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FRONT COVER: The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, addresses the media prior to delivering the Defence Budget Vote. She is flanked by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe. (Photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano)

ABOVE: The first SANDF women’s runner, Capt Nokholo Hlezupondo, approaching the finishing line at the 90th Comrades Marathon. (Photo by Jetline Action Photo)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za
We live in an environment where almost every aspect of life is regulated by rules, regulations, policies and laws. This is primarily because of poor human conduct, and as a result mechanisms to regulate misconduct such as maladministration, corruption, fraud and theft are imposed. All these rules, regulations, policies and laws would not be necessary if we lived in a world where people do what they are supposed to do, without being informed to do so and without control and supervision. Although not all will be content with the policies and procedures, the stipulated codes of ethics/conduct will at least provide a framework for ethical behavior. Ethics is about helping people instead of cornering them. Ethical conduct addresses morale-related issues before it becomes a challenge. Thus ethical conduct is a pro-active, preventative and cost-effective measure, which could assist a person and/or organisation to prevent lawsuits, judgments and fines. (Read article on ethics and the law on pages 32 and 33.)

A Department of Defence (DOD) Procurement Seminar was recently held to address procurement challenges and to formulate solutions for challenges experienced in the DOD. Furthermore the seminar was held to map the road forward regarding adherence to the National Treasury Regulations and requirements on procurement and supply chain management. Addressing the procurement officials, the Director Procurement Management, Brig Gen Edward Mulaudzi, emphasised that sound systems of control and accountability should form the cornerstone of the procurement system in the DOD. He also highlighted the pillars of the procurement system, namely value for money, open and effective competition, ethics, fair dealing, accountability, reporting and equity.

The Director Materiel Governance, Risk and Compliance, Ms Fikile Khumalo, further emphasised that the promotion of principles of good governance, the adherence to the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and the introduction of a preference system to address certain socio-economic objectives are critical (see article on pages 20 to 21).

All boils down again to the fact that we live in an environment where almost every aspect of life is regulated by rules, regulations, policies and laws. Remember a mature society needs fewer laws to govern it. Let us be loyal, trustworthy and faithful servants to our organisation and our country.

S


Hethetha kule ntlanganiso, unJengele Edward Muladzi, oqinokonzobondele ukuqonqo ukwesinzu kwineko aphi. Imithetho elawula ukuziphatha iyinxininisa, iqwalusele ixe ikhusele ingxayi ezikenathi zivele ngexa yokuziphatha gwenza. Iqhubekela nokunqua-nqawu nqawu izinto ezinjengye nkcitho yokuthatha-kuthlwana ezinkelundile, izizweo, kwakwane yemidlielo. (Funda kwinqaku elingenkubo-ungqo wokuziphatha kwiphepha lamashumi amathathu anesibini ukusa kwiphepha lamashumi amathathu anesithathu.)

Umqago-inkubo wokuziphatha awenzulwanga ukuzi ucinzezela uluntu koko wenzelayo ukuncenda uluntu tulandle indlela eyiyo yokuziphatha. Imithetho elawula ukuziphatha iyinxininisa, iqwalusele ixe ikhusele ingxayi ezikenathi zivele ngexa yokuziphatha gwenza. Iqhubekela nokunqua-nqawu nqawu izinto ezinjengye nkcitho yokuthatha-kuthlwana ezinkelundile, izizweo, kwakwane yemidlielo. (Funda kwinqaku elingenkubo-ungqo wokuziphatha kwiphepha lamashumi amathathu anesibini ukusa kwiphepha lamashumi amathathu anesithathu.)

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Nelda Pienaar
UMhleli SA Soldier

*Nxamlela*
We believe in heroes. We keep your spirit alive

The SANDF Education Trust


The main objective of the SANDF Education Trust is to support the education needs of the dependants of the following persons:

- SANDF members killed or severely injured subsequent to 27 April 1994, while on official duty.

- Civilian members of the Department of Defence (DOD) killed or severely injured subsequent to 27 April 1994, while deployed during official SANDF operation.

- Citizens of the Republic of South Africa killed or injured subsequent to 27 April 1994, during official SANDF operations provided that such citizens are not engaged in activities opposing the SANDF.

The SANDF Education Trust is funded through donations and contributions received from the private sector and international business enterprises. Ongoing fund raising initiatives are in place, and the SANDF welcomes all contributions.

For more information on the SANDF Education Trust, visit www.dod.mil.za

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We believe in heroes, we hope you do too.

Together we move South Africa Forward
PROUD TO BE A CHEF

What does it mean to be a chef in the SA Army - A few things: Waking up early, driving far to get to work, preparing food for hundreds of people, going home late when working at functions and having to listen to a lot of complaints.

When we are at home on weekends, the chefs are working in their respective messes to ensure that the members have a nice meal.

Members belonging to the SA Catering Corps are not only preparing food. Some of them are in charge of messes, some are on deployment preparing food for our soldiers on peacekeeping missions, some are planning the future of our Corps and some are training the chefs of the future.

Do not think because you are a chef, you are not important. Napoleon said: “An army cannot march on an empty stomach.” Our motto is also:

Feed for Courage. I want to urge my fellow chefs not to lose hope. Do not get negative when everyone complains about the food. You are important and often forgotten when the words Thank You are uttered.

Today I would like to encourage all my fellow chefs to keep their heads high and be proud to be a chef. Keep up the good work that you are doing. It is really appreciated.

WO2 van den Bergh, National Ceremonial Guard

MY FATHER WAS NOT AN ONION

My father was a responsible man.
We never went to bed hungry
My father was a very neat man.
When mom cleaned the house he cleaned the yard.

I was very young and he was like a drug I needed to survive.
My father stood by our side like a finger and nail
When mom gave birth to my little brother
He took paternity leave and stood by her side.
He stood strong and distinguished among the rest
I learned the best from him.

My father was more interested in our future.

In the morning he prepared my lunch box while mom bathed me.
I went to school and when I came back he checked my books.
To ensure that I didn’t miss any subjects for that day.
When I got top marks he lifted me up and gave me a warm hug.
I paid attention to every step he took.

My father was a defender not an offender to his family.
When mom worked night shifts
He cooked our supper meals.
When mom washed our clothes
He hanged them on the washing line.
Our neighbours thought he was cursed
But we knew he did all this because he loved us.

My father was a very neat man.
He took paternity leave and stood by her.

My father was a defender not an offender to his family.
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He cooked our supper meals.
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He hanged them on the washing line.
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But we knew he did all this because he loved us.

My father was not an onion.
He played with me and helped me with my school work.
When my little brother cried he fed and soothed him.
We were his priority and he protected us.
He will always have a special place in our hearts.

My father was a very neat man.
He took paternity leave and stood by her.

My father was a defender not an offender to his family.
When mom worked night shifts
He cooked our supper meals.
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Our neighbours thought he was cursed
But we knew he did all this because he loved us.

My father was not an onion.

THANK YOU SISTER PRETORIUS

I was recently transferred to Defence Headquarters at Erasmuskloof, Pretoria, and needed some medical assistance. I was informed by my colleague that I could report to the DOD HQ Unit Sickbay at 07:00 and would be helped by Sister Pretorius.

I was a bit sceptical as this is not the norm at sickbays that I have been to before. I then took his advice and reported to the Sickbay, where to my delight, I was in fact helped by Sister Pretorius and received my medication from the Dispensary - all before 07:30.

My prescription had expired and I needed my medication urgently. She helped me immediately and made me feel valued as a member of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). Sister Pretorius also helped me at short notice again recently.

Sister Pretorius is truly a hero in our environment and saves people time by always being willing to help and give of herself. Many of my colleagues also had similar experiences with Sister Pretorius. I would like to thank her and in some small way give something back in return for all she does for us. Thanks a million Sister Pretorius and all your Staff at the Sickbay at DOD HQ.

Pte Victoria Mathibela, Phalaborwa

letters to the editor

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.
FOCUS ON A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

It is very important for the Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal (AMHU KZN) to make its clients aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle by organising a health awareness campaign. This health programme is supported by the officers commanding of all units in the Durban area. Members are encouraged to utilise some of their time doing exercise, participating in sports and following a healthy diet.

Once again AMHU KZN undertook a health awareness campaign at the Bluff Military Base to which all members of the Durban area units were invited. The attendance surpassed expectations and members participated in a health walk. This has become a calendar event walk in which all unit members participate against each other. Members of the Durban area units are enthusiastic in supporting this event.

This event has contributed positively to members as they make use of the gym facilities in their units. The AMHU KZN Biokinetics Department under Maj Sibonelo Dlamini has launched the Siyalungisa Programme which is designed to address individual fitness needs, including obesity and other lifestyle diseases. Members have grabbed this opportunity to attend the programme which has made huge improvements in their lives. This programme does not replace Project Phakamisa or other fitness activities.

A healthy lifestyle has played an integral role in the lives of our members. The health information they get during the event and the health screening that is conducted during such events has led to individuals joining kickboxing aerobics and taking part in physical activities to keep themselves fit and healthy, thus reducing the chances of falling ill.

The positive responses of members are the fruit of this successful health awareness campaign that has become a tool to address the problem of overweight among our members and has reduced illness. The Concurrent Health Assessment (CHA) has also contributed by identifying members that require the intervention of the AMHU KZN Multi-disciplinary Team. The Officer Commanding AMHU KZN, Col Trevor Pillay, extended a word of thanks to all units that attended the event and made it a success. Without their attendance AMHU KZN would not have attained its objectives of assisting members to keep them healthy and making them aware of all the services available at the health centres that can be utilised by all Department of Defence members.

The General Officer Commanding Area Military Health Unit North West, Brig Gen Debbie Tempelhoff, was the main functionary at the recently held medal parade at Area Military Health Unit North West (AMHU NW). Nineteen medals were awarded to AMHU NW members for rendering outstanding and loyal service over the years.

Awarded medals included the Tshumelo Ikatelaho Medals, 20 Years Long Service Medals and 10 Years Long Service Medals. Brig Gen Tempelhoff also awarded certificates and shields to transferred and retired members in recognition of their service rendered to the unit.

Brig Gen Tempelhoff congratulated all recipients on their praiseworthy service to the people of South Africa. She said they had made the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) proud and had contributed greatly towards the positive image of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). Brig Gen Tempelhoff added: “Your willingness, unselfishness and enthusiasm show that you indeed lived up to the high values as set out in the SANDF Code of Conduct by being ready to come forward in times of need.”

She also extended her gratitude and appreciation to the families, friends and colleagues of the recipients for their valuable support.

Brig Gen Tempelhoff left the recipients with Mario Andretti’s words: “Desire is the key to motivation, but it is determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal – a commitment to excellence – that will enable you to attain the success you seek.”

Cpl Gugu Nxumalo, Area Military Health Unit North West

ABOVE: Participants warming up before the Health Walk. (Photo: S Sgt Menzi Cele)
AIR FORCE BASE WATERKLOOF HONOURS ITS MEMBERS

Thirty-six members were honoured and appreciated at a medal parade recently held at Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof.

Addressing the recipients Brig Gen Hilton Smith, Director Human Resource Services, stressed the values of AFB Waterkloof that have carried the members for years and that they have been part of the family of AFB Waterkloof.

Brig Gen Smith went on to say: “We all know that as soldiers we are required to work long hours at times, and to be away from our homes at times. We acknowledge that all this places an extra burden on you as the family. Your outstanding support and contributions do not go unnoticed.

“A medal is a token of appreciation to soldiers for an outstanding achievement. Medals denote the recognition of achievement. The tradition of awarding medal forms one of the pillars upon which pride and esprit de corps in the military are founded. According to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, the President is the only person who can decide on awarding these honours.”

He also said the recipients should receive their medals with pride because they had earned them by their hard work and years spent in the SA National Defence Force, and by giving the blue culture their time and experience they had rendered outstanding service.

AFB Waterkloof recognises its members for their hard work, discipline, dignity and integrity. May its members continue to lead by example and inspire confidence to provide support through their combat capabilities needed in air operations.

Sgt Thapelo Nyalungu, Air Force Base Waterkloof

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION ANTI-CRIMINALITY SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The Human Resource Division Anti-Criminality Safeguarding Nodal Point, CWO Tumelo Lwana, planned and executed the first Human Resource Division Anti-Criminality Safeguarding Committee Work Session at the Banana Beach Holiday Resort in KwaZulu-Natal last month.

