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Fast-tracking service delivery for the military veterans

Deputy Minister Maphatsoe attends the graduation ceremony of military veterans

Honouring those who served the SANDF 40 years with loyalty and pride

Air power capability demonstration captures the imagination of spectators

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AAD Expo coincides with celebrating 20 years of democracy in SA

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SA SOLDIER

An act of compassion by SANDF Rugby

Department of Defence celebrates Casual Day

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FRONT COVER: Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
It is a myth that to print on paper is bad for the environment. It is a misconception that going digital is going green. Opting for digital publishing and online communications is more convenient, but these electronic communication mediums are far from “going green” as people are led to believe. It is all about return on investment (costs) for the publisher: paper, printing and distribution costs money.

In our country all paper, including commercial timber-based products, is produced only from plantation-grown trees or sugar-cane fibre (bagasse). South Africa’s plantations for pulp and paper absorb 5% of all the carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted by all international commercial air transport per annum. A paper company in our country planted 37 million trees in 2013, far more than were harvested. These trees require no irrigation or pesticides and are made into paper, which is 100% recyclable or biodegradable within six months.

One cannot say that about a computer manufactured with up to 40 mined, and difficult to dispose of, elements …

One of the most important issues is rather to raise awareness to recycle paper and to increase paper recovery rates in our country and globally.

For example, printing SA Soldier magazine produces just a few grams of CO2 (and the best part: one copy can be read over and over again without further CO2 emissions), while reading the magazine on computer (electronically) for one hour produces 226 grams of CO2 every time!

The big difference is that reading an article of SA Soldier on a computer (electronically) releases greenhouse gases at the rate of 3.8 grams of CO2 per minute. On the other hand, reading an article in an SA Soldier magazine (hard copy) results in no emissions of CO2.

Paper and print have a better environmental footprint than electronic communications. It is greener to use paper!

Paper and print have a distinct advantage over electronic and digital mediums, which use new and additional energy every time they are opened or read from a computer screen.

Paper and print have a better environmental footprint than electronic communications. It is greener to use paper!

Be sure to read the article on pages 30 and 31 regarding the annual Environmental Awards Programme of the Department of Defence in advancing environmental awareness in our Department.

Halala Africa! Halala Africa!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

*Translation into isiZulu by Ms Nozipho Zondo.
Defence industry discusses growth plan

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Heading to the opening of the biannual African Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo, the defence industry representatives discussed a range of issues concerning the growth of local defence industry as a competitive enterprise in global markets following the process of the Defence Review, aimed at providing knowledge and empowering the industry.

Denel Group CEO, Mr Riaz Saloojee, said the conference was designed to complement and add depth to the AAD Expo. He stated the theme of the discussions as “building a competitive industry to serve a global market”, and mentioned that the engagement would be insightful and incisive about issues facing the industry.

Mr Saloojee said: “However, this will require far more than new product development and aggressive marketing. It is in our interests to pool our collective wisdom and experience, and draw on this to develop a deep, strategic relationship that will add value and open new markets.”

He said that in building the future it will be equally important to deliver on commitment and develop a supply chain pipeline to support the industry. Mr Saloojee conceded that this would enable the industry to leave a legacy extending beyond peacekeeping and tactical defence to address development across borders and business sectors.

The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, stated that the Defence Review identified three categories that spoke to the localisation of the defence industry as supported by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Dr Gulube said that South African owned companies must have 51% ownership, partly owned South African companies should have at least 26% ownership, and South African-based companies, which may be foreign owned, but with the necessary facilities and infrastructure, should be located in South Africa and operated by South Africans.

“The companies in those categories will receive acquisition preference in that order, particularly regarding sovereign, strategic and optimised equipment, and in so far as strategic considerations allow. We will not blindly apply preference when that will not provide the optimal solution for the SA National Defence Force.”

He added that there were requirements that could not realistically be met by means of local development or local manufacture as it may be impractical. However, he urged companies in the preferred categories to develop alliances and partnerships with leading foreign and international defence companies in order to keep up with international technological development.

Dr Gulube said: “We will therefore encourage defence cooperation at all levels and support the South African defence industry. More generally, defence exports do much to fund future research and development, so we will also encourage and support the industry in its international export efforts within the framework of our defence, national security and foreign policies.”
CHICKEN PARADE IS ESSENTIAL

7 SA Infantry Battalion (7 SAI Bn) is situated near the Kruger National Park. There are wild animals roaming around and we get the opportunity to see them for free on a daily basis. We are so fortunate that dangerous animals have never jumped the fence to trouble us. We have gotten used to doing chicken parade every day before work. This is the best parade because it has taught us not to dispose of waste improperly as this would be detrimental to our animals. We never want to find our beautiful unit defaced with papers, cans or any form of garbage. To be neat and tidy is our habit. Chicken parade did not only teach us not to contribute to pollution, but it also taught us to cover our tracks when we are in the mission area. Pte Victoria Mathibela, 7 SAI Bn, Phalaborwa

35 SQUADRON EXCELS AT AAD 2014

At this year’s Africa Aerospace and Defence Air (AAD) Expo held at Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof, 35 Squadron, based at AFB Ysterplaat, set up two static displays. The first was the display of the Dakota C47-TP MPA, a maritime aircraft used for search and rescue as well as to patrol our coastline. It had just returned a week before the AAD 2014 from Pemba, Mozambique, where it was used for patrolling the coastline there and to combat piracy over a period of six weeks.

The second was a static display of survival and other equipment. Seven crew members flew up from Cape Town for AAD 2014. What makes this static display so special is that the aircraft on display was the oldest aircraft at AAD 2014. Next year the Dakota will be celebrating its 80th birthday. It really is the “Grand Old Lady” of the sky. Even more special was the fact that it was the only SA Air Force aircraft which was open to the public to view inside and out. Even the cockpit could be viewed.

You could see the excitement, especially among the children, when they were given the opportunity to see what the aircraft looked like inside. It was really an exciting experience they would never forget. A lot of memorable photos were taken, not only of the aircraft itself, but also with members of the public with crew members, which will definitely be in family albums for a very long time. Some children might even become future pilots of the SA Air Force. Another special aspect was the fact that there were so many members who visited the static display, having either worked on the Dakota years before, or had been pilots who had flown it or jumped from it with a parachute. For those people it was really a step back in time and they all got very nostalgic. It was very interesting to hear all the stories of those members who previously served and/or built the Dakota together with SA Air Force members.

Congratulations to 35 Squadron on a job well done. It was indeed very good exposure for 35 Squadron. You really set the bar high for the other squadrons in the SA Air Force for AAD 2015. Keep up the esprit de corps.

WO2 E. Cloete, Pretoria

MILITARY ACADEMY CELEBRATES HERITAGE DAY

On Heritage Day the members and students at the Military Academy got the chance to celebrate their South African heritage and showcase the different cultures, whereafter they united in diversity by having a communal braai at the Military Academy sport fields.

The members and students of Military Academy come from all over South Africa; therefore there was a lot of variety in the dress and make-up of the members. Each cultural group had a performance depicting certain dances, rituals or characteristics of the group, with a spokesperson explaining to the audience what was happening.

Maj Josie Dirkse welcomed everyone present in her beautiful Batswana dress, while Capt Michelealine Manaka, in her colourful Sipedi dress, acted as the Programme Director for the day. The Commandant of the Military Academy, Brig Gen Lawrence Mbatha, surprised everyone when he addressed the members in his traditional Zulu attire.

The Batswana group started the celebrations with drama and singing. This was followed by colourful performances from the other groups. The Tsonga women were a big highlight with their dancing, as well as the Kaapse Klopse who entertained the crowd with their colourful attire, music and dance.

It was an enjoyable day full of colour and dance for a true rainbow nation. Maj Engela Meintjes, email

R200 prize for the best letter!

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters concerning the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be published - Editor.

ABOVE: Brig Gen Lawrence Mbatha, the Commandant of the Military Academy, addressing the members and students in his traditional Zulu attire.
LEADERS BEING EMPOWERED

In the constant attempt by the SANDF to empower and give recognition to its leaders, the SA Army College, as the cornerstone of leadership development, yet again presented certificates and awards recently in recognition of those who successfully completed the 701 Course for Officers Commanding (OCs) and Regimental Sergeant Majors (RSMs).

The course was presented to empower future OCs and RSMs or those who are already OCs or RSMs, and especially to promote the interaction of the OCs and RSMs so that they are better able to work together for the efficient and effective running of military units.

This occasion followed months of hard, demanding research and consultations. During the course the students are educated and tested in the subject matter relevant to running the units as level 4 leaders. Core subjects, including budgeting and regimental aspects, are intensively dealt with.

Emphasising academic prospects was Chief Director SA Army Force Preparation, Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, a firm believer in academic success and the recognition of women. As she handed out the certificates she spoke firmly about the need for continuous development.

The two students who stood out were Lt Col Vanessa Mostert (OC) and SWO Annette Singleton (RSM) both from Western Cape Signal Unit. They presented best officer commanding portfolio of evidence and best regimental warrant officer portfolio of evidence respectively. Maj Gen Mpaxa challenged all the students to go out and implement what they had learned.

Pte Phillip Pito, Pretoria

ABOVE: Flt: Lt Col Vanessa Mostert (best Officer Commanding student), Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa (Chief Director SA Army Force Preparation) and SWO Annette Singleton (best regimental warrant officer student). (Photo: Pte Jonathan Magano)

SANDF PARTICIPATION IN HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Heritage Day is celebrated annually on 24 September. On this day South Africans are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people. Heritage Day is therefore celebrated by remembering the cultural heritage of the many cultures that make up the population of South Africa.

This year the Department of Arts and Culture arranged the Heritage Day celebrations at the James Motlati Stadium (the former Oppenheimer Stadium) in Orkney, North West. The SANDF was requested to participate in these celebrations in order to add lustre to the event. The day kicked off with a fly-past by the SA Air Force, followed by an SANDF parade that captured the imagination of the spectators. SANDF hardware was also on display. The SANDF parade was followed by a cultural parade and entertainment programme arranged by the Department of Arts and Culture.

