion marked the 12th celebration of the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project (GWPP) since its establishment in 2001. The project is a joint venture between the SANDF and the private sector with the aim, among others, to show appreciation and support to the SANDF members on deployment over the festive season by giving them a boost to perform their professional duties when most of us are safely at home surrounded by our loved ones.

The GWPP recognises the important role of our soldiers on deployment in the prevention and resolution of conflict and in peace building, and the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts towards the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Twelve years ago the focus of the project was to give a little Christmas cheer when it began with a humble collection fund between fellow soldiers and a few sympathetic corporates, but looking ahead the project is aimed at providing future benefits for both our deployed soldiers and their families.

To date the GWPP has collected nearly R12 million in sponsorships; this year alone the project collected R2.7 million. It is through such collaborative efforts that the project has achieved this and it is the SANDF’s hope that it will continue.
to improve and expand these relationships to grow even stronger.

During her acceptance speech, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said that the SANDF was deployed in Africa to defend renewal of the African continent and the promotion of peace and stability which would lead to sustainable development.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “Our foreign policy is premised on the vision of building a better Africa and a better world on the foundation of UBUNTU and an understanding that we cannot be an island of peace and prosperity if our neighbours still battle with conflict and poverty.”

She thanked our valued stakeholders and acknowledged their contributions to the DOD’s mission to support the Government’s diplomatic initiatives to eradicate conflicts in the region and on the continent.

The Minister concluded: “Thank for the support and commitment you have all shown. This gesture is a clear indication to the families of the thousands of deployed soldiers that you care and are willing to partner the Government in improving the lives of our people.”

The Goodwill Parcel Project carries the good wishes and appreciation of the entire SANDF and the South African community as a whole and has an important impact on the morale of our deployed members and their families over the festive season.
Department of Defence Industry Day

By Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The annual Department of Defence (DOD) Industry Day was held on 19 September 2013 at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria. It ended the following day with a golf day at the Centurion Country Club.

This year’s theme was “Repositioning SADI in support of the National Development Plan”. The aim of the conference was to realign the objectives of the South African Defence Industry (SADI) with those of the vision chapter 15 of the National Development Plan and national security objectives through inclusive participation, partnership and progress.

The occasion is regarded as one of the most important events on the calendar of the DOD, where some of the public companies and Private Defence Companies, such as Denel, Armscor, the SA Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industrial Association and a few others in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry come together.

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, introduced the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, who declared the DOD Industry Day officially open on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

The Auditorium at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria was packed with senior officers of the DOD, representatives of the Defence Industry and invited members of the Military Attaché Advisory Corps, all of whom participated in the discussions of the day.

In his opening address Mr Makwetla began with the well-known quotation: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step” referring to the progress the National Defence Council is making on its mandates. Meaningful discussions took place about how collaborative prospects could be explored to achieve greater benefits, grow the economy, keep the SANDF supplied and, most importantly, to create jobs. This needed an effort of the Defence Industry to contribute to the vision of the National Development Plan as outlined by this year’s theme.

The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, gave a briefing on the progress of the DOD from the inception of democracy and its future vision. He outlined the support initiatives of the Defence Industry and how the repositioning of the objectives of the SA National Defence Council to include the vision of the SA National Development Plan could be achieved.

Day one was divided into four sessions lasting from morning until late at night. Companies and other stakeholders made presentations outlining their structures, capabilities and visions. The evening ended with a dinner hosted by the Secretary for Defence.

The conference continued on the second day in the format of a golf day, which was aimed at encouraging engagement and networking in an informal manner and to create a spirit of partnership.

The conference was concluded with a dinner hosted by Dr Gulube, combined with a prize-giving ceremony for the golfers, while the National Ceremonial Guard Jazz Band entertained the guests.
The DOD interacts with its stakeholders

The present relationship between the Department of Defence (DOD) and the Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) influenced to a great extent the convening of the DOD Suppliers Day. The DOD realised that the relationship was not at a level conducive to sustainable growth and cooperation with its stakeholders.

A decision was then taken that as the DOD was approaching a new dimension in procurement, it would be of critical importance to host a Suppliers Day on an annual basis. Hence the DOD Logistics Division hosted the first-ever DOD Suppliers Day at Logistics Support Formation Sports Ground at Tek Base in Pretoria on 25 September 2013.

The occasion provided the DOD with an opportunity to interact and strengthen relations with their most valued stakeholders through the establishment of efficient and effective communication lines. The DOD Suppliers Day also afforded suppliers an opportunity to exhibit their goods and services to their potential customers (DOD Services and Divisions) and afforded DOD personnel an opportunity to discuss their experiences of the goods and services they received from suppliers regarding quality and timely service delivery, and how these could be improved.

The event was also useful in affording suppliers an opportunity to communicate the challenges they experienced during their interactions with the DOD. The DOD was also able to articulate procurement processes and applicable prescripts to suppliers to improve business relations within the context of the Regulatory Framework.

The Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma, has on numerous occasions emphasised the important role the SMME play in addressing the economic challenges the country is facing today. The DOD is duty bound to manage its procurement processes in a manner that is aligned with and promotes the economic development programmes of the Government through deliberate action by supporting the commercial viability of the SMME.

During the DOD Suppliers Day the DOD imparted information relating to procurement prescripts by means of presentations by the different procurement environments. The DOD Finance Division also explained the payment process, a distressing aspect which influences the Department’s ability to comply with the Government’s instruction requiring payment within 30 days, and assisting in the operational viability of the SMME.

The DOD expects suppliers and service providers to adhere to procurement prescripts and to avoid unnecessary legal disputes that may be detrimental to the creation of a healthy relationship. This approach will ensure the growth and sustainability of the SMME and at the same time contribute to the Government’s objective of stimulating the economy and job creation.

It was believed that the relationship between the DOD and SMME was moving away from an atmosphere of uncertainty and mistrust to a more professional and business orientated relationship.

In his speech Lt Gen Justice Nkonyane, the Chief of Logistics, said that the DOD’s footprint was a national one, present in all provinces. In that context the DOD has developed procurement procedures that will aggressively promote participation of local suppliers in order to contribute to the stimulation of their local economies, especially in the rural areas. He said: “This we shall do by introducing suppliers’ development programmes and provide them opportunities to supply the units within their provinces and municipalities.”

Lt Gen Nkonyane concluded by thanking guests, members of the DOD and suppliers for finding the time in their busy schedules to attend this important occasion, and his sincere gratitude also went to his team and supporting staff who had made the occasion possible.
S A S O L D I E R  

SANDF holds talks with the Chinese People’s Liberation Army

By Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

A delegation of the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China visited the SANDF over the period 11 to 14 September 2013. The visit came as part of the 2013 Exchange Visit Plan.

The aim of the visit was to strengthen the communication and cooperation between the two defence forces, to facilitate a close exchange of expertise and information, to enhance relations and deepen friendship between the two defence forces.

The delegation of the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China consisted of six members led by Lt Gen Cheng Yong, the Assistant Chief of General Staff. The Chief of Human Resources (RSA), Lt Gen Themba Nkabinde, who represented the Chief of the SANDF, hosted the delegation.

The two parties discussed future bilateral exercises, the solving of multilateral problems, and how to enhance student exchange programmes. The SANDF gave several presentations on its capacity and expertise. The delegates also paid a visit to the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane and Naval Base Simon’s Town.

Two members of the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China are currently doing the Junior Command and Staff Duties Course at the SA Army College. When the two parties exchanged gifts, Lt Gen Cheng Yong said: “This friendship is like a flower that needs to blossom and be taken care of”.

Defence Materiél Division hosts Ecuador

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The General Coordinator for Strategic Procurement from Ecuador, Dr Nathalia Benitez, with Denel Aviation and other stakeholders paid a courtesy call on the office of the Chief Director Materiél Governance, Mr Kopano Lebelo, at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 27 September 2013. The visit took place in the context of strengthening existing relations, identifying several defence industrial cooperation projects and with the aim of supporting Denel in its endeavour to solicit contracts from the government of Ecuador. During the visit the three entities held substantive and fruitful discussions on a wide range of issues of common interest. As strategic partners Denel Aviation and the Department of Defence created a suitable platform for the respective defence industries to share information in various fields of mutual interest and exchange ideas and proposals to optimise their strategic capabilities and expertise.