The objective of the work session was to formulate and establish an anti-criminality compliance plan for the financial year 2015/16 to 2017/18.

• The Vision Statement of Human Resource Division Anti-Criminality Safeguarding: The levels of crime in the Human Resource Division are reduced to a manageable and nationally acceptable level.

• The Mission Statement of Human Resource Division Anti-Criminality Safeguarding: To provide an effective, efficient and economical anti-criminality compliant management service to the Department of Defence by means of a professional nodal point and an appropriate crime management system.

CWO Tumelo Lwana, Pretoria

ABOVE: Medal recipients after receiving their medals on parade. (Photo by 5 Air Supply Unit)
JOINT SENIOR COMMAND AND STAFF PROGRAMME VISIT

The SA National War College (SANWC) staff members (Directing Staff) and learners, including international fellows of the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP) visit units of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) annually. This year was no exception when they visited military units in the geographical areas of Cape Town, the Free State, Northern Cape and North West.

APPRENTICES QUALIFIED AS ARTISANS

The SA Army Technical Training Centre recently held an apprenticeship certificate ceremony for deserving artisans who successfully completed a four-year long programme. Altogether twelve men and twelve women qualified; their scarce skills are needed in our country.

For any great achievement there is always a pillar, namely the committed staff of SA Army Technical Training Centre spearheaded by the Officer Commanding, Col Mokgoba Mogatusi, who indefatigably saw to it that the students were looked after, that the programmes ran smoothly and that the mandate of the Centre always came first. He had the diligent support of MWO Jacob Ntsume who was at hand to ensure that the correct military conduct was always adhered to.

The four-year long programme requires that the students first go through technical service orientation which entails career guidance and management of general or vocational or fundamental learning to expose them to the technical environment for about six weeks. This includes vehicle servicing, taking apart and fitting together of weapons, fitting and turning, diesel mechanic course, auto-electrical work and refrigeration.

After the orientation the students are divided into two groups. Some will be sent to a Further Education and Training (FET) college - currently the Tshwane South Campus College - to start their chosen trades. Others will be sent on a driving and maintenance course conducted at the unit, after which it will be their turn to attend the college. On completion of their levels training, they will attend a trade test preparation, which includes on the job training by world renowned companies and various military workshops around the country to provide them with industry related technical skills.

The students will undergo a trade test, and if successful, they will then be promoted from apprentices to artisans and be sent to different SA Army units. The unit also provides advanced training for artisans of the SA Army in maintenance and management of equipment and vehicles. Artisans are trained by highly skilled facilitators to ensure that they impart their knowledge and experience to apprentices detached to their units.

Learners are required to apply the knowledge they gain from briefings and demonstrations regarding the capabilities of the various units to the six Operational Level Functions, namely Operational Intelligence, Operational Protection, Operational Movement and Maneuuvre, Operational Fire Power, Operational Command and Control and Operational Sustainment.

Staff members and learners also had an opportunity to visit the heritage sites and learn about the history of Robben Island.

The Commandant of the SANWC, Brig Gen Siseko Nombewu, would like to extend his hand of sincere gratitude on behalf of all the JSCSP learners to the respective units and for their well-prepared presentations.

Capt Vincent Mabusela, SA National War College

ABOVE: Staff of SA Army Technical Training Centre with some of the newly qualified artisans who completed their four-year long programme. (Photo by Sgt Rian Lineveldt)

15TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Cold and wet weather was the prediction for the day that was planned to celebrate the 15th birthday of the SA Army Intelligence Formation. But if you plan something, you stick to it. The festivities were done in true teenager style with water obstacle games. The games consisted of a run through tyres and traffic cones on a wet and soapy ground sheet going underneath a volley-ball net and biting a balloon through a water sprayer - all done while carrying an egg on a spoon! Last but not least, the climbing and sliding down of a jumping castle. The Formation members were divided into four teams and all members had the opportunity to participate for their team. Chaplain Ernest Masweu showed that he will not be the last to climb the jumping castle and others had some help getting up the castle ... The winners of the day were the Human Resources sections, but then of course they have the youngest members. No birthday can be completed without a birthday cake, which was cut by Col Peter Modise who celebrated his 55th birthday on the very same day. (The SA Army Intelligence Formation was officially established on 1 April 2000.)

Maj Merle Meyer, Force Structure Officer SA Army Intelligence Formation
THE SOLDIER’S RENDITION

The crows salute and sing praises as the soldier marches past. The birds sing songs of encouragement and appreciation. The predators of the jungle: lions, cheetahs and leopards gaze in astonishment as the pride of Africa marches past.

The sun shines down smiles as we serve before self. The African blue sky is as clear as our motive and conscious for peace. The curtain of mist lifts up in the morning from the forest as a stand-in ovation for the African pride.

Community leaders smile with reassurance and faith in us as we march past. Men and women dance and celebrate as we patrol their villages, for they believe in us.

Young men and women look at our formation, uniform and discipline for their encouragement of a better tomorrow and hope for a brighter future.

Children salute us in honour and appreciation of seeing their heroes and role models executing orders with dignity. Those that are destroying our continent are having a change of heart when they see our will.

Fighters are laying down their arms when they see our commitment and the hope we bring.

Tyrants and warlords start to appreciate the concept of service before as they observe our excellence in all we do.

With pride, discipline and dedication: Surely Mother Africa is proud of us and is not ashamed to show us off to the world.

Cpl Takalani Sikhwivhilu, 2 Air Servicing Unit (Detached)

APPRECIATION

I am Thierry Ngimbi and am based at Kinshasa. I am one of your readers of SA Soldier magazine which has been delivered to us by Major Van Rans. We really appreciate his collaboration with civilians. Please provide us with the new SA Soldier issue for 2015 because the one we have is for 2014 Vol 21 No 4. I actually read this issue with my class group when I taught them some English lessons. The people here are very interested in knowing more about South Africa and not only about the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and its activities. It is serving our youth as an example what they can do one day in the higher ranks of the army in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), what activities to do. Are there any other branches of the SANDF whose information you can add in the next issue? Thierry Ngimbi, email

UNAMID FORCE COMMANDER WORKING WITH THE RSA BATTALION IN THE SUDAN

The United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Force Commander, Lt Gen Paul Ignace Mella, from Tanzania recently paid an official visit to the Republic of South Africa (RSA) Battalion 15 in the Sudan. He was accompanied by the Sector North Commander and other high ranking military staff personnel from the mission area.

It was his first official visit to the new RSA Battalion that had just arrived in the mission area. He visited Kutum (the RSA Battalion Headquarters) first and then proceeded to other team sites such as Mellit and Malha.

The aim of the visit was to welcome the new RSA Battalion to the mission area and to inform them of the expectations and intentions of the Force Commander, as well as to find out about challenges and possible solutions facing the Battalion in its operational duties.

The RSA Battalion Commanding Officer, Lt Col Joseph Tello Moiketsi, welcomed the Force and Sector Commanders as well as the entire delegation accompanying them. In
OPS CORONA VISIT IN KWAZULU-NATAL

The General Officer Commanding Area Military Health Formation, Brig Gen Debbie Tempelhoff, and her team recently visited the KwaZulu-Natal border lines and Military Health Centres in the region.

The visit boosted the morale of the deployed members and health centres staff who received the first visit from the General Officer Commanding (GOC). Members deployed in Ndumo and Pongola mentioned that they were pleased to be visited by the higher command structure. They also appreciated the new conditions since the teams of Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal (AMHU KZN) and Tactical Headquarters KZN took over the responsibility to improve the working conditions of members in the deployment areas to create a healthier environment. The GOC visited the Ladysmith Health Centre based at 5 SA Infantry Battalion. Here she met the Acting Officer Commanding of the Unit, Maj Thulani Ngcobo, who briefed her on the activities in the area of responsibility and the support rendered by the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) members as part of their day-to-day activities and during operations. The positive feedback was highly appreciated by the GOC.

The Health Centre Manager, Maj Esther Truyts, accompanied the GOC on a Health Centre inspection in which some of the medical requirements were identified with a view to improving the service rendered to clients. The GOC also had an opportunity to meet SAMHS members employed at the Ladysmith Health Centre.

The GOC received a warm welcome at the Pongola Operations Base from the Officer Commanding of the Durban Regiment, Lt Col Duncan Russell. The members are currently deployed on Operation CORONA. Lt Col Russell briefed the GOC on the operational status and the challenges.

The GOC met the deployed members and inspected their equipment. Lt Col Rodwin Lewis (Medical Support Operations) and Lt Col Sehloho Thulo (Senior Staff Officer) ensured that all items for an Operational Emergency Care Practitioner (OEC) bag were available and the shortage of stock at the depot was brought to the GOC’s attention. Ambulances were inspected and shortages were documented by the GOC. Lt Col Anna Maria Nortjie, Col James van Niekerk and Maj Thembel Mthimkhulu briefed the GOC on the ambulances, equipment and medical waste removal and its challenges.

The visit to deployed members on Operation CORONA by the GOC was the first visit and an eye-opener regarding the conditions and difficulties experienced by SAMHS members. The GOC appreciated the contribution of AMHU KZN in improving the conditions to make the working environment conducive for members to perform their duties.

Sgt Menzi Cele, Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal

The briefing proved beyond reasonable doubt that the RSA is fully aware of its surroundings and its area of responsibility despite its being less than a month in the mission area.

However, he pointed out the challenges that are faced by the Battalion, such as the restriction of movement by the GOS within its area of responsibility, the clearance frustrations in commencing with patrols and the use of toolboxes and ad hoc tasking that makes it difficult to render the service as required by agencies such as CIVIL POL and military observers (MILOBs) at the Base.

Throughout the briefing it became evident that the RSA Battalion was familiar with its area of responsibility and the UNAMID mandate which is purely the protection of civilians.

The Sector Commander was impressed to discover that the Battalion was well organised and ready to render a high standard of service as required by UNAMID and by the RSA in particular.

Maj Zola Nombida, Public Information Officer: RSA Battalion in Sudan
The Department of Defence (DOD) and the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) learnt with great shock and sadness of the sudden death of the Chief of Logistics of the SANDF, Lt Gen Bongani Isidore Mbatha (57), who passed on at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria last month.

To pay homage and last respects to this eminent son of South Africa, the DOD/SANDF held a memorial service at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall.

Speakers and friends of the departed warrior described the late Lt Gen Mbatha as a man who was always sought to build, hard-working, a selfless man of virtue and great integrity, a motivational orator, a gallant patriot who lived a life that exemplified adoration and emulation.

A full military funeral service with honours was held at Air Force Base Waterkloof, followed by the burial at the Waterfall Cemetery in Midrand (Gauteng).

Paying his tribute, the Honorary Colonel of the DOD Logistics Division, Col (Dr) Irvin Khoza, said that Lt Gen Mbatha left the country as a young man in the aftermath of the 1976 student uprisings in Soweto, he was not driven by the quest to accumulate gold and silver, but by the desire to liberate his country.

The Deputy Chief of DOD Logistics, Maj Gen Morris Moadira, who worked with the late Lt Gen Mbatha, testified that Lt Gen Mbatha was a leader of men and women who did not stand back for adversity. He said that he had great plans on how logistics should serve and support the DOD without limitations and had an aspiration of having a logistics academy within the DOD.

Grieving the lost life of Lt Gen Mbatha, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, described Lt Gen Mbatha as an outstanding patriot. He told mourners that his death was a devastating loss. Gen Shoke said: "It was devastating to lose a man of Lt Gen Mbatha's calibre. This is a man who never enjoyed life. He sacrificed his youth to ensure we got the freedom we enjoy today. After returning from exile, Lt Gen Mbatha had opted to serve in the SA National
Lt Gen Mbatha “Theletso Sekgapane” was born in Johannesburg on 5 September 1957. He attended the Morris Isaacson Secondary School in Soweto, where he became involved in student politics and participated in the 1976 student uprisings. Later he matriculated at Alexander High School. He left the country through Swaziland to Mozambique in 1978 to join the military wing of the African National Congress, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

In exile in Mozambique, he first interacted with President Jacob Zuma, who was his political commissar at the time, where he was stationed at Matola transit camp. From there he proceeded to Quibaxe, Angola, where he underwent basic military training.

