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Awarding 30 years of loyal service

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SA Air Force Squash Championship

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2005 - Winner of the Government Communicator of the Year Award (GCIS).
2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).
SA SOLDIER is published monthly - 12 issues per year. The views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the Department of Defence (DOD). Acceptance and publication of advertorial and advertising matter in SA SOLDIER do not constitute DOD endorsement or warranty in respect of goods or services therein described. The DOD does not assume any liability in respect of any claims made in advertisements.

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FRONT COVER: The Chief of Staff of the SA National Defence Force, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, on behalf of the Chief of the SA National Defence Force, Gen Solly Shoke, conferring Long Service Medals to members. (Photo by Sgt Ronald Knight)
W hile doomsday prophets like to say that print is dead, globally the opposite is true. Organisations and publishers are investing in their print products to keep them relevant and provide a better integration between print and digital. These companies use publications as important communication vehicles to market their services and products.

Although the digital era has brought change, printed publications have adjusted to the change by adapting their content strategies. Nowadays printed publications focus more on in-depth and investigative articles, with a view to re-using these articles, e.g. for research purposes.

Printed publications work with digital, but use less energy that are not derived from fossil fuels, but rather a renewable resource called wood fibre.

Paper adds to a more emotional reading experience. It offers a sensory experience.

Paper is still extremely relevant as an educational medium, particularly in developing countries. In many of these countries, electronic devices are unaffordable for the vast majority. And in many of these countries access to and affordability of electricity is problematic. This is where printed publications are relevant and come in very handy – they are anytime and anywhere communication tools. They can easily be shared and require no specialised equipment, such as expensive tablets, desk tops and data networks.

Of equal importance is the fact that the human brain interacts with printed material differently to material on a screen. Effective learning is not possible without printed material.

Companies such as Sappi plant trees which, like any other crops, are harvested when ready. It is a myth that you can “save a tree”. You might as well say that not choosing to buy an apple saves that apple. Each year Sappi plants more trees than it harvests.

Each year the plantations of Sappi release more than 12.5 million metric tons of CO\textsuperscript{2} into the atmosphere. This company interacts with trees specifically to be harvested.

Interestingly enough the commercial plantations of Sappi absorb 12.5 million metric tons of CO\textsuperscript{2} produced by 120 000 Boeing 747 flights between Johannesburg and London – or 5% of all commercial flights in the world – annually.

It bears testimony to the fact that change brings challenges (opportunities) and does not necessarily mean the end of an era. In history one medium has never led to the end of another, and it is not going to happen now.

Keep on spreading the word: Print and paper will still be here for many years to come.

Keep on enjoying reading SA Soldier.

*Translation into IsiXhosa by Maj Kuselwa Kutshwa, SO2 Media Liaison.

N elda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier
The South African Defence Review 2015 identifies the SA National Defence College (SANDC) as the institution for higher learning in the SA National Defence Force that is charged to take the lead in strategic leadership underpinned by inter-departmental cooperation and collaboration.

Strategic leadership is the driving theme behind the two programmes on offer: the first being the Security and Defence Studies and the Short Learning Programme series instituted in 2016. The success of the Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) lies in participation of other government departments in an effort to involve as many departments as possible.

The SANDC hosted its last SLP for 2016 in October, namely National Security and the Media. The previous SLPs were Scenario Based Planning and Management of National Security followed by Strategic Leadership presented by the United Kingdom (UK) Defence Academy.

Subject matter experts present the programmes over a continuous five-day period. Each programme is designed to provide members with practical exposure, underpinned by a modest theoretical undertone. Apart from attending formal lectures, self-study, syndicate work and plenary discussions, members are obliged to undergo formative and summative assessment.

The North West University School for Business and Governance accredits SLPs. Negotiations are currently under way to combine all the SLPs into a tertiary qualification. This offers the opportunity for Department of Defence (DOD) members and those of other government departments to acquire a qualification on a part-time study basis. It also offers guidance is initially provided by identifying the aim or goal of the organisation, the objectives that must be achieved and the crafting of a strategy to achieve these.

The aim of the SLP was to apply Strategic Leadership to leading and managing our organisations towards a better South Africa. The SLP also empowered members to enhance strategic leadership and management at the strategic level across the defence and wider security sector.

Seven South African and two international speakers, who are experts in the field of leadership, also addressed the students. The international speakers, Dr Ifti Zaidi and Lt Col Christopher Fisher from the School of Defence and Security of the Defence Academy of the UK at Shrivenham, were provided by the British Peace Support Team in South Africa. They are part of the UK MOD’s Strategic Leadership Programme, which is delivered to 16 countries.

In accordance with the Defence Review requirements, the SANDC is planning to present more SLPs at strategic level for DOD members and other government departments in 2017.

The SA National Defence College now also offers a Short Learning Programme series

By Col Bobby Keller, MBA (UK), Senior Directing Staff at the SA National Defence College

Photo by Mr Witney Rasaka

Attendees of the Strategic Leadership Short Learning Programme.
An eagle is one of the birds that experiences and accepts change. It has the longest lifespan of any bird. It can live up to 70 years, but to reach this age it must take a hard decision. In its 40s it can no longer grab its prey and its sharp beak becomes bent and wings and feathers become stuck to its chest. So to overcome this challenge it must undergo change. The change becomes painful, but later yields good results. It must go to the mountain and pluck out its beak and shed its old feathers that regrow later and it comes back more powerful. This means that change is needed. In order to survive one often has to start a process like changing bosses, jobs and relocating. This allows one to get rid of old traditions. Only when one is freed from past burdens can one take advantage of the present. Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. If you focus on results only, you will never change, but if you focus on change you will get results.

Col Andile Mhata,
Joint Operational Division

HERITAGE DAY “SOUTH AFRICAN COLOURFUL DAY”

The cultural heritage and traditions of the “rainbow nation” date far back. 24 September is observed as Heritage Day, a celebration not only of the past, but also of the contributions of the South African people in making the country what it is today.

The aim of Heritage Day is to afford all citizens of our vast rainbow nation an opportunity to celebrate what makes them and their culture unique. Cultural heritage and traditions are a unifying factor because each culture, race and creed is different but each can understand the mutual need to have a celebration of their heritage and traditions.

Members of the Department of Defence Headquarters (DHQ) Unit celebrated Heritage Day at the Armscor Sports Ground in Pretoria. Addressing the members, the Officer Commanding DHQ, Col Neville January, said that culture is the way of life of a specific group of people. It can be seen in ways of behaving, beliefs, values, customs followed, dress styles, personal decoration, relationships with others and special symbols and codes. It is passed on from one generation to the next. Culture is static but always changing as each generation contributes its experiences.

Chief Director Strategic Support, Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba, the guest speaker, said: “A person’s heritage is made up of the practices and traditions that are passed on from parents to children. Heritage is also about what has been passed on from the family, community and place where people have been raised. For example, a person may have grown up in a family of medical professionals or in a proudly Zulu family where the old customs are still followed. This is part of their heritage. People also have a national heritage. A person who was born in South Africa has a South African heritage. This also means they have an African heritage because they were born on this continent.

“There are different types of heritage. A country’s natural heritage is its beautiful environment and natural resources, like gold and water. Areas that are very special and where animals or plants are in danger of extinction such as the St Lucia Wetlands and uKhahlamba Drakensberg Parks in KwaZulu-Natal are world heritage sites. They are respected and protected against harm. Cultural heritage is formed by those things or expressions that show the creativity of people. These can be special monuments, such as a building, sculpture, painting, a cave dwelling or anything important because of its history, artistic or scientific value.”

Chief Director Strategic Support, Adv Nandipha Ntsaluba, the guest speaker, addressing the members on the importance of Heritage Day. (Photo by Pte Paul Mpangala)

She said that the styles of buildings could also be part of our cultural heritage because of their architecture, where they are built or what they were used for. Robben Island, the Cradle of Humankind at the caves of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans and Kromdraai in Gauteng, the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park and the ancient city of Mapungubwe in Limpopo are all examples of South African cultural heritage.

The event was sealed by members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be published - Editor.
MILITARY POLICE DIVISION CELEBRATES HERITAGE DAY

This day is celebrated around the country by different cultures and ethnic groups. On this day South Africans across the spectrum are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions in the wider context of a nation that belongs to its entire people.

This year the Military Police Division celebrated Heritage Day at 13 Combat Ready Provost Company (13 CR Pro Coy) in Thaba Tshwane. The occasion was a collective effort of Lt Cdr Andries Maabela, Capt Daniel Moleko, Capt Tebogo Chauke and WO1 Raymond Mashau.

Addressing the members, the Officer Commanding 13 CR Pro Coy, Lt Cdr Andries Maabela, said: “Cultural heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from one generation to the other, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expression and values.” He added: “South Africa is a nation that has diverse cultures.”

This was confirmed by representatives from different cultures when they explained their historical backgrounds, including their practices, origin, foods and types of herbs they used for different illnesses.

All cultures present cooked their food and displayed their artefacts at their various stalls; they also wowed the crowd with their different ethnic dances. It was a colourful day as the members wore their traditional attire with pride. Next year will be bigger and even more impressive according to Lt Cdr Maabela.

Maj Sam Bapela, Pretoria

AIR FORCE BASE MAKHADO CELEBRATES HERITAGE DAY

The Officer Commanding Air Force Base (AFB) Makhado, Brig Gen Andre Barends, hailed members of AFB Makhado and in particular the men and women in uniform, including Defence Civilians for their authentic/noble character in promoting unity among cultures working at the base.

He was speaking at an occasion held at the Base Sports Grounds to celebrate Heritage Day. Brig Gen Barends reminded all members that the event should be used also to acknowledge and pay homage to the contributions made by the first Commander-in-Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), the late former President Nelson Mandela, who laid the foundation for peace and democracy in South Africa.

Brig Gen Barends told the members that they had every reason/right to celebrate the day. He said it was up to the members to decide how they wanted to celebrate Heritage Day, based on their beliefs, cultures and traditions. Almost all cultures were represented.

The Officer Commanding (OC) AFB Makhado and OC 3 Air Serving Unit, Col Moses Njomo, opened the floor with a dance performance depicting the boer culture.

The technicians at the base represented the Pedi culture, while the Defence Civilians represented the Venda culture. Most cultures were privileged to perform a story about the history of their tribes and the kind of food eaten, and the attire worn in their particular cultures. Shaka Zulu was the talk of the day among the Zulu and the Tsonga tribes.

The culture and tradition within the military context symbolise the pride and unity of soldiers in serving the nation. As the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, said during his inauguration parade held at Air Force Base Swartkop in September 2011: “Ours is to serve with Discipline, Dignity, Professionalism and Patriotism”.

The SA Air Force, and the SANDF in particular, have a unique role in promoting unity among cultures. A good example of this is the Military Tattoo which is held annually either in Durban or Cape Town, when all Services are represented.

Brig Gen Barends ended by saying that as we celebrate Heritage Month, we should all condemn the abuse of women and children, domestic violence, rape, racism, sexism, homophobia, religious intolerance, cyber and social media bullying, hate speech, derogatory language, and comments inciting hate speech. Lt Thomas Mulauldzi, Air Force Base Makhado
A HERITAGE ROUTE TO UNCOVER THE CAPE’S MILITARY HISTORY

A city steeped in military history gives locals and other visitors a glimpse into the past. The abundance of museums and memorials ensure that the city’s military past is remembered.

The City’s Mayoral Committee Member for Tourism, Events and Economic Development, Councillor Eddie Andrews, said: “Military history is an integral part of the story of Cape Town. As the oldest city in South Africa, Cape Town has a rich history and the military plays a large part in that story. We cannot erase this history, but instead need to preserve it as part of our heritage of an inclusive city. It is interesting to see where and how it all started.”

The launch of the Military Heritage Route is a part of the City of Cape Town’s culture and heritage strategy. The Military Heritage Route, which includes the Castle of Good Hope, the South African Naval Museum in Simon’s Town, and the Chavonnes Battery Museum, showcases the rich military heritage that Cape Town has to offer Capetonians and visitors.