Mr Kopano Lebelo, Chief Director Materiél Governance, hands over a token of appreciation to Dr Nathalia Benitez, General Coordinator for Strategic Procurement from Ecuador, during her visit to the Department of Defence.
South Africa hosts the International Electronic Warfare Conference

By Lt Col Sonika Botes, SO1 Electronic Warfare
Photos: Courtesy of CSIR

The Association of Old Crows (AOC) is an international fraternity consisting of electronic warfare specialists and interest groups. The AOC consists of military and civilian members of industry and academia. The South African chapter, the Aardvark Roost, hosted an International AOC conference at the CSIR Convention Centre on 4 and 5 September 2013. The following five countries were represented: Germany, Sweden, Russia, United Kingdom and South Africa.

There were 19 presenters in total, including the well-known Mr Helmut Römer-Heitman, Analyst and Correspondent for Jane’s Defence Weekly. The presentations featured viewpoints on the integration of electronic warfare in the roles and responsibilities within the Department of Defence as well as in other government departments and industry.

Rapid technology advances have posed challenges for electronic warfare which are often quite costly to overcome. In his keynote address, R Adm (JG) Karl Wiesner, Director Maritime Warfare, did an excellent job in setting the scene for the rest of the conference with his paper on “Pushing Electronic Warfare into the future”.

Interesting viewpoints, such as border safeguarding as seen by the Government and the future of electronic warfare within a rapidly advancing technological environment was presented by military personnel. Mr Römer-Heitman emphasised the importance of electronic warfare on the modern battlefield and the challenges it faced.

Various members of industry presented the latest technological advances in the field of electronic warfare. New standards and design prescripts were highlighted with their implications for national and international markets.

Students presented papers on the research they did for their masters degrees and doctorates. Prof Warren du Plessis, Associates Professor and Chair in Electronic Defence Research, University of Pretoria, presented initiatives in the development of electronic warfare at various universities. It is imperative that electronic warfare should be continually rejuvenated not only through new technology, but also new perspectives.

The Chairperson of the Africa and Europe AOC Chapter, Dr Bob Andrews, was present and gave a short history of the AOC and the current state of affairs. The interrelationship between government and industry was highlighted within the various international AOC chapters.

The importance of electronic warfare for any country cannot be disputed. The interest in this field was once again confirmed with the record numbers attending this conference. Details of presentations given can be obtained from the Aardvark Roost’s official website: www.aardvarkaoc.co.za.

In addition, several free mini-conferences are hosted throughout the year. These mini-conferences include local industry and military presenters and can be attended by any interested member. For more information please visit the website.
Uniting Military Veterans for Access to Benefits

**Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole**

The Department of Military Veterans (DMV), in conjunction with other military veterans’ organisations, established a national umbrella association at a conference held at Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg from 29 September to 1 October 2013. The theme of the conference was “Uniting Military Veterans for Access to Benefits”.

The conference took place against the backdrop of the country’s celebration of 20 years of freedom next year. These 20 years of freedom remind us as a nation that this freedom would not have come about had it not been for the bravery, courage and sacrifices made in the liberation struggle by the military veterans. The country is as it is today because of the individual and collective contribution of military veterans across the spectrum towards reconciliation, peace and nation building.

This was a historic and defining moment in the history of the military veterans in general and the DMV in particular. The establishment of the National Association is testament to the military veterans’ community and the DMV having now reached the crossroads, a qualitatively new era for both the country and the military veterans.

The delegates and bona fide military veterans who represented various military veterans’ formations during the conference declared that the new association would be known as the South African National Military Veterans Association (SANMVA) and was committed to working together in close partnership with the Department of Military Veterans, the Government as a whole and all sectors of society.

ABOVE: Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, delivering her speech during the conference, while Mr Tsepe Motumi, the Director-General of the Department of Military Veterans, looks on.

ABOVE: The new South African National Military Veterans Association is committed to work together in close partnership with the Department of Military Veterans, the Government as a whole and all sectors of society.
ABOVE: Delegates representing different military veterans’ formations attend the conference.

together in close partnership with DMV, the Government as a whole and all sectors of society.

They further committed themselves to ensuring that the new body would conduct its business in a fair, transparent, accountable and inclusive manner. They resolved to mobilise all military veterans to work together to contribute towards deepening social transformation, building peace and stability, and enhancing sustainable economic development.

The umbrella body was established to ensure accelerated delivery of the benefits outlined in the Military Veterans Act to military veterans and their dependants, to enhance the development of a common and shared vision among military veterans and other stakeholders and to play an important role in enhancing social cohesion, reconciliation and nation building.

In her speech the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said that it stood to reason therefore that our freedom and democracy would remain meaningless if they did not address the political, social and economic needs of the military veterans in a decisive, meaningful and sustainable manner.

Ms Mapisa-Nqakula said: “It is for that reason that the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in its very opening statement boldly asserts, ‘We, the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of the past; honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; respect those who have worked to build and develop our country.’”

The Minister hoped that the new umbrella body would be vibrant, democratic, legitimate, a representative voice and an accountable body of military veterans that would enjoy their unwavering trust and confidence at all times.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula concluded: “It is hoped that an association that steadfastly and consistently lives up to its expected role, particularly as stipulated in the Military Veterans Act of 2011, will go a long way towards rapidly increasing the pace of delivery of the benefits to all deserving military veterans.”

ABOVE: Delegates are committed to ensuring that the new body conducts its business in a fair, transparent, accountable and inclusive manner.
Reclaiming, restoring and celebrating our living heritage

By Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier

By Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier

Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

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evry year on National Heritage Day South Africans across the spectrum are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions. This year the theme of Heritage Day was “Reclaiming, Restoring and Celebrating Our Living Heritage”.

On 24 September 2013 the Department of Arts and Culture, in partnership with the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, hosted the 2013 National Heritage Day celebrations in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape.

The national event was staged at the Sisa Dukashe Stadium in Mdantsane. The day started with the Deputy President, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, unveiling the Egerton Bus Boycott Massacre Memorial at Zone 9 eMdantsane. This was followed by the morning cultural pre-programme in which some local artists, cultural groups and traditional dancers gave performances.

The second part of the programme consisted of a South African National Defence Force (SANDF) parade, with the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile, and Ms Xoliswa Tom, Member of the Executive Council for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, the programme directors, introducing all the dignitaries present.

The National Ceremonial Guard provided a guard of honour and gave the General Salute upon the arrival of the Deputy President. After he ascended the podium there was a fly-past of the Silver Falcons and a 21-gun salute by the Cape Field Artillery.

Following an aerial salute by the Silver Falcons there was a formation flight and a low-level aerobatics display which left spectators in the stadium gasping and clapping with excitement.

Deputy President Motlanthe, who was ushered in by the Praise Poet Ntsikelelo Mdunyelwa, delivered his keynote address. He thanked all the spectators for their presence and said: “The unity of all South Africans is a guiding principle which should never be undermined by sectarian and parochial interests. Heritage Day also provides us with the opportunity to promote the national symbols which are central to the definition of a new era and identity, one that expresses the hopes and aspirations of our diverse nation.”

ABOVE: The Lumanyano Cultural Group performing on stage.
Military veterans commemorate the fallen heroes and heroines

By Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Council of Military Veterans’ Organisation (CMVO) of South Africa held its annual Memorial Service at Fort Klapperkop in Pretoria on 15 September 2013. This memorial was erected by the CMVO as a way to pay homage to and honour departed citizens - men and women - who, by their military service (in whichever capacity or circumstances) contributed to safeguarding the Republic and its people, and who paid with their lives.

The day began with the hoisting of the National Flag. Dignitaries, families, friends and guests gathered at Fort Klapperkop to observe this special day. Military veterans were decorated with their medals and the colours of the various military veterans’ associations as they sing solemn hymns during the Memorial Service.

The Reverend (Brig Gen) Marius Cornelissen (Ret) opened the proceedings by reading from Matthew, chapter 5 verse 3: “Blessed are the peacemakers, God will call them His children”. We are called to be peacemakers in our homes, at work or in our communities and the world, and furthermore we must be prepared to pay whatever price to bring about peace.