After completing his military training, he was selected for training in specialised weapons in the then German Democratic Republic (GDR), former East Germany. Upon his return from Germany he was deployed to Caculama in Angola, where he was a physical training instructor under the command of former Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, where he became involved in military operations protecting MK bases. Owing to his exceptional understanding of logistics, he was then deployed to Luanda to work at the logistics headquarters of MK, where he was appointed the head of logistics section based in Benguela.

After years in exile, he was repatriated to South Africa in 1993 and seconded to a committee charged with collecting weapons from former liberation fighters across the country. This was mandated by the Transitional Executive Council, one of the bodies involved in negotiations.

He was integrated into the SANDF in 1994 and underwent bridging training, all arms battle training, the Senior Command and Staff Duties Course and the Executive National Security Programme. He rose through the ranks to Major General and served as a Logistics Officer at 4 SA Infantry Battalion. He was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and then to full Colonel. As a Brigadier General, he served as the Director Supply Services Support Management. He was later transferred to the SA Army and served as the Director Army Logistics. He was then promoted to the rank of Major General and served as the Chief Director Force Structure. In 2014 he was promoted to a Lieutenant General responsible for SANDF Logistics as Chief of Logistics.

At the time of his sudden passing, Lt Gen Mbatha who was a studious person was writing his final examination with the University of South Africa (Unisa). He is survived by his wife, Maria Rosario Mbatha, his two sons, Seretse and Alvaro, his four daughters, Nonhlanhla, Nomathemba, Zandile and Asinathi, his grandson, Samukelo, as well as his two brothers, Sandile and Thami Mbatha.

May his soul rest in peace.

Obituary

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May his soul rest in peace.
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, set the tone in her highly anticipated Defence Budget Vote which will see the acceleration of priorities for the financial year 2015/16, while taking stock of achievements of the past years.

Tabling the Defence Budget Vote

in Parliament at the Old Assembly Chamber, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula reminded the House that the Defence Review was approved by Cabinet on 19 March 2014 and tabled in Parliament on 3 July 2014 for approval. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said the delay by Parliament to approve it has cost the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) immensely, as the policy document was adopted by the Joint Standing Committee on Defence on 30 April 2015. She said: “The delay in the approval by Parliament of the Defence Review 2014 means that the financial year 2015/16 will be devoted to planning and implementation.”

The Minister continued to lament a critical finding of the Defence Review on the mismatch between resources allocated to the SANDF and the commitment to internal operations and deployments on the continent. She said the misalignment is responsible for the decline of the SANDF to carry out its mandate.
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans said: “Despite this constraint, the SANDF continues to execute tasks assigned to it with dedication and a high level of professionalism. A total of 2,213 members are currently deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Darfur Region of Sudan as part of United Nations and African Union mandated missions.”

The SA Navy continues to deploy its assets to combat piracy in the Mozambican Channel. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said the presence of SA Navy platforms through the deployment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Maritime Strategy, ensures the safety of merchant vessels in the channel.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “The SA Navy submarine, the SAS MANTHATISI, was successfully overhauled in the Simon’s Town dockyard, and is currently operational. This is the first time that a Type 209 submarine refit has been completed in Africa. The long awaited refit of the SA Navy frigate, the SAS AMATOLA, is in its final stages in Durban.”

South Africa has been in the forefront of the establishment of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC) to deal with security challenges on the continent. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said ACIRC was intended to be a provisional arrangement while the African Union (AU) builds capacity for an African Standby Force.

She mentioned that African Defence Ministers met at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe to confirm the commitment made by the African Chiefs of Defence that the African Standby Force be in place and operational by December 2015. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “EXERCISE ARMANI AFRICA II is one of the AU’s main tools to support the African Standby Force. South Africa will be hosting this exercise from 19 October to 7 November 2015.”

Although the SANDF is looking to rejuvenate its personnel through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS), Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said a pool of skilled and experienced older serving members who are reaching the age of 60 years cannot be side-lined. She said that she is taking the discretion as Minister to extend the retirement age to 65 years.

The Minister has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Public Works (DPW) on the transfer of immovable asset life cycle management functions in respect of Defence Endowment Properties from the DPW to the DOD. She said the arrangement will enable the DOD to properly manage its own property portfolio to the benefit of the SANDF members.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “The DOD is grateful that the National Treasury approved over R900 million for the MTEF 2015/16 to 2017/18 to fund the capacitation of the Defence Works Capability. There are currently 223 members in various phases of artisan training and a total of 751 members have been trained and qualified as artisans.”

The Military Ombud continues to address the grievances of both serving and former members of the SANDF. Since the inception of the Office of the Military Ombud, 875 cases were received and 658 cases have been finalised. As at 31 March 2015 there are now 217 active cases.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said the Permanent Defence Force Service Commission was appointed in 2013. However, the possible inadequacies of the Commission’s powers to fulfil its mandate are being addressed so that it is empowered to undertake all matters envisioned by section 196 of the Constitution (1996) for members in uniform.

The Minister added: “The Defence Budget for the financial year 15/16 amounts to R44.5 Billion, which is approximately 1.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Our wish is to reach 2% of the GDP.”

The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, indicated during the Budget Vote that the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) will prioritise among other things, not only the health of military veterans but also those of their dependants. Deputy Minister Maphatsoe stressed for the amendment of the Military Veterans Act as their dependants do not access the same services.

The DMV is set to build 1,000 houses for this financial. Deputy Minister Maphatsoe also announced that the DMV will fast-track the process of special pension. He indicated that the Database Verification Process has been completed and everyone on the list will be captured on their system.

A burial scheme has been set for a dignified burial of military veterans. Deputy Minister Maphatsoe said 1,340 veterans have been employed by government parastatals and the private sector.
The DOD Procurement Seminar

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

As part of the turnaround strategy to address the procurement challenges in the Department of Defence (DOD), the Directorate Procurement Management under the DOD Logistics Division recently convened a three-day DOD Procurement Seminar. Delegates from the various Services and Divisions attended the seminar held at Air Force Base Swartkop in Valhalla.

The primary aim of the seminar was to provide the opportunity for interaction between procurement officials and to formulate solutions to challenges experienced in their day-to-day procurement responsibilities and activities in order to satisfy internal and external clients and the suppliers.

Another objective of the seminar was to discuss the status of procurement systems in the DOD and to map the road forward regarding adherence to the National Treasury Regulations and requirements on procurement and supply chain management.

In welcoming the participants, Brig Gen Edward Mulaudzi, the Director Procurement Management, said that the procurement system in the DOD was growing day-by-day. He pointed out that the seminar provided a fertile ground for procurement officials to come up with effective solutions to help the DOD improve service delivery and share a wealth of knowledge, expertise and innovative ideas.

Brig Gen Mulaudzi highlighted that sound systems of control and accountability should form the cornerstone of the procurement system in the DOD. He also pointed out the pillars of the procurement system, namely value for money, open and effective competition, ethics, fair dealing, accountability, reporting and equity.

Among some of the key matters discussed at the seminar were the Department of Defence Instruction (DODI), Procurement delegations, procurement plans, establishment of procurement capabilities in Services and Divisions, policies and National Treasury Instructions, the electronic procurement system (E-Procure), returns and reports, compliance...
issues, Parliamentary, Ministerial and Auditor-General enquiries and contract management.

During the final day of the seminar, Ms Natasja Sebonka, the Deputy Director Alternative Service Delivery and Public Private Partnerships, informed the procurement officials that one of the key principles on which the DOD transformation is based, is that the DOD is to focus on its core business, while its non-core functions need to be managed and controlled appropriately. She said the DOD is managing this by subjecting requirements to the Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) methodology. Ms Sebonka added that no procurement of alternative services to the DOD might proceed without first obtaining approval from the DOD Alternative Service Delivery Implementation Board. She mentioned that such approval must be obtained at least eight months prior to contracts ending to ensure that extensions on contracts do not occur. She said that when considering outsourcing, a requirement emphasis must be put on ensuring that there is value for money for the DOD, transfer of skills to the DOD and cost-saving for the DOD.

Ms Fikile Khumalo, the Director Materiel Governance, Risk and Compliance, highlighted that Government’s National Development Plan points out the key to an effective and capable State. She emphasised that promotion of principles of good governance, adherence to the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and introduction of a preference system to address certain socio-economic objectives are critical. She called for a modernisation approach and institutionalised best practice models to improve the way procurement functions in the DOD.

She stressed that more intelligent ways need to be identified to help the DOD avoid irregular expenditure and misappropriation of resources and to realise value for money and cost-containment measures to the desired level of National Treasury, the Auditor-General’s report and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA).

Ms Khumalo mentioned that Supply Chain Management is an integral part of financial management that seeks to introduce accepted best practice principles. She unequivocally stated that National Treasury revealed a number of deficiencies that needed to be addressed by government departments and the need to replace the out dated and inefficient procurement and provisioning practices.

ABOVE: Ms Natasja Sebonka, Deputy Director Alternative Service Delivery and Public Private Partnerships, highlighting the critical element of Alternative Service Delivery.
SA and Equatorial Guinea focussing on African unity

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos by Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela

South Africa continues to be an integral part of Africa that is on the rise. The senior leadership of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) led by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, recently hosted a senior military officials meeting with Maj Gen Protacio Edu Edjang, the Chief of Defence Staff from Equatorial Guinea, and his delegation at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria.

During the courtesy call the two military leaders held discussions that covered a wide range of matters of mutual interest around contributing to developmental imperatives.

The Chief of the SANDF said that the relationship between the two countries and their armed forces was a strategic complement for development and bilateral relations that contribute to the objective and pursuit of African unity on the continent. He added that there is a need to play a positive role towards a better Africa to champion the agenda of development, peace and security.

In his response, Maj Gen Edu Edjang said that their visit was also to cement existing relations between the two countries. He pointed out that the visit also served as an attempt to learn from South Africa as a brotherly nation and to exchange ideas with the SANDF, which participates in a number of multilateral forums and is an active player on the continent on how it approaches issues on emerging security situations on the continent.
South Africa hosted the 9th Session of the Republic of South Africa (RSA)/Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) in Vanderbijlpark in Gauteng to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation and relations between the two countries.

In welcoming the Zimbabwean Minister of Defence, Dr Sydney Sekeremaye, and his delegation, the RSA Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, began by reiterating the South African Government's condemnation of the attacks on foreign nationals that had been witnessed in parts of KwaZulu-Natal and Johannesburg.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula, who was the Co-chair of the meeting, congratulated Zimbabwe on its ascendance to the Chairpersonship of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council. She highlighted the critical importance of socio-economic development among the people of the respective countries. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: "Our two countries and both our peoples continue to share and build on the umbilical relations that have been forged both by our shared proximity and a common future. These long-standing ties demonstrated over our rich history of political, cultural and economic relations were further enhanced following South Africa's attainment of freedom and democracy in 1994."

The RSA Minister of Defence and Military Veterans said that the 9th Session of the JPCDS took place soon after the State visit to South Africa by President Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe, in April this year. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula mentioned that the visit in April yielded further strengthening of relations between the two countries when both the Presidents signed into being the Bi-National Commission (BNC). Therefore this was also the last time that the two counties will meet under the auspices of the JPCDS as the meeting had been elevated to a Bi-National Commission at presidential level.

The two countries have enjoyed cordial bilateral relations under the structured mechanism of the JPCDS. These have facilitated official engagements and consultations in which issues of mutual interest, matters of concern and cooperation could be exchanged and deliberated.

The Zimbabwean Minister of Defence, Dr Sekeremaye, commended the measures that the South African Government had put into place to stop attacks on foreign nationals. Dr Sekeremaye thanked Minister Mapisa-Nqakula for the role South Africa plays in the maintenance of geo-political stability, peace and security development in the region and on the continent, which are prerequisites for development.

South Africa continues to unite with friendly nations in the quest for sustainable development and determination for peace and stability of the continent. The bonds of friendship and solidarity between South Africa and Zimbabwe date back to 1994.
The Military Ombud Office welcomes its new Head of Communication

By Candidate Officer Marumo Machete, SO3 External Communication SA Army Corporate Communication

The Military Ombud Office added another key member to its staff complement with the appointment of the new Head of Communication (HOC) charged with spearheading the institution’s branding, marketing and communication strategy.

Ms Nthombikayise Mdluli Jacha, an award winning journalist and seasoned communicator, joins the fledgling Military Ombud Office still at its infancy, with the institution having turned only three this year.