The Castle of Good Hope is the oldest surviving building from South Africa’s colonial era and has been the centre of civilian, political and military life at the Cape since 1666. It was initially erected as a fort and about 13 years later (1679) was turned into the Castle of Good Hope. It has survived many challenges in its time and in its current state the Castle is possibly one of the best preserved 17th century buildings.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Caste Board, Mr Calvyn Gilfillan, says the history of the Cape, South Africa and Africa is one of armed colonial conquest: “But even before the Europeans came, the indigenous people had been warring over cattle, water holes, women, children and the like. In the case of the Cape, the first recorded historic 1510 battle at Table Bay, where indigenous Khoi warriors defeated the Portuguese viceroy Francisco d’Almeida and his army of 60 men because that latter stole cattle and abducted children set the scene for military heritage that is complex, intricate and multi-dimensional.”

The South African Naval Museum pays homage to the country’s rich naval history. There is also some very dramatic naval artwork on display in the museum, recalling in particular various sea battles fought during World War II. If tales of naval battles and heroism on the high seas are of interest, then the South African Naval Museum should be on everyone’s itinerary.

In the mid-1600s, Table Bay was the main docking point for ships rounding the Cape of Good Hope. The little seaport of Simon’s Town became the preferred harbour during the winter months in the Cape as it was less exposed to storms. In 1971 Simon’s Town officially became the winter anchorage and the town was developed to accommodate the busy naval port.

The Chavonnes Battery Museum showcases archaeological ruins that were buried for over 140 years. Originally built in 1724 with rock from Table Mountain and cement made of sea shells, guests are able to step below sea-level to see the ribs of this old VOC fort. Here visitors are able to touch the sand of the original shoreline of the Cape of Storms/Good Hope. The VOC fort was ripped apart and buried in 1860 but since 2008 has become an attraction for visitors to Cape Town.

Councillor Andrews added: “One of the main challenges that we face is the seasonal nature of tourism in our city, with high demand in the summer season and low demand during winter. The Military Heritage Route can be explored year-round. Each of the three sites along the route has been in existence for a number of years and has something unique to offer the visitor. It is quite fascinating to learn where it all started and how the city we live in has evolved in over 300 years.”

Cdr Leon Steyn, Officer-in-Charge SA Naval Museum

Army Support Base Johannesburg

Glitz and glamour on television is a thing of the past. Members of Army Support Base (ASB) Johannesburg held one of the best red carpet moments recently in their unit. Lifting the morale and creating a very comfortable working environment do not have to cost a unit and its members millions. This was proved by the members of ASB Johannesburg when they held a glamorous formal guest evening.

When it was still in the pipeline many thought it was just a dream that would never come true until members began buying, designing and preparing themselves for the night that many thought was just one of those promises.

Each person present for the evening with their partners could not believe how gorgeous they looked. It is time that we all adopt the mentality that we have dominion and authority in ourselves to make our lives as lively and successful as possible.

As we share this beautiful memory and inspiration we hope that we can motivate other units to make the best of all that they have. We do not wait for the perfect time, but rather we make it ourselves. We are not a rigid unit. Cpl Dimakatso Faith Davhana, Army Support Base Johannesburg
A study of military integrated environmental management (MIEM) was initiated at the Donkergat Military Training Area (DMTA) at Langebaan in 2006 and the final product, a PhD dissertation, was published in 2015. The research was aimed at building an inventory of environment-operation interaction impacts on the DMTA, documenting and analysing the efficacy of management procedures in a MIEM framework and designing and testing an electronic spatial decision support system (SDSS) to enable replication elsewhere.

The DMTA was selected as it hosts diverse, primarily seaborne, training and combat endeavours of the soldiers of the SA Special Forces. The facility borders the Atlantic Ocean at Langebaan Lagoon (a Ramsar site) and includes Mewus Island. The aim of the study was to supply answers on how to accommodate military activity compatibly in this sensitive environment.

Five objectives were pursued, namely to inventorise the physical resource base and concomitant environmental sensitivities of the DMTA, including the impact of military activity on the resource base; to give an overview of management measures to reduce further unrestrained progress of environmentally harmful impacts through MIEM solutions; to develop an SDSS to manage the sensitive environmental resources and military activities; and finally to project these measures against a theoretical backdrop of integrated military and marine environmental management.

The surveys culminated in a comprehensive reference consisting of a manual-like inventory of terrestrial and marine floral and faunal life forms. Similar data on physical and man-made landscape features were compiled and the conservation status and vulnerabilities of life forms, especially birds, were established. The surveys recorded evidence of any notable military impact on the environment concerning infrastructure, ecology and cultural-historic heritage. A comprehensive electronic spatial database of all these features was compiled on a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform.

As a point of departure for effective operational and environmental management, the requirements for a MIEM framework were determined. Operational measures for combating a wide range of impacts, as well as the success of their application, were compiled to guide continued and future management. An SDSS running off a GIS platform was designed and described in detail and tested for a range of operational and environmental management applications. This application required the sensitivity rating of a range of geographical phenomena captured on the DMTA GIS database and the execution of a multi-criteria evaluation procedure that resulted in an integrative environmental sensitivity map.

The dissertation endorses, due to its uniqueness, that the DMTA be retained as a specialised military training facility. It is recommended that the SDSS be refined, exported and adapted for application at other Special Forces and SA National Defence Force (SANDEF) military training areas. A further refinement should harness the Internet and related data-capture and communications technologies. By implementing this system as part of the legally prescribed MIEM in the SANDEF the impact of military activities on the environment can be minimised and “sacred” or “sacrificed” areas identified.

To ensure that SANDEF training areas as national assets retain their long-term sustainable potential, sound environmental management principles should be applied by upgrading existing management plans yearly, taking into account the conservation significance of the areas, including additional data obtained and extended military activities. The SDSS must be applied to ensure that the areas are utilised in an environmentally responsible manner in line with MIEM prescriptions and commitments to comply with guidelines concerning environmentally responsible conduct.

Lt Col (Dr) Jan Taljaard Marx,
4 Special Forces Regiment

THE WO PROGRAMME WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING:

The Warrant Officers’ Academy, under command of Joint Training Command, is situated at Wonderboom Military Base in Pretoria. The Warrant Officers’ Academy recently celebrated its 10 Year milestone with a function held on the SA Army Signal Formation Military Pentathlon grounds at Wonderboom Military Base.

In his welcoming address as the Warrant Officer in Charge of the Academy, SCWO Zakhele Cornelius Sikupela, mentioned their slogan “Forward ever, backward never” and said that the WOs Academy will only be moving forward and that people need to take education seriously. Some of the esteemed guests in attendance included Maj Gen Gordon Mzwandile Yekelo, General Officer Commanding Joint Training Command, and various Senior Chief Warrant Officers (WOs) of the different Services, founder members of the WOs Academy and other invited members, as well as current course members.

The Education, Training and Development (ETD) First Report of 1997 led to the initiation of Project LOYAL on 19 March 2001, under the auspices of Joint Training Command to address the shortfall in the SANDF military professional development of Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) and WOs, which entailed the development of a comprehensive learning pathway and associated learning opportunity for the optimal development of NCOs and WOs.

The project team compiled the ETD Appreciation for the presentation to the Military Council on 2 December 2002. The Directorate Information Management Systems (DIMS) report followed in October 2003. In September 2004 the critical posts were staffed to establish the Warrant Officers’ Academy at Military Base Wonderboom.


Maj Lizette Lombard, SA Army Signal Formation
1 Special Service Battalion Delta Company achieved a huge operational success

By Maj Bridgette Bosman, Company Commander Ndumu Operational Base

During Operation CORONA (a border safeguarding operation) the Intelligence Non-commissioned Officer of 1 Special Service Battalion Delta Company, Sgt Mosala Motshabi, recently received information that contraband (second-hand clothing, counterfeit shoes) was to be loaded at Abercorn Drift (known as Nkonjani), part of the borderline between South Africa and Mozambique near the Ndumu game reserve.

Delta Company’s Intelligence Team consisting of Sgt Motshabi, Cpl Dimakatso Bowane and Sgt Mamagau arrived in the area and found it difficult to control the illegal activity. Five vehicles (all Toyota Hilux) fully loaded with contraband had come to South Africa from Mozambique.

Two brave Troopers of Delta Company Headquarters, Tpr Thapelo Motshabi and Tpr Muzonzima Ngema, stopped the vehicles as they were moving out of the loading zone. The drivers of these vehicles stopped when they observed the soldiers, abandoned their vehicles and fled the scene. More manpower was requested from the Company Commander Maj Bridgette Bosman, who then tasked Platoon 1, led by CO Sifiso Ngubane, for back-up.

The Military Police arrived to manage the situation. CO Ngubane also arrived to help stabilise the situation. The soldiers removed the contraband from the vehicles and loaded 170 bags onto Samil 20 vehicles, police and military vehicles.

The contraband was transported to Ndumu Police Station. This Intelligence driven operation led to Golela and a counterfeit specialist in Durban, Mr Heinrich Botha.

The contraband was safely stored and locked in a State warehouse while further instructions were awaited.

ABOVE AND LEFT: Five vehicles (all Toyota Hilux) fully loaded with contraband, e.g. assorted labelled sneakers were confiscated at Abercorn Drift.

ABOVE: Members of Delta Company of 1 Special Service Battalion achieved a huge success in the first month of their deployment, having confiscated goods to the street value of R2 629 600 consisting of assorted sneakers.
ABOVE: The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, handing over Lt Gen Duma Mdutyana's medals and his service cap to his family during the funeral held at Elubacweni in Mount Frere.

ABOVE: SA National Defence Force pall-bearers slow marching with the casket containing the mortal remains of the late Lt Gen Duma Mdutyana, the Chief of Joint Operations.

**Centenary Commemoration of the SS Mendi**

21 Feb 1917 - 21 Feb 2017
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula (front), met with her Swedish counterpart, Mr Peter Hultqvist, at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria to discuss prospects for defence cooperation between South Africa and Sweden.

The relationship between the two countries was cemented by the South Africa-Sweden partnership in 1999 and the subsequent establishment of the Bi-national Commission in 2000. A number of events have taken place which have reinforced and deepened the already close bilateral relations. The Swedish government has made it a priority to build up a partnership with South Africa as part of the Swedish Government’s Africa Policy.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula explained that there was a standing agreement on defence cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in 2000. She mentioned that it had paved the way for the actual agreement which helped establish the Defence Committee with Sweden. The Committee meets on an annual basis, the last one of which was in Pretoria in November 2015.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “We are looking forward to the next Defence Committee that will be held in Stockholm. We had a very good interaction with my counterpart and his delegation. We discussed the situation in the eastern part of Europe. We also discussed a number of issues relevant to what is currently happening in Africa and possible areas of further cooperation.”

She continued: “I am sure you are aware that we have procured Gripen fighter aircraft from Sweden as part of the Defence Strategic Package. We are proud to say that South Africa is the only country on the continent with such a capability.”

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula indicated that discussions included the possibility of a skills transfer regarding aircraft maintenance and the training of pilots. She said there was a need to hasten the turnaround time in procuring spares for the aircraft and that both countries had agreed to explore the possibilities of a warehouse within South Africa. She explained that the visit was on a political level with no economic benefits as yet. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula explained: “As you know we have had long standing relations with Sweden and this was a matter of strengthening relations in a substantial way.” Discussions were held in relation to the Gripen project. Any challenges would be solved collaboratively.

The Swedish Minister of Defence said they had in-depth discussions concerning matters in which the two countries could work together. He said the Gripen fighter aircraft had been a big and important project.

Mr Hultqvist said: “This is in Sweden’s national security interest. When we sell it to another country, it’s more than just a business contract: it is also a security aspect and a long-term relationship. We have agreed to try and develop maintenance and pilot training and other infrastructure connected to the Gripen project. We see South Africa as a strategic partner in Africa and we really want to develop this platform together.”
Deputy Defence Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran visits SA

By Sgt Ally Rakoma
Photo by Mr Witney Rasaka

Since the dawn of our democracy South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran have enjoyed strong diplomatic relations. Recently the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, hosted the Deputy Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brig Gen Nasrollah Kalantari Dehaghi, and his delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria.

The meeting between the two delegations resulted in an exchange of views on areas of common interest and a discussion of mutual and bilateral relations between the two nations and their Armed Forces.

Dr Gulube welcomed the Iranian delegation and said that South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran were united in their common aspirations. He said that the two countries would share knowledge on capacity building, science and innovative technology, training programmes in the field of defence, maritime security, energy, trade and investment, environmental issues and technical cooperation.

