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FRONT COVER: The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, opened the Rand Show. He is flanked by Maj Gen Zola Dabula, Chief Director Force Preparation (left), and Maj Gen Francois Meyer, Deputy Surgeon General. (Photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano)

ABOVE: Cpl Prudence Ramuntshi (30) from 43 SA Brigade HQ Unit is deployed in Kinsasha, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), for 12 months. During his official visit to Burundi, Uganda and DRC the Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, visited the SANDF Specialised Contingent in Kinshasa. (Photo by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe)
A mani katika wakati wetu (Swahili, meaning ‘Peace in our time’). I deliberately greet you in Swahili, as this is the language spoken by Africans in most African countries that some of us wrongly consider as foreign. Swahili is one of the oldest languages that connect us as Africans. It has words that mean the same in 80% of all African languages. Theoretically, one can safely assume that our African cultures are interlinked. My heart bleeds when I see so much hatred and shedding of blood of our fellow brothers and sisters from other countries residing in our country. I shudder when I think of the attacks on foreign nationals that we have haphazardly orchestrated against ‘foreigners’.

The Military Command would like to assure bona fide South Africans and foreign nationals that the SANDF will not stand by and watch while innocent lives are being threatened. The SANDF strongly condemns these unnecessary attacks on foreign nationals. We should always bear in mind that we need one another in so many ways.

In an effort to maintain the mutual rapport SANDF has established with various countries and to maintain peace, the Chief of Joint Operations (C J Ops), Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, visited Burundi, Uganda and the DRC – read all about it on pages 10 to 12.

On a sad note, we pay tribute to our dear departed. It is indeed with heavy hearts that we say our final farewell.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, the Military Command Council, Armscor Board members convey their heartfelt condolences to the families, relatives, colleagues and friends of the dear departed. Though gone, they will not be forgotten.

Members of the DOD and SANDF are advised to follow the correct channel of command when requesting internal media coverage. All requests concerning coverage from SA Soldier magazine must be forwarded directly to: Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen X.G. Mbanga, on Fax No: 012 355 6019 or emailed to: xolani.mabanga@dod.mil.za

Lufuno Netshirembe
News Editor SA Soldier

A mani katika wakati wetu(swahili, swivula ku “kurhula hi nkarhi wa hina”)Ndzi mixeweta hi ririmu ra xi Swahili hi mavomu, tani hilesiwi ririmu leri rivulavurivuka enatikweni yo hlayanya ya Akfria, lava vanuwana va nuina niva vitonakaka /langutaka tani hi vahlapfa. Ririmu ra xi Swahili ri na marito lava vulaka leswi fanaka na tindzimidzino hinkwato kuringana makumentumungu wa ti phesente (80%). Umtuwanaanga elheketa ku mindzhanvakva ya africa ya hlayanya hi yintuwa ndlela. Mhili yamina ya handzuka no no halaka ngati loko nivona rivongo leringa kona ekana vamakwerhu wa hina kusuka ekah matiko vanuwana ya Akfria lava tshamaka laha tikweni ra hina.

Ndzi khomlaiva hi tingana ni ku chuha lokukulu loko ndzi elheketa hi minhlaselo leyi nga kona chenhu ka vahlapfa na leswi va komisiveka xiswona.

Military Command yi lava ku tijisika eka vaakatiko va Africa Dzongwa xikanwe na matiko ya le handle leswevakwa SANDF yinge yimeli ekule yi languta loko lutomi bya vanhuku lavanga havu handzudzika byiri eka nxungweto. SANDF yi alana na moja lowu bha wa minhlaselo enhenhu ka vahlapfa, hi fanele hi svi eka eka mchekweleka ya hina leswevakwa hinkwero hu havana kuva hi pfumana eka sovetala na matiko lava.

Hi matimba ku ringeta ku vuyisela ndzizigano ni khuhla, SANDF na matiko yaku hambanahambana va ta ni ndlela ya ku vuyisela kurhula exikarhi ka Akfria Dzongwa na matiko manbe. Hosi ya Joint Operations (C J OPS), Lti Gen Derick Mgwebi, va endzirele e Burundi, Umganda, na le DRC kusukela ku siku rat i 14 ku fikela ti 21 ta Dzizanumusoko, mahanu hi xitalo ya mi ta wa kuna eka papila ra khume na khume-mbirhi.

Hi ku mbili ni moja lowu tshovekeke hi yisa marito yakuge mhevuela ekha handzuka ndi matiko yaku chavelela kwakhe avendo handzuka lava hi siyeka emisaveni. Hi timbilu leti tshovekeke hwe ri a va fambe kahle.

Holoby wa Ndzwakulo ya Vasirheleri Manana Muchaviseki Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, na Nhloko ya SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, Military Command Council na timembara ta Bodo ya Armscor hinkwato va hundzisa marito yaku chavelela ekha mindzangu, mataxa, vatirhikulebye na vanhlanga va hinkwato lava nga hi siya emisaveni va ngova va hundzidz emoisa oxiwana ku siku na rinwe. Simbhu suda DOD na SANDF va m诲alwiza ku lundzilela no tirhisa tindirina letine lowa va kombele ku teke mahanu.” Requests concerning coverage from SA Soldier magazine must be forwarded directly to: Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen X.G. Mbanga, on Fax No: 012 355 6019 or emailed to: xolani.mabanga@dod.mil.za”

Lufuno Netshirembe
Muhleri wa SA Soldier

*Translation to Xitsonga by Mr Tsundzuka Vicky Mthombeni
An officer gets awarded a special award

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

“I pledge to serve and defend my country and its people in accordance with the Constitution and the law with honour, dignity, courage and integrity.”

This clause from the Code of Conduct epitomizes the event that took place at the Church Square in Pretoria on 12 March 2013, and this is one of the articles celebrating 21 years of democracy in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Maj Lesego Mosingathi, HR Manager DOD HQ Unit, recently appeared before the Special Military Command Council held in the Huvo conference room, and the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, handed over the Special Mayoral Award for Exceptional Citizenship demonstrated by this officer for his exceptional leadership to diffuse a potentially explosive situation at Church Square in Pretoria on 12 March 2013.

The incident involved Lesotho citizens, the Metro Police, and the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, City Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa.

The courageous act of this SANDF officer was subsequently published on page 6 of SA Soldier, Volume 20, No 4, April 2013 edition. The article was titled “The SANDF Soldier who Rescued his Country from Huge Embarrassment”.

Consequently, Gen Shoke, in his capacity as the Chief of the SANDF and on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, and Chiefs of Services and Divisions present, congratulated Maj Mosingathi for being awarded the unique reward that is rarely presented to a soldier. Gen Shoke thanked Maj Mosingathi for his exceptional leadership, initiative, leadership and dedication to the SANDF, citizens and the love for his country.

The Chief of the SANDF further described the gesture demonstrated by Maj Mosingathi on 12 March 2013 as a sign of the expected decisiveness of an officer and a conduct of agility in diffusing what would have dented the image of the country and diplomatic ties.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, paid homage to Maj Mosingathi and congratulated him for his courageous act that represented his service exceptionally well and expressed his gratitude to Maj Mosingathi for his leadership, analytic thinking and his innovation.

SA Soldier wanted to find out how Maj Mosingathi was feeling after receiving this prestigious award, which he had not expected from the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane. The soft-spoken and somewhat shy officer was noticeably surprised. “I am indeed humbled, yet appreciative of the recognition that I have received from various leaders starting from Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Mr Kgosientso Ramokgopa, to the Chief of the SANDF and the Military Command Council. I certainly did not think that I was being heroic when I took a decision to help on 12 March 2013. I simply acted in a way in which any reasonable person in my position would have acted. I am a patriotic soldier who, in an effort to represent a soldier’s ethics and morals, did what had to be done,” said Maj Mosingathi.

Maj Mosingathi said he was dedicating his achievement to all soldiers who unselfishly commit themselves to executing all kinds of humanitarian assistance in various SANDF missions without seeking to be heroes and heroines. He added that the award was indeed an indication that a positive outlook in life leads to one acting unselfishly; therefore, a positive attitude always bears positive fruits. “Do not expect a reward when you act positively, but if you get a reward from someone, appreciate such recognition,” advised Maj Mosingathi.

Maj Lesego Mosingathi was also featured on page 7 of SA Soldier Volume 20, No 2, February 2013 “The Officer Succeeds against all Odds”.

ABOVE: Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SANDF (right), hands a gift and Special Mayoral Award to Maj Lesego Mosingathi in recognition of his exceptional patriotic act and deed of good citizenship.
TO BE A SOLDIER IS NOT EASY AS IT IS PATRIOTISM

As a soldier we work as a group under the command and control of our superiors. Soldiers may get an order that they cannot understand, but in the end they executed it in the right way. As a soldier there is no time that you can say I am on leave, as everything is subject to change. They can call you to execute national and international duties and you must stop whatever you are busy with at the moment.

As soldiers we provide border protection for our country in order to make sure that our nation is free to execute its duties and responsibilities. As soldiers we are ready to rumble 24/7. As a patriot of our country and for the sake of our nation, our soldiers deploy on peacekeeping missions under the umbrella of the United Nations (UN).

As a soldier you stay for more than six months away from your family without complaints, without a break in between which is difficult to just a normal person without military training. Soldiers overcome problems that come during missions without difficulty as they are mentally and physically fit.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank our soldiers for a good job, say thanks to each and every one of you. I salute you, you are the cream of the family and the world, as it is not easy to wear that uniform.

Colleen Lisoga, email

HANDBLING AND TAKING OVER PARADE OF 43 SA BRIGADE

43 SA Brigade held a handing and taking over parade for the outgoing General Officer Commanding of the Brigade, Maj Gen Lawrence Smith, and his successor, Brig Gen Xolani Mankayi. (Maj Gen Smith is appointed as the new Deputy Chief of the SA Army.)

The parade was to honour the excellent work and the efforts of Maj Gen Smith since his arrival at the Brigade 15 years ago. It was a warm welcoming event for the former Chief of Staff of the SA Army Infantry Formation, Brig Gen Mankayi.

The parade consisted of 43 SA Brigade members led by the Officer Commanding of the HQ Unit of 43 Brigade, Lt Col Albert Collet. With limited members the Brigade has had to put on hold the office work to prepare for the parade. Everyone had to take part and it was a phenomenal parade for the Brigade. No one would have thought that with all the corps mixed together to make up a company, including the catering, the Brigade would pull off such a successful parade. The commands of the Parade Warrant Officer, WO1 Tyson Dlamalala, were clear and excellently executed.

Among the impressed visitors were the outgoing Deputy Chief of the SA Army, Maj Gen Les Rudman, the Joint Operational Chief of Staff, Brig Gen Winnie Bobelo, and SCWO Charles Laubscher, Warrant Officer of the SA Army.