Two minutes’ silence was observed, after Lt Col Tim Lane (Ret), the Master of Ceremonies, explained the origin of the custom. He said the first minute was to remember all those who died, while the second minute was to honour them.

Maj Gen Johann Dippenaar (Ret), the Chairperson of the CMVO, said: “Today we have a free country with a world-class constitution. It is not a country without problems or challenges, but we can all live our lives and look towards the future with great hope.”

The National Ceremonial Guard Band played solemn hymns throughout the event. As the wreaths were laid the Master of Ceremonies recited the following poem:

“They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor do the years condemn, but at the going down of the sun we will remember them.”

As we recognise these patriots let us use this time that we have to continue to make a difference to our communities and our country.

LEFT ABOVE: Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Intelligence Formation, laying a wreath on behalf of the SA Army Intelligence Formation.

LEFT: Maj Gen Johann Dippenaar (Ret), Chairperson of the Council of Military Veterans’ Organisation (CMVO), laying a wreath on behalf of the CMVO.
**Save our rhinos**

*By Maj Mariska Vogel, Environmental Officer AFB Waterkloof*

*Photos: F Sgt Nicky Claase and Cpl Wiko van der Westhuizen*

Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof’s judging of the decorated rhino sculptures took place on 19 September 2013 on the sports field. This event formed part of AFB Waterkloof’s “Save our Rhino” Project.

The 22 sculptures that were entered by various sections of AFB Waterkloof stood on the sports field in great secrecy before the event. One by one they were revealed with enthusiasm and it was obvious that the creative juices of the different sections had worked overtime. The rules for the competition required each rhino to be decorated, given a name and slogan and had to be presented to the judges. The Information Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) Section created a sense of mystery by not exposing its decorated rhino prior to the parade until the very last minute.

The day started of with a parade that was led by the drummer girls of Constantia Park Primary School, and the 22 rhinos followed. Three independent judges were responsible for the difficult task of judging these extraordinary specimens, namely Mr Chappy Holtzhausen, DOD Visual Communication Manager, Ms Kirsty Brebner from Endangered Wildlife Trust and Ms Tessa Raath, the secretary of the Acting Officer Commanding of AFB Waterkloof.

The secrecy of the ICTC Section paid off when their rhino, “Princess Rhini”, that portrays the 11 languages of South Africa through very detailed beading work won the competition. In the second place was the very modern mosaic decorated rhino of 5 Air Servicing Unit (5 ASU) with the name “Bophelo”, which means life. “Lerato” of the Medical Services Section at AFB Waterkloof was in third place.

Members from 44 Squadron presented their rhino which was based on the film: “Saving Private Ryan” in such a catchy way that it earned them a fourth place.

Although not everyone got into the top places, the others were just as creative and carried the message of the importance of protecting rhinos. “Richie” was a decoupage rhino with the slogan “Preserve today or pictures tomorrow”. The Logistic Section’s rhino, situated in the Hammanskraal area, was already sold on the day of the event.

Rhinos used for the decorating competition were created by the community at Hammanskraal. The manufacturing costs were primarily sponsored by Mongena Game Reserve. Ditholo Training Area forms part of Dinokeng Big 5 Game Reserve, another objective was to educate children with regard to the importance of the specific role rhinos play in the ecosystem. During August Environmental Services from AFB Waterkloof, in conjunction with the South African Veterinary Association, visited three primary schools (Monument Park, Wierda Park and Rooihuiskraal) in the Pretoria area. A
presentation was done by Dr Gerhard Steenkamp, a vet from Onderstepoort, and the Environmental Officer AFB Waterkloof, Maj Mariska Vogel. The children were educated by means of a presentation on rhinos and the environmental impact of saving them as we do not want to see our rhinos one day only in pictures, as with dinosaurs, but be able to experience them in real life.

Demonstrations were also given to learners by AFB Swartkop 500 Squadron’s security and sniffer dogs from O.R. Thambo International Airport. There was a demonstration on how these dogs discover rhino horn hidden in suitcases or any other methods that people make use of to traffic these horns.

The children were required to create rhino posters. The effort and creativity of the children was astonishing. Through the pictures, drawings and paintings the message conveyed was loud and clear.

Environmental Services attended the Science Unlimited at Kwalata Game Ranch from 27 to 29 August 2013. Schools from Hammanskraal were educated by means of informal presentations and the exhibition with various pictures of the two rhino species, and how important it is to try and save our beautiful rhinos.

AFB Waterkloof Environmental Services Section launched the “Save our Rhino” Project to contribute to the fight against poaching.

Over 700 rhinos have been killed during illegal poaching activities and AFB Waterkloof wanted to contribute towards saving our rhinos. This is a very sensitive issue for the SA Air Force, especially for AFB Waterkloof as the Ditholo Training Area is a satellite unit of AFB Waterkloof and a sensitive conservation area. Additionally, AFB Waterkloof is actively involved in joint anti-rhino operations, mostly in the Kruger National Park.

AFB Waterkloof has designed its own slogan: “Waterkloof your wingman in the fight against poaching” for the “Save our Rhino” Project. T-shirts were designed and sold with this emblem and slogan.

An auction “Save our Rhino” is planned for the near future. All funds generated through this initiative will then be donated to the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). These funds will enable EWT to train more “tracker dogs” for the purpose of horn detection at transit points (airports) and active anti-rhino poaching operations.
The DOD Environmental Awards Function

By Pte Pitso Phillip, SA Soldier
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

As the world faces the challenges of global environmental change, the DOD has decided to play a fundamental role regarding environmental issues and awareness.

The annual DOD Environmental Awards ceremony was held at the Pienaars River Training Area outside Pretoria on 4 September 2013. The Acting General Officer Commanding of AFB Waterkloof, Col Innocent Buthelezi, welcomed all the guests.

This competition is meant to inspire units and members of the SANDF to honour their responsibilities towards the environment under their control by giving recognition to unit’s and individuals for their contributions towards environmental services in the military.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, presented the awards and trophies to the winners in the eight categories:

- Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency in the DOD
  - In this category there was no winner, but a Certificate of Commendation was issued to Air Force Base Langebaanweg.

- National Energy Efficiency Campaign Award for Energy Efficiency in the DOD
  - Winner: Main Ordnance Sub-depot Durban
  - Runner-up: None

- Keep eThekwini Beautiful Award for Integrated Waste Management in the DOD
Winner: Air Force Base Overberg  
Runners-up: Bluff Military Area, Air Force Base Waterkloof and Lephalale Training Area

- Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management in the DOD  
  Winner: SA Army Combat Training Centre  
  Runners-up: Bluff Military Area, Air Force Base Waterkloof and Lephalale Training Area

- Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management in the DOD  
  Winner: Air Force Base Hoedspruit  
  Runners-up: Air Force Base Bloemspruit and Air Force Base Waterkloof

- Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Awareness Training  
  Winner: Air Force Base Langebaanweg  
  Runners-up: SA Army Combat Training Centre and Air Force Base Waterkloof

- SA National Parks Floating Trophy for Military Integrated Environmental Management in the DOD Maintenance Category: Air Force Base Overberg  
  Development Category: None

- Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services in the DOD  
  Winner: Air Force Base Hoedspruit Environmental Team  
  Runners-up: 5 Special Forces Regiment Environmental Team and Air Force Base Waterkloof Environmental Team

Lt Gen Masondo congratulated all the winners and runners-up and thanked all the sponsors. He emphasized the importance of this day on the DOD calendar. According to him the planet’s capacity to sustain an increasing population is exponentially reaching its peak and it is imperative that everyone, as responsible citizens of Mother Earth, must meet our social and moral responsibility to minimize our footprint, our unnecessary demands and our negative impact on the non-renewable natural resources that remain available.

The crux of Lt Gen Masondo’s speech was national security and environmental factors and their linkage. The first is concerned with the ways in which environmental change might threaten national interests and hence become relevant to the traditional mandates of military and intelligence institutions. The second concerns the ways in which security institutions and practices affect the environment and the possibility of applying security assets to environmental ends.

