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

2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).
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 ABOVE: Lt Michelle Maal, a pilot from 41 Squadron, inside the cockpit of a Cessna Caravan (C-208) during Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL in Angola. (Photo: Capt Matthew de Jager)

FRONT COVER: Cpl Vusi Siblelelo of the Military Police Division. Read all about the failed attempt to bribe this SANDF member on page 13. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
May you enjoy reading the spring edition of SA Soldier as much as we had compiling it for you. It is packed with a wide variety of articles to cater for you, our inquisitive readers.

SA Soldier is honoured to bring you a success story involving our deployed soldiers on patrol along the Zimbabwe/RSA border. An arrested smuggler failed to bribe an SANDF member, Cpl Vusi Sibulelo, by offering him R13 000 to release him.

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, expressed satisfaction at the manner in which Cpl Sibulelo handled the situation: “This is the culture the SANDF inculcates in its members.” Lt Gen Mgwebi said that in order for the Joint Operations Division to achieve successful joint force employment, it needed soldiers, such as Cpl Sibulelo, who adhere to the values of honesty, integrity, loyalty and patriotism. Read more about the Operation CORONA deployment in Musina on page 13.

In this edition we also focus on women in the military, including women’s role in decision-making structures.

According to the Deputy Chief of Human Resources, Maj Gen Nontsikelelo Memela-Motumi, women’s current gains in achieving positions of power were fought for and won through blood, tears and sweat. It has resulted in transformative policies and regulations that are now part of the making of a democratic society.

Maj Gen Memela-Motumi said: “There is no doubt that for now the advancement of the gender equality agenda in the military milieu is in the hands of male colleagues. Men are the decision-makers at the helm of our organisation. But as we move towards the non-sexist future in a democratic state, it becomes imperative for women in decision-making roles to be advocates of equity. Their voices must call for policy implementation, including the identification of gaps, in order to leave a proud and inspiring legacy.” (Read more on pages 24 and 25.)

Let us honour our women for their selfless and courageous contribution to our country. *Wa thinta Abafazi* *Wa thinta Imbokodo* (meaning: if you strike a woman you strike a rock).

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

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Konwabele ukufunda uhlelo lweNtwasahlolo lwe SA Soldier njengoko siye saniqokelelela lona. Kudityanisele iintlobo ngentlobo zamaqaku amakhulu ukunikela kuni zinkcubu-buchopho zabafundi bethu.

Siyi-SA Soldier sinenyheweba ukunipathela amabali ayipumelelo malunga namajoni ethu ahlaweyelwe ukuqwalasela imida yoMmzantsi Afrika neZimbabwe. Umhanelwa otyholwa ngokuthuleleza iziyobisi iziye usizame ukunyoba u-Corporal Vusi Sibulelo ngamawaka alishumi elinesithathu erandi ukuba amkhuluile.


Kwelihlelo sijolise kumakhosikazi asemkhosini kwakunywe nenxadheba ayidalayo ekuthatheni ulwakhiwo lweziggqibo.

Ngokutsho kuka sekela mphathi wenkonzo zoluntu (Deputy Chief of Human Resources), unjengele Nontsikelelo Memela-Motumi, abantu abangomama bayazilwela izihlako zolo zabo kwenkomo bazifumana ngezangezi, inyembezi nokubila. Loo nto ikhokhelela kutshintsholwethu lwezigmaphambili nokuyena lwezimplungo nokuncela nesakonzo zolawulo lwesinini kwingadwalo esithlala kuzo.


Masinike isidima nembeko komama ngobuntu babo obungazeni-siyi, nobogorha babo nokunjikelela kwabo ngenkxaso kwelilizwe lethu. “Wa thinta Abafazi; Wa thinta Imbokodo”.

Nelda Pienaar
Yomhleli SA Soldier

* Translation into isiXhosa by Ms Lethu Yengeni, Intern at Defence Corporate Communication.
Operation CORONA

By Maj Tony Watson, Charlie Company Commander, 10 SA Infantry Tactical Battalion
Photo: S Sgt Moleko Petrus Moji

The 10 SA Infantry Tactical Battalion from Mahikeng is being deployed from April to October 2013 to Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo in the Musina operational area. Charlie Company is deployed at Madimbo Operational Base in the east of the Musina operational area where we are fulfilling our constitutional mandate of safeguarding the border line between the RSA and Zimbabwe to minimise the high rate of illegal infiltration of undocumented migrants and to prevent cross-border crime, such as illegal smuggling and poaching. Section 1 of Platoon 1, Charlie Company, under the command of Lt Boikanyo Sydwell Botsi, was recently conducting normal infantry patrols along the border between Malala Drift and the Popallin Ranch when they found suspicious footprints in the area. After tracking these they found the resting place that the cigarette smugglers utilise before they load the contraband onto vehicles used for transporting the cigarettes south to Gauteng and beyond. Lt Botsi decided to lay a standing patrol (an ambush without the killing element) on their route to try to capture the smugglers and to confiscate their goods. He sent out two scouts, Cpl Mothusiotsile Richard Dira of 10 SA Infantry Battalion Intelligence Section and Cpl Vusi Sibulelo of the Military Police Division, to reconnoitre the area for the standing patrol. While the scouts were waiting for the rest of Section 1 to arrive in the area they noticed the scouts of the smugglers and decided to wait and see what happened. After the scouts left the area about 100 smugglers started emerging from the bush carrying master boxes of cigarettes on their backs (each master box is filled at the factory with 50 cartons). The scouts, Cpl Dira and Cpl Sibulelo, decided to spring the standing patrol when they passed so that the smugglers could be attacked from behind. The smugglers dropped their bags, but about 10 of them ran away with their boxes. Cpl Dira and Cpl Sibulelo managed to confiscate 163 master boxes (about 8 100 cartons) and 70 cartons of cigarettes to the value of R1 514 649.16. On their arrival at the SA Revenue Service (SARS) Beit Bridge with the Samil 50 filled with the cigarettes, the SARS officers were very impressed with the amount of cigarettes, as they usually find a consignment of this size hidden in large trucks. I am very proud to be the Company Commander of Charlie Company. After three months of hard work we had quite a few successes due to my company’s members’ dedication and hard work. Thus far we have confiscated over R5 000 000.00 worth of goods and cigarettes, and have arrested a large number of undocumented migrants.

Failed attempt to bribe SANDF member

By Capt (SAN) Zamukuhle Sithole, SSO Operation Communication
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

As part of our duties along the borders of South Africa, members of the SANDF conducted patrols at Popallin Ranch next to Malala Drift along the Zimbabwe/RSA border when they recently saw a suspicious group of people carrying boxes. When they saw the soldiers these people tried to run away. After a warning shot was fired, boxes of cigarettes were dropped and one of the suspects was arrested. He was in possession of R13 780,00 and tried in vain to bribe an SANDF member, Cpl Vusi Sibulelo, by offering him R13 000,00 to release him. The SANDF confiscated 1 700 cartons of cigarettes to the value of R219 300. Each carton contained ten packets of cigarettes. The suspect, who was from Zimbabwe, was handed over to the Musina SA Police Service. Capt Solly Mohale, the Operational Communication Officer of Joint Operational Tactical Headquarters, said: “Cpl Sibulelo from 13 Provost Unit is among the great patriots that this country is looking for. His actions while on and off duty can only be praised.” Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the Chief of Joint Operations, expressed satisfaction at the manner in which this member handled the situation: “This is the culture the SANDF inculcates in its members.” He said in order for the Joint Operations Division to achieve successful joint force employment it needed soldiers, such as Cpl Sibulelo, who adhere to the values of honesty, integrity, loyalty and patriotism.

Flr: Cpl Mothusiotsile Richard Dira, Platoon 1 Intelligence Non-commissioned Officer, Charlie Company. Maj Tony Watson, Charlie Company Commander, and Cpl Vusi Sibulelo, Military Police member detached to Platoon 1, Charlie Company. Front: Lt Boikanyo Sydwell Botsi, Platoon 1 Commander, Charlie Company.
CELEBRATING WOMEN’S DAY

The Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape coordinated a celebration for Women’s Day at the Job Masego Wardroom on 7 August 2013. Women from the unit, colleagues from Safety and Security Departments and other units in the Cape Metropolis were invited to attend. On arrival the women enjoyed tea and refreshments while they posed for photos, which were sent to them afterwards as a momento. Col Bayanda Mkula, Officer Commanding of Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape, welcomed the 150 attendees, after which the proceedings were opened with Scripture reading and prayer by Chaplain Estelle Johannessen, the unit Chaplain. Five guest speakers addressed the women during the day, the focus of which was: not a “Super Woman” but a “Fun Woman”. Mr Cameron du Toit from SOLEIL discussed the illnesses of a modern society. Capt Nicky Rossouw from 2 Military Hospital addressed the theme of not a “Strong Woman” but a “Fun Woman”. Next Ms Veronica Mangqwengqe, Principal of Umnqophiso Preprimary School, discussed how to overcome one’s challenges. After a scrumptious lunch that was well prepared by the Army Wife, Veronica Mangqwengqe, Principal of Umnqophiso Preprimary School, addressed the women during the day, the focus of which was: not a “Super Woman” but a “Fun Woman”. Next Ms Veronica Mangqwengqe, Principal of Umnqophiso Preprimary School, addressed the women during the day, the focus of which was: not a “Super Woman” but a “Fun Woman”.

Military wives

We as women know how inspirational and motivated we are. However, at times we have to be reminded of our invaluable roles within our own families, communities and working circles. That is exactly what the women of Mobile Military Health Formation Headquarters experienced in hosting Women’s Day activities on 23 August 2013. The women were treated to an exceptional presentation by Maj Liesl Els, Social Worker at Area Military Health Unit Gauteng, who focused her presentation on our everyday relationships with our families, friends and colleagues. Inspirational messages had to be drawn from a gift bag and read out loud, after which the applicability of the message to our lives were described. Almost all the women present drew messages directly applicable to their own personalities and characters. This experience just made me realise how different our personalities are, yet how similar our goals and visions. During the presentation it was hard not to do some introspection and focus on the way in which we communicate with those in our inner circles and outside our comfort zones. In a way it gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better and to reflect on building relationships. Inspired by this we were off to Centurion Mall to celebrate womenhood in all its facets with a luncheon at one of the restaurants. There we had time to bond as women while enjoying the relaxed atmosphere and each other’s company. It was truly special in realising that, yes, you are a woman and that in itself is a reason to celebrate, but also in reflecting on the struggle of women through the ages, that tough history that has shaped our lives to where we are today.

Capt Marelda Coetzer, email

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

Capt Jackie Hartzemberg, SO3 Monitor and Control, was the winner in the best traditional dress category for the day. (Photo: Sgt Vivian de Klerk)

Announced that Phumeza from Old Mutual would deliver a presentation on how to manage one’s finances. Additional sponsors were received from Avon, Old Mutual, Liberty and Mantelli’s Cookies. Each guest received a photo frame, Liberty and Mantelli’s Cookies. Each guest received a photo frame, Lucky draws were handed out.

Avon samples, a copy of the Health Intelligence Magazine and various lucky draws were handed out.
Lt Col Jammies de Kock, email

R200-00 prize for the best letter

S A  S O L D I E R

Letters to the editor

Winning letter

Military wives

I wear no uniform, no blues or army greens
But I am in the Army in the ranks rarely seen
I have no rank upon my shoulders - salutes I do not give
But the military world is the place where I live
I’m not in the chain of command, orders I do not get
But my husband is the one who does, this I cannot forget
I’m not the one who fires a weapon, who puts my life on the line
But my job is just as tough.
I’m the one that’s left behind
My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man
And the call to serve his country not all can understand
Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep this country free
My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me
I love the man I married; soldiering is his life
But I stand among the silent ranks known as the Army Wife.
S.D. Mothapo, 12 SAI Bn

Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sa_soldier@mil.za.

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

Capt Marelda Coetzer, email

Capt Jackie Hartzemberg, SO3 Monitor and Control, was the winner in the best traditional dress category for the day. (Photo: Sgt Vivian de Klerk)
TRAIN TRIP TO DURBAN

The ladies of Area Military Health Unit (AMHU) Gauteng went on a team-building trip to Durban from 16 to 19 August 2013. The aim of the team-building exercise was to lift the morale, improve esprit de corps in the unit members, discuss issues affecting women of AMHU Gauteng and to improve communication among women in the workplace.

Those taking part met at Hatfield Gautrain Station. Before their departure they were given words of encouragement by Brig Gen Debbi Tempelhoff, General Officer Commanding of Area Military Health Formation (AMHF) HQ. With her was Col James van Niekerk, SSO Resource AMHF, and they wished the women a safe trip. Brig Gen Tempelhoff said: “Sometimes team-building and appreciating each other is just as important, and this is what this trip is about.”

When they arrived at Park Station in Johannesburg the ladies waited for the Shosholoza Meyl (train), which departed at 18:30. On their arrival in Durban on the Saturday morning the ladies visited places such as the Victoria St Market and various factory shops.

In the evening a function was held where discussions on women’s issues were held and gifts handed out. On the Sunday, the last day, the ladies were free to enjoy themselves, with the option of going to the beach, taking a rickshaw ride or visiting Ushaka Marine World before they headed back to Gauteng.

