SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

FREE ... But pass it on when you are done

2015 VOL 22 NO 7
The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence
ISSN 1609 - 5014

defence
Department: Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Not easy, but extremely gratifying

CONTRIBUTIONS:
Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot accept any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.
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FRONT COVER: S Sgt Zelda Basson, an SANDF netball star. (Photo by Ms Natashia Kruger)
A sending-off function for all the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) athletes and officials before leaving for South Korea for the 6th CISM Military World Games was held at Wonderboom Military Base in Pretoria on 23 September 2015.

Our athletes will compete in nine sporting codes, namely military pentathlon, navy pentathlon, sailing, golf, triathlon, boxing, judo, taekwondo and shooting sub-disciplines.

After Capt (SAN) Majiet Ely, Acting Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, welcomed the guests at the sending-off function, the Officer Commanding of Wonderboom Military Base, Col Johann van As, wished the athletes everything of the best. He said: “If you can handle today the future is yours. Go for gold!”

The Chief of Mission, Maj Gen Louis Dulane, Chief of Corporate Staff, presented all the athletes with backpacks which will be very useful in South Korea. When addressing the athletes and officials, Maj Gen Dulane said that Physical Training, Sport and Recreation form an integral part of the physical and psychological make-up of a soldier. He added that physical training is achieved by items such as sport, which is required for force preparation.

Maj Gen Dulane said: “I congratulate you for your achievement. You have earned your stripes as sportswomen and men.”

He added: “We will not only represent the SANDF, but also South Africa and its people. Let us make our countrymen and women proud. I want you all to be the best you can be. And that our conduct will be exemplary as expected.”

The Defence Attaché of the Republic of South Korea, Capt (Navy) Jaesung Shin (who obtained a Black Dan when he was only 19 years old) who was a guest at the sending-off function, also wished the SANDF delegation well. He said: “I wish you a great Korean tour! I will see you again when you return from Korea.”

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The word CISM is the French abbreviation for the International Military Sports Council, which is one of the largest multidisciplinary organisations in the world. CISM organises various sporting events for the armed forces of 134 member countries. South Africa became a member of CISM in 1994. The formation of CISM was an effort to bring together soldiers who may previously have met on the battlefield during World War II, who now meet in friendship on the sports field. This was in accordance with the philosophy and the ideals which were set in the mission statement of CISM in 1998, signed by all member countries.

The ultimate goal of CISM is to contribute to world peace by utilising sport as a vehicle to unite armed forces. The motto of CISM is “Friendship through Sport”.

We wish our athletes and officials all the best for the 6th CISM Military World Games!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

**Translation into Xitsonga by Mr Tsundzuka “Vicky” Mthombeni, Communication Officer Defence Force Service Commission.**
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 April 1994, while on official duty.

- 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
WOMEN IN THE SA NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE

I am sure I will be speaking on behalf of every woman in the Department of Defence when I say: “Oh, we love it here”. It gives me joy as a woman being asked by civilian men what work do I do or what do I do for a living? My reply to them always brightens my face as I will be telling of how much this work makes me feel special all the time … We (women) leave our children back home knowing we are going to work hard for them. We spent months away from our families, but when we return they still offer the same love. As a woman it is not easy to leave your home without a woman’s touch and care; it is not easy being a woman leaving your husband for days, months or even a year, but with God we do overcome these challenges. We are the women in the South African National Defence Force and we love it here. Pte Moshopjadi Mathibela, 7 SA Infantry Battalion, Phalaborwa

WOMEN’S DAY

We just recently celebrated Women’s Day. Although some of us could not reach our goals and our dreams because of our circumstances we are still walking tall, conquering our challenges. Although we are heavily burdened, we still take care of our families’ happiness and we maintain our passion for our work while facing different people with different temperaments daily. Thank God for giving us that, Life teaches us through difficult ways and experiences. Learning is also good this way.

I always say whatever comes on my way is not just a hit, because I always overcome it with faith. My mother used to tell me that I must have plan A and B when I am doing something, and always to put God first, “Do not plan things without God, she would say”.

It all starts with love, when you do something you must have a strong foundation with a Christian life.

It must be love, if love is not the centre of your relationship with God you will never see or identify what God has in store for your life.

When teachers challenged Jesus about the Scriptures in the Bible, He replied by saying that first and foremost the greatest command is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your mind and with all of your strength. Our love to Him will inevitably spill over to others. Makhosi Zungu, Mtubatuba

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1 SA INFANTRY BATTALION - NOT ONLY WAR HEROES

1 South African Infantry Battalion (1 SAI Bn) took hands with Ependy Angels (a group of caring individuals changing lives of children diagnosed with cancer) in making a 10-year-old soldier’s dream come true.

Graeme Victor’s enemy is thyroid cancer which he has been battling with since 2010. His birthday was on 20 July 2015 and with his health been deteriorating quickly Ependy Angels decided to give him what is on his bucket list – to be a soldier.

Just recently staff members from 1 SA Infantry Battalion in Bloemfontein fulfil his dream. He was greeted by a guard of honour from 1 SAI Bn. Graeme got to shoot the R4 rifle (laser) and hold a 9 mm pistol. He was also the “turret commander” of a Ratel 60 and was taken for a ride in a Mamba.

All of this went along with his oxygen Graeme carries with him and he had to breathe every now and again as he uttered the word “awesome” for every new experience added to his day.

Ependy Angels also ensured that all decorations were Army related. They gave Graeme a bed in the shape of a tank, a television set and a Playstation 4 sponsored by Calvin du Randt Storage Concepts and Lonehill Mugg&Bean. Maj Heidi Lubbe, 1 SA Infantry Battalion

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.
BACHELOR DEGREE STUDIES: THE ADVANTAGE OF KNOWING

Mr Nelson Mandela once said: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” The importance of education can never be underestimated. The 2014 Defence Review expresses itself well by stating that “education, training and development … is the proven pathway for the development of military leaders with the required character, knowledge, skills and attitudes”. Working individuals who are committed to achieving excellence in the public sector are encouraged to develop themselves by studying. Studying not only holds advantages for the individual, but also for the organisation in its totality. Leadership and management development add value that enables the organisation to be propelled into the future. The Chief Directorate Human Resource Development (CD HRD) is currently identifying degrees suitable for and accessible to Department of Defence (DOD) officials (military and civilian), keen on furthering their studies. It is imperative that study fields considered for future applications for (studies at state expense or could study at own cost.) have a DOD core-business focus. Public Management, Public Administration, Political Science, Defence Studies and Security Studies have, among others, been identified as suitable study fields that would greatly benefit both the DOD and the individual. Public Management and Public Administration are fields concerned with implementing policies and programmes enacted through authoritative institutions of Government. In this regard, a series of informative bulletins will be published on the DOD Intranet. The first bulletin published has already created enthusiasm among members to start studying! The first bulletin informed DOD members regarding the Bachelors of Administration degree offered at the University of Pretoria (Ref: DOD Bulletin dated 14 April 2015). This programme will undoubtedly contribute greatly towards military leadership and professionalism as espoused by the 2014 Defence Review. It is the intent of CD HRD to provide as much information on learning programmes offered by public institutions of higher education as possible. This is aimed at encouraging members to participate countrywide. Members may apply for studies at state expense or could study at own cost.

The advantages of further studies include improved efficiency, positive attitudes, identifying and respecting organisational goals, creating a better organisational image, understanding of organisational policies, effective decision-making and problem-solving, loyalty to an organisation, successful employees and the development of leadership skills (Nel, Werner, Haasbroek, Poisat, Sono & Schultz, 2008). The DOD will benefit from these advantages, so do not delay your participation any longer! Steve Jobs, American entrepreneur, marketer, inventor, co-founder, Chairperson, and Chief Executive Officer of Apple Inc, said: “The ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do.” May we all be “crazy” in our pursuit of excellence by achieving academic successes to lead the DOD into the future! Maj Adèle Harmse, email

EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE OPENING PARADE

“On your marks, get set, we are ready for Jerusalem”. This was the song at the church service on 2 August 2015 at the General De Wet training area, a day before the opening parade of Exercise YOUNG EAGLE. The song was made the theme song of the exercise as it expressed the energy, the fire and the preparedness for combat of the soldiers of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). The church service was the first major gathering for all the forces combined together for the exercise and was followed by the opening parade. The opening parade was held on 3 August 2015 at the General De Wet training area small calibre classification shooting range by 43 SA Brigade Headquarters. The Parade Warrant Officer and the Parade Commander were MWO Ntsikelelo Ngqutwana and Lt Col Steven Jiyane, both originally from 1 Parachute Battalion. The exercise is mainly focused on airborne combat hence the airborne code of conduct was read after the SANDF Code of Conduct. The Brigade Second-in-Command, Col Hannes van der Merwe, gave the opening speech. The Brigade Warrant Officer, CWO Mike Mushavi, passed a message to the soldiers to ensure that combat discipline is being kept to the required standard by the SANDF. He passed on few but powerful words to keep a soldier on the right track until the end of the exercise and possibly throughout his or her career as a soldier. One could see through the eyes and the attentiveness of the soldiers that the message was being engraved in them and that it was probably reminding some of the basic reasons why they were in uniform. The Brigade Chaplain, Chaplain Mabandla NKayi, shared God’s Word with the soldiers on the parade. Under the command of the General Officer Commanding of 43 SA Brigade Headquarters, Brig Gen Xolani Mankayi, all soldiers were assured that the exercise would definitely be a success. With great leadership comes only the best result. With 43 SA Brigade “Combat is Power” Pte Kwena Ngoetjana, 43 SA Brigade

(Photo by Mr Charel Bezuidenhout)
On the Tuesday night before the recent test match between the All Blacks and the Springboks I had a burst of courage and with my wife’s support I entered the once in a lifetime Springbok Captain’s Run Experience on Radio 702 presented by Absa, official team sponsor of the Boks. I phoned the Udo Carelese Sports Talk Show and the competition that night involved relating your best Springbok experience. I told the story of the Semi-final of the 1995 Rugby World Cup which was won by South Africa in a nail biting game in Durban in the rain.

On that specific night my sister-in-law decided to get married at the chapel next to the Kings Park Stadium – from where one could see the lights of the stadium. We were all sitting, listening to the Chaplain conducting the service, but most of the people were more interested in the game and found innovative ways to get the score, such as going to the restroom or running to the car to switch on the radio and going back into the church and giving feedback to everyone. This game was extremely important because the winner would face the All Blacks in the Final at Ellis Park Stadium (now Emirates Airline Park) in Johannesburg.

I could not believe my luck! Out of the six callers that night I won. I was so excited to go and meet the Boks at Ellis Park Stadium. I had grown up in Jo’burg.

I was able to take a friend with me and we were guests of Absa. We met at the Absa Building, Barclays Tower West, in downtown Jo’burg where we were treated to some refreshments and some Springbok memorabilia. All guests then travelled from the Absa Building, Barclays Tower West, on the hop on/hop off tourist city bus to The Living Room restaurant in Maboneng Precinct to enjoy an iconic view of the Jo’burg’s skyline as we were treated with snacks and drinks.