Maj Antheolene Smith, Pretoria

CHILDERN CELEBRATE CASUAL DAY

Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape for the third year in succession participated in Casual Day. They hosted 15 children with disabilities from Tembaletu School in Gugulethu, and 15 children from Mama Lumka in Nomzamo, Strand. The children were hosted by 9 SA Infantry Battalion which presented a weapon exhibition, and painted camouflage stripes (face painting), after which they watched a video on the SANDF. After this they went on a tour through Monkey Town. This year the local Wimpy, Spur and Sweet Star also contributed by sponsoring them with a toasted sandwich, hamburger, milkshake and a hamper of sweets. The children enjoyed the outing to the full. Jammies de Kock, email

Pte Phillip Pito, Pretoria

ASB KIMBERLEY CANTEEN

Army Support Base (ASB) Kimberley recently decided to reopen the canteen at the base after it had been closed for a very long time. The SAFI regional office in Bloemfontein assisted the base in finally getting the canteen operational again.

The SAFI Diskobolos Canteen, as it is known, was officially opened by the Officer Commanding ASB Kimberley, Col Gog Richards, and the SAFI Regional Manager Bloemfontein, Maj Mariekie van der Walt.

Speaking to the members present Maj Van der Walt reminded them that the aim of the reopening of the canteen was to provide necessities and products for all soldiers, especially the living-in members who need to travel far if they are in need of basic items.

Col Richards reminded members that they could now make use of the services at the canteen and be more productive in the workplace as they do not need to travel far during tea and lunchtimes to buy refreshments.

During the opening of the SAFI Diskobolos Canteen the newly established ASB Kimberley Band provided entertainment for the crowd. Capt Desmon Jaars, ASB Kimberley
Mr Obed Moseneke, a Senior Messenger who also works as a registry clerk at SA Air Force College, emerged as the first winner of the SANDF COLET crossword puzzle competition. It appeared in the quarterly SANDF COLET Education, Training and Development (ETD) Bulletin.

He won the crossword puzzle that appeared in the July – September issue. It had been compiled by COLET’s interns, Ms Refilwe Bontsi and Ms Dieketseng Motuthse.

Mr Moseneke said he visited COLET’s website in order to find out what COLET was all about. An article with the title: “Are leaders we train, or leaders we shape?” caught his attention. After reading this article he saw the crossword puzzle and decided to fill it in.

He has been a crossword puzzle enthusiast for a long time. This is something that he learned as a young man from his dad. He says he always plays puzzles for fun and sometimes with his two daughters. He has filled in many crossword puzzles, but he never bothered to send them in for competitions. It was the first time he sent one in and he managed to grab the prize. To him, crossword puzzles are like a hobby that is linked to reading newspapers and magazines. “Through them I gain knowledge and understanding of the English language,” said Mr Moseneke when asked why he liked crossword puzzles.

Mr Moseneke left his job as a driver to join the Department of Defence (DOD) in 2012. After joining the DOD he was afforded an opportunity to study for a Higher Certificate in Archive and Record Management with the University of South Africa (Unisa). He completed the certificate in June this year.

Asked how he felt about the prize, he said: “Most Defence civilians do not have access to the Intranet, so supervisors and managers must give them time to access the DOD websites because there is a lot that they can learn.”

SANDF COLET CROSSWORD PUZZLE WINNER RECEIVES PRIZE

A DEDICATED AND MOTIVATED OFFICER RETIRES

It is with personal regret but best wishes that I announce the retirement of Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Military Environmental Analysis, Col Bob Janssen.

Col Janssen was born a long time ago in Rotterdam in the Netherlands. He joined the Defence Force in 1970 at the tender age of 16. He started his military career in the SA Infantry Corps (SAIC) where he served in various capacities. His appointments in the SAIC included being a Company Commander during the SA Defence Force deployments in Namibia and Angola. In 1983 he was transferred to Infantry School where he served as a training officer until 1986, after which he was transferred to the SA Infantry Research and Development Department.

Col Janssen joined the Directorate Military Strategy in 1999 when he was appointed as SSI Decision Support. In 2000 he was appointed SSO Military Strategy where he worked for four years before he was transferred to the post of SSO Military Environment Analysis where he worked till retirement.

Col Janssen excelled academically. His military qualifications include the Mobile International Defence Management Certificate from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterrey, USA, and the Defence Orientation Course from the Netherlands Defence College. He also acquired a masters degree from Unisa.

The Chief of Corporate Staff (CCS), Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, honoured Col Janssen with a farewell reception. Among those who attended the function were CCS himself, his deputy, Maj Gen Louis Dlulane, Chief Military Policy, Strategy and Planning, Maj Gen Michael Ramantswana, R Adm (Ret) Alan Green, Director Planning, Brig Gen “TT” Xundu and Director Military Strategy, R Adm (JG) Dirk de Villiers. Speaker after speaker commended the retiring Colonel and acknowledged his contributions towards the enhancement of the SANDF.

We heard from Lt Gen Ramklakan that “Col Janssen has represented the SANDF remarkably in Parliament and at several international seminars”. Maj Gen Ramantswana described the Colonel as a dedicated and highly motivated officer. We heard from R Adm (JG) De Villiers that Col Janssen is an established gospel musician and a leading worshipper in his church.

Col Janssen’s retirement is our loss, but a well-deserved respite for him. We wish Col Janssen and his wife, Tina, well as they enjoy retirement together.

Above: Brig Gen Willie Wagner, Commandant SANDF COLET, presenting the winning prize to Mr Obed Moseneke from the SA Air Force College as the first winner of the SANDF COLET crossword puzzle competition. (Photo: Mr Pilusa Thulare)

A Dedication and Motivated Officer Retires

Above: Col Bob Janssen, then Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Military Environmental Analysis.
SA AIR FORCE HONOURS ITS BRAVE

The SA Air Force recently observed its annual memorial service to honour the airmen and women who had died in the service of their country. Aircraft flew over the memorial, while others strewn flowers over the site. A moment of silence was observed as a sign of respect. Among the hymns rendered were: “It is well with my soul” by the SA Air Force Choir. The 2014 commemorative event was the 50th by the SA Air Force and the SA Air Force Association. Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, the Chief of the SA Air Force, and other senior officers from other Services attended the sombre service.

Military members and civilians, including family members of the deceased, came together to lay wreaths in remembrance of their loved ones. Pain and sorrow were written on their faces as they took the long walk up to the Air Force’s Bays Hill Memorial.

Families of the airmen who perished in the Dakota aircraft that crashed in the Drakensberg in 2012 also attended the service. The sad incident left eleven families with a proud soldier to lay to rest.

Also in attendance were families of the uniformed members who died in the Agusta A109 helicopter crash in the Kruger National Park. Wreaths were also laid for other soldiers who had perished in the line of duty.

Tears flowed when the announcer read the following words: “They have slipped the surly bonds of earth. They shall mount up with wings as eagles, put out a hand and touch the face of God. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”. Cpl Lebogang Ramaboea, Pretoria

MILITARY LEADERS CONDUCT CAPABILITY VISIT

The Joint Senior Command and Staff (JSCS) Course of 2014 is being conducted at the SA National War College in Pretoria. Part of the curriculum of the JSCS Course is to conduct capability visits all over South Africa, even abroad. The learners were recently welcomed at 7 Medical Battalion Group as part of a capability visit.

The Officer Commanding of 7 Medical Battalion Group, Col Sphiwo Ncukuvana, welcomed all the learners and the staff of the SA National War College. His second in command, Lt Col William Bucibe, gave a presentation to outline the unit’s structure, mission and capabilities.

7 Medical Battalion Group gave demonstrations to the learners and displayed the best of their capabilities.

The JSCS Course equips learners with knowledge and skills in matters concerning leadership, economy, politics, budgeting and security studies. This endeavour prepares officers to be Operational Commanders, Officers Commanding and Staff Officers.

The course group comprised not only South African senior officers but also international fellows from countries such as Namibia, Algeria, Lesotho and Pakistan, including lecturers (senior officers) from Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda. Pte Phillip Pitso, Pretoria

BRINGING AVIATION TO THE YOUTH OF MASHAMBA

Altogether 128 learners comprising 72 boys and 56 girls studying maths and science, and in particular Grade 11 and 12 learners from Tshitiwa Secondary School, recently received guidance with regard to a career in the SA Air Force.

The aviation team of Air Force Base Makhado, led by Capt Michael Vilakazi of 2 Squadron, visited Tshitiwa Secondary School in Mashamba village in Hlanganani in the Vhembe district.

The School Principal, Mr Alpheus Ramusilei, together with his staff management, opened the proceedings by welcoming the members of the SANDF. Mr Ramusilei thanked the team for visiting the school to promote aviation awareness. He also thanked the top leadership of the SANDF, in particular of Air Force Base Makhado, for their role in defending the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. He then urged the SANDF to continue with its good job of protecting the sovereignty of our country and said more should be done to raise awareness in the school of the need to assist the poor.

Capt Vilakazi explained the different careers and fields of study in the technical environment and the role the SANDF played in the country. He urged the learners to remain committed to their school programme and to avoid things that could distract them from achieving better results.

The learners were captivated by the presentations covering the role of technicians, pilots, engineers, air traffic controllers and other general career options that the SANDF offered and they were informed of the requirements if they decided to join the SA Air Force.

According to Mr Freddy Mashamba, a senior educator at the school, who is responsible for discipline and life orientation, the visit was very informative and encouraging. Sgt Thomas Mulaudzi, Air Force Base Makhado

Sgt Thomas Mulaudzi, Air Force Base Makhado

LEFT: Members of 7 Medical Battalion Group demonstrating how to treat a soldier who is a victim of biological warfare. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thaole)
RSA CONTINGENT VISITS SUDANESE SOLDIERS IN KUTUM

At the invitation of Brig Gen Mustafa Hassan Hammel El Hassan, Officer Commanding at the Sudanese Regional Defence Headquarters in Kutum, the Officer Commanding of the RSA contingent in the Sudan, Lt Col Andrew Matlaila, and his command cadre recently visited Brig Gen El Hassan. The objective of the visit was to foster cooperation between the two forces in order to strengthen their relations.

At the Kutum Base stringent security measures were taken to ensure the safety of the delegation. During the talks Col Matlaila informed the Sudanese General of what the RSA Battalion in the area intended doing and how they planned to execute their mission.

Col Matlaila said: “Our duty is simply to serve the people of the Sudan by carrying out the duties given to us by the United Nations that mandated South Africa to preserve peace in the Sudan.” He also explained the history of South Africa and why it was necessary for the Sudan and the whole of Africa to be free of conflict. He made it clear that interaction with all role-players was important for peace and stability in the Sudan.

Through an interpreter Brig Gen El Hassan expressed the Sudanese people’s appreciation of the contribution by South Africa in bringing peace and stability to his country. However, he warned Col Matlaila that his mission was not going to be plain-sailing as there were many opposing forces that did not necessarily agree or approve the peace efforts.