Ms Lebo Mohapi, Pretoria

WOMAN OF VIRTUE

A great asset you are
Woman of good feature one that is desired
High calibre is plainly who you are
Desirable quality is you
How much more can we describe your good worth
Continue being the woman that brings good change
Continue being the woman of honour and integrity

Yes I am talking about you soldier woman

The society takes pride in you for taking up this position and the bravery that you carry
When society looks at you in that awesome designed camouflage they became so encouraged and yes you are not aware that to someone you are a role model

Woman bring back the nicest taste of the old days when you open your mouth wisdom spreads and on your tongue lies the law of kindness
Extend your hand to the needy

Let your Title speaks for itself when uttered
W - Warriors
O - Organisers
M - Managers
A - Anchors
N - Nurseries

Become the woman that is after the heart of God
Woman of virtue worthy to be praised.

Dimakatso Faith Davhana, ASB Johannesburg

REACHING OUT TO THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Since 2012 members of the SA National War College (SANWC) have reached out to the Prinshof School for the Visually Impaired as a contribution to the 67 Minutes initiative in celebrating International Mandela Day. The School is situated in the central business district (CBD) of Pretoria, close to the Pretoria Zoo.

The School’s tight budget only provides for absolute necessities. A hostel with 26 beds accommodates those not fortunate enough to return home daily. However, all 34 children, who are between the ages of 8 and 18 years, enjoy lunch at the school prior to their departure for home every day. Apart from essentials such as the provision of basic toiletries, there is a dire need of heaters, bedding, linen and educational toys. Various SANDF members participated in the Women’s Day celebrations of the SANWC and contributed towards this worthy initiative. Negotiations with Hirsch Centurion resulted in a discounted price for wall panel heaters. Sixteen of these heaters were delivered to the school on 2 September 2013. A word of appreciation must go to the SANWC Chief of Staff, Col Chris Dunn, who sponsored four bathroom heaters.

This support initiative is an ongoing initiative of staff members of the SANWC who also engage with the children on special occasions such as birthdays. These important days are celebrated with some eats and treats along with personal attention.

Lt Col Marietjie Nicholson, who took a personal interest in all these children, said: “Due to the fact that support can only be rendered on a donations-received basis, circumstances do not change as rapidly as hoped. The SANWC challenges other units to get involved in similar projects or, if they want to support us in this specific endeavour.”

One last remark: these children are satisfied with the least life has to offer – a lesson of gratitude for most of us leading a normal life!

Lt Col Marietjie Nicholson, email
UNSELFISH SUPPORT TO THE SICK

Ms Emmarentia Smit, the Chief Accounting Clerk at the SA Army Intelligence Formation, donates platelets once a month that can be used for three sick people at a time.

She recently received the Karl Landsteiner Silver Medal from the SA National Blood Service (SANBS) for donating 150 platelets. She completed this number of donations in July 2012 and has since then donated another 12 units.

All it takes to make this unselfish donation is to be prepared to sit for 90 minutes, once a month, while the blood platelets are withdrawn from your blood. These platelets are used for cancer patients and for mothers who have lost a lot of blood during childbirth, and of course for accident victims.

Ms Smit challenges all members of the SANDF to join in this very unselfish service, because we never know when we will need it.

Maj Merle Meyer, email

RIGHT: Ms Emmarentia Smit displaying the Karl Landsteiner Silver Medal from the SA National Blood Service (SANBS) for donating 150 platelets.

FAREWELL TO A DEDICATED SECRETARY

The Office of Chief Military Strategy, Policy and Planning held a farewell function for one of its long-serving secretaries, Ms Miemie Murphy, who retired on 31 August 2013.

Ms Murphy started working for the Department of Defence in 1997 when she was appointed as secretary in the Defence Intelligence environment where she served, among others, under Brig Gen Willem “Kaas” van der Waals (Ret), then Director Foreign Relations, and Maj Gen Gert Opperman (Ret), then Chief Director Public Relations.

Before the end of 1997 she was transferred to Defence Headquarters where she was assigned to the office of Lt Gen Andrew Masondo (Ret), then Chief of the Service Corps. She was his secretary for four years. A familiar figure in the “Blue Mat Area” she is and can tell a lot of anecdotes about Lt Gen Masondo.

After Lt Gen Masondo retired, Ms Murphy became part of the Military Policy, Strategy and Planning environment when she was appointed as the secretary of the then Director of Planning, namely Brig Gen Solly Mollo (Ret), Brig Gen Ansuyah Fakir, Brig Gen Betty Leslie, Brig Gen Portia Sibiya, Brig Gen Tembelani “TT” Xundu, and R Adm (JG) Dirk de Villiers, Director Strategy.

During her farewell function Maj Gen Michael Ramantswana, Chief Military Policy, Strategy and Planning, praised her humble approach and the fact that she respected her younger principals and served them with the utmost dedication and respect.

Brig Gen Xundu told those present at the function that what struck him most about Ms Murphy was her “calm and dignified demeanour”. A teary R Adm (JG) De Villiers revealed the secret that Ms Murphy had typed and edited the autobiography of a former Minister of Defence, Gen Magnus Malan. We wish Ms Murphy happy and relaxed golden years.

Capt N.J. Malesa, Pretoria

JOINING HANDS IN KZN

The reader’s letter: “Joining hands in KZN for the environment” published in the August edition of SA Soldier (page 6) incorrectly referred to Capt (SAN) Steven Netshishivhe instead of Capt Steven Netshishivhe - Ed.

ENGAGED TO A SOLDIER

Being engaged to a soldier has many worries and scares.

What if he does not come back? That, I could not bear.

Although I worry and miss my soldier, I am proud to call him mine.

He may just be in basic training, but what will happen in time?

He may go off to fight the war, and leave his family here.

And if he does I will be strong because my love is stronger than fear.

So, now in time I wait and wait to see when he returns.

But never, NEVER, will I not have my concerns.

I am waiting and waiting to finally be MY soldier’s wife.

But for now I am just so happy to just be in my soldier’s life.

Pte S.D. Mothapo, email
Members of the SANDF and in particular of Air Force Base (AFB) Makhado, under the command of Brig Gen Schalk van Heerdien, donated duvets, duvet covers, pillows and pillow cases to the Abraham Kriel Children’s Home during August 2013. The Abraham Kriel Children’s Home is situated in Mokgopong (formerly known as Nylstroom) in the Waterberg District, approximately 220km from AFB Makhado. The institution caters for vulnerable children who have suffered emotional and physical abuse from their parents and the community.

According to the Commander of 3 Aircraft Servicing Unit (3 ASU), Col Moses Njomo, the purpose of the visit was to inspire and change the lives of the abandoned children while strengthening relations with the institution in honour of Madiba.

Col Njomo added that the donation made to the Home was facilitated by the good relations between 3 ASU, AFB Hoedspruit, 68 Air School and the Home, which was opened ten years ago. Ms Vera Viviers from the Home received the donation on behalf of the Principal of the School.

Although the Abraham Kriel Children’s Home has Government support, food parcels, clothes, blankets and any form of donation are always welcome.

More than 150 children are expected to benefit from the donation. The Abraham Kriel Children’s Home was founded in 1959 in Nylstroom (now Mokgopong) by Mr Abraham Kriel himself and this year marks 54 years of its existence. At present it cares for 152 children ranging from 3 to 17 years of age. The Home has at least 17 child care workers, three social workers and one nursing sister who care for the welfare of the children.

The children receive their education in Mokgopong, while others drive as far as Molemole for their higher education. The Home promotes cultural activities, rugby, cricket and other sports. Ms Edna Friggie from the Abraham Kriel Children’s Home thanked all the delegates for their support.

Sgt Thomas T. Mulaudzi, AFB Makhado

MEDALS REFLECT THE BEARER’S HISTORY

Brig Gen Bhasie Gqoboka, Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, handed over medals during a Medal Parade held at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha on 2 August 2013.

In his speech he said that a medal is awarded to a person as a form of recognition of achievements. He said: “As such the Department of Defence gives medals to its members to indicate the pride it has in its members.” He added that it was common knowledge that soldiers did not boast about their service or contributions. Instead the medals serve as a mouth piece reflecting the bearer’s history, bravery, merit and loyalty in their support of various activities in the SA National Defence Force.

Brig Gen Gqoboka said: “Today is the day we have set aside to show our appreciation to the men and women receiving their medals. I thank them for their dedication to their duty and their contribution towards the overall success of the SA Army Combat Training Centre.”

He reminded the recipients that they worked hard for these medals and that they should wear them with pride. Brig Gen Gqoboka also encouraged the recipients always to remember that the medals are a symbol of dedication, commitment, loyalty and patriotism. He added that the medals should always remind them of their readiness to give their very best to the unit and the SA Army at large. He concluded: “I want to congratulate all the recipients of these medals for being exemplary in executing their duties with diligence and loyalty, and I encourage others to emulate these soldiers.”

During the parade the Commandant SA Army Combat Training Centre reflected on the achievements of the participants in the Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers Competition at the SA Army Gymnasium held in Heidelberg from 22 to 26 July 2013.

Brig Gen Gqoboka also reflected on the funeral of the late WO1 Rakgwedi David Motlahle who took place on 27 July 2013. WO1 Rakgwedi Motlahle died in an accident on his way to work at the SA Army Combat Training Centre on 19 July 2013. WO1 Motlahle was the Wing Warrant Officer at the Transport and Training Support Wing of the SA Army Combat Training Centre. May his soul rest in peace.

Maj Jacobus Mogoto, SA Army Combat Training Centre

NAVAL STATION DURBAN BADE FAREWELL TO A STALWART

The old Greek adage says: “Life is a gift of nature, but beautiful living is the gift of wisdom.” The Officer Commanding of Naval Station Durban, Lt Cdr Rachel Dulamo, unit Warrant Officers, Senior and Junior Ratings, Ladies and Gentleman were all present to say farewell to Mr Gilbert Cele.

Mr Cele’s last employment before joining the SA Navy was at Blue Ribbon Bakery as a deliveryman and, working there, he heard about vacancies at the SA Navy. Mr Cele applied and was accepted. Mr Cele joined the SA Navy on 15 January 1979 as a handyman at the Taj Mahal Building under the supervision of Mr McManus. He worked for a few years with him after which he was transferred to the Port Maintenance Unit (PMU) Workshop, where he worked as a Tradesman Aid. In this capacity he worked for the SA Navy for 34 years.

When he was nearing retirement, Mr Cele was given a new task, namely to assist workshop members to carry out maintenance and to see to the cleanliness of the workshop.

Lt Cdr Dulamo said: “As we gather here today we say farewell to a good man who has been kind and loyal to the SA Navy and all the members of Naval Station Durban. When he was given a task Mr Cele never questioned or complained; he carried out his task to the best of his ability.”

From all the members at the Technical Department at Naval Station Durban, especially from those who worked closely with Mr Cele, such as Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Anthony Abbu, Petty Officer (PO) Sigamoney Chetty, PO Venketsamy Govender, Mr Alwall Cele, Mr Robert Clive Jacobs and Mr Jeffrey Pullen, we would like to thank you for your loyal and dedicated service rendered to the SA Navy.

LS Khethiwe Prudence Msibi, SA Navy
WOMEN OF MZANTSI, WOMEN OF SANDF

As the flower of Africa blooms
So does a new day for the women of Mzantsi unfold
From the time of her delivery
The Mzantsi woman was known to be a liability not a profit
A loss not a gain
She was to be seen not heard.
To be abused, accused, humiliated and despised
Yet woman of Mzantsi and woman of the SANDF have evolved and transcended despite the hardships. They have survived inequalities, disintegration, physical, verbal and emotional abuse.
Woman of Mzantsi have survived carrying firewood on their heads
Bags of food on their backs
While walking to the market talking to themselves
For their voices were not to be heard
And still we rise
We rise because of women who have paved the way for equality and justice
We rise because we wear many hats
We are mothers, teachers, doctors, managers, politicians, and even soldiers.
And still humble enough to be
the ideal wives
We rise because our struggles have made us stronger.
Thus our backbones have not weakened but hardened.
To be strong as those of the camels.

As we salute each other today
I urge all the women to rally with one another
As we face new challenges of HIV and AIDS
Poverty, breast cancer and other underlying problems while still
Fighting for proper equality and respect
Let us empower one another with knowledge
So we can help eradicate some of these problems
For knowledge is power and lack of it is death.
Let’s empower one another through education so we can teach both boys and girls the value of a girl child and her need to be respected.

PROUD LOGISTICIAN

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisation (SANDF) for the person that I am today. I joined the SANDF in January 2003 with the first intake of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS).

I have worked in different sections in the logistic environment in the SANDF. I started to work at General Support Base Garrison in the Procurement Section as the order clerk. In January of 2005 I went to work at DOD Main Ordnance Depot as a verification clerk. In 2006 I attended the National Codification System Course (where National Stock Numbers are created) at DOD Logistic Support Formation. After the course I was detached to DOD Logistic Support Formation.