The strong-willed but humble Ms Mdluli Jacha holds a Masters in Public Relations from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia, and brings with her vast experience owing to her background as a trainee journalist at the Mail and Guardian newspaper; an award winning radio journalist in neighbouring Zimbabwe and government communicator from the Department of Mineral Resources sanctioned Council for Geoscience.

She is passionate about communication and has hit the ground running to establish structures and capacity to support Lt Gen (Ret) Temba Matanzima, the Military Ombud, to fulfil the mandate set for him by the Military Ombud Act 4 of 2012, investigate and ensure that complaints lodged through the office are resolved in a fair, economical and expeditious manner.

With only a few weeks in office, Ms Mdluli Jacha already has a working list of communication priorities - some of which have been achieved - she intends putting in place to advance the constitutional function of the Military Ombud.

Ms Mdluli Jacha says: “I am excited to be here. Our approach will be to use both trade media and popular media to ensure that the message and services of this office are adequately and robustly communicated to those who need them the most.”

Like a true optimist, a determined Ms Mdluli Jacha maps out the role she would play as the HOC and says: “Our mandate is clear. We are tasked with promoting the Military Ombud Office and maintain visibility among our stakeholders, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the soldiers as well as the ministry in its entirety”.

She lists the need to make the institution’s vision, mission and mandate visible to its primary stakeholders; the men and women in uniform, the department and all other role players, among her top priorities.

Ms Mdluli Jacha asserts: “As I have already indicated, we are to ensure that we put the servicemen and women, our hardworking uniformed members upper most on our list of priorities.”

Family support is also not in short supply for this God fearing woman, with her husband, Mr Rodwell Jacha, a minister and published author, together with their five children firmly behind her.

Armed with an impeccable journalism background, with radio broadcasting among her strong areas of competence,
The newly appointed Head of Communication at the Military Ombud Office, Ms Nthombikayise Mdluli Jacha.

Ms Mdluli Jacha is revved up to take the Military Ombud Office to great heights. She has put together a multi-faceted communication strategy that seeks to facilitate the speedy implementation of the Military Ombud Act. Ms Mdluli Jacha says: “We strive to be an impartial watchdog ensuring sound governance and fairness to all those involved in the running of the country’s military machine.”

She is a government communicator who has earned her stripes in the science communication environment at her former employer - the Council for Geo Science - an entity that reports to the Department of Mineral Resources. Ms Mdluli Jacha says starting the communication machinery of the Military Ombud Office from the ground presents both challenges as well as vast opportunities, but as HOC and a firm believer in delivering on the mandate set for her, she will ensure that there is positive action that results in things getting done.

She believes in the power of education to help people reach self-actualisation and says she will cultivate a culture of learning among her staff members to ensure that together they provide the best support to the Military Ombud and South African soldiers at large. Ms Mdluli Jacha says: “Skills transfer is what I believe in and I shall pursue it as HOC here at the Military Ombud Office.”

Asked about her motivation to succeed, Ms Mdluli Jacha says: “I am driven by success and over the years have realised that succeeding is never easy. To succeed we have to sacrifice, but my philosophy is to always weigh my sacrifices and avoid going blindly in order to succeed, but at times tread carefully still with the objective in mind.”

Ms Mdluli Jacha shares her approach towards reaching a level of communication excellence necessary to heighten stakeholder awareness regarding the services rendered by the Military Ombud Office, saying: “When I put my hand on the plough, I do not look back. I focus. Looking back will get us defeated and that is the outcome we do not desire”. This is the energetic spirit that the HOC aims to inculcate in her communication team and the Military Ombud Office as a whole. “We will deliver on what the Act expects from us. Failure is not an option.”

Ms Mdluli Jacha is putting together a communication strategy that connects the requirements as stipulated by the Act, the office needs to function optimally, brand visibility and the grand function to satisfy the needs of the Military Ombud’s important stakeholder, the South African soldiers.

The Military Ombud Office was established in 2012 to provide a platform for addressing grievances of servicemen and servicewomen and avoid a situation where ordinary members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) feel like they are being excluded and unfairly treated on issues that involve their service conditions.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, indicated during the Defence Budget Vote in Parliament on 19 May 2015 that the Office of the Military Ombud has since inception received 875 cases and as of 31 March this year 658 cases have been finalised with about 217 cases still active.

The Office’s mandate is to investigate complaints lodged in writing by members and former members of the military regarding their service conditions; complaints by members of the public with regard to the conduct of a SANDF member; and complaints by any person acting on behalf of a member.

Should you wish to contact the Military Ombud Office, the telephone number is 012 676 3800, Fax 086 521 3050, email intake@milombud.org
Members of the Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Community Project Coordinating Committee recently embarked on an assessment and evaluation visit to various project sites in Limpopo, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. The visit was meant to establish contact with authorities at the project sites to assess their requirements regarding the project.

The task of the committee was to assess the requirements and determine the support which the SANDF could provide. The visit also sought to maintain relations with communities and the authorities in charge of the project entities.

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, initiated community projects where he adopted community based programmes as part of Public Participation Programmes. A committee was established to coordinate the management of these projects.

Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, led the committee that visited Mathintha Intermediate School in Bela-Bela, Limpopo. The Chief of the SANDF Community Project had previously donated computers and other Information Communication and Technology (ICT) equipment to the school.

Brig Gen Mabanga said: “We are here on assignment from the Office of the Chief of the SANDF, following a community based project that he had initiated some time ago. Gen Shoke had extended a helping hand to the school to donate mainly ICT equipment.”

He added: “It was decided that a committee be established and to determine if these projects still exist, and also to strengthen...”
focus on youth

relations with communities that we have assisted. One such school that was adopted through the project was Mathintha Intermediate School where we had donated computers.”

Brig Gen Mabanga mentioned that among other things, the purpose of the visit was to consolidate a report on the condition of the equipment funded through the project. The committee was to determine the condition of the equipment and whether it still serves its purpose and to provide further assistance where possible.

The Vice-principal of Mathintha Intermediate School, Mr Peter Magampa, said that they appreciate every effort the SANDF takes to rescue them from some of their challenges. He said that some computers need to be formatted as they are not able to use them.

The school also requires printers for the computers as they now have a computer lab. Mr Magampa said they would like assistance if water can be delivered on days their water supply is cut off in the area. He also asked if they could be assisted in levelling the ground plain for a sports field.

The Principal of Ditsepu Secondary School, Mr Frans Malefo, shared the same sentiments when he said the school appreciates the contribution the SANDF has made towards the school. He said the attitude of learners towards the military has changed as they have gained knowledge and developed an interest in the SANDF.

Mr Malefo said that the SA Army conducts a career regular exhibition at the school, which makes the relations stronger. Mr Malefo said the school is also running Further Education and Training (FET) programmes and it is their wish that the SANDF resuscitates some of the computers which have a problem. He also asked if renovations and repairs can be done in their classrooms.

The Principal of Kwasanti Secondary School in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Alfred Dlamini, mentioned that the computers donated by the SANDF makes a huge difference. He said that other learners are also encouraged to attend extra computer classes.

Mr Dlamini said the school enjoys the support of the SANDF, including the School Governing Body and the parents alike. He indicated that they would like the SANDF to assist by fencing the school parameters and fixing a broken window. He also requested that a new science lab be supplied with apparatuses.

The committee also visited the Lenz Hospice at 21 SA Infantry Battalion in Johannesburg during their inspection visit. Maj Sindi Shezi from the hospice said most of the furniture and medical equipment that was promised to them was delivered.

Maj Shezi said that the hospice experiences staff shortages and it does not have any doctor at this stage. She requested for the patients’ kitchen and the living staff quarters at the hospice to be fixed. Maj Shezi mentioned that the patients would welcome insulators in the rooms as it gets very cold sometimes. She also requested assistance with the garden of the hospice.

The Treasurer of the Committee, Brig Gen Portia More, indicated that the report on the conditions and requirements regarding the project sites will be analysed and remedial action will be taken.
The South African Constitution prescribes equality of men and women as a fundamental part of human rights. In pursuing this right, the Peace Mission Training Centre in Thaba Tshwane recently hosted a workshop on gender with the theme “A new role for Men – partners for Women’s Empowerment”.

The aim of the workshop was to embrace the definition of gender in the organisation, referring to the continuous balanced treatment of males and females to respond appropriately in building an efficient, just, caring and better organisation.

Mr Mbuyiselo Botha, guest speaker from Sonke Gender Justice at the workshop, talked about the benefits of transforming gender norms. He told the workshop attendees that, as men and women, we all had the responsibility to enhance the lives of men by helping them realise the benefits of understanding gender norms. He said that societies or communities have patriarchal systems that govern relations between men and women. “Both men and women need to have a collective responsibility, and support each other and our sons in taking action to promote gender equality, prevent domestic and sexual violence, and reduce the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS,” said Mr Botha.

Meanwhile, Chaplain Sebataolo Loate, the Chaplain of the SA National War College, said that establishing sustainable change in gender roles and relations requires addressing the forces that shape individual attitudes and societal norms and practices. He said that good leadership is a rock upon which an organisation and society is built.

At the same workshop Maj Gen Olga Nodola, Chief Director Transformation Management, mentioned that the Department of Defence (DOD) adheres to government gender policy. She said that one of the most important tasks of our government was to change the laws and policies that discriminated against women. She emphasised that it was important for all to understand that gender equality was a key element of transformation in the DOD. She added that transformation was not only the attainment of equity targets, but also to generate transformed mind-set, attitude and behaviour.

The workshop highlighted the outlook and the rights of different sexually orientated groups living in various communities.

Participants presented their action plans in relation to gender as part of the outcomes they wanted to achieve in their units.
Speaking to SA Soldier, Lt Col Dipuo Raadt, the workshop facilitator, said that gender equality was not a 'women's issue' but rather a vital component of human rights and development to which both men and women should adhere.

Lt Col Raadt said that today there are many examples and opportunities for men's involvement in partnering with women's empowerment.

"Men's involvement does not mean working only with men in lieu of the empowerment of women, or working with men to suppress the voice of women. Working solely with both men and women on gender projects that focus on the empowerment of both may strengthen the inclusion of men taking into account their relations in their families and in their working environment," said Lt Col Raadt.

She pointed out that behaviour change is a massive undertaking, and that confronting unconscious bias and stereotyping is one way to start the process. Male counterparts who explicitly set out to enable women's equal participation and empowerment and to act as leaders of others in doing so, is one way to ensure that the process has a definite, productive and sustainable conclusion.

ABOVE: The workshop participants with R Adm (JG) Emily Masanabo, Director Naval Transformation (4th from left) and Maj Gen Olga Nodola, Chief Director Transformation Management (4th from right).

ABOVE: Lt Col Dipuo Raadt, the workshop facilitator.
A mature society needs less laws to govern it

By Col Riaan Louw, SSO Crisis Management Centre

In an ideal world, individuals will perform their duties effectively, efficiently and in the most economic manner, without question and to the best of their ability. Every facet of every activity will be executed to perfection and final conclusion.

There will be no complaints or comebacks. There will be no need for rules, regulations and laws to ensure that individuals do what they are supposed to do. There will also be no police, no courts or jails. Everyone will live in perfect peace and harmony, be happy and do what is accepted to be the right thing.

Such an ideal world, unfortunately, does not exist.

The reality is that human nature, motivated by greed, self-interest and lust for power, linked to actions aimed at satisfying immediate demands, submission to pressure and efforts to address unrealistic expectations, contributed to the destruction of the illusion of a perfect world.

Instead of an environment where individuals do what they are supposed to do, without being told to do so and without supervision or control, we find ourselves in a world where every aspect of life as we know it has become regulated by means of rules, regulations, policies and laws.

This is mainly due to the impact, implications and consequences of poor human conduct, which necessitated mechanisms to regulate misconduct such as corruption, theft, fraud and maladministration.

While there is a notion that human behaviour can be ensured by means of legal prescripts, fear or personal convictions, Siang argues that laws and regulations can only set guidelines for expected or prohibited behaviour. Laws and regulations are also limited in their effects because it is not possible to prescribe every conceivable circumstance for human behaviour as such.

Fear and law are therefore effective only in limited ways, especially because they sometimes lead people to live at the edge of their set boundaries. In contrast, personal convictions, guided by an individual’s conscience and based on an accepted value set, form the most effective basis for moral and ethical behaviour.