He shared Col Matlaila’s sentiments that a peaceful Sudan and Africa were a necessity and said the work that has been achieved so far by all forces under the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) was invaluable and much appreciated. Brig Gen El Hassan emphasised the fact that the leadership of the Sudanese Defence Force was committed to bringing peace and would offer any assistance to the South African forces deployed in northern Darfur in pursuit of peace in the Sudan.

Brig Gen El Hassan wished South Africa luck in its engagements with all the role-players in their mission and hoped the battalion would have a wonderful stay in northern Darfur.

GIVING IS CARING

One company from 10 SA Infantry Battalion (10 SAI Bn), Charlie Company, and one company from the Defence Reserves, Kimberley Regiment (Delta Company), are deployed on the border of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) as part of Operation CORONA under the command of Maj John Thomas March from 10 SAI Bn.

The two companies that are deployed on the border with Swaziland and Mozambique are well trained, prepared and equipped with enough personnel and serviceable equipment.

As part of safeguarding the country’s border, our soldiers are also involved in a community outreach programme that gives hope to disadvantaged families, learners and deprived citizens. This is how “Project Hope” came into being.

The project was established in 2013 by Joint Tactical Headquarters KZN and private stakeholders, the local municipality, the deployed battalion and the Pongola community. These all took part in giving hope to the hopeless. Since Project Hope came into being, about seven 4X5M houses have been built for homeless families. In addition, members of the community were assisted in applying for their birth certificates and ID documents, clothes were donated to the poor, food parcels were given to a few identified families. Furthermore, school uniforms and sporting equipment were bought for learners, and all of this was made possible by the (presently still) deployed battalion, the private sector and individual sponsors.

Project Hope and other community outreach projects within the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) help create a healthy working relationship with the communities on the borders so that members feel free to report crimes such as drug smuggling, rhino poaching, contraband smuggling and other illegal activities that happen around them.

We do not give because we have a lot; we give because we know how it feels not to have. At 10 SAI Bn mediocrity is not an option, we strive for the best.

Lt Eunice Marema, Operational Communications Officer, Operation CORONA

ABOVE: The Officer Commanding of the RSA contingent in the Sudan, Lt Col Andrew Matlaila (left), in conversation with Brig Gen Mustafa Hassan Hammel El Hassan, Officer Commanding at the Sudanese Regional Defence Headquarters in Kutum. (Photo: Maj Ntsikelelo Mantshongo)
Goodwill Parcel Project
fund-raising gala evening

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo: Pte Jonathan Mogano

The annual Goodwill Parcel Project fund-raising gala evening was recently held at the St Georges Hotel in Pretoria. Not only was the event dedicated to raising funds but an opportunity was presented for the donors to be thanked by the Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke, who on behalf of Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula conveyed a message to appreciation to the sponsors of the Goodwill Parcel Project.

Speaking to the donors, the Chief of the SANDF said the support of the sponsors was heartily welcome and appreciated as it was towards a good cause. Gen Shoke said: “Your donations in all forms and sizes are highly appreciated by our men and women in uniform who give their lives to protect the sovereignty of the state. It is not about any political party or petty politics. As soldiers we serve the state and not a specific political party.”

The monies acquired will be used to purchase gifts for all deployed soldiers. The Bible Society of South Africa, under the auspices of the Chaplains Service of the SANDF, gives Bibles to the Christian members of the SANDF and Korans to Muslims. The families of the deployed soldiers will receive food hampers over the festive season.

LEFT: The various sponsors and the amounts they have pledged for the 2014 Goodwill Parcel Project.

ABOVE: Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA National Defence Force (left) receives a sample cheque from Mr Angel Rampele, Managing Director SA Army Foundation.

Sponsors

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<td>MFS Retirement Advisory Services</td>
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<td>Huletts</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Chief of the SANDF paid homage to the warriors of the Battle of Bangui

The Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke, paid homage and conferred medals on the warriors of the Battle of Bangui during a medal parade held at Phalaborwa to honour them for their distinguished and excellent service and for their exceptional and soldierly duties displayed during the Battle of Bangui.

It was a momentous occasion as members of the SA Special Forces came together to renew their pledge to the people of our land as they read their Operators Creed: “I am willing and prepared to be deployed in any direction, anywhere in the world, under any circumstances, day or night, I am willing to pay the ultimate price, my word is my honour, my duty to serve”.

Equally important the medal parade gave us all an opportunity to celebrate their achievements as we reflected on the contribution they made to the security of the Central African Republic (CAR).

During the parade the deserving recipients received recognition for their important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building, and their participation and full involvement in all efforts towards the maintenance and promotion of peace and security in the CAR.

Members who were honoured during the parade embodied all the requirements of being a member of the SANDF, which means to be entrusted with a responsibility to defend our country’s sovereignty in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the country. This requires each one to perform his or her duty with honour, dignity, courage and integrity and to serve with loyalty and pride. They deserve the accolades they received.

Addressing the recipients and members on parade, Gen Shoke said that he was impressed by the sight of the soldiers standing before him receiving well earned recognition. He congratulated the recipients on their achievements in shaping the future and setting an example by serving the country with distinction.

General Shoke said: “Please wear
these medals with pride and honour: you earned and deserve them, we acknowledge this painful history and your contributions and will forever cherish and celebrate this abiding human story.”

He added we celebrate this way of living and we show our gratitude for it. It is a way of living that values personal effort, courage, restraint, humility, sacrifice, resilience, patriotism and self-belief.

The Battle of Bangui is the story of men and women as makers of history, a story of supreme courage in the face of death and an act of valour as brothers and sisters supported each other in dire circumstances.

The courage displayed by these men and women during the Battle of Bangui will remain a legend in South African military history and is a pertinent reminder of the sacrifice made by our heroes and heroines to make the continent and the world a better place to live in.
Fast-tracking service delivery for the military veterans

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

South Africa’s democracy can be largely attributed to the role played by the then members of the Non-statutory Forces. The very preamble of the Constitution of the Republic enjoins us to honour those who sacrificed for our democracy. It is appropriate that we should remember that our freedom came about because of the sacrifices of our people, especially those who stood up, ready and prepared to sacrifice life so that we can have a better life. These are the people we now call our military veterans.

Twenty years into our democracy many of the military veterans have passed on; many are aged and infirm, while many others still live the life of squalor and languish in poverty. The uncomfortable fact is that the majority are jobless, have inadequate education and lack essential skills to ease them into the normal life of society. They were trained in military skills, as freedom fighters. After the dawn of democracy their skills became irrelevant. They are further adversely affected by their advanced age and health challenges. As a consequence of their activities as freedom fighters they cannot even perform jobs related to their acquired military skills anymore.

In a concerted effort to fast-track service delivery to restore the dignity of military veterans, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, recently hosted a stakeholder relations workshop at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria.

Various government departments and defence industries officially gathered to establish how best to coordinate and integrate their efforts to accelerate a roll-out of benefits to the deserving military veterans.

In soliciting commitment to support the military veterans from all the stakeholders Deputy Minister Maphatsoe informed the workshop attendees of his department’s intentions for the 2014 financial year. Deputy Minister Maphatsoe said: “We seek to establish, register, resource, capacitate and ensure the operation of 200 military veterans’ cooperatives. We shall endeavour to build strategic partnerships with training, education and higher education institutions to ensure that we encourage military veterans to pursue studies for self-development so that they can successfully run their businesses and contribute to efforts to build the economy and create employment. We intend to create at least five wellness centres around the country to ensure that military veterans benefit from professional counselling to mitigate the emotional scars which they suffered during the war of liberation.”

Highlighting what his department was currently doing in assisting the military veterans, he said: “We are in the process of testing the market to explore the possibility of establishing a burial scheme for the military veterans. We feel that should this process be properly handled, it would in all probability benefit the military veterans with a programme linking them to local doctors for the purpose of primary health care. We also realise that for these objectives to be met, we need to be in possession of a credible database for genuine military veterans. We have embarked on this process with the necessary energy and concentration such that by the end of this year such a database is effectively in place”.

Speaking on behalf of the Department of Energy, the Deputy Minister, Ms Thembisile Majola, said: “As we commit ourselves to accelerate service delivery to military veterans we should make sure that women military veterans are given priority attention. As the Department of Energy we will make sure that projects to empower military veterans, including business opportunities in projects, for example geyser installations and the Independent Power Producers Programme are launched”.

Mr Mvuzo Mtyhobile, Director Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), mentioned that the DTI had put in place incentives for military veterans interested in becoming entrepreneurs. These measures are specifically made to be attractive for military veterans in a way that will allow them to be self-sustainable in business.

The workshop was attended by, among others, the Departments of Social Development, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Environmental Affairs, and the City of Tshwane, all of which made concrete proposals to support military veterans in various aspects of their socio-economic development.
Deputy Minister Maphatsoe attends the graduation ceremony of military veterans

Eighty students graduated recently at the Bidvest Protea Coin security company, most of whom are military veterans from the then Non-statutory Forces. They had done Basic Military Training at the Coin Security Gijima Training Academy at Wallmannsthal. The training enables the students to be competent in the security sector, thus allowing them to perform their duties in various sectors, such as mining security, security services, cash-in transit.

During the graduation ceremony, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, said: “Our efforts to build South Africa and strengthen peace across the African continent are in your hands. As of today, we expect a decrease in crime in the areas in which you will be deployed. Freedom of movement will be a pipe dream if there is an absence of security. It is important that our people are assured of real security through broad cooperation based on public and private partnership. This would be beneficial to the people as it would mean a safer and a secure South Africa for all”.

In his address the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bidvest Protea Coin, Mr Petrus van Niekerk, said: “Presenting graduation certificates to deserving employees of Bidvest Protea Coin is one of the most rewarding opportunities for an organisation. It is the result of a partnership between three organisations, namely Bidvest Protea Coin, the Safety and Security Sector, Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) and MK Legacy Projects. These companies have stood together and provided 80 previously unemployed persons from the outlying areas of the mining sector in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West with the opportunity to receive today Grade C qualifications in security services.”

The CEO encouraged the students: “Allow me to congratulate our students and make only one simple but serious request to you all, and that is that you always remain vigilant at work, never let your guard down, always stand tall using every opportunity to grow and become the person you dreamed of becoming.”