Lt Gen Masondo assured the guests that the DOD would continue to play its role in protecting endangered species and would plan to include environmental training in its activities. This includes “greening” the military, using military and intelligence assets to support environmental initiatives, promoting dialogue, building confidence, transferring technology and providing disaster and humanitarian assistance. The annual DOD Environmental Awards function serves as a tangible commitment by Defence to fulfilling its role as a custodian of our people’s national heritage.
The eighth South African Joint Air Defence Symposium (SAJADS) 2013 was attended by 350 delegates. The symposium was held at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) International Convention Centre in Pretoria from 10 to 12 September 2013.

The countries that were represented were Brazil, Botswana, Belarus, France, India, Kenya, Lesotho, the Russian Republic, South Africa, Switzerland, the United States of America, Ukraine and Zambia. The theme of this year’s symposium was “Integrated Joint Air Defence within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Department of Trade and Industry’s Action Plan to enhance indigenisation”.

The biennial event is rotated between the Services of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). This year’s event was organised by the SA Navy (SAN). The organising committee was chaired and co-chaired by Director Maritime Warfare, R Adm (JG) Karl Wiesner, and Capt (SAN) Les Hutton (Ret). The rest of the committee consisted of members of Armscor, the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service.

The Chief of Naval Staff, R Adm Rusty Higgs, opened the SAJADS 2013 on behalf of the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, who was out of the country on official duties. R Adm Higgs said: “I have the honour today and I am indeed humbled in opening the eighth SAJADS on behalf of the Chief of the SA Navy. I trust that in these three days of deliberation we will come away from the symposium having strengthened relations and
cooperation between our armed forces and industry.”

He thanked the organisers, delegates, presenters, exhibitors and most of all the generous patronage of the industry to the benefit of SAJADS 2013. R Adm Higgs stated: “Enjoy the company of each other for the next three days and the opportunity to interact by freely exchanging ideas and experiences on Joint Air Defence (JAD) matters. I declare this symposium open.”

The aim of the symposium was to highlight the key areas of military and industrial participation, both nationally and within SADC, in order to achieve an indigenous JAD. “The keynote address was delivered by the Deputy Chief of Joint Operations, Maj Gen Mbulelo Phako, who told the delegates: “I am honoured to deliver the keynote address at the SAJADS 2013”.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) defines air defence as: “All measures designed to nullify or reduce the effectiveness of hostile air action”.

These include ground and air based weapon systems, associated sensor systems, command and control arrangements and passive measures. It may be used to protect naval, ground and air forces wherever they are. Missile defence is an extension of air defence as are initiatives to adapt air defence to the task of intercepting potentially any projectile in flight. The SA Navy four Valour Class frigates are armed with Umkhonto missiles. They are launched vertically and are specially designed for providing all-round defence against simultaneous air attacks from multiple combat aircraft (fixed wing or helicopters) and incoming missiles.

The first SA Air Defence Symposium (SAADS) was held at the Gerotek Vehicle Test Facility west of Pretoria in 1997. The first success led to the second symposium hosted at the In-touch Conference venue in Hatfield, Pretoria, in 1999. It proved once again to be a great success and it was subsequently decided to institutionalise the symposium on a biennial basis.

Emphasis on the word “Joint” was the theme of the second symposium: “Effective Joint Air Defence in Small Defence Forces” who led to the name of the symposium being changed to the SA Joint Air Defence Symposium (SAJADS) from the third symposium onwards.

A traditional SAJADS formal dinner was held for the presenters, delegates and invited guests. The dinner was attended by the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Fabian Msimang, and the Deputy Chief of the SA Navy, R Adm Mosuwa Hlongwane. A seven-piece ensemble band from the SA Navy entertained the guests with contemporary blues and progressive jazz music.

In closing the symposium, the Acting Secretary for Defence, Dr Thobekile Gamede, said: “I am privileged in closing this prestigious event on behalf of the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube. We were honoured to have distinguished delegates from the military, industry, defence institutes and researchers participating”.

On the role of the armed forces she said: “I wish to emphasise the important role that armed forces play in supporting people and governments. Your participation has added value to the event and has assisted in achieving the set objectives. We took note of the Government’s Industrial Action Plan and the Mutual Defence Pact with SADC in line with the theme of the symposium.”
What do you think about when you are walking a long distance? What would you think about when you are walking 15 km with full kit during the SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition in the hills south-east of Bethlehem? These are questions that we could ask the almost 300 participants in the 2013 SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition.

This year the competition was held at 2 Field Engineer Regiment at Bethlehem from 15 to 20 September.

The event was opened by Maj Gen Spinx Nobanda, the Chief SA Army Force Preparation. He told the participants that he appreciated their commitment and the long hours they had spent in preparing for the competition. He said that the participants were the cream of the crop of the SA Army and that they could be proud to have been selected from more than 600 entries.

Maj Gen Nobanda indicated that honesty, one of the values of the SANDF, should be high on the agenda of each and every participant. He wished them well for the week ahead.

It was the first time that swimming was a protocol at the competition. Water competency is high on the agenda of the SA Army. In order to guarantee total combat readiness of an individual the member has to be water competent.

The Military Engineer Surprise consisted of an obstacle course consisting of various types of military engineer equipment, including the mobile mine detection system, bridge panels, cargo nets and fuel bladders. Many participants indicated that the Ratel tyre flip over 35 m was the most gruelling exercise in years!

The fun walk, fun run, agility test, bleep test, push-ups and 2.4 km run took place over two days. Capt Lesibi John Motokolo from the SA Army Training Formation in Pretoria said that this was the third time he was participating. He was the winner in the age category 35 to 44 in the 2010 competition. This year’s competition was a challenge to him as he was not able to prepare adequately for the competition. Capt Motokolo was still rewarded for his hard work as he received gold in the sit-up, push-up and 4 km walk protocols. He was the overall winner in the age group 45 to 50. His advice to soldiers wanting to compete in the competition next year is to give their all, train to their best ability and maintain individual discipline during the training process. Capt Motokolo said: “It is hard work, but definitely worthwhile.”

The last protocol to be completed was the endurance walk. Participants in all categories had to complete a distance of 15 km in full kit. The men in the age group 35 and younger had to walk 19 km. Various unit commanders, and even the Deputy Chief of the SA Army, Maj Gen Les Rudman, and the Director
Army Special Assignments, Brig Gen Allen Luck, joined the participants in this protocol. Pte Khotso Pitsu (52) said that he enjoyed the Military Engineer Surprise and that in his opinion the endurance walk followed one of the best planned routes ever.

The main functionary at the gala evening was Brig Gen Clive van Schalkwyk, the Deputy Director SA Army Force Preparation. He congratulated all participants on their spirit and attitude. He said the SA Army needed to set an example for the other Services and had to defend their winning position at the SANDF Fittest Soldier Competition in Pretoria in November this year.

Brig Gen Van Schalkwyk presented the trophies to the winners in the various categories. The SA Army Fittest Female Soldier Trophy went to Cpl Molemoeng Theodora Moaneno from 1 SA Tank Regiment in Bloemfontein, while Bombardier Rapitswansa James Mashapu from Light Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom received the SA Army Fittest Male Soldier Trophy for the fourth consecutive year.

The SO1 Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR) of the SA Army, Lt Col Louis Janeke, the exercise director, said that the esprit de corps of officials and participants were particularly evident at this year's competition.

This year also saw the introduction of an indoor flower ceremony every evening that gave recognition to individual achievers. Lt Col Janeke commended the competitive and positive spirit of the participants in the 50+ category.

Lt Col Janeke said: “SA Army members can only participate in this competition if they are not due for deployment or on course. It actually means that some of the fittest soldiers do not compete every year.” He indicated that excellent times were achieved this year.

No competition can be presented without the support of organisers and a good support team. S Sgt Andre Nel wrote a computer programme to announce the winners in the various protocols and categories within an hour after each event. Lt Col Janeke expressed his gratitude to the team of 2 Field Engineer Regiment and S Sgt Nel for all their arrangements.

ABOVE: An obstacle to be crossed during the Military Engineer Surprise was a Water Bladder. In action is WO2 Melissa van Rooyen from Infantry School. (She was also the overall winner in the female age category 30 to 40.)