In 2007 I went to Chief Logistics at the National Codification Bureau to create the suppliers code. In 2008 I did Officers’ Formation, after which I went to work at the SA Army College as the Logistic Officer for two years. Then I was transferred to the DOD School of Logistical Training where I have taught many OSC personnel about logistics. Currently I am deployed in the Sudan (Operation CORDITE XV) as the Procurement Officer. In all the different sections in which I have worked in this organisation of ours I have learnt a lot, and it is all thanks to the SANDF. With the experience that I have gained in the DOD Logistics Division I can go very far.

The organisation and the people that I have worked with have enabled me to acquire more knowledge and experience in logistics. As a result of my experience in logistics I am now giving back to the organisation as a facilitator at the DOD Logistic School - not everyone can be a facilitator.

The work of grooming and developing the youth of South Africa does not go unnoticed. Thumbs up for the Department of Defence.

Capt T. Matanzima, currently deployed in the Sudan.

RSA BATTALION 10
SOCIAL UPLIFMENT PROJECT IN SUDAN

During our interactions with the local communities and visits to several villages around our area of responsibility, namely Kutm, Malha and Mellit, it was obvious that there was a great need for an extra helping hand to assist or be on board with the United Nations African Union Mission (UNAMID) in realising the achievement of one of its programmed goals, namely of making the world a better place. The Commanding Officer of the RSA Battalion 10, Lt Col Thembinkosi Mashalaba, then decided that we needed to practise what we learnt at home - UBUNTU.

A committee was therefore established to manage and run what our Commanding Officer intended to achieve, ie making sure that we also helped in building a better Sudan for all, as Gandhi said: “The future depends on what you do in the present.” The RSA Battalion 10 QIP Committee under the management of Maj Khomotso Manamela, the Project Manager, was then established. The committee also has “sub-offices” at our other team sites, Malha and Mellit.

It was after many in-depth and fruitful discussions with the local authorities that the intention of RSA Battalion 10 was starting to be realised. It was also through the blessings of the

Commissioners and Omdahs of every town that we planted this seed of world improvement that things started to take a turn for the better with a healthier future for the community.

Three projects were then chosen by the committee: a clinic was built at Qubat Rebad Village, a well was revamped at Um Sayalah Village and a clinic was repainted at Mellit town.

The people of Qubat Rebad Village of Al Waha can look forward to better health care for years to come with the handing over of a clinic to the people.
TRACING AND EXPOSURE FOR AN SANDF FEMALE SOLDIER

With the assistance of SA Soldier, Col Horst Schobesberger (Ret) recently met with Lt Col Azwighangwis Mukweho, SO1 Occupational Health and Safety Manager in Tertiary Medical Health Formation HQ, to give her a copy of the Austrian Peacekeeper magazine. She was quite surprised to see her photo on the front cover. Here follows the letter of Col (Ret) Schobesberger – Ed:

My involvement: I served with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) as part of the Austrian Contingent in 1977 in the Middle East/Golan Heights. I am now a member of the Austrian Peacekeeper Association and receive their magazine on a regular basis. That is how I found the photo.

When I met Lt Col Azwighangwis Mukweho I explained to her that the Editor of the Austrian Peacekeeper Magazine wanted to highlight the role of women within the military, specifically in the peacekeeping environment, including Africa.

Lt Col Mukweho served with the United Nations African Union Mission (UNAMID) from December 2010 to December 2011 as the Deputy Force Medical Officer. Challenges she encountered included her status as a senior female officer issuing orders to subordinate male officers coming from countries where the role of women is not as highly developed as in South Africa.

The excellent training she received during her service with the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) helped her specialise in administrative duties (paperwork). Her professional approach in solving problems and strict discipline helped her to succeed. She tried to empower and encourage other female soldiers deployed with her, and confirmed that she recognised South Africa’s leading role in the empowerment of women.

She previously wrote an article about the UNAMID Women’s Day celebration which was published in SA Soldier in the August 2011 edition on page 11.

Col (Ret) Horst Schobesberger, email

ABOVE: A photo of Lt Col Azwighangwis Mukweho was published on the front cover of the Austrian Peacekeeper magazine. (Photo: Albert Gonzalez Farran)

ABOVE: Col Horst Schobesberger (Ret) hands over a copy of the Austrian Peacekeeper magazine to Lt Col Azwighangwis Mukweho, SO1 Occupational Health and Safety Manager in Tertiary Medical Health Formation HQ. (A photo of Lt Col Mukweho was published on the front cover of the Austrian Peacekeeper magazine.)

Members of the RSA Battalion 10 Project getting involved with the actual building of the clinic at Al Waha Village. (Photo: Maj Khomotso Manamela)
Ministerial outreach to communities

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, recently embarked on a nationwide public education and recruitment drive, specifically targeting the previously disadvantaged youth. This was done so that the youth could learn more about the various career opportunities available in the SANDF.

In pursuing this objective all four Services of the SANDF took part in a public education career exhibition drive at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in the Eastern Cape on 23 August 2013.

The outreach has taken place in this democratic era when it is essential for the SANDF to reinvent itself for South African communities as the SANDF of the people. The outreach programme further seeks to inculcate a thorough understanding of the role of the SANDF in advancing global peace, stability and development, with special attention to the African continent.

To execute its mandate of safeguarding South Africa’s sovereignty, the SANDF needs specialised skilled people in many fields including, but not limited to, medicine and engineering. It was for this reason that the SANDF has deemed it necessary to engage and encourage young South Africans to consider soldiering as a professional and worthy career choice.

ABOVE: A curious student being informed about the various career opportunities in the SA Military Health Service.

LEFT: A student experiences the feel of being a soldier …
The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, briefed the members of the media with regard to the deployment of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) as part of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) at SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 30 August 2013. This event afforded the SANDF an opportunity to interact with members of the media to discuss the current situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The purpose of the media briefing was to inform and update the media and the public on current developments and the SANDF’s participation in the FIB. The SANDF shed light on the nature of the mission by means of a situation update which provided clarity on conflicting reports. The briefing also highlighted the role of the SANDF in executing its Constitutional mandate, including the successes and challenges pertaining to security in the region and on the continent.


On 1 July 2010 the Security Council, by its Resolution 1925, renamed MONUC the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) to reflect the new phase reached in the country.

The new mission was authorised to use all means necessary to carry out its mandate to protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders under imminent threat of physical violence and to support the government of the DRC in its stabilisation and peace consolidation efforts.

Security Council Resolution 2098 of 28 March 2013 approved the creation of FIB. The mandate is to carry out targeted operations, neutralise and disarm M23, as well as other Congolese rebels and foreign armed groups in the strife-torn DRC.

The RSA is required to, and has therefore contributed 850 personnel in accordance with United Nations (UN) guidelines. South African soldiers conducted extensive pre-deployment training in the RSA, including mission induction training in the mission area. The RSA battalion is now fully integrated in the FIB and is composed of soldiers from the RSA, Tanzania and Malawi.

The SANDF has taken note of media reports on injured members of the SANDF. In his address Lt Gen Mgwebi stated that hostilities had commenced on 21 August 2013 between the FARDC and M23. On 22 August these continued in and around Kibati. The airport and town were bombed. On 23 August the fighting continued; bombs were falling at the Munigi Base. The FIB deployed two mechanised companies, one RSA company and one Tanzanian company to the front under the Tanzanian Commander. During the battle three SANDF members suffered minor injuries from shrapnel.

Lt Gen Mgwebi said the soldiers were defending our commitment to the renewal of the African continent and the promotion of peace and stability which would lead to sustainable development. Our foreign policy is premised on the vision of building a better Africa and a better world. It is built on the foundation of UBUNTU, with the understanding that we cannot be an island of peace and prosperity if our neighbours still battle with conflict and poverty.

Over the years the SANDF has taken big strides in being neighbourly to our fellow African countries. The SANDF has been a helping hand towards peace restoration and economic development in most African countries dating back to the late 90s. South Africa is among the world’s largest contributors to UN peacekeeping operations and helps to support democracy, facilitates economic and social stability and is thus creating a better world for all.

Our soldiers have been deployed on several operations throughout the African continent over the years, an achievement that brings pride to us as a nation.
President Jacob Zuma officially welcomed the President of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe to South Africa, Mr Manuel Pinto Da Costa, to his office at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 29 August 2013.

President Da Costa had landed at Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof the previous day. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, and the Minister of State Security, Mr Siyabonga Cwele, welcomed him at AFB Waterkloof.

President Da Costa inspected a guard of honour by members of the National Ceremonial Guard (NCG), and received a 21-gun salute.

The two presidents and their delegations held bilateral talks at the Union Buildings. According to the Presidency, the visit was aimed at revitalising diplomatic relations between South Africa and São Tomé.

On defence matters: the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Zuma, expressed the Government’s concerns about adverse developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He said three of “our soldiers” had been injured in the conflict since the weekend, largely by shrapnel. Moreover, President Zuma said: “None have been seriously wounded. Our soldiers are well trained and ready for their responsibility to work for a better and more peaceful Africa.”

During these talks agreement was reached to seek joint cooperation in the fields of energy, water, health and other areas. President Zuma said that relations between South Africa and São Tomé and Príncipe had resulted from their mutual “struggle for freedom and liberation”.

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By Cpl Lebogang Ramaboea, journalist at Ad Astra
Photos: Courtesy of GCIS

above: A guard of honour for the President of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe to South Africa, Mr Manuel Pinto Da Costa, shortly after he landed at Air Force Base Waterkloof where he is welcomed by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.
Military Information Communication Technology within a Rapidly Evolving Cyber-world

By Col Martinus Nawrattel, SSO Information Systems

The Command Management Information Systems Division (CMIS Div) of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) will be hosting the sixth Military Information Communication Symposium of South Africa (MICSSA) at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria from 3 to 7 February 2014. The theme of the symposium will be: “Military Information Communication Technology within a Rapidly Evolving Cyber-world”.

The aim of MICSSA is to continue with the tradition of promoting information and communication related development between the Defence Community, Government and Industry, locally and internationally. MICSSA provides a platform where ideas, strategies, requirements and potential solutions can be shared and discussed.

The MICSSA 2014 programme will include both planning sessions and specialist talks, and offer delegates the widest possible exposure to matters relating to the cyber-driven theme of MICSSA 2014.

The symposium will host both an indoor and outdoor exhibition. The outdoor exhibition is reserved for the SANDF and Defence Industries, which will display Military Information Communication Technology related equipment and products. The indoor exhibition is open to industry leaders and will provide them with the opportunity to showcase their services and products to a selected audience.

The 2014 MICSSA symposium is aimed at military personnel active in Information Communication Technology (ICT) Systems, ie persons responsible for the acquisition of communication and information related systems for the military, designers and vendors, decision-makers providing strategic direction for acquisition processes, academics, ICT and technology developers, persons interested in ICT solutions and trends, and the network information security sector.

The first MICSSA was held in November 2003. The concept of MICSSA was born when CMIS Div and Armscor agreed that an opportunity was needed where ICT could be discussed within the military context. Mr Francois van der Merwe, a former Armscor Programme Manager within the Telecommunications Division, and Maj Gen Mario Brazzoli (Ret) in collaboration with Maj Gen Piet Verbeek (Ret) within the CMIS Div then initiated the event. Since then, MICSSA has been hosted every second year, and each time the event has improved with a new theme. These have included: “In pursuit of affordable strategic solutions”, “Information and Communications Technology: The Key to Military Information Superiority in Africa” and “The African Battle Space: Are the ICT solutions required really unique?” Each one has stimulated its own discussion and debate.

The MICSSA logo truly captures the spirit of the symposium. The “runner” emulates the art of the SAN people and MICSSA’s African heritage. The person carrying a stick with a note symbolises information, and the movement of running, hence the transfer of information and communication. Thus the MICSSA “runner” epitomises information and communication in an African context. This unique logo was designed during the MICSSA 2003 and has been used ever since.

SITA joined MICSSA in 2005 as one of the organisers. At the end of MICSSA 2011, Armscor expressed concern at its huge human resource investment in organising the MICSSA symposiums and decided to withdraw – leaving the symposium to be hosted in future by the Department of Defence (DOD) and SITA. Each year the symposium continues to go from strength to strength. The 2014 symposium promises to be the biggest MICCSSA yet, with the most impact, with delegates from previous years eager to book their places.

MICSSA 2014 starts on Monday 3 February with the opening of the exhibition and welcoming function. The symposium will run from Tuesday 4 February to Thursday 6 February 2014, followed by a gala dinner that evening. The event will be concluded with a golf day on 7 February 2014.

Bookings are now open so if you are interested in attending, it would be best to book as soon as possible.

A new MICSSA website has been created to make registration even easier, and to provide A – Z information about the event, including the submission of abstracts, the programme, keynote speakers, venue details and more. It is worth visiting www.micssa.co.za often to enjoy the regular updates.
Exercise SHARED ACCORD 2013

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Capt Matthew de Jager

Exercise SHARED ACCORD 2013, a joint peace support operation and humanitarian relief exercise between South African and the United States, commenced on 24 July 2013 in Port Elizabeth.

The exercise ended on 7 August 2013 and took place in the Eastern Cape cities of Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, East London, King William’s Town, Bisho and Bulembo.

As a training exercise it involved in-depth joint cohesion between the United States Armed Forces (US AF) and the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) by means of multiple training scenarios designed to promote regional relationships, increased capacity, cross-training and interoperability.