The Deputy Minister, Brig Gen Dehaghi, was excited about the opportunity to visit South Africa and the warm reception from the Secretary for Defence. He said that the two countries should build on the progress under way following South African President Jacob Zuma’s visit to the Republic of Iran earlier in the year and they should exploit opportunities available to ensure social development, political cooperation, economic investment, trade relations and defence exchanges.

Logistics Division strengthens ties with the People’s Republic of China

By Pte Kabelo Tsogang, Photojournalist at Logistics Division

A delegation from the People’s Republic of China headed by its Deputy Commander Logistical Support Department of the Central Military Commission, Lt Gen Liu Shengjie, recently paid a benchmarking visit to the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Logistics Division in Pretoria.

In Lt Gen Shengjie’s entourage were Maj Gen Wen Shanzhong, Deputy Commander Wuhan Logistic Support Base, Senior Col Huang Hanbin, Director Equipment Research Institute of the Logistical Support Department, Senior Col Yan Wengang, Deputy Director Procurement Management of the Logistical Support Department and Col Wang Chuan, Secretary of Lt Gen Shengjie.

The SANDF’s Logistics Division has been assigned with maintaining diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China and strengthening logistical bilateral relations. The SANDF’s Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Morris Moadira, headed a command group that welcomed the delegation from the Chinese People’s Liberation Army.

Included in Lt Gen Moadira’s delegation were General Officer Commanding Defence Works Formation, Maj Gen Joseph Ledwaba, Col Kantha Boer, Chief Coordinator for the Chinese visit, Col Eric Mpusula, Officer Commanding of Works Training School, and Col Dinky Tshivhase, Senior Staff Officer Logistics Division Corporate Communication.

In his welcoming address, Lt Gen Moadira, gave an update on the previous visit by the Commissar of the General Logistics Department, Gen Liu Yuan, and his delegation to the Logistics Division and the School of Logistics over the period 19 to 22 April 2015.
Department of Defence Logistics Division exchanges views with Russian Federation Defence Ministry

Lt Gen Morris Moadira, Chief of Logistics of the SA National Defence Force (middle), with his entourage from Logistics Division and the delegation of the Russian Armed Forces.

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Ministry of the Russian Federation entered into an agreement providing for the admission of South African servicemen into education establishments of the Defence Ministry of the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Armed Forces had expressed a wish to conduct a study visit to the Department of Defence Logistics Division to exchange views regarding logistics matters in order to strengthen military ties between the two countries’ Logistics Divisions. The first visit subsequently took place over the period 7 to 10 December 2015.

A successful working visit was conducted in which the Russian Armed Forces focused on the following areas of interest within the SANDF: establishment of logistics cooperation, maintenance, application, control and interoperability of fuel and lubricants, training processes, content and programme for logisticians at different levels, storage of explosive material and ammunition, the functioning and services provided by the Defence Industry in regard to mine-protected vehicles, storage and maintenance of armoured vehicles and catering and clothing allowance in the SANDF.

Following the visit of the Russian Armed Forces, an invitation was sent to the Chief of Logistics of the SANDF to visit Russia and strengthen the Logistics to Logistics cooperation. This visit recently took place, where Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Morris Moadira, Brig Gen Mzikayise Thyalisi and Col Kantha Boer embarked on a benchmarking visit to Russia. The main aim of the visit was to build cooperation in the field of logistics between the Russian Armed Forces and the SANDF.

The Chief of Logistics Headquarters of the Russian Armed Forces, Lt Gen Alexei Kuzmenkov, welcomed the delegation and reiterated the importance of this visit and the strengthening of this cooperation. The following prospects of cooperation were discussed: Training of logisticians at the Russian Higher Military Institutions in the field of logistics and technical support, exchange of expertise within logistics support in peacekeeping operations, participation of logistics in the Army International Games, use of modern information technology regarding logistic systems, modernisation, repair and disposal of weapons and military equipment, deployable logistics, special logistics systems, field camps, kitchen and mess facilities, mobile laundries, sanitary mobiles, field bakeries and medical posts, outsourcing versus insourcing (use of domestic service personnel) and ammunition testing of fuses.

The delegation also visited the 100th Separate Regiment to study the organisation of combat training of personnel, infrastructure, military camps and social conditions of servicemen. A visit to the weapons testing centre was an eye-opener for the delegation, which witnessed the technical condition of the ammunition at the end of its life span of 40 years.

Confidence was expressed by both parties regarding an increase in cooperation and the exchange of information in the sphere of logistics. Col Boer, who manages logistical training for the SANDF, explained that the Russian Embassy had extended an invitation to the SANDF to participate in the programme as South Africa and the Russian Federation had a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitated cooperation in joint training.

This programme offers a wide range of defence acquisitions resource management programmes to its partner nations, and South Africa is one of them. She added that the programme was intended to strengthen democratic relations and international security cooperation through acquisition, education research and professional service.
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“A soldier is a special breed of citizen”

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos by Sgt Ronald Knight

Goodwill is the act of being friendly, cooperative, helpful and showing compassion. This definition encapsulates the spirit that the Goodwill Parcel Project (GWPP) stands for. It is a stance that from whichever angle one looks at it, one simply can’t find it to be morally unjustifiable. GWPP was not established on the basis of pity or charity. From its humble beginnings 15 years ago the GWPP has grown into a partnership between the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the South African business sector, a partnership that is wholly sustained by the single objective of showing appreciation to the men and women in uniform who are deployed in various missions both internally and externally. It is indeed a gesture of goodwill to those who unselfishly continue (even during the festive season) to show South Africa and the rest of the world their goodwill in protecting South Africa’s borders and keeping the peace on the African continent.

The act of compassion that later became known as the GWPP was initiated by Warrant Officers and their spouses to see to the emotional well-being of deployed soldiers spending the festive season away from their loved ones. From a meagre collection of money by Warrant Officers who bought gifts for these soldiers to cheer them up. It was a small token and a goodwill gesture to say: “We see you, we have not forgotten; we thank you and keep up the good work”.

The GWPP gala evening was recently held at Burgers Park Hotel in Pretoria. The purpose of this annual event is to consolidate the amassed amounts (monetary) and hamper value from the sponsors of the GWPP and to present it ceremonially to the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke.

The GWPP comprises two components, namely a grocery hamper put together by the SANDF Spouses Forum to be delivered to the families of deployed soldiers as well as goodwill gifts to be handed to the deployed soldiers in their deployment areas. The SANDF Spouses Forum, with the help of Massmart, has this year put together a hamper of 24 products. Altogether 5 800 families of deployed soldiers along the length and breadth of South Africa will receive this grocery hamper delivered on their doorstep. Each of these hampers is valued at R367.00 and their total value is almost R2.2 million donated by sponsors. To date the GWPP has managed to amass approximately R63m.

Snaxworks, Entyce, Premier Food, Lucky Star, Nestle, Promosidor, Unilever, Tongaat Huletts, Mpact and Anchor Yeast.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Mr Vincent Monyaki from Liberty Life Group congratulated SANDF peacekeeping efforts because business can only thrive where there is peace and stability and therefore peacekeeping has a direct impact on the country’s economic growth.

Mr Monyaki said: “2016 marks the 15th anniversary of the GWPP in support of our men and women in uniform serving our nation selflessly. Through the SANDF, the business
community has the environment necessary to conduct business. Stability, soundness and order are some of the critical aspects in building a sustainable economy. The entire nation is in safe hands and at peace with men and women in uniform who've put in and sacrificed their lives to protect the sovereignty of this country on the continent and beyond.”

He assured Gen Shoke that as a business community they would ensure the sustainability of the GWPP in recognition of SANDF heroes and heroines for their invaluable sacrifices. Mr Monyaki said: “We pay a special tribute to all soldiers who have served and continue to serve this country diligently without any expectation of recognition, our fallen heroes - we salute and honour you.”

Delivering his keynote address, Gen Shoke indicated that ideally the GWPP should not have been the responsibility of the few who feel that the SANDF should be appreciated for its sterling work. The Chief of the SANDF said that the country should band together in appreciating those who volunteer to protect the sovereignty of South Africa, even if it means they might lose their lives while executing this task.

The Chief of the SANDF said: “South Africans should stop ridiculing SANDF members because in actual fact these are men and women who make it possible for us to live in such a stable and economically progressive country and they therefore protect even those who are quick to slander the SANDF. It is in fact these men and women who, without any political stance, serve the country diligently as the defence machinery of the state, and are apolitical. A soldier is not to be regarded as any other citizen because in fact a soldier through training is a special breed of citizen, and therefore soldiers are not to be taken for granted.”

With this in mind it is important to remember the deployed members spending Christmas away from their loved ones.

BELOW: The 2016 pledges by sponsors were as follows:

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<tr>
<th>SPONSORS</th>
<th>AMOUNTS PLEDGED</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sanlam</td>
<td>R560 000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Mutual</td>
<td>R430 000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA Army Foundation</td>
<td>R370 000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty Life</td>
<td>R250 000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>R200 000,00</td>
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<td>Avbob</td>
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<td>Tongaat Hulettts</td>
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<td>Clinix Health Group</td>
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<td>SA Air Force Benevolent Fund</td>
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<td>Maxi Credit Solutions</td>
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<td>SA Navy Fund</td>
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<td>Novare</td>
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<td>MFS Retirement Advisory Services</td>
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<td>SA Military Health Service Fund</td>
<td>R 50 000,00</td>
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<td>Canvas and Tent</td>
<td>R 30 000,00</td>
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A military decoration is an award, usually a medal that consists of a ribbon and medallion given to an individual as a distinctively designed mark of honour denoting heroism, merit, achievement and outstanding or long service.

Awarding medals is an honour given to deserving members by the sitting President and Commander-in-Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). The Commander-in-Chief...
The Chief of the SANDF Medal Parade was recently held at Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, where Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, the Chief of Staff of the SANDF, on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, conferred medals to members of the SANDF who had distinguished themselves through their long service of thirty years.

The Parade Commander was Capt Johannes Rafedile and the Parade Warrant Officer was WO1 Shavhani Maphuta. The parade consisted of members of the National Ceremonial Guard and SA Army Band Western Cape under the direction of Capt Vernon Michels.

On behalf of the Chief of the SANDF and the President, Lt Gen Masondo awarded the Medalje vir Troue Diens and Bar, 30 years, to 61 members. Three members received the 30 years Bar to the Medaje vir Troue Diens and six deceased members received medals posthumously.

In his keynote address at the parade Lt Gen Masondo indicated that it was regrettable that some deserving members were only being awarded posthumously. Lt Gen Masondo said: “It is the wish of the Chief of the SANDF that all decorations be awarded while a member is still alive.”
SA National Defence Force Educational Trust supports more dependants

By S Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos by Jonathan Mogano

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Education Trust managed to rake in almost R4.5m during the recent fundraising gala dinner at the Denel Irene Campus in Centurion. So far, 76 dependants on different educational levels have benefited from the trust.

Beneficiaries are dependants of SANDF members who were killed or severely injured while on official duty subsequent to 27 April 1994, and they may apply to it to cover their educational expenses.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, explained that the SANDF Education Trust also covered civilian members killed while deployed with SANDF members subsequent to 27 April 1994.

The Minister highlighted that the incident which led to the establishment of the SANDF Education Trust was prompted by the deaths of soldiers in the Battle of Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR). She said that she was deeply touched in that most of the members that died were bread-winners who had families to look after. The concern was the children and the spouses who were left behind to fend for themselves.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “We had to dig deep to find a long-lasting solution to cater for the educational needs of the deceased members’ children and those who are severely injured such that they cannot work. The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, took the initiative to establish the SANDF Education Trust with the aim of supporting the children of deceased soldiers regarding their educational needs.”

The Minister cited a lady who had deployed with the soldiers to the CAR and had managed to escape the base while carrying over a million dollars to an airport, which was where the soldiers had retreated to. She said: “This is what we call commitment and dedication to the cause. She could have lost her...
life trying to protect the money. The most serious question we need to ask ourselves is how we secure the future of the children who lost their parents in the service of the country.

As some of the pension and insurance pay-outs run dry we have a strong conviction that the SANDF Education Trust is the only viable option we have to ensure that the dependants of our fallen soldiers and civilians who are part of our armed forces can be educated.”