ABOVE: Cargo nets as an obstacle during the Military Engineer Surprise.

ABOVE: According to participants the tyre flip was one of the most difficult activities in the Military Engineer Surprise.

ABOVE: Bombardier Rapitswansa James Mashapu from Light Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom receives the trophy from Brig Gen Clive van Schalkwyk, the Deputy Director SA Army Force Preparation, for successfully defending his title as Fittest Male Soldier of the SA Army for the fourth consecutive year.
SA Army uplifts the young workforce in Hospitality Services

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA Army Chef of the Year Competition took place at the Department of Defence (DOD) School of Catering in Thaba Tshwane from 9 to 13 September 2013. The competition was aimed at testing the skills of the SA Army chefs in the art of both preparation and presentation.

This was the third year of the three-year competition cycle, which will culminate in the final “Cook Off” with the winners going to the Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany, in 2015 with the SA National Team.

The aim of the competition was to afford members of the Hospitality Services of the SA Army the opportunity to participate in the largest and most prestigious quadrennial culinary art exhibition. The knowledge and experience acquired during the competition and best practices shared will certainly help to improve the quality of SA Army catering standards.

The transfer of hospitality skills to the young generation of the country by the SA Army is positively contributing to the uplifting of the
young workforce and assists in the national job creation drive. The ability of the SA Army chefs was amply demonstrated.

On the evening of 13 September 2013 the certificate ceremony was held to award trophies and certificates in order to acknowledge the participants for their achievements.

The participation of the young chefs in this competition was significant in that it not only showcased their passion for the culinary arts, but also showed their determination in contending with more experienced chefs.

Winners are traditionally defined as the individuals who “won” or “came first”, but by virtue of their participation they are all winners. Not only did they display their culinary skills, but they have seen what other chefs are doing and, as always, “steal with their eyes” as part of the learning curve, which never ends.

The organisers wish to thank the sponsors who assisted them in making the event a success, viz. Swartkops Catering, Old Mutual, the SA Chef Association (SACA), the DOD School of Catering and the main sponsor, the SA Army Foundation, specifically for the trophies and prizes. They are convinced that these prizes will inspire members to even greater efforts in future.
The Defence Legal Services Division (DLSD) marked another significant milestone when they celebrated their 14th year of existence with a series of events on 5 September 2013. The DLSD was established in September 1999.

The DLSD is a highly professional, legitimate and deployable Division and is the sole provider of legal support to the DOD. They provide an effective and comprehensive legal service and support for the President as the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, the Ministry and the DOD through the application of law and principles of justice.

The celebration kicked off with a medal parade at the DOD Logistic Support Formation in Pretoria where members of the Division who had provided extraordinary service for the SANDF were honoured in a way befitting soldiers and in line with military culture.

Approximately 25 medals were presented to the worthy recipients who had distinguished themselves by providing excellent service to our country and as soldiers who have displayed exceptional capabilities in the SANDF.

A medal parade is a reflection of diligent and professional behaviour, which is in line with the Code of Conduct for military members. The last part of the Code of Conduct states: “I will strive to improve the capabilities of the SANDF by maintaining discipline, safeguarding property, developing skills and knowledge, and performing my duties diligently and professionally”.

Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, the Acting Chief of Defence Legal Services, pinning the Good Service Medal (Silver) on the chest of S Sgt Patrick Kganyago.

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“My 10 year old son, Khwezi, has always wanted to fly aeroplanes. Old Mutual let him spend a day in the cockpit with real pilots to experience his dream job, 15 years before it happens. I have peace of mind knowing that he will have the means to make his dream come true no matter what happens. I’m glad I have life cover in place to help secure his future.”

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WE’RE WITH YOU FROM TODAY

Old Mutual is a Licensed Financial Services Provider.
DHQ Sickbay puts a smile on your face

September is national Oral Health Month, a time to pay extra attention to your dental routine, particularly as two of the world’s most common health problems affect the mouth, namely dental caries and gum disease.

In an effort to raise awareness around the importance of good oral hygiene, the DOD Headquarters Unit Sickbay celebrated Oral Health Month on 19 and 20 September 2013 with the theme “Celebrate your Smile”. The celebration was useful in promoting the steps all soldiers should take to ensure healthier smiles. Over the course of two days, the DOD Headquarters Unit Sickbay provided free screenings and referrals to the dentist.

Maj Viljoen added: “Practising good oral hygiene is very important in preventing oral disease. Dental screenings are a good place to start, and your dentist will tell you if there are any further steps you need to take, specifically to prevent or combat oral disease”.

Basics steps to combat oral diseases are as follow:
- Brush your teeth with fluoride at least twice a day.
- Floss daily or use an interdental brush.
- Rinse your mouth with mouthwash daily.
- Reduce your intake of sugar and try to maintain a healthy, balanced diet and stop smoking.
- Visit your dentist at least once a year.

It really is in your best interests to practise good oral hygiene, because not only does it ensure a beautiful smile, but it is good for your health. The ability to chew, talk and smile is part of daily life for most people and can easily be taken for granted. However, poor oral health affects millions of people all over the world, with adults suffering from severe gum disease, which results in tooth loss, and many others have cavities.

She added that such problems can have a highly negative impact on your daily life as they affect your ability to chew your food and talk properly, and even negatively affect your confidence and as reflected in your smile.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Maj Ronel Viljoen, a dentist of Thaba Tshwane Dental Section, said that aside from keeping your breath minty fresh there are some very good reasons why you should practise good oral hygiene. Keeping your teeth free of plaque, acidity and bacteria is vital in preventing unpleasant, painful and harmful conditions, such as gum disease or cavities.

ABOVE: Maj Ronel Viljoen, a dentist of Thaba Tshwane Dental Section, doing a dental screening on one of the patients during the Oral Health Month at the DHQ Sickbay.
The Military Academy was privileged to welcome and host the members of MA63 to celebrate our Golden Jubilee reunion on 18 September 2013. Senior citizens, all in our seventies, arrived with great expectations and a measure of awe and wonder that we could be here after graduating at the Military Academy (Faculty of Military Science) 50 years ago. Of the original 41 graduates 23 attended the reunion, four were absent and 14 had already passed away.

We were the first military students to complete all three years of our studies at the then new campus in Saldanha. On 11 December 1963 we had our final passing-out parade at the Military Academy and received our Deeds of Commission from the first State President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Charles Robberts Swart, who charged us: “I hereby commission you in the name of the Republic of South Africa to serve your country as an officer, with loyalty, courage, dignity and honours, to discharge your duties and responsibilities with zeal and diligence and to set a good example to those placed under your control”.

Our feet were on the second rung of the ladder of military officers’ ranks and from there we started climbing. Of the original 41 graduates (17 from the SA Army, 15 from the SA Air Force and 9 from the SA Navy) were some very high achievers: one Secretary for Defence, eight Generals and two Admirals. We salute them.

Our graduation took place on 12 December 1963 at Stellenbosch. We received the coveted B Mil degree and started our chosen vocation in life, never for one second understanding how blessed we would one day be to enjoy the golden jubilee on this special day with 23 comrades-in-arms, with grey hair, but the steel still in the eyes.

The proceedings started with a symbolic roll-call parade, followed by Scripture reading and prayer, as was the custom every day from 1961 to 1963. We formed a squad for roll-call, followed later by a flag-hoisting ceremony and a wreath-laying ceremony where the names of the 14 members who had been called to higher service were read. Maj Gen Fred du Toit (Ret) laid a wreath in remembrance.

After the parade, the necessary welcoming protocols were followed in the auditorium. The auditorium programme was well managed by Maj Gen Du Toit (Ret), a former Officer Commanding of the Military Academy in the early 1990s. He presented a historic reflection of the Military Academy with an album of the 1961-63 years compiled in retrospect was presented by Maj Gen Dan Lamprecht (Ret). A slide presentation was followed by the highlight of the day - a DVD (enhanced from 8 mm film) shown by Capt (SAN) Peter Penning (Ret) of the passing-out parade and the conferring of degrees in Stellenbosch.