Exercise SHARED ACCORD 2013 was the second of its type, following bilateral discussions in 2009 and approval by the Military Command Council in 2010. The United States Army Africa (USA AF) conducted the exercise on behalf of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM).

The US provided experts in brigade operations, dismounted infantry tactics, airborne infantry tactics, civil affairs, medics, and maritime amphibious assault craft. South African military and civilian personnel worked side by side with their American counterparts, teaching and training each other to gain knowledge and understanding of each other’s capabilities.

Approximately 700 US military personnel participated in the two week long exercise. As in the first Exercise SHARED ACCORD in 2011, the US military personnel brought equipment to facilitate training, including the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, commonly known as the Humvee, and a deployable headquarters.

The four Services of the SANDF contributed approximately 2,500 personnel from various units who were responsible for different components of the exercise.

43 South African Brigade coordinated the exercise utilising various combat and support units of the South African Army (SA Army).

South African Air Force participation was mostly virtual with some real-time helicopter support.

South African Navy components took part in exercises at sea along the southern coast. Naval forces included a frigate, a mine countermeasure vessel and Maritime Reaction Force elements.

The South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) provided world-class training.
real-time military health support for forces deployed at sea and on land for the exercise. The SAMHS’ role was to measure the inter-operational capability of both the SAMHS and US AF real-time military health support.

Owing to the magnitude of Exercise SHARED ACCORD 2013, it was necessary for the SAMHS to combine the expertise of civilian and military components of the Department of Defence in humanitarian support, post-conflict health reconstruction, dental services, primary health care and veterinary services. The US AF provided optometry evaluations and dispensed 10 000 spectacles to the communities.

The SAMHS ensured cooperation with the provincial and local departments of health (DOH) and local government during the humanitarian civilian phase. The DOH provided tuberculosis (TB) testing services to the communities.

Various exercises were carried out in East London, Bulembo and Grahamstown by the marines; including a live firing exercise by the RSA and US land forces. At Alicedale tactical road movement took place in which the opposing forces ambushed a convoy and a simulated attack was carried out using Improvised Explosive Devices. For the Tactical Air Landing Operation airborne troops performed a tactical landing from a US C-130 military aircraft at East London Airport. At Bulembo Airport near Bisho nocturnal air assault training was done. In this exercise paratroopers exited the aircraft in flight for a night parachute landing. Improvised Explosive Devices were utilised to simulate an attack. Beach landing training with marines was done at Orient Beach in East London.

On 1 August on board SAS SPIEKENKOP, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the Chief of Joint Operations, addressed and thanked the participants and all the role-players who had made Exercise SHARED ACCORD 2013 a success. In response Gen David Rodriguez, Commander of USAFRICOM, thanked all the South Africans for having been such good hosts. He expressed his appreciation of the relationship between South Africa and the United States, saying: “South Africa and the United States have built a strong friendship and partnership based on shared respect, values and interests. Both our great nations strive to build prosperous, peaceful and democratic societies at home and seek to be constructive forces in the international community. Our military to military relationship is the key element of the broader partnership between the US and South Africa.”

> on page 18
RIGHT: Pyrotechnics were utilised to simulate an attack.

LEFT: Tactical road movement training was done in which opposing forces ambushed a convoy.

ABOVE: Chief Z. Toise (middle) in traditional attire with the combined troop force.
Cpl Molatelo Alphina Nkoana (28), a member from 7 Medical Battalion Group, is a true leader who commands attention with her presence. She was deployed as an Operational Emergency Care Practitioner to the Central African Republic (CAR) from the beginning of January 2013 as part of the Intervention Force comprising members from 5 Special Forces Regiment, 44 Parachute Battalion, 7 Medical Battalion Group and various support elements.

It was during this volatile period when a rebel coalition named Seleka clashed with SANDF soldiers that Cpl Nkoana distinguished herself. Together with other medical personnel they left the base at the Police College in Bangui on the afternoon of Saturday, 23 March 2013. They were tasked to assist with the extraction of wounded soldiers resulting from violent clashes. To this end they linked up with Charlie Company of 1 Parachute Battalion on the front and commenced with the extraction of the wounded. On their way back to the base they were led into an ambush. The vehicles in front of them were rendered immobile and their own vehicles also came under attack. They were forced to abandon their vehicles and head for cover while attempting to ensure the safety and stability of their patients.

Taking only the necessary equipment, they took cover behind and in between bushes with the wounded soldiers. They stayed in hiding until Sunday morning, whereafter they had to surrender to the rebels. This is where Cpl Nkoana’s training and leadership skills proved vital as she disguised the fact that she was a woman, which placed additional pressure on her.

She, together with the other medical personnel and patients, were returned to the base unharmed by rebel forces. Further treatment could be provided there to the wounded who were subsequently evacuated to the French base at Bangui Airport. Surprisingly, amidst all the chaos and confusion, she could still apply her training in this, her first external deployment.

What makes Cpl Nkoana tower above the rest even more is the fact that she is a soldier with a passion for her vocation. Her career commenced in January 2007 when she joined the SA Army and underwent Basic Military Training at 3 SA Infantry Battalion in Kimberley. From there she was transferred to Infantry School in Oudtshoorn in March 2007, during which time recruiting was done by members from 44 Parachute Battalion. She was one of those selected, and she later attended the Static Jump Course at 44 Parachute Battalion in Bloemfontein, which she completed successfully in July 2007. Wanting to go into the medical field she applied for and was granted an inter-service transfer to the SA Military Health Service at 7 Medical Battalion Group in September 2007 where she was trained as an Operational Emergency Care Practitioner.

Talking about her future she stated that she would enjoy being an instructor as there was no substitute for training. She also emphasised that she motivated members in her unit and wanted to inspire members of the SANDF to keep fit and apply the training they received. Cpl Nkoana is a go-getter and a survivor. Thus far she has participated in the SANDF Fittest Soldier Competitions for 2007 and 2008, achieving first place both times and, together with the team from 7 Medical Battalion Group, participated in the 2008 Non-commissioned Officer Skills Competition in which she also took first place.

As I look at this petite woman, I am just amazed by her accomplishments thus far. Asked what her message was to members in the SANDF, she stated: “Everything is possible, nothing is impossible. If you want something, you will get it as long as you are willing to work for it”. Her mission is to inspire people around her to push themselves to reach for new heights. Cpl Nkoana is a soldier to look out for in the future as she is a leader of note.
Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL brings joy to Angolans

Article and photos by Maj Ntsikelelo Mantshongo, Communication Officer of Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL

What started as a normal day on 27 August 2013 for the local population of Lunda South in Angola turned out to be a fun-filled and special day when all nations participating in Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL donated various materials as part of their humanitarian assistance.

The festivities began with a long trip to the Muriege Municipality near the border of Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to the excitement of the locals.

The main functionary at the occasion was the Governor of the Lunda South province, Ms Candida Narcaso who, despite her busy schedule decided to be part of the proceedings. She was accompanied by the top military commanders of the exercise and local leaders of every village or municipality that had been visited. Rice, cooking oil, maize meal, tinned fruit, samp, tents and roofing sheets were donated.

The first stop was the Muriege Municipality where one local resident, Ms Berta Kaji (44), could not contain her excitement after admitting that the gesture meant a lot to her and her family and she could now share everything and change the menu as she pleased.

The second stop, after a short visit to the DRC border, was Luau Hospital which caters for both civilian and military patients. Col Maria Neto from the Angolan Defence Force, who is the manager of the facility, was also very appreciative of the medical equipment and medicine donated. She said: “It would go a long way in assisting us with the most basic needs required by any medical facility.”

Col Neto gave a short overview of the services, conditions, patients and diseases common in the area. However, she admitted that along with the challenges they encountered every day they managed to persevere, aided by the various donations, for example Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL. She also emphasised the fact that their biggest threat being malaria and, with the equipment provided they could breathe a sigh of relief. Over the last three months they have also seen increasing maternal problems, which they are trying hard to overcome in the midst of all the other challenges.

The third stop was Cassai-Sul where food supplies were donated to yet another appreciative community. Notwithstanding the excitement of the people, Mr Java Muchonga (32) was sceptical about the food sustaining them for longer periods and doubted if it could satisfy the whole village. However, he remained positive and grateful.

The fourth stop was Muconda Village. This group was the most interactive, composed as it was of youth from various villages that had assembled as part a youth camp...
organised for various activities, including community projects, mentoring and sport. The vibrant youths were not shy to ask questions about the exercise and where it would be held later.

We really felt that we were in the company of the youth due to the energy generated in the hall where the event was held. There were loud cheers for the Governor and they sang enthusiastically throughout the proceedings.

The camp was initially organised to assist the poor with various activities to alleviate their plight. The youth are also being prepared for university entry and are taught life skills to prepare them for adulthood.

Mr Franco Mutanda, the facilitator of the camp, emphasised that they were trying to get the youth off the streets by providing them with a platform to approach life responsibly. The main purpose was to instil responsible values and camaraderie.

Women power evident at Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL

By Maj Ntsikelelo Mantshongo, Communication Officer of Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL
Photo: WO1 Christo Crous

O sisi bayazenzela. These were the words uttered by Dr Lumka Maneli, the Medical Officer at the Institute for Aviation Medicine, loosely translated in Nguni, “sisters are doing it for themselves” during the execution of Exercise ZAMBEZI AZUL held in Angola from 18 August to 2 September 2013. She expressed these sentiments in response to a question about the role played by women in operations and exercises. The question arose because August was Women’s Month.

Dr Maneli was part of a strong contingent of 13 women who played different and important roles during the exercise. She also acknowledged the importance of the planning phase, including choosing the right people for certain responsibilities. Dr Maneli strongly feels that good and thorough planning will ultimately result in a well executed exercise.

Maj Lilly Niemack, an Operations Officer at Joint Tactical KwaZulu-Natal Headquarters, whose responsibility was to task aircraft for various missions, emphasised that the most important thing for a woman in male dominated fields was to remain positive, dedicated and at the same time flexible. These attributes would prevent men from questioning a woman’s ability to outperform them.

She conceded that the exercise helped her gain insight into working with people from different nationalities. Maj Niemack explained: “The most interesting aspect was the simulated scenarios (injects) that suddenly changed during real-time flying to see how the Southern African Development Community (SADC) would adapt to various aspects in line with humanitarian aid missions.”

Her biggest challenge, which every member who participated in the exercise agreed on, was the language barrier which led to far-reaching complications in the operations room. This problem prolonged working hours since everything that was communicated had to be translated into English, thus delaying sorties.

Cpl Philile Sabela, the Command Post Assistant at Air Force Base Durban, on the other hand conceded that participating in the exercise was not easy, but as an individual she had to adapt to and work in an environment that was sometimes not a good one for women. The trick according to the Corporal is to be prepared both mentally and physically, and one has to adjust and accept things as they are. She also noticed that some African countries either have few or no women in their defence forces, which limit their ability to share with their counterparts from elsewhere. Cpl Sabela concluded: “This was a good experience for me and I learnt a lot about life and operations. I learnt to appreciate the little I have in terms of my knowledge of my job and my country.”

Lt Michelle Maal, a pilot from 41 Squadron at Air Force Base Waterkloof, felt that she was well treated and there was no basis for complaints about her as a woman. Although many people, including men, complained about some logistical issues, she did not at any stage feel uncomfortable and she actually enjoyed the conditions.

On this, her first deployment, Lt Maal fell in love with the operations in the bush. She says her openness is due to her free spirit and her ability to easily accept adventures and outdoor life. On the flying front, Lt Maal admits that this was an awesome experience and a learning curve for her, especially working with other African countries. All things considered, she had a fantastic flying experience during the exercise.
August 2013 marked the first day of the annual three-day DOD Transformation and Gender Conference held at Air Force Base Swartkop. This year’s theme was: “Promoting gender deliberations in order to find common ground in the DOD”.

The conference was attended by Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Dr Sam Gulube, the Secretary for Defence, Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF, Generals, Admirals and other distinguished members of the DOD.

In her opening statement, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “Addressing the challenges of gender in the workplace should be seen as a task for the entire enterprise.”

She touched on the imperative issues of women emancipation and empowerment within the DOD, saying: “The DOD is still struggling to meet some of the representation targets of 40% at the entry level and 30% at higher levels as prescribed by DOD policy.”

Other issues mentioned were structures and their impact on gender mainstreaming, peacetime activities, communication, gender mainstreaming and sexual harassment. These issues were considered for the next two days of the conference.

Five groups deliberated on issues pertaining to the speeding up of gender transformation within the workplace. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula advised that SANDF directors should examine the structure and vehicles they had established to deal with gender equality, including determining the effect and effectiveness of the previous conferences held to find solutions. She said: “It is not an issue only for women by example. There should be no abuse of authority, teamwork must always prevail and the Department must work as a collective.”

During the course of the conference...
there was a different chairperson every day. On the first day the chairperson was Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, Director Equity Strategic Direction. The second day it was Brig Gen Marthie Visser, Director Transformation Management, and on the final day of the conference it was Ms Dikeledi Tutu, Director Language Services.

A number of women delegates were given the opportunity to converse about their working experience within the DOD. The majority of them had positive views about the working environment and said they had learned a lot about what being in the military was all about and it had given them many opportunities. However, the women stated that they were still not given equal opportunities in the DOD.

Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, Deputy Chief of Human Resources, advised senior women to support young women and make the environment more congenial. She also encouraged young women not to be discouraged in an environment dominated by men. She said: “Keep on, keep on.”

Five groups were formed on the basis of the five issues that were raised in the Minister’s speech. These dealt with structures and the impact on gender mainstreaming, peacetime activities, communication, gender mainstreaming and sexual harassment. These groups reported back on the second day after deliberations, having defined the problem in each issue, and came up with possible solutions, mid and long term, vehicles/tools to get to the solutions, policies and they identified the size of the budget in each case. This gave the delegates possible solutions and a way forward which could be discussed further after the conference, taking into account the future of the DOD and its members.

The guest speakers encouraged and motivated members of the DOD to have a positive spirit in the working environment and mutual respect for one another. One of the guest speakers, Ms Minah Sindane-Bloem, a communication strategist and personal life coach, touched on the topics of mentoring and coaching members of the DOD so that they could be empowered in the workplace. She said: “Knowledge is power only when it is applied.” Therefore those in senior positions must empower others by transferring their knowledge to the ones in lower positions so that they could be more effective – skills should be transferred from an experienced mentor to those lower down.

The final day of the conference focused on personal investment and growth. The invited speakers, Ms Buyi Jordans, Old Mutual Financial Consultant, and Ms Suraya AK, Nedbank Head: Public Sector, were very informative on how people in general should invest the necessity to have sound financial plans, retirement plans, an emergency fund, investment principles, disability and severe illness cover and control their debts. Ms AK said the purpose of the investment lecture was: "Promoting gender conversations/deliberations for the purpose of achieving common ground”.

The conference ended on a high note when all the delegates and representatives from the Services and the Divisions held hands in honour of the DOD Gender Conference 2013 pledge to work together as one Department, which would improve the Department and the country.
women’s role in decision-making structures

By Maj Gen N. Memela-Motumi, Deputy Chief Human Resources

Photo: Capt M. Raphala

Society in its entirety, including the military, needs to be mobilised to take seriously gender representation in all decision-making structures and processes. In fact, the promotion and elevation of women to leadership structures with decision-making powers is in line with good democratic practices. It is a powerful tool to undermine and oppose prejudice and discrimination, especially against women. We need more women at leadership level to serve not only as role models, but to propel the transformation agenda towards non-sexism.

The decision-making structures of the Department of Defence include Command Bodies, Boards and Committees as well as communication periods. In a nutshell, this is where the power lies to make decisions on mission readiness and operational planning. Significantly, there is a pervasive gender gap in women’s substantive and symbolic representation in the military command structures. This is largely attributed to the historical context.

But there are increasing calls for something more concrete to be done in terms of gender equity and transformation. Ambassador Thenjiwe Mthintso in the article that appeared in Umrabulo 28, made it clear that “the litmus test of democracy and real transformation is the emancipation of women and the resolution of unequal power relations between women and men in all spheres of society”. She further argues that numbers are but only a small part of the arsenal used in the multi-pronged strategy to ensure women’s maximum participation.

So far, the threshold of one third has been taken as the yardstick internationally as the point at which women and other marginalised groups are able to make effective contributions towards measurable transformation. It has been realised that an individual sounds like a lonely voice in the wilderness. Also, much as they may be spot on in terms of raising issues, they may be overlooked or ignored because they do not resonate with colleagues. Thus it is essential that an increase in the number of women in decision-making structures be seriously considered and implemented as a matter of urgency, as this situation does not comply with the Women Empowerment and Gender Bill.

In fact, this development will echo the strategic objectives of Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula’s directive to increase women’s representation in Command Bodies. As we contemplate this very important programme, it will be important for women in defence to reflect individually on these uncomfortable questions:

- Do women in decision-making structures of our organisation mobilise and lobby for support from male counterparts?
- Are the points raised by women registered in a way that influences decision-making?
- Women’s current gains in positions of power were fought and won through blood, tears and sweat. It has resulted in transformative policies and regulations that are now part of the making of a democratic society.

It is important for us to be reminded that what we do or do not do today will determine what will happen in the future. Thus it is very important for women in decision-making structures to conduct themselves in a way that will make them be remembered with admiration and not disgust. This means that women must always be vigilant and behave in a way that will not only open up opportunities for those who will come after them, but leave a lasting legacy. It is women in high positions in defence at the present time that are making history for future generations.

Renowned author and academic, Ms Antjie Krog, says that the standard is always gauged with respect to the white heterosexual male, speaking a standard European language. She argues that although there are more women in the world, men appear twice: once in the standard, and secondly in the group from which the standard is extracted.

The unfortunate result is that many women and black men, in particular, have allowed themselves to become co-opted and have internalised the values of the standard. In fact, they too want to become the standard. As a result, they can never be agents of the change we want to see in our lifetime.
Focus on women

SA Soldier

To get to the non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society we all want, we have to look for change agents willing to think out of the box. These are women and men who are critically engaging and examining the standard to come up with an alternative model. Without such change agents there will be neither transformation nor advances in lifting women to higher levels of decision-making.

Over the last few years critical studies have been conducted to examine women’s readiness to take charge. One of these is Schein’s classic study of sex roles that has revealed that sexist prejudice and discrimination are largely the root cause of women’s inability to break through the glass ceiling. This has aptly been captured by Ms Kim Campbelle – Canada’s first female Prime Minister – who believes that in a patriarchal society there is a deeply rooted belief that women are not competent and cannot lead. She has attributed this to the overlap in people’s minds between the qualities associated with leadership, and those that are linked with masculinity, namely decisiveness, aggressiveness and competence.

Alas, the qualities associated with being feminine are merely restricted to the following: inclination towards consensus building, to be communal, expressive and nurturing. As a result, when women claim their space in historically male dominated fields, their abilities tend to be questioned as if they are not entitled to serve in these positions.

The assessment of effective leadership should be gauged in terms of the interactive nature of the leader, situation and followers as well as the impact thereof. It must be emphasised that one’s gender has no bearing on this.

There is no doubt that for now the advancement of the gender equality agenda in the military milieu is in the hands of male colleagues. Men are the decision-makers at the helm of our organisation. But as we move towards the non-sexist future in a democratic state, it becomes imperative for women in decision-making roles to be advocates of equity. Their voices must call for policy implementation, including the identification of gaps, in order to leave a proud and inspiring legacy.

To avoid compromising their integrity, the conduct of women leaders at various levels of command must be beyond reproach. They must see it as their responsibility not only to raise the bar in terms of committed performance, but to define new norms and standards.

It is a giant leap into a non-sexist society that all sectors of our society endorse the Defence Review. As women leaders, we commit ourselves to serve with pride and honour in the provision of defence capabilities.

Malibongwe

Brig Gen Mpaxa leads by example

Article and photo by Mr Alex Motsoekagosi, Regional Communication Manager Unisa (Rustenburg)

Leaders are supposed to lead, motivate and inspire the people they are leading to become the best they can be. More often than not, some leaders do not live up to this expectation and employees or followers are led astray and tend to lack direction. One leader that took the notion that “you lead by example” seriously is Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa. She recently obtained her B Com degree in Human Resources through Unisa.

During her reign as the first female Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha she encouraged colleagues to develop themselves by studying further. She approached Unisa and forged a partnership with its Kimberley Office to ensure that Unisa was linked to the Training Centre in Lohatlha. This included application and registration to study at Unisa, orientation sessions and the establishment of an examinations centre. Today a large number of SANDF members based in Lohatlha Training Centre are registered Unisa students, and they have an examination centre on their doorstep.

According to Brig Gen Mpaxa, they had budgeted for the installation of video conferencing facilities in Lohatlha to give SANDF members studying through Unisa an opportunity to participate in classes broadcast to other centres throughout the country, thus enhancing their chances of success with their studies.

Brig Gen Mpaxa said: “I believe that my successor at the SA Army Combat Training Centre will continue where I left off with this initiative as it was well intended for the development of members of the SA Army.” She is currently registered for the Project Management Certificate with Unisa and will register to do her BA in International Relations as well. Brig Gen Mpaxa is currently the first female General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Intelligence Formation.

Ftr: Mr Mathews Kokong, Midlands Regional Director of Unisa, Prof Mandla Makhanya, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Unisa, Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, who obtained her B Com degree in Human Resources through Unisa, and retired Judge Bernard Ngoepe, Chancellor of Unisa.
focus on women

Celebrating women for their selfless and fearless contribution to society

By Pte Mimi Sithole, SA Army Corporate Communication Clerk
Photo: Courtesy of Engineer Terrain Intelligence Regiment

Times have changed and women have evolved in terms of their duties, responsibilities and contribution to the world at large. To discuss the above the SA Army held its Transformation and Gender Conference 2013 at Thaba Tshwane City Hall on 8 August 2013.

The conference was held to give members of the SA Army an opportunity and a platform to discuss their gender equity concerns, unpack issues, share their achievements, look at the way forward and align themselves with the Government and Department of Defence Transformation and Gender Equity programmes.

Women have shifted from a predominantly traditional role to one closer to a masculine role. They have careers and jobs which were conventionally reserved for men, eg bus and train drivers and executive positions in the private sector and the military. This change is also supported and encouraged by the Government to ensure a foundation for a non-racist, non-sexist and human rights based society where race, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, diversity, age, social security and protection from harm are the primary considerations.

Among the guests were the Deputy Chief of the SA Army, Maj Gen Leslie Rudman, the Chief of SA Army Corporate Services, Maj Gen Sazi Veldtman, the Chief of SA Army Force Preparation, Maj Gen Spinx Nobanda, Director Army Human Resources, Brig Gen Kakoti Motlhabane, the General Officer Commanding of Air Defence Artillery, Brig Gen Jabulani Mbuli, the main speaker, Director Equity Strategic Direction, Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, and a representative of people with disabilities, Ms Grace Maleka.

Maj Gen Nobanda said: “The SA Army is committed to a gender equity plan for women in the SA Army (uniformed members and Public Service Act Personnel). Not only because the SA Army has talked about it, but as it has championed and promoted the role of women within the Service.” This statement was reinforced by a detailed presentation by Brig Gen Mohale, which provided an overview of transformation and gender equity within the SA Army.

“Women within the SA Army have proven to be committed, fearless and of strong character. They have demonstrated that they can be and are just as capable, because they are not trained differently from their male counterparts.

“Women within the SA Army have proven to be committed, fearless and of strong character. They have demonstrated that they can be and are just as capable, because they are not trained differently from their male counterparts. Therefore they are not limited by their physical inferiority when it comes to combat related operations, including internal and external missions, exercises and operations.

“The SA Army is so far the only country on the African continent to deploy its female soldiers in external operations and peacekeeping missions in a combat role. As the powerhouse of Africa, the SA Army is setting an example to other African countries when it comes to gender equity and transformation.

“The SA Army would like to celebrate its women for their selfless and fearless contribution to society, the nation and the continent at large. ‘Wa thinta Abafazi Wa thinta Imbokodo’ (if you strike a woman you strike a rock).”

Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, Director Equity Strategic Direction, during her presentation at the SA Army Transformation and Gender Conference 2013.
Maj Michelle Strauss recently received the trophy as the Best Combat Support Officer and an award for achieving 100% in the safety practical exam at the Junior Command and Staff Duties Practical Course at the SA Army Combat Training Centre. She is a member of the SA Army Intelligence Corps and currently works at Defence Intelligence.

According to Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, the previous Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre (now the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Intelligence Formation), it was the first time since her appointment five years ago that a student has received 100% for the safety practical exam. This is truly a great achievement for the SA Army and the SA Army Intelligence Corps.

Maj Strauss was the only member of the SA Army Intelligence Corps to attend the course and was therefore responsible for supporting all the syndicates in all facets of intelligence. She had to make an extra effort to stay on top of all the planning and preparation of intelligence matters. The intelligence appointment in most of the syndicates was a member from another corps. During the brigade planning exercise, for both the offensive and defensive phases, she was appointed as the Staff Officer 1 Intelligence Planning. Maj Strauss said this was an excellent learning experience and that she received a lot of support and cooperation from the members of the other corps.

Maj Strauss joined the SANDF in 1994 at the former SA Army Women’s College in George, after attending a Prestige Adventure Camp presented by the former Western Province Command. She was then staffed at the Eastern Province Command in Port Elizabeth in the Military Security environment, whereafter she was transferred to Western Province Command at the Castle of Good Hope.

She later joined the Southern Military Police Regional Headquarters as the Staff Officer Systems Management where she gained vast experience; here she had excellent mentors, Col Franz Viljoen, Regional Provost Marshal Southern Military Police Region, and Lt Col Rob Peters (Ret), former Regional Provost Marshal Southern Military Police Region, who gave her a solid background in the Strategic Direction Process.

Next Maj Strauss was staffed in Gauteng at the Joint Tactical Headquarters in Doornkop where she was responsible for executing the tactical intelligence function. She is presently staffed at Directorate Intelligence for Operations at Defence Intelligence.

Maj Strauss believes that the experience she gained in the various posts in which she served, coupled with what she learnt at military courses, enabled her to excel with this course and in her present post, which she finds very stimulating.