After the parade all invited guests, including Mrs Smith and Mrs Mankayi, and all the members of the Brigade gathered for the brigade tea.

Maj Gen Smith was honoured and presented with gifts. He officially handed over the Brigade to the incoming General Officer Commanding 43 Brigade, Brig Gen Mankayi.

The incoming General Officer Commanding vowed that the Brigade would be in good hands and its standard could only improve in the future. Indeed, 43 SA Brigade proved the relevancy of their motto “Don’t Tell Me, Show Me”.

Pte Kwena Ngoetjana, 43 SA Brigade HQ

MILITARY OFFICERS

May you have the grace and wisdom
To act kind-heartedly, learning
To distinguish between what is
Personal and what is not.
May you never put yourself at the centre
of things.
May you act not from superiority but out
of service.
May you work on yourself,
May you be cordial to criticism.

Building up and refining the ways of your
mind.
May those who work for you know
You see and respect them.
May you learn to develop the art of presence
In order to engage with those who meet you.
When someone fails or disappoints you,
May the graciousness with which you
engage
Be their stairway to renewal and refinement.

May you treasure the gifts of the mind
Through reading and creative thinking
So that you continue as a servant of the
frontier.
Where the new will draw its enrichment
from the old,
And you never become a functionary.
May you know the wisdom of deep
listening,
The healing of wholesome words,
The encouragement of the appreciative
gaze,
The etiquette of held dignity,
The springtime edge of the desolate
question.
May you have a mind that loves frontiers
So that you can remind the bright fields
That lie beyond the view of the regular
eye.
May you have good friends
To mirror your blind spots.
May leadership be for you
A true adventure of growth.

letters to the editor

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters concerning the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be published - Editor.
FOCUS ON RECORD MANAGEMENT AT 2 MILITARY HOSPITAL

An interim archive facility is being built at 2 Military Hospital in Wynberg, Cape Town, to accommodate medical, correspondence, supplemental and other records of the Department of Defence (DOD).

According to the DOD policy on records management and archiving, Command and Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division, Documentation Centre as functional authority has to approve the establishment of all archive facilities.

For this reason, Lt Col Ian Laubscher from the Documentation Centre made contact with Lt Col Sandy Bax from 2 Military Hospital torender specialist advice and support, where required.

The establishment of the interim archive facility for 2 Military Hospital does not only promote effective and efficient record management, but also ensures the preservation of DOD records. The facility will be utilised by various medical departments and sections at 2 Military Hospital.

Lt Col Laubscher and Ms Annelies Schoeman from the Documentation Centre (DOD Archive) have recently presented an information session at 2 Military Hospital to all stakeholders on general record management in the DOD with the emphasis on archival services.

Members came from as far as Bloemfontein to attend the important briefing that was held over the course of two days. New and previous users learnt and refreshed their knowledge of record management. They also worked in groups to interact and implement record management as a practical exercise.

The whole group then had a visit to the building site of the new Administrative and Logistical Building which is being built adjacent to the main 2 Military Hospital. There they received further guidance regarding the space, criteria and protocols for record management.

A Record Management Office (commonly known as a Registry) is the heart of any unit. Its mandate is to centralise and control the handling of all official correspondence. There are two types of Record Management Offices, namely an Open Record Management Office for restricted correspondence and a Classified Record Management Office for top secret, secret and confidential correspondence.

It is imperative that all official correspondence/records that are received and/or dispatched at a unit be handled by the Unit Record Management Office. Members working in Record Management Offices will ensure that all official correspondence “arrive” at the required destination (action addressees) within the shortest possible time frame.

The flow of written information is a non-negotiable process that involves record management personnel and the client or file user (you!). File users or clients also have an important role to play, such as to return a general file within 72 hours to the Record Management Office. In addition, they should use the correct file reference or dispatch documents via the Record Management Office and not by fax, email or client-to-client delivery. This will ensure that the handling and control of official correspondence is done effectively and in a controlled professional manner.

The CMIS Division and specifically the Documentation Centre are responsible to provide record management, a centralised records archiving, information and military historical research and a library management service in the DOD.

The Documentation Centre is constantly probing into more effective ways and methods to improve these services.

CMIS, the Documentation Centre’s involvement with support and guidance to DOD personnel is an ongoing effort to ensure that standardised and correct record management practices are followed.

Maj Amora Taljaard, Corporate Communication Officer: 2 Military Hospital

A DISPLAY OF SAPPERS’ CAPABILITIES

The Sappers’ expertise, capabilities and combat readiness were on display and showcased by 2 Field Engineer Regiment during the annual Bieie Mielie Festival held at Reitz to expose the community to the military environment and to educate them on military matters.

The event attracted both young and old military enthusiasts. It provided a platform for the unit to interact with all its stakeholders and to contribute to a better understanding of the internal and external roles of the SA Army Engineer Formation.

The festival offered fun-filled educational programmes for adults and children alike with various activities, exhibitions and static displays, including showcasing engineer’s expertise.

In addition the festival was a unique experience for the public who witnessed the coming together of the Sappers and the people it serves.

2 Field Engineer Regiment is a primary deployment unit of the SA Army Engineer Formation and is responsible for providing mobility to and ensuring the survivability of the landward forces of the SA National Defence Force, and to deny the mobility of the enemy when needed. This is done through mine warfare, water purification, bridge building, demolition, basic field engineering, obstacles, defensive works and watermanship.

The unit has been deployed on several operations throughout the African continent and is currently deployed to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Sudan on peacekeeping missions to promote peace and stability which is aimed at sustainable development.

Cpl Lebogang Ntsoko, 2 Field Engineer Regiment

letters to the editor
NEW COMMANDER LEADING THE SA ARMY INTELLIGENCE CORPS

The SA Army Intelligence Formation is proud to have a new General Officer Commanding at its Headquarters in Pretoria. Brig Gen Rene Mercuur took over command of the SA Army Intelligence Formation from Maj Gen Nontombeko Mpaxa, who was promoted to Chief Director Army Force Preparation.

The Change of Command Parade was recently held at the School of Tactical Intelligence in Potchefstroom. The precision drill team, band, guard of honour, the executed parade, and the function that was held in the Exploration Club after the parade were a true tribute to two outstanding women.

Brig Gen Mercuur joined the SA National Defence Force in 1994 and completed her Basic Military Training at the SA Army Women’s College in George. She joined the SA Army Intelligence Corps in December 1994. She worked as a Processing Officer at Northern Cape Command Headquarters in Kimberley from December 1994 to November 1997. In 1996 she was the Intelligence Officer at 525 Troop in Olifantshoek at the Electronic Warfare Station. In January 1997 she also assisted as an Administration Officer at the then School of Intelligence. In November 1997 she was transferred to Group 1 Headquarters in Cape Town where she worked as a Staff Officer at the Processing Section until June 2002.

Brig Gen Mercuur was transferred to the SA Army Intelligence Formation in Pretoria in June 2002 where she worked as a Staff Officer in the Administration Organisation and Training Section. After promotion to the rank of Major in 2002 she worked in the Combat Readiness Section at the South African Army Intelligence Formation until June of that year.

In 2003 she assisted Group 33 as the Staff Officer Intelligence with border-line operations. When Brig Gen Mercuur was appointed as the Officer Commanding 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment she was the first female to hold this appointment.

Brig Gen Mercuur completed her Senior Command and Staff Course in Zambia at the end of 2007, thereafter she was appointed as the Officer Commanding School of Tactical Intelligence in Potchefstroom on 5 December 2008.

In January 2012 she was appointed as the Chief of Staff at the SA Army Intelligence Formation Headquarters. She completed the Executive National Security Programme in December 2014, and was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General on 1 January 2015.

She completed several education, training and development programmes and is a qualified Assessor and Moderator. She also completed short courses at Direct Management Solutions in Office Management and Human Resources for Office Professionals. Brig Gen Mercuur is currently a second-year student at Unisa where she is studying for a BA degree in International Relations and Diplomacy.

Brig Gen Mercuur has a passion and zeal for her work as an Intelligence Corps member. She has walked a path with the corps by serving in all the units and at the Headquarters, where she gained valuable experience and knowledge. She was groomed by her predecessors, she is young, energetic, and with her passion for the corps and its members, a bright and glorious future awaits the SA Army Intelligence Formation.

Highlights for the SA Intelligence Formation were the deployment of the Intelligence troop in the Central African Republic and the continued deployment of members in the Kruger National Park where the SA Army Intelligence Corps are involved in helping prevent rhino poaching. The SA Army Intelligence Corps is also deployed on all the borders of South Africa as part of Operation CORONA.

Maj Jennifer Jonker, SO2 Communication SA Army Intelligence Formation

BEATEN DRUM

Beaten drum
Many on the run
The world segregated
Where did it all begun

Beaten drum
Each man for himself
Each in his own social corner
Yet who began this untimely dissent
God create “One” world
“One” people
“One” genesis

Beaten drum
Nations lament about unity
Yet division supersedes equality
A divided world
A divided people
A divided genesis

Beaten drum
Why man speaks of peace
Yet violence is on the menu for the day
HOW TO REACH YOUR DESTINATION

You must lose your comfort zone
You must lose your friends that you can move forward
You must consider time frames in your dreams to come through
You must not be afraid of challenges because of your past
You must enjoy life as if there is no tomorrow
You must not follow things when they go wrong as used to be
You must choose your own role model

You must have a winning spirit
You must feel good about yourself then you will produce good results
You must have courage to control your instincts
You must aim at excellent and you can fall at mediocrity
You must never compare the past with the present
You must follow your heart at the cross roads
You must begin with the end in mind

You must not count how many times you fall just pick yourself and move on
You must never prefer the past you will limit your movement towards success
You must have faith in mind
You must not look at a close door when other doors are open
Remember destination cannot be reach by not moving, so move on.