We were all very surprised when we got on the hop on/hop off bus to find ex-Springbok and Cheetahs coach, Rassie Erasmus, on the bus and we were a bit nervous to meet him. He was our host for the day. Rassie impressed all the winners and was a great sport (he told me that he had been a lieutenant at the School of Armour). We then hopped back on the bus and were taken to Emirates Airline Park for the Captain’s Run. We managed to interact with some of the players and a highlight for me was meeting the bone collector, Wim Alberts, from the Sharks and having my book signed by Victor Matfield. We were served food by a chef in the Absa Suite. Then we went home and the next day we watched the game. Unfortunately we lost, but it was a great experience all round considering it was my first visit to Ellis Park. I also had Richie McCaw’s book which I wanted to get signed by the Great All Black, but I decided in my heart that I could not face him after we lost, but, who knows, maybe I will still get my chance! Well let’s hope for the best in England and let’s wear our Bok jerseys on Fridays. Go Bokke! 

Lt Col Paul Stuart Jenkins,
Defence Headquarters

AIR FORCE BASE MAKHADO REMEMBERS THE

Air Force Base (AFB) Makhado, under the leadership of Brig Gen Schalk van Heerden, paid tribute to those who had died while in service of our country. A memorial service and wreath-laying ceremony were recently held at the Base memorial site in remembrance of the sacrifices and selfless service they rendered to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). More than 180 members comprising uniformed members, Atlas Manpower Group (AMG) and defence civilians who died while working at the Base were remembered for the contribution they made in upholding and defending the Constitutional mandate of the Republic of South Africa. They served the country and its citizens with pride in accordance with the Constitution and the law and with honour, dignity, courage and integrity. According to Brig Gen Van Heerden this year’s event marked the 11th on the roll of honour since the commissioning of the site by Maj Gen Des Barker on 26 May 2006. He added that the memorial service is held annually. Brig Gen Van Heerden laid a wreath on behalf of the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang. He was followed by Lt Col Marina Swart who laid a wreath on behalf of members of Air Force Base Makhado. The following members also laid wreaths on behalf of their sections: Lt Col Francois van Zyl on behalf of members of the SA Air Force Association Limpopo Branch, followed by Lt Col Musa Mbhokota on behalf of members of 2 Squadron. Lt Col Jaco Labuschagne laid a wreath on behalf of members of 85 Combat Flying School, while Lt Col Nickolas Tshihomu laid a wreath on behalf of members of 3 Aircraft Servicing Unit. Others who laid wreaths were: Lt Col Ilse Irving on behalf of members of the Health Centre, followed by Lt Col Joe Steyn on behalf of members of 102 Squadron, followed by Warrant Officer Selaelo Matongwane on behalf of members of 515 Squadron. Ms Florence Maanda laid a wreath on behalf of defence civilians, followed by Mr Frans Vermaak who laid a wreath on behalf of the members of AMG. Mr Andrew Pienaar laid a wreath on behalf of members of the
FOCUS ON PRESERVED ARMOUR EQUIPMENT

The future combat readiness of the SA Army depends on the meticulous maintenance and preservation of all its Prime Mission Equipment (PME) and preventing deterioration due to lack of maintenance and funds. To maintain the existing assets of the various services requires absolute commitment and dedication from all members of the SA Army.

Launched at the Department of Defence Main Ordnance Sub-depot Wallmannsthal (MOSDW), the SA Army Armour Formation continued with the process of maintaining what it has in storage at various depots throughout the country. Personnel from 1 Special Service Battalion, 1 SA Tank Regiment, MOSDW Light Workshop Troop (LWT) and the Technical Service Corps (TSC) Training Centre committed themselves over a period of two weeks to conducting maintenance on its PME preserved or stored at MOSDW.

While the warehouse and the PME required much attention, no one hesitated to rectify the situation with urgency. With the TSC equipment and recovery vehicles at the MOSDW, the maintenance team managed to rearrange the PME in an orderly fashion and in an appropriate manner. The warehouse and PME were then cleaned, serviced and maintained in order to ensure their future availability.

The assistance of, and guidance by the Directorate Product System Management (DPSM) ensured that the SA Army Armour Formation maintenance team could secure the condition of the PME. DPSM will also ensure that the warehouse storage facilities are appropriately inspected and maintained according to environmentally controlled warehousing principles in the future.

Without the valuable support of TSC personnel from the TSC Training Centre this project would not have been possible and their assistance ensures optimal placement of PME, repairs to all faults and optimal maintenance.

After two weeks of hard work on the warehouse and all the PME, the General Officer Commanding SA Army Armour Formation, Brig Gen André Retief, and his staff conducted an inspection of all the facilities and PME and were pleased with the effort and dedication shown during this whole process. Participating members were thanked and presented with the SA Army Armour Formation Coin as a token of appreciation from the General Officer Commanding.

The SA Army Armour Formation will continue with planning and scheduling to ensure that the same care is given to all its PME in storage at various depots throughout the country.

Rookat armoured car. (Photo by Sgt Boitumelo Thembu)

FALLEN

Round Table, while Mr Ike Purdon laid one on behalf of members of the Friends of the SA Air Force. Mr Allan Odendaal laid a wreath on behalf of members of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTHs), followed by families and friends of the deceased members. The SA Air Force Chaplain, Chaplain Christopher Barends, who conducted the sermon, urged families and friends of the deceased always to remember to pay tribute to the fallen heroes. He said this would help in restoring healing, strengthening our resoluteness, our discipline and our purpose for being a national defence force. Chaplain Barends continued by saying that memory has the power to inspire others. According to Chaplain Barends the memories of your loved ones must always be treasured. He encouraged all members in their struggle to be strong in their faith, and said they should know that God will never leave them, nor forsake them. God is our great and unending resource and will never fail us.

Lt Thomas Mulaudzi, Communication Officer, Air Force Base Makhado

Rooikat armoured car. (Photo by Sgt Boitumelo Thembu)
Overcrowding in government schools is a serious issue throughout developing countries, where it is not uncommon for 80 or so students to be expected to study in a classroom built to hold 40 or less.

The lack of a classroom can impede everything from class discipline to basic literacy. Without the sufficient materials, it is difficult for pupils to put into practice what the teacher demonstrates at the front of the class. Learning or teaching is often unsuitable for large crowd with limited indoor space.

As part of The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) rural development efforts, the Joint Operational Tactical Headquarters (KZN) with its partners celebrated and handed over a fascinating multipurpose learning facility to Sinothile Primary School in Pongola. The SANDF built this bright, safe, child-friendly school so all children can have the opportunity to pursue a quality education and to reach their full potential.

SANDF continue to bring this facility to this rural community as they continue to play a pivotal role in rural socio-economic and infrastructure developments. This is because infrastructure development is a key priority in government, and the need is most evident in the rural communities.
The project commenced in 2013 when Lt Col Ntsunguzi deployed as Battalion Commander of 9 SA Infantry Battalion initiated Project Outreach. The aim of the project was to keep good working relations with the community where he was deployed.

SANDF members who were deployed in North of KwaZulu-Natal border between Swaziland and Mozambique warmly welcomed the project and decided to donate funds to extend the school. The gesture was welcomed by the Departments of House of Traditional Leaders, Local Government and Education.

Currently Lt Col Duncan Russell as the Battalion Commander of Durban Regiment took over the area of responsibility from Regiment Botha. Durban Regiment continued with the project with great enthusiasm and regarded it as a step forward to do something that will have a positive impact on the community and will be a landmark for the successive battalions.

The Headmaster of Sinothile Primary School approached Lt Col Russell that she needed help to build a hall or classroom for her learners. The plan was drawn up 9 X 14.6 square meters, which will accommodate eighty learners and it was approved by the Local Municipality in Pongola.

The school had two classrooms accommodating seventy six learners in one block. Each classroom was shared by Grade 1 and 2 and the other classroom was shared by Grade 3 and 4. The situation was not conducive for optimal learning, hence the need to extend the building of the multi-purpose facility.

The multi-purpose construction officially commenced on 5 May 2015. Cpl Nongqunga, the Battalion Engineer from 1 Construction Regiment, was the leader of the building team. The team consisted of seven members, including the team leader, and they work for a week at a time assisted by Mr Jabulani Shoyisa who is the community builder.

In addition the team also repaired and renovated the existing building and serviced the JOJO water tank and made the school more child-friendly. The members of the Durban Regiment also donated school tracksuits, uniform and shoes to the learners.

Not only did the SANDF members make indelible mark in contributing to the Mandela Month but the project will leave a legacy for future generations to come. These improvements to the learning environment have shown to have a positive effect on children’s education and are a good investment in the long term health of the school.

This shows a sound social investment policy and a willingness to plough back to communities where it matters the most.
The Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke, met with the Air Chief Staff Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha who undertook a 4 day official visit to South Africa. The visit was part of India’s effort to extend its bilateral footprint.

Chief Air Marshall Raha held talks with senior SANDF leadership to discuss a wide range of issues on enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries. He had also met with Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang.

Gen Shoke mentioned that since the two countries are in the BRICS block (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), they should continue to foster relations beyond the organisation. He said South Africa shares historical relations with India as there is a large Indian population in the country. Gen Shoke also mentioned that India’s struggle hero, Mahatma Ghandi, had also visited South Africa years back.

He said: “India is one of the countries that supported our cause when we were in the struggle to attain freedom. The question is how they develop economically as members of the BRICS block. I hope that institutions that are being set, like the BRICS Bank will succeed and be an alternative to other global financing organisations who offer economic growth and relief.”

Gen Shoke added: “We do have strong relations politically, we hope we will be working together in the defence and military industry, by exchanging ideas and co-operations, military to military. Among other things on co-operations are officer to officer exchange programmes, including training of pilots as we have similarities in terms of aircraft in the air forces.”

Gen Shoke said China and Russia recently had a naval exercise and with the anticipation of the IBSA exercise (India, Brazil and South Africa); he wishes to include China and Russia as part of IBSA exercise.

Air Chief Marshal Raha mentioned that there is a need to deal with terrorism and drug trafficking. He said that there should be cooperation and equipping of intelligence structures that would allow the sharing of information.

Air Chief Marshal Raha said: “It is in the interest of the civilised world to put an end to terrorism. Piracy is also huge concern so we can share information and work jointly. Another area is the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief which came as an agenda point for the IBSA forum for the first quarter of next year. It is where we will be having an exercise where we simulate a situation of a disaster.”

He continued: “I would like to thank the opportunity for a counterpart visit. I think we have similar concerns in terms of maritime security in the ocean region, geopolitical and maritime expedition. South Africa is one of the leading countries in Africa and most nations in the continent are looking up to you for guidance in term of dealing with geopolitics, economic development and trade.”

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DOD Functional Guidelines Workshop on planning, budgeting, reporting and risk management

Planning, budgeting, reporting and risk management are critical processes for the effective management of modern corporations. Once goals and objectives have been identified planning, budgeting and risk management became essential components of strategy execution.

The Department of Defence (DOD) held its functional guidelines workshop for planning, budgeting, reporting and risk management at Centre for Conflict Simulation at SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane for the development of departmental outcomes-based guidelines and appropriate departmental planning instruments aligned and in support of national and departmental imperatives, Departmental Priorities and approved departmental Performance Information.

The workshop was held to enable delegates to understand the connections that operate within the management system and explore key concepts, tools and practices. Significantly, the linkages between the financial and operational sides of the business were also likely to have an impact on the management of risks and measurement of performances.

The National Treasury Regulations, developed in terms of the Public Finance Management Act 1 (PFMA) 1999, read together with the NT Framework for Managing Programme Performance Information, and the NT Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans requires national departments, public entities and organs of state to provide funded plans that are to reflect how the respective mandates of the department and entities will be executed through well-defined outcomes, outputs and appropriate performance information.