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said the business community, and particularly the defence industry, should step up and assist in the noble task initiated by the Chief of the SANDF. She added: “Let me acknowledge that this would not have been possible if it were not for business entities and individual represented here. It is demonstration of the level of their patriotism and commitment to our country. We are proud that you have chosen to associate with us. It is my hope that all those who made contributions since the initiation of the Trust should continue to do so.” The Minister said she believed that they had chosen the initiative to better the lives of the fallen soldiers’ dependants as a developmental approach to benefit and uplift communities.

The Chairperson of the Armscor Board, V Adm (Ret) Johannes Mudimu, said they had responded to the call made by Gen Shoke to sponsor the SANDF Education Trust gala dinner. He said they were impressed by the importance the SANDF has attached to the Trust. V Adm (Ret) Mudimu said: “Through the SANDF Education Trust the service that our men and women in uniform have so selflessly given to our people shall not be forgotten. Through the medium of this gathering we are providing a platform for the children of our heroes and heroines one day to swell the ranks of our armed forces, particularly as scientists, doctors and strategists.” V Adm (Ret) Mudimu indicated that as they gathered to raise funds for the dependants of fallen soldiers, they should pray for lasting solutions to normal learning and teaching in institutions of higher learning.

The Chairperson of the SANDF Education Trust and the Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, shared a story of a Reserve Force member who was part of the SA Irish Regiment and was caught in an ambush while deployed in the Sudan and was badly wounded, losing both his hands. He mentioned that on a visit with his staff to see him in hospital the member explained that neither he nor his wife had civilian work and he was troubled by his grave injury. Maj Gen Andersen added: “The excellent turnout tonight demonstrates that there is some sensitivity towards the needs of our soldiers. It is important that when our troops deploy, they should know that if something happens to them, their children will be educated. Even for the likes of Rifleman Plaatjies, when I said to him … Do not worry we will educate your children.”
SA Army Chief calls for a return to basics at his maiden medal parade

By Lt Marumo Machete,
SO3 Corp Com SA Army
Photos by S Sgt Chené Kruger and
Lance Bombadier Refilwe Sebopa

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Lindile Yam, delivered a rousing address at the SA Army Headquarters Complex in which he implored servicemen and women to “Kill a Casual Army”. This speech took place at his inaugural medal parade which was meant to honour disciplined service and commitment by members of the country’s land forces.

After lauding the dedication to service of the men and women on parade the recipients had the

RIGHT: The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Lindile Yam, congratulates Chaplain Elsabé Francis on receiving the Mandela Medal (Bronze). Chaplain Francis was one of a group of SA National Defence Force soldiers who played a role, in various capacities, leading to the dignified internment of the remains of South Africa’s first democratically elected President, Mr Nelson Mandela.

LEFT: The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Lindile Yam, acknowledges the salute as he inspects the parade, flanked by accompanying officers, the parade commander and personal assistants.
following medals conferred: the Mandela Bronze Medal, the Maluti Clasp, Tshumelo Ikatelaho (campaign award), Medalje vir Troe Diens (long service award), Good Service Medal and Closure Commemoration Medals. Lt Gen Yam focused his attention on rallying his soldiers never to compromise military ethos and discipline if the SA Army is to meet its rapidly expanding domestic and continental commitments.

The Chief of the SA Army came out guns blazing, urging the country’s landward forces to return to basics and ensure that the SA Army never failed to meet its mandate. In his animated but unyielding speech, Lt Gen Yam thanked the medal recipients for their dedication and urged other SA Army soldiers to emulate their selfless service.

Lt Gen Yam went on to implore members of the SA Army to join his drive for an efficient military force, professionally run and staffed by disciplined members who are always ready to defend the Constitution. He coined the slogan: “Kill a Casual Army” as a way to rally the SA Army’s members to strive for excellence in all fields that complement its mandate to provide combat-ready landward forces for employment by the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

In his inspiring attempt to spur the soldiers to seek success through disciplined action, the Chief of the SA Army borrowed from American author and leadership scholar, John Calvin Maxwell: “Success does not just happen. You have to be intentional about it, and that takes discipline”. He called on the SA Army to go back to basics and reignite the quest for a disciplined military life that precedes success at all levels.

Lt Gen Yam said: “It is for that reason that we have to be disciplined as an army if we are committed to delivering on our mandate. We have to make a conscious effort to seek success at all costs, and without discipline that cannot be possible.”

His drive to “Kill a Casual Army” has as its cornerstone the embracing of the military ethos and discipline by SA Army soldiers at all levels. The Chief of the SA Army used the achievements of the recipients on parade to highlight the rewards that military discipline brings to bear on individuals, as well as the positive impact it plays in achieving organisational objectives.

“The soldiers are all gathered here to be honoured they have painstakingly committed themselves to serve their country as uniformed members from different backgrounds, but the common denominator had been their commitment to be disciplined, no matter the challenges they face throughout their careers,” Lt Gen Yam reminded all those on parade.

Although directly addressing the people present at the SA Army Headquarters Complex, the venue of the medal parade, it was clear that the Chief of the SA Army intended his message to reverberate throughout all bases and areas of operation in which SA Army members found themselves.

Lt Gen Yam challenged members of the SA Army to “Kill a Casual Army” and embrace one where discipline is the order of the day, move back to basics and the correct way of conducting military business – a path that was an enabler for these recipients to achieve their feat”. The Chief of the SA Army was uncompromising and as clear as a bell when it came to the importance of upholding the correct military ethos and discipline by all SA Army members, regardless of rank.

The Chief of the SA Army voiced his confidence in the most crucial asset his army has – its hardworking soldiers and its civilian staff – and said that he does not doubt the commitment of members of the organisation when it came to successfully completing the tasks that the people of South Africa expect of their military. He said: “The efforts of men and women in uniform like these patriots on parade keep the SA Army doing what it is enjoined to by the Constitution.”

A close analysis of Lt Gen Yam’s address at this medal parade as well as at a some other official functions he has attended since his appointment as Chief of the SA Army, reveals just how close to his heart are fitness, military professionalism and discipline as preconditions for successfully achieving the SA Army’s mandate.
Focus on the establishment of a Southern African Development Community regional depot

By S Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

The Logistic Division hosted the 16th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Logistics Working Group conference at the Saint Georges Hotel near Pretoria. The Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Morris Moadira, welcomed the delegates and urged that the deliberations should have a positive outcome.

Lt Gen Moadira said: “First of all, I wish you well in your deliberations at this important meeting. A hearty and warm welcome to all delegates attending the work group.” He explained that the economic situation as experienced globally also affected the SADC region and the continent. He indicated that they should not be dismayed by difficulties in their endeavour to support the achievement of the set objectives for the region.

Lt Gen Moadira said the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise was one of the highlights in testing capabilities and abilities. He said the exercise greatly depended on logistics support, which had shown positive results.
He said: “We did take note of the challenges encountered during the exercise, but we can concede that there is room for improvement. I should point out that the SADC is the most stable region on the continent. Elections in the region were successfully conducted without any conflict or internal strife.

“We still stand steadfast on the establishment of the Regional Logistical Base or Depot. We believe that it will streamline logistical support to the exercise and operations in the region and ultimately the continent when necessary.”

Lt Gen Moadira explained that the Regional Logistic Depot’s success depended on SADC, and must materialise so that ultimately member states can take ownership of their collective vision and efforts. He remarked: “We must take note that no battle has been won without logistical support.”

The SADC Secretariat indicated to the delegates at the 15th Meeting of the Logistics Working Group that land was given by the Botswana government for the establishment of the Regional Logistics Depot.

The terms of reference were passed to the European Union (EU) through the African Union (AU) for funding the project. It also included the SADC Logistics Support Plan to promote participation in Exercise AMANI AFRICA II that was conducted at the Combat Training Centre at Lohatlha.

The vision of the AU African Standby Force (ASF) Logistics Depot and Bases is to build, organise and maintain a logistics depot that is capable of developing, sustaining and enhancing a peace support operations capability at all levels, including peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance to a level of self-sustenance to respond to internal and external crises or threats to peace and security, including terrorist threats or potential humanitarian disasters.

The AU aims to establish six African Union Logistics Depots: one at the continental level and five at the regional level. The depots will have the material management capability to receive, store, issue, control and manage all classes of supply, materials and end-items in support of peace support operations.

These depots will also have the repair and maintenance capability to conduct or manage all levels of maintenance operations for assigned end-items and specialty systems.

The depot will include the training capability to conduct logistics oriented user-level training for logistic functions and processes and assigned end-items with the focus on ASF logistic requirements.

Furthermore, they will have the capability to perform logistics oriented services, directly or indirectly, including procurement, transportation, finance contracting, human relations and other functions in support of ASF missions.

The National Treasury Regulations Section 5 and 30 developed in terms of the Public Finance Management Act together with the Framework for Managing Programme Performance Information requires National Departments, Public Entities and Organs of State to provide funded plans that are to reflect how their respective mandates will be executed through well-defined outcomes, outputs and appropriate performance information.

The National Treasury Framework on Performance Information furthermore provides the necessary legal basis for the establishment of the norms and standards informing the development of the departmental outcomes-based planning and performance information.

The Department of Defence (DOD) Guidelines Workshop for Planning, Budgeting, Reporting and Risk Management held at Defence Headquarters is meant to ensure that these issued guidelines are aligned with the Financial Year 2018/19.

The Chief of Military Policy, Strategy and Planning, Maj Gen Michael Ramantswana, said the DOD had difficult challenges which were highlighted during the Departmental Planning and Budgeting Evaluation Committee (DPBEC) meeting which he recently attended. He said that the Department had a budget cut over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period; meanwhile there are additional requirements coming from Services and Divisions.

Maj Gen Ramantswana said: “We are also informed that there might be a further 2% budget cut and as a result we proposed that we pull out of peace support operations duties because the budget allocation is about a billion. In these proposals we also included withdrawing from border safeguarding and maritime security. When we presented these scenarios our principals said they were to be
discussed with National Treasury.”

He mentioned that the Defence Service Commission had had huge budget cuts. Maj Gen Ramantswana said they were working on a Defence Review document. He said Services have been engaging with the Military Planning Team on the Defence Review.

Maj Gen Ramantswana said: “We do have a draft milestone plan for the arrest of the decline. We need to arrest the decline versus what is required from the defence budget and the Joint Force Employment requirements. If we do arrest the decline, we might easily position ourselves for milestone 3. However, the draft document is not complete. When we presented the DPBEC at the Defence Staff Council (DSC), the Accounting Officer made it clear that he wanted to take it to the Defence Review and National Treasury.” He said that according to the National Treasury they needed to indicate what amount from the current budget allocation would be used for the Defence Review.

The Chief Director Defence Policy, Mr Nick Sendall, said that the International Monetary Fund guidelines, the World Bank, the Defence and Security Policy, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) War Recommendations for Collaborative Defence showed that developing countries should have 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) funding.

He said the DOD was consistently 50% underfunded with compounding effects on its ability to conduct operations. He added that the DOD has had an increase in border safeguarding commitments since 1994, yet we have had a decrease of funding over the years.

The Chief Audit Executive, Ms Gloria Spelman, said one of their responsibilities as the Defence Internal Audit Division was to check if the commitments made during the audit with the Auditor General had actually been implemented.

Ms Spelman cautioned that if the Department did not comply, then there might be adverse findings. She indicated that she was from an Audit Committee and everyone was excited that the Department had been given an unqualified report. She explained that the committee was made up of independent individuals outside the public service and was responsible for providing oversight of what was happening within the Department.

She said: “They actually made it clear, including the Chief Financial Officer, that they were delighted, but cautioned that when the Auditor General conducts audits, they are done in samples. The question is what about the other aspects of the Department that have not been audited though as these are not extrapolated with the other issues.”

Ms Spelman said there was a process in dealing with it. The Management Report of the Auditor General shows that the unqualified report and performance information have been achieved after significant adjustments. She said: “As Internal Audit we are here to help you to avoid the Auditor General identifying the misstatements. The challenge for all of us is to sustain the unqualified report and get a clean audit opinion. Another challenge is that there must be no findings on performance information and no findings relating to compliance with the law on policy or instruction.”