It is indeed a great achievement for these 80 students. They have to perform their duties diligently in their respective fields of work. Jabulani Leane from Mpumalanga was among the 80 students who proved that they could make it through training. Jabulani Leane said: “As a result of the training I acquired Grade E, D and C qualifications; what motivates me the most is that the qualifications are nationally recognised. In the next five years I see myself in a high post within Bidvest Protea Coin because I am going to further my studies.”

ABOVE: Congratulating the students on their achievements, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, and company officials shake hands with the students.
Secretary for Defence hosts Brazilian defence delegation

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

Photo: Pte Jonathan Mogano

While the delegation from the Brazilian Defence Force was attending the Africa Aerospace Defence (AAD) the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, made use of the opportunity to host the Brazilian defence delegation to a formal dinner at the Armscor “Spookhuis” (loosely translated to ghost house) in Pretoria to deepen the relations based on memoranda of understanding between the two countries. Addressing the Brazilian defence delegation, Dr Gulube thanked the delegation for accepting his invitation. He assured his guests that he was looking forward to deepening relations through various projects as both were members of various international organisations, such as BRICS and IBSA. Among the esteemed guests of the Secretary for Defence was Gen Aderico Mattioli, Head of the Department of Industrial Technology of the Brazilian Defence Ministry who was in attendance on behalf of Brazil’s Minister of Defence, Mr Celso Amorim. The SANDF delegation was headed by Dr Gulube, and included Mr Mthobisi Zondi, Chief Defence Materiel, Lt Gen Bongani Mbatha, Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Norman Yengeni, Chief of Human Resources, and Mr Sipho Mkwanazi, Armscor Acting Chief Executive Officer. BRICS is an acronym for an association of five states: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. IBSA is an independent international organisation that encourages commercial, political and cultural cooperation between its members. Brazil holds the Chairmanship of BRICS at present. IBSA is an acronym for an association of three states: India, Brazil and South Africa. IBSA is an international tripartite grouping promoting cooperation in the fields of defence, agriculture, trade, culture, education, energy, science, technology and transport.

DOD articulates its procurement processes and requirements for the suppliers

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Department of Defence (DOD) held its second DOD Suppliers Day at Air Force Base (AFB) Swartkop recently to improve the relationships between its stakeholders and the Small, Medium and Micro-enterprises (SMME). The event was also held to ensure that the DOD stays in touch with its suppliers, which provide the Department via the DOD procurement process with commercially off-the-shelf products. The DOD Suppliers Day also afforded suppliers an opportunity to exhibit their goods and services to their potential customers (Services and Divisions of the SANDF) and gave DOD personnel an opportunity to discuss their opinion of the goods and services they received from suppliers in terms of quality and timely service delivery, and how these matters could be improved. The event was also useful in affording suppliers an opportunity to communicate the challenges they experienced during their interactions with the DOD. The DOD was also able to explain the function of the National Treasury, the South African Bureau of Standard, the Department of Trade and Industry and the DOD procurement processes and applicable prescripts to suppliers to improve business relations within the context of the Regulatory Framework. During the DOD Suppliers Day the Department imparted information relating to procurement prescripts by means of presentations by the different procurement environments. The DOD also explained the payment process, a distressing aspect which influences the Department’s ability to comply with the Government’s instruction requiring payment within 30 days, and assisting in the operational viability of the SMME. The DOD expects suppliers and service providers to adhere to procurement prescripts and to avoid unnecessary legal disputes that may be detrimental to the creation of a healthy relationship. This approach will ensure the growth and sustainability of the SMME and at the same time contribute to the Government's objective of stimulating the economy and job creation. Speaking to the guests, suppliers and members of the DOD, the Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Bongani Mbatha, emphasised the important role the SMME play in dealing with the economic challenges the country is facing today. He said: “The DOD is duty-bound to manage its procurement processes in a manner that is aligned with and promotes the economic development programmes of the Government through deliberate action by supporting the commercial viability of the SMME.” Lt Gen Mbatha added that the DOD’s footprint was a national one covering all provinces. In that context the DOD has developed procurement procedures that will actively promote participation of local suppliers, which will contribute to the stimulation of their local economies, especially in the rural areas.
Honouring those who served the SANDF for 40 years with loyalty and pride

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Pte Jonathan Mogano

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, honoured 47 SANDF members with medals for their 40 years of distinguished conduct and loyal service to the SANDF recently at a Medal Parade held at the Armscor Sports Ground in Pretoria.

In a rather emotional event after which some of members will depart the SANDF having reached retirement age, Gen Shoke commended them for having lived up to the SANDF Code of Conduct and serving the SANDF with pride.

General Shoke said: “These are members who distinguished themselves and served for a long time. I always say that soldiering is like priesthood: it’s a calling. It requires discipline, dedication and loyalty. As the Chief of the SANDF, I am proud of you.”

The Chief of the SANDF conceded that there was a need to deal with the backlog of medals. Gen Shoke was speaking ahead of a planned medal parade to honour members of 44 Parachute Regiment who battled Seleka negative forces at the Central African Republic (CAR) during the Battle of Bangui.

The General pleaded with them to continue to be loyal and disciplined members of the SANDF. Citing their exemplary conduct over the years, he said the SANDF needed men and women who were loyal and ready to serve their country.

General Shoke warned members of the SANDF to avoid the growing tendency of divulging sensitive information in the public domain, which might jeopardise the lives of soldiers on military operations and thus adversely affect national security.

The Chief of the SANDF said: “When we give our members medals, we call them on parade so that the public can witness our honouring and bestowing medals on those who served the SANDF with loyalty and pride.”

He said some progress had been made in addressing issues affecting soldiers. In recent years a number of offices have been established to support the work of the SANDF and its members, including the Defence Service Commission and the Military Ombud.

General Shoke argued that people should not compare or equate any other work to that of soldiering. He said the responsibilities of a soldier could not be compared with those of an ordinary employee in either the public or the private sector, as the SANDF was the custodian of weapons of war and was mandated to defend the Republic.

The Chief of the SANDF passionately stated: “We are the only institution in this country which amalgamated opposing former Non-statutory Forces into a single Statutory Force - the SANDF - and we are now working in harmony. We have made this democracy work.”

ABOVE: The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, pins the Medalje Vir True Dien and Bar (40 years) on Maj Gen Les Rudman, Deputy Chief Army.
The skies over the Roodewal bombing range in Makhado witnessed the sound of various aircraft during a recent air power capability demonstration. Military personnel, members of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps and aviation enthusiasts came to witness the best of the SA Air Force. This exclusive gathering served as the curtain-raiser to the African Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria the following day.

This is an event where the SA Air Force Command Council and SA defence industry come together to evaluate and assess aircraft capabilities and techniques for future recommendation and more importantly as part of force preparation and to evaluate air power doctrine. The spectacular air display took place towards sunset.

Addressing the spectators, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, the Chief of the SA Air Force, assured them of their safety: “This platform is also a demonstration of what is possible if we work together. I mean the SANDF and the SA defence industry. Together we have designed, developed, produced and fielded the best in terms of an attack helicopter”.

Mr Mike Kgosi, the Chief Executive Officer of Denel Aviation, said: “In all modesty I think we can say that the success of the Rooivalk and its very effective deployment by the SA Air Force on peacekeeping missions and enforcement operations has contributed to a growing national pride in the ability of our defence industry.”

The SA Air Force used their latest aircraft models to simulate a combat situation in which aircraft such as the Rooivalk, Hawk, Agusta, Gripen and Hercules C130 enacted the various roles they can play in a battle.

The whole exercise was narrated by commentators to describe the sequence of events. With roaring engines they cut through the skies to demonstrate mobility, flexibility and firepower as they dropped airborne forces, performed reconnaissance flights and flew combat air patrols and fuel replenishment in a joint exercise.

This year’s theme was the “Rooivalk”, which is regarded as the best aircraft ever to be manufactured in South Africa by Denel Aviation. Lt Gen Msimang and Mr Kgosi both signed a copy of the coffee-table book: “Rooivalk the Pride of Our Nation” compiled by Denel Aviation.
Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans announced Trust Funds partnership

By Pte Phillip Pitso
Photo: Pte Jonathan Mogano

This year’s African Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo marked a great breakthrough to many Military Veterans due to the multi-million rand high-tech skills transfer programme announced by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, and the Paramount Group. This milestone took place in Hangar 4 at the Paramount stand on one of the trading days at the AAD Expo.

Deputy Minister Maphatsoe and the Chairperson of the Paramount Group Trust, Dr Mathews Phosa, who labelled this as a key transformation for our country. He added: This initiative will go a long way towards recognising their role and enabling their descendants to benefit from the sacrifices they made; to build a future for themselves and to play a role in driving this strategic industry forward.”

Tens of millions of rands per annum will be committed over the next period. The trust, together with the Department of Military Veterans, identified an opportunity to transfer core skills to the next generation.

Those taking part in the programme will be equipped with high-tech knowledge and skills required to keep the Paramount Group and South Africa at the forefront of the global defence industry. The initiative will be carried by four pillars, namely the provision of bursaries, career advancement, internships and possible employment.

The beneficiaries will have an opportunity to study for various engineering and science degrees needed by the Paramount Group.

Present on the day were some of the beneficiaries of the bursary and internship programmes.

Before signing the certificate and memorandum of understanding Deputy Minister Maphatsoe said: “Through this programme and in partnership with Paramount Trust there will be an investment in skills, which will also uplift the military veterans’ family units that have until now been neglected by the industry”.

Speaking to SA Soldier an obviously excited Mr Ashleigh Peterson said: “This is a great opportunity for me. I am grateful to the Department of Military Veterans and the Paramount Group”. This student will serve his internship as a motor mechanic.

Later the same day Deputy Minister Maphatsoe unveiled the ground-breaking new Oribi medium sized utility truck developed and manufactured by DCD Protected Mobility. Among the dignitaries present were the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, and other senior officers of the SANDF.

According to the Executive Director of Histomart, Ms Idah Mabaso, the Oribi is well suited to the harsh African terrain and has a fully innovative cab structure. The Oribi is built for sheer strength, with the principle of driver and passenger protection from the ground up. The vehicle is mechanically advanced, highly robust and is considerably more agile than common off-road vehicles.
The Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo, Africa’s largest premier exhibition of air, sea and land capability, was recently held at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria to bring together experts, decision-makers, international stakeholders, the local industry and the general public to showcase and witness the latest technological innovations in aerospace.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, declared the 8th edition of this show coincides with celebrating 20 years of democracy in SA.
with the marking of 20 years of freedom and democracy in our land. The connection between this show and the celebration of our people’s freedom is of special significance to us. This is because it was only under conditions of democracy and the consequent reshaping of our defence mandate that it has been possible to host the show in its current format.”