The Defence Review 2014 which was approved by Parliament on 4 June 2015 will provide a long term Defence Policy and Defence Strategic Trajectory formed a back-drop for consideration during the guidelines.

The DOD planning, budgeting, reporting and risk management process was to ensure that the issued guidelines are aligned and include the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Priorities for FY2016/17 and beyond, Secretary For Defence and Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) focus areas for FY2016/17, the legislative planning requirements, DOD Environmental 2015 for FY2017/18 MTEF Scan briefing, Defence Intelligence Estimate, Joint Force Employment Requirements, the DOD Performance Information Management for FY2017/18 and DOD Internal Audit FY2015/16 Findings.

The focus of the Departmental Guidelines was laid primary within the inputs level of the results based model (DOD Strategy Map) as outlined. Charged with ensuring economy and efficiency of inputs (resources) and reflected the envisaged performance information (measures and targets) were achieved through the promulgation of departmental guidelines.

This workshop was presented in a very user-friendly way to suit individuals with varying levels of financial knowledge and experience. The workshop was conducted along workshop principles with formal presentations, case studies and interactive work examples. The workshop combines theory and practice. The purpose was to use a mix of proven learning techniques to ensure maximum understanding, comprehension and retention of the information presented.
The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Educational Trust continues to grow in leaps and bounds as prospective donors were given an opportunity to make pledges towards the trust at a gala dinner hosted by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, at the Swartkop West Combined Club.

The Trust was established in October 2013 by the Chief of the SANDF with the intention of providing financial assistance by means of bursaries for educational purposes to the dependants of deceased SANDF members who were killed while on duty.

The Trust was established after the SANDF suffered 15 casualties while in operation at the Central African Republic in 2013. The Chief of the SANDF realised the need to set up a trust fund as dependants of the fallen soldiers were faced with a predicament of taking over their responsibilities.

During the first 18 months of the existence of the trust, the trustees managed to collect donations to the value of R5 050 000. For the 2014 and 2015 academic years the trustees have awarded 91 bursaries to the value of R1 200 000. The trust has received R7 770 500 from donations thus far.

Gen Shoke spoke at length when he explained that most of the soldiers who died, in what is termed The Battle of Bangui, were young and left children that still needed to be looked after. He said that the need to establish a trust fund was imminent as soldiers often times undergo volatile and dangerous missions.

He said: “Sometimes you undertake missions on behalf of the country not knowing that you will ever come back alive, and the Central African Republic incident was a prime example of how things can turn out in operations.”

He continued: “As much as we welcome you here on behalf of the men and women in uniform, I would like to appeal to you that we are here for a noble cause and make a plea that you open your hearts. Whatever you contribute will be highly appreciated as it benefits men and women who serve you.”

Gen Shoke indicated in his address that most people in the country do not understand the role

ABOVE: The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, appealed to the donors to also be ambassadors of the SANDF.

ABOVE: Fltr: Honorary Colonel of the SA Irish Regiment and Eskom Acting CEO, Mr Brian Molefe, with the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, and Honorary Colonel of the Logistic Support Formation and the South African Premier Soccer League Chairperson, Dr Irvin Khoza, at the SANDF Education Trust gala dinner.
of a soldier. He said people look at the military from a narrow perspective, arguing that people should rise above petty party political issues and look at what the SANDF does from a national interest point of view.

The Chief of the SANDF said: “We are there for you, we are your servants. I would like to appeal to you to become ambassadors of this defence force and take it to the level where each and every South African would be proud to associate with.”

The Patron of the SANDF Education Trust, Dr Irvin Khoza, mentioned that when he was asked to be the patron of the trust, he did not understand members serving in the SANDF and the extent of the challenge.

He said: “What is not public is not useful as most of us do not understand what these men and women do for us in this country and what the defence force stands for. After watching the video, I understand why it is important for all of us to make a contribution to the trust.”

Dr Khoza said the SANDF is an institution that embodies a value which must be celebrated. He said people should celebrate acts of those who have departed as they lived a life that could never be interred but only their remains.

He said the brave soldiers laid down their lives for the future of the South African society. Dr Khoza also remarked that although they have departed the earth of the living, their memories shall be upheld for posterity as they were custodians of common nationhood.

Dr Khoza said: “To the children and the loved ones that are left behind, we say thank you for sharing these gallant heroes with the rest of us. And to all of us making contributions, it does not commensurate the level of sacrifice these soldier made. We know that the children of the fallen soldier will appreciate the spirit in which it was given.”

The Chairperson of the SANDF Education Trust and the Chief of the Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, shared a story of a Reserve Force member who was part of the SA Irish Regiment who went into an ambush while deployed in the Sudan and got badly wounded that he lost both his hands.

Maj Gen Andersen mentioned that on a visit with his staff to see him in hospital, the member explained that neither him nor his wife have civilian work and was troubled by his grave injury. He said: “Yet that man still looked at me, smiled and stretched his injured arms to acknowledge me as General.”

He added: “I made some phone calls to get him some help with essential goods that he and his family may need. But when I looked at that Rifleman’s face and informed him that he should not worry, we will educate his three children; just the look on his face made all the work worthwhile.”

Maj Gen Andersen mentioned that he wanted to thank the Chief of the SANDF for being persistent and committed ever since he had instructed him to establish the SANDF Education Trust. He said: “You have done a great deed to the soldiers under your command.”

The Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Parks Tau, subsequently donated a cheque of two million Rand to Gen Shoke during a breakfast function organised at the Mayor’s Parlour, at the Civic Centre in Johannesburg. The city hosts the annual Charity Golf Day to raise funds that supports various activities. Mayor Tau said that funds raised at last year’s golf day will support the SANDF Education Trust.

He said the trust signifies real dreams of a rainbow nation following the amalgamation of the Liberation Movement armed wings, the former SA Defence Force and home land defence forces following the democratic dispensation in 1994. Councillor Tau said the trust will support the children’s dreams and aspirations in the spirit of nation building.

Mayor Tau said: “I think my sense of patriotism and pride, and my sense of celebration was raised when General spoke with pride about the service of our members in bringing peace on the African continent, for in many ways those who died in the Central African Republic where there to bring peace and bring stability. They came under fire when they were attacked. This is a story I got from the funerals of one of the members I attended in 2013.”
In pursuit of effective logistic support in the region

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) XVI Logistic Working Group (LWG) was held at the St George Hotel in Pretoria to address the logistical challenges in the region, to support peace operations, deliberate on the need to establish a Standby Force and to develop the required lifting strategies for land, air and sea operations in pursuit of effective logistic support in the region.

In his opening remarks, Maj Gen Morris Moadira, Acting Chief of Logistics, expressed his profound appreciation and gratitude to the delegates for having accepted the invitation to attend the SADC XVI Logistic Working Group meeting.

In his opening remarks, Maj Gen Morris Moadira, Acting Chief of Logistics, expressed his profound appreciation and gratitude to the delegates for having accepted the invitation to attend the SADC XVI Logistic Working Group meeting.

He said that the previous SADC LWG meeting held in Namibia had identified challenges and daunting logistics issues worth deliberating and urged the delegates to turn these challenges into viable opportunities by critically analysing them because well-digested ideas would enable the Chiefs of defence forces to take informed decisions to the benefit of the region and its people.

He told the delegates that Africa and the SADC region were going through drastic defence and structural changes and transformation that necessitated the need to secure effective security mechanisms. He added that if such structural changes are not logistically supported, they would be doomed to failure. Hence all efforts must be geared towards effective logistic service delivery.

The meeting provided the delegates with an opportunity to assess the challenges that must be overcome in order to preserve peace and stability in the region. This could be achieved if the SADC LWG provided the correct information for the Chiefs of defence forces.

During the meeting the delegates were also updated regarding the establishment of the SADC Regional Logistic Depot, including its concept, structure and force design. They were also briefed on the Rapid Deployment Capability and the SADC Logistic Plan to participate in the AMANI AFRICA II Field Exercise scheduled from 19 October to 7 November 2015 at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla.

The delegates were requested to make a careful study of the explanatory documents made available from the African Union Commission, as this would lead to a good understanding of the concept of the Africa Standby Force Strategic Mobility Package and the land, air and sea-lifting strategies.

Furthermore it was agreed that there was a need to intensify efforts to establish a strong Standby Force that is well equipped and ready to deploy at short notice. The strengthening of the SADC Standby Force, other security structures and the development of the action plan would assist in meeting the daunting task of peace, security and stability, particularly if the SADC Strategic Mobility Package Depot is operational, well stocked with the necessary equipment and able to continue resupplying the deployed forces.

In his closing remarks, the Chairperson of the SADC XVI Logistic Working Group, Brig Gen Mike Craig, thanked all the delegates for having found the time despite their busy schedules to come and deliberate on issues of common interest to the SADC Region. He also thanked them for their enormous support rendered during the meeting and said that the meeting had achieved its objectives.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Defence Legal Working Group (DLWG) recently convened under the auspices of the Defence Sub-Committee (DSC) in Pretoria to address the need to intensify efforts aimed at strengthening the SADC Standby Force. As an important pillar of African peace and security on the continent, SADC meetings are scheduled to convene annually in a different SADC country.

The Chief Defence Intelligence of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Lt Gen Jeremiah Nyembe, welcomed the delegates at the meeting and said that he hoped the discussions would resolve some of the legal issues constituting stumbling blocks towards achieving a fully functional SADC Standby Force.

Lt Gen Nyembe said: “You will agree with me that the SADC Standby Force needs to be legally set up for the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) to be fully operational. The SOFA is long overdue for completion.”

He indicated that member states were unable to deploy troops in each other’s territories as this could involve legal issues. He urged delegates to focus closely on the matter during their deliberations. He said: “I also urge delegates to have regular meetings of this nature as it will help us achieve our objectives.”

In recent months, South Africa has hosted a number of multinational gatherings on different forums. These included the DSC which deliberated on the outcomes of all standing committees.

Lt Gen Nyembe said the member states reported to their Defence Chiefs. He said the SOFA issue came to the fore when they had discussions in 2009 in Zambia. He said: “It is therefore imperative for us to reach a consensus in terms of how we move forward.”

He added: “Our Chiefs are working eagerly to see the matter through. Delegates to this gathering understand well the implications of anything we do. Completing the SOFA will help us advise our principals correctly.”

He also cited the hosting of the World Economic Forum and the African Union (AU) Summit as highlights for the country. He conceded that the SADC was one of the regions whose leaders discussed issues frankly and in a respectable manner, notwithstanding their differences.

Lt Gen Nyembe said this might help influence the AU to resolve issues in other regions. He said: “I want to stress that the outcomes of the working group should therefore help us overcome some of the challenges we have in the SADC region.”

The Chairperson of the SADC Defence Legal Working Group (DLWG) and Acting Chief Defence Legal Services, Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, said the DLWG would meet again soon to finalise outstanding matters.

He said the working group was also responsible for making recommendations to the Operations Sub-Subcommittee and the Defence Subcommittee. He indicated that they agreed about the importance of meeting on a regular basis.

“The last time we met was in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 2013. We have agreed to meet on a regular basis in compliance with our rules of procedure,” he said.

Other matters that have been discussed in the DLWG meetings include the SADC Strategic Plan on combating illegal migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons. The Defence Subcommittee directed that consultation be made regarding the drafting of the plan.

The DLWG was also tasked to develop an Operational Legal Framework for the deployment of the SADC Standby Force in the UN and AU Peace Support Missions. The Memorandum of Understanding developed by the DLWG will spell out operational relations between the UN, AU and SADC.
Senior Military Management Programme certificates awarded

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

The Senior Military Management Programme (SMMP) is a prerequisite for acceptance on the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP) presented at the SA National War College (SANWC). The Commandant of the SANWC, Brig Gen Sisseko Nombewu, said the knowledge that has been gained through this programme will serve as a milestone for future career prospects of the learners.

Brig Gen Nombewu congratulated the eighty learners who enrolled for the SMMP which was presented by lecturers from the SA Military Academy. He said: “Allow me to extend a personal welcome to all our honoured guests, especially the heroes of the day who are the SMMP graduates of 2015.”

He added: “I believe the SMMP has cultivated a seed of quest for excellence and mental balance required to gain traction that will empower you towards attending the JSCSP that will give you an opportunity to develop yourself for future employment at an operational level of war.”

The SMMP is a building block towards a South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) and the National Qualification Framework (NQF) accreditation of the JSCSP at an NQF Level 6 which result into a National Diploma Joint and Multinational Operation issued by the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA).

Brig Gen Nombewu expressed his appreciation of the partnership that has been forged with the SA Military Academy over the past three years towards the qualification. He said the University of Stellenbosch has already approved the first stream of the post graduate diploma in Defence Studies.

He said: “This advances forward the developments and progress to empower learners who will be attending the second stream of the envisaged post graduate qualification at the SA National War College that will be registered with the Council of Higher Education scheduled to commence in 2016.”

Representing the Dean of the SA Military Academy, Dr Fankie Monama, said that they were privileged as the SA Military Academy and the Faculty of Military Science towards contributing of the educational goals and values of the SANDF as the ceremony demonstrate that commitment.

Dr Monama remarked: “Today you are graduates as senior officers of the SANDF that have completed the Senior Military Management Programme successfully. You now have a prerequisite to the Joint Senior Command Staff Programme.”

He mentioned that the SSMP is an important milestone in any soldier’s career. Dr Monama highlighted that the ceremony represents a significant stride that the learners have taken; however, it should not be a culmination but a beginning of a journey in their educational endeavour.

He said: “Now that you have completed this programme, know that it is not business as usual. It means that you learned something and going to do things differently. It should signify change in individual thought process.”

The General Officer Commanding Training Command, Maj Gen Andries de Wit, said the SMMP forms an integral part of the JSCSP. He mentioned that the graduates of the programme have completed the first milestone in their higher education and can be proud of their achievement.

Maj Gen De Wit said the components of the programme constitute the entry requirement for the JSCSP. The content of the SMMP is on par with other tertiary institutions offering the same programme. He mentioned, however, that the SANWC has made specific design inputs to comply with specifications of the curriculum and the content of the programme.

He said it resulted in the removal, changes and additions into the curriculum and contents of the JSCSP. Cornerstone subjects that have been included in the make-up of the programme are Financial Management, Leadership and Security Studies.

Maj Gen De Wit said: “We need these subjects moving forward. Let this programme be a first step in your educational path. We need people to study financial management and to see into the future how a defence budget can influence the national economy of a country.”

Fltr: Commandant SA National War College, Brig Gen Siseko Nombewu, Commandant SA Military Academy, Brig Gen Lawrence Mbatha, Lt Col Ronald Maseko, a learner, General Officer Commanding Training Command, Maj Gen Andries de Wit, and the Dean of the SA Military Academy, Prof Samuel Tshehla.
Financial misconduct, fruitless and wasteful expenditure can bring the National Defence Force to a halt!

“Prevention of Irregular and Fruitless Expenditure: Starts with me”
The Department of Defence embraces gender mainstreaming

The Chief Directorate Transformation Management (CDTM) hosted the DOD Gender Conference recently at the Swartkop Air Force Base. The conference reflected on the progress made on gender mainstreaming in the DOD, while forging ahead with discussions that aimed to include women at the sharp-end of the SA National Defence Force.

Mainstreaming is not an end in itself but a strategy or a means to achieve equality in society.

The concept involves ensuring that gender perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to national or organisational activities, policy development, research, advocacy, legislation, resource allocation, planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said gender training has been promoted as a key strategy in efforts to mainstream gender perspective in National Development Plans. She indicated that it implies the finalisation of the DOD’s plans to implement the Defence Mainstreaming Review that should also ensure the Defence mandate is pursued through gender lenses.

She said: “As you may recall, during my Budget Vote Speech in May 2015, I directed that Gender Issues be incorporated in all military
development courses, as this would be in compliance with the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security."

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said female soldiers’ participation in military exercises, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standby Force Brigade, United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) missions must be underscored and promoted.

She said women in the DOD have taken on multifaceted responsibilities in peace support operations, in the hardest environments on the African continent. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “The DOD women serve at the front line of safeguarding the SA borders. They support other government departments in times of need, and they are there for communities that are hit by natural disasters and over the years have become part of decision-making bodies in the DOD.”

She added: “It is with the great pride though, that to date, the SANDF has the largest contingency of women in our deployments in the country and on the continent. This has been acknowledged by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Office. With this we have set an example that women are as good as men in the military field.”

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Norman Yengeni, noted that as the DOD celebrates Women’s Month, it is also an opportunity to take stock of achievements. He said that the indicator on gender representation in the DOD is currently at 29.8% out of a 30% set target.

Lt Gen Yengeni said: “This can only mean that we actually reached our goal in terms of the numbers. South Africa has been recognised by the UN as one of the countries which has women representation in the forefront; specifically in the leadership positions and those deployed in peacekeeping operation.”

The Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen Thandiwe Nodola, believes that female soldiers should no longer continue to experience difficulties in their respective spheres of operations. She said issues of transformation and gender biasness are still a problem that women experience in the world. She indicated, however, that there are resilient, courageous and determined women who despite the odds continue to thrive.

Maj Gen Nodola was unapologetic when she mentioned that the SANDF will continue to celebrate the heroic women who constantly play a role in shaping a better future in the SANDF. She said that the outcome of the gender conference will ensure integration and partnership in support of other government departments in gender equality is strengthened.

She said: “Over the years the SANDF has produced exceptional women who have made valuable contributions in changing and improving social conditions of their community and themselves.”

Maj Gen Nodola concluded: “We pose a challenge to the conference to come up with ideas that will contribute to the change on power relations in society which will end violence against women. Chiefs of Services and career managers must empower women to be included at the sharp-end of the SANDF.”

ABOVE: Attendees of the Department of Defence Gender Conference.
In honour of women who serve in the defence

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos by S Sgt Tlhako

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, said that the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) needs to overcome the legacy of the country that had perpetuated gender discrimination.

The Minister stressed that more needs to be done to advance gender representatively in the Department of Defence (DOD)/SANDF if common ground is to be found.

These were her sentiments when Minister Mapisa-Nqakula addressed about 500 women who had gathered at the Pretoria Military Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane for the Women’s Day Parade, which formed part of the 59th commemoration of Women’s Month in South Africa.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “On this day we applaud women’s achievements and also focus on the task ahead, because the long walk of women to emancipation is not within our reach yet. On that note, I would like to express my congratulations and well wishes to the women on parade.”

In the Minister’s Budget Vote, she had asserted that she is proud of the fact that the SANDF has the largest contingency of women on deployments on the continent; and this has been acknowledged by the United Nations (UN) Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

In the same vain, she had also reported that the SANDF has met the 30% set target, indicating that there is currently five female Major Generals and 35 female Brigadier Generals.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “We already have eight female Defence Attachés. A sizeable number of women are further deployed in all spheres of our military operations. We have approximately 432 women deployed externally and 562 internally. The UN recognises that we deploy the most women in the world to its international peace missions.”
The Minister urged women in the SANDF to equally have the responsibility of making themselves available for training in order for the organisation to have a wide pool of female soldiers that can be considered for promotion.

She indicated that they have witnessed women who are booming and demonstrating their capability in their area of work. She said it should serve as a constant reminder that it is important for the Ministry of Defence to address issues of gender mainstreaming.

The Minister said: “The decision by South African Government to designate the month of August as Women’s Month was not solely to commemorate the history of women’s struggle; it was to give the nation an opportunity to come together and assess the progress made to address the plight of women.”

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula continued: “This plight include the many fundamental demands made by women before, during and after 1956. Now, let us break down the social barrier that seeks to restrict women within the military space.”

She mentioned that it is important as women to gather at conferences or parades to celebrate the activism of the 1956 female pioneers; women should also look at the road they have travelled and make an assessment.

The Minister said: “To make this assessment, we need to be frank and honest as possible. If we do it, we will realise that the road travelled by women is painted with evident gains and challenges.”

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said that as much as the Department has outlined a number of interventions in the gender mainstreaming strategy of the DOD, the progress and the commitment to institutionalise gender mainstreaming remains slow.

She cited that gender mainstreaming within the DOD/SANDF is not an appendix of the mandate and contractual obligation, however, the DOD as an institution of government is required by law to attend to the matter.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “I am aware that at policy level, both the White Paper on Defence and the current Defence Review, we applied our statement of commitment to address gender imbalances and the empowerment of women in the SANDF.”

*Above: The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, inspects the parade during the Women’s Day Parade. (The Minister is accompanied by the Parade Commander, Lt Col Elfreda Zondagh from the Mobile Military Health Formation Headquarters.)*

*Above: Members on parade acknowledge the salute fly-past.*
Lt Col Chanel Burnell made history in the SA Air Force when she was appointed as the first female to be the Officer Commanding of a flying squadron.

SA Air Force Management and Air Force Base Waterkloof members came in a large number to witness the prestigious 44 Squadron Change of Command Parade held on 6 August 2015 in Pretoria.

On this day the command of 44 Squadron was handed over from Col Ruan Potgieter to Lt Col Chanel Burnell who was the Acting Officer Commanding of 44 Squadron since 1 July 2015. The outgoing 44 Squadron Officer Commanding, Col Potgieter, addressed the parade and said: “I was fortunate enough to have served in the SA Air Force under five of the 17 of those previous officers commanding at various units, those being Col Gabriel Steenkamp, Col Marius Bekker, Col Herman Olmesdal, Col Michael Port, Col Rodney King and others.”

He also added: “It is to them that I owe a large gratitude due to their contribution in my development as a military leader. They taught me that rank does not confer privilege or give power; it imposes responsibility.”

He continued: “No matter where you go in Africa and with variety of languages you will always find a saying commonly known as UBUNTU, meaning togetherness. The actual phrasing, Umuntu Ngumuntu Ngunabantu more directly translates as: I am because you are. So we are to serve the people of our country and the people of this continent because our existence remains forever intertwined.”

The parade braced up and marched past in columns of flights and the new Officer Commanding, Col Potgieter, saluted as she took her oath of Office.

The outgoing 44 Squadron Officer Commanding, Col Potgieter, concluded by 44 Squadron culture in honour of the fallen heroes by a poem, an Ode to 44 “Many years on from afar asunder, people will gather to sing our praise history, honour and brotherhood onwards will come together in all our ways we stand together through all our trials. Trusting in God and supporting our kin the heat of the desert it forged us in battle” Prosumus always we’ll never give in 44!

Lt Col Burnell was overwhelmed and proud to have joined the list of many women who are Officers Commanding in the SA Air Force.
Senior female facilitator at the DOD School of Logistics

Article and photo by Cpl Mzontsundu Mdolomba, Public Address Operator at Western Cape Signal Unit

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) has always been a champion of women empowerment since its inception in 1994. DOD Logistic Formation (DOD Log Fmn) has not been alone in trumpeting this achievement. DOD School of Logistics (DOD Log School) promotes women’s empowerment by appointing Maj Thandeka Matanzima as the first African female facilitator and assessor.

Maj Matanzima was born on 28 July 1982 at eQamata village near Queenstown, Eastern Cape Province. She started her primary schooling at Bonga Primary School in 1991 and completed it at Intshinga Primary School in 1994. From 1995 to 1999 she attended Luhlaza Senior Secondary at Khayelitsha in Cape Town where she obtained a senior certificate.

After matric she acquired a certificate in Travel and Tourism at Sivuyile Technical College in 2000. Subsequently she furthered her studies and achieved a certificate in Tourism Management at Cape Tech in 2001. In 2002 she worked as a Senior Travel Consultant at Rennies Travel then became a Senior Administration Clerk at Xolani Primary School until she joined the SANDF in 2003.

“I was inspired by the patriotism and professionalism portrayed by Defence personnel to join SANDF. Discipline and commitment depicted by the soldiers stimulated my urge to join the SANDF,” she said. In 2003 she did her basic military training at 3 SA Infantry Battalion (3 SAI Bn). Maj Matanzima initiated her military career in the Non-commissioned Officers’ (NCO) corps before she joined the Officer’s corps. She served for five years as an NCO before being considered for the Officers’ Formative Course.

Maj Matanzima said: “During my stint as NCO I attended and passed the following courses: Initial Supply Support in 2004, Codification in 2005, Item Identity Course in 2005, NCO Formative in 2007, Driving and Maintainer 2007, Basuas (Module 72) 2007 and the Education, Training and Development Programme in 2008. Furthermore my first promotion to the rank of L Cpl was the best time ever in my military career. The rank of L Cpl’s is the essential for leadership development in the military. It is here that a soldier demonstrates leadership traits in the military.”

In the fifth year of her military profession, Maj Matanzima was nominated to attend the Officers’ Formative Course presented at Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg from July to December 2008. This was the start of her voyage as an officer in the SANDF. Maj Matanzima went through the ranks from Lieutenant to a Major, her current rank.

As a Lt in 2008, Maj Matanzima worked at the SA Army College as a Logistics (Log) Officer. In January 2009 she was transferred to DOD Log School where she worked as a facilitator and assessor at Unit Procurement Administration Course (module 7). In 2012 she was promoted to the rank of Captain. Thereafter she was promoted to the rank of a Maj and is working as a facilitator of module 8 Theory.

As an officer, Maj Matanzima attended and successfully completed the following courses: Junior Supply Support Officers (module 6) in 2009, Kurmenu (module 73) 2010, Assessors and Moderation in 2011, Unit Procurement Administration Course in 2012, Military Law in 2013, Module 8 Theory in 2014 and Integrated Sub-unit Commander’s Course in 2015.

Apart from the military, Maj Matanzima has several academic achievements. In 2009 she studied and completed Logistics and Supply Management at Damelin where she obtained a certificate. She further acquired a certificate in Public Procurement and Chain Management at Unisa in 2014. Currently Maj Matanzima is busy studying towards a certificate in Advance Supply Chain Management through Unisa. To add to her seemingly never-ending adding list of her academic achievements, Maj Matanzima enrolled at the University of Johannesburg for a National Diploma in Transport Management in 2016.

In the South African context, the month of August is regarded as Women’s Month. It is set aside to commemorate the legacy left by women during the liberation struggle. Furthermore this month is earmarked to encourage female leaders to start where these Stalwarts left off. As a “Senior Officer” in the SANDF, Maj Matanzima joined other IMBOKODO within the SANDF in supporting and encouraging women to face the future with pride, hope and confidence.

Maj Matanzima said: "I would like to encourage women not to be demoralised by the situations they find themselves in. Face the challenges with a smile and a positive attitude. Always persevere, endure, be courageous and fight for what is rightfully yours. The obstacles that you encounter in life must not halt your dreams; instead they must stimulate your urge to prosper. There are situations that negate us, but we must not succumb to them."

“WATHINT’ABAFAZI WATHINT’IMBOKODO"
“Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.” (NIV Study Bible Job 8:7). I can really agree with Job in the Bible. Yes, it is true my early studies began very small. I started with Criminology and Biblical Science at Unisa. The late Prof Irma Labuschagne and Prof Ferdinand Deist inspired me a lot. When I wanted to continue after my first year studies, the eye surgeon stopped me.

I was very angry and for many years I had a very bad attitude. One day a colleague said to me, you know, you have some unfinished business in your life and this is the reason for your frustration and attitude.

Out of one of the Afrikaans songs came this phrase “Swerwers sonder rigting en soekers wat nooit vind”. My life story was not one of a wanderer without any direction and seekers who could not find. From the beginning, the plan that my Heavenly Father had for me was so obvious and my oath to Him and many years later, my promise to my dad that I will finish my studies at Unisa.

After many years and a lot of excuses, the Lord remembered me of my oath to Him. Two of my friends encouraged me to start again with my studies.

With the encouragement of my lecturers, friends and colleagues and despite criticism I ran this race to the best of my ability, dignity and excellence. Yes, there were often stumbling blocks, because life can sometimes be very tough. The writer Corrie Ten Boom said when the Lord instructed you to go on a rocky road He will give you the right shoes for your journey.

A work/study plan is a very important guideline, before you can start your studies. You must have a positive attitude and passion for your study field. Persistence and endurance are excellent teammates to reach the highest goal. When there are hardship times, be confident, persevere and use your time and energy accurately. Accept your challenge, whatever it may be. Think, say, do and live it. Be conscientious, concentrate and focus on the studies, but also remember to take a break for short periods to rest.

It was not only a long and tough journey to the end of my studies and victory, but also a journey where I learned what really matters: sacrifice, endurance, strength, courage and boldness.

I enrolled at Unisa for an honours degree and energetically embraced the exiting challenges about Ancient Near East history.
The Advanced Management Development Programme attendees.

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Chief Directorate Human Resource Development (CD HRD) Defence Civilian Education Training and Development, enrolled members of the Department of Defence on the Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP). The principle objective of the programme is to enhance the management capacity of managers in National and Provincial Departments to facilitate optimum leverage for service delivery to citizens.

The AMDP imparts a variety of skills, knowledge and techniques to managers, so they are able to perform optimally in the delivery of services. The training improves the respective managers’ ability to manage their supervisory and managerial activities with greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and responsiveness.

Professor of Public Management, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Mr Mashupye Maserumule, who presented the programme indicated that what is more important is to think of how the concept of Batho Pele (people first) can be made a success in the public service.

He urged attendants to have a sense of who they are serving and what are the needs and expectations of clients. He said they must understand the meaning of Batho Pele so that they can give a practical expression of what it means when interacting with their responsibilities.

In an attempt to inculcate the culture of Batho Pele, some national departments have formulated a Service Commitment Charter. Mr Maserumule also said the African Union (AU) on Public Service and Administration has got service charter for specific public service issues on how African public service should be conducted.

He said: “How can we institutionalise Batho Pele principles in the public service and ensure that it is practiced daily. How can we translate Batho Pele into reality as we reflect on how best we can improve as public servants?”

He said: “When you develop a service charter, make sure that it focuses on aspects that included quality, choice, standard and value. A charter seeks to ensure that we commit ourselves to certain important aspects that underpin the importance of what we are supposed to do.” He further elaborated on the Management Strategy for Service Delivery, which focuses on the role management can play in terms of improving conduct and attitude towards service delivery.

He said the first thing that needs to be looked at is the regulatory framework, which should not be rigid but flexible and gives an opportunity to be creative. Mr Maserumule cited that to make government effective supervisors ought to master the art of human capital, and retain that which we need in the public service.

Mr Maserumule said: “Strategies to promote and implement a new service delivery policy framework should include a skills audit to check the relevance and if the mandate is met. We should not get tired of advising the leadership of the ideas that work.”
SANDF FUND SPENDS R77 000 ON PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

In 2014 the SANDF Education Trust asked the SANDF Fund to assist in educating the children of SANDF members who died as a result of military service. The SANDF Education Trust’s constitution, which provides money to educate children at school, does not include assistance to children too young for school. However, often children who have lost the parent responsible for their support are dependent on external assistance for pre-school education.

Having a pre-school foundation is so important to children when entering Grade 1 that the Board of the SANDF Fund agreed to provide for children qualifying for assistance until they were ready to enter Grade 1.

In 2014 the SANDF Fund provided an amount of R77 000 to pay for pre-school education.

It is foreseen that in 2015 an amount of at least R98 000 will be set aside to pay for pre-school children.
SEA CADETS VISIT 
SA NAVAL MUSEUM

Article and photo by Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves

Sea Cadet Leading Seaman and Petty Officer classes from TS Woltemade visited the SA Naval Museum in Simon’s Town to learn about South Africa’s Naval history. Prior to the visit only a fifth of the class and Officers/Instructors had visited the museum which is open to the public free of charge 7 days a week.

The opportunity provided them all with a practical opportunity to learn about the history of the SA Navy, naval and nautical traditions and have a feel for life at sea as it developed over the centuries.

SLT (SCC) Dr David Walker, a lecturer in Maritime Affairs at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and previously a Royal Naval Sea Cadet Instructor, shared his experience of a visit to HMS Victory and the navy under sail. The story of the Battle of Trafalgar, Admiral Lord Nelson and his famous flag hoist were well received as examples of how different life at sea was like back then.

Experiencing the mock bridge and wheel house of a mine sweeper, various naval guns and a submarine ops room was greatly appreciated. The experience provided a much needed practical experience after hours pouring over notes and photographs. The transformation display was a great hit with the young Sea Cadets as they were interested to see how the SA Navy had evolved over the years to become inclusive.

They were especially interested in those who had performed acts of bravery including the story of the SS Mendi, Job Masego and Sea Cadets from their Unit who had fetched the training ship the General Botha from the United Kingdom and sailed it back to South Africa.

Many Sea Cadets indicated that they would bring their family and friends along to see the exhibits and support the good work which the museum staff perform in preserving the history of the SA Navy as well as naval and nautical traditions.

SEA CADETS EXPERIENCE BRIDGE SIMULATION AT SAMTRA

Article and photo by Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves

TS Woltemade Sea Cadet Leading Seaman and Petty Officer classes recently visited the SA Maritime Training Academy (SAMTRA) in Simon’s Town. The visit was arranged by Cdr Dave Wolfaardt (an SA Navy Reserve member), who is the SAMTRA Training Manager.

The aim of the outing was to gain insight into the commercial shipping industry and to experience, through simulation, the activities that take place on the bridge of a ship at sea. Cdr Wolfaardt sketched the various career opportunities on board merchant ships, along with their entry requirements. Deck and Marine Engineer Cadet programmes require applicants to have matric mathematics and physical science.