She expressed her appreciation to Brig Gen Mpaxa, who attended the Junior Command and Staff Duties Practical Course Certificate Ceremony. Her presence served as a token of the interest she has in the SA Army Intelligence Corps members. She added that without the support of her family and friends she would not have been able to achieve this success.

Maj Strauss is a staunch Blue Bull supporter, although she comes from Calvinia in the Northern Cape. Her message to all the young women in the SANDF is: “Do not underestimate your own potential and the contribution you can make. So go out there and make a difference”. Wise words from a wise, dedicated and committed woman. The SA Army Intelligence Corps - known as “Simply the Best” - salutes you, you are simply the best.
Sgt Kgakololo Gasemene is the first female Driving and Maintenance Instructor in the SA Army Artillery Formation. She attended the Driving and Maintenance Instructors’ Course at the School of Armour and is currently working at the School of Artillery in Potchefstroom.

She achieved this milestone as the only woman among 19 men. The course consisted of the following modules: road signs, duties and responsibilities, defensive driving, general automotive parts and a practical phase. The ten-week course demands a lot from the learner as all the above must be applied during practical exercises. The course qualifies the learner as a Driving and Maintenance Instructor and includes: skid pad driving (front and rear wheel skids on a wet surface), dynamic track driving (high speed cornering and driving), riding and handling (general driving and gear selections) and rough track drive (extreme 4x4 driving).

S Sgt Gasemene is about 1,5m tall and slender, yet a Samag 120 with its Eaton Fuller split gearbox was no match for this small package of dynamite. She barely reached the pedals of the Samil 20, but took the vehicle for a joyride around the extreme 4x4 track. During the “Hell in Water” exercise at Wepener (the Piet Retief Training Area) various obstacles and heavy recovery equipment could not bring this woman to her knees. During the recovery exercise she grabbed a spade and joined the men in digging out the Samil 20 left there for dead. She continued even when it started raining early in the exercise and it continued for the duration of the exercise.

She wishes to thank her husband, S Sgt Motlogelo Gasemene, who also works at the School of Artillery, her fellow learners and the personnel of the Driving and Maintenance Instructor’s Branch at the School of Armour. Once a Gunner, always a Gunner!
Women doing it for themselves

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

“With God, hard work and dedication you will go places, and reach your dreams and goals,” said Ms Tsitsi Malaza, when SA Soldier interviewed her.

She is a positive and dedicated woman who will not let anything get in the way of her vision and dreams, and is the kind of woman that others can look up to.

In 1993 Ms Malaza started working at Armscor in Pretoria as a cleaner, but in 2007 she was promoted to tea lady at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria.

When Ms Malaza was still working at Armscor she did the Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Level 2 and later achieved ABET Level 4. Then things slowed down in her life and she decided to finish her ABET matric at the Bethsaida School for Adults in Soshanguve.

At the time when Ms Malaza was a tea lady at Defence Headquarters she told herself that this was not going to be the end because she was a fast learner and somebody who always wanted to learn about new things. She felt that her hard work and dedication would be recognised one day, so she started learning the work in the verification office and did stock-taking and filing. Ms Malaza also obtained a certificate in Microsoft Office and in-house computer training.

Aiming high and dreaming big, she decided to do a course in administration, which included subjects such as effective communication, office administration and customer service.

It so happened early this year that a receptionist was needed at Defence Headquarters and Ms Malaza was considered as she had a background in defence. Based on the fact that she is strong willed, she was offered the job to assist at reception. Ms Malaza said: “I enjoy working at reception because it strengthens me. I enjoy meeting different people inside and outside the country and I treat them with respect and dignity at all times. It promotes my interpersonal relationship skills.”

When Ms Malaza was asked about what Women’s Day and Mother’s Day meant to her she replied: “To me Women’s Day and Mother’s Day are about celebrating all the strong women of our nation, including mothers and single parents. Women will not let anything defeat them. A mother is a pillar of strength and we are what our children see when they look at us. We lead by example, so for your children to respect you as a mother you must first respect yourself. No money can buy a mother’s love”.

She said her inspiration in life was to drive herself to do the extraordinary, because unless one took risks in life one would never move forward. She added that she was looking forward to the future and to furthering her studies, as it was never too late for education. Ms Malaza had words of encouragement for other women in a similar situation: trust yourself, work hard and never give up - you will reach your goals one day.

She was born in Mamelodi on 26 October 1969. At present she is a wife and mother of a boy and two daughters. As a child she went to the Moretile Primary School in Mamelodi, and later to Lethabong High School in Soshanguve. She enjoys reading books and magazines and likes to sing while cooking.
Women for Peace

By Mr Fana Jiyane, Chief Executive Officer Freedom Park
Photos: Mr Vincent Vilakazi

Freedom Park recently invited women from all walks of life to form a 2km chain of women along Reconciliation Road linking Freedom Park with its neighbour, the Voortrekker Monument, as part of its celebrations for Women’s Month. This was done to demonstrate the ability to work together to make this country a better place for its citizens.

The Women for Peace event took place on 3 August 2013 and was hosted by Freedom Park, in partnership with the Voortrekker Monument, the Dameskring and the Chaplain General of the SANDF. The concept for the event was initiated by the Dameskring in partnership with the Office of the Chaplain General.

The event was hosted under this year’s national theme for Women’s Day, namely: “A Century of Women’s Collective Efforts towards Sustainable Women Empowerment and Gender Equality”.

The event created awareness of the historical struggles of our women and highlighted their ability to come together and heal the nation. Women from all walks of life formed a human chain along Reconciliation Road linking the two historic monuments to promote a positive message of prayer, peace, social cohesion and reconciliation.

The proceedings commenced at 10:00 when women across cultural, racial and religious backgrounds assembled at the amphitheatre of Freedom Park. Various guest speakers were invited, among them Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, the first Anglican woman bishop on the continent, who delivered a message of peace and reconciliation.

The Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Ms Lulu Xingwana, who attended the event, said South Africa had reason to be proud of its progressive laws and political system which have seen the international community identifying women from South Africa as suitable to take up leadership positions in Africa and internationally at the United Nations. Also in attendance was the Deputy Chief Corporate Staff, Maj Gen Louis Dlulane, and Prof Edna van Harte, member of the Freedom Park Council.

Chaplain (Rev) Natasha Hugo opened the event with Scripture reading and prayer and led the event with hymn singing.

Dr Semane Molotlegi, the Queen Mother of the Royal Bafokeng family, and Minister Xingwana led the chain as a sign of unity. After forming the chain, three shots were fired with the old Sanna cannon at Fort Schanskop.

This initiative was highly praised as it was the first of a kind. A seed has been sown; now it has to grow. The only way for a nation to be healed is for it to stand together and its citizens to support each other. This action indicated to the world that the women of South Africa can stand together and heal a nation through promoting peace, social cohesion and reconciliation.

Entrance to the park and both museums was free of charge for the day, and all participants were invited to visit the monuments after the proceedings.
SA Military Health Service students celebrate their success

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

“I if my mind can conceive it, my heart can believe it; I know I can achieve it!” These were the words that echoed in the auditorium of the Military Health Training Formation as parents and colleagues came to celebrate the success of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) students at their certificate ceremony on 30 August 2013.

It was all smiles and joy as SAMHS students proudly wore their gowns as they prepared to receive their hard-earned Emergency Care Technician qualifications. They had been in the class of 2011-2012 and that of 2013. Other students graduated in Basic Ambulance Assistance were from the Emergency Medical Service Ekhuruleni Metro.

There were students who distinguished themselves, namely Pte Sandile Nkebe who was the best academic student in the Emergency Care Technician course, and Pte Kwenka Cassius Selote, the most disciplined student. The Best Academic Student: Basic Ambulance Assistance was Ms Mathapelo Mokwane from the Emergency Medical Service Ekhuruleni.

Pte Nkebe expressed his appreciation to the facilitators and fellow students; he said he worked hard and really gave it his all.

In his speech the General Officer Commanding of the Military Health Training Formation, Brig Gen Pieter Oelofse, pointed out three areas of success. He said: “Firstly, a deep and thorough acquisition of knowledge and skills is a must for all those who want to perform in this ever-changing world. Secondly, in the case of perseverance in the pursuit of any goal, there will be moments of drudgery, hesitation and boredom, and there will be moments of fear, fatigue and failure. Thirdly, I want to stress the importance of teamwork for, unless you can belong to, and can work with a team, you are quite clearly setting a limit to how far you can go.”

The essence of Brig Gen Oelofse’s message was success. He considered all the graduates successful, but reminded them that “success is a journey not a destination”. Moreover success is a freedom and a responsibility. It was a clear reminder that at no moment can one stop and claim that one has attained success, and then sit back and bask in one’s glory.

As members of the SA National Defence Force they are expected to use this freedom responsibly and wisely - fly the flag high and be proud.
Honouring Human Resources Achievers

By Ms Tebogo Bopape, Assistant Director HR Corporate Communication
Photos: Mr Frans Setlau

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Themba Michael Nkabinde, presented medals to uniformed members and Long Service Certificates (10, 20 and 30 Years) to Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) of the Human Resources (HR) Division at a parade held at the Personnel Services School in Thaba Tshwane on 23 August 2013.

The spectators were captivated by the immaculate drill and harmonious military music. The SA Air Force Band and the HR Division men and women on parade provided the highest standard of drill and music.

Altogether 73 medals were awarded, namely four Good Service Medals (Silver), 48 Medaljes vir Troue Diens (20 Years) and bars, one Faithful Service Medal, five Medaljes vir Troue Diens (10 Years), five Good Service Medals (Bronze) and 10 Tshumelo Ikatelaho for deployment externally on peacekeeping missions.

Lt Gen Nkabinde said to the recipients: “Each medal and certificate is unique and tells its own story of dedication and sacrifice. It grants the bearer recognition and respect. You deserve these medals, wear them with pride and, to our civilian colleagues hang your certificates with pride as you continue to serve the DOD and the SANDF with zeal and loyalty”.

He added that this kind of parade provided him with a platform to share current developments within the broader DOD that are pertinent to professional soldiering.

Lt Gen Nkabinde said: “The New Officer Development Model has been approved in principle by the Military Command Council (MCC). All officers at entry level will be required to have a junior degree, via the Military Academy, Studies at State Expenses or through bursaries to deserving members. This matter will be communicated by the Commanders in due course.”

He added that there were approved initiatives to ensure that the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme is pitched at the Postgraduate Diploma level/Honours Degree level. The Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) will be at Masters Level, in line with the 2012 Budget Vote of the former Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. For the civilians in the DOD major strides have been taken to provide educational opportunities with the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (Palama) at the level of undergraduate and postgraduate. The National Skills Development Strategy III has produced a shining example in the HR Division with Ms Judy Ross who, at the age of 48 years, had enough courage and dedication in 2011 to commence with her Grade 12 qualification, which she obtained in August 2013.

Lt Gen Nkabinde said: “Our core business as the HR Division is threefold, viz to serve at the strategic level, to ensure that we adhere to good governance principles in the DOD in terms of HR and to support the SANDF operationally. The General expressed his appreciation to all members of the HR Division, both uniformed members and PSAP, from the leadership to the lowest ranks for their hard work.”
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The beginning and the end of a military journey

Members of the Department of Defence (DOD) and various stakeholders bade farewell to their friend and colleague, Maj Gen William Nkonyeni, the General Officer Commanding of the Joint Operational Headquarters, at a glittering farewell function held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 29 August 2013.

During his address Maj Gen Nkonyeni thanked his colleagues, family members and staff that he had had the privilege of working with since his appointment in the DOD. He said: “Your support, commitment and dedication in serving our people gave me strength to face with confidence the challenges each day threw at us.”

Since joining the DOD Maj Gen Nkonyeni has served the SANDF in various capacities, including that of the Commandant at the SA Combat Training Centre, the first Commandant of the newly established SA National War College (SANWC), as Director Military Veterans Affairs, Chief Specialist Adviser to the Chief of General Staff of the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) and as General Officer Commanding of the Joint Operational Headquarters since November 2011 until he retired on 31 August 2013.

Maj Gen Nkonyeni was a struggle veteran against apartheid since 1975 and an active member of the SA Students Movement (SASM). During his struggle days he was a member of the Azanian People’s Liberation Army (APLA), which he served in various posts.

He served, inter alia, as a Liaison Officer between the Tanzanian People’s Defence Force and the APLA Military Base in Mbeya Camp, was a Political Commissar in one of APLA’s camps, a Military Attaché and Deputy Chief Representative for East Africa. He was appointed to the High Command of APLA and became the Deputy Army Commander responsible for operations and the Director for Military Intelligence. He was also the Director Training and Manpower Development for APLA and a delegation leader during the integration of APLA into the SANDF.

Maj Gen Nkonyeni underwent military training in countries such as Libya and Nigeria, as well as Commander’s training in Yugoslavia, China and Egypt. He completed the Senior Officers Orientation Course in 1995, and did various other courses up to the Joint Staff Course on International and National Strategy in Britain at the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Above: Maj Gen Jabulani Nkabinde, the newly appointed General Officer Commanding of the Joint Operational Headquarters, taking the salute.

Above: Maj Gen William Nkonyeni, outgoing General Officer Commanding of the Joint Operational Headquarters (right), receives a token of appreciation from Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, Chief Director Operations Development, at his farewell function held at the SA Army College.
**SA SOLDIER**

**LEFT:** The traditional spear is a symbol of command and is a special way of honouring and recognising the position of authority of the General Officer Commanding of the Joint Operational Headquarters.