Cpl Mafunda Guduza, email

UNIFORM MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A DIGNITARY

I am not a stranger to anyone
Only my uniform makes me look like a celebrity
When I’m in my uniform I walk with pride
People see me as a hero
They trust me for safety and expected me to help them with anything in times of trouble, I soothe and comfort them

One day a young girl came to me crying
She came for shopping; a robber lied to her and told her that he will sell clothes to her for half price. He took all her money and disappeared.
She didn’t even have money to go home
When she saw me in uniform, she had hope that I would help her
I paid for her taxi fare and she left

My uniform makes me unique
Where there is doubt I bring faith
Watchful people don’t ask me from anyone but ask from uniformed members of SANDF, SAPS and other security forces
I was at the queue at a ATM when a woman passed everyone in the queue and came straight to me and asked me to show her how to withdraw money
She called me by my last name and I wondered if we ever met
I helped her but my friend warned me that helping people where money is involved can put me in trouble
When I am loyal to people, I expect them to be loyal to me too
My integrity is also measured by the way I assist people
When people ask for help, a real soldier can never say: “THAT’S NOT MY JOB”

My uniform makes me look like a dignitary
Wearing my uniform with a nametag on it gives me dignity
God has put me in the public eye and people treat me special
When they see me they see a refugee criminals watch me with the vigilance of a hawk.
Pte Victoria Mathibela,
7 SA Infantry Battalion (currently at Pontdrift OPS Base)

Beaten drum
In world equality prevails
Poverty escalates
Children abandoned, thrown away
Justice is replaced by corruption

Where wrong is the standard by which lives replace
Morality and Christian values

Beaten drum
Your sound shall lament
Crying for justice
A better life, hope, equality
Peace which only through “One”
An undeniable source God
For without Him this world is on a rampant decline
Leading to a dangerous slope that cannot be reversed … undone
For one day shall it cease to exist. Pte Sylvana Accom, email
The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has always been a staunch proponent of peace in Africa. The SANDF deployed its troops to different countries in support of various multinational organisations, such as the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN).

In order to establish a good rapport with other countries of the continent in its peace efforts, the SANDF through the Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi undertook visits to Burundi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

ABOVE: Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the SANDF Chief of Joint Operations (middle), and his delegation with the Burundi National Defence Force command cadre.
and the DRC. The key objectives of his visit was to do a comprehensive analysis of the perspectives of the defence forces of the three countries on conflict in the region and their experience of peacekeeping operations.

Lt Gen Mgwebi further wanted to share with the defence forces of these countries operational matters such as the process of mandating peace support operations, preparation of forces for deployment/operation, protection of forces in the mission area, sustainment of forces while in the mission area, use of force in UN and non-UN operations, and lessons learnt from their previously deployed forces.

On arrival in each of the three countries, Lt Gen Mgwebi met with the South African Embassy and broadly explained the intention of his visit. In turn the ambassador or a representative informed Lt Gen Mgwebi of the current political situation of that country. It was important to get the political brief because politics in these countries have played an influential role in the stance of the military. These briefs assisted the delegation to gain a thorough understanding of the military ideology and doctrine of the country they were visiting before he met each military leader.

**Burundi**

Lt Gen Mgwebi visited the Burundi National Defence Force (BNDF) on 15 April 2015. The command cadre of BNDF informed the delegation that the security situation in Burundi was stable but tense due to the coming Presidential election. However, Lt Gen Mgwebi was assured that the BNDF was well prepared to ensure peace during the election.

**BNDF Peacekeeping experience**

The South African delegates were informed that the BNDF deployed its soldiers in Somalia from December 2007. When the BNDF arrived in the mission area, they swiftly quelled the violence and
news from abroad

LEFT: Col Mvuzo Mzinjana, SANDF military attaché in the DRC (right), informing Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the SANDF Chief of Joint Operations, about the DRC’s military situation before Lt Gen Mgwebi meets the FARDC leaders.

In the DRC, and the role that these negative forces play in shaping diplomatic relations of the DRC with its neighbouring countries.

In conclusion, FARDC indicated that they were doing all in their power to stabilise the DRC.

atrocities carried out by negative forces.

At the conclusion of the visit, the BNDF requested the SANDF to assist it with learning opportunities and training in the logistics environment.

Uganda

During the talks in Uganda, the Chief of the Uganda People’s Defence Force (UPDF), Lt Gen Katumba Wamala, highlighted that conflict in the African context was completely contrary to the basic understanding of conventional warfare. The conflict was mostly intra-state, which was dynamic in that it involved individuals who in most cases created and perpetuated conflicts because they were not necessarily happy with the current state of affairs. These people organised themselves into negative internal forces that, in fighting the state leadership, neither operated in terms of the UN principles nor observed the rules of engagement and principles of war.

The Democratic Republic of Congo

In the DRC, Lt Gen Mgwebi met with Lt Gen Amuli Bahigua, Chief of FRDC Operations and Intelligence and the Chief of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (French: Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC)) and had talks about the political situation in the DRC, how the negative forces affect governance

ABOVE: Mr Joseph Mashimbye, RSA Ambassador in the DRC (left) and Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the SANDF Chief of Joint Operations, discussing the DRC’s political situation prior to Lt Gen Mgwebi’s meeting with the FARDC leaders.

ABOVE: Some of the SANDF delegates that accompanied Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the SANDF Chief of Joint Operations, during his official visit, fltr: Col Khaya Nkukwana, Mr Richard Baloyi, representing the RSA Ambassador in Burundi, Col Khwezi Nomphetsheni and Col Bantu Ndandani.
The desire for peace in Africa gave rise to the establishment of AMANI AFRICA (meaning ‘peace in Africa’ in Swahili). The AMANI AFRICA programme is a concerted effort that was launched by various African countries late in 2008. It seeks to address the creation and modus operandi of the African Standby Force (ASF), in which all member states of the African Union (AU) come together to conduct Africa-wide evaluations, decision making and an exercise named AMANI AFRICA FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (AA FTX).

Each of these AU members contributes its military, civilian and police resources to be deployed in conflict resolution and peace operations in Africa. This advances the concept of “African problems to be solved by Africans giving African solutions”.

The mandate of ASF includes supervision, observation and/or support to humanitarian missions or operations. With the success of the first circle of AMANI that ended in 2010, AMANI AFRICA II FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (AA II FTX) was launched towards the end of 2011.

Lesotho was due to host AA II FTX in October 2014 but because of its internal situation, the plans to implement AMANI II had to be moved to another country. South Africa volunteered to host AA II FTX. Subsequently, a core planning team that met in South Africa recommended that a technical work session be held from 26 February to 3 March 2015 to discuss preparations of AA II FTX. The team consisted of field experts from the AU and the South African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat led by Maj Gen (ret) Samaila Lliya of Nigeria, Exercise Director with Brig Gen Paulo Francisco of Angola, Exercise Chief of Staff and his support team.

Against the above-mentioned background and recommendations, it was agreed that AA II FTX would be conducted in October 2015. It was found necessary that inputs from all Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMS) were important in the interest of success of AA II FTX. Member states (MS) were to reconfirm their pledges of personnel, prime mission equipment, etc to AA II FTX.

An opening meeting chaired by R Adm (JG) Patrick Duze, Chairperson of AA II FTX, was recently held at the St Georges’ Hotel in Pretoria. At this meeting, he welcomed all the member states that attended.

AA II FTX will be held at the SA Army Combat Training Centre (SA Army CTC) from 19 October to 7 November 2015. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia will remain the exercise strategic headquarters while SA Army CTC will be the mission headquarters and level 3 sector headquarters.

The SA Army Combat Training Centre is unique because it is one of ten institutions in the world that provide exclusive and permanent facilities for landward warfare training. Only two of these institutions are located in the Southern hemisphere, of which the SA Army Combat Training Centre is the largest, 158 000 hectares in total.
Heartfelt condolences to the families, relatives and friends of dearly departed

The Department of Defence (DOD) and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) learnt with sadness the passing on of five comrades over the last two months.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, and the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, convey their heartfelt condolences to the family, relatives, colleagues and friends of the deceased and wish a speedy recovery of the injured.

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Maj Gen (Ret) Mphetola Ramahlo passed away on 4 April 2015. Maj Gen (Ret) Ramahlo was buried on 11 April 2015 at Great Sekhukhune District, Marble Hall in Limpopo. He was accorded a semi-military funeral. (Maj Gen Ramahlo retired from the SANDF on 31 August 2006 as Chief Director Army Force Preparation.)

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F Sgt Tshepho Modiba, an Oryx helicopter aircrew member, passed on in a freak accident on 12 April 2015. A motor vehicle drove into two members of the SA Air Force who were on a
The arrival of the mortal remains of F Sgt Tshepho Modiba, a Flight Engineer from 19 Squadron, at Polokwane Airport on 13 April 2015.

side-walk in Livingstone town, in Zambia.

The Oryx aircrew was on the scheduled change-over from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) en-route to South Africa. The crew consisted of Maj Charles Tarentaal (Commander from 19 Squadron), Maj Reagan Pillay (co-pilot from 17 Squadron) and F Sgt Tshepho Modiba (Flight Engineer from 19 Squadron).

Maj Tarentaal who suffered a leg injury and the deceased member, F Sgt Modiba, were taken to the Livingstone General Hospital. (The mortal remains of F Sgt Modiba were repatriated from Zambia to Polokwane on 13 April 2015.)

Lt Gen Bongani Mbatha, Chief of Logistics. On 5 May 2015 the DOD and the SANDF learnt with great shock and sadness of the sudden death of the Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Bongani Mbatha (57), who passed on at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing away of Mr Fantas Mobu on 8 May 2015. Mr Mobu was appointed as a Non-Executive Director and the Chairperson of the Acquisition Committee of the Armscor Board from 1 May 2014.
The SA Soldier teamed up with other media representatives that recently visited 102 Field Workshop in Potchefstroom to witness the Cuban Technical Advisory Team from the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces assisting the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) to refurbish and maintain its fleet of vehicles.

This is done according to the military to military agreement between Cuba and South Africa. Not only was the agreement entered into to help refurbish and maintain the fleet of vehicles of the SANDF, but also to build internal capacity of its own forces.

On the arrival of the media crew at the Constant Viljoen Officers’ Mess in Potchefstroom the SANDF Spokesperson, Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, Director Defence Corporate Communication, welcomed and introduced them to the proceedings of the day.

The Head of Communication, Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, briefed the media on the Cuban-South African military to military agreement. He described the much-admired agreement as a great milestone towards the refurbishment and maintenance of the vehicles of the SANDF. Mr Dlamini said: “The SANDF has had numerous problems in the maintenance of its vehicles at very high cost, but with little benefit, this agreement would enable the SANDF to develop its own internal capacity and save on costs while improving its own vehicle serviceability.”

The Officer Commanding 102 Field Workshop, Lt Col David Koetaan, guided the media through the workshop. He first introduced them to the workshop structure, the command group, what the planning entailed, the auto-electricians, the five fitter teams and translators. The media were then shown the various categories of vehicles according to their serviceability status and the actual SANDF and Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces integrated effort within the workshop including the end results, namely the refurbished vehicles.
The fitter teams work on the body and the engine components, each team comprising a Cuban engineer, a South African artisan and two South African apprentices. (In mechanical jargon an engineer is a specialist in the field of mechanics; an artisan is a qualified mechanic who has undergone a trade test and an apprentice is a learner mechanic not yet qualified and who has not done the trade test.)