An interesting talk was given by Lt Col Deon Visser, recently retired from the Military Academy, on the history of the Military Academy and how it could be positioned for the future.

Our group then proceeded to the dining room where an excellent luncheon was provided by the Military Academy catering staff. Various speakers gave short amusing anecdotes and stories of some of the pranks perpetrated during the three years at the Military Academy.

This was indeed a momentous day that will be remembered for many years to come. The staff members of the Military Academy who were involved all did a magnificent job of making the MA63 Group feel welcome and supporting this reunion.

After 50 years our class still echoed the motto of the Military Academy. We were proud of our achievements and of the unique reunion that we were privileged to attend.

Group photographs were taken on the steps of the main building to preserve the memory of the first year group to celebrate our Golden Jubilee at the Military Academy in Saldanha.
School of Signals celebrates 100 years

Rich history

The South African Military School opened on 1 July 1912 at the President’s residency in Bloemfontein. This location soon became too small and the Military School moved to Tempe. Five training branches were created, one being the School of Signalling, which was established on 1 October 1913.

The signallers’ stay at Tempe was short: at the outbreak of World War I (1914) the School of Signalling along with other branches of the Military School were moved to the newly formed Mobilisation Centre in Potchefstroom. Here 900 signallers were trained for service in Europe and 1 501 for service in East Africa. From 14 April to 14 February 1920 the School of Signalling presented four post-war courses at the then Roberts Heights, now known as Thaba Tshwane.

In March 1920 the South African Military School changed its name to the South African Military College (now known as the SA Army College). The School of Signalling then became known as the Signalling Branch, and was responsible for all signal training, including the training of signal instructors and regimental signallers.

With the outbreak of World War II (1939) the demand for signallers became so great that the training facilities at the Military College became too small to house the thousands of signal recruits and their training staff. Consequently the Signalling Branch moved again this time to the Mobilisation Centre in Potchefstroom on 1 March 1940, and its name reverted back to that of the School of Signals.

By February 1940 a Signal Training Centre had been established in Potchefstroom to house, organise and train the SA Corps of Signal (SACS) Units. The Training Centre comprised three separate branches. The School of Signals was responsible for advanced signal training of SACS officers and other ranks, units undergoing training and the signal recruits training depot.

In 1944 the Signal Training Centre was disbanded and the remaining signal personnel moved back to Roberts Heights, where in 1946 they once again operated as the Signalling Branch of the SA Army College.

In 1973 it was decided to transfer the training of the Army leader group from the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg to Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. The School of Signals and 1 Signal Regiment were then ordered to move to Heidelberg. Although the name of the Army Gymnasium was maintained, its role was changed to that of signal training. The School of Signals is responsible for all leader group and Citizen Force training within the Signal Corps.

The Army Gymnasium remained a signal training base for 24 years, during which time the 50th anniversary of the Corps of Signals was celebrated in 1974. As part of the celebrations a SACS Day was held on 5 October 1974. This day was to become a milestone in the history of the SACS, for not only did the Army Gymnasium and therefore the School of Signals and 1 Signal Regiment receive the Entry of Freedom of Heidelberg, but a man-sized statue of Mercury (the icon of the SACS) was presented to the Corps of Signals by Maj Gen Jack Dutton. This statue is now at the SA Army Signal Formation at Wonderboom Military Base.

On 5 December 1998 the School of Signals officially closed at the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg and was relocated to Wonderboom in Pretoria. The School of Signals presents its signal training at its new location as part of the SA Army Signal Formation, where it is responsible for the functional training of officers and other ranks, as well as of junior leaders, apprentices and artisans of the SACS.
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SA National Defence College displays its heritage

By Col George Ingram, Chief of Staff SA National Defence College
Photos: MWO Steph Ferreira

The South African National Defence College (SANDC) in Thaba Tshwane was established in 1972 and officially opened on 5 March 1973 and the first Joint Staff Course (JSC) was presented there in the same year. The JSC was presented until 1999, after which the course was replaced by the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) in 2000. Since then 42 JSCs and 28 ENSPs have been presented. Various valuable historic documents, photographs and memorabilia have been collected over the years.

To coincide with Heritage Month (National Heritage Day is annually celebrated on 24 September) the Commandant of the SANDC, R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Vuuren, opened a display in the foyer of the main building on 30 September 2013 depicting the history and traditions of the unit.

Old telephone booths were converted into a display area consisting of three display sections. The first display section houses several documents, photos and memorabilia which give an overview of the unit’s history since its establishment on 5 March 1973. The second section displays gifts and plaques given to the SANDC during official visits to other countries or during foreign visits to the unit, while the third area is used to display awards and trophies currently in use by the ENSP.

To add further to the new display area, the foyer of the main building houses a torch, known as the “Flame of Knowledge” whose motto reads “Knowledge is Strength”. There are also various display cabinets which are used to exhibit trophies, gifts and memorabilia. Two restored round teak tables further add to the character of the foyer.

The preparation of the display area was undertaken by staff members of the SANDC with the support of members of 1 Air Supply Unit (1 ASU) who set up all the wooden frames and shelves. 1 ASU also assisted with woodwork in the foyer and at the front entrance.

ABOVE: Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, General Officer Commanding of the DOD Training Command, and R Adm (JG) Laura van Vuuren, Commandant of the SA National Defence College, in front of the new display area.

ABOVE: The three display areas, flr: the history display, the gifts and plaques display and the Executive National Security Programme awards and trophies display.
Uncertain of what to expect was the expression on the faces of learners entering the Koepel Conference Room at the South African Defence Intelligence College (SADIC) in Pretoria, where the 11th DOD Induction and Reorientation Programme was presented to 38 existing and new employees of the Department of Defence.

The programme for Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 8 to 12 was presented from 30 September to 4 October 2013. It was aimed at meeting employer and employee expectations, encouraging socialisation and creating a positive image of the DOD as a desirable employer.

After the first day’s presentations on the macro-structure of the DOD, the strategic management process, policy development and feedback on the status of the Defence Review Update 2013, learners were ready to participate in discussions. Interaction between the learners and presenters increased by day two with the whole day dedicated to Human Resources (HR) matters.

By the end of day three, learners had broadened their knowledge and understanding of communication and information management and were reminded of their accountability in respect of finance in the DOD. The presentation by the Defence Materiel Division demonstrated the Defence Acquisition Process of optimally directing and managing the acquisition of DOD specified materiel and technology.

The Military and Force Employment Strategy and how the Services and Divisions work in cohesion to plan and implement the strategy in relation to the Defence Review served to emphasise the critical role which Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) play in supporting the effective defence of a democratic South Africa.

As such, the presentations on the Defence Review Update and Military Strategy were rated by learners as some of the most valuable modules of the programme.

When they were asked the value of the programme, Mr Humbulani Makhuvha, a Deputy Director from the Defence Policy Strategy and Planning Division, and Ms Aretta Marsh, a Senior Personnel Practitioner from the Human Resources Division, responded as follows:

Mr Makhuvha: “On the policy perspective, we were overwhelmed by the visibility of the interface between strategy and policy. Therefore one can testify that strategy and policy cannot be separated as both are comprehensive frameworks of interaction and they bring about political and social order. On policy forecasting we commended the superb work done by the Defence Review Committee and the National Planning Commission on scenario constructions of the future of our department and our nation in particular. We are definitely in good hands and our nation is at work.”

Ms Marsh: “The programme contributed a great deal to the development of PSAP on salary levels 8 to 12 as it provided basic knowledge and understanding of the Military and Force Employment Strategy and how the different Services and Divisions work together in implementing these strategies. The information shared on the DOD rank structure and dress regulations was of great value and the presentation on policy development highlighted the importance of having policies developed and reviewed in order to comply with national legislation. It is evident that a learning path for PSAP, coupled with proper career development, will contribute to higher qualified and competent PSAP in the DOD.”