Attendees of the Department of Defence Guidelines Workshop for Planning, Budgeting, Reporting and Risk Management.
Conferring medals to
Defence Legal Services
Division members

Article and photo by WO1 Mathebula Moraile, Public Relations Officer Naval Station Durban

Defence Legal Services Division’s annual Medal Parade and Gala Awards Evening were recently held at Air Force Base Durban and Army Support Base KwaZulu–Natal respectively. Acting Chief Defence Legal Services, Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, conferred three Tshumelo Ikateleho Medals, nine Medaljes vir Trous Diens (20 Years) and 11 Bars to the Medaljes vir Trous Diens (20 Years) and ten Medaljes vir Trous Diens (long service award) and one Unitas Medal to deserving members of the Defence Legal Services Division.

Addressing the attendees, Maj Gen Mmono said: “It is an honour and privilege for me to address you at this year’s Defence Legal Services Division’s Medal Parade. On occasions like this, one recognises and acknowledges the reasons for our existence as a Division in support of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) that provides effective defence for a democratic South Africa. Today we are to honour the men and women who have served this Division and the SANDF with distinction.

Today we are affirming your hard work and dedication. We celebrate your service and sacrifice and thank you for your devotion. This is a token of appreciation for all the work you have put in to serve this organisation - well done. I am confident that other, more junior members will be encouraged to walk in your footsteps and to work harder so that tomorrow they too can be acknowledged as those who epitomised diligence, discipline and integrity within the SANDF.”

Maj Gen Mmono added that the continued proper administration of military justice and the maintenance of discipline are one of the core objectives in the Defence Legal Service Division as covered by the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act (Act 16 of 1999). However, the Defence Legal Service Division is but one of the functional role-players within the military environment to enforce military discipline. He also mentioned that the key responsibility for military discipline is vested with the Commanders within the SANDF. The implementation of military discipline derives from the command structure, and Commanding Officers are required to enforce military discipline through the current legislative provisions provided within the Defence Act (Act 42 of 2002), the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act (Act16 of 1999) and the Military Discipline Code (First Schedule to Defence Act 44 of 1957).

It is envisaged that with the enactment of the Military Discipline Bill (MDB) the military commanders will be empowered with more authority and responsibility to address military discipline, but it is essential that a solid foundation is laid through current actions. The MDB has already been pre-certified by the Office of the State Law Advisor and is currently in the consultative process having engaged with the Developmental Committee under the auspices of the MDB after which it passed the Security Clusters in compliance with the Socio-economic Impact Assessment requirement.

Maj Gen Mmono informed the members on parade that the SANDF could not hope to be successful if it did not take pains to ensure that all its members, thus all ranks, supported each other in upholding the highest standards of discipline and cooperation. If needed steps must be taken to ensure adherence to military standards by all. Let us all work towards having the most disciplined organisation to protect the country.

During the Gala Awards Evening, Maj Gen Mmono honoured members of the Division for a job well done. Addressing the guests during the Gala and Awards Ceremony, Maj Gen Mmono reaffirmed consistency and hard work on the part of the Legal Satellite Office (Legsato) Cape Town, Directorate Legal Advice and Directorate Operational Law Support. These three entities were awarded as the best Legsato and best Directorates for the Financial Year 2015/16. Other members of the Division were awarded trophies and certificates as best individuals in pre-set categories.

Maj Gen Mmono congratulated the recipients and told them that their medals and awards were an indication of their readiness to give their very best to the SANDF and the country. He also thanked the members’ families for their consistent support of the members and his better half for supporting him. Maj Gen Mmono asked the members of the Defence Legal Services Division to continue supporting whoever takes over from him as this would be his last Gala Dinner with them.

The guest of honour was Judge President Dunstan Mlambo, the Judge President of the Gauteng High Court, Chairperson of Legal Aid South Africa and Judge at the Military Court of Appeal. Addressing the members, Judge Mlambo congratulated the Defence Legal Services Division and told the members that they were doing well but could do better and he invited them to meet with him once every year to see where they could improve.
There has been a lot of hype about asset management and unqualified audits. Quite a number of people do not understand what any of these mean and the relationship between the two. So this article is to try and explain the meaning of both.

Perhaps, before getting ahead of ourselves, the first thing to explain is why all of a sudden the Department of Defence (DOD) is concerned about asset management. The easiest way to explain this is by highlighting the expectations of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) 1 of 1999, and the Defence Act 42 of 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Defence Act).

The Public Finance Management Act makes the following provisions

Section 38 (1) states that "the accounting officer is responsible for the management, including the safeguarding and the maintenance of assets". Section 45 states that "an official in a department, trading entity or constitutional institution must ensure that the system of financial management and internal control established for that department, trading entity or constitutional institution is carried out within the area of responsibility of that official; is responsible for the effective, efficient, economical and transparent use of financial and other resources within that official's responsibility; and must comply with the provisions of this Act to the extent applicable to that official, including any delegations and instructions in terms of section 44;".

The PFMA therefore does not place the responsibility for the management of assets with the Secretary for Defence only, but with each and every member and/or official of the department that has resources, including assets under their command, to use the Defence Force and military language.

The Defence Act 42 of 2002 makes the following provisions: Section 14 (e) states that the Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) "is responsible for the direct management and administration of the Defence Force in an efficient way, including the effective utilisation and the education, training and development of all members of the Defence Force, and employees of the Department where so required by the Secretary for Defence".

The above-mentioned statutory provisions make it clear that both the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF have a combined responsibility regarding the management of assets.

Financial misconduct, fruitless and wasteful expenditure can bring the National Defence Force to a halt!

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The Chief of the SANDF has delegated the authority of preparing the asset register to Chief of Logistics, Directorate Asset Management. The preparation of the asset register must be in compliance with the Modified Cash Standard as issued by National Treasury, which prescribes the features that must be in place for the asset register to meet the reporting requirements. This standard is applicable to all government departments. The asset register is the tool used to report in the annual financial statements. However, the main objective of the asset register is to assist the management of the DOD to implement the life cycle management principles, i.e. to understand what is available, identify the gaps, ensure they are filled, and identify items that have reached the end of their life cycles.

Because the asset register is used to report in the annual financial statements, it is the document that is audited when the financial statements are audited.

Audit

When the audit of the financial statements takes place, the Auditor General of South Africa requires the DOD's asset register to audit the assets. The objective of any audit of the financial statements is to express an opinion on the fair presentation of the financial statements or lack thereof.

Assets, generally being the largest figure in the annual financial statements, are subject to closer scrutiny. In the periods before the promulgation of the PFMA there was no requirement for the DOD to prepare and submit annual financial statements to National Treasury for the Auditor General of South Africa to audit. Since the promulgation thereof, each government department, including the DOD, has to make submissions to all these mentioned entities.

This explains the “sudden interest” in asset management and, hopefully, this further clarifies the perception that this “asset management thing” is temporary and will come to an end at some point. It won’t; for as long as the legislation and accrual accounting is in place or is on the cards, as it is now, it will not.

Although government is still in transition towards accrual accounting, the assets information must be reported as secondary information concerning the annual financial statements in terms of the modified cash standard. Once accrual accounting is fully implemented within government, assets will not be disclosed as a footnote to the financial statements, i.e. secondary information, but will be disclosed as primary information in the balance sheet.

In terms of the Public Audit Act Auditor-General means the following: (a) it means the institution contemplated in section 181(1)(e) of 45 of the Constitution; and (b) as an individual, it means the individual appointed as Auditor-General or acting as such. “Authorised auditor” means a person authorised in terms of section 12 to perform or to assist in the performance of an audit referred to in section 11. In terms of the PFMA and the Public Audit Act the annual financial statements must be submitted to the Auditor General by the 31st of May each year.

The audit must be finalised by 31 July of each year and the Annual Report, which includes annual financial statements to Parliament and National Treasury by the end of September each year. Should any of these dates not be achieved, the Accounting Officer will be called to parliament to explain the reasons.

These sessions are generally not pleasant as parliament is supposed to provide oversight over government departments. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) also usually knocks on the doors of the guilty government departments. That is generally a knock that is not welcome, but it is compulsory to respond. For the periods that the DOD obtained qualifications, up to the 2010 financial period, the DOD was always called on to explain to SCOPA and the Portfolio Committee on Defence in parliament to explain and indicate the plans to address the shortcomings in the asset environment.

In fact, both parliament and the National Treasury are of the opinion that the DOD spends a lot of money on its acquisition processes, therefore they should be able to account for that expenditure in the form of assets. In other words, the question they were asking was: “What have you been spending the money on that we’ve been giving you?” With the intervention of the Directorate Asset Management, the DOD has managed to avoid a qualification audit and being called to account in the parliamentary forums on these matters.

Annual basis to Chief of Logistics. The objective of these plans is, among others, to implement asset life cycle management i.e. to ensure that there is proper and adequate planning for each of the life cycle management phases (planning, acquisition, maintenance and disposal) of assets within the command of each Service and Division Chief.

These plans are only effective if the information contained therein is well thought out and properly planned from the bottom up, i.e. level 4 to 2.
SA Army celebrating the 10th SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition

By Lt Col Louis Janeke, SO1 Physical Training Sport and Recreation: Army HQ
Photos courtesy SA Army Intelligence Formation

SA Army Intelligence Formation hosted the 10th SA Army Fittest Soldier Championships at Potchefstroom. L Cpl Odakeng Morifi from 10 SA Infantry Battalion was crowned the 2016 SA Army Fittest Female Soldier for the second year running and Cpl Marunane Maphutha from National Ceremonial Guard as the 2016 SA Army Fittest Male Soldier.

One of the undisputed highlights of this year’s competition was the gracious support provided by the SA Army’s senior cadre that participated in the senior soldier category. Thirty-six Generals, Master Warrant Officers, Officers Commanding and Regimental Sergeant Majors accepted the challenge to contest a tough 15km route in the 4 Artillery Regiment training area while carrying a weight of 20kg (males) or 15kg (females). The Chief Army Force Preparation, Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, set the example by being the most senior member to participate in the competition. The Officer Commanding of the Department of Defence (DOD) Main Ordnance Depot, Lt Col Peter Hudsenberg, was the winner in this category.

The first SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition was presented by Army Support Base Bloemfontein in November 2007 on which occasion a modest 126 members participated. Ten years later, more than 200 members who were nominated to participate in the competition could not participate because the competition permits only 300 participants. The first SA Army Fittest Soldier, Maj Eugene de Wet (46 SA Brigade Headquarters) and Lt Col Benjamin Molekane, WO1 Aaron Sibandze and Lt Col Louis Janeke (creator of this competition) are members that have been involved since the first competition.

4 Artillery Regiment and the other units in the Potchefstroom region provided invaluable support to the Chairperson of the local organising committee of the competition, Col Johan Branson, the Office Commanding of the School of Tactical Intelligence.

Over the years the Technical Director of the SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition, S Sgt Andre Botha (a qualified programme engineer) has developed a tailor-made programme enabling the results to be instantly available. This year the SA Army Foundation, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary, sponsored all the participants on parade with a golf shirt.

ABOVE: The Samil tyre flip was the second “obstacle” of the Intelligence Surprise that CO Mahlabane Maboogoane from 1 SA Tactical Intelligence Regiment had to face.

ABOVE: Cpl Marunane Maphutha from the National Ceremonial Guard sliding over one of the numerous obstacles on his way before being crowned as the 2016 SA Army Fittest Male Soldier. (Photo courtesy Picture Café)
Fitness and discipline

Addressing the members at the opening parade of the Competition, Maj Gen Mpaxa expressed her gratitude to the members on parade for the example they set for the rest of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) regarding fitness and discipline. The importance of fitness and the ability of soldiers to shoot were also stressed. Maj Gen Mpaxa indicated that she was pleased with the large number of senior soldiers and women who entered the competition, and that she and the other senior soldiers were looking forward to doing the endurance walk with all the participants.

The first competition protocol introduced was the known “Bleep Test” where the participants push themselves to the utmost to obtain an early lead. This multi-run exercise was one of the ultimate aerobic measurement tools of the competition. The next and one of the most challenging protocols (for some participants) was where the participants were required to wade through a 25m long pool as fast as possible. Where some participants were lightning fast in the water, some of the other members showed guts and determination to reach the other side of the pool in the best possible time.