While it would ideally be expected that people would instinctively do what is right whether or not laws and regulations give guidance, personal convictions also require rules that direct ethical conduct. This is due to the fact that personal convictions change with society, especially because relativism, which holds to no clear right or wrong, has captured most of today’s intellectual and educational communities. If it is therefore accepted that good conduct implies doing the right thing, which is the foundation for ethical conduct, doing the right thing is what one ought to do.

If misconduct, in contrast, results in a requirement for rules, regulations, policies and laws to regulate, enforce and punish poor conduct, obeying the law is what one should or must do. Because people are forced to obey laws but expected to act ethically, it is important to understand the difference between ethics, morality and law, which, although obviously related, are definitely not the same thing.

Ethics

Ethics refers to a system of rules that govern the conduct of individuals and the way they choose to interact with one another at a particular time. According to Anstead, ethics defines what is good for the individual and for society and establishes the nature of duties that people owe themselves and one another. The characteristics of ethics include learning what is right and wrong and then doing the right thing, as well as the fact that most ethical decisions have extended consequences, mixed outcomes, multiple alternatives, uncertain consequences and personal implications. This system of rules, according to Rossouw, implies the “application of values to individual behaviour and action”.

Within the framework of ethical conduct, the concept of morality refers to a set of ethical standards that is generally accepted by societies, groups, organisations or individuals who appropriate such sets of ethical values to govern the behaviour of the individuals within the respective groups or societies. Anstead regards morality as both the standards of behaviour by which individuals are judged and the standards of behaviour by which people in general are judged in their relationships with others.

According to Rossouw, morality operates in a sense like the Constitution does, by providing a conceptual framework that can be used to establish a right choice within specific contexts. A moral code, like a set of constitutional principles, however, does not try to cover the specifics of every eventuality. It rather provides the principles that an individual or society can use to decide what course of action to follow in a given situation.

Most people act on the basis of a certain moral, in other words using particular standards and values which, in turn, are used to develop a moral code in the form of a code of conduct (letter of the law) or a code of ethics (spirit of the law) that is widely accepted as a basis for behaviour, and thus is something that can act as a yardstick for behaviour.

Law

When rules are adopted formally, ethics are replaced by laws, which are made by people and can be changed by people. Anstead defines law as a consistent set of universal rules that are widely published, generally
accepted and usually enforced. These rules describe the ways in which people are required to act in their relationships with others in a society. The rules are requirements to act in a given way and to resolve certain adverse events, not just expectations or suggestions to act in that way. Since the government establishes law, the government can use police powers to enforce laws. Shavell explains that a legal rule might for instance forbid something like littering and impose a fine for a violation. It might also impose expectation damages for breach of contract or declare murder a crime and punish it with imprisonment.

All people are entitled to the presumption of innocence, to a fair and public trial and to have access to competent and independent legal advice. It also addresses the independence of the Judiciary, the fact that the Executive of a country should be subject to the law and that no person should be subject to treatment or punishment which is inconsistent with respect for the inherent dignity of every human being.

The establishment of legal rules therefore refers to the process by which the rules are formulated, promulgated and communicated to the relevant public. The enforcement of law refers to the identification and reporting of violators to the state by a number of role players, adjudication and the imposition of monetary sanctions or imprisonment. The effectiveness of law enforcement accordingly depends, other things being equal, on the magnitude of sanctions and the probability with which they are imposed for violations.

**Link between ethics and the law**

While morality is aspirational and speaks to a standard to which most people strive; law, according to Rossouw, attempts to regulate the behaviour of a country’s citizens in order to achieve stability and prosperity, to facilitate relations, resolve disputes, etc. It is therefore perfectly possible for an action to be lawful but of questionable morality.

There are many cases where “lawful” clearly does not equate to “right”, especially where it would seem that even if a legal process was to find a person not guilty of breaking any applicable law, society would consider the person to have acted immorally or wrongly in allowing an obviously irregular act to take place. Cases in question include spending public funds on expensive cars, travel privileges, meals, new furniture; etc at a time when public opinion tends to hold that such expenditure is morally wrong given the extreme poverty in the country and the government’s often stated commitment to alleviating poverty. Although perfectly legal, such actions are definitely immoral.

Gislason regards the link between ethics and the law as the creation of an enabling environment for the fair and consistent implementation of laws, policies, good governance standards and consistent implementation of laws, policies, good governance standards.

...“but we must remember that good laws, if they are obeyed, do not constitute good government. Hence there are two parts of good government: one is the actual obedience of citizens to the laws, the other part is the goodness of the laws which they obey….” – Aristotle, Politics 1294a-6.

and generally, for doing the right thing. Where laws are established by a governing power, ethics are the morals of a culture that often inform the laws that are made. The distinction is that, while one may obey the law, one might not always act ethically. It would therefore be a rare case for something to be ethical, but against the law.

Both law and morality thus serve to channel human behaviour. According to Shavell, law accomplishes this primarily through the threat of sanctions if legal rules are disobeyed, while morality involves incentives which may influence an individual’s conduct. Anstead adds that both ethics and laws are necessary to provide guidance and stability to people and society as a whole:

- Laws are rules developed by governments in order to provide balance in society and protection to its citizens.
- Ethics comes from people’s awareness of what is right and wrong. Laws are enforced by governments to its people.
- Ethics are moral codes which every person must conform to. Laws are codifications of ethics meant to regulate society.
- Ethics does not carry any punishment to anyone who violates it. The law will punish anyone who happens to violate it.
- Ethics comes from within a person’s moral values. Laws are made with ethics as a guiding principle.
- Ethics is what we do when no-one is watching. Laws are what we do when someone is watching.

The relationship between ethics and law is especially important in management because leadership must evaluate not only what is legal, but what they, their employees, and society consider ethical as well. Important here is that organisations must also consider what behaviours their customers will and will not accept. Leadership therefore plays a vital role in an organisation’s legal and ethical performance.

It is in part their responsibility to ensure that their employees are abiding by all relevant laws, as well as any ethical codes established at the organisation. But most importantly, the leadership must provide a positive example to their employees of proper behaviour in light of laws and ethical codes.

Policies and procedures will never satisfy everyone, but the establishment of codes of ethics/conduct will at least provide a framework for ethical behaviour, and allow customers to evaluate the type of organisation with whom they are doing business. With this knowledge, employees and customers must decide whether or not they are willing and able to conform to these codes, as well as to the laws that have been enacted. Leaders cannot simply limit their decisions to following the law. They must also consider the ethics of their employees and customers.

While there can be no doubt that ethics is about helping people instead of trying to catch them, it is a fact that the maturity of a society determines the number of rules and laws that governs it. Ethical conduct is therefore a pro-active, cost-effective and preventative measure that can help individuals and organisations to avoid lawsuits, judgments and fines and address morale-related issues before it becomes a challenge.

*Note: This document is an excerpt from a background document prepared by Col Louw for a presentation done on the topic.*
Many people have seen or heard about 13 Combat Ready (CR) Provost Company, which is a deployment unit or wing of the Military Police Division. I would like to take you through the unit itself, the Officer Commanding and the staff members of this unsung unit of heroes and heroines.

I paid the Officer Commanding of 13 CR Provost Company, Lt Cdr Andries Maabela, a visit so that I can have first-hand information about this interesting unit. When you enter the unit, you will sense the spirit of soldiering and combat readiness among its members. The Officer Commanding welcomed me in his office. Looks can be deceiving; he is average in stature but commands a big unit.

I asked him about the origin of this unit. He said: “13 CR Provost Company started as a Rapid Deployment Force with strength of a Platoon. It was under the leadership of then Capt Justice Macanda, now Colonel and Deputy Provost Marshal General. This Rapid Deployment Force was founded in 1996 at the SA Army Combat Training Centre, then called SA Army Battle School in Lohathla.

Capt Wilhelm Barnard, now Lieutenant Colonel, took over the command of Rapid Deployment Force and during his command this Force was involved in different Exercises and Operations, such as EXERCISE SOUTHERN CROSS in 1996, EXERCISE BLUE HUNGWE in

ABOVE: Members of the 13 Combat Ready Provost Company providing area security.
1997 in Zimbabwe (peacekeeping training) and Sealift in Port Elizabeth in 1998. The Rapid Deployment Force was also deployed in Lesotho during OPERATION BOLEAS.”

Lt Cdr Maabela added: “In 2000 the Rapid Deployment Force adopted the name of 13 CR Provost Company, and in February 2002 the Provost Company was relocated to its present location in Thaba Tshwane. In Thaba Tshwane the Provost Company was under different Commanders. Maj Motlati Nonyane was the successor of Lt Col Wilhelm Barnard, and Maj Nonyane handed over command of the Provost Company to Maj William Molomo whose successor was Maj Twice Moganyaka.”

He said that on 29 January 2012 he officially took over the command of 13 CR Provost Company. His vision as the new Commander was to transform the Provost Company from a normal operational unit of the Military Police to a combat support unit of the Military Police. It is a combat support unit that will have a robust Platoon, a Platoon which will be deployed to any place not handled by a normal Military Police Element.

Lt Cdr Maabela started by preparing Military Police officials, mostly Reserves, to undergo Paratrooper selection, when members qualified as Paratroopers, Physical Training instructors and other scarce skills identified, such as Reconnaissance Specialists, Fighting In Built-up Areas, VIP Protectors, Unarmed Self-defence and Marksmen were accommodated in this Special Provost Platoon.

He also identified the following training and skills that are relevant to a robust Military Police Special Platoon and also to a policing environment, Hostage Taking and Negotiation, Tracking and Air Assault, Motor Cycle and Musketry Coaching.

The Provost Platoon within 18 months managed to qualify 23 Paratroopers, one Air Assault, eight Recce Specialists, nine Physical Training (PT) Instructors, eight Fighting in Built-up Areas, two Marksmen and two VIP Protectors and eight Motor cyclists.

This Platoon was tested on different tasks, including high risk operations, during the Arms Deal Commission when the Chief of the SANDF attended, as Close Protection was provided by these elements.

The Provost Special Platoon also provided Close Protection during the visit of Chief Angolan Armed Forces when he visited Combat Training Centre during 2013 EXERCISE SEBOKA, this elite Force was deployed by the then Senior Staff Officer Force Employment, Brig Gen Mninimzi Sizani, during the funeral of the late former RSA President, Mr Nelson Mandela, to provide area security.

During the inauguration of the President of the RSA, Mr Jacob Zuma, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, this element was deployed in support of South African Air Force Task Force (500 Squadron) to provide area security during the landing and departure of Heads of State, including perimeter protection.

During the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo the Military Police Special Platoon linked up with 500 Squadron to provide perimeter security.

The two sections of the Special Operations Platoon were also deployed to provide area security in support of the other security forces. This Special Platoon will always be deployed in support of other security elements, including SA Police Service (SAPS) Special Units.

Lt Cdr Andries Maabela also paid tribute to the late Officer Commanding of Air Force Task Force (500 Squadron) and his members for a major role he played in supporting the Military Police Special Team.

The Military Police deployed a Provost Paratrooper Section attached to 5 SA Infantry Battalion in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of Force Intervention Brigade (FIB).

During the 2015 State of the Nation Address these elements where deployed to support the SAPS, while the Military Police Paratroopers were deployed to provide Area Security on the outer perimeter, mainly along the route to Parliament and to the main gate of the house.

The Commander is proud to record the only two Military Police marksmen and his intention is to develop them to become snipers, viz L Cpl Bongani Xaba and L Cpl Gontse Mothabane.

The Provost Special Platoon also produced the only qualified female Military Police VIP Protector, L Cpl Portia Sebotja. She is also one of the few female Military Police motorcycle riders. L Cpl Sebotja also became the best driver during the 2014 VIP Course.

It is the Commander’s intention to keep this Platoon in shape with regular training every Monday morning at 06:00, and with R4 and 9mm shooting on Tuesdays. On Thursdays there is the Officer Commanding walk and regular fitness (PT) periods.

13 CR Provost Company continuously provided support during EXERCISE SEBOKA, EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE and course support at the SA Army Combat Training Centre during major exhibitions. 13 CR Provost Company displays the capabilities of the Military Police Division at the AAD Expo, the Rand Show and other annual exhibitions where the SANDF is involved.

As the saying goes: “Dynamite comes in small packages” - meet Lt Cdr Maabela and you will know what I mean. Watch this space, this unit still has a lot to offer judging from what the Officer Commanding has been saying.
The Defence Legal Services Division, under the leadership of the Chief Defence Legal Services, provides professional, legitimate and deployable military legal services and support to the Department of Defence.