The fitter team leader, S Sgt Zolile Nkoliswa, a diesel mechanic artisan, praised the contribution of the Cubans in the workshop since their arrival. He said: “The Cuban Technical Advisory Team is a team of highly qualified individuals who are always willing to share their skills and knowledge.” He added: “WO2 Ernesto Apolinario, the workshop foreman, who is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish and English, has been of great help as a translator, which made it possible for communication flow.” In a nutshell, S Sgt Nkoliswa believes that the Cuban Technical Advisory Team is going to equip the SANDF with a long lasting legacy in the mechanical field.

In addition to the fitter teams there are the auto-electrician teams consisting of a Cuban engineer, a South African artisan and a South African apprentice. One of the auto-electrician teams also boasts two women, Sgt Belinda Kekana, an artisan, and Cpl Nozipho Phungwayo, an apprentice. Sgt Kekana said: “I feel very honoured to work in a male dominated environment and they are always supportive and eager to support in all aspects.”

The military to military agreement between Cuba and South Africa will assist the SANDF in building its internal capacity with regard to servicing its vehicles for both internal and external operations. At the same time it will create an internal pool of auto-electricians and mechanics within the SANDF which will help save money by cutting down on the outsourcing of repairs.
Kenyan Defence Advisor visits Chief of Human Resources

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

The Defence Advisor High Commission of the Republic of Kenya, Col Samuel Wamwayi, recently paid a courtesy visit to the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Norman Yengeni, to engage in deliberations regarding learning prospects in the military training institutions of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

Col Wamwayi said: “I am here to present our compliments and express our gratitude for our continued good relations as well as for hosting the Defence Office in South Africa.” He also enquired about the replacement of the Exchange Directing Staff at the Defence Staff College in Kenya, Nairobi.

He added that the Kenyan Defence Force is immensely involved in operations on the African continent, such as AMISOM. Hence, they intend to develop their human resources in South Africa and take the opportunity to join foreign learning programmes.

Therefore, he wished to receive from the SANDF its prospectus for military training institutions and foreign learner opportunities for 2015, as well as the exchange programme for learners. He also requested the facilitation of movement of learners and trainees at commercial colleges in South Africa.

Col Wamwayi said: “The primary engagement is to participate together in joint training. Our main objective is the development of our human resource capability, and so far, we have trained over 30 officers at the SANDF. South Africa remains a key country where we develop our human resources.

“When our officers return from attending military training programmes in South Africa, they return with a lot of skills and knowledge. Last year we had one slot in the SANDF’s highest learning programme, namely the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP). This was greatly appreciated, and we would like to have more participants to undergo the programme in the future.”

Another part of the visit was to strengthen bilateral relations and prepare for the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Col Wamwayi said that the MOU would be the framework on which all the other agreements would be based.

In view of the generosity extended by the SANDF and the South African Government to allow foreign learners without expenses, Col Wamwayi said the Kenyan Defence Force had adopted a reciprocal approach on mutual issues.

Lt Gen Yengeni welcomed the move, citing it as an indication of good relations in which the Kenyan Government had experienced the South African generosity. He said that this should be articulated further when the MOU is signed.

He added: “Kenya is one of the countries with which South Africa has very strong relations that dates back to the liberation struggle. It played a big role in helping South Africans to end apartheid. I foresee that it can only get better.”
The Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Aubrey Sedibe, honoured the men and women of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) with the Mandela Silver and Bronze Medal during a medal parade recently held at the SAMHS Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane.

The medals were awarded to SAMHS members who had rendered distinguished service to the former statesman and for their medical role when he was ill, and being part of the planning and arranging of his funeral, memorial service and his lying-in-state at the Union Buildings.

After the medal presentation, Lt Gen Sedibe expressed his gratitude, commended the recipients and said that the medals presented demonstrated the willingness of the SAMHS members to give their very best for the SANDF and the country.

Lt Gen Sedibe said: “These medal recipients are symbols of hope for our people and our country. The recipients were willing to give more than just eight hours of work per day. They were dedicated and committed to a greater cause. They embody the motto of the SAMHS: Audaces Servamus - We Serve the Brave.”

ABOVE: Having being presented with their medals deserving men and women of the SA Military Health Service pay compliments.

RIGHT: Medals reflect the bearer’s history of loyalty and merit.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Defence Inspectorate Working Group (DIWG) held its 9th annual general meeting at Kievits Kroon Country Estate in Pretoria. The outgoing chairperson of SADC DIWG, Brig Emmanuel Maganga of the Tanzania People’s Defence Force, handed over the reins to Brig Gen Freddie Sambo of the Malawi Defence Force.

Brig Gen Maganga briefed South Africa’s Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, on the status of the work group during a closed session. He indicated that he was pleased, as South Africa had come forward as a replacement host for their 9th AGM.

He explained that it was the SADC Defence Inspectorate work group annual meeting of all member states where a new member will assume chairmanship of the work group.

The DIWG is a charter within the SADC, and it was launched in Luanda, Angola during its official inception. The SADC DIWG was formed to conduct inspections on the SADC Standby Force and to report its state of readiness to the Defence Sub Committee that is made up of defence chiefs of armed forces of the SADC member states.

It is also tasked to conduct regular inspections at regional peacekeeping training centres and report on whether the
Dr Gulube mentioned that, since the inception of the DIWG, progress had been made in laying a firm foundation for the functioning of the work group. He said the Inspectors Charter explains the need for the existence of the DIWG and has been endorsed and given authority to conduct inspections by the Defence Sub Committee.

“I will be waiting to receive and read your inspection reports. I have read with interest the minutes of your 8th AGM and have noted that DSC mandated you to conduct inspection of the Force Intervention Brigade in the DRC but was informed that the inspection had not yet taken place. I am hopeful, therefore, that it will take place this year,” commented Dr Gulube.

The late Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Bongani Mbatha, officiated at the closure of the meeting, and said that he hoped the meeting was fruitful in revitalising the commitment to serve the regional nations of the SADC.

He indicated that the forum is acknowledged, as the members are major stakeholders serving as coordinating entities to the measures and procedures that are in line with local regional and international best practices.

The Secretary for Defence, Dr Gulube, said the DIWG had come a long way since its first consultative conference when delegates met in 2006 at the South African Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria.

He said: “We know it has not been easy for this work group to be readily accepted as an autonomous and independent body,” and added, “Through your dedication and perseverance, you managed to clarify and convince the Defence Sub Committee of the fundamental differences in the taskings of the two bodies.”

Brig Gen Maganga said they had made progress in achieving some of the main objectives. The DIWG, which has now held its 9th AGM, is now accepted as an independent body.

Although they still have to inspect the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, they have conducted courses to train trainers in Zimbabwe. The training was intended for a few officers who will train people in their missions.

Brig Gen Sambo assumed the chairmanship of the DIWG at the meeting.

The late Lt Gen Mbatha said: “Your interaction and deliberations during the sessions will strengthen regional integration. We must reiterate that the inspectorate is a force multiplier for the Service Chiefs, General Officers Commanding and Commanding Officers.”

He further stated: “Defence forces require an inspectorate function that is independent, objective, unbiased and avoids conflicts. We trust that during discussions, you are ensured that DIWG will add value and improve our regional expectations.”

The late Lt Gen Mbatha revealed that they were pleased to learn about the successes achieved since the inaugural conference of the DWIG in 2006. The Defence Sub Committee has approved the DIWG logo and armband.

“We acknowledge the successful completion of the inspectors’ course as another milestone. We trust the resolutions adapted by the DIWG at the AGM will improve functionality and bring results, taking it to another level,” the late Lt Gen Mbatha said.
The SANDF excites the crowd at the Rand Show

Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

In what can be described as yet another milestone of public engagement by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), it certainly lived up to the expectation as one of the biggest crowd pullers of the 121 edition of the Rand Show.

Once more, the participation of the SANDF at the 2015 Rand Show seemed to have captured the curiosity of thousands of members of the South African public who spent their Easter holidays at the Nasrec Expo Centre.

The arena at the Rand Show, where most of the performances by the SANDF were conducted, was the centre of attraction. The combat airborne capability demonstration was just a thrill as it combined all SANDF fighting components to put up a spectacular show.

Over 10,000 square metres of military exhibition space provided a meaningful engagement with the public. This was in addition to the two halls that were dedicated to the SANDF for career expositions of all arms of services and divisions.

The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe who officiated at the opening of the show, acknowledged the contribution of all partners and exhibitors of the Rand Show who have spent time preparing another successful edition of the Rand Show 2015.

As the Rand Show is South Africa’s biggest consumer event, Deputy Minister Maphatsoe believes that it makes it a natural choice for the SANDF to communicate with the public and the opportunity be used as an outreach programme.

The Deputy Minister said: “In our view, the Rand Show is a useful platform for engagement between the defence force of our country and the public on a formal and collective basis.

As the Department of Defence, we are very pleased to be associated with the Rand Show, and as such are keen on using it to engage with all of you to reach common ground on the needs of the South African National Defence Force.”

He said that the SANDF values relations with the Rand Show, as it has a platform that reaches a massive audience. He also indicated that by exposing capabilities to the public, they would learn of various opportunities that are available for the youth in the defence force and may be eager to join.

The late Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Bongani Mbatha, conveyed the message of the Chief of the SANDF to members who participated at the Rand Show. He conceded that the 2015 show was more spectacular when compared to events of the previous year.

“It is a pleasure for me to thank the members that made
events

the SANDF participation in the Rand Show 2015 such a resounding success. I have personally conveyed the message of your good work to the Minister and the Chief, and I will come to thank you officially,” he said.

Lt Gen Mbatha said the participation of the SANDF in the Rand Show was a strategic decision taken by the command cadre, as it provided a platform to interact with the public face to face. It also availed the opportunity to market the SANDF and its capabilities and create awareness of the dedication of members in uniform.

He said: “What stood out for me is the positive feedback that I had received about the conduct of our members; the public commended the disciplined manner in which they conducted themselves. Another highlight for the public was the arena programme, which included displays of specialised infantry capability and airborne capability.”

He added: “When the public came early in the morning during the Easter holidays to see the capability displays, we were successful in our endeavour to create awareness about the professionalism of all the men and women in uniform. You did a wonderful job and made us proud.”

The CEO of the Expo Centre, Mr Craig Newman, commended the performance of the SANDF during the show. He said the show was just another success because of the attitude and professionalism of SANDF members.

Mr Newman indicated that the conduct of the members changed the public perception of the SANDF. He said, “To the core team that started this partnership and initiative, this is our fourth year. And this partnership is growing and getting better and better.”

The participation of the SANDF at the Rand Show included the opening ceremony in the form of a parade prior to activities in the arena. Other inclusions consisted of the SA Military Health Service Band, the SA Army Kroonstad Band, and the SA Navy Band that entertained the crowd with various renditions of military music. In addition, the public was entertained by the spectacular displays of the SA Navy precision drill squad, parachute jumps, and a gun run by the Air Defence Artillery Formation (ADA).