On the second morning of the competition (as in the past) the surprise event was an eye-opener for members who were participating for the first time. The SA Army Intelligence Formation provided a challenging course by utilising intelligence unique equipment in which the participants were stretched to their limits. After the competition, some of the participants indicated that they would forever have more respect for members of the SA Army Intelligence Formation for utilising and carrying their tripods. The second day’s events ended with the 400m backwards and sideways running and the Agility-T test.

The “Fun Run” was another challenging event. The participants had to run with equipment over a large number of obstacles for a distance of more than 4km. Some intelligence colour was given to this event as the participants had to identify equipment (using binoculars) placed in the veld. After completing this exhausting challenge the soldiers still had to do the standard SANDF physical fitness evaluations. To be crowned a champion in one of the categories of the 10th SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition members had to complete the 20km (males under 35 years) or 15km endurance run carrying the required equipment. This was on the last day of the competition.

The participants looked forward to the evening’s “flower ceremonies” where medals and prizes were awarded to the winners of all protocols according to age group. This recognition was a highlight for many participants as it was the fruit of months of hard training.

Winners

**Senior Soldier:** Col Peter Hudsenberg (DOD Main Ordnance Depot)
**Best Female 50+:** Col Debbie Janse van Rensburg (SA Army Signal Formation HQ)
**Best Male 50+:** S Sgt Joseph Moloto (101 Air Supply Unit)
**Best Female 40 - 49:** Sgt Monica Mogatle (4 Artillery Regiment)
**Best Male 45-44:** S Sgt Ishmael Molahlehi (Infantry School)
**Best Female 30-39:** Pte Naum Makgai (Army Support Base Limpopo)
**Best Male 35-44:** Maj Isaac Senamela (SA Army Gymnasium)
**Best Overall Female:** L Cpl Obakeng Morifi (10 SA Infantry Battalion)
**Best Overall Male:** Cpl Marunane Maphutha (National Ceremonial Guard)
**Best Formation HQ:** 43 SA Brigade HQ
**Best SA Army Unit:** Infantry School
**Best SA Army Formation:** SA Army Infantry Formation

During the prize-giving ceremony Maj Gen Mpaxa thanked all the role-players who made it possible for the SA Army Intelligence Formation to present such a well organised competition. Not only were various category winners honoured with medals and trophies for their efforts during the week, but also various planners, officials and senior soldiers.

The 2017 SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition will be presented by SA Army Support Formation at Army Support Base Kimberley.
Department of Defence in full compliance with national regulatory framework

By Ms Beatrice du Toit, Acting Director Strategy and Planning, Deputy Director

In terms of the National Treasury Regulations 5 and 30 and the National Treasury Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans all National Departments are required to table their respective, Strategic Plans (5 years) and Annual Performance Plans inclusive of relevant Public Entities and Organs of State, reporting to the Executive Authority (Minister of Defence and Military Veterans) in Parliament. The Department of Defence (DOD) has a legislative oversight function in terms of Public Entities and Organs of State, which are accountable to the Executive Authority and categorised within Schedules 2 (ARMSCOR) and Schedule 3 (Castle Control Board) of the Public Finance Management Act (Act No 1 of 1999).

The DOD has formalised the annual DOD Planning cycle to inform departmental policies development, strategy, planning, budgeting, implementation and performance monitoring and evaluation.

The DOD Planning Instruments for 2016, that include the DOD Annual Performance Plan for 2016, the ARMSCOR Corporate Plan for 2016, the Castle Control Board Annual Performance Plan for 2016 and the Military Ombud Annual Performance Plan for 2016, provide the resourced outcomes, outputs, norms and standards that both the DOD and these Entities intend to undertake during the period under review which are aligned to their legislative mandates, through the provision of well-defined performance indicators (including targets) in support of their respective five year Strategic Plans for Fiscal Year 2015 to 2020.

For two consecutive years 2015 and 2016, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans tabled the departmental Planning Instruments that included the DOD Annual Performance Plan for 2016, the ARMSCOR Corporate Plan for 2016, the Castle Control Board Annual Performance Plan for 2016 and the Military Ombud Annual Performance Plan for 2016 in Parliament to both the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces on 9 March 2016, implying full compliance by the DOD with National Regulatory Framework.

Due to the successful cooperation between the DOD and DOD Public Entities and the Department Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, within the Presidency, as well as the inclusion of the Public Entities into the DOD Planning, Budgeting, Reporting and Risk Management Cycle, the DOD was selected by the Presidency as a benchmark for Strategic Planning alignment between the National Department and its Public Entities. As a result the DOD and ARMSCOR were invited by the Presidency: Department Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to present to other National Departments and Public Entities to assist them with Strategy, Strategic alignment and implementation of the Strategic Plans/Corporate Plans; Budgeting, Organisational performance, monitoring and evaluation and compliance with target dates and statutory reporting. This presentation took place on 15 March 2016 and was recommended by all National Departments and Public Entities present at this event.

The tabled DOD Planning Instruments are a tool of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans’ report which provides a recommendation to the National Assembly to enable an adoption of the proposed Defence Budget appropriation to approve the defence budgetary allocation is made after careful consideration of DOD 2016 Annual Performance Plan, and ARMSCOR’s Corporate Plan 2016, the Castle Control Board Annual Performance Plan for 2016 and the Military Ombud Annual Performance Plan for 2016. The strategic outcomes, outputs and targets need to be aligned to the DOD’s and SANDF’s mandate and responsibilities.

The outcome of ARMSCOR’s
The art of policy writing

By Col Hennie Prinsloo, Policy Writers Course Coordinator
Photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The 13th Department of Defence (DOD) Policy Writers Course was recently presented at the SA Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria. The course was attended by thirty senior DOD officials, including two Brigadier Generals. The two-week course was hosted by the Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning Division and coordinated by Directorate Departmental Policy Support (DDPS).

The presenters were various subject matter experts in the policy-writing environment in the DOD. The purpose of the course is to train departmental officials in the formulation and the development of top level departmental policy. During the two weeks the learners got acquainted with the 12-step DOD Instruction (DODI) Development Process Cycle, as well as various policy writing tools. It was emphasised that all DODIs must be aligned with the Policy on Policies and that the Conventions of Service Writing (CSW) must be adhered to at all times. The primary aim of writing a policy is to ensure effective and efficient administrative, operating and technical functioning of the DOD. Some of the topics presented include an “Overview of the Defence Review 2015” by Chief Director Defence Policy, Mr Nick Sendall, “Research Methodology” by Director Human Resource Development, Brig Gen (Dr) Annemarie van der Walt and “Qualities of a Policy Writer” by Director Social Work, Brig Gen Snowy Moremi, to name but a few. The Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning Division was also well supported by other Divisions and Units, such as the SA Army Engineer Formation and the SA Defence Intelligence College where the training event took place. The service and support in this regard was of outstanding quality. The Chief Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning, Dr Thobekile Gamede, delivered the closing address and handed out certificates to the learners. She congratulated both the learners, presenters and facilitators for their contribution making this course such a huge success. Congratulations to the thirty learners who successfully completed the 2016 Policy Writers Course. To quote Dr Gamede: “You have earned your policy wings, now you must spread your wings and fly as high as you can”.

ABOVE: Attendees of the Policy Writers Course.
The SA National Defence Force (SANDF), in partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Education (DOE) and various stakeholders, recently hosted a career exhibition at 3 SA Infantry Battalion in Kimberley. The exhibition targeted about 4 000 learners from the five districts in the province.

In their attempt to deliver quality teaching and create an enabling environment conducive to learning, the DOE teamed up with the SANDF in a strategic career development partnership to inform and educate learners and post-graduates.

The four Services of the SANDF have pledged their support for and participation in the career exhibition. The SANDF intends raising public awareness of the roles and functions of the organisation by educating learners about career opportunities that are available in the SANDF.

Learners were exposed to a variety of military equipment, such as combat vehicles and aircraft, which was part of a static display. This was to encourage learners to take up subjects that would enable them to become engineers, technicians and pilots.

Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, said the SANDF finds it necessary to engage regularly with the public, particularly the youth about career opportunities within the SANDF. He said: "It is therefore necessary for us to partner with the Department of Education here in the Northern Cape, as well as other role-players and stakeholders who are engaged in this programme.”

Brig Gen Mabanga said people with a passion for the SANDF could serve the country in their different chosen fields. He said the military was no longer something people would join because they have no other option. He emphasised that the SANDF is a highly professional organisation and, as such, individuals joining it must be skilled in the various specialisations that are required.

He said: “We go all out at these career exhibitions to inform the people of what is required by the SANDF and what it takes for one to become a member. However, individuals that are recruited must be better suited to be placed in these scarce skills roles that are required by the SANDF.”

The Director Further Education and Training (FET) Curriculum Department of Education in the Northern Cape, Mr Henrico Willemse, said they had started partnerships with various service providers who are able to provide psycho-social assistance for borderline learners. Mr Willemse said: “The Northern Cape Department of Education has introduced the implementation of the psycho-social support programme as part of the Department’s strategy to provide non-curriculum support for Grade 12 learners to equip them with the tools and life-skills to make responsible decisions during what is arguably the most important academic year.

“The Northern Cape DOE is responding to the national priority to develop the next generation of engineers, artisans, scientists, researchers and educators. Learners converged here from the furthest towns and villages of the province where a lack of information continues to be to their disadvantage.”

He mentioned that some of the stakeholders had expressed a wish to collaborate with the Department holistically by pledging substantive contributions. He said this was informed by the reality that the impact could be measured in addressing social imbalances in the education sector.

The General Officer Commanding Training Command, Maj Gen Gordon Yekelo, mentioned that the SANDF would like to carry the partnership forward in the interest of learners in the Northern Cape. He said that he was delivering a message of support on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF.

Maj Gen Yekelo said: “The message I bring from Defence Headquarters is that the SANDF will continue to partner with the Department of Education in the Northern Cape as a duty to the people. This means that we must continue to focus on the education of our children to enable them to become the best they can be.

“As the SANDF we work in the security, safety and defence environment. Even in our area of work, the question of education is paramount because in order to defend our country and protect communities we need educated and enlightened youth and citizens alike.”

A young man, Kijano Phillips, said he admired the military culture on display during the career exhibition, citing that the military teaches people to be disciplined and he believes that many young people can benefit from the various career opportunities available in the SANDF.
Voluntary Internship Programme contributes to youth empowerment

Article and photo by Ms Velly Maribe, Secretary to the Director Education, Training and Development Systems Integrity

In a bid to uplift the youth and pave the way to their career advancement, the Department of Defence (DOD) annually hosts graduates from different academic fields to participate in the SA Safety and Security Sector Education Training Authority (SASSETA) Voluntary Internship Programme.

The Chief Director Human Resource Development, Maj Gen Ansuyah Fakir, received 190 graduates into the DOD for participation in the 2016 Voluntary Internship Programme intake. Funded by SASSETA, the programme contributes towards skills development by providing opportunities for unemployed graduates to gain work experience in various skills within the department.

The DOD has recruited a number of young graduates since the implementation of the programme in 2013 and has equipped them with the necessary skills to venture into the working environment. The Voluntary Internship Programme provides valuable hands-on experience and allows graduates to apply what they have learnt in school under the guidance of more experienced mentors. Additionally it allows the graduates to gain a better understanding of the public sector, its values, work ethic, and the opportunities it offers.

Mr Isaac Chauke, an intern at the Legal Services Division, stated that his vision for the internship programme was to acquire as many skills and as much knowledge as possible, to make a meaningful contribution to the team that he is working with and to leave a good impression in the DOD. Mr Chauke said: “I have a passion for Labour Law so this opportunity will enable me to extend my knowledge and growth in the field.”

He said that he wished to rotate to several areas in the Legal Services environment so that he could gain experience to benefit his career and maximise opportunities for permanent employment. His message to fellow interns was: “See this as a once in a lifetime opportunity and make full use of it”. Mr Samkelo Mbuli shared the same sentiments: “I am learning a lot in the DOD and I will come up with initiatives to enhance the work that we do in our environment”.

Ms Kedibone Mathibela, an intern at Chief Directorate Transformation Management, feels confident that the work exposure that she is gaining from this internship programme will enable her to be more marketable. She said: “I encourage fellow interns to adopt my triple D approach: Be Determined, Dedicated and Disciplined during the programme to achieve positive outcomes.”