**ABOVE:** Members of 21 SA Infantry Battalion marching past in columns of platoons. These members have recently returned from the Sudan.

He facilitated collaboration between the SANWC and the Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya and established a bilateral relationship with the United Kingdom Joint Staff College. He has lectured at the African Centre for Security Studies, the Defence College in the United States and represented the SANWC at the NATO Commandant Conference in Pula, Croatia.

Maj Gen Nkonyeni received the Gold Decoration of Merit (GDM), the Unitas Medal, Internal and External Medals, the 10 Years Service Medal, the Twenty Years Service Medal and the Thirty Years Service Medal.

**New leadership**

On 30 August 2013 Maj Gen Nkonyeni handed over the command of Joint Operational Headquarters (J Ops HQ) to Maj Gen Jabulani Nkabinde at a change of command parade held at SA Army College.

Lt Gen Mgwebi said: “His records demonstrate his ability and willingness to serve the people of our country and we therefore applaud his appointment. We firmly believe that the J Ops HQ will be better served by his experience, dedication and hard work.”

Maj Gen Nkabinde is convinced that by working together with all the stakeholders the J Ops HQ will be able to meet whatever challenges it might face. Their collective efforts will ensure that they deliver quality service to the people.

While Maj Gen Nkabinde is humbled by the trust shown in him by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and the Chief of the SANDF, he is fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead, including expectations to address matters of service delivery.

However, he is optimistic that with the support of his staff, colleagues and various stakeholders he will be able to carry out his mandate as expected, and that the experience he gained over the years will carry him through.

Maj Gen Nkabinde was born on 10 June 1957 at Orlando East in Soweto, and attended Orlando West High. He obtained a Diploma in Business Administration from CCAC College in 2002. He also obtained a certificate in Business and Government Policy from the University of Rhodes in 2009.

He started his military career in 1976. His military education included various courses up to the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP). Before 1994 he occupied various posts such as Platoon Commander for ZAPU and MK Forces in Zimbabwe, Reconnaissance Commander, Chief of Personnel and Military Attaché for Non-statutory Forces in Zimbabwe. From 1980 to 1984 he was the Regional Commander Zimbabwe responsible for Operations in the Northern Transvaal.

In 1994 he was appointed as the Brigade Commander at Wallmannsthal, in 2001 Officer Commanding of Group 30 and in 2003 Officer Commanding of Joint Tactical Headquarters North West. He was appointed the Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Training and Evaluation at J Ops HQ in 2006 and, after promotion to Brigadier General, he took up the position of Inspector General of the SA Army at the end of 2006. He was appointed as the GOC J Ops HQ early in January 2013 and will assume this position from 1 September 2013.

Maj Gen Nkabinde has been awarded the 10 Years Service Medal (Bronze MK), the Twenty Years Service Medal (Silver), the Thirty Years Service Medal (Gold), the Military Merit Medals for Internal and External Operations, the Tshumelo Ikatelaho with Peace Support Clasp and the Unitas Medal.

When his busy schedule allows, Maj Gen Nkabinde enjoys music, golf and travel. He speaks English, Isizulu, Sesotho, Ndebele and Shona. He is married to Ms Gwendoline Lindiwe Mahlangu and they are blessed with two daughters, a son and three grandchildren.
68 Air School congratulates its new artisans

By Ms Keabetswe Kempe, 
Intern at SA Soldier
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

During a passing-out parade recently held at 68 Air School in Pretoria students were awarded certificates for being officially reclassified as artisans after completing an intensive three-year apprenticeship programme.

Maj Gen Wiseman Mbambo, General Officer Commanding Air Command, who gave an inspirational speech, said the students were newly reclassified artisans representing the next generation that will be taking the SA Air Force to greater heights.

They had to complete several phases during their training and careers at the SA Air Force Gymnasium where each individual was introduced to the military culture and transformed into a soldier. After the successful completion of Basic Military Training the members commenced with an 18-month long apprenticeship training programme at 68 Air School.

The training consisted of a school block and a workshop phase at Tshwane South College followed by Duty A generic training and trade theory 1 and 2 at 68 Air School.

Some students were transferred elsewhere in the SA Air Force for a year to undergo practical training in different types of SA Air Force aircraft and systems. The general electrical, aircraft structure, fitters, turners and motor mechanical students remained at 68 Air School to continue and complete their training there. Between May and August 2013 they underwent a trade test were and found to be competent.

Maj Gen Mbambo said: “It is important to learn and draw inspiration from those who have travelled the road. Without qualified technical personnel you cannot engage in combat and deliver your payload on target. The military must and should always grow and depend on its own resources to preserve its independent nature. As graduates you must see yourselves as valuable assets to the SA Air Force; a new journey now begins for you. To repay the confidence the SA Air Force has placed in you, you need to serve with diligence and devotion. In turn, the SA Air Force will give you room to grow into a more competent artisan.”

Cpl Matsobane Phalane, a motor mechanic, said he started fixing cars at home and slowly developed an interest and passion for mechanical engineering. He also received a trophy for being the best student in mechanical engineering. He is very thankful for the opportunity and platform the SA Air Force gave him and to be part of the military.

Cpl Precious Nonyane, a general fitter, who was excited to be a qualified artisan, said she was looking forward to this day. She added that she drew strength from the words of encouragement of her parents and articulated how thankful she was to have God in her life.

Cpl Matsobane Phalane, proudly receives his trophy for best student in mechanical engineering from Maj Gen Wiseman Mbambo, General Officer Commanding Air Command.
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The health and safety of our employees matter

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma and Sgt Azwindini Baloyi

As stipulated in the SA Basic Conditions of Employment Act of 1997, an employee is not allowed to work more than 45 hours in any week and nine hours in any day if the employee works for five days or fewer in a week or eight hours in any day. This forms part of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No 85 of 1993).

It is therefore important that an employee remains healthy and safe while at the workplace. Uniformed members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) of the Department of Defence (DOD) attended an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Workshop hosted by the SA Army from 26 to 30 August 2013 at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg. This one-week workshop was headed by Lt Col Alilali Lishivha, SO1 OHS in the SA Army Office.

The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of the importance of occupational health and safety in the workplace and specifically in the DOD. To the delight and approval of the onlookers the Occupational Health and Safety officials of the DOD and the stakeholders marched around the SA Army Gymnasium. The demonstration was welcomed by many local residents, business and other government offices in Heidelberg. Lt Col Lishivha said: “Most of the local business community expressed their appreciation of this awareness march and hailed it as a necessity usually taken for granted by many employers and employees.”

Various internal and external officials and experts in Occupational Health and Safety presented their views on OHS in their workplaces. They were all in agreement that adhering to OHS rules and regulations as well as terms and conditions was an indispensable aspect at work if the employees were to be competent and productive.

The workshop established that whereas every employer had to provide and maintain as far as reasonably practicable a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of his employees,
the overall responsibility of OHS did not rest on the employer only, as employees were just as responsible for their own OHS. Safety first should be the primary consideration before an employee performs any task. The employer must furnish employees with the necessary resources to carry out his duties, and as much as it is reasonably and practically possible inform all employees of the hazards to his health and safety attached to any work which he has to perform.

Based on the above premise, OHS officials are principally responsible for the following functions in the workplace:

- To review the effectiveness of OHS measures.
- To identify potential hazards and potential major incidents at the workplace.
- To examine the causes of incidents at the workplace in cooperation with the employer.
- To investigate complaints by employees relating to OHS at work.
- To inform the employer of general matters affecting the health or safety of the employees.
- To request permission to inspect the workplace, including any article, substance, plant, machinery or health and safety equipment at the workplace.

OHS officials expressed their concerns and challenges, which they attributed to the unique functionality of the DOD as follows:

- Addressing OHS matters and deployment: it was mentioned that owing to a shortage of personnel when OHS officials are deployed they leave their posts vacant, thus they leave their directorate or unit without OHS officials. Insufficient OHS officials in all deployment areas due to a shortage of OHS personnel means fewer or no OHS officials to oversee OHS matters in the deployment area.
- Challenges in identifying the guiding principles of international organisations such as the United Nations or the African Union.
- OHS officials face challenges in finding ways and means to adhere to OHS policies without contravening the SANDF Code of Conduct.
- The lack of OHS officials in all Services has become the subtle norm in the SANDF. It seems there is an assumption that OHS officials should be from SAMHS, but this unwritten norm needs to be rooted out as all Services must have OHS officials without consideration of the Service or corps.

OHS officials indicated that there was a lack of commitment in adhering to OHS objectives by authority figures in SANDF management.

- The lack of commitment by the higher echelons makes it hard for the OHS Division to source sufficient funds to run OHS activities as effectively and efficiently as it should, which makes it a challenge to build facilities such as ramps for disabled employees or to buy emergency evacuation chairs.

- The workshop established that there were not enough emergency exits in many of the buildings and structures in the DOD.
- The workshop further brought to light that most of the buildings, whether for office or residential purposes, did not meet the required OHS standards. Some departmental vehicles used by members did not meet the required OHS standards as they were either too old or generally unsafe.

* For more information on OHS in the DOD/SANDF contact the SA Army Office, Lt Col Alilali Lishivha, on 012 355 1089.
Director Army Acquisition bade farewell after 41 years

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

After a successful military career of 41 years Brig Gen Chris Roux, Director Army Acquisition, said his final goodbyes to his colleagues at his farewell function held at the SA Army Foundation Lapa in Clubview on 16 August 2013.

The aim of the function was also to honour and acknowledge the remarkable contributions made to the DOD, in particular to the SA Army, by a man who had stood as a pillar of strength of the Defence Materiel Division over the past 12 years.

The Division took the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by Brig Gen Roux in the quest to support the DOD to deliver on its Constitutional mandate. The Division valued his contributions over the past years as a foundation for building a solid SA National Defence Force fully capable of defending the country’s territorial integrity and its people.

Brig Gen Roux commenced with his military career in 1972 when he was called upon to do his compulsory National Service. He qualified as an Infantry Platoon Commander and continued his career in the SA Artillery Corps. On completion of his Artillery Troop Commander’s Course, he was appointed as an officer instructor at the Gunnery Wing of the School of Artillery, after which he served as an officer instructor at the SA Army College.

He was then transferred to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group as the Battery Commander, after which he was appointed as the Second in Command of this unit. Brig Gen Roux served as Staff Officer Training at 10 Artillery Brigade and as Second in Command of the School of Artillery, after which he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and appointed as Officer Commanding of 10 Artillery Brigade. On completion of the first rationalisation of the SA Army in 1993, Brig Gen Roux was appointed as the Commander of 4 Artillery Regiment.

In December 1994 he was appointed as the first Military Attaché at the SA Embassy in Gabon where he served until March 1998. On his return he served at SA Army Headquarters as the Senior Staff Officer Doctrine for a short term before being appointed as the Acting Director Artillery. On 1 April 1999 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and appointed as the first General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Artillery Formation. On 1 October 2001 he was appointed as Director Army Acquisition and Procurement Division at the then Departmental Acquisition and Procurement Division, now called the Defence Materiel Division, an appointment he held until his retirement.

Brig Gen Roux was awarded several medals during his career spanning 41 years, namely the Southern Cross, Military Merit, Pro Patria, Southern Africa, General Service, Unitas, Good Service (Gold), Silver and Bronze Medals. He was also awarded the Gabonese “Knight of the National Order of Merit” Medal on completion of his term as Military Attaché in Gabon. In 1999 the SA Artillery Corps Council also awarded him the status of “Master Gunner”.

He is an accomplished student with several achievements, including a B Mil degree from the Military Academy and a Programme in Strategic Management from the University of Stellenbosch Business School. He also successfully completed the training of the South African Excellence Foundation in SA Excellence Model Assessor, Self-assessment and Self-assessment Report and Application Writing. He successfully completed with distinction the Certificate in Total Quality Management at Unisa.

His successor, Col (now Brig Gen) Sydwell Mketo, on behalf of Directorate Army Acquisition expressed his thanks and appreciation and also acknowledge the sterling work and great example Brig Gen Roux had set during his term of office as the Director of Army Acquisition for the past 12 years.
The Department of Defence (DOD) is striving by all means to strengthen its bilateral and multiple relations with other countries. Defence Foreign Relations (DFR) through the Military Attaché Advisory Corps (MAAC) is enhancing such relations and trust between South Africa and other countries.

On 22 August 2013 the MAAC members were taken on a one-day tour to military installations in Potchefstroom, as a way of maintaining and cementing mutual relationships. The day began at the SA Army College in Thaba Tswane where the tour co-ordinator, Lt Col Kaya Nkunkwana, warmly welcomed the MAAC members before they left by bus for Potchefstroom. The tour was well attended by representatives of Kenya, Cameroon, Italy, Brazil and the United States.

On arrival at 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom, the MAAC members received refreshments, and the Officer Commanding of the School of Artillery, Col Dawid Schoonwinkel, said he was honoured to receive such an esteemed group of people. Then the guests were taken to the shooting range to view a static display of artillery hardware and the Regiment prepared some of their best artillery hardware to demonstrate their firing power and capabilities.