As she opened the ceremony to over 47 000 trade visitors Minister Mapisa-Nqakula stated that she commended the partners of the AAD for having grown the partnership and the show from strength to strength with every bi-annual event. She said: “The success of this show over the years has in part been due to the tremendous support of all the role-players on the continent and the many participants from all across the globe who have engraved this show into their calendar of key bi-annual activities. For this we are grateful and, once more, welcome back to our beautiful continent.”

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula added: “Let me also extend a special welcome to my esteemed counterparts, the Ministers of Defence, Deputy Ministers, the various Chiefs of Defence and Chiefs of Services and their delegations from various countries in the region, the subcontinent and other parts of the world. To this end I must recognise all the Ministers who have made it in person and thank them for their presence and support.”

In developing its Defence Review 2014, the SANDF had to bring into public discourse the defence function and mandate, including its capability. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula acknowledged that the exhibitions were platforms that encouraged mutually beneficial partnerships between local industry and international original equipment manufacturers through technology transfer, collaborative developments, indigenisation and market access.

She said: “Beyond our own capital acquisition requirements, we remain committed to our various partnerships in the region, on the subcontinent and Continued on page 22
AAD Expo

Continued from page 21

globally. Particular mention of our BRICS partners (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) is necessary as we not only remain committed but want to grow these partnerships. We remain grateful for the relationship with Brazil at a defence industrial level and look forward to deepening this relationship into other areas of cooperation and collaboration.”

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula indicated that no deals had been signed yet, and said that once it has been decided that equipment is needed the parliamentary process will have to be followed. Once the Defence Review has been endorsed acquisition may be considered once it has been determined what equipment should be given priority.

She hailed the Rooivalk as a symbol of pride and technological advancement in the South African defence industry, saying: “I am proud of the Rooivalk because it was effective in neutralising M23 rebels. The miracles that were performed by the aircraft were amazing and I always refer people to that when I indicate the successes of the SANDF operations.”

The AAD Expo was presented over five days, of which the first three days were traditional trade days, followed by two days when the show was open to the public. 12 700m2 of indoor exhibition space and 7 000m2 of outdoor exhibition space was sold ahead of the show to 413 exhibiting companies from 29 countries. Altogether 84 foreign delegations visited the show, including over 95 000 members of the public.

Both SANDF and civilian aircraft participated in static and aerial displays that included a mini-war demonstration and an anti-rhino poaching operation. The public witnessed a world record attempt (currently at 24 hours) by Airplane Factory, a South African company, at building an aircraft during the AAD Expo. The team of 40 individuals managed to build the aircraft in two days (48 hours).

The organisers are investigating innovative ways to remain in the forefront of excellence in aerospace, which includes the possibility of an unmanned aerial vehicle demonstration area as well as thematic exhibition areas to profile specific capabilities such as IT in defence, communications, protective clothing, etc.

The AAD Expo serves the interests of both the civilian and military sectors and has established itself as a major platform for South Africa’s defence, commercial and general aviation, space, security, humanitarian relief disaster management, freight and forwarding services as well as search and rescue technologies. 

ABOVE: The Chairperson of the Africa Aerospace and Defence Policy Committee, Mr Dean Mogale, briefs the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. (Photo: Mr Themba Mntyali)

ABOVE: During an anti-rhino poaching campaign members demonstrate fast-roping with dogs from a helicopter to stop poachers.
Today, Denel is a force for good in South Africa! As a proud strategic partner of the South African National Defence Force, we help to guarantee the country’s territorial integrity and protect the lives of citizens. As a globally recognised manufacturer of leading-edge products, we earn valuable foreign exchange.

As a technology powerhouse, we lead the way in innovation and research and development.

As a responsible corporate citizen, we invest in fighting the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality through our CSI, training and skills development of future engineers, scientists, artisans, technicians and astronauts.

Denel's support to a democratic South Africa can also be measured by the quality of our people, products and nation-building programmes:

- **The Rooivalk Helicopter** – making its debut flight on the day President Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years of incarceration. Today this iconic indigenously developed combat helicopter provides valuable support to South African troops in peace-keeping operations across the continent.

- **The Seeker 400** – the new global standard in unmanned aerial vehicles and an invaluable tool in reconnaissance operations, border protection, wildlife management and search and rescue operations.

- **The Badger** – the SA Army’s infantry combat vehicle of choice providing our troops with unrivalled mobility, firepower and protection.

- **The A-Darter** – a new-generation surface-to-air missile developed in collaboration with Brazil, South Africa’s partner in the BRICS Alliance;

- **Denel Aerostructures** – a leader in the design and manufacturing of complex metallic and composites structures for the global aerospace industry.

- **Denel Aviation** – a trusted partner of the SA Air Force, helping to keep key parts of its helicopter and fixed wing fleet in excellent flying condition.

- **Denel Mechem** – Africa’s leading provider of humanitarian demining services, saving lives and stabilising communities in post-conflict regions.

- **Denel Overberg Test Range** – located on the southern-most tip of Africa, a much sought-after facility for international flight testing and a global ally in space launches and missions.

Twenty years after South Africa’s democratic transition, Denel partners the SANDF in support of the AU and UN in ensuring Peace, Security and Stability in South Africa and the rest of the continent.

South Africa, here’s to another 20 Years of Peace, Freedom and Democracy!

*Halala South Africa, Halala!!!*
With its Youth Development Programme at the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo held at Air Force Base Waterkloof the SANDF sparked the curiosity of the youth by targeting qualified young potential applicants and professionals to join the military.

As part of marketing and recruiting candidates offering scarce skills, the SANDF gave a comprehensive overview of its capabilities and exposed youth from various institutions and secondary schools to various careers and specialised fields.

The SANDF had an impressive array of military equipment and hardware on display with exhibits inside and outside the pavilion, covering all Services, at the AAD Expo. The Youth Development Programme at the AAD Expo continues
to make young people’s dreams a living reality and plays an important role in youth development.

The Youth Development Programme encourages South African companies in the aerospace, security, maritime and defence industry to sponsor career development for the youth, which in turn eventually benefits the industry.

In view of the significance of the air show, career guidance has been the sole mandate of the Youth Development Programme. Various activities took place, ranging from model building, simulators and career guidance to demonstrations of new technology.

The different Services and Divisions within the SANDF participated in presenting career exhibitions and offered information to young people to obtain the best candidates for the highly specialised fields of avionics, pilot training, aerodynamics, engineering, maritime warfare, electronics, technical, combat and military health occupations for which mathematics and science are the requirements.

Young people and tertiary students were exposed to various career opportunities in the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) and the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) to attract the best students and undergraduates, and for this reason the focus was on the recruitment of graduates, professionals and specialists who could benefit the SANDF.

This worthwhile endeavour to empower and skill South African youth was supported by the Department of Defence, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armscor), the Commercial Aviation Association of South Africa (CAASA), the South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD) and Denel.

During the two days the AAD Expo was open to the public this premier exhibition of air, sea and landward technology excited the visitors, and aviation enthusiasts were thrilled to witness the SANDF’s role in integrating the three combined Services, namely the SA Army, the SA Air Force, and the SA Military Health Service and the impressive array of military and civilian aircraft thundering through the air.

A variety of engagement scenarios combining air and ground forces were displayed during a conventional warfare attack, including various exercises such as fast-roping, insertion techniques on landing, rapelling, interdiction, airlifts, medical rescue and air pickets to provide anti-aircraft protection.

This was followed by impressive demonstrations by armoured and mine detection vehicles of the SA Army. The Rooikat armoured vehicle, Olifant MK2 tank, Badger infantry combat vehicle and Huskey mine detection vehicle demonstrated their capabilities in negotiating obstacles in even the most adverse conditions and terrain as part of a military mission.
In pursuit of peace and stability on the continent

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

In pursuit of its governmental mandate of ensuring that citizens of South Africa are and feel safe, and in the spirit of proactive response to African challenges and the availability of combat ready landward forces to the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC), the SA Army conducted Exercise SEBOKA recently in Lohatlha to facilitate integrated training and a state of combat.

RIGHT: A Rooikat armoured vehicle showcasing its firing and flexibility capability.

ABOVE: The force earmarked for the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC) showcasing their willingness and capability to respond to African challenges.
The African Union (AU) has commissioned the creation of a military force to provide the ACIRC to help resolve conflicts on the continent before they escalate to massively destructive levels.

The SA Army has been mandated to spearhead the force integration training of the SA National Defence Force's contribution to the ACIRC. The exercise allows elements within the SANDF to test their state of readiness in conventional battle tactics coordinated at the brigade level with more emphasis on the command structure of the participating units.

In future the SANDF will deploy as part of the ACIRC to help restore peace and economic development. South Africa is among the world’s largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations and helps in supporting democracy, facilitating economic and social stability and in creating a better world for all. The SA Army is a force contributor to peace support missions across the continent and supports the AU’s objective in this regard.

Exercise SEBOKA is a force preparation exercise aimed at training the landward force to enhance its capability and combat readiness, and to integrate the combined Services of the SANDF.

The goal of the exercise was to master doctrine, tactics, techniques and staff procedures at all levels during an operation.

The success of the exercise was clearly demonstrated by the various landward capabilities of the SA Army during the Open Day when it demonstrated the SANDF’s combat readiness with an impressive display of armoured vehicles, aircraft and infantry as part of the live-fire Exercise SEBOKA.

The Open Day demonstrations highlighted the state of combat readiness and the capabilities of the SA Army. These ensure effective participation in any mandated military operation that might be sanctioned by the government in line with the operational requirements of African peace missions.

The Open Day is a highlight on the SA Army calendar, which provides a platform and opportunity for the SA Army to interact with all its stakeholders to achieve a better understanding of the SANDF’s internal and external roles. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the SA Army’s capabilities and combat readiness through a significant and impressive exhibition of SA Army hardware.
The 8th SA Army Fittest Soldier Championship

Wonderboom Military Base, home of SA Army Signal Formation, was a hive of activity recently when the 8th SA Army Fittest Soldier Championship was held there. Altogether 190 men, 75 women and 10 senior soldiers participated in the championship.

During the opening parade, Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, Chief Director Army Force Preparation and Patron of the SA Army Fittest Soldier Championship, gave an inspiring speech in which she emphasised that members should stop being couch potatoes and get fit.