The enthusiastic interns from Finance Division shared the same sentiments, namely that the Voluntary Internship Programme is an opportunity to learn, grow and serve in the DOD. Ms Dineo Mokoena said: “The service in our section has been accelerated since our training and we are now able to assist the team in the environment with some of the activities.”

Mr Mpho Rasehloka, Voluntary Internship Programme Coordinator, said internship was a national imperative to provide workplace skills for unemployed graduates. He said: “I urge Services and Divisions to support the Voluntary Internship Programme with the aim of alleviating poverty and reducing the unemployment rate in our country.”

Ms Kedibone Mathibela, an intern from Chief Directorate Transformation Management, who uses the triple D approach: Be Discipline, Dedicated and Determined.
Establishment of SA Army Technical Service Corps leadership course

By Capt Sydney Molebatsi, Training Officer at SA Army Technical Training Centre
Photos by Sgt Roland Charlton John Pekeur and Sgt Christiaan Schalk Willem Schmahl

Twenty-one students successfully completed the Regimental 3 Course presented by the SA Army Technical Training Centre at Boekenhoutskloof Military Base. This is a leadership course for the Corporals of the Technical Services Corps before they can do the Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) Formative Course for promotion to the rank of Sergeant. Its main function is to build and produce dynamic and transformational leaders with the requisite knowledge, skills and core values which citizens of this country need.

In spite of limited resources, this course was established through the leadership of the SAATTC as orchestrated by Col Mokgoba Mogatusi. Its purpose was to equate Corporals of the Technical Services with those of other corps regarding regimental facets as they were lagging behind other NCOs at formative courses. This course will also benefit productivity and output regarding training and repair of technical equipment in the SA Army. This is essential because the SA Army is currently experiencing a drastic decline in serviceability.

The SA Defence Review 2015 describes leadership as something intangible. The SAATTC wants to develop leaders with aplomb during hard times, because in the technical environment it is problematic when one is expected to deliver, but external factors beyond one’s control can be a deterrent. However, a person still has to find the means to succeed in creating a team with soldiers who understand military values and that have a robust professional ethos. In addition, values and ethics are embedded and reinforced in all training activities taught in this course.

The course syllabus has a theoretical and a practical part. Theory is also integrated with drilling the squads and presenting the students with topics, including those related to the technical environment, and chosen by them to help them identify problems encountered and to arrive at solutions to help them take charge when they are back in their units. During the theory phase, every afternoon after classes, they walked no less than 5km to the different grid references marked with poles and sandbags, carrying their battle jackets and weapons with them.

Every time they travel with this equipment, the instructors will take the lead in executing tasks, taking responsibility and coping under physically and mentally demanding situations, such as map reading and relaying orders. The groups were divided into two, with no group leader being appointed by the instructors though there will be one instructor per group monitoring them from a distance, but ensuring that they are adequately prepared in terms of kit, water and emergency communication, among others.

During the field phase it becomes increasingly difficult because the students are taught commands in the field: to set up temporary bases, the discipline of movement, to assess leadership information gathering ability, planning and communication, tone setting for individual leadership development, group cohesion, etc. It was so thrilling to witness the positive attitudes of these students during these trying times. They called themselves “wolves”, during the course. With this leading unit I know the Technical Service Corps has a brighter future.
The kidneys, a pair of bean-shaped abdominal organs, are responsible for purifying the blood and removing waste from our bodies. Many of us take the health of our kidneys for granted, however they fulfil a vital function critical to our survival.

“According to the Kidney Foundation of South Africa, 10% of people have a kidney disease of one type or another. Many renal conditions are linked to non-communicable diseases, such as high blood pressure or diabetes,” notes Dr Gunvant Goolab, Principal Officer of the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS).

Many people are unaware that their kidney health is compromised until kidney disease is at an advanced stage because the symptoms are often not apparent to the individual. For this reason, kidney disease is sometimes referred to as the “Silent Killer”.

In its most advanced form, End Stage Kidney Disease otherwise known as kidney failure, the kidneys are no longer able to filter the blood. In such cases the person either needs a kidney transplant or dialysis therapy, which mimics kidney function by artificially purifying the blood.

Patients with kidney failure, including those awaiting kidney transplants, must have dialysis therapy in order to survive. The most common form of dialysis is haemodialysis, in which the patient’s blood is cleaned through a special dialysis machine. Typically, a person living with end stage kidney disease needs to have three sessions of dialysis per week, with each session lasting approximately four hours.

“Kidney failure is irreversible and so it is important that we do everything possible to preserve the health of our kidneys. Regular health screenings, including kidney function tests and monitoring blood pressure, can help us identify the warning signs of kidney disease,” Dr Goolab observes.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, with a balanced diet and regular exercise can help to reduce the chance of kidney damage. Reduce sugar and salt intake and avoid alcohol, as these substances can lead to renal damage.

Drink plenty of clean water, at least a litre and a half each day, as this helps to flush the toxins from your body and keep your kidneys healthy.

Avoid placing unnecessary strain on your kidneys by using over-the-counter medicines sparingly.

Smoking cigarettes is extremely damaging to kidneys for a number of reasons, primarily because it slows the movement of blood to the kidneys and raises blood pressure.

Dr Goolab adds: “One should also focus on renal health in children, which encompasses awareness of kidney problems that some children are born with, as well as teaching children about healthy lifestyles to preserve kidney function over the course of their lives.

“As GEMS we encourage our members to lead by example, through practising proactive kidney care and educating our children about the importance of taking good care of their bodies.”
The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Football Championships were recently hosted at Army Support Base Potchefstroom. There was a lot to cheer about with teams displaying their different styles of play, but most importantly, some players featured for the first time and enjoyed the experience of being part of the SANDF’s football spectacular. The 2016 Championships comprised the following teams: North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Western Province, Limpopo, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, West Coast and Mpumalanga.

Gauteng men’s football team was waiting to hammer Northern Cape if they slipped up, but went down with a 1-0 defeat by Northern Cape. The North West women’s team suffered a 2-0 defeat at the hands of their bitter Gauteng rivals during the finals of the Championships.

At the end of the Championships, the efforts of the teams and players were rewarded with trophies and medals in each category for those who triumphed.

Results

Overall winners (female) – Gauteng
Overall winners (male) – Northern Cape
Team manager of the tournament (female) – L Cpl Nancy Ramahanedza (Mpumalanga)
Team manager of the tournament (male) – Pte Kabelo Mosoabodi (Free State)
Player of the tournament (female) – Pte Clarah Tshabangu (North West)
Player of the tournament (male) – Pte William Rampete (Northern Cape)
Coach of the tournament (female) – Bdr Hosea Molao (North West)
Coach of the tournament (male) – S Sgt Edwin Motshed (Northern Cape)

ABOVE: A spectacular game between the Mpumalanga women’s team (white) and the Northern Cape (blue).

Team manager of the tournament (female) – L Cpl Nancy Ramahanedza (Mpumalanga)
Team manager of the tournament (male) – Pte Kabelo Mosoabodi (Free State)
Player of the tournament (female) – Pte Clarah Tshabangu (North West)
Player of the tournament (male) – Pte William Rampete (Northern Cape)
Coach of the tournament (female) – Bdr Hosea Molao (North West)
Coach of the tournament (male) – S Sgt Edwin Motshed (Northern Cape)

Best referee of the tournament – Pte Hanjiwe Nothana (Free State)
Assistant referee of the tournament – LS Makondelela Mawela (Western Province)
Goal keeper of the tournament (female) – Pte Sinazo Mdondolo (North West)
Goal keeper of the tournament (male) – Sgt Fusi Kinamela (Gauteng)
Top goal scorer (female) – L Cpl Elelwani Mudzanani (Eastern Cape)
Top goal scorer (male) – Cpl Khumbudzo Madzhe (Gauteng)
Jukskei Development Clinic hosted at Air Force Base Bloemspruit

Article and photos by WO2 Karin Coertze, Public Relations Officer SA National Defence Force Jukskei

Air Force Base (AFB) Bloemspruit hosted the 2016 Jukskei Development Clinic. Ten members representing Northern Cape, Limpopo and the Free State recently took part in the clinic. The skills of the members ranged between members who had never played the game before to those with up to three years’ experience.

The Acting Officer Commanding AFB Bloemspruit, Lt Col Klarissa Freylinck, and Maj Henk van Niekerk, Sport Officer AFB Bloemspruit, welcomed the development group and declared the clinic officially open.

During the three-day long clinic participants were taught the basic principles of playing Jukskei, including the basic rules of the game. Bloemspruit took place during the same period as the Jukskei Development Clinic.

Lt Col Hendrik van Zyl and WO1 James Moore, members of the Committee, who are also qualified coaches, assisted WO2 Wassie Wasserman during the clinic. Both members are highly recognised players among the Jukskei fraternity and members present took their advice and assistance to heart.

At the end of the clinic, a trophy was awarded to the best development player for the 2016 Jukskei Development Clinic. All were in agreement that WO1 Eddie Adams had shown the most potential. His perseverance in mastering the game was admirable.

Although there was only one trophy, all the members at the clinic were winners and were able to take something home which they did not have before attending the clinic. They were in high spirits and gave their full cooperation. The Executive Committee of SANDF Jukskei wishes the members well and hopes that the game will prosper.
B**y Lt Cdr Michael Thekiso, Communication Officer, Pretoria Military Tennis Club**

Photos courtesy Pretoria Military Tennis Club members

**Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR) form an integral part of the physical and psychological preparation and conditioning of members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). Sport, among others, is a mechanism that can be used to achieve physical fitness in preparation for a soldier’s state of readiness.**

The Pretoria Military Tennis Club (PMTC) subscribes to this philosophy and has been very active in ensuring that views espoused by the Department of Defence Instruction (DODI) are upheld. For this reason, the PMTC has been involved in three key activities, namely a Management Committee Workshop, a Training Camp and the SANDF Closed Tennis Championships during the 2016 season.

**ABOVE: Mr Solly Ngwenze showing some techniques to beginners during the coaching clinic.**

**ABOVE: Lt Col Johannes (Addy) Adams, Chairperson of the Pretoria Military Tennis Club.**

**Management Committee Workshop**

The PMTC Management Committee successfully conducted a workshop at a conference room at 1 Military Hospital. The aim of the workshop was to determine the effectiveness of the Club, as well as to align the...
sport

administration, development processes and practices to the DPTSR policy on sport, and the PMTC Constitution. The main product to come out of the discussions was a draft plan covering issues pertaining to recruitment, marketing, development, competitions, facilities, structure and administration, including the 2017 programme for the Club.

Training Camp

In preparation for the SANDF Closed Championships, the PMTC hosted a training camp at the Thaba Tshwane tennis courts. The camp consisted of cardio tennis, coaching clinics and an in-house tournament. Cardio tennis determines the members’ fitness levels and is meant to liven up the event. The coaching clinics were conducted primarily to uplift the standard of the game of beginners. During the in-house tournament the men played in two categories (Elite and Gold), while the women played in one category. Lt Col Gustav Pieterse was victorious in the Elite category, while Chaplain Abbie Thela took the honours in the Gold category. The women’s title was taken by Maj Nolene Maphaha. Col Harriet Joseph and Lt Col Johannes (Addy) Adams emerged victors in the mixed doubles category.

SANDF Closed Tennis Championships

The SANDF Closed Tennis Championships were held at the Rondebosch Tennis Courts in Cape Town. Several of the PMTC members were victorious in various categories:

- Lt Col Gustav Pieterse (Winner of the Men’s Elite category)
- Maj Dawid Bester (Runner-up of the Men’s Elite category)
- Chaplain Abbie Thela (Winner of the Men’s Gold category)
- Maj Dawid Bester and WO1 Kevin Dreier (Winners of the Men’s Doubles)
- Lt Col Helena Claassen and Maj Dawid Bester (Winners of the Mixed Doubles)
- Lt Col Helena Claassen and Lt Col Martie Harbour (Winners of the Women’s Doubles)

One of the greatest achievements of the PMTC was the ability to field a number of developmental players who had just started playing tennis. Such an experience will go a long way in building and developing the game of tennis within the Thaba Tshwane area and in the SANDF in Pretoria. There is no doubt that with such a performance at the Championships, the PMTC has reasserted its claim as the powerhouse of the SANDF tennis. Congratulations from the Chairperson and his committee to all members on a sterling performance.