The DOD is a dynamic organisation in which a continuous demand for change is evident. To initiate a developmental process and communicate basic knowledge and understanding of the core business of the DOD to PSAP on salary levels 8 to 12, Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (PSAP) Education, Training and Development, with 42 subject matter experts from the Services and Divisions, in 2007 developed a DOD Induction and Reorientation Programme which is presented annually.
The history of the SANDF College of Educational Technology

By Lt Col Avril Barnard, Chief Training Officer at the SANDF COLET
Photos: Mr Charel Bezuidenhout

This year the SANDF College of Educational Technology (COLET) celebrated its 38th birthday with a parade to mark this milestone. On the day of the parade Lt Col Avril Barnard, Chief Training Officer at the SANDF COLET, presented the history of this great institution:

The SANDF COLET was established in 1973 as the Centre for Educational Technology (CENET) in Thaba Tshwane (then Voortrekkerhoogte) to address the need for a specialised unit dedicated to the continued training and development of Defence Act Personnel (DAP) in the application of training theories and methods in order to ensure a competent and professional Defence Force.

The first formal lecture was given on 13 March 1973, kick-starting an outstanding legacy of training and development at the Centre. As its popularity grew, the need for CENET’s services broadened to the extent that a larger, more practical venue was required, and so, on 4 October 1976, CENET officially opened its doors in this current building in Clubview in Pretoria.

The concept of “Educational Technology” is internationally recognised and referred to the application of knowledge systems and techniques in order to enhance human learning. Educational Technology rests as it were on the theories and expertise of the educationist, but differs from education in the sense that it wants to achieve practical goals.

It is directed towards problem solving, and a systems approach is used in which learning aids and learners are not placed in separate compartments or dealt with separately. The learner is seen as part of a larger system (which includes society), and what the learner learns must be of value to himself or herself and the system. This is what the SANDF COLET’s core business is and what it strives to achieve by ever expanding its scope and reach.

Since then the SANDF COLET has had to adjust its focus to train SANDF members and other interested parties in all aspects of the education, training and development (ETD) spectrum, such as facilitation, assessment, moderation, design and development, training management and research methodology. It also provides several key services for the SANDF, such
as ETD quality assurance, ETD related consultancy, media design and development and a research capability.

These services have expanded exponentially, not only to the benefit of the SANDF, but also the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which makes the SANDF COLET an important role-player in the Human Resource Development of the Southern African region.

From the day of its establishment, the SANDF COLET has grown and changed, adapted and been transformed. However, the core business of the unit and its dedication to providing excellent training and ETD resources has not diminished and has remained steadfast at the heart of the functioning of the unit.

Over the past 38 years, Commandants and Acting Commandants have come and gone, programme names and course content have changed and expanded, symposiums have been hosted, bulletins and other publications have been published, media products have been designed and distribute and, last but not least, many awards have been won, leaving behind a legacy of training and media excellence.

Some highlights

- 1976 – COLET had the best TV studio outside of the SABC.
- 1977 – COLET established and used the first mobile TV Studio in the RSA.
- 1978 – COLET designed and presented the first Basic Education Training Course for instructors.
- 1985 – The first Educational Technology Course, Parts I and II were designed and presented and the first SANDF COLET Symposium was held.
- 1986 – COLET established the first Training Research and Development Section and published its first Bulletin.
- 1988 and 1989 – COLET won first place in the garden competition for the then Northern Transvaal Command units.
- 1995 – COLET designed and presented the first Mass Media Course.
- 1996 – COLET expanded its reach by adopting a decentralised training approach and system to be able to train more learners.
- 2003 – COLET registered with the SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and was accredited as a training provider of credited learning with the ETDP Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA).
- 2004 – The COLET Media Centre was presented with an award for first place in the production of an educational media product at the International Film Festival in Italy.
- 2009 – Members from COLET took part in the Friendly Forces Route March in the Cape.
- 2008 – COLET designed and presented the first Training Management Programme.
- 2011 – COLET was reaccredited as a Training Provider with the ETDP SETA.

As is evident throughout its history, and despite the changes and challenges it has experienced, the dedication of the SANDF COLET to providing an excellent ETD service for the SANDF has never wavered, not least because of the spirit, passion and dedication of its personnel. It will continue to grow and expand in purpose and reputation as the leading ETD training centre for the SANDF for decades to come.
South Africa celebrated Casual Day on 6 September 2013, one of the biggest fund-raising and awareness campaigns that the Department of Defence (DOD) supports. In so doing it demonstrated its commitment to the plight of people with disabilities.

The event was held at the Air Force Base Swartkop in Pretoria, with the theme “GO BIG”. Casual Day is a flagship project of the National Council for People with Disabilities, which benefits public organisations mandated to improve the education, accessibility and social inclusion of people with disabilities. It raises awareness and raises funds to benefit this community.

Indeed the DOD went big this year by staging one of the most successful Casual Days to date. Air Force Base Swartkop was full to capacity for the programme, which included activities such as music performed by the SA Air Force Band, a Casual Day best dress parade, a mini mock attack. There were various displays in Hangar No 5 by different sections, including 1 Military Hospital wellness sections (Social Work, Physiotherapy) and the South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA) which provided information and raised awareness.

LEFT: Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, Director Equity, officially opening the DOD Casual Day celebrations.

RIGHT: Leading Seaman Rendani Phalwandwa dancing with one of South Africa’s singers, Quentin Prinsloo.

ABOVE: Some of the members who dressed according to this year’s theme: “GO BIG” in the Casual Day best dressed parade.

By Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma
Celebrating Casual Day with “different abled” learners

Lt Col Jammies de Kock, Senior Intelligence Assistant Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape
Photos: Sgt Vivian de Klerk

The Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape coordinated a visit for 21 learners from the Tembalethu School for learners with special educational needs and intellectual disabilities in Gugulethu. The children visited 9 SA Infantry Battalion (9 SAI Bn) and Monkey Town.

Col Bayanda Mkula, the Officer Commanding of Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape (J Tac HQ WC) welcomed the children on their arrival at 9 SAI Bn. The learners were introduced to the military when they visited a static exhibition of infantry weaponry. They enjoyed the drill display and were eager to return the soldiers’ salute and enjoyed the hands-on experience. They eagerly posed for an individual photo with a weapon and the appropriate camouflage on their faces and enjoyed a short trip in a Casspir in unit lines.

Monkey Town in Somerset West sponsored the group for a free tour through their facilities. Both the learners and the liaison officers learned more about monkeys. The day concluded with the learners enjoying their food parcels sponsored by J TAC HQ WC and 9 SAI Bn. This was truly a heart-warming experience for all who attended.

Tembalethu School was founded as a school for “differently abled” learners. In 1974 a small group of women were concerned by the great need for a school that could cater for them. The school caters for learners with special educational needs arising from physical or mild cognitive disabilities. All the learners attending the school have physical disabilities most commonly resulting from cerebral palsy, spina bifida, amputations, genetic syndromes, spinal injuries and traumatic brain injuries. Learners can attend from preschool age until Grade 9, and are offered both a mainstream curriculum and practical life skills training curriculum for those learners who may not cope with the mainstream subjects. The school currently has roughly 180 learners from a wide area across the Cape Flats and is constantly growing.

ABOVE: Awethu Ngombane, a learner of Tembalethu School for learners with special educational needs and intellectual disabilities, looks very happy visiting the SANDF.

ABOVE: Lt Col Jammies de Kock, Senior Intelligence Assistant Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape, with Masibulele Qamayi, a learner of Tembalethu School.
SA Army Signal Formation boasts sporting facilities of a high standard

A Army Signal Formation boasts sporting facilities of a high standard and the word has spread to other security agencies and government departments. On 26 September 2013 the SA Police Service (SAPS) Head Office Regional Fitness Team was trained for the first time on the pentathlon obstacle course in preparation for their upcoming National Functional Fitness Championships. The training session was led by SAPS fitness instructor, Warrant Officer Wayne Goliath.

In welcoming the various SAPS members to the facility, Lt Col Whytie de Wit of the SAPS National Intervention Unit and National Executive Fitness Committee commended the SA Army Signal Formation for an excellent obstacle course, and expressed his thanks and appreciation to Brig Gen Leon Eggers, the General Officer Commanding of SA Army Signal Formation, for allowing the SAPS to train there on a regular basis. He also thanked Lt Col Eugene van Dyk, SO1 Education, Training and Development (ETD) and Maj Hannetjie Joubert, SO2 Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR) for their assistance. Current improvements to the pentathlon obstacle course are expected to expand even further in future if the required financial resources can be obtained, including a swimming pool and an open-air gymnasium.