The week’s events kicked off with swimming in Villieria, followed by backwards running on the Wonderboom Military Base sportsfields. Other items during the week included a Bleep Test, Agility T-Test, the Signal Surprise, a standard SA Army Fitness Test, a fun run and an endurance walk at Boekenhoutskloof.

Male and female participants’ fitness and stamina levels were pushed to the limit with the Signal Surprise, a well thought out, very tough course at the base, consisting of various obstacles, including tyre flipping.

Maj Gen Mpaxa who is the first female Chief Director Army Force Preparation participated herself and was the only General who completed the 15 km endurance walk for women with a 15kg backpack. Brig Gen Andre Luck was the first General to participate in more than five SA Army Fittest Soldier Championships.

At the prize-giving ceremony, Brig Gen Leon Eggers, the General Officer Commanding SA Army Signal Formation, on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army, thanked members, especially Col Loy de Jager, Officer Commanding 2 Signal Regiment and Lead Organising Committee Chairperson, for setting the bar high in hosting the 8th SA Army Fittest Soldier Championship on behalf of SA Army Signal Formation.

The hosting of the 8th SA Army Fittest Soldier Championship by SA Army Signal Formation will be a tough act to follow by SA Army Air Defence Artillery Formation, the host in 2015.
**Winners**

**Unit Teams:** 1 SA Tank Regiment

**Formation Teams:** SA Army Infantry Formation (A-Team)

**Formation HQ Teams:** SA Army Intelligence Formation HQ

**Senior Soldier Category:** WO1 Sicebe Biyela (SA Army College)

**Women 50+ Category:** Col Debbie Janse van Rensburg (SA Army HQ)

**Men 50+ Category:** Pte Nkosinathi Lamec Mthembu (121 SA Infantry Battalion)

**Women 40-49 Category:** Sgt Dimo Motshumi Mogatle (4 Artillery Regiment)

**Men 45-49 Category:** Capt Lesibe John Motokolo (SA Army Training Formation HQ)

**Women 31-39 Category:** Cpl Mole-mong Theodorha Moaneno (1 SA Tank Regiment)

*Also the best female performer*

**Men 35-44 Category:** Maj Motata Isaac Senamela (SA Army Gymnasium)

**Women up to 30 Category:** Pte Boikhutso Portia Kelebone (1 Special Service Battalion)

**Men up to 34 Category:** Pte Kebitsamang Michael Mathaha (44 Parachute Regiment)

*Also the best male performer*
Advancing environmental awareness in the Department of Defence

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Pte Jonathan Mogano and Ms Nozipho Zondo

The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, awarded nine trophies to deserving units and members of the SANDF during the annual Environmental Awards Programme for 2013/14 at the Military Health Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane.

The awards inspire units and members of the SANDF to honour their responsibility towards both the natural world and the built-up environment under their control and gives recognition to these units and

ABOVE: The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, said the awards serve as a tangible commitment by the Department of Defence in fulfilling its role as one of the custodians of our natural heritage.

ABOVE: The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube (left), presented Capt (SAN) Piet Dladla with the Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management of SAS SALDANHA, while the representative of the trust, Mr Andre Botha, looks on.
individuals for their contribution to environmental services in the military.

The awards began in 1983 and seek to utilise military land in an environmentally responsible way to ensure that its long-term potential is retained. Land is required to accommodate military infrastructure, test weaponry and train personnel.

The mission of Environmental Services within the Department of Defence (DOD) is to ensure environmentally sustainable management of military activities and facilities. By conducting environmental research, it investigates the impact of military activities, as well as methods to minimise and manage this.

Dr Gulube said the ceremony was meant to recognise, reward and celebrate environmental management achievements by individuals, bases and training areas under the control of the DOD. He revealed that the Military Integrated Management has been included and further expanded in the new Defence Review 2014.

The Secretary for Defence stated: “Military bases and training areas utilised for force preparation and force employment imperatives must remain functional and sustainable in respect of their physical and natural characteristics. It is therefore inspiring to observe that the Department continues to embark on ways to protect endangered natural resources found on military controlled properties.”

Dr Gulube added: “Despite the continued military training, these areas could prove to be part of the limited frontiers where rare and endangered plant and animal species would be allowed to thrive without unnecessary interference.”

Environmental Planning ensures that military activities are carried out with consideration of environmental factors and that any negative impact is minimised and actively managed.

The following are prize-winners in the sponsors’ categories:

- **Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency in the DOD:** Air Force Base Langebaanweg
- **National Energy Efficiency Campaign Award for Energy Efficiency in the DOD:** Air Force Base Langebaanweg
- **Keep eThekwini Beautiful Award for Integrated Waste Management in the DOD:** Bluff Military Area
- **Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management in the DOD:** SAS SALDANHA
- **Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management in the DOD:** South African Naval Armament Depot
- **Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Educational and Awareness Training:** South African Armament Depot
- **SA National Parks Floating Trophy for Military Integrated Environmental Management in the DOD:**
  - **Maintenance Category:** Air Force Base Overberg
  - **Development Category:** Air Force Base Hoedspruit

**Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services in the DOD:** Lt Col Jakes Jacobs (Regional Works Unit KwaZulu-Natal)
6 SA Infantry Battalion granted Freedom of Entry to Grahamstown

By CO Marumo Machete, SO3 External Communication SA Army Corporate Communication Photos: Pte Kabelo Tsogang

SA Infantry Battalion (6 SAI Bn) was honoured by being granted the Freedom of Entry into Grahamstown recently by the Makana municipality following its return from a successful peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) earlier this year.

During a welcoming ceremony graced by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, at Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape, the soldiers of 6 SAI Bn who were part of the United Nations sanctioned Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) proudly paraded through the streets of Grahamstown, having been conferred the honour of Freedom of Entry into the city.

Lt Gen Masondo, accompanied by the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, and other SA Army Generals, including the General Officer Commanding of the host formation, Maj Gen Lindile Yam (left), acknowledging the salute with the Executive Mayor of Makana municipality, Councillor Zamuxoloko Peter (right).

ABOVE: General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Lindile Yam (left), acknowledging the salute with the Executive Mayor of Makana municipality, Councillor Zamuxoloko Peter (right).

ABOVE: The men and women of 6 SA Infantry Battalion proudly paraded their colours through the streets of Grahamstown.
ABOVE: The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo (left), flanked by the General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Lindile Yam, fielding questions during the media briefing at 6 SA Infantry Battalion.

Yam (General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery) welcomed the soldiers back from their peacekeeping mission.

The local community came in droves to witness the official welcoming of their gallant sons and daughters by their home town. It was after all the same community that bade them farewell when they left our shores in March 2013 for their deployment to the DRC.

The march-past led by the parade commander, Officer Commanding 6 SAI Bn, Lt Col Altin Gysman, started in High Street and proceeded downtown to the town hall accompanied by the SA Army Band.

The parade culminated in a drive-past of military vehicles, such as geckos and mambas, to the delight of the public.

Speaking during a media briefing held at 6 SAI Bn, Lt Gen Masondo commended the soldiers and partly attributed their success to the SA Army having learnt valuable lessons from their previous peacekeeping missions.

It was not the end as the unit still had a bumper military display lined up for the local community scheduled for the following day.

On the next day the public was treated to yet another display. This time there was a mock airborne infantry attack on negative forces, supported by a BK117 helicopter with mambas ferrying in some of the ground troops. A fierce simulated battle ensued with a ground assault firefight backed by well synchronised 81mm patrol mortar fire delivered to nullify the threat of negative forces.

The SA Specialised Infantry Capability (SASIC) unit from Potchefstroom rounded off the day’s activities and took to the stage to entertain the crowd with their motorbike drills and sniffer dog routines.

6 SAI Bn handed over the peace enforcement baton to 5 SAI Bn of Ladysmith, which will represent South Africa as part of the United Nations FIB alongside the armed forces of the DRC (FARDC), Malawi and Tanzania to ensure that lasting peace is eventually achieved in SADC and Africa.
46 SA Brigade HQ opens its doors to the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps

By Pte Phillip Pitso
Photo: Pte Jonathan Mogano

Members of 46 SA Brigade Headquarters, who are responsible for force preparation, training and operations, recently hosted the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps (MAAC) members. The aim of this one-day tour was to present 46 SA Brigade to the Corps of Military Attachés posted to South Africa.

More than 50 MAAC countries represented in South Africa are tasked, inter alia, with maintaining and strengthening relations between South Africa and these countries.

Defence Foreign Relations, as the organisers and the body responsible for promoting foreign relations, initiated the day’s events. The tour commenced at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane, then went to 46 SA Brigade Headquarters in Johannesburg.

The MAAC members were warmly welcomed and Lt Col Michael Kachelhoffer, SO1 Operation Plan, presented the structure of 46 SA Brigade to the MAAC members, including an historical overview of 46 SA Brigade. During the break he allowed questions from the MAAC members.

Also present were the General Officer Commanding of 46 SA Brigade, Brig Gen Akhila Mapheto, and the leader group of 46 SA Brigade. Addressing the MAAC members, Brig Gen Mapheto said: “Once all the military attachés come together the world will be a better place”. He was delighted to see some familiar faces he had met during his career.

The day was concluded with the 46 SA Brigade and the MAAC members exchanging gifts as tokens of appreciation.

ABOVE: General Officer Commanding of 46 SA Brigade, Brig Gen Akhila Mapheto (front, middle) with Military Attaché and Advisory Corps members.
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The SA Army Occupational Health and Safety benchmarking exercise

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The annual SA Army Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) benchmarking was recently held at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg to equip the relevant stakeholders with knowledge and information which enabled them to advise their General Officers Commanding and Officers Commanding on matters affecting OHS and compliance. The one-week session was headed by Lt Col Alilali Lishivha, SO1 OHS from the SA Army Headquarters. The theme of the event was: “The SA Army marches into the 20th year of democracy advancing workplace health and safety”.

During the week the OHS practitioners, managers, representatives and hygienists from various SA Army formations and units, as well as external members from the Department of Labour, Lesedi Senior Secondary School, the SA Police Service, the Traffic Department, the District Municipality and civilian companies shared ideas and discussed ways in which OHS systems could be applied to contribute to workplace safety by identifying hazards,
reducing injuries and ill health and make recommendations for compliance and improved health and safety measures in the workplace.

In her opening address Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, the Chief Director Army Force Preparation, said that OHS was not a new concept in the military environment as the SA National Defence Force had always been striving to create a work environment where the well-being of the employee is of the utmost importance.