The Chairperson would also like to express his appreciation on behalf of the PMTC to Richards Vleismark in The Orchards whose sponsorship ensured that the Club could enjoy a function after the preparations for the SANDF Closed Championship.

*All officials in the Department of Defence who are interested in playing tennis are cordially invited to join the tennis club to contribute towards the growth of this club. 🏧

ABOVE: Capt Eldridge Didloft from Eastern Province Region (right) congratulates Chaplain Abbie Thela from the Gauteng Region on his victory.
SA Air Force Squash Championship

By WO1 Patrick Vermaak, Chairperson
Air Force Base Ysterplaat Squash Club

Sixty players contesting four categories recently congregated at the West Coast based Club Mykonos Squash Club in Langebaan for the annual SA Air Force Squash Championship. By winning four titles the J&P Hydraulics supported team of Air Force Base (AFB) Ysterplaat was the most successful squash team in the tournament.

Hosted annually since 1965 the General Danie du Toit Floating Trophy represents the ultimate reward in SA Air Force squash, a fitting tribute in what is officially the oldest sporting code in the SA Air Force. Squash was initially encouraged as a sport for pilots to assist in developing hand–eye coordination, after which it quickly turned into a competitive sport.

Lt Col Bert Koekemoer and Lt Col De Jongh van den Berg (both from Air Command: SA Air Force Headquarters) faced Lt Col Kamal Khan and Sgt Randall Alard (both from Air Force Base [AFB] Ysterplaat) in the doubles final. The Western Cape based combination proved triumphant in three sets. The Masters Plate final made its first appearance on the itinerary and it was WO2 Marlin Machiu (AFB Ysterplaat) who was victorious against WO1 Francois de Vries (AFB Langebaanweg) defeating him 3-2.

The Men’s Open Plate saw Capt Aran Gatenby (AFB Ysterplaat) prove victorious against F Sgt Michiel Nortjé (68 Air School) in three sets. The Masters final will be remembered as the biggest upset of the tournament because Lt Col Bevan Chippett (Defence Headquarters: Directorate Human Resources Service Systems) succeeded in beating six times Masters Champion, Lt Col Bert Koekemoer (Air Command: SA Air Force Headquarters) in just three sets.

The Ladies Open saw WO1 Karin Steyn (Air Command: SA Air Force Headquarters) win her first title against F Sgt Katryn le Roux (AFB Hoedspruit).

ABOVE: Brig Gen Hardus Engelbrecht, the retiring Patron of SA Air Force Squash (left) with Lt Col Bevan Chippett from Defence Headquarters: Directorate Human Resources Service Systems who succeeded in beating six times Masters Champion, Lt Col Bert Koekemoer (Air Command: SA Air Force Headquarters) in just three sets.
Lt Col De Jongh van den Berg (Air Command: SA Air Force Headquarters) looked a genuine threat to veteran Men’s Open Squash Champion, Lt Willem Erasmus, but added a fifth consecutive Open title, the ninth in total, which proved almost effortless for the AFB Langebaanweg ace. Lt Col Kamal Khan (AFB Ysterplaat) won the bronze medal.

F Sgt Michiel Nortjé and F Sgt Brendan Stewart attracted much attention as the “matching pair” representing 68 Air School. Always dressed identically they became strong candidates for the coveted Team Spirit Award, but for the second consecutive year it was the J&P Hydraulic supported team of AFB Ysterplaat that claimed the accolade – the fourth time since 2007.

The 2016 SA Air Force Squash Championship concluded with a prize-giving ceremony hosted by the SA Air Force Squash Chairperson, Lt Col Bert Koekemoer, and a number of VIP guests. R Adm (JG) Dirk de Villiers was present throughout the week as the Patron of SA National Defence Force Squash, while Brig Gen Hardus Engelbrecht, the Patron of SA Air Force Squash, actively participated in the Masters category.

Brig Gen Mac Matanda (Officer Commanding AFB Langebaanweg), Col Lizette Potgieter (Senior Staff Officer Physical Training, Sport and Recreation) Col Faiza Jacobs (Acting Director Education, Training and Development and member of the SA Air Force Sport Council) Ms Nelia du Plessis (representative of the Managing Director of Club Mykonos Resort) while Mr John-Kilroy Smith, and Ms Michelle Goldschmidt (Club Mykonos Resort Public Relations Officer) completed the VIP contingent.

Sadly, this was also a fond farewell to Brig Gen Engelbrecht and Col Potgieter as both are set to retire from active service.

Thanks to the valued support of Namibian based Marine Hydraulics company and J&P Hydraulics, the AFB Ysterplaat Squash Team enjoyed a fresh new look heading into the annual SA Air Force Squash Championship at Club Mykonos Squash Club Langebaan.

Not only does this facility boast four modern squash courts, it also offers everything from a heated swimming pool to a sauna with which to ease mind and body. As unlikely as it may sound the championship schedule takes every player to extreme levels of physical and mental exhaustion, but offers the perfect environment in which to limit injuries and ensure maximum performance throughout the week.

LEFT: The Officer Commanding Air Force Base (AFB) Langebaanweg, Brig Gen Mac Matanda (right) congratulates the winner of the Master Plate, WO2 Marlin Machiu from (AFB) Ysterplaat.
Budo Jigga - a fun type of physical training to keep a soldier fit!

By Maj Kuselwa Kutshwa, SO2 Joint Operation Division Media Liaison
Photos by Mr Witney Rasaka

Budo Jigga is a new fun, effective and popular form of physical training in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). It comprises Kata-box, Step, Body Conditioning, hi-impact and low-impact aerobics. The name Budo Jigga is derived from the Japanese term, Budo, a modern Japanese martial art. Jigga means dance. This course was created by Maj Andries Kok, one of the

Physical Training Instructors (PTIs) at the Joint Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Centre in Thaba Tshwane. He introduced it because soldiers were gradually losing interest in traditional physical training, but appeared to be more interested in Tae Bo.

Maj Kok, who is a black belt dan holder in karate, also owns his own dojo (karate club) in Valhalla. He says the Budo Jigga course was created according to South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) standards. The course is presented to an average of 30 students once or twice a year and consists of both theoretical and practical aspects.

During the course, students are taught how the different muscles of the body works (anatomy and physiology), how to build muscles, burn fat and build and maintain cardiovascular fitness. The students are also taught how to make and read music for physical training and to write programmes for training, etc.

The difference between the traditional PTI course and the Budo Jigga course is that in Budo Jigga the PTI leads and instructs with music while with the latter the PTI leads and instructs without music.

Sgt Ziyanda Mnyazi, the Chief Instructor and Facilitator at the Joint Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Centre of the Budo Jigga course, says that his wish is to see all qualified Budo Jigga instructors making a difference in their respective environments and joining the fight against obesity and lack of fitness in the SANDF.
He is a Group Fitness Instructor (GFI) and an independent contractor at Virgin Active. Virgin Active hires him to present classes and instructs him in the use of new products. Sgt Mnyazi was previously a member of the Virgin Active demonstration team.

In the Budo Jigga Course students are taught that one’s body can take a different form or shape, depending on the type of workout the person engages in. For example, a slim person can develop muscles with the right training, a muscular person can become lean and an overweight person can become slim and vice versa. But ultimately it all boils down to the discipline and determination of an individual.

In one month some of the students reported a weight loss of 2kg, some less than 2kg and some reported no weight loss. Members of the SANDF are encouraged to join Budo Jigga classes in their areas for physical training in order to build a strong, fit and healthy national defence force.

**Five tips on how to lose weight**

Capt Keabetswe Maseng, a dietician at 1 Military Hospital, gives the following advice:

1. Try not to eat or drink anything with sugar after a workout so that your body can obtain energy by breaking down its fat stores. Capt Maseng says the process of losing weight only occurs after a workout. During the workout the body uses the energy that is stored in the blood.

2. Do not starve yourself: rather eat small portions of food. When you do not eat at all your body tries to get energy from your muscles, and that leads to muscle loss, which contributes to a sagging body.

3. Try to avoid simple carbohydrates (e.g. cakes, juice, pastries and white bread) because they send blood sugar levels on a roller coaster ride because of their high sugar content.

4. Rather take complex carbohydrates found in natural foods (if man-made, it must have lots of fibre and contain less sugar) e.g. oats, wholewheat bread and All Bran flakes.

5. At the gym try by all means to work off the same amount of calories you take in, or more.
devotion

A little inspiration

By Chaplain Elsabé Francis,
Deputy Senior Staff Officer Army Chaplain Service

I will be with you to protect you.” Jeremiah 1:8

One day I decided to quit … I wanted to quit my job, my relationship, my spirituality … I wanted to quit my life. I went to my room to have one last talk with God.

“God”, I said: “Can you give me one good reason not to quit?”

His answer surprised me … “Look around”, He said: “Do you see the fern and the bamboo?” “Yes”, I replied.

When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo. In the second year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo. He said: “In the third year, there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I would not quit. In the fourth year, again, there was nothing from the bamboo seed. I would not quit.”

“Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from the earth. Compared to the fern it was seemingly small and insignificant. But just six months later the bamboo rose to over 33 metres tall. It had spent the five years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive. I would not give any of my creations a challenge it could not handle.”

God said to me: “Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots. I would not quit on the bamboo. I will never quit on you. Do not compare yourself to others.” God added: “The bamboo had a different purpose to the fern … Yet, they both make nature beautiful. Your time will come. You will rise high!” I asked: How high should I rise?

God asked in return: “How high will the bamboo rise?” I asked: “As high as it can?” “Yes,” God said, “Give Me glory by rising as high as you can.”

I left my room and brought back this story. I hope these words can help you see that God will never give up on you. He will never give up on you. Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness. Bad days give you experiences. Both are essential to life.


Success keeps you Glowing. But only God keeps you going! 🌟
The City of Johannesburg hosts the Military Tattoo

By Mr Brilliant Molobela, Intern at SA Soldier
Photo by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

For the first time in our democratic South African history, the City of Gold, in partnership with the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) recently hosted the Military Tattoo at the Apartheid Museum at Gold Reef City in Johannesburg.

The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Herman Mashaba, said that the Military Tattoo was a welcome addition to the variety and quality of events hosted in the city every year. He added that it was a unique opportunity to showcase the ability of Johannesburg to organise and host events of this magnitude and to market the city as a destination for tourism. He said: “Military tattoos serve an important purpose in creating stronger linkages across a country’s armed forces and its citizens to create social cohesion.”

The SANDF Choir entertained music lovers with their magical performances. The Military Tattoo is also aimed at educating citizens about activities of their own military force during peacetime, and to ensure that citizens are safe and feel part of their military.

Senior SANDF Officers, including Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chief of Defence Reserves, Brig Gen Basie Gqoboka, the Chief of Staff of the SA Army Infantry Formation, Councillor Mashaba, and other distinguished guests attended this inaugural military music concert.

The programme of the Military Tattoo included a thunderous military fireworks mock attack demonstration by members of 21 SA Infantry Battalion and a tremendous spectacle of precision drill displayed by the winners of the 2016 SANDF Drill Competition, the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members from the School of Artillery led by Sgt Gereagen Geduld, the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Instructor, School of Artillery, the Cape Town Highlanders, the Transvaal Scottish Regiment and the SA Irish Regiment. The SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) Bands performed spectacularly, accompanied by the Grade 9-12 Gumboots dancers from Barnato Park High School in Johannesburg. The Music Director for the event was Lt Col Gerald who put in an impressive performance.

The sound of heavy artillery and stunt grenades plus the coloured flares unleashed by the SA Army Artillery Formation ceremonial gun troops punctuated the night sky. The SAMHS Band performed the well-known jazz song “ndiphendule” written by prominent jazz music legend, Mr Caiphus Semenya, which electrified the audience. Even the Generals in the front row were dancing. The combined mass pipes and drums band presented an impressive Scottish parade in collaboration with the Highland Dancers.

Venda cultural dancers from 15 SA Infantry Battalion performed a traditional dance to showcase our country’s rich cultural heritage. It was an experience that the City of Gold will never forget, with the National Ceremonial Guard Band performing the James Bond 007 instrumental song that took the crowd by storm and held everyone’s attention. It is expected that the Military Tattoo will become a firm feature on Johannesburg’s annual calendar.

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