Other sporting facilities of SA Army Signal Formation include a gym, squash court, soccer fields, jukskei puttee and multi-purpose courts for volleyball, netball or tennis.
The DOD HQ Unit members held their Heritage Day celebrations at the Armscor Sports Ground in Pretoria on 27 September 2013.

The aim of the day was to familiarise the DOD HQ Unit members with the different cultures of South Africa and to learn of and appreciate each other’s diversity. The day was filled with the displays and traditional dancing of various cultural groups.

The Chief Coordinator and Master of Ceremonies of the day, Maj Dawie Schrader, welcomed everyone to the Heritage Day celebrations, after which the National Anthem was sung.

In his speech the Officer Commanding of the DOD HQ Unit, Col Mveleli Ngcama, reminded the unit members that this was a celebration of Heritage Day and encouraged them to enjoy, relax and learn about the South Africa’s diverse cultures. He said: “We are now close to 20 years of democracy and all of us are free to celebrate our identity, culture and heritage as spelt out in our Constitution. As soldiers we practise our military culture on a daily basis. It is so important to remind ourselves where we came from originally.”

When the DOD HQ Unit Choir sang the crowd enjoyed the music so much that they joined in the singing and started ululating in jubilation. The excitement continued as the Basotho cultural group followed with their traditional dancing and single dancers also showed off their skills. The “Kaapse Klopse” were as bright as ever in their attire and showed their dancing skills, much to the delight of the crowd.

There were seven tents for all the different groups where each displayed its own cultural foods. They were proud of their culinary efforts, for example potjiekos (Whites), snoek (Coloureds), Tihove - samp with beans (Tsonga and Venda), Masonja (cooked worms) - BaPedi, Ulusu (tripe) - Xhosa, Inkobe (beans with sweet corn) – Zulu and Mohodu/Mogodu (tripe) - Sesotho and Setswana. Thereafter Col Ngcama and Maj Schrader visited each tent to taste each cultural group’s traditional foods.

In the end all cultural groups were joyous in celebrating Heritage Day and learning about other people’s cultures. In so doing they internalised the spirit of our rainbow nation, namely UBUNTU. All the cultural groups deserve praise for a job well done.

**ABOVE:** DOD HQ Unit members dressed in the cultural attire of the different groups attending the Heritage Day celebrations.

**ABOVE:** The BaPedi group displaying their rehearsed dancing skills to the delight of the crowd.
Know your battle space and be resilient

By Chaplain (Rev) Jacob Dithipe
from SA Army Infantry Formation

Ephesians 6:10-13 “Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power. Put on all the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil’s evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God’s armour now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy’s attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground.”

Would any force fight and win a battle without prior knowledge of the battle space? No, it is highly impossible for any force to properly prepare for a battle when it does not know where the engagement or operation is going to unfold.

As the Chaplain of the SA Army Infantry Formation whose role is to render spiritual and moral support to the deploying forces, I have learned it is crucial for forces to know their battle space for them to prepare the right equipment to increase their mobility.

My experience of working in the Infantry Formation, which has been tasked to prepare and provide the forces for the Chief of the SA Army, has taught me that apart from training the forces to operate in their battle space and giving them the right equipment, it is critical that the spirit of patriotism be inculcated in them in the training phase.

The General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Lindile Yam, is passionate about the inclusion of this aspect in the units’ training programmes. He is adamant that forces will not be combat ready if they do not have God’s Spirit which will render his forces patriotic about their country, as God is love, and whoever has faith in Him will have love for his fellow citizens and the country at large.

The Spirit that the Commander of the SA Army Infantry Formation is passionate about was manifested in the battle of Bangui when 44 Parachute Regiment soldiers, who were far outnumbered by the opposition, were able to mesmerise and out fight their opposition to emerge as heroes of that battle.

Put on the armour

The passion of the Commander of the SA Army Infantry Formation reminds us of the Apostle Paul’s passion in preparing the believers to face the world. Paul was well aware of the opposition that lay ahead of the believers’ mission of propagating the Gospel. He knew that the devil was not going to make anything easy for those propagating the Gospel.

Paul knew his enemy well. He even knew the enemy’s posture and intent. This made it easy for him to prepare believers for a battle against him. He arms the believers with the armour that the enemy did not have, which is the armour of God. He says: Put on the whole armour of God; that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. The armour that Paul refers to is the Spirit of God. He knew for a fact that without the Spirit of God they would not be able to defeat the devil. They needed God’s Spirit in order for them to be combat ready and resilient against the devil. This is the Spirit that the Lord knew that the believers were going to fall prey to the devil if they did not receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

The enemy position and battle space

The Apostle Paul makes it clear that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. The question is: Are you combat ready, do you have the Spirit?

The Apostle Paul further points out that battle space which he says is the whole world. This implies that this enemy is not there only during deployments, but he is roaming around everywhere, in our offices, in the corridors, in our bedrooms, in our meetings. This is the enemy that has many faces and postures; at times he poses as an officer, at times as a Warrant Officer, as a non-commissioned officer or as a civilian member. He uses human posture in order to sow division in your section, break marriages and other relationships. This enemy has also plotted the downfall of many.

Application

The world will remain a battle space for both believers and non-believers. Each one will have to fight his or her own battle, as no one who is in this battle space can avoid facing the enemy with his tricks. Question is: what or who are you taking with you into the battle? Are you taking your own wisdom, power or strength, or are you like Moses who said: If you do not go with us, do not let us move our feet from here. Moses wanted God to accompany them to Canaan, for with God he was sure of victory. Remember the words of Isaiah 40:28-31: “Don’t you know? Haven’t you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God; he created all the world. He never grows tired or weary. No one understands his thoughts. He strengthens those who are weak and tired. Even youths grown tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall exhausted; but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, and they will walk and not be faint.”

Let us in the same vein ask the Lord to journey with us in our battle spaces. Let us allow his Spirit to be in charge of our lives in order for us to have a slight edge over the adversities of life. “Put on the armour of God in order to withstand the devil’s tricks”. Amen.
Defence Inspectorate Division Family Day

By Ms Keabetswe Kempe, Intern at SA Soldier
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Defence Inspectorate Division celebrated Family Day at the SA Air Force Gymnasium in Valhalla on 27 September 2013. The emphasis was on enabling members to take a break from their hectic working schedules and spend time with their families and friends.

Learners of the Pfunzo Ndi Tshedza Primary School in Mamelodi East were invited to Defence Inspectorate Division’s Family Day. The school was adopted while the Division was celebrating 67 Minutes for Mandela Day at the School and were then invited to be part of the Defence Inspectorate Division’s family. (The school is situated in a poor community and is a non-fee school.)

The day started with the learners visiting the SA Air Force Museum. A jumping castle, water slides and the clown “Bubbles” entertained the children with jokes and gifts, while they had the opportunity to take part in the competition to be the best dancer.

ABOVE: What is Family Day without celebrating it with a huge cake.

Col Bonga Nzeza, Senior Staff Officer Resource Manager, said it was the first time she had organised an event like this. She said: “Next year we want to invite more children from different schools. God organises us into families so we can grow up in happiness and safety, therefore we also learn to love others selflessly and that is true joy for families.”

She also expressed her appreciation for the bigger audience that showed their support. A job well done by people who helped her and she hoped that everyone enjoyed themselves.

Family values help to keep the family together: placing your family first, spending time with them and making personal sacrifices for the good of your family. Within the family it is the best place to learn to love others the way our Heavenly Father loves each one of us.

ABOVE: Members of Defence Inspectorate Division led by Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane (front, right) celebrating Family Day.

ABOVE: Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, the Inspector General of the DOD, celebrates Family Day with learners of the Pfunzo Ndi Tshedza Primary School.
Medicinal myths and a lack of care for our natural environment will be the forces behind the extinction of this magnificent animal.

The South African National Defence Force is a pillar in the reactive physical campaign being fought against poaching on the ground and in the skies. We also engage in proactive educational campaigns to spread awareness about the intrinsic value of this magnificent animal.

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