Those who do not qualify can consider an abridged maths and physical science programme to meet entry requirements. Other career opportunities also exist in the international marine industry for those who do not have these subjects, as deck hands and catering staff are always in demand. A tour of the SAMTRA facilities revealed the simulation classrooms, as well as the Refrigeration and Seamanship workshop, and several well-equipped bridge simulators. The bridge simulation demonstration involved sailing two frigates in False Bay before docking in Simon’s Town. During the practical exercise the Sea Cadets were able to experience lookout, helmsman and engine telegraph responsibilities under the watchful eyes of their Officer Instructors - Capt Peddle, ex General Botha and Master Mariner, and SLT (SCC) Dr David Walker, their experienced sailing instructor. The Sea Cadets were also exposed to different weather patterns, including rougher seas, fog and rain, and experienced some rule of the road scenarios with other ships - and even spotted a whale or two! The experience using computer technology was realistic, and at times the Sea Cadets reacted to the “moving” Cdr Dave Wolfaardt, Training Manager at SA Maritime Training Academy (SAMTRA), instructs a TS Woltemade Sea Cadet on the finer points of steering a “frigate” on the SAMTRA simulator bridge.
During the annual memorial service held at Burgers Park in Pretoria members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), military veterans and foreign military attachés commemorated the South Africans who lost their lives and fell during World War I at the Battle of Delville Wood in 1916, the country’s worst military loss. The service was hosted by the Department of Military Veterans with the SANDF in support, rendering ceremonial and logistic assistance.

The wreath-laying ceremony was prefaced by the poignant words of “In Flanders Fields” by Canadian war poet, Lt Col John McCrea, with its reference to the red poppies on the many graves of soldiers. The Burgers Park memorial, featuring a Scottish Highlander in full battle dress, is based on the memorial in killing in Scotland by renowned Scottish sculptor and World War I veteran, Alexander Carrick.

LEFT: Military attachés of France, the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom laid wreaths at the commemoration ceremony.

ABOVE: Sentries from the SA National Defence Force were posted during the memorial service to commemorate the Battle of Delville Wood.
ABOVE: Brig Gen André Retief, General Officer Commanding SA Armour Formation, laying a wreath on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army.

This ceremony was even more symbolic and significant as it marks the beginning of the Centenary of World War I. 2016 will mark the centenary of the Battle of Delville Wood. People gathered to remember our countrymen who volunteered their services and sacrificed their lives. They travelled far from their homes to a strange and foreign land, under unbearable conditions to support Europe when they were needed back home in the cause of freedom.

Delville Wood therefore occupies a particular place in the South African military history and represents a national symbol of courage and sacrifice. The presence of senior officers from SANDF to commemorate this event bears testimony to the South African government’s commitment towards ensuring that the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the name of freedom will be carried forward.

This display of courage and sacrifice is still a characteristic feature of our SA National Defence Force. Military men and women of our country still heed to calls for help in the African continent.

Speaking at the annual memorial service, Maj Tim Lane of the Pretoria Highlanders provided the context for their bravery and suffering during three harrowing days in July 1916. He said Delville Wood was described by some survivors as Devil’s Wood. There were no reinforcements, much suffering and numerous acts of bravery.

The 1st South African Brigade met fierce resistance and heavy bombardment; it was the rainy season and the excessive mud increased the suffering. On the evening of 15 July the South African Brigade numbered 3 153 men, 121 officers and 3 032 other ranks.

By the morning of 19 July, only 338 soldiers were physically unscathed; 1 080 were dead and 1 735 were wounded. The wood had been reduced to a few stumps and broken branches. Maj Lane recounted the scene a German officer recorded in his diary: “We witnessed a wasteland of shattered trees, and craters thick with mud and blood, and corpses everywhere, and everywhere the lowing of the wounded, which sounded like cattle at a fair”.

Wreaths were laid by various veterans’ organisations including the Pretoria Branch of the SA Legion and the Delville Wood Trust as well as all the services of the SANDF and the Military attachés of France, the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
South Africans of all races were involved in the Great War in various roles and they all distinguished themselves by serving courageously.

The SA Native Labour Contingent came to France in early 1917 and No1 General Labour Hospital was established at Arques La Bataille near the seaside resort town of Dieppe. Most of the contingent that perished in France lies in the Arques la Battaille British cemetery. There are 381 graves of World War I, of which 260 are of men of the contingent, including some who were exhumed from St. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, to which the SS Mendi was headed before tragedy struck.

All of the graves are grouped around a Great War stone, on the face of which is a concave bronze medallion with a face of a springbok in high relief. Inscribed on the stone in English, Sesotho and Xhosa are the words “To the memory of those natives of the South African labour corps who crossed the seas in response to the call of their great King George V, and laid down their lives in France, for the British Empire, during the Great War 1914-1918, this memorial is erected by their comrades”.

The commemoration service was held on 3 July 2015 at the gravesite, which is set in peaceful cornfields on the hills surrounding the town of Arques la Bataille in France. Following this moving service a wreath-laying ceremony was held in the town of Arques la Bataille.

The sinking of the SS Mendi, a troopship carrying the last SA Native Contingent en route to France via the English Channel, with its heavy loss of life was also commemorated at Arques la Bataille.

Following the service a wreath-laying ceremony was held in the town of Arques la Bataille. The Battle of Delville Wood was the first major engagement entered into by the South Africans on the Western Front during World War I. From 14 to 20 July 1916, the South African 1st infantry brigade comprising of 121 officers and 3 032 other ranks were engaged in one of the bloodiest battles ever fought.
For six days and five nights a soldier was killed every minute with one South African soldier dying every three minutes. Under the command of the 9th Scottish division the 1st South African Brigade was ordered to attack and hold the wood at all cost.

For five nights and six days the brigade fought against the units of the German Fourth Army Corps. It was outnumbered and attacked from three sides. On the Western Front, units were considered to be incapable of combat and withdrawn if their casualties reached 30%. The South African brigade suffered losses of 80% and yet they managed to hold the wood as ordered. This feat was described as the bloodiest battle of the hell of 1916.

Of the 3 153 men that entered Delville Wood only 142 would leave, the casualties were catastrophic. On 5 July 2015 the SANDF commemorated 99 years since this bloody battle in a moving ceremony at Delville Wood. The cemetery across the road from the memorial contains the graves of 5 493 soldiers, almost 2/3 of these are unknown.

Today the wood, memorial and museum are taken care of by the South African Government in conjunction with the Delville Wood Trust and the Commonwealth war graves commission.

Recently a concerted effort has been made to make the museum at Delville Wood more representative of the true facts of South Africa’s involvement in World War I as well as to honour all South Africans that perished so far away from their homes and loved ones. Last year saw the re-interment of Private Beleza Myengwa, the last member of the SA Native Corps to perish in the Great War, to the museum which now proudly marks his final resting place.

This year saw the opening of a new wing, which honours the memory of the members of the SA Native Corps that perished in the Great War. Also in this wing is a tribute to the brave souls who perished on the SS Mendi.

Flying in from England to attend the opening of this new wing was a very emotional special guest, Ms Rose Mc Tavish whose grandfather, Robert Alexander Mc Tavish, perished on the SS Mendi.

There are actual portholes from the SS Mendi ship on display in the new exhibition which were either donated or made available for displayed on long-term basis by British divers who salvaged these artefacts in the 1980’s when it was considered acceptable to do so. Today law protects the wreck.

The South African government and the British government through “Historic England” financially supported the erection of the new display. Featured in the display are works of the artist and filmmaker Dr Shawn Sobers and poet Rob Mitchell as a temporary exhibition.

The display tells the story of the SA Labour Corps and the vital role which it played in South Africa’s war efforts during World War I.

It also tells the detailed story of the circumstances, as well as the bravery of the men on board the SS Mendi which is summarised here:

On 16 January 1917 the SS Mendi troopship sailed from Cape Town for La Havre in France. On the morning of 21 February another ship, the SS Darro rammed the SS Mendi which sank in 20 minutes. There are many stories of the men’s bravery as the ship went down. These brave South Africans, regardless of race, clan or tribe, faced death together, brothers in arms.

Let us remember them, those who, when faced with the horrors of war, put aside petty differences. Let us learn from our forefathers who paid the ultimate price as united, proud South Africans. And let us honour their memory by standing proud as the new generation answering the call to defend our beautiful country.

Furthermore the display features the identification pass of Ple Sikaniso Mtolo who was 30 years old at the time of the sinking. His body washed up on Dutch coast three days later and what is remarkable is that his ID pass was found almost undamaged, rolled up in his pocket, after having been in the water for three days.

Although the name displays that are currently on display are only temporary, they will be replaced, in time, with permanent fixtures that will endure in this beautiful museum as do the memories of these men in our minds.

Walking along the remains of the trenches that still scar the landscape, my eyes come to rest on the “last tree”. This magnificent tree was the only one left standing, following the horror of those few days. It still carries the scars of the shrapnel from 99 years ago in its trunk. As the only living thing present that witnessed this battle, I wonder what tales this tree would tell if it were able. I closed my eyes and turned my head towards the warmth of the sun as I inhaled the sweet smells of summer. Birds sang playfully in the trees.

The tranquillity and beauty of the wood is breath-taking. It’s difficult to imagine that this place was the site of the horrors that these young men had to endure. Knowing that many of the young men still lie buried, anonymous under my feet, was deeply moving.

And I felt proud of our Defence Force that has ensured that although they may be anonymous, they are not forgotten.

ABOVE: SS Mendi port holes.
By Col Francois Cillie, Chief Directorate Human Resources Development

Today, a large number of weapons bearers use armed force in very diverse situations. These range from maintaining law and order during peacetime to high-intensity combat operations. However, such powers go hand in hand with equivalent responsibilities. The use of force is therefore not unlimited and always occurs within a specific legal framework, specifically those enshrined in International Humanitarian Law (IHL), also referred to as the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL). These spheres of law were indeed also a regulating imperative in the battles fought between the SANDF and dissidents in the Central African Republic during 2013.

IHL has been codified and developed to regulate the use of force in the exceptional situation of armed conflict; it aims to protect persons who are not (or are no longer) taking part in hostilities and imposes duties on all participants. The RSA becoming a party to international treaties and Conventions through accession or ratification is only a first step. States have a clear obligation to adopt measures implementing the international regulations they subscribe to.

In addition, Article 6 of Protocol 1 Additional to the Four Geneva Conventions stipulates that “States must train qualified personnel to facilitate the application of the Conventions and of the Protocol”, whilst Article 6(1)(c)(2) of Act 8 of 2012 (the Geneva Conventions Act of the RSA) stipulates that “A military superior officer is guilty of an offence if...he or she failed...to take all necessary and reasonable measures within his or her power to prevent or repress the commission of any breach or offence”... committed in terms of the Act. Such prevention is deemed to include dissemination of the LOAC.

LOAC training focuses on providing personnel with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to lawfully conduct military operations within the legal prescripts of distinction, proportionality and humanity. However, mere theoretical knowledge of the relevant law alone is not sufficient. Training must include LOAC and IHRL components within the ambit of realistic, practical scenarios. It enables officers, senior officials, WOs and NCOs the opportunity to acquire skills and experience in a realistic simulated classroom environment and is supplemented by practical examples, classroom discussions and syndicate solutions to complex military situations.

LOAC TOT COURSE 2015

The LOAC TOT Course was developed by Col A.W. Retief of the Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (CD HRD) in 2014. The first LOAC TOT course was presented in the same year. The course is registered with the South African Quality Authority (SAQA) as Unit Standard 117985 and comprises ten credits. This Unit Standard requires of learners to demonstrate an understanding of the LOAC during Multi-National Operations. It aims to equip senior Officers, WOs and NCOs in the SANDF with the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to assume these responsibilities successfully and contribute to the conduct of operations at the operational level of war in a manner consistent with the requirements of IHL. The unit standard will equip learners to:

- Apply LOAC as a factor during the operational planning process.
- Act within the confines of IHL during operations.
- Timeously addresses problematic situations at the tactical, operational and strategic levels regarding the application of the LOAC.
- Prevent and suppress violations of the LOAC.
- Appraise the legal position of the categories of persons and objects recognised under the LOAC.
- Appraise the legality of the means and methods of warfare during the conduct of operations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the LOAC applicable to specific types of operations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of command liability/criminal responsibility under the LOAC.

The course is presented annually as a joint venture between the Defence Legal Services Division (DLSD) School of Military Justice and CD HRD. The desired end-state of the course is to prepare and empower the next generation of LOAC Instructors to ensure that the future conduct of SANDF members comply with binding International and Domestic Law governing the execution of military operations.

The 2015 course is presented at the School of Military Justice, Thaba Tshwane from 11 August to 3 September 2015 (a period of 4 weeks). The main course facilitator is Col A.W. Retief ably supported by Defence legal practitioners from the School of Military Justice and some invited guest speakers. This year Services and Divisions of the DOD took a particularly keen interest in the course and a total number of 174 nominations were received. 21 Learners were accepted on the course, including two members from the SAPS and one member (a Senior Advocate) from DIRCO. As a testimony to the gravity and value of the course, it is attended, as a learner, by the Chief Director Human Resources Development, Maj Gen Aniswa Fakir.

The course composition reflects a good mixture of line officers and Military Legal Practitioners, bringing together a good balance of practical and operational experience as well as theoretical legal knowledge. The course comprises both theoretical lectures and practical tasks/exercises. Active participation by learners in classroom debate, sometimes heated and passionate, adds much flavour to the course!

Expectations and way forward

Early observations indicate that the current LOAC TOT class promises to be another highlight on the DOD calendar for 2015. The course is of International standard putting the SANDF in very good stead especially regarding future Multinational operations. It may even be considered opportune to involve International fellows, especially from the SADC region, to participate in future LOAC TOT courses.
Barrett communication training at SA Army Signal Formation

Article and photos by Maj Lizette Lombard, SO2 Corporate Communication

Mr Robert Tweed of Barrett Communications conducted a week long on-site training on the Barrett PRC-2090HF Tactical Radio systems for experienced HF operators of SA Army Signal Formation.

The course included the programming of radios for use within networks using both Selcall and ALE Calling Systems. Selcall was an unfamiliar feature to the class but due to class competency, the concept and instruction was quickly understood and well received. The training was very hands-on allowing operators to gain a higher level of understanding of the equipment, its features and operational deployment.

The training concluded with a “field exercise” where operators were tested on their knowledge and application of all features and functions of the PRC-2090 systems (see product photos). Mr Tweed, Barrett’s Operations and Field Support Manager commented: “It was a pleasure to have worked with this class and with the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) as a whole. In addition to the system training that was conducted, we were able to speak with the vehicle installation team.

“The SA Army Signal Formation team again showed high levels of experience and knowledge which will help ensure effective installation and operational communication of Barrett Communications equipment while SANDF troops are deployed on the ground. I look forward to working with the SANDF in future and I am on hand for any further assistance we can provide”.

Barrett Communications is the specialist designer and manufacturer of commercial and tactical HF and VHF radio communication systems. The company’s global distribution and customer support network in over 65 countries allows it to provide both off the shelf and turnkey network solutions to meet their client’s exact requirements.

Since 1976 Barrett Communications has provided HF communications solutions for government, military, business, humanitarian and AID organisations around the world.
An investment boost for artisan craft in the SA Air Force

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos by Ms Nozipho Zondo and Mr Themba Mntyali

It is a known fact that the critical shortage of skilled artisans in our country is a huge challenge. Our government views the production of artisans as priority and through the National Development Plan aims to ensure that South Africa produce more qualified artisans to meet skilled labour demands.

SA Soldier came across a group of young soldiers who had the determination and inspiring attitudes at 68 Air School. It was a crowning moment for six SA Air Force students following months of effort to qualify as artisans in the SA Air Force and it took hard work, tireless efforts, discipline and perseverance to achieve success.

The smiles on their faces on achieving their milestone tell the story of the proud young men and women who challenged themselves to raise the bar and deepen the sustainability of the artisan craft within the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

This achievement significantly will bolster the strategic intent of the Chief of the SA Air Force's back to basics approach, which aims to encourage performance, capabilities and impact on the maintenance capacity for variety of trades’ applications in the SA Air Force.

WO2 Chris Pienaar, the Section Head of Mechanical Training, mentioned to SA Soldier that the training comprised of theory and practical work integrated learning.

He continued that the students came from basic military training to 68 Air School for specific trades in artisanry. Their course started in August 2012 and the whole duration was two years and six months. He said that those in the field of fitting are trained more on hand skills and those in turning are trained more into machine parts.
training

WO2 Pienaar added that technical training in this mustering required thorough training. He added that instructors give them tasks to work on and various tasks takes 7 to 11 hours to complete. He said that because they work with machinery occupational health and safety is of priority.

SA Soldier asked Cpl Boitumelo Kotsedi (25) who qualified as a turner at 68 Air School - how did it all start for her? She replied that since childhood they were always guided to follow careers in teaching, nursing, law and other professions. Cpl Kotsedi said: “I told myself when I grew up I want to explore the technical field that was mainly male dominated. I enrolled at the Pretoria West FET College for Mechanical Trade N6 specialising in fitting and turning before I joined the SA Air Force in 2010.”

Would you encourage other women to pursue fitting and turning as a career? Cpl Kotsedi replied: “Yes I would and encourage them to follow the learning pathway to artisanal careers. Skills training is no longer viewed as careers for men only; in the past people were having the idea that skills training was second class education and was for those who do not perform well at school or could not be employed in the job market or failed to gain entry into universities.”

Male students indicated the relevance of hands on technical skills training to SA Soldier. They said that as the SANDF and the broader nation we need to look at the positive effect of scarce skills and our country’s economic growth. Their message is: “Show the world what is beautiful, work hard, stay relevant and continue striving to be better.”
SA Navy divers *in the making*

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

The SA Navy Diving School situated at SAS SIMONSBERG is the greatest exporter of professionally qualified divers to the SA Navy. The candidates for the Part 1 Clearance Divers Course started their gruelling training in mid January and if they achieve in the next 6-7 months the necessary theoretical, practical and physical requirements can expect to be welcomed into the SA Navy diving fraternity.

CPO Londa Dlamini, Senior Diving Facilitator, explained that the applicants first needed to pass a qualifying selection before being accepted on course. This included a:

**Water phase**
- A 300m swim in under 7 minutes 40 seconds
- An underwater swim, without equipment or assistance, for as far as possible using one breath
- Swim 50 metres with a mask and snorkel
- Swim 50 metres breaststroke with a mask filled with water
- Swim 50 metres timed with a weight belt
- Recover an object/sand at depth of 5 metres

**Land phase**
- 2,4 km run in under 12 minutes
- More than 40 push ups in 2 minutes
- More than 55 sit ups in 2 minutes
- More than 6 pull ups
- 300 metre run with a sand bag 30kg in under 1 minute 50 seconds

ABOVE: Members of the 2015 Clearance Diver Part 1 Bravo Class doing PT on the camber.

ABOVE: Members of the 2015 Clearance Diver Part 1 Bravo Class completing the obstacle course with ease.
The thirty five Seamen, including two women, all who have completed Military Training for Ratings (MTR) Part 1, are divided into two classes, Alpha and Bravo. Each class is supervised by an experienced Petty Officer Instructor, Derrick Mboyise and Imil Driessen, ably assisted by junior “Dikkies”.

The two classes can expect to complete as part of their training the following sub modules to qualify as Clearance Divers Part 1:

- Harbour diver part 21 metre Air
  - Including as a 2-6 man chamber attendant
- Ships diver 21 metre Air
  - Including cutting and welding
- Scuba diver 39 metre Air
  - Including Air Sea Rescue
  - Including Helo deployment/recovery
- Under water damage control
  - Including lifting bags, air lift,
  - Including salvage tasks and equipment
- Demolitions Part 1

In addition their daily program teaches them:

- Diving physics and laws
- Diving theory
- Diving equipment
- Small boat seamanship
- Decompression rules and laws
- Divers responsibilities and safety orders

PO Driessen emphasised that safety was paramount and that during training each diver had to strip from AWD’s into wetsuit and fins within 7 minutes. This was required in the fleet to act as an “Oscarman” had to in the event of personal falling overboard goes to the rescue. The time is significant as the Seaman on the upper deck have a limited time to prepare and launch the ship’s sea boat for the rescue while the Officer of the Watch performs a Williamson turn.

Although the majority of the class hailed from Durban some came from Cape Town and even Pretoria.

Many of the aspiring divers were “water proofed” as they were swimmers, life guards or active in water sports. Sea Sicelo Mbele and Sea Pennbry Mcnamara both from Durban had been a life guards previously while Sea Razeen Meth had studies Sports Science before attesting.

Sea Loftus van Heerden from Pretoria volunteered that the training was “physically, emotionally and psychologically challenging” while providing him with the experience to explore a new world.

All the potential divers interviewed were looking forward to successfully completing the course and being deployed through out the fleet to implement what they had learnt.

Professionally qualified SA Navy divers remain the best international export from Simon’s Town as their training and skills remains world class and many move to successful civilian occupations on completion of their contracts.
Celebratory farewell to a 42 year career

Article and photo by Maj Lizette Lombard, SO2 Corporate Communication SA Army Signal Formation

Saying goodbye to a colleague, a friend, a decorated soldier is never easy. The Warrant Officer’s Academy, thought it fitting to say farewell to Senior Chief Warrant Officer (SCWO) Daan Cloete, its Warrant Officer-in-Charge on 28 August 2015 during a function at the Officers and WOs Mess, Wonderboom Military Base.

In his farewell speech SCWO Cloete said he was asked to mention his career highlights, to which his response was “my whole career of 42 years is a highlight”. Everybody played a role in his career and there would not have been a big enough venue if he could invite everyone that played a part. He thanked the staff members of the Warrant Officer’s Academy which he served with over the past six years and various other role players.

SCWO Daan Cloete was born in 1955 at Musina (Limpopo Province). He completed his matric certificate at Monument High School, Ekhuruleni Gauteng.

He started his military career in 1973 in the South African Defence Force as a Trooper in the South African Armoured Corps and was promoted to Cpl in 1974 and appointed as an Instructor. He served as Chief Instructor in various Units in the South African Defence Force from 1974 until 1983. During this time he completed all Functional and Developmental Courses as expected from him.

In 1983 he was promoted to the rank of WO2 and was then transferred to 2 Special Service Battalion, as a Squadron Sergeant Major until 1986, after which he was promoted to WO1.

He completed the Warrant Officer’s Development Course in 1990.

In 1990 he was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 2 Special Service Battalion, one of only 2 Armoured Car Regiments in the SA Army and served in this post until 1997. During this term of appointment, 2 Special Service Battalion was converted into a Full Time Infantry Battalion during which he maintained the position of Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) for almost 3 years. This was the very first time in history that an Armour soldier was appointed as the RSM of an Infantry Battalion, much to the regret of all Infantry Warrant Officers. In 1997 he was appointed as the Group Sergeant Major of Group 20 Headquarters in Mafikeng with 9 Commandos under command.