The SA Army brought a fleet of military vehicles for the exhibitions to the Terrace 1 at the Rand Show, including a Ratel ZT3 anti-tank variant, a MAN tank transporter with Olifant Mk 2 tank, a Gecko 6x6 vehicle, a Badger infantry combat vehicle, and a Rooikat MK ID armoured car.

The SA Air Force (SAAF) flew the acclaimed Silver Falcons acrobatic display team and displayed various capabilities such as their specialised fire truck, their Umlindi radars, technical and operational cabins, and a mobile air traffic control (ATC) tower. In addition to an Oryx helicopter used for delivering airborne infantry for the arena display, the SA Air Force also put on aerial displays with its Hawk Lead-in Fighter Trainers of 85 Combat Flying School based at AFB Makhado.

The SA Navy prepared an armament display and a static hydrographic display, and had brought a riverine patrol boat. They had a three-metre diving tank and a two-man decompression chamber at the show. The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) displayed its emergency medical, disaster, and search-and-rescue equipment, and had brought a field hospital and an Mfezi ambulance.

The main crowd puller at the Rand Show arena was the airborne capability demonstration, where the Specialised Infantry capability displayed their effectiveness in border protection and control, amongst others. They also exhibited their visual tracking capability that enables them to tell from a person’s footprints what they are carrying and if they are trying to throw off trackers by doing things like walking backwards.

ABOVE: The airborne capability demonstration by the Specialised Infantry Capability excited the crowd.
Peace Mission Training Centre Workshop on Gender

The South African Constitution prescribes equality of men and women as a fundamental part of human rights. In pursuing this right, the Peace Mission Training Centre in Thaba Tshwane recently hosted a workshop on gender with the theme “A new role for Men – partners for Women’s Empowerment”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lt Col Raadt said that today there are many examples and opportunities for men’s involvement in partnering with women’s empowerment. “Men’s involvement does not mean working only with men in lieu of the empowerment of women, or working with men to suppress the voice of women. Working solely with both men and women on gender projects that focus on the empowerment of both may strengthen the inclusion of men taking into account their relations in their families and in their working environment,” said Lt Col Raadt.

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

ABOVE: The workshop participants with R Adm (JG) Emily Masanabo, Director Naval Transformation (4th from left) and Maj Gen Olga Nodola, Chief Director Transformation Management (4th from right).
Deputy Chief of the SA Army change of office parade

Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, SO1 Research, SA Army
Photos by S Sgt Elias Mahuma and S Sgt Chene Kruger

After 42 years of service in the SA Army Maj Gen Les Rudman finally reached his retirement time and handed the reign to Maj Gen Lawrence Smith in a Change of Office Parade that was held at SA Army HQ recently. Maj Gen Lawrence Smith was the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 43 SA Mechanised Brigade.

Maj Gen Rudman retired in March 2015. He enjoyed a colourful career serving in the SA Army, the South African Special Forces and SANDF HQ. He was the Officer Commanding of 44 Parachute Regiment as well as the General Officer Commanding Special Forces.

He participated in the planning and execution of the State Funeral of former President and Commander in Chief of the SANDF, Mr Nelson Mandela. He was awarded the Mandela Medal in Gold for his role in the funeral. In his military career he received two decorations and 11 medals for his leadership skills and operational successes.

In his speech Maj Gen Rudman thanked his family, wife, God and colleagues for different roles they have played in his life. He further expressed his gratitude to the Reserves, the RSA defence industry and all the people in various military organisations for the support given to him and the SA Army during his tenure.

Maj Gen Rudman congratulated Maj Gen Smith on his new appointment. He mentioned that Maj Gen Smith had extensive experience in training and operational environments. He added that General Smith's ability to manage complex situations would stand him the edge in his new post.

Maj Gen Smith joined the Permanent Force in 1978 and is qualified in all SA Armoured Corps disciplines. He graduated from the US Army. In 1997 he commanded the Leavenworth General Staff College in Kansas and completed the Defence and Strategy Course at the National Defence University of China in 2008.

His operational experience includes the South West Border War where he operated at sub-unit level. He was the Officer Commanding the SA Protection Support Detachment in Burundi in 2001 to 2002 and Sector (5) Commander in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2003 to 2004.

In 2008 to 2009 he was the SADC Standby force Military Component Commander for Exercise GOLFINHO. In 2010 he was appointed as the Head of the African Union Standby Force during the final Combat Readiness Exercise AMANI AFRICA. More recently he was involved in the preparation of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC) Force within the SANDF. He was the African Union Deputy Exercise Director to Exercise UTULIVU AFRICA 2014 which was held in Tanzania.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Mazondo, expressed his appreciation of Maj Gen Rudman and thanked members from the RSA Defence Industry present, for attending the parade. Colours displayed on parade were from 4 Special Forces Regiment, 5 Special Forces Regiment and 44 Parachute Regiment.
SA Army College
Change of Command

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo by S Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SA Army College hosted a change of command parade on its premises in Tshwane during March 2015. In simple terms, the change of command parade is an official event in which the incumbent leader or Commandant officially hands his reign to the new leader or Commandant. By default, the change of command parade is a farewell of the old leader or commandant who goes to his new post in the SANDF.

The parade consisted of a company from 21 SA Infantry Battalion. The parade Commander was Maj Eric Baloyi from 101 Air Supply Unit. The National Ceremonial Band participated in the parade. The Parade Sergeant Major was WO2 Gontlefela Keebine from 21 SA Infantry Battalion.

As expected in the military fraternity, on arrival of Col Xolani Ndlovu, the outgoing Commandant and Col Gosibuile Mokoena, incoming Commandant, parade spectators and members of the unit were requested to stand while the military protocol and Code of Conduct for SANDF members were being read. In his speech, Col Ndlovu wished the incoming Commandant prosperity in his new post and mentioned that, for the greater good of the SANDF, he wished Col Ndlovu to succeed where he might not necessarily have reached the intended objective. He urged the members of SA Army College to support and respect Col Mokoena as they had while he was their Commandant.


Col Mokoena returned to South Africa in 1995 and integrated with the SANDF as a lieutenant. In the same year, he did his bridging training at 1 SA Infantry Battalion. In 2001, he was among the first SANDF members to be assigned to the United Nations mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia to serve as a military observer. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in 2010.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Col Mokoena indicated that he was ready to continue moving the SA Army College forward from where his predecessor left off.

Col Mokoena explained that he was fully aware of the challenges in Thaba Tshwane and was making headway in negotiating with the relevant authorities that Thaba Tshwane should be divided according to formations so that units that belong to specific formations should take responsibility for facilities and discipline in Thaba Tshwane. “There are ongoing negotiations that seek to improve the residential section of the college so that it is more conducive for learning in all respects. It is in the interest of the government and the college that the envisaged refurbishment be done in line with the prescripts of the Public Finance Management Act and the recently government austerity measures,” said Col Mokoena.

Not only is Col Mokoena credentials good, but he has the relevant experience in managing a military academic unit. In 2011, he became the Officer Commanding of the School of Engineers in Kroonstad.

ABOVE: Col Xolani Ndlovu, the outgoing Commandant (left), hands over the sword to Col Gosibuile Mokoena, the incoming Commandant, which ceremonially signals the end of his leadership role at the SA Army College.
Learners of Rantobeng High School visit the SANDF

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano and Mr Themba Mntyali

The saying “you need to see it to believe it” was true to a group of learners from Rantobeng High School in Diphagane Village in Sekhukhune accompanied by their educators when they visited Air Force Base (AFB) Swartkop Museum in Pretoria.

The visit was organised by Defence Corporate Communication (DCC). Col Louis Kirstein, Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Strategy Policy and Planning, welcomed the guests on behalf of Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga.

Col Kirstein informed the learners of the important role the SANDF plays in peacekeeping internally. He said: “Soldiering is not just a job but a calling. There is a sense of pride and patriotism; wearing the SANDF uniform is a commitment to selflessly serve the nation and sacrifice beyond the call of duty.”

Maj Victor Khumalo, Communication Officer of AFB Swartkop Museum gave the pupils a brief background on aviation heritage of the SA Air Force and the role of the Air Force. PO Tshepo Bogoshi, Marketing and Recruitment NCO from Directorate HR Acquisition gave the learners information about the Military Skills Development System (MSDS), recruitment, selection and career management system that ensures that the best people are developed and maintained to serve.

There was great excitement when Lt Tshwane Masemola, Caravan C208 pilot at 41 Squadron from Ga-Marishane in Limpopo addressed the learners. Lt Masemola was a role model for these learners. He encouraged them to never stop believing in themselves and chasing their dreams. “The only thing that stands between you and your dream is the will to try and believing that it is possible,” said Lt Masemola.

In an exclusive interview with SA Soldier, Ms Molatelo Makgamatha, a Mathematics teacher at Rantobeng High School, said: “We take pride in the SANDF. It is vital to the security of our country and across our borders in terms of socio economic upliftment. We did not know that the SANDF had a variety of specialised careers. The military’s investment in Mathematics and Science was a step in the right direction.”

Bheki Mapitsing (15), Grade 10 Maths and Science learner, said that he wanted to be a pilot. He said: “I am so excited about the future. I was encouraged to re-double my work at school in order to pursue studies in critical subjects related to pilot training in the SA Air Force.”
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68 Air School provides technical support and airworthiness to our Air Force

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos by Ms Nozipho Zondo

8 Air School offers diverse programmes in the highly specialised skilled career paths. These include apprenticeship training programmes in aviation disciplines as well as non-aviation (general) disciplines. This is visibly an indication that SA Air Force through 68 Air School is committed to the empowerment and career advancement of its members.

The school prepares the students for trade careers at various levels and focuses on hands-on training applications of skills.

Talking to SA Soldier, Col Dirk Blom, the Officer Commanding of 68 Air School, said that further development of qualified artisans to support the operational requirements of the SA Air Force remained a priority. Students in training at 68 Air School were trained to be multifaceted and unique in the critical scarce skills career fields involving engineering. These critical scarce skills included mechanical, electrical, fitting and turning, instrumentation, aircraft mechanic and aircraft reconnaissance training.

Col Blom added that training programmes comprise two phases, namely trade theory and practical exposure for a set period of time under the guidance of instructors and mentors. The trainees are subjected to continuous assessment to ensure that they meet necessary requirements to obtain their artisan qualification.

He highlighted that 68 Air School invested in training and one of its

ABOVE: Col Dirk Blom, Officer Commanding of 68 Air School (left), and Lt Col Hendrik Coetzee, the Compliance Officer and Training Manager of 68 Air School, showing the accreditation certificate awarded by the SA Civil Aviation Authority.

LEFT: Two photography students, Cpl John Pienaar (left) and Cpl Onica Masilela, busy working on the Very High Frequency (VHF) Mast Assembly.
goals was continuous up-skilling of instructors to keep them highly productive and competent.