The School of Military Justice is the sharp end of the Division as it is the only training service provider accredited to present departmental courses in law as prescribed by the Defence Act.

The School presents Military Law training to both Military Law Practitioners and Military Practitioners (Line Officers). Since 2014 this course has been expanded to 10 weeks for learners to develop a firm knowledge of all their modules.

The School of Military Justice received full accreditation from the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) in November 2009. The facilitators are subject matter experts and the Division is the competency authority in the field.

Modules that are presented at the School include Criminal Law, the Law of Evidence, Introduction to Military Law, Pre-trial Procedures and Offences, Preliminary Investigations, Commanding Officers Disciplinary Hearing, Boards of Inquiry, Operational Law and Law of Armed Conflict.

The last formalised learning opportunity that is presented at the School is a three-week course, the Advanced Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) course. The School has also added an additional three-day Rules of Engagement Seminar as part of the Advanced LOAC course.

The Acting Officer-in-Charge of the School of Military Justice, Lt Col Rikus Slabbert, indicated that although the successful completion of modules demands a fair amount of hard work from learners, the attendees need foundational knowledge in order to apply legal concepts effectively when they are required to demonstrate their skills during various practical assessments.

Lt Col Slabbert said that all newly appointed Military Law Practitioners have to successfully complete the Trial Advocacy as an additional module before the highly regarded Military Law proficiency badge is bestowed upon them. Although Military Law Practitioners are all law graduates, the course introduces them to Military Law and Courts of a Military Judge and coaches them in the distinct peculiarities of the disciplinary system.

What are the admission criteria for the courses that are offered?

“In as far as the rest of the Department of Defence (DOD) is concerned the criteria have evolved over time. Although the course was initially envisaged for Officers, the School of Military Justice nowadays receives the lists of nominees from the different Pool Managers of the Services.

Since the course is not currently a promotional course, it seems as if the priority of our clients have resulted in the logical progression towards nominating those members who are concerned with the administration of Military Justice at unit level, especially Unit Adjutants, Instructors and Military Policemen. However, since the Coxswain on a ship is at most a Warrant Officer, it is not uncommon to find a Warrant Officer or Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) on our Military Law courses.

The School of Military Justice can unfortunately not accept as many people on our courses as we would have liked owing to the number of appropriately qualified Facilitators. Our facilities next to the Thaba Tshwane Town Hall, as well as the prescriptive education, training and development (ETD) policies intrinsic to accredited training, all limit the number of slots available to candidates. Individuals who are interested in attending the Military Law course are therefore encouraged to nominate themselves on the MILQUAL System (for 700MILLAW) and to liaise with their respective Service Pool Managers to facilitate their nomination.”
In which role would the course qualified personnel serve?

“If we focus on the Military Law course, successful candidates would hopefully be appointed to posts where they would be required to manage the administration of Military Justice. It is further preferable that all Instructors of any ‘legal subject’, from Basic Military Training right through to the Security and Defence Studies Programme (formerly the ENSP) must have a more in-depth knowledge than the ambit of their presentation.

The last group of obvious beneficiaries of this knowledge would be any person that has to conduct himself/herself within the parameters of current legislation, or a person who is responsible for the conduct of subordinates according to the prescripts of the law - therefore all DOD personnel.”

Which matters would course qualified personnel be able to deal with?

“Because of the practical approach of the courses at the School of Military Justice, a successful candidate would be able to conduct a preliminary investigation into any disciplinary, non-disciplinary, or common law offence. They would be able to preside as Trial Officer or as Prosecutor at a Commanding Officer’s Disciplinary Hearing and they would be able to conduct a proper (and legal) Board of Inquiry that asks the correct questions, investigates a matter comprehensively and makes sensible recommendations based on admissible, relevant evidence.

Subsequent to a couple of much publicised trials in South Africa in recent months, many people may have questions regarding court cases and the law, but in addition to definite practical skills, candidates who attended training at the School of Military Justice acquire a thorough understanding of the basic principles of Criminal Law and the Law of Evidence. Candidates leave the School of Military Justice, not only empowered to determine dolus eventualis, but they are able to determine if it was really ‘impossible’ for someone to do something. Many similar ‘foreign’ concepts are elucidated and demystified.”

How do civil and military law practices differ in approach and application?

“The legal principles that are utilised or the approach to law is exactly the same, since all laws in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) are subservient to, and in accordance with the Constitution. Because the role and functions of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) differ vastly from other organisations and departments, the Military have their own set of Military Courts that adjudicate criminal matters.

We even conduct an independent appeal and review function. This additional court system is not a unique phenomenon in the world and the approach has even been endorsed by our Constitutional Court. Our Military Courts do not adjudicate civil matters though, but there is a Section within Defence Legal Services that liaises and supports the State Attorneys or even Counsel, on behalf of the DOD.”

What is the standard of the School when compared with similar institutions of other armed forces?

“I have not had the privilege to visit other similar institutions, however we measure ourselves against the feedback from the Director Military Training at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Italy, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - who visit various countries in Africa and abroad, and visitors from foreign Defence Forces and even Advocates from the Pretoria Bar Association. The School presents training of an exemplary standard and need not shy away from similar institutions at all.”

Lt Col Slabbert encourages SANDF members to view the Learner Guides of all the modules of the MILLAW course, as well as pertinent pieces of legislation and LOAC source documents that can be found on the DOD Intranet, on the web page of the Defence Legal Services Division, under the School of Military Justice.

He added: “We assist with training wherever possible, but are big advocates of skills transfer and empowerment. We have had the privilege to be invited to assist with guest lectures at a plethora of Units within the SANDF and even at the University of Pretoria and Unisa.”

ABOVE: Lt Col Rikus Slabbert, the Acting Officer-in-Charge of the School of Military Justice (back row, middle), with staff members at the School of Military Justice.
Flu can be dangerous and we need to protect ourselves against it

By Martina Nicholson Associates (MNA) on behalf of the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS)
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

Thousands of South Africans get flu, or influenza, during winter each year. Flu was responsible for the deaths of nearly 100 children during the United States winter of 2015 and by all accounts South Africa will also have a bad flu season if we do not take adequate measures to protect ourselves from it.

While most recover from flu within a week or two, many individuals fall ill enough to be hospitalised. Some people with compromised immune systems even die from health complications brought about by flu. These individuals are considered to be high risk, or “at-risk”, of developing dangerous complications.

The flu virus changes continuously, which means that new vaccinations against it have to be designed every year. This year’s vaccine for the southern hemisphere was made available later than usual, but it is advisable that all South Africans, and particularly those at high risk of developing complications from the virus, still get vaccinated as soon as possible.

It takes a couple of weeks for the vaccination’s antibodies to start protecting you but it is never too late to have the flu shot and the flu season may go on until September or even beyond.

Individuals who have weakened immune systems, including children under the age of five years, the elderly and those with other health problems such as asthma, diabetes and HIV and AIDS, are particularly at risk of developing dangerous complications from flu and should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Just what kind of complications can be caused by a flu infection? Secondary bacterial infections such as viral or bacterial pneumonia and bronchitis are relatively common, which can be dangerous for those with weakened immune systems, and even damage the well-being of healthier individuals.

Flu can complicate chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes or congestive heart failure. It can also cause children in particular to become critically dehydrated and develop secondary ear and sinus infections.

A vaccine that helps to protect a person from contracting the flu
virus strains that are in circulation is developed each year. It should be noted that the vaccine does not offer complete protection against all strains of the flu virus. Nevertheless it is it is a highly effective preventative measure and the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) recommends that all of its members have an annual flu vaccination.

It should be noted that, while the vaccine may not necessarily completely prevent influenza in at-risk individuals, it may reduce the severity of the symptoms and the risk of complications.

Another reason why it is necessary for a person to receive the flu vaccination every year is because the vaccine’s protective effect decreases with time; the immunity offered typically lasts between six to nine months. This means that you cannot have a flu vaccine one year and expect it to protect you for the rest of your life.

Who should be vaccinated?

The following at-risk individuals should have a flu shot every year:

- Children six months to five years of age
- Individuals aged 50 years and older
- Adults and children aged six months and older with chronic heart or lung conditions, including asthma
- Adults and children who required hospitalisation or regular doctor visits during the previous year because of chronic metabolic diseases, including diabetes, kidney disease, blood abnormalities, or weakened immune systems
- People with any condition that makes it hard to breathe or swallow, such as brain injury or brain disease, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other nerve or muscle disorders
- Staff of nursing homes and other facilities that provide care for people with chronic medical conditions
- Healthcare workers
- Caregivers of, or those who have contact with, children up to five years old and people at high risk for severe complications from influenza.

How do you catch it?

One typically contracts the flu virus by breathing in droplets from coughs or sneezes. The virus is contagious and can also be spread through touching surfaces such as door handles or telephones that have the virus on it, and then touching your own mouth, nose or eyes.

The influenza virus infects the respiratory tract (nose, throat and lungs). Should you be unfortunate enough to contract the flu virus, you may recognise it through such symptoms as fever, headaches, coughs, sore throats, nasal congestion, body aches and malaise (the feeling of being ill and not having any energy).

GEMS recommend the following to help prevent the spread of influenza:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands frequently with warm, soapy water for about 15 seconds to help protect you from germs
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Stay home from work, school, and, if possible, avoid other people if you are ill
- Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and throw it away after you have done so. Wash your hands thereafter

*Ms Martina Nicholson is a contributor to SA Soldier.*
Focus on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Ms Anne Dolinschek, Martina Nicholson Associated (MNA) Newsdesk
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

There seems to be a rising tide of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) among our children. We at the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) believe that you, our members, need more information about ADHD and other disorders so that you can be aware of signs and symptoms to look out for.

“The exact incidence of ADHD in South Africa is not known,” wrote Ms Sanmari Snyman and Ms Ilse Truter in the African Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology. Figures given for elsewhere in the world vary quite widely: “Biederman and Faraone (2005) gave the incidence of ADHD to be between 8% and 12% of children worldwide, and Meyer et al. (2004) estimated the incidence of ADHD to be between 3% and 10% in the child population in Europe and the USA.” The statistics in the USA have gone up since, and the US government now estimates the total to be about 11%. We do know, however, that the condition is about three times more common in boys. And it knows no barriers in terms of race, creed, culture or class.

What is ADHD?

ADHD is a disorder of the brain. This can be a very scary explanation if you are a parent whose child has just been diagnosed with ADHD. But there are a lot of reasons for hope. Treatment can relieve many of the symptoms of the disorder, which include difficulty in paying attention, poor ability to control behaviour and hyperactivity, e.g. the bouncing-off-the-walls syndrome can test the patience of any parent.

It seems that children with ADHD have brains that mature normally, but lag behind their peers by about three years, especially in areas affecting planning, paying attention and thinking. So the medical and behavioural treatment available serves to help ADHD children cope while they “catch up”, so to speak.

Because ADHD is commonly called “hyperactivity”, people tend to associate the problem with wild behaviour and disruption in the classroom. In fact, there are three clusters of symptoms, and the USA’s National Institute of Mental Health summarises them succinctly:

Children who have symptoms of inattention may:

- Be easily distracted, miss details, forget things, and frequently switch from one activity to another.
- Have difficulty focusing on one thing.
- Become bored with a task after only a few minutes, unless they are doing something enjoyable.
- Have difficulty focusing attention on organising and completing a task or learning something new.
- Have trouble completing or turning in homework assignments, often losing things (e.g. pencils, toys, assignments) needed to complete tasks or activities.
- Do not seem to listen when spoken to.
- Daydream, become easily confused, and move slowly.
- Have difficulty processing information as quickly and accurately as others.
- Struggle to follow instructions.

Children who have symptoms of hyperactivity may:

- Fidget and squirm in their seats.
- Talk non-stop.
- Dash around, touching or playing with anything and everything in sight.

ABOVE: Treatment can relieve many of the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, which include difficulty in paying attention, poor ability to control behaviour and hyperactivity.
Children who have symptoms of impulsivity may:

- Be very impatient.
- Blurt out inappropriate comments, show their emotions without restraint, and act without regard for consequences.
- Have difficulty waiting for things they want or waiting their turn in games.
- Often interrupt conversations or others’ activities.