In 2000 he was appointed as the Ceremonial Warrant Officer of the Department of Defence. In March 2009 he was promoted to the rank of Senior Chief Warrant Officer and appointed as the Warrant Officer-in-Charge of the Warrant Officer’s Academy.

During his 42 year career, SCWO Daan Cloete received the following decorations and medals

**Merit Medals**
- iProthiya yeGolide
- iProthiya yeSiliwa
- Military Merit Medal

**Campaign Medals**
- Pro-patria Medal with Cunene Clasp
- Southern Africa Medal
- General Service Medal
- Unitas Medal
- Tshumelo Ikatelaho

**Service Medals**
- Medal for Good Service (30 years)
- Good Service Medal Silver (20 years)
- Good Service Medal Bronze (10 years)

SCWO Daan Cloete will be enjoying his retirement in Pretoria, Gauteng. The acting Warrant Officer-in-Charge of the Warrant Officer’s Academy is Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Henning Odendaal.
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Since 1918
PGC Workerslife insurance recently threw its weight behind the annual SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Football Championship held at Goodwood Stadium in Cape Town to determine the best teams in both the male and female categories. The championship was hosted by the SANDF Football Association.

Participation in sports is one way of instilling discipline and enhancing soldiers’ performance in the battlefield. Also it allows soldiers to improve general fitness that is conducive to better health and contributes to the health related components. This conditioned the body for movement. In these case preparing soldiers for combat operations.

Apart from keeping your body healthy and revitalising your mind, sport has an amazing ability to build character, improve confidence and most importantly, bring people together. The SANDF Football Championship is a concept that the SANDF as a whole has embraced and implemented.

The championship was held to help raise the standard of football in the SANDF, to provide a platform for teams around the country to compete with their peers and thirdly to provide an opportunity for soccer fanatics in the SANDF to come together and share in their passion. It also addresses football development in the SANDF.

Speaking to SA Soldier, the Public Relations Officer (PRO), SANDFFA, Lt Col Eugene Sinuka said that the SANDF has a very talented soldiers with a promising sporting future, and their aim as SANDFFA is to promote, advance, administer, coordinate and generally encourage the development of the game of football in the SANDF in accordance with the principles as laid down in Statutes of South African Football Association (SAFA). He said that the championship is one of the most important events on their calendar and football in the SANDF is continuing to grow in popularity and
as such partnerships must be formed with other entities for the future of football in the SANDF. He praised the PGC Workerslife’s support and certainly said it will raise the profile of the championship.

Lt Col Sinuka said: “As SANDFFA we are greatful to the PGC Workerslife for not forgetting about development of soccer when they ploughed back money in the SANDF. This is a great boost for SANDF football and we want to thank PGC Workerslife in supporting soccer development which is the most important sector of our community.”

He said that PGC Workerslife shares the same objectives as SANDFFA with regards to the future of football in the SANDF. Lt Col Sinuka said: “PGC Workerslife is proud to be involved with the sporting culture in the SANDF and constantly amazed at the talent the soldiers of this country possess, and would like to develop and celebrate these abilities and share with the entire nation. The passion that the soldiers have for the game is inspiring to us, we want to reward that passion and certainly help the SANDFA in its mission.”

Lt Col Sinuka said that as sport continues to be a successful lever in imparting life skills to young South Africans, in recognition of this and given the immense interest in soccer, SANDFFA initiated the soccer clinics whereby young people from around the area were given the chance to sharpen their soccer skills which at the same time learning to live healthy and productive lives. Through the campaign, in partnership with PGC Workerslife, they donated soccer kits and balls to three schools as part of SANDFFA’s community development initiatives.

In conclusion he said that he cannot express enough appreciation, acknowledgement and recognition for the excellent conduct and performance of the sponsors, committee members and all teams, and prides himself to be associated with the association with such cohesion, esprit de corps and pride, and is proud to have confidently arranged this event.

The sponsorship was used mainly to equip the teams with soccer kits, tracksuits, golf shirts, including tog bags, bag packs, referees kits and executive committees and regional chairpersons received ties, white shirt and blazer.

At the end of the championship the efforts of the players were also rewarded with trophies for the winning teams and medals for the winning team and runners up in each category. For those players that perform above the rest, special awards were provided for both the top scorer and player of the tournament which was also sponsored by the PGC Workerslife.
Sgt Zelda Basson started playing netball at the early age of 10 years old. She joined the SANDF in 1997. She has therefore been playing netball for 27 years. She then added action netball to her activities. This passion for netball set her on a path of sporting success.

At 37 years old, she is the proud holder of many achievements and awards. She has represented the SANDF netball team for the last 16 years. She has also played Action Netball for Gauteng for the past 14 years.

Sgt Basson represented South Africa in Action Netball in four World Cups: in 2003 (New Zealand), 2006 (South Africa), 2008 (Australia) and again in 2010 (South Africa).

In 2005 she was selected as the Sport Woman of the Year and in 2006 SA National Defence Force Sport Woman of the Year. In 2008 she was selected as the Best Achiever in Netball.

In the same year she received the Presidential Award from Australia, which was awarded to her by the World Indoor Netball Federation (WINA). Sgt Basson was rewarded for her achievements by being awarded the Defence Sport Club Personality in 2009.

In 2011 the Staff Sergeant again dominated the sport circles and was awarded the SA Army Sport Woman of the year, as well as receiving the SANDF Sport Merit Award. She also received the honors as top senior player of the SANDF National Tournament.

In 2012 Sgt Basson was pipped at the winning post and was runner-up to Sport Woman of the Year for the PMSC. From 2012 to 2014 Sgt Basson captained the SANDF Netball team at the Spar Championships. Sgt Basson has also represented the SANDF in the Masters Team since 2009 to 2014.

In 2014 Sgt Basson was selected as Best Shooter for the duration of the SANDF Tournament held in Langebaan in the Western Cape.

Sgt Basson has also represented the SANDF in tournaments against Zambia, Namibia Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland.

In October 2014 during the Pretoria Military Sport Club's prestigious Merit Awards Ceremony, Sgt Basson was awarded a Black Jacket for her achievements in netball. Sgt Basson is the first netball player in the SANDF to be awarded an honorary Black Jacket.

Sgt Basson is profoundly grateful to her coach WO1 Annette Singleton, the SANDF Netball Coach, for having believed in her and coached her to accomplish the standard of netball and goals during her netball career. Sgt Basson could not have achieved these successes as netball is a team sport and all with whom she has played, contributed to her netball standing and results.

Neither Netball nor Team is spelled with “I”.  

An **SANDF netball star**

By Col Debbie van Rensburg, Chairperson of SANDF Netball

Photo by Ms Natashia Kruger

Sgt Zelda Basson.
The SANDF Table Tennis Team, consisting of the best male and female players within the SANDF, recently participated in the SA National Table Tennis Championship (SANTTC) held at the Belhar Sport Centre in Cape Town.

It was a prestigious and competitive event in the sense that the best of countries such as Namibia and Botswana took part. What made this event tough was the fact that it was held in the province with the most competitive players, which resulted in more entries than previous years in the different sporting categories.

It must be highlighted that the SANDF Table Tennis in particular, the men’s team, made history by claiming a bronze medal in the inter-provincial competition. It was for the first time in years that the SANDF progressed to the semi-finals to claim a bronze medal. Not only did the winning of this bronze medal put the SANDF on the map, but it also contributed positively towards the image of the Department of Defence and promoting the SANDF to our youth as well as our neighbouring countries.

Not only did the SANDF Table Tennis win a bronze medal in the inter-provincial category, but one of our double entries (male category) won bronze as well.

Some of the individual top players progressed through different rounds and did the SANDF proud in the SANTTC.

Although there were several disappointments in support in the past, this did not prevent us from staying positive and excelling in this sport.

I would like to congratulate all our players for making the SANDF proud. Viva Table Tennis!
devotion

Who is sitting at your gate and why? (Luke 16:19-31)

By Chaplain (Rev) Meshack Mashinini, Chaplain at 1 Military Hospital

Imagine the “world” of Jesus when Jesus told the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. His listeners were familiar with the possible location and conditions from which the episode emerged. As modern readers we need to stretch our imagination and try to understand how the world of Jesus functioned. Jesus was born and raised under the domination of the Roman Empire.

He lived his whole life as one of the oppressed. When reading the gospels we discover that Jesus was a rural resident. He grew up in a typical rural family. He was not from a rich family and the people who listened to his parables were themselves rural folks. Therefore they were quite interested to hear his point of view regarding the challenges of inequality reflected in the given parable.

The colour purple and the blanket of wounds

Jesus as a good story teller captures the attention of his listeners by describing in detail the identities of the two main characters of the story. The first one was rich, while the other was poor. The rich man could easily be identified by the quality of his wardrobe. He wore “fine linen” and a special kind of purple possibly imported from Egypt. The colour purple was a status symbol of nobility, honour and success.

On the other hand, we find Lazarus “placed” at the Rich Man’s gate. Remember even that “gate” did not belong to him. He owned nothing except a rank of wounds. He was “placed” or rightfully pushed by circumstances to the gate of the Rich Man. His living conditions gave him only one option - to sit (his potential and dreams) at the gate of his fellow brother.

Lazarus was wearing a blanket of festering wounds right at the stoop of the Rich Man. Jesus tells us that no one cared enough to clean his wounds. By the way, the religious rules from the temple dictated that one who touches an open sore is ritually unclean. Hence no one was prepared to be declared unholy by associating with Lazarus. No wonder the dogs were feasting on his wounds. Lazarus was a social, professional and a religious outcast by virtue of his wasted gifts and talents. Lazarus, how dare you dream on another man’s stoop?

A Lazarus in our lives

Jesus tells this story to remind us that we all have a Lazarus in our lives. There is a person whom life has literally dumped in your path. There is someone out there who is less fortunate than you in many respects.

There is a Lazarus who might be your unemployed relative, a subordinate, a colleague or a foreigner. There is someone who looks up to you to make a difference in his or her life. You and I have a Lazarus who is calling on us to clean his wounds. The choice we have is either we care or let the dogs continue to feast on the wounds of the one stuck at our “gate”.

Oh what a choice!

Jesus tells us that the Rich Man chose to use the back door of his mansion rather than to face the pain of Lazarus. By the virtue of his position he had the means to change the life of Lazarus. Yet he played ignorance in the face of indignity. Maybe he was not told of how Lazarus got wounded. But did he bother to ask?

Do we bother to find out why others seem not to be kind to us? Do we care about our colleagues and about the kinds of wounds they carry everyday they come to work? Perhaps they incurred those wounds while serving or in the call of duty. Or do we think they are not clever enough, or they simply lack ambition? Is it our wounds that prevent us from recognising the wounds of others?

Oh what a conclusion!

Jesus concludes the parable by telling us that we must not expect heaven to come down on earth to solve our challenges. Abraham, representing the possibilities of heaven was not mandated by God to impose heaven’s solutions in decision areas that are in our competency and level of responsibility. We cannot blame anyone for our failure to do what is just and right. Remember, the fact of life is that roles do swap! Ask the Rich Man, from where did he plead to make things right?
Facilities at Personnel Service School are now wheelchair user-friendly owing to the newly revamped wheelchair ramps.

LEFT: Sgt Noah Malatji, Senior Personnel Clerk at Personnel Service School, now has smooth access to the facilities of the School owing to the newly revamped wheelchair ramps.

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos by LCpl 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 musterings 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.