From there the tour continued on to 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment where its Officer Commanding, Lt Col Fikile Konjwayo, said that the Regiment was the “eyes and ears of the SA Army”. He added: “Potchefstroom is a focal point of the Chief of the SANDF. If he requires good intelligence or logistics, he refers to 17 Maintenance Unit and 4 Artillery Regiment.” The day continued with a static display and a presentation by Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Force Preparation of the SA Army Intelligence Formation, Col Danie Labuschagne. In his presentation he briefly outlined the aims, mandate and structure of the SA Army Intelligence Formation.

A MAAC member from Sweden, Col Leif Torin-Carlsson, who was in South Africa for one month, said: “The visit is an eye-opener and I feel privileged to be part of this group”. The day ended with lunch and an exchange of gifts. Col Labuschagne said he was happy to be among soldiers of different countries speaking one language, namely SOLDIERING!
The 15th annual SANDF Military Pentathlon Championships were held at Wonderboom Military Base in Pretoria from 12 to 16 August 2013. The physical limits of the athletes were put to the test by means of various obstacles, such as an Irish Table, cross-country running, obstacle swimming, shooting and grenade throwing.

The 2013 Championships was held for the first time in Gauteng on the brand new obstacle course built at Wonderboom Military Base according to recommended standards. The week saw soldiers from various Services and different provinces taking part in the five disciplines.

At the start of the week members received training on the obstacle course, which included grenade throwing and a cross-country race. The competition started on 13 August, with shooting in the simulator room and grenade throwing. Male and female participants shoot a total of 25 rounds at a target 200 metres away in the following order: five Shots Grouping Fire, 10 Shots Precision Fire and 10 Shots Rapid Fire.

In the grenade throwing category male and female participants competed in both accuracy and distance throwing. In the accuracy throwing section men threw at distances of 20m, 25m, 30m and 35m and women threw at distances of 15m, 20m, 25m and 30m. The male world record in distance throwing is 81m.

On the Wednesday members participated in the swimming and obstacle course disciplines. They had to complete a 50m dash in an international standard swimming pool. Normally there would be
four obstacles in the water, but these were left out for this year’s championship. The 500m obstacle course tested the men with 20 obstacles, while women had 16 obstacles.

The current male world record holder in the obstacle run is Daniel Wollbrecht from Denmark, who completed it in 2 minutes and 10 seconds at the 58th Military World Pentathlon Championships in 2011. However, when the obstacle course at Wonderboom Military Base was run for the first time, Trooper Martin Richard Watkins of 43 SA Brigade completed it in 2 minutes and 45 seconds.

At the closing ceremony on 15 August where the medal winners of the championships were announced Lt Col Johan Zietsman, the Chairperson of SANDF Military Pentathlon, expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Brig Gen Leon Eggers, the General Officer Commanding of SA Army Signal Formation, Lt Col Eugene van Dyk, SO1 Education, Training and Development at SA Army Signal Formation, and Maj Hannetjie Joubert, SO2 Physical Training, Sport and Recreation at SA Army Signal Formation, for the use of the facilities and all the prior arrangements.

He commended Maj Charles Beaurain for the hours spent in arranging the championships and said the obstacle course was something the members should be proud of. As from 2014 a new category will be introduced, viz “the Best Newcomer”.

**Medal winners**

**Veteran Female Category (35 years and older)**
- Gold Medal: WO1 Yolandé Slater (SA Army Signal Formation HQ)

**Veteran Male Category (35 years and older)**
- Gold Medal: WO1 David de Beer (3 Electronic Workshop)
- Silver Medal: Lt Col Eugene van
Dyk (SA Army Signal Formation HQ)
- Bronze Medal: CPO Vusi Tsweleng (Naval Base Simon’s Town)

Open Female Category (Elite)
- Gold Medal: Capt Madri le Roux (3 Military Hospital)
- Silver Medal: Sgt Jocelyn van Wyk (43 SA Brigade)
- Bronze Medal: Sgt Kamogelo Mabena (Air Force Base Waterkloof)

Open Male Category (Elite)
- Gold Medal: Capt Eugene de Wet (SA Army Gymnasium)
- Silver Medal: Trooper Martin Watkins (43 SA Brigade)
- Bronze Medal: Maj Louis Theunissen (5 Signal Regiment)

Lt Col Zietsman ended the formalities by handing over the first embroidered SANDF Military Pentathlon badge to WO1 Piet Smit, the Coach of the SANDF Military Pentathlon International Team. The badges will be attached to the black jackets and worn only by members chosen for the international team. The 60th Military World Pentathlon Championship will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 9 to 18 November 2013.

Members selected for the training group for possible inclusion in the SANDF team were:
- Lt Col Eugene van Dyk, SA Army Signal Formation HQ
- Maj Charles Beaurain, Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation
- Maj Louis Theunissen, 5 Signal Regiment
- Capt Eugene de Wet, SA Army Gymnasium
- Capt Michael Shaw, 3 Military Hospital
- Capt Madri le Roux, 3 Military Hospital
- Cpl Mkululi Alfred Gaya, 1 SA Infantry Battalion
- L Cpl Chavon Carmen Malgas, 44 Parachute Regiment
- Seaman Donovan Marinus McHendrie, Naval Base Simon’s Town
- Seaman Donovan Marinus McHendrie, Naval Base Simon’s Town

For more information on the sporting code or if you would like to participate, please contact the following persons: the Chairperson of the SANDF Military Pentathlon, Lt Col Johann Zietsman, on 082 928 7074 or 012 355 5311 or the Vice-Chairperson of the SANDF Military Pentathlon, Maj Charles Beaurain, on 082 776 8432 or 012 392 2626.
The SANDF Volleyball Championship was held at the Bloemfontein Military Base Indoor Sports Arena from 18 to 23 August 2013.

Altogether 450 athletes from nine regions participated in the Championship. Each region sent three teams: a Senior Men, a Women and a Masters’ team.

On 19 August a meeting was held with all the regional chairpersons, the team managers and the technical team to finalise all the outstanding administrative aspects.

The opening ceremony parade was held on 20 August 2013 at 08:00. The General Officer Commanding of Army Support Base Free State, Brig Gen George Sibanyoni, acted as the main functionary and he officially declared the Championship opened. In keeping with the tradition of the SANDF Volleyball Association (SANDFVA) the torch was lit by the oldest player – MWO Frans Gygenaar.

The volleyball torch symbolises that the SANDFVA community strives to be a professional and well managed organisation that promotes volleyball at all levels and that it strives to uphold high standards to ensure success in all spheres.

At each championship the SANDFVA flame is lit by the oldest player to symbolise the passing on of the knowledge from senior to junior level.

On 21 August the Annual General Meeting was held at the School of Armour, where the SANDFVA Committee was selected. After the meeting there was a “ken mekaar” (get to know each other) braai at the lapa of the unit.

The tournament was played over five days in the form of a round robin. The top four teams in each category played in the semi-finals, followed by the finals on 23 August 2013.

After the finals were played the closing ceremony took place. The Vice-chairperson of Volleyball South Africa, Mr Antony Mokoena, and the Chairperson of the SANDFVA, Col Kolekile Kido Mancotywa, presented the trophies and medals to the winning teams, the runners-up and the teams that came third in the different categories. The torch was extinguished by the youngest player, Pte Noni Rantsimo, which symbolised rejuvenation.

After the closing ceremony, the athletes went to prepare themselves for the award ceremony and gala evening, an event that all the athletes look forward to. At the gala evening Col Mancotywa delivered a speech and again individual awards were presented to athletes and officials.

The SANDFVA would like to take this opportunity to thank Free State Volleyball Association, the Army Support Base Free State, Signal Unit Free State and all other units that supported the Championship.

Winners

**Senior men** – Gauteng
**Women** – Free State
**Masters** – Free State

**Individual Awards - Senior Men**
- Best spiker – Cpl Albert Mashele (Gauteng)
- Best sitter – Maj Werner Pretorius (Gauteng)
- Best blocker – AB Levisky Oliphant (Western Province)
- Most valuable player – Sgt Laureng Govender (KwaZulu-Natal)

**Individual Awards - Women**
- Best spiker – Pte Dineo Bridget Malatji (Limpopo)
- Best sitter – Sgt Gail Goliath (North West)
- Best blocker – Capt Mamponeng Miners (Free State)
- Most valuable player – Pte Dineo Bridget Malatji (Limpopo)

**Individual Awards - Masters**
- Best spiker – S Sgt Charlie Lubb (Free State)
- Best sitter – F Sgt Mario Jacobs (Limpopo)
- Best blocker – Lt Col Marius Laubscher (Western Province)
- Most valuable player – S Sgt Robin Januarie (South Eastern Cape)

**Best Administered Province** – Mpumalanga

**Player of the tournament (Men)** – S Sgt Charlie Lubb (Free State)

**Player of the tournament (Women)** – Pte Dineo Bridget Malatji (Limpopo)

**Best server** – Sgt Kgolaetsile Moshe (Gauteng)

**President Award** – F Sgt Kgoaletsile Moshe (Gauteng)

**Best referee** – Lt Col Naresh Lalla (Gauteng)

**Best developmental referee** – L Cpl Portia Henderson (South Eastern Cape)

**Best dressed team** – KwaZulu-Natal
Make peace with your season

By Chaplain Ben van der Walt, Acting SSO Religious Communication and Liaison

This picture tells many different stories. Some people will see the “winter” in the picture. Others will see the “spring”, while others will see the “summer” or “autumn”. One picture - which is perceived differently by different people.

God gives us some clarity in His Book of Life:

- “Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.
- He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up,
- the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for tearing down and the time for building.
- He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy, the time for mourning and the time for dancing,
- the time for making love and the time for not making love, the time for kissing and the time for not kissing.
- He sets the time for finding and the time for losing,
- the time for saving and the time for throwing away,
- the time for tearing and the time for mending, the time for silence and the time for talk.
- He sets the time for love and the time for hate, the time for war and the time for peace.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9)

Seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn have been part of human life since the creation of the world. Every year we experience the seasons and we hear how people around us reflect on their experiences of it.

Mankind has developed a tendency to be content and even frustrated with their present circumstances. It leads to a notion of wanting rather to be somewhere else. Then the opportunities of the present cannot be appreciated.

The above-mentioned passage from Scripture illustrates the balance of life, which produces better life. God calls us to live, not to survive! Nature is a “book” which we can learn from every day.

When we look at the picture, we can ask: “Does a tree grow in the winter? Does it grow in the spring or in the summer? Most people will reflect that it does not seem to grow in the winter, therefore it does not grow.

The truth is that it actually does grow – in its roots. Science reveals to us that the growing of the roots is in preparation for the coming spring and summer. Trees which do not develop their root system in the winter will be toppled over by the first storms of the spring. Spring and autumn gradually lead us into the extreme conditions of summer and winter.

The seasons in nature are there for a good reason. Also in our lives we experience seasons of hope and disillusionment, of happiness and sorrow and of being in control and being controlled. There is a reason for all of this in our lives. Only when we harvest the opportunities of the season we experience can we propel our lives towards the next season.

My wish for you is that you will enjoy the season in which you currently find yourself. Make peace with this season, which is yours! Ask God to reveal the opportunities, embedded in it. We need it to advance to the next season of our life.

It will happen that you will only learn the lesson of a season later. Make a note and ensure that you employ the “lesson learnt” when the season comes again.

A desire to be in another season will accomplish nothing, except frustration! You are either GROUND or POLISHED by life, depending on what material (you believe) you are made of! God made you and He has never made any junk.

ABOVE:  Seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn have been part of human life since the creation of the world.

ABOVE:  Chaplain Ben van der Walt.
Defence Intelligence presented the annual Intelligence Services Winter Games at the Pretoria Military Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane on 23 August 2013 with the theme “We are united”.

During this event members of Defence Intelligence, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, the State Attorney, the State Security Agency, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, the Public Protector, Crime Intelligence, Financial Intelligence Centre and the Special Investigative Unit participated against each other in various sports, such as table tennis, chess, blackball, soccer, netball, bowls, angling, darts, aerobics, a breakfast run, practical pistol shooting, golf, mountain biking, running, jukskei, volleyball, squash and walking.

The main objective of the event was to increase competitive sportsmanship and to provide an opportunity to develop and promote different sporting codes in the hope of unearth ing talent among the various cultures in the Services.

It was a day of sporting fun, and the games were not only about winning but having fun and challenging one’s physical endurance, as sport plays a crucial role in our lives as it promotes a healthier lifestyle and physical and psychological well-being.

The event gave members time to interact and strengthen relationships and provided an opportunity to take part in an exciting day of sports.

The event has become popular, with various Services taking part in the day’s activities. Through this event Defence Intelligence was able to spread its wings to cultivate, maintain and enhance partnerships with other State Intelligence Services.

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

**LEFT:** Lt Gen Jeremiah Nyembe, Chief of Defence Intelligence, officially opening the Intelligence Services Annual Winter Games.

**BELOW:** CHESS  L Cpl Siphiwe Bilingane from the School of Tactical Intelligence making a move against Mr Ntokozo Mthethwa from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

**LEFT:** NETBALL  The SA Police Service (in blue attire) shooting for a goal. The Crime Intelligence team is defending.