Parents and teachers should be careful not to miss out on the signs of dreaminess and inattention: just because your child is not running around and interrupting people constantly does not mean they do not have ADHD.

Diagnosing ADHD is not a simple matter of taking a blood test – it is an involved process which requires looking at how many symptoms the child presents with (six should be present, at least), whether they are present across situations (in other words, does this behaviour happen both at home and at school?), whether the symptoms were there before the child turned seven, and whether they interfere with the child’s ability to get on with normal life. The best person to turn to for a diagnosis is someone with a special interest and long-term experience in ADHD. There are pediatricians in South Africa with this kind of background.

If your child is diagnosed with ADHD, he or she may be treated with medication that activates brain circuits involved in paying attention. It may take time to get the medication right, as different children react differently, and there are some possible side-effects, such as sleep problems and decreased appetite. Behavioural therapy is also helpful: this teaches a child to keep track of his or her own behaviour and boosts desired behaviours.

How you can help

Make life easier for your child at home and at school by:

- Insisting on clear, consistent routine – and preparing the child ahead of time if there are going to be changes in routine;
- Ensuring clear and repeated instructions from parents and teachers;
- Looking for sources of stress at home and at school;
- Avoiding tiredness and hunger, especially when you want good behaviour from your child;
- Offering a limited number of choices. Say: “Do you want to do the Maths homework first or the essay?” rather than “What would you like to do first?”
- Ensuring your child has daily exercise, as well as wind-down time between activities;
- Having fun, relaxing activities up your sleeve to help calm your child in times of stress.

High achievers with ADHD

ADHD may bring with it special gifts too, such as the ability to hyper-focus on areas of interest to the person, and a willingness to take risks. Prof Michael Fitzgerald of Dublin’s Trinity College believes that notable achievers, including Thomas Edison, Kurt Cobain, Oscar Wilde, Lord Byron, Jules Verne, Che Guevara, James Dean, Clark Gable, Pablo Picasso, Mark Twain and Sir Walter Raleigh may all have had ADHD.

*Ms Anne Dolinschek is a contributor to SA Soldier.
Lt Col Gae Lephalo started a soccer academy about ten years ago in an effort to introduce extramural activities to the children of uniformed members in the military community of Thaba Tshwane. The SA Army College adopted the soccer academy and provided the soccer training facilities.

As a physical training and sports enthusiast, Lt Col Lephalo, was determined to make the project a success. The soccer academy is called Lora Bokamoso (meaning: dream of the future), and is comprised of under 12 to under 23 boys’ teams.

The teams play in leagues in Laudium, Pretoria, where most of the games are scheduled on Sunday. Lt Col Lephalo said the teams are dependent on the parents’ contributions as they do not have sponsors. She indicated that this was a challenge as they had to improvise most of the time with what they had.

She said: “My aim is to groom these children so that they rise through the divisions in the soccer academy and the league structures. I wish to see them get recognition and assistance from the South African Football Association (SAFA).”

Lt Col Lephalo completed her coaching courses and is accredited with a Confederation of African Football (CAF) “A” Coaching Licence. She said: “When I started organising the teams in 2005, I did not have any football coaching experience. But now, with my licence, I can coach anywhere in Africa.”

The Senior Under 23 team is playing in the Super League and all the junior teams are playing in the Motsepe Cup League. She mentioned that the local football associations require players to be of an eligible age for certain divisions and leagues.

Lt Col Lephalo said her experience with the soccer academy had been fulfilling and meaningful. She added: “The experience has been very interesting because I have learned to understand the players and they understand me as a coach. I am able to tell if they are not up to their game or if they experience frustrations.”

She added: “As a Physical Training Instructor in the SANDF, I also do fitness tests and assessments with the players to determine their strength. The test results are also used as a guiding factor to position players according to their ability.”

Lt Col Lephalo said she hoped to see the children being absorbed by professional football academies and to prosper in their careers. She said the teams were in need of support - particularly in regard to equipment and other logistic support.

*Members who are interested in supporting the soccer academy can contact Lt Col Gae Lephalo on cell no: 082 739 6197 or via email: lephalogae@yahoo.com*
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The slogan for the 2015 Comrades Marathon was “Be Part of It - Bamba Iqhaza”. It was one of the greatest days for South Africa with home runners coming first in both the men’s and women’s races for the first time since 1992 - the first home double win in 23 years.

A total of 22,615 (17,541 men and 5,074 women) athletes from 77 countries entered from 1 October 2014 to 1 May 2015, for the 2015 “90th Comrades” of which only 16,933 finally register at the Comrades Expo and only 13,006 successfully completed the race.

Altogether 137 runners from the Department of Defence, including the Reserves, completed the race. (A total of 3,927 failed to make it to the finish line before the 12-hour cut-off time.)

On 31 May 2015, as the Durban City Hall clock struck 05:30, thousands of runners began their epic “up run” of 87.72km to Pietermaritzburg. A race in which athletes fought a battle not against a team or opponent but against themselves. A journey in which all men and women were equal, as all had the same hills to climb and the same road to tread to be able to achieve their goal a challenging event that was a great leveller.

A Comrades Marathon “up run” is by no means a race for the fainthearted. It consists of 54km of energy-sapping, uphill running and provides the ultimate test of human endurance. Many runners claim to prefer the “up run” over the “down run”, but logic dictates that when all else fails, gravity will pull you downhill, while only sheer guts and flagging energy reserves can power a runner uphill in the final stages of a Comrades Marathon.

**Defence achievers**

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was CPO Nhlanhla Khanyile from the SANDF Athletic Club KZN in a time of 07:42:33 and an overall 484th position and 129th in the veterans age group (40-49). CPO Khanyile was also the first SANDF athlete to complete the Two Oceans Marathon on 4 April 2015.

The first Defence Reserve Force runner was Mr Denzyll Hadebe of Natal Carbineers Athletic Club in a time of 07:08:46 and in a 185th overall position - an excellent achievement.

The first SANDF woman was Capt Nokholo Hlezupondo from SANDF Eastern Province Athletic Club (AMHU Eastern Cape) with a time of 08:33:56 in a 154th position among women runners. She was also the first SANDF athlete to compete the Two Oceans Marathon on 4 April 2015 and the first SANDF woman to finish the 2014 Comrades Marathon - an excellent achievement. (The men and women obtained a Bill-Rowan Medal for running under the nine-hour cut-off time.)

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was CPO Nhlanhla Khanyile from the SANDF Athletic Club KZN in a time of 07:42:33 and an overall 484th position and 129th in the veterans age group (40-49). CPO Khanyile was also the first SANDF athlete to complete the Two Oceans Marathon on 4 April 2015.

In the second position was Sgt Simon Sindana from Military Health Base Depot Pretoria of the SANDF Athletic Club Pretoria in a time of 08:08:31 and in an overall 796th position and 37th in the masters age group (50-59). In the third position was WO2 Geddes Gallant from the SANDF Eastern Province Athletic Club in a time of 08:20:05 and an overall 974th position and 308th in the veterans age group.
Sport


Refreshments for runners

Just the water sachets for the 47 refreshment stations that line the 87,72km route at an average of 1,9 kilometre intervals require a mind boggling 220 pallets to be shipped, first into storage before the first runners make their appearance. If that single operation, which has to be completed well before the first runner is within thinking distance of the table, does not scare you, then you simply do not understand the potential for problems and most certainly you should not be allowed to organise the refreshment stations for major road races such as the Comrades Marathon.

Arranging the manufacturing of over 1.2 million sachets without them going off, let alone finding suitable storage and coordinating the double handling and off-loading of around 250 ten-kilogramme boxes to each table is just the tip of the task. Add in 85 tons of Energade, Megaload, Coca Cola and Cream Soda, 14 tons of biscuits, chocolates, oranges, bananas and potatoes, and an additional 13 tons of ice blocks and you are beginning to grasp the size of the iceberg behind supporting the Comrades Marathon runners. Fluid intake, both before and after exercise, is essential. As much as 400ml to 500ml of fluid is necessary per hour spent training.

The Defence Force had a special stand at The Oval Cricket Stadium in Pietermaritzburg, where all the families and friends of the runners got together to watch as the runners entered the stadium. The stand was identified by the banners of the DOD and the SANDF. Lt Col Craig-Mackie and the team from the KwaZulu-Natal Military Athletic Club once again assisted to the needs of the Defence runners and provided them with warm soup. The Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal (AMHU KZN) manned a refreshment station 38km into the race for the 22nd year, which is an achievement on its own.

Origins of the Comrades Marathon

The first Comrades Marathon took place on 24 May 1921 on Empire Day, and started outside the City Hall in Pietermaritzburg with 34 runners. It has continued every year since then with the exception of the war years 1941-1945. (The direction alternates each year between Pietermaritzburg and Durban, the so-called “up” and “down runs”)

The first race was run on dust roads, with the runners having to pass through several gates and at least one stream. It was won by Bill Rowan, a 26-year-old Transvaal farmer, in a time of 08:59:00, which would be the slowest winning time in the history of the race. There were 16 official finishers of the first race.
SANDF kickboxers in good shape

By Capt Josh Cloete, Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Officer Military Academy

During the 2015 South African Kickboxing Championships recently held in Cape Town a great honour was bestowed upon one of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Kickboxers, AB Mbuso Nqwabe. He represented South Africa against Canada with great tenacity and perseverance and this afforded him the opportunity to receive the highest honour in South African Sport – to wear the green and gold (Protea).

The South African Kickboxing Championships are the only championships recognised by the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) and the Government as the sole event for the election of a national kickboxing team. This is arguably the biggest combat sport (focusing on only one discipline) event in the country. The SANDF was represented by eight kickboxers throughout the country and the flag was upheld with pride by these members.

Capt Josh Cloete, the current Vice-President of South Africa Kickboxing, received great news, while attending a meeting with the President of the World Association of Kickboxing Organisation (WAKO) that negotiations are on the way from an international perspective to include kickboxing in the CISM Military World Games.

Results of SANDF Kickboxers

- Capt Ferdie Oosthuizen (9 SA Infantry Battalion) - Gold in kick-light
- Lt Thembelani Msomi (Military Academy) - Bronze in low kicks
- F Sgt Dennis Bogenhagen (Air Force Base Overberg) – Bronze in semi-contact
- F Sgt Luke du Plessis (Air Force Base Swartkop) - Gold in light contact and silver in semi-contact
- Sgt Rodney Ahrends (Air Force Base Overberg) - Gold in light contact and bronze in semi-contact
- Sgt Stephan Venter (Air Force Base Waterkloof) - Gold in light contact and bronze in semi-contact
- AB Mbuso Nqwabe (SAS SALDANHA) – Silver in low kicks
- Cpl Jandré Muller (Military Academy) – Competed in the light contact category

The Management Team comprising three members: Lt Col Andrew April from Air Force College (Chef de Mission), Capt Josh Cloete from Military Academy (Manager) and Sgt Hendrik Pienaar from Air Force Base Langebaanweg (Coach).

Military Academy hosted the 2015 Western Cape Provincial Boxing Championships

By Capt Josh Cloete, Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Officer Military Academy

The Military Academy not only played host to the Western Cape Provincial Boxing Championships, but organised the entire event. This included the liaison with the executives and officials, the preparations of the venue, providing of medals and medical personnel. This sporting event was facilitated and organised by the Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Officer, Capt Josh Cloete.

The Western Cape Provincial Boxing Championships were utilised as the first step for the Western Cape Province to select a team that will compete in the 2015 SA National Boxing Championships (SANABO) later this year. The Championships were attended by four of the five districts within the Western Cape Province, namely the Cape Winelands, Overberg, Western Province (Cape Metropole), West Coast and about 200 spectators.

This is also a very important year for the SA National Defence Force Boxing Organisation (SANDFBO) who will send a boxing team to the 2015 CISM Military World Games in South Korea. Hence the importance for such engagement between military units and their civilian counterparts as the interaction could only positively contribute to the standards of SANDF Boxing.

Despite the renovations that are currently underway at the Military Academy, the Commandant of the Military Academy, Brig Gen Lawrence Mbatha, consented to the idea of hosting this prestigious event at the Military Academy. This has re-enforced the unit’s commitment to contribute to social development through sport. It is envisage to introducing boxing as a combat sport within the Military Academy next year. All students will undergo boxing training, as part of a physical fitness programme. This training will be two-folded: firstly to enhance hand-to-hand combat skills and secondly to encourage young SANDF members to participate in sport.
The Transformation Display at the SA Naval Museum was recently officially opened by Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Bravo Mhlana. The project was initiated by V Adm Johannes Mudimu shortly after his appointment as Chief of the Navy in 2005.