Lt Col Hendrik Coetzee, Compliance Officer and Training Manager, added that 68 Air School received the students after they completed their basic military training and sent them to the Tshwane South College for orientation in different skills for three months. After successful completion of the College programme they returned to 68 Air School where they underwent a generic phase for twelve weeks and thereafter they commenced with theory and practical trade training for 6 to 8 months. He pointed out that the crucial part of practical exposure was where the students were sent to the various bases, squadrons and air servicing units of the SA Air Force to get work experience for a period of eighteen months.

WO2 Ivan Andrews, enlightened us on the aircraft reconnaissance training (photography) offered at 68 Air School. He indicated that photographers provided a multi-role capability which is effective in various specialised aviation tasks and systems.

He said that in maritime, aerial or land situations photographers assisted in environment reconnaissance and monitoring which helps to identify suspicious activities and potential threats. They also monitor aircraft sensors and automation technology and provide real-time information and data collection.

Photographers undergoing training are equipped with a wide range of skills and capabilities, which included video surveillance, various tasks in border and coastal patrol, search-and-rescue, anti-rhino poaching and various activities across the security, military and environmental spectrum. He added that to qualify as photographers aircraft reconnaissance students’ practical phases on Gripens and Hawks were done at Air Force Base Makhado.

On 15 January 2014, 68 Air School received accreditation from the SA Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and the Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) for compliance, meeting operating aviation standards, safety, reliability and quality in five aircraft related trades. These trades include aircraft mechanic, aircraft electrician, aircraft instrument, aircraft radio and radar and aircraft structures. The accreditation was renewed on 9 December 2014.

ABOVE: Aircraft mechanical students with their two instructors, F Sgt Mothelo Madithapa and F Sgt Keitumetse Babili (middle), at the aircraft mechanical training facility at 68 Air School.
The importance of reasonable, acceptable conduct and the acceptance of consequences

By Col Riaan Louw, SSO Crisis Management Centre

The author, Mr Frank Bucaro, relates the story of a General who grew tired of the fact that every decision that needed to be made in his organisation was going to him. To address this universal challenge many people in positions of authority and power often face, he developed a system which commits every individual to accept accountability for their decisions, without pushing the decisions up the chain of command.

He called his system, which consisted of four questions: “Just Do it!” The questions were:

• Firstly, is what you are going to do or want to do legal and ethical?
• Secondly, is it good for the customer?
• Thirdly, is it consistent with the shared values of the organisation?
• Fourthly, are you willing to be held accountable for your decision?

The General found this approach to be working quite well. After implementing this system, he found a drop in emails, phone calls and correspondence requiring his approval. He also found his subordinates to be taking more responsibility and embracing accountability as “the name of the game” across the organisation.

Ethical organisation

To determine whether employees know and share the values of their organisation will be an important point of departure in any discussion on ethics. It can be readily accepted that a successful organisation’s shared values and ethical standards will be well communicated to all its stakeholders and role-players and that it will be stronger than issues such as race, religion, politics and gender. The leadership of the organisation will also be visibly and audibly committed to the shared values and standards of the organisation and will assign adequate resources to the management of ethics. Unethical conduct will furthermore be responded to speedily and decisively.
interesting perspective on the ethical climate in, and the ethical culture of, the organisation. It should, however, also confirm the requirement for a common definition of concepts, knowledge of what the values or standards of the organisation are and a common understanding of what is right and wrong.

Judging from the growing number of court cases and media reports linking and involving prominent public figures to unethical individual conduct, ethically weak corporate cultures and dubious financial practices, there can be little doubt that moral issues that are ignored, played down and rubbed off, will eventually leave scars in the form of tainted reputations and damaged and destroyed careers. Unethical conduct has and will ruin people, land them in jail and has even cost people their lives.

Unethical conduct is manifested in acts such as corruption, theft, fraud and maladministration and is often committed by good people who did not carefully think through the consequences and implications of their actions. These actions are often the result of greed, submission to pressure, actions aimed at satisfying immediate demands or efforts to address unrealistic expectations.

What the prominent figures, including politicians, public servants and business executives involved in these public scandals do not always realise, is that their actions not only compromise their own credibility and reputations, but also that of their peers, colleagues and the organisations they work for. It also contributes to an increasing regulatory burden on everyone and every organisation functioning in their work and social environments and may result in an increase in the cost of doing business and, because of trust and integrity issues, also to challenges with access to decision-makers and sources of influence.

This obviously also applies to soldiers of whom, due to their constitutional role and responsibilities, a much higher standard of moral conduct is expected.

For this reason, it should be important for individuals to have a proper understanding of what ethics is and what ethical conduct implies and to be aware of the value of ethical decision-making and thinking about ethical issues.

### Essential to growth

There can be no doubt that good conduct is essential to the growth, development and sustainability of organisations and to the objectives of empowerment and transformation. It also impacts on project costs, timely completion and delivered quality. Poor conduct opens a window on corruption and inflates the cost of development to South African society.

Ethics are shaped by society, individual development and virtue, but may be influenced by the work environment of the organisation. The ethical environment of an organisation refers to the processes by which the decisions of the organisation are evaluated and made on the basis of right and wrong. Although unethical acts are committed by individuals, the environment often has a profound influence on the decision-making process. Leaders who are turning a blind eye to activities contrary to the policies of the organisation or allow social indiscretions to develop into disciplinary and legal issues are good examples in this regard. This is a clear indication that, although unethical corporate behaviour may be the responsibility of an unethical individual, it also often reveals an organisational culture that is ethically lax. Ethical individuals are therefore likely to behave ethically in organisations that infuse a sense of ethics into their people.

Corporate or organisational culture refers to a blend of ideas, customs, traditional practices, organisational values and shared meanings that help define normal behaviour for everyone who works in an organisation. Culture, as the “way we do things around here”, has a powerful influence throughout an organisation and affects practically everything - “from who gets promoted and how decisions are made, to how employees dress and what sports they play”. It is practically a way of life and determines their responses in a “strong but subtle way”. After a few years “they may be so well conditioned by the culture they may not even recognise it”. An ethics-oriented culture will accommodate values such as confidence in, and respect for people, open communication, sharing of benefits and responsibilities, concern for the individual employee and honesty and integrity. A person who does not live these values is guaranteed not to last, never mind being promoted.

### Ethical climate

An ethical climate, in turn, is the moral atmosphere that can be detected in most organisations through subtle hints and clues of what is and what is not acceptable behaviour. This unspoken understanding among employees of what is right and what is wrong is the part of corporate culture that sets the ethical tone of the organisation. Corporate culture can signal to employees that ethical transgressions are acceptable. A clear indication of what is right and what is wrong can put much pressure on individuals to channel their actions in certain directions desired by the organisation. It can, however, work for or against good ethical practices. It will in the end determine whose interests would receive the highest priority.

People often give in to what they perceive to be the pressures and preferences of powerful others. If the boss wants something done no matter the costs, people will do their very best to achieve those directives even if it means sacrificing their own values. Although they may not like it, they will do it because they define it as part of the job.

The importance of leaders acting ethically and creating an ethical environment by leading through example, evaluating all decisions in terms of ethical principles, communicating constantly, identifying and addressing issues before it become a problem and, especially to address problems instead of symptoms, cannot be over-emphasised.

An ethical environment therefore encourages and empowers individuals to accept responsibility and accountability for their actions and, by doing so, to pro-actively consider the consequences of the decisions to be taken.

Ethics, which imply living one’s values (the principles or standards that we believe determine what is right, fair/just or good conduct) in our “deliberations, decisions and actions” offers just the instrument needed to facilitate the thought process in this regard.

So, if you are convinced that you are doing the right thing: Just Do It!

*This document is an excerpt from a background document by Col Rian Louw for a presentation done on this topic.*
“SANDF Spouses Forum can hold the knife by its sharp end”

By Cpl Mzontsundu Mdolomba
Photos by Mr Themba Mntyali

The SA Military Health Service hosted the SANDF Spouses Forum International Women’s Day celebrations with the theme “Wellness and Beauty” at the Military Health Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane.

The Programme Director of the day was Ms Noleen Maphaha who informed the guests of the proceedings of the day. The National Ceremonial Guard Band entertained the guests for the duration of the function.

Chaplain Thandiswa Mpetsheni started the event with a prayer. Everyone was welcomed by the hostess, Ms Juliah Sedibe, wife of the Surgeon General. Among the guests were the wives of Defence Attachés from Turkey, Zambia, Namibia, Russia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Japan, the Netherlands and Malawi.

Ms Maphaha, wife of the General Officer Commanding 1 Military Hospital, recounted the history of International Women’s Day. She said: “It happened almost a hundred years ago. On the 8th of March 1908, despite the bad weather, a crowd consisting of thousands of women workers at factories went down town to New York to protest against the injustice of inequality between women and men. At that time many of them had to stand working the machines all day, including the pipelines, or sit in front of sewing machines. A working day lasted from 12 to 24 hours. For such tiring work the compensation was very little. They had to work in terrible working conditions and did not receive a pension.”

She continued: “This demonstration went down in world history as the first organised action to fight for women’s social rights. In 1910, following the proposal of Clara Zetkin, the second Women’s Conference was held in Copenhagen, where it was decided to celebrate Women’s Day every year. International Women’s Day was first celebrated on 8 March 1911 in Denmark, Switzerland, Australia and Germany. After the October Revolution there a process for the equality of Russian women began as well, and the holiday was enshrined in the Constitution adopted in 1919.”

Dr Lesiba Khalo, a Medical Doctor at the Oncology Unit at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, held a presentation on health issues, with great emphasis on cancer. He said: “Cancer has become very common nowadays especially breast and cervical cancer, and we are seeing it in much younger women. Early detection is very important and one needs to be aware of the signs and symptoms and also how to deal with the reality.” He encouraged people to stick to a balanced diet and exercise.

To entrench the theme of the International Women’s Day celebrations, Mr Salinda Makhazi said the women not only had to work hard, but also to look after their good looks. He recommended his natural product, “Bio-Lotion”, to the attendees.

The next speaker was the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, Ms Charlotte Shoke, wife of the Chief of the SANDF. She expressed gratitude to Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, her predecessor, for chairing the Forum and for her distinctive leadership abilities during her term as the Chairperson of the Forum.

Ms Shoke also applauded
the achievements of the Forum since its founding. She said: “We were part of the team that distributed goodwill parcels to the families of the deployed soldiers.” The Forum has always rendered humanitarian assistance during both war and peace. Ms Shoke added: “We also donated some of the goodwill parcels to orphanage homes, which showed that women can hold the knife by its sharp end.”

The Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum said: “The Forum is also involved in various projects that contribute towards the development of women. It is currently presenting a sewing course for the women in the region. Shortly another group of women will complete their basic computer literacy skills training, which will be another landmark by the Forum in achieving its goal.”

Another big effort of the SANDF Spouses Forum is the construction of a crèche in the Thaba Tshwane area. Ms Shoke said that the Forum had obtained a sponsorship from Transnet to build the crèche and she expected it to be completed soon. The crèche will be to the benefit of children in and around Thaba Tshwane area.

Ms Shoke encouraged the junior women to benchmark the current Forum in order to elevate it to the next level so that people stopped thinking that they were there just to enjoy the status of being Generals’ wives. At the end of her speech she quoted the words of Margaret Thatcher, a former British Prime Minister: “In politics, if you want anything said ask a man; if you want anything done ask a woman”.

Ms Stellah Njolomba, wife of the Zambian Defence Attaché, acknowledged the potential of the SANDF Spouses Forum and for their achievements on behalf of the wives of the attachés. She promised that they would use the know-how to implement programmes in their countries of origin.

At the end of the function Ms Gloria Dabula, wife of Chief Director Military Health Force Preparation, thanked all who contributed towards the success of a most useful day. She acknowledged the Forum’s exceptional achievements in shaping political, social and economic programmes on behalf of women.
SA Military Health Service assists Mercy Vision

Article and photos by Capt (Dr) Eric Albrecht, Ophthalmology Department, 2 Military Hospital

Mercy Vision is a primary eye care and cataract non-governmental organisation (NGO) based at the Zithulele Missionary Hospital in the rural Eastern Cape which is famous for its “Hole in the Wall” tourist attraction and proximity to Coffee Bay.

The team consists of optometrists that travel to local communities offering primary eye care, glasses and screen for cataracts in the communities. A non-specialist Ophthalmic Medical Officer (OMO) performs the cataract surgery at the local hospital in a specially equipped prefab theatre.

However, at the start of the project, the OMO training on board the Africa Mercy Ship had to be curtailed and the project was threatened due to insufficient surgical training. The SOS call went out to the Ophthalmology community and 2 Military Hospital Ophthalmology Department along with other surgeons from Cape Town, East London and even Australia rallied together and offered assistance.

Maj (Dr) Hannes van Velden and Capt (Dr) Eric Albrecht travelled on numerous occasions to perform and teach cataract surgery. Now after one year, Dr Althea le Roux (OMO) is operating by herself with the occasional assistance required for complicated cases.

2 Military Hospital Ophthalmology Department also provides tele-medical advice on a regular basis and the OMO now operates with headphones in case she requires advice during surgery.

Most of these patients have no access to specialised eye care and the restoration of their vision is life changing. The team regularly sees cases where grandparents are looked after by grandchildren that they have never been able to see until after the surgery!

We were surprised on our first ward round when one of our patients turned out to be a taxi driver whose grandson directed his driving from the front passenger seat. Now he is able to drive unaided and his grandson can attend school again!
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health matters

Chronic medical conditions need to be carefully managed

By Ms Martina Nicholson, Martina Nicholson Associated (MNA)
Photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS), the second largest medical scheme in South Africa, recently released a list of what it calls its “top 10 chronic medical conditions”.

“The GEMS top 10 medical conditions give us an idea of the kinds of diseases and medical conditions that are having the greatest impact on public servants in South Africa,” says Dr Guni Goolab, Principal Officer at GEMS. “The research has also allowed us to see where we should be focusing the Scheme’s educational and disease management efforts.”

The GEMS top 10 medical conditions were as follows:

- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- HIV and AIDS
- Chronic Renal Disease
- Diabetes type 2
- Diabetes type 1
- Asthma
- Bipolar mood disorder
- Hyperlipidaemia (high cholesterol levels)
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Epilepsy

According to Dr Goolab, there are various reasons why the above medical conditions are proving more costly for the Scheme to cover. In some cases, it is simply that large numbers of members are suffering from a particular medical condition that needs to be treated with medication, while in other instances the treatments themselves are expensive. Sometimes a medical condition is both common and the medicines used to treat it are expensive, which can further add to costs.

“Whatever the case, the medical conditions highlighted above are all important within the South African context as they affect large numbers of people and represent an important drain on healthcare resources,” points out Dr Goolab.

Dr Goolab adds: “With the exception of HIV and AIDS, all of the medical conditions listed are non-communicable diseases, in other words they are not passed from person to person via an infectious bacterium or virus. A recent report of the Statistics South Africa found that non-communicable diseases are one of the leading causes of death in this country today and account for as much as 40% of all fatalities.

“Non-communicable diseases are becoming increasingly common and important, not only within the country as a whole but also to medical schemes such as GEMS which must play a role in the funding of treatment costs. This is one of the reasons why the Scheme is paying increasing attention to non-communicable diseases through its education and disease management programmes.”

Dr Goolab says that a number of the non-communicable diseases listed above can be linked to an unhealthy lifestyle. For example, diabetes type 2 and high cholesterol often develop in individuals who do not take good care of their health; these conditions are often known as “diseases of lifestyle”. Such individuals may get little exercise, have a poor diet and drink and smoke excessively. These kinds of diseases are affecting

ABOVE: Examples of chronic medication.
increasingly large numbers of South Africans. The International Diabetes Federation, for example, estimates that no fewer than 19 million people in this country have diabetes, and millions of others are at risk of developing the disease. May cases of hypertension and even chronic renal disease also owe their development to unhealthy living choices.

“GEMS follow a multi-pronged approach to healthcare. Through various educational and screening programmes the Scheme does its utmost to keep its members healthy and prevent them from developing chronic medical conditions in the first place. This is known as a “preventative approach to healthcare” and GEMS places heavy emphasis on it. Where a member does develop one of these conditions, however, GEMS closely manages the disease to ensure that he or she is kept as healthy as possible,” Dr Goolab continues.

All chronic medicine needs to be pre-authorised by the GEMS Medicine Management Department. A chronic medicine authorisation is a pre-approval request for payment of the member’s medicines from the chronic medicine benefit. Ask your doctor to assist you to complete a chronic medicine application form. Once completed, the form must be sent to the Medicine Management Department for review and pre-authorisation. If the authorisation request is approved, GEMS will send you a Chronic Medicine Access Card as confirmation of your chronic medicine authorisation. You will have the choice of receiving your medicine either through the courier pharmacy or your nearest GEMS network pharmacy.

Dr Goolab adds: “Belonging to a medical scheme such as GEMS brings considerable peace of mind because members know that they will be covered for the treatment of a broad range of chronic medical conditions. GEMS’s rates are also highly affordable, which ensures that members get nothing short of excellent value for money.

“Nothing is more important to GEMS than its members, and every single one counts. GEMS members should know that the Scheme will be at their side through sickness and health.”

*Ms Martina Nicholson is a contributor to SA Soldier.
The South African Navy recently opened its Simon’s Town naval base gates to the public for its annual Navy Festival. While this was a new experience to some members of the public, it was the 15th festival that the SA Navy hosted.

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Mosiwa Hlongwane, officially opened the annual SA Navy Festival during a parade held at the Martello Sports Field in Simon’s Town, followed by precise navigation and timing for the ceremonial Sail Past where he received the naval ceremonial marks of respect from each ship, including the German ships.

The 2015 programme was packed with popular events held at the arena. This included well-coordinated rhythmic marching bands from East Ridge, Strandfontein, and the Western Province Marching Association, flawless precision drill movements by TS Woltemade Sea Cadets and an impressive SA Navy precision drill squad. While the dog show and Fire-Fighting displays kept visitors entertained at the arena, some chose to visit the indoor exhibition area to get a closer look at the remote underwater vehicle demonstration and the live gun shop displays.

Visitors were offered an opportunity to tour the submarines and South African and German naval ships that were involved in Exercise GOOD HOPE VI. They experienced the manoeuvrability and power of the tugs, whose main purpose is to guide large, ocean-going ships into and out of port, tow barges, perform dredging operations, and salvage equipment and disabled vessels.

The spectators were treated to the Silver Falcons Aerobatic Team of the South African Air Force (SAAF) flying Pilatus PC-7 Mk I ‘Astra’ aeroplanes performing the 5-ship formation arobatic display. A combined search-and-rescue display at the outer water basin by the SAAF Lynx helicopter and the SA Navy divers demonstrated the capability of the SANDF to conduct joint rescue operations from the air and sea.

During an anti-piracy display, the Maritime Reaction Squadron, fully dressed up and ready for conflict, displayed fast-roping procedures from an SAAF Oryx onto the deck of a moored offshore patrol vessel to demonstrate their capability of being able to quickly infiltrate the ship and capture the pirates on board.

Schools from the Western Cape were invited to the festival. Emphasis was on fitness and to present an opportunity for gathering information regarding career paths in the SANDF. Fourteen teams participated in the SA Navy Festival Potted Sports competition. The competition gave insight into how the SA Navy promotes teamwork and fitness in a fun way. Visitors were able to witness the Midmar Mile swimmers cutting through the waters of the inner basin as far as the bullnose and back. This gave insight into the psychological and environmental factors to consider, such as the open sea, water temperature and distance that the swimmers must swim.

The annual SS Mendi memorial, which included a wreath-laying ceremony, was held at Jubilee Square on the last day of the festival. A retreat ceremony was held on Sunday, signifying the end of the 2015 SA Navy Festival. The number of visitors to the SA Navy Festival 2015 over the weekend was estimated at 100 000.
The Transformation Display – SA Naval Museum

By Cdr Leon Steyn, Curator
SA Naval Museum
Photos courtesy of Navy News

The Transformation Display at the SA Naval Museum was recently officially opened by Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Bravo Mhlana. The project was initiated by V Adm Johannes Mudimu shortly after his appointment as Chief of the Navy in 2005.

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

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

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

The transformation display focuses on important landmark events that saw the transformation of the SA Navy through the years.

The displays include the first non-Europeans serving in the naval forces during the Second World War, the involvement of African dockyard workers in Simon’s Town through the years, the first appointment of Coloured people into the SA Navy during the 1960s, the inclusion of women in uniform during the early 1970s, the formation of the Indian Training Battalion and SAS JALSENA during the 1970s, the integration of non-statutory forces, Umkhonto we Sizwe and the Azanian People’s Liberation Army, into the SA Navy after 1994.

Interwoven with these historic events are the stories of many individuals that lived and died, which represent the tragic story of SS Mendi, the valour of Job Masego during the Second World War, the sad loss of Coloured Corps members off Kalk Bay in 1965, the achievements of women in the SA Navy, the Umkhonto we Sizwe training in Russia and naval training in Baku and the integration success story of the SA Navy at SAS SALDANHA and the SA Naval College.