OHS experts presented their views on OHS in their workplaces and they brought to light that to value the health and safety of the workers should be the responsibility of both the employer and the employee before the latter performs any task.

The Warrant Officer of the SA Army, SCWO Charles Laubscher, stressed in his presentation the importance of having fire safety plans at the bases and having standing operational procedures. He highlighted the importance of the inspection of fire hazards, OHS risks, fire prevention, fire-fighting safety equipment and fire-fighting procedures. He said that the Officer Commanding was accountable for fire prevention in the unit and he or she must have an OHS Officer, Fire Master and Fire Chief.

The attendees also conducted an OHS awareness march with banners in Heidelberg as part of a safety awareness programme.

ABOVE: Mr Johan Muller (front) and Mr Romeo Letageng from the Fireraiders rescue team highlighting safety precautions when a vehicle is lying on its side after an accident.

ABOVE: Mr Johan Muller (front) and Mr Romeo Letageng from the Fireraiders rescue team demonstrating vehicle extrication techniques.

RIGHT: S Sgt Louis Roman, the Fire Chief at the School of Engineers, and S Sgt Lubabalo Tulumane, Second-in-Command Fire Chief at Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, putting out the fire.
Cross-country athletes from all over South Africa assembled at Olympia School in Pacaltsdorp, George, for the SA Cross-country Championships. In attendance were 19 sub-provinces that included the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and the SA Police Service (SAPS) and schools. The athletes participated from as young as seven years to athletes in their late eighties.

Entries were finalised at the team managers’ meeting which was held at Olympia School. Thereafter the team managers attended the mayoral function at the same venue.

The SA Cross-country Championships started exactly at 08:30 and finished at 18:00 on the school premises. Victory ceremonies for the different age groups took place throughout the day. It was a well-organised cross-country route which offered a full view of the athletes who could even run barefoot without any danger. The championships were presented by Athletics South Western Districts under the auspices of Athletics South Africa (ASA).

Athletics SANDF (ASANDF), one of the smallest provinces, with 21 athletes, did extremely well in the team competitions compared to the larger provinces. The athletes who represented the SANDF were selected at the SANDF Cross-country Championship held during August 2014 in Bloemfontein.

The results per team and per category of the 19 sub-provinces were as follows:

**Veteran Men 8km (40-44 years):** Fourth position in the team competition (46 athletes participated in total)
- Sgt Sampson Mkhize from 1 SA Tank Regiment (Free State) ended in 9th position in a time of 27 minutes, 27 seconds.
- WO2 Flip Jorapetse from Fleet Maintenance Unit Simon’s Town (Western Cape) ended in 10th position in a time of 27 minutes, 40 seconds.
- Sgt Enrico Flusk from Air Force Base Swartkop (Gauteng) ended in 22nd position in a time of 29 minutes, 03 seconds.
- Cpl Onkabetse Thole from Northern Cape Signal Unit (Northern Cape) ended in 27th position in a time of 29 minutes, 59 seconds.

**Veteran Men 8km (45-49 years):** Second in the team competition (46 athletes participated in total)
- LS Tholong Moloi from Naval Base Simon’s Town (Western Cape) ended in 9th position in a time of 29 minutes, 18 seconds.
- S Sgt Koos Aphere from...
The SANDF Education Trust benefits from the Johannesburg Mayoral Charity Golf Day

By Col Monica Müller, Secretary SANDF Education Trust

During a prestigious dinner hosted at the Rand Park Golf Club by the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg on 3 October 2014, Councillor Parks Tau pledged the proceeds of his 2014 Mayoral Charity Golf Day to the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Education Trust.

In his address Councillor Tau indicated that the role of the SANDF was a vital one and the City of Johannesburg wanted soldiers to have the peace of mind that their children would be educated should they die or be severely injured during military service. This announcement by the Mayor is in recognition of the good and important work done by the SANDF Education Trust.

At this stage the final proceeds of the golf day are unknown, but from experience of previous events of this nature, the actual amount to be pledged could exceed R1 million.

In the first year of its existence the Trustees of the Education Trust have succeeded in collecting more than R4 million and have awarded 39 bursaries to the dependants of deceased SANDF members. Primary school (13), secondary school (18) and tertiary (8) learners were awarded bursaries for the 2014 academic year. It is envisaged that the number of applications for the 2015 year will increase substantially as many prospective beneficiaries are only now becoming aware of the existence of the Trust. The pledge by the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg and donations from the private sector will ensure that in future the Trust will be sustainable and be in a position to financially assist beneficiaries entering primary school and continue to support them until they have completed their tertiary studies.

Among the guests who attended the event were the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, the Patron of the Trust, Dr Irvin Khoza and the Trustees of the SANDF Education Trust, Maj Gen Lungile Dlulane, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile and Mr Teddy Daka.

Joint Physical Training, Sport and Recreation: SA Military Health Service (Gauteng) ended in 17th position in a time of 31 minutes, 00 seconds.

Sgt Pampiri Mokhobo from Army Support Base Bloemfontein (Free State) ended in 12th position in a time of 29 minutes, 44 seconds.

Pte Siphosakhe Dube from 21 SA Infantry Battalion (Gauteng) ended in 26th position in a time of 33 minutes, 16 seconds.

Master Men 8km (50–59 years):
Third in the team competition (27 athletes participated in total)

Pte Sanneya Shongoane from Army Support Base Limpopo (Limpopo) ended in 9th position in a time of 30 minutes, 57 seconds.

S Sgt Pele Sindane from Military Health Base Depot (Gauteng) ended in 13th position in a time of 31 minutes, 50 seconds.

L Cpl Edward Sibanda from 5 Special Forces Regiment (Limpopo) ended in 18th position in a time of 33 minutes, 17 seconds.

S Sgt Jeffrey Mongwegi from 93 Ammunition Depot (Northern Cape) ended in 22nd position in a time of 35 minutes, 27 seconds.

The SANDF best athlete in the Senior Men 12km: Tpr Mohapi Lebusho from 1 Special Service Battalion (Free State) ended in 39th position in a time of 40 minutes, 40 seconds (76 athletes participated in total).

The SANDF best athlete in the Senior Women 4km: Tpr Boikhutso Kelebone from 1 Special Service Battalion (Free State) ended in 13th position in a time of 15 minutes, 58 seconds (39 athletes participated in total).
Gauteng is where Gold belongs

By Pte Jonathan Mogano
Photos: Cpl Thembakazi Swartbooi

The Chairperson of SANDF Basketball, Lt Col Brenda Mutungutungu, said: “Basketball is the sport of legends.” Gauteng has been winning the championships since 2006, and it took the 2014 Championships again. The 2014 SANDF Basketball Championships were hosted by the Wynberg Military Sports Club in Cape Town.

The Championships in Cape Town entailed a knockout round in nine groups in which each team played two games a day until the semifinals. The matches were played only at the Wynberg Military Sports Club.

At the opening parade, Lt Col Mutungutungu said: “Your hard work will show us how good you are at the end of the championships; remember you cannot expect good results if you do not put effort into your work”.

The teams were expected to play according to the rules of the game and maintain good discipline at all times, and not lose focus. All teams lost against defending champions (Gauteng) in the opening games. Gauteng never lost a match. In the semifinals they played against Free State. The match lasted 30 minutes and was divided into four quarters. Gauteng won - through to the finals again.

North West and Gauteng played in the finals. It was a hard game, but in the end Gauteng took the 2014 Championships again, winning the Gold Medal and the Gold Cup.

F Sgt Lyndon Ronwyn Dace, Gauteng Coach, said: “I am proud of my team because we have been winning the Championships since 2006. This shows team spirit and the hard work we have put into it. I hope we will win the Championships again in 2015.”

Pte Katlego Phala from Gauteng was appointed as SANDF Basketball best player, Cpl Kagiso Christopher Pitso from Gauteng as SANDF Basketball best defender and Pte Kgothatso Reginald from North West as SANDF Basketball best shooter.

At the closing function Lt Col Mutungutungu proposed a vote of thanks to the Ysterplaat catering team for hosting the event.

LEFT: Individual Awards: Fltr: PO Kutumela Harry (Coach of the SANDF Basketball National Team), Pte Kgothatsio Reginald (Best Basketball Shooter), Pte Katlego Phala (Best Overall Player), Cpl Kagiso Christopher (Best Defender) and Lt Col Brenda Mutungutungu (Chairperson of SANDF Basketball).

ABOVE: The 2014 SANDF Basketball Champions.
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Cyclists from all provinces representing the SANDF recently descended on the town of Willowmore in the Karoo to participate in the Trans Baviaans mountain bike cycle event.

The idea for such an event originated in 2004 when a family of mountain bikers went on holiday in the Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area. The event held the title for six years as being the “longest single stage mountain bike team race” in the world.

The distance of 230 kilometres from Willowmore to Jeffreys Bay must be completed in 24 hours. Apart from being an entirely unmarked route, participants have to rely on their navigation skills and complete a large part of the race in the dark. For safety reasons, cyclists have to report at all the checkpoints en route. Departing from Willowmore only at ten in the morning ensures that cyclists cover a large part of the route at night, making it even more challenging.

To serve as a motivation to return every year, the medals received on completion of the race are in the form of jigsaw puzzle pieces that fit into a shield which will only be complete when the participant successfully completes five events.

The race starts in the main street of Willowmore and commences with a climb of approximately 35 kilometres to reach the beginning of the spectacular Nuwekloof Pass. The next 80 kilometres descend into the Baviaanskloof, ending at the Geelhoutbos.

At this point, nearly halfway, the route narrows and becomes more difficult to negotiate. From the high point at Bergplaas it drops into the Cambria Valley to reach the 175 kilometre mark at Groot Rivier. The gravel road to Patensie and Humansdorp leads cyclists onto farm roads before they ultimately reach the end of the race at Jeffreys Bay.

The climb over the total route amounts to over 2,540 metres. Exhaustion from lack of sleep, tired legs and the sensation of still sitting on the saddle long after the finish line is minimised by personal achievement and satisfaction in completing the race.

Between the years 2009 and 2013, SANDF teams representing the nine regions of the country, including such cyclists as Lt Col Charl Strydom and WO1 André Martin, completed the Trans Baviaans challenge five years in a row to receive the much sought after shield. As if this cycling challenge is not tough enough Team EXCALIBUR, consisting of WO1 Bylies Byleveld and WO2 Stephan Schoeman, not only completed the Trans Baviaans, but cycled from Pretoria to Willowmore (only 1 399 km) to compete in the event after resting for a few days.

In 2014, in the same spirit, Lt Col Chris Raubenheimer and Maj Gideon Joubert saved on military transport to the event by cycling all the way down to Willowmore. To
highlight the achievements of women that participated in the race. Of the 489 teams entered, there were a total of 11 women teams and women also participated in the 80 mixed gender teams. The first woman completed the race as a member of a mixed team in 9 hours, 20 minutes and 30 seconds. The first Master’s Cyclist (50 years plus) completed the race in 10 hours and 3 minutes. The unofficial results for the overall 384th place.

Col Tony Cloete and WO2 Gerrie Grundlingh not only completed their fifth challenge, but finished 59th out of the 489 teams that entered, and completed the race in 11 hours and 53 minutes. The unofficial results for the other SANDF teams are as follows:

Overall in 59th place, Lt Col Tony Cloete and WO2 Gerrie Grundlingh finished the race in 11:53:05.

In 232th place, Lt Col Gardi Kriek, S Sgt Johnny Botha and Lulu Ceronio finished the race in 15:19:25.

In 261th place, Maj Wayne Montgomery completed the race in 15:43:50. His team member, Lt Col Tinus Smit, had to withdraw for medical reasons. In 344th place, Lt Col Chris Raubenheimer and Bert van den Raad finished in 18:04:11. Col (Rev) Pieter Oberholzer, Capt Cornelis Engelbrecht and Capt Adriana Olivier finished overall in 364th place and finished one second before the team of Maj Heidi Dalton in 18:53:08. WO1 Sandra Gerber, the team member riding with Maj Dalton, had to withdraw for medical reasons. Maj Gideon Joubert and his team completed the race in 21:37:50 in overall 384th place.

It is often asked why people participate in activities such as the Trans Baviaans cycle race, in which they test their bodies to the limit. The answer can be found in the link between the secretion of endorphins in the brain that bring about a feeling of well-being and happiness. As with other endurance sports: cycling provides the opportunity to be physically and mentally challenged.

Depending on how one views these challenges, one can only grow as an athlete and person from an experience such as the Trans Baviaans. Ultimately there is also the sense that the puzzle that must be completed, so four more challenges are waiting. The Defence Cycling Association wishes to extend an invitation to all interested cyclists to join an SANDF cycling club in their region. The Pretoria Military Cycling Club meets every Wednesday from 13:00 at the clubhouse situated next to the Pretoria Military Bowling Club in Stephanus Schoeman Street in Thaba Tshwane.

An act of compassion by SANDF Rugby

By Col (Rev) Pieter Oberholzer, President of the SANDF Rugby Association

The President of the SANDF Rugby Association (SANDFRA), Col (Rev) Pieter Oberholzer, handed over a cheque to the amount of R5 500 to Mr Tinus Linee, a former Springbok rugby player who is suffering from Motor Neuron Disease (MND). Col (Rev) Oberholzer was accompanied by Lt Col Hansie Yzelle, Vice President Rugby Management of the SANDFRA, and S Sgt Aubrey Noble, an SANDF women’s selector. Mr Linee was the last male Springbok rugby player from the Defence Force. He was selected for the Springbok team that toured Australia in 1995. Mr Linee left the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) to become a professional rugby player. He was diagnosed with MND early in 2012 and his health has deteriorated greatly since then. The disease slowly destroys parts of the nervous system that control functions such as speaking, walking, swallowing and even breathing. Mr Linee is currently paralysed and cannot speak anymore. He communicates through his eyes and a sophisticated computer system. At the SANDF Rugby Championships in Potchefstroom in July this year it was decided to collect money to support the Linee family with Mr Linee’s medical expenses. The players and officials voluntarily contributed an amount of R5 500. It was described as an act of compassion towards a fellow rugby player who had participated in many Defence Force Championships.

Ms Diana Linee received the donation on behalf of her husband and thanked the SANDFRA for their kindness and compassion. A number of Mr Linee’s former team mates attended the handing over ceremony that took place at his house in Paarl. Many stories about his playing days were told and Mr Linee acknowledged the accolades of his bravery and initiative on the playing field with a broad smile. With this gesture SANDF Rugby has once again proved that it is not only a leader in terms of game development, but that it also plays a major role in the community and in caring for former players in need.
The perfect season for a female goalkeeper

Article and photo provided by Capt Sheena du Toit, Co-pilot 28 Squadron

Cpl Siphokazi Vukutu was chosen as Goalkeeper of the Tournament at the recently held Defence Soccer Championships at Air Force Base (AFB) Ysterplaat. This marked her third major accomplishment of the season, having previously won Goalkeeper of the Tournament for the SA Air Force Soccer Championships and the Interforces Soccer Championships.

Cpl Vukutu is only 24 and started playing soccer in 2012 when she was transferred to 28 Squadron at AFB Waterkloof.

The AFB Waterkloof Women’s Soccer Team won the SA Air Force Soccer Championships in both 2013 and 2014. In 2014 Cpl Vukutu was awarded the Goalkeeper of the Tournament and was selected to play for the SA Air Force Women’s Soccer Team.

Some of Cpl Vukutu’s other accomplishments include the following:

- Best female footballer in the SA Air Force in 2013
- Goalkeeper of the Tournament at Air Force Gymnasium in 2013 where her team won the SA Air Force Soccer Championships without conceding a goal
- Goalkeeper of the Tournament at the Interforces Soccer Tournament in Grahamstown in 2013
- Member of the Gauteng Soccer Team in both 2013 and 2014

ABOVE: Cpl Siphokazi Vukutu was chosen as Goalkeeper of the Tournament at the recently held Defence Soccer Championships at Air Force Base Ysterplaat.

Cpl Vukutu represented the Defence Soccer Team in September this year in Nelspruit where they competed against Botswana and Lesotho.
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devotion

What do you see?

By Chaplain Alwyn Smit,
Chaplain at SAS SIMONSBERG

Is this a picture of a beautiful and stylish young lady? Or is it one of a sad old lady? If you see a young lady, you are correct. But if you see an old lady, you are also correct. Perhaps you struggle to see both? Well, take a closer look. When you focus on the young lady’s ear, try to see it now as the left eye of the old lady. Do you see the picture now?

We perceive our world around us through specific paradigms, which are lenses or maps with which we interpret life. They are formed by the voices of influence of our past and present life experiences. This becomes our reality. The persons who see the young lady - that is their reality and the same for those who see the old lady in the picture. The interesting lesson for us here is that both are correct!

We should refrain from trying to prove our paradigm as correct and to judge the way others perceive the world, and their concept of what reality is. This requires an intentional effort to shift our paradigms and to put ourselves in someone else’s shoes. This is the essential ingredient for true human fellowship and acceptance. If there is one person that can talk on the subject with authority, it is the Son of God. He came to the earth in human form to show us that it is not business as usual.

That we should love our neighbour as ourselves and not to judge others, for this is not our role and function in this world. Jesus teaches us in Matthew, Chapter 7, that we need to do introspection first in order to check our vision or paradigm. It is possible that we cannot see clearly because our mind is clouded with stereotypes, stigmas and “use to be’s”. Reprogramming and reconditioning are required in order to shift our paradigms. This can be done by regular reading, and contemplation of the Manual for Life (the Bible), provided by God for humankind to help us direct our steps towards a relationship with Him and our fellow human beings.

In closing, I give the following quote from Steven Covey, from his book: The Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People: “The more we are aware of our basic paradigms, maps or assumptions, and the extent to which we have been influenced by our experience, the more we can take responsibility for those paradigms, examine them, test them against reality, listen to others and be open to their perceptions, thereby getting a larger picture and a far more objective view,” (Covey: p29).

Prayer: Lord help us to see the world through Your eyes and to love others as You love them; Amen.

ABOVE: Old lady and young lady illusion. (Picture: Courtesy of Steven Covey)
Department of Defence celebrates Casual Day

By Ms Thuli Ntuli, Intern at SA Soldier
Photos: Ms Nozipho Zondo

There was a large turnout of guests to support Casual Day held at Air Force Base Swartkop West this year. The sale of the Casual Day stickers increased the anticipation of the people who were supporting the fund-raising campaign. The crowd grew larger along the road to the venue.

When addressing the crowd, the functionary at the event, Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, Director Equity Strategic Direction, a long line of cars was still stuck in an almost stationary convoy to the Casual Day event. People came dressed in their dazzling blue get-ups covered with sequins, feathers and beads to enjoy a fun-filled day with people with disabilities.

Casual Day - one of the biggest fund-raising campaigns in South Africa - turned 20 this year. The Department of Defence (DOD) and the SA Police Service (SAPS) organised the activities aimed at raising awareness of people with disabilities and the organisations that cater to their needs.

The DOD also celebrated 10 years of involvement in the Casual Day campaign. Brig Gen Mohale said that the DOD was present to show its growing interest in extending opportunities for people with disabilities. She said: “The disability policy is part of the transformation management policy in the Department. We have taken a number of steps to improve disability equity in the DOD to ensure that the Department employ people with disabilities.”

Brig Gen Mohale added that the DOD had worked tirelessly to conduct disability workshops, information sessions and awareness campaigns: “This includes the adaptation of various buildings, vehicles, course modules, policies and attitudes to accommodate our employees with disabilities in the DOD”.

The event was packed with performances by bands from the SA Air Force, the SA Military Health Service and the SAPS. The people with disabilities showcased unimaginable talents on the day. The Trans Oranje School for children with hearing impairments and the Alma School for Children with Disabilities performed musical items. Three girls from Prinshof School for the Blind roused the crowd when they sang popular pop songs such as Britney Spears’ 1990’s hit song “One more time” and the “Happy” tune by Pharrell Williams.

The day would not have been complete without Shane, the SAPS dog, impressing the crowd as he spelled the words of the theme of Casual Day. The dog managed to collect letters from the mixed letters of the alphabet on the ground. He took them back to his trainer in an ordered format to formulate the phrase “Bring the Bling”.

Brig Gen Mohale added that the DOD had appointed nine newly trained junior sign language interpreters, some of whom were present at the event. She said that the Department needed the interpreters to help communicate information to deaf people in the DOD, and that this initiative was one of the DOD’s strategies to accommodate people with disabilities.

She also expressed her delight at the growing number of supporters of Casual Day. She said: “The turnout is overwhelming. There has been an increase in the number of people compared to the previous year. This shows the growing maturity in our people wanting to support people with disabilities.”
Medicinal myths and a lack of care for our natural environment will be the forces behind the extinction of this magnificent animal.

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