The task was given to the Naval Museum to provide a new display that would tell the story of the transformation of race and gender in the SA Navy through the years. Its purpose was to provide a much-needed balance of our history that would make the SA Naval Museum more representative of the entire Navy and its people, as we see it today.

During the opening, R Adm Mhlana said: “We have a story to tell, a good story, and the SA Naval Museum is there to narrate and display that story.” Furthermore, he emphasised that it was the Fleet’s intention to make the museum more inclusive of all the people of the Navy, not just a particular grouping. “We need the Navy’s own people to visit the museum, to take ownership, to tell their own story,” he said.

The new transformation display at the Naval Museum is the first of its kind in the Department of Defence and the first consolidated effort to capture and display this important part of history, an effort that will undoubtedly be replicated by the other arms of services.

The transformation display focuses on important landmark events that saw the transformation of the SA Navy through the years. The displays include the first non-Europeans serving in the naval forces during the Second World War, the involvement of African dockyard workers in Simon’s Town through the years, the first appointment of Coloured people into the SA Navy during the 1960s, the inclusion of women in uniform during the early 1970s, the formation of the Indian Navy at SAS SALDANHA and the SA Naval College.

A historic timeline illustrates twenty years of achievements of operations and people in democracy. It is hoped that the new display will open up healthy discussions and lively debate about our rich and varied naval history. The curator of the museum believes that, in turn, this will lead to our people sharing their own stories and memories of the past, contributing to make the SA Naval Museum their own.

The SA Naval Museum is open seven days a week from 09:30 to 15:30. A pedestrian entrance to the museum is situated off St Georges Road (Main Road) in Simon’s Town. Entry to the Museum is free of charge, but a donation can be made towards the Naval Heritage Trust.

For more information on the new display and tours of the SA Naval Museum, contact the Officer in Charge, Cdr Leon Steyn, 021 787 4622 / 4686.

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The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Golf Championship was recently officially opened by the Patron of SANDF Golf, Brig Gen Ashton Sibango, at the Selbourne Golf Club in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN).

The aim of the championship was to test the skills and perseverance of qualifying SANDF golfers and to determine a single winner in each category while the players had an opportunity to compete within the SANDF.

The day before the SANDF Golf Championship, the Inter Services Tournament was held at the same golf club. During this event the four Services of the SANDF played 36 holes divided into foursomes in the morning field and individual match play in the afternoon. The teams consist of 18 players per Service. This event was divided into A, B and C Teams. The SA Army won both the A and B-Divisions, while the SA Air Force was the winner in the C-Division.

The SANDF Golf Championship was played over four days in the form of a stroke play competition. The Championship encompassed the Open, Veterans and Women’s Divisions. Altogether 115 players, including nine women, participated from all parts of South Africa.

This championship also identified golfers that will represent the SANDF during upcoming events during 2015. The Inter Forces Tournament will be presented by the SANDF Golf Committee in Langebaan in August 2015. This Tournament will be between the SANDF, the SA Police Service, the Correctional Services and the National
Intelligence Agency (NIA). The SANDF Golf Team (six men and two women) will also participate in the CISM Military World Games in South Korea in October 2015. The final participation of the SANDF Golf Team will be during the Bilateral Golf Tournament against the Botswana Defence Force in Gaborone in November 2015.

During the week of the SANDF Golf Championship, it is tradition to always give back something to the community in the area where the championships are presented. For 2015 it was decided to invite learners from the Sezela Indian School in the area for developmental golf. During this event the SANDF Golf Committee members and some of the players divided the learners into different groups to assist and demonstrate the techniques of playing golf and golf etiquette to them. After the completion of the games, they all participated in some distance and putting games and challenges. The day was concluded with the handing over of goodie bags to the learners. Thereafter a prize-giving function was held where SANDF Golf Colours were awarded and the winners of the different categories were announced. The Vice-Chairperson SANDF Golf, Lt Col Ronel Janse van Rensburg, thanked all players and committee members for presenting an excellent SANDF Golf Championship.

Winners

During the week there was also a competition among the different regions to identify the best region in the SANDF golf environment. Gauteng North (673) was the winners with Western Cape (677) the runners-up and Limpopo (678) in the third place.

SANDF Golf Colours were presented to Maj Antoinette Smit, Maj Leigh van den Berg, S Sgt Henk Steenkamp and L Cpl Dennis Williams.

Veterans’ Division

C–Division Winner: Col Gideon Odendaal (345)
B–Division Winner: WO2 April Prins (343)
A–Division Winner: S Sgt Patrick Layman (326)

Women’s Division

Women’s Best Nett Winner: Maj Antoinette Smit (293)
Maj Antoinette Smit also made history when she made a “hole in one” on the Thursday on the 6th hole.
Women’s Winner: Col Karin Watts (338)

Men’s Open Division

C–Division Winner: Capt Christo Janse (342)
B–Division Winner: WO2 Dawie van der Merwe (320)
A–Division Winner: S Lt Charl Everts (314)

A SANDF Golf Squad consisting of 16 men and 4 women were selected:

Women
• Col Karin Watts
• Col Lyzette Potgieter
• Maj Leigh van den Berg
• Maj Antoinette Smit

Men
• S Lt Charl Everts
• Lt Col Derick Schoonwinkel
• Maj Jay van der Walt
• WO2 Dawie van der Merwe
• S Sgt Emil Gordon
• Capt Gary Shawe
• L Cpl Dennis Williams
• Capt Andre Schutte
• WO2 Bennie Basson
• S Sgt Patrick Layman
• Maj Christo Mintoor
• Brig Gen Aston Sibango
• Sgt Francois Furstenburg
• S Sgt Henk Steenkamp
• Lt Col Lance Fichardt
• Maj Gaven du Preez

ABOVE: Lt Col Ronel Janse van Rensburg, Vice-Chairperson of SANDF Golf, with the winners of the Golf Outreach Project: Amahle Khumalo, the women’s winner (left) and Sbahle Ntombela, the men’s winner.
SANDF strengthening the relations with its friendly foreign armed forces

Article and photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

Defence Foreign Relations took members of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps (MAAC) recently on a tour to different SA National Defence Force (SANDF) units in Bloemfontein, as a way of maintaining and learning about SANDF capabilities and strengthening the relationship with other countries.

The tour began at the School of Armour where officers who excelled in their different specialists functions explained the different armoured vehicles and their capabilities. Their second visit was to the SA Military Health Service at 3 Military Hospital where they met health care practitioners who took them to the wards where they were shown world-class equipment used to treat the patients. The tour continued to 44 Parachute Regiment where they were shown the exercises for new recruits wishing to be professional paratroopers.

The MAAC members were equipped with all the background information about the SANDF and found the visit to Bloemfontein very useful as it was an eye-opener for some of them.

The visit to Bloemfontein was an opportunity to learn about the SANDF's history, impact, capabilities and military culture. The MAAC members expressed their gratitude to Defence Foreign Relations for making the visit possible.

Defence Foreign Relations is primarily responsible for the promotion of foreign relations with the representatives of the MAAC and the community of the Department of Defence. The responsibility for addressing international defence issues on behalf of the SANDF is vested in Defence Foreign Relations, which in turn is responsible for the execution of the defence diplomacy function in the Department of Defence.

ABOVE: Members of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps during their tour to different SA National Defence Force units in Bloemfontein.
Spouses of senior officers and attachés relax in Bela-Bela

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

Defence Foreign Relations treated members of the SA National Defence Force Spouses Forum and the spouses of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps recently to a day of fun-filled activities at the Warmbaths Forever Resort in Bela-Bela.

The Chairperson of the SA National Defence Force Spouses Forum, Ms Busiswe Shoke, welcomed the women, especially the new ones.

Ms Shoke said: “I hope we are going to build a big family as women of the SANDF Spouses Forum and the spouses of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps. I am very pleased to be friends with you and hope we will meet again.”

She mentioned that the SA National Defence Force Spouses Forum and the spouses of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps were grateful for all the activities the Defence Foreign Relations had organised for them and would like to commend them on their efforts.

The Defence Foreign Relations is primarily responsible for the promotion of foreign relations with representatives of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps, the Department of Defence and the South African Defence Industry.

ABOVE: The SA National Defence Force Spouses Forum and spouses of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps spent a day at the Warmbaths Forever Resort in Bela-Bela.
devotion

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12  United we stand - divided we fall

By Chaplain Caroline Pillay, Chaplain Air Force Base Durban

For decades, Saddam Hussein has tortured, imprisoned, raped and murdered the Iraqi people; invaded neighbouring countries without provocation; and threatened the world with weapons of mass destruction.

The time has come to end his reign of terror … Engage your brain before you engage your weapon. Share your courage with each other as we enter the uncertain terrain north of the Line of Departure. Keep faith in your comrades on your left and right and in the Marine Air overhead …” Maj Gen J.N. Mattis.

We find ourselves in a world where the thought pattern of “I am number one” precedes all else. It is a world of “I, Me and Myself”. Relationships are discarded at will, friendships are compromised, Godly principles ignored. This results in dysfunctional families, short lived relationships, ill-disciplined children, the undoubtable “why” generation and ultimately a beaten army.

I speak today to our soldiers who are called to defend this country, who are called to uphold the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Code of Conduct, who are called to be patriotic, who are called to be faithful to that calling which we have volunteered to. When we go to war, we fight side by side and group cohesion is encouraged. The SANDF Code of Conduct also encourages us, to protect our comrades in arms, even at the risk of our lives.

Should that not be our motto and our goal? War is, but, just a word away. Are we ready in season and out of season to fight the good fight that awaits us? Therefore, there are various reasons as to why the “I am an island” syndrome should be reconsidered.

1. There are results when two people work together.
2. There is rescue when two people work together. A sole person in the midst of the most difficult situation can never be objective about getting out of a tight situation.
3. The Scripture also mentions safety when two people work together. The concept of SAFETY emanates from the backdrop of attack, over-powering, overwhelmed.
4. There is also strength when working together. Our dynamics within the military environment requires the strength of every individual to acquire the desired end-state.

The bringing together of all skills, talents and abilities, be it in our personal environments or military environment is required for us to win the battle. We need to remember that the principle of God always remains the same; our thinking must change from the cognitive to the conative for us to experience the ultimate blessing that God has destined for all of us.

As Maj Gen Mattis encouraged his soldiers, that they should not think alone, but to know and understand that strength and victory is one that is collective. It is for this matter that the spirit of UBUNTU should be encouraged and embraced.

The SANDF is a community of togetherness where members rely on one another. The statement “together we stand, divided we fall”, is loudly said even when no words are uttered. This is the message that we need to carry even to the communities we live in. We need to remember that our role is big and unique, that of protecting the Republic, therefore our togetherness, will ensure that we win the battle and we deliver as expected.

ABOVE: Chaplain Caroline Pillay.
Facilities at Personnel Service School are now wheelchair user-friendly

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

The Officer Commanding of Personnel Service School, Col Petra van der Merwe, and WO1 Ronald Chetty of the Disability Forum were pleased to inform the SA Soldier team on the progress regarding the upgrading of the facilities of the School.

The newly revamped wheelchair ramps and facilities including the parking area are now wheelchair user–friendly to accommodate people and learners with disabilities. The prescripts of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) on how such facilities should be like, including the heights for accessibility were applied.

Col Van der Merwe also highlighted that soldiers who served in combat or other musternings and not in the Personnel Corps, when seriously injured in their line of duty were remustered to the Personnel Corps. Therefore it was vital to upgrade the facilities of the School.

The Officer Commanding pointed out that Personnel Service School, as a training institution for Human Resource functionaries in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), had to acknowledge disability as a human rights’ issue. This led to the recognition that a person with disabilities does not imply his or her inability to work or learn.

Consequently the School demonstrated its support and recognition towards members with disabilities by creating a conducive and convenient work and learning environment for them as they contribute equally alongside their fellow colleagues.

Most of the buildings at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane were built in 1934 and facilities such as the office areas, halls, sleeping quarters, bathrooms and toilets. They were not designed to provide access for 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.

www.dod.mil.za

Medicinal myths and a lack of care for our natural environment will be the forces behind the extinction of this magnificent animal.