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

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

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

By Col Rina Fourie, Vice-Chairperson Pretoria Military Cycling Club
Photos courtesy Mandie Herbst Photography

Cancer survivors, friends, families and supporters participated in a victory mountain bike race for those who survived the battle against cancer. Cancer survivors as young as eight years old recently participated when the Pretoria Military Cycling Club successfully hosted a mountain bike race at Air Force Base Swartkop directed by S Sgt Johnny Botha from General Support Base Garrison. The aim of the race was to raise funds in support of the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA).

The club members, CANSA representatives, food vendors and marshals already arrived at the venue from 04:00 to prepare for the activities of the day. Apart from the funds that were raised for CANSA on the day, the opportunity was used to provide exposure to the open air displays from the SA Air Force Museum. The cyclists were unexpectedly treated to an early morning unplanned flypast of helicopters departing for the activities in Potchefstroom as the race coincided with Armed Forces Day.

A total of 644 cyclists entered for the 2015 race opposed to less than 200 entries in 2014. The increased number of cyclists not only shows that cycling is growing but that cycling for a charity makes the sweat, dust and exhaustion worth the effort. The cyclists generally finished the race dirty and exhausted but with a sense of achievement as the single track posed some unexpected challenges and unplanned falls. The 52km and 25km routes have proven to be quite challenging and the younger and the not-so-fit cyclists participated the 8km fun ride on the gravel road along the perimeter of the base.

The Pretoria Military Cycling Club supported by the Pretoria Military Sport Club provided the marshals to ensure that cyclists remain safe and do not stray from the marked route. Cyclists were all awarded their medals on successful completion of the race and the first three men and women in the respective 25km and 52km races were awarded the floating trophies.

Cyclists can look forward to another Mountain Bike Race planned for 25 July 2015 at Wallmannsthal and members of the Department of Defence are invited to join the Pretoria Military Cycling Club to benefit from the fun and healthy activity.
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The event has become synonymous with the Easter Weekend in Cape Town, with the pre-race activities at the expo, family day, and fun runs on Easter Friday. Enroute entertainment on the race day provides fun, excitement, and a unique experience to runners, family, friends, and spectators alike.

This year again participants could choose from various distances: the scenic 56km ultra-marathon or popular 21km half-marathon, the 10km and 20km trail runs or the 5km or 2.5km fun runs, as well as a 56m Nappy Dash (up to age 3). All these events attracted close to 34 500 participants across all the distances, including 2 000 international athletes; an International Friendship Fun Run was also presented at the V & A Waterfront.

A total of 27 700 athletes entered for the 21km and 56km race. Altogether 149 runners from the Department of Defence and the Defence Reserves participated in the race of which 35 were women. This race was also an international participation event for SANDF. Capt (SAN) Chris Dooner, the previous Chairperson for Western Province Athletics, who recently retired, were once again appointed as one of the referees for the 56km race, and also ran the 21km with the runners who had to work on the day of the race.

A windy and chilly start at this year’s Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon did little to dampen the spirits of more than 28 000 runners who took part in the 21km and 56km. Despite the slightly cold start and light rain, low clouds/mist during the first 42km of the race, things heated up quickly on the new route, which resulted a number of athlete’s completing the Ultra Marathon between six and seven hours, said Col Zirk Lourens, PRO for Athletics SANDF, who also completed his 15th Ultra Marathon. Col Lourens added that the wind also contributed to a slower race performance overall.

The Title sponsor Old Mutual originally offered a R1 Million prize to the male or female runner to break the Ultra Marathon’s records. But as Easter Saturday drew to a close, the 1988 and 1989 records established by Thompson Magawana and Frith van der Merwe respectively, remain in place for next year.

The technical sponsor Adidas brought the legendary Haile Gebrselassie (the Ethiopian long-distance track and road running athlete) to Cape Town as their guest at this year’s event. Haile Gebrselassie attended the media conferences and received the winners on finishing the 21km and 56km races. His presence at the Two Oceans Marathon made a huge impact on the public and future runners to meet the champion in person. He is considering to participate in the 2016 Ultra Marathon.

56km route changes

After weeks of intense discussions and close collaboration with all stakeholders who are involved in presenting this prestige event, it was decided that the Old Mutual Two Oceans Ultra Marathon route will be run along...
In the second position was Ms Martha Pretorius from the SANDF Western Province Athletic Club with a time of 05:15:45 and 1605th overall position from 8 586 finishers.

Lt Col Chris Steyn, the Chairperson for Athletics SANDF, from SANDF Gauteng North (Pretoria Military Marathon Club) completed his 21st Two Oceans Marathon (56km) in a time of 05:12:46.

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AbOVE: First SANDF runner (21km) - WO1 Keith Tessner, a Master athlete (50-59) from the SANDF Western Province Athletic Club.

The first woman running for the SANDF to complete the Two Ocean Marathon (56km) was Capt Nokholo Hlezupondo from the SANDF - an excellent achievement for an amateur runner. She was also the first women SANDF runner in the 2014 Ultra Marathon.

In the second position was Ms Martha Pretorius from the SANDF Western Province Athletic Club with a time of 05:15:45 and 1 605th overall position from 8 586 finishers.

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Col Zirk Lourens completed his 15th Two Oceans Marathon in a time of 05:50:00. Col Lourens also had media interviews before the start of the race with regard to the DOD/SANDF involvement and participation in this road race and other race fixtures held throughout the RSA.

21km Race

In the 21km race, the first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was WO1 Keith Tessner a Master (50-59) from SANDF Western Province Athletic Club (Fleet Maintenance Unit); his overall position out of 12 967 competitors was 262th in a time of 01:34:20.

Also from the SANDF Western Province Athletic Club in the second position was Mr Ashley Koopman in a time of 01:44:12 and third CPO Alfredo Beukes; he was also 3rd in 2014.

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56km Race

Special mention is made about the performance of the first SANDF athlete - CPO Nhlanhla Khanyile. He was under the top 100 finishers to complete the Two Ocean Marathon! CPO Khanyile from the SANDF Athletic Club KwaZulu-Natal (Legsato Durban) overall position out of 8 586 competitors was 97th in a time of 03:55:54 - an outstanding performance against international and national professional runners.

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ABoVE: First SANDF women runner (21km) - WO1 Gail Jacobs, a Veteran athlete (40-49) from the SANDF Western Province Marathon Club.

Eastern Province Athletic Club (Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape). She ended in the 65th position among 2 500 women runners in a time of 04:46:08. Capt Hlezupondo ended in the 739th overall position among 8 586 finishers.
We live in times when hatred clouds our lives and people can even justify their hatred for one another. We live in broken societies where neighbourhood is the talk of the past. We are focused on ourselves and do not have space for others.

Our country has turned into the talk of the world about attacks on foreign nationals. We have lost the spirit of UBUNTU (I am because you are) and that is why this phrase “love your neighbour” will be welcomed with a question, who is my neighbour?

In Matthew 10:25-37, Jesus was responding to the question asked by the law expect, his response to their test wasn’t as simple as they expected. He answered them in a parable that challenged the values of the Jew. The parable forced them to identify with the Samaritan; who was not seen as part of them. In the parable Jesus talks of the man who fell prey of the thieves and those expected to protect him just passed him and ignored him until the Samaritan came to his rescue. The stranger that was despised and detested rose to ensure the poor man is safe and cared for.

Then Jesus asked: “Which of the three do you think was neighbourly to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers.” When the law expect answered Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” But what is it that the law expect was supposed to do? He had to go and show love and compassion like the Samaritan did to the man. The nationality, religious or political affiliation should not be a matter of concern, only love for one another should be the tying thread that binds us. The expect had to go and live in harmony with other human beings, whether they were Jews or not.

We also need to live likewise; South Africa needs to show the world what it means to live as a rainbow nation. We need to preach to the world that apartheid separated us and now we are healed and will not be separated whether by colour or nationality, and never will we ever despise or hurt others.

We should not forget God’s love and kindness. God loves us regardless of our misery. He does not judge or condemn us because we are sinners, so why then do we ill-treat others. Does it not matter to us that we all as a human race were created in God’s image? Don’t we realise that we all need God’s grace and compassion regardless of our material status?

As much as we expect God to be loving and compassionate to us He expects us to show love and compassion to others as well. We need to realise that through these gruesome attacks on foreign nationals we are simply perpetuating “societal anger” that breaks our moral fibre. In the future looking retrospectively will we be a proud nation looking what we have done; are we contributing to the betterment of our society? What legacy are we leaving for the future generation?

What we need now more than before is to protect our rainbow nation and live together as one, as neighbours the way we are expected to. If we do so, not only would we be fulfilling the great command but also saying to the conflict-stricken countries, “look South Africa can do it, and you can also do it to stop conflict and violence: Love your neighbour.”
events

South African celebrities wear their tekkies for a good cause

ABOVE: Expresso presenter, Katlego Maboe, disability ambassador, Tekkie Tax.

Article and photos provided by Ms Cornel Theron, Media Liaison Tekkie Tax

It’s that time of the year again when you can kick off your high heels, school shoes or boots and swap them for your comfy pair of tekkies (we all know you want to). The best part – it is all for a good cause.

How, you ask? 29 May is annual Tekkie Tax Day! On this day all you need to do is:

Choose the sector you want to support in basic family care, children, disability or education and animals. Yes, you may choose more than one.

Get your R10 sticker (that is the tax you pay) and wear your tekkies (Maybe just wash them before you wear them).

If you do not have time, you can get a pair of our funky shoelaces called “tekkie tags”. This way you would not be ashamed because you cannot tell the colour of your tekkies anymore.

You can get the stickers and “tekkie tags” from any of the participating welfare organisations or you can order what you need directly from their website.

The project is supported by five well known South African celebrities who will be official ambassadors for National Tekkie Tax Day this year. Afrikaans rapper, Jack Parow will be the Animal ambassador, Master Chef star Sade Giliberti the Basic Family Care ambassador, Sorina Erasmus (the Flooze) the Children ambassador, the much loved Expresso presenter Katlego Maboe the Disability ambassador and the queen of dance Tebogo Kgobokoe the Education ambassador.

The campaign is endorsed by 16 of the biggest and most accountable national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the country, representing more than 1 500 local organisations.

Put your best foot forward this year’s Tekkie Tax Day and support the Tekkie Tax Day.

• Epilepsy SA.
• Child Welfare SA
• SOS Children’s villages
• CHOC (Childhood Cancer Foundation)
• Special Olympics SA
• Endangered Wildlife Trust
• HPCA - Hospice Palliative Care SA
• Imisebeyelanga Services
• CANSA
• Meals on Wheels
• ACvv
• vWA
• Highveld Horse Care Unit
• Cheshire Homes SA
• NG Welsyn
• SA vF

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

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

www.dod.mil.za

defence

Department: Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA