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FRONT COVER: The new Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Lindile Yam. (Photo by Pte Paul Mpangala)
Munwaleli SA Soldier

*Translation into Luvenda by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe.

He last couple of weeks have been marked by tragedy as we sadly lost dear stalwarts. In loving memory of them the SA Soldier Team conveys our heartfelt condolences to their families, relatives and friends. May their souls rest in peace.

The Chairperson of the SA Army Ladies Forum, Ms Dinah Masondo, spouse to Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, the Chief of Staff, recently lost her battle against cancer. In 2013 Ms Masondo was diagnosed with cancer which was already at an advanced stage. However, she did not allow her illness to slow her down in her activities to support her husband, and lead the SA Army Ladies Forum. She fought her illness with strength, resilience and positivity just as she lived her life. The late Ms Masondo was also one of the founding members of the SANDF Spouses Forum. In a heartfelt tribute the SA Army Ladies said: “Ms Masondo had the ability to bring the most influential people together with the less fortunate so that the former could see, understand and hopefully support the others’ plight”. Out of her concern for the plight of unemployed spouses of soldiers, Ms Masondo launched a sewing project to empower these ladies to earn a living for themselves. 

Hamba Kahle Mama Hamba Kahle. Please read page 13 in remembrance of the late Ms Masondo.

Maj Gen (Ret) Goitsemodimo Leonard Bruce Pitso, who was a former Chief Director Counter Intelligence at Defence Intelligence Division until he retired in 2003, passed away on 7 March 2016 at St Georges Hospital in Port Elizabeth, after a long illness. He was then appointed South Africa’s ambassador to the Democratic People’s Republic of Vietnam.

Cpl Mxolisi Edward Mnyipika from 8 SA Infantry Battalion in Upington was fatally shot in an ambush in northern Darfur in the Sudan on 9 March 2016. A military convoy providing security escort for humanitarian aid trucks was ambushed en route to an exchange point between the SANDF and Rwandese Battalions. (Another soldier, Rfn Cebo Excellent Gumede, was wounded and hospitalised in El-Fashir. He is in a stable medical condition. We wish him a speedy recovery.)

The first Editor of SA Soldier, Mr George Thiart, unexpectedly passed away on 5 April 2016 after a heart attack. (He would have celebrated his 51st birthday on 13 April this year …)

All Christians recently commemorated the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death on Calvary during Easter. The Military community and friends of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) congregated at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall for the annual Chief of the SANDF Easter Church Service (see page 47). The highly inspiring service to observe the holiest religious Easter period was led by the Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, and his team of Chaplains, with the theme: “Good news from the graveyard”.

Today we, as Christians, know and believe although He died for you and me; our Redeemer has risen. God is not dead. He lives. Hallelujah! Amen.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier

 message

from the
editor’s desk

A byaho
kha munwaleli

inuwedzi isi ngathi yo fhelaho ro lozwa vhulwadze mbofhulowo thasha. Vhulwadze hve vhawe sa Chief of Staff hvele kalekale thve ri sia musi thve tshi lovha nga cacina. Nako vhocho thve tshi khondi thve vhaaisala, vhuwadze ahongo balelisa u vha mufarisi vawhundhi kha muna byaho. Vho lwisa vhuwadze nga mana aho ohhe.


Vho–Maj Gen (thvo vhuwaha vha shuma shuma) Goitsemodimo Leonard Bruce Pitso, thve vhuwaha vhe Chief Director Counter Intelligence kha Defence Intelligence Division u swikela vhaya vhuvhewo ho musi vhuvhewo u ve 2003, vhocho sia nga 7 Thafamuhwe 2016 kha sibadela thvo St Georges nga Port Elizabeth, nga munuwa ho vhuwadze ho thshinga thshinga. Vho sautho u lovha vhuwaha thvo vhuwaha sa sibadela sanwa sa Afrika Tshipembe nga Democratic People’s Republic kha Vietnam.

Cpl Mxolisi Edward Mnyipika from 8 SA Infantry Battalion in Upington u lovha nga ngamurahlu u musi o thshikloko musi maswale aphi phandzhiwa nga devulaka ho Darfur, Sudan nga 9 Thafamuhwe 2016. Musi goloi dza maswale dzí tshi kha thuso u fheletshedza nau tireraledza thvo isaho thuza thvo vhuvhando (humanitarian aid) vhvo phandzhiwa u vhaliwana nga ndilani hune maswale a Ravana isa phanda mushumo wo thomiuwo nga maswale a Afrika Tshipembe (munse u maswale, Rfn Cebo Excellent Gumede otso vhaiasala lwe a isiuva sibadela nga El-Fasher. Lha kha tshimpo thina kwinwe. Ri mutamela mushumo ari a flohe nga uzahamba.)

Munwaleli u uthoma u dza SA Soldier, Munna vho–George Thiar, vhori sia risongoro humbulela nga 5 Lambamai 2016, nga munuwa ho musi vho farwa nga vhuwadze ho mubila. (Munna–ua-thane vho–Thiar nanwaha vhocho thvo tshi shidzviti hve khovu pembelela madzvaga avho a mabebo a nzwaka wano u vho cho karara nga Lambamai 51.)

Nga madzvaga a paseka thvo Khirisite vhotho thvo pembelela u vhambivha ho Jesu Khirisito tshifhambanoni thwa Khaliwari. Nga dzechu la nwisa nga nwisa la kereke ya paseka ya muhulwano wa mbmi ya vhupilele ho Afrika Tshipembe, thambo vhocho vho zvimeviswa zvo mbmi ya vhupilele thvo kudzanganwa holoni ya Thaba Tshwane (shamali siati 47). Ili dzechu la nwisa nga nwisa la kereke ya paseka ya muhulwano wa mbmi ya vhupilele ho Afrika Tshipembe lo ranguwa phamba nga Vhufudzi Mudzhenherala, Brig Gen vho–Andrew Jamangile na thambwe vhuwadze u vhuwadze. Thero ya dzechu ya tshi shiko ngashana “nshungu mafungo yagodhi a bhalo mabuchidzo”.


Nelda Pienaar
Munwaleli SA Soldier

* Translation into Luvenda by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe.
Described by many colleagues, family and friends from the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) fraternity, as a man of wisdom, great calibre and a visionary who was mostly respected for his kindness and generosity, a valiant soldier with a high degree of military discipline. On 17 October 2015 hundreds of SANDF members and the local community gathered at Pabalelo community hall in Upington in the Northern Cape to bid farewell to the late Private Toto Tom “Lunchboy” Malashe who was buried with full military honours.

Private Malashe was deployed to the Darfur Region in the Sudan, under the auspices of the United Nations – African Union Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS), Operation CORDITE XX, when he died after displaying unflinching gallantry when members of the SANDF repelled a deadly ambush by the heavily armed rebels in the Sudan on Sunday morning of 27 September 2015.

He joined the SANDF in January 2005 and did his basic military training at 3 SA Infantry Battalion in Kimberley. Thereafter he went to do Infantry Corps courses at 1 SA Infantry Battalion, home of mechanised units. He was then transferred to 8 SA Infantry Battalion in Upington.

Private Malashe was a Mechanic by profession in the SANDF when he met his untimely death.

The General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Lindile Yam on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke, while delivering his eulogy at the funeral service, said: “It is with heart wrenching sorrow that I pay tribute to one of my infanteers who courage and assist my comrades in arms, even at the risk of my own life”, Private Malashe did exactly that. The Acting Officer Commanding 8 SA Infantry Battalion, Maj Mahломola Motaung, said: “We have adopted the family of Private Malashe to be part of the 8 SA Infantry Battalion family. The memories we have shared with Private Malashe will be cherished and remembered. He will forever live in our hearts.

Pte Malashe was known as a disciplinarian who was committed to a disciplined SANDF guided by strict military discipline.”

Private Malashe is survived by his wife, Ms Florence Malashe, daughter Busisiwe Malashe, three sons: Kamvalethu, Thembisile and Lungelo, as well as his four sisters and three brothers.

Lalangoxolo Toto Tom “Lunchboy” Sanaki Malashe, Mngoxongo, Hala, Sophitsho, Ngqolo-Msila, vulaBambhentsele, ZondwaZintshaba (traditional praise of the Malashe family).

As enshrined within the SANDF Code of Conduct and Military Disciplinary Code: “I will carry out my mission with a challenge, a commitment, a future.
events
PERSONNEL SERVICE SCHOOL RECEIVES AWARD

The SA Board of People Practices (SABPP), the Human Resources (HR) Professional Body and the Learning and Quality Assurance Body in South Africa, awarded its accredited training providers during the SABPP 3 Annual Awards and Accreditation Function held at the Regency Business School in Sandton. The function is held to honour and give recognition to the best training providers that have made a real and measureable difference in Human Resources (Capital) education and training.

Personnel Service School (PS School) received an Achievement Award as the top SABPP face-to-face learning provider in the Best Externally Moderated Provider Category. The award was handed to the Commandant PS School, Col Petra van der Merwe, by the Chief Executive Officer of the SABPP, Mr Marius Meyer. PS School is the only training provider in the SA National Defence Force that provides functional training to members of the HR mustering. PS School has been registered as an accredited training provider with the SABPP since 2013 and is the only Department of Defence training institution registered with the SABPP and has received the top status since joining the SABPP. This is an excellent achievement bearing in the effort put into obtaining such an award. Well done to the team of PS School!

Lt Col Gideon van Tonder, email

NATIONAL CEREMONIAL GUARD CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF EXISTENCE

The 15th of January 1996 marked a historical event for it was on that day that the National Ceremonial Guard (NCG) unit was established. The NCG celebrated its 20th birthday this year.

The NCG is a unique and vibrant unit and the only one of its kind in the whole SA National Defence Force (SANDF). It is a unit that excels in duties ranging from providing VIP protection services, VIP guard, guard of honour, military band and an entertainment band.

The significance of this birthday goes far beyond the age of the NCG, as it also recalls how we became a unit, a family. In order for one to appreciate the uniqueness of this family, one must be familiar with the reason for its existence. After the 1994 General Democratic Elections, the Republic of South Africa adopted an open door policy concerning visits by Kings, Queens, Presidents, Ministers and other foreign dignitaries. These dignitaries are traditionally received with military precision, as protocol demands and hence the necessity of establishing a unit to accommodate the Guard of Honour, including elements to protect visiting dignitaries and affording them close protection.

With the closure of the State President’s Guard in 1990, a gap was left as far as ceremonial aspects relating to foreign dignitaries were concerned and as from 1994 the need for such a ceremonial unit was urgent. The decision to establish the NCG was taken by the Presidency, hence the establishment of the NCG in 1996.

On the emblem of the unit one will see the engraved words: “garde bien” which translated into English means “guards ready”. The guard has been seen at all high-profile meetings and events, including Presidential state visits broadcast on television.

The Officer Commanding NCG, Lt Col Ntsundeni Thenga, would like once again to congratulate members of the unit who received the SA Army Support Formation Commendation Certificate. It was their hard work that spoke on their behalf and he said they should continue with the exceptional work that they do for the NCG.

Lt Kefentse Congwana, National Ceremonial Guard

The Commandant of the Personnel Service School, Col Petra van der Merwe (left), with Non-commissioned Officer Training Admin, F Sgt Nicky Oosthuizen. (Photo by Lt Eon Winster)
BACK TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Students of the Military Academy recently teamed up with Arcelor Mittal, Saldanha Bay Municipality, the Department of Health, Trailblazers and the SA Police Service (SAPS) Cluster for the yearly Back to School Initiative. The Military Academy is doing its best each year to help the local community by means of community interaction. The student body of the Military Academy is committed to bettering the lives of the less fortunate and this is done through a committee called “Masiza”. Masiza is derived from a Zulu word, which means “to help”. The aim of Masiza is to enhance the social responsibility of the Military Academy for society at large.

Once the year starts, before tests and assignments, the Military Academy students come together and donate collectibles for the Back to School Initiative. This is a way of engaging with the community and ensuring that it is looked after properly.

This year the partners bought shoes for the learners; the Military Academy students bought school uniforms while the SAPS provided transport for the learners to Diazville High School.

The Master of Ceremonies of the day, Ms Lebo Mokete from Arcelor Mittal, welcomed the guest speakers and learners. The learners came from local schools in Saldanha, namely St Andrew Primary School, Diazville Primary School and Diazville High School.

The learners were collected from their schools and their teachers accompanied them to the event. The Commandant of the Military Academy, Brig Gen Lawrence Mbatha, Ms Mokete and Ms Eunice Adonise did the honours of handing over the uniforms and school shoes to the different learners. The students of the Military Academy also assisted the shareholders in handing out the uniforms. When they asked the learners about how they felt about the uniforms they received, most said they were very happy. Everyone was also inspired by the motivational speakers on the day and Brig Gen Mbatha spoke words of wisdom and urged the learners to consider the SA National Defence Force for their future careers. This event was inspired by the words of a nobleman, Mr Nelson Mandela, who said: “It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it”. These words reminded everyone where they came from and where they were going - as leaders of the community they must be the change everyone wants to see in the world, the trailblazers for the future generation of Saldanha and the whole of South Africa. The Military Academy would like to thank all the principals of all the schools they invited to the Back to School initiative and also to Mr Cliffe Vragom who accommodated them to make the event possible. A special word of thanks is extended to all the companies who partnered with Masiza and participated in the success of the day.

COMMANDER HONOURED FOR 67 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO SA SEA CADETS

For 67 years Cdr Keith Arthur Adams (Ret) has been involved in the SA Sea Cadets Corps (SCC) and was recently awarded the International Sea Cadet Association (ISCA) Certificate of Excellence. This certificate has only been awarded to five people in the world by the ISCA over the past five years; hence a meritorious achievement.

The Award recognises Cdr Adam’s 67 years of service excellence in striving for the ideals of the Sea Cadet Movement in South Africa with his guidance and dedication. This outstanding contribution should be seen in the light of the 110 year existence of the Sea Cadet Movement in South Africa. It is, however, purely a voluntary movement geared towards maritime and nautical training for the youth. A small “RPC” (i.e. Request the Pleasure of your Company) was held after the presentation at which there were some 145 Cadets on parade. Cdr Adams was deeply moved to receive the Award from the ISCA. There was, however, some undercover work and intrigue to get him to the parade without divulging the reason for his presence.

Cdr Adams joined the Sea Cadets as a boy of 12 in Port Elizabeth in January 1948. He was one of ten selected to represent the South African Sea Cadets at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. On finishing his schooling at Grey High School in Port Elizabeth he joined General Motors South Africa where he was employed for the rest of his working life.

He joined the SA Navy Reserve at SAS DONKIN, qualifying with a Bridge Watch-keeping award to ultimately become the Officer Commanding. While serving at SAS DONKIN he was also appointed as the Officer Commanding the seaward defence vessel, SAS OOSTERLAND. This ship operated out of Port Elizabeth and provided naval coverage in the area.

He retired as the Officer Commanding the Port Elizabeth Sea Cadets to take up a position in the Port Elizabeth Branch Executive of the Navy League of South Africa, the then governors of the Sea Cadets movement in South Africa, which was initiated in 1895.

In 1995 he became the National Secretary serving on the National Executive of the Navy League of South Africa and remained in that position until that body handed the governorship of the Sea Cadets to the then newly formed South African Sea Cadet Association in 1997. He continued to serve on the new governors’ Executive as the National Secretary of the Association.

In 2005, when the South African Sea Cadet Organisation was transformed into a registered Section 21 Non-Profit Company, he was appointed as one of the seven Founding Members and as a Director of the new Company. He continued to serve as the National Secretary of the new Company’s Executive Management Committee.

In 2007 Cdr Adams was elected to
EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH DIY

Air Force Base Ysterplaat recently hosted a Do It Yourself (DIY) Workshop. The workshop was attended by 15 women dressed in comfortable clothing who wanted to prove that they could do anything a man could do; if not better.

This jam-packed programme entailed the following: basic photography, vehicle maintenance, a visit to the Propeller Section, basic electrical and safety, including a DIY session at the Carpentry Section.

Basic electrical and safety: The electrical practical was held in the Avionic Section. Here the women were shown how to change a plug at home when electrical appliances break (which so often happens, especially when the husband is away from home).

During the practical phase the women showed their skills by stripping wires, removing screws and use the wire strippers to strip the plastic insulation from the three wires to expose the copper cabling within and to connect the wires. Lessons learned: the best plugs are usually the ones fastened by a screw. If you do not connect the wiring properly, things can go horribly wrong, e.g. the possibility of electric shock or even a fire. Always remember: green is Earth, blue Neutral and brown Live.

Vehicle maintenance: Flat tyres always happen at the worst possible moment. At the Engineering Support Workshop the women received a practical demonstration on how to change a flat tyre as well as to check the oil and water of a vehicle. Women had the opportunity to do a tyre change themselves and learned that instead of calling the breakdown service or a mechanic they can do it themselves. Changing a tyre is definitely a skill worth acquiring.

Carpentry Section: The Carpentry Section had a practical demonstration of assembling and finishing off woodwork. For this purpose the women were given a disassembled wooden cross and had to reassemble it for decoration. The women had to sand the wood, bore holes, glue pieces together and finish off the cross by filling the gaps with polyfilla. These skills were handy for creative art projects. Even though not all the women knew beforehand how to change a plug or a flat tyre this workshop definitely empowered them all. A lot of fun was had, so much so that the follow-up workshop should attract maximum attendance and the women will be able to show off their skills and teach the men how to cook/bake or, on the lighter side, how to apply make-up. This proves that women can do it better.

Maj Mandy de Long, email

FITNESS IS THE FOUNDATION OF SOLDIERING

S Sgt Ngoako Joseph Moloto, a member of 101 Air Supply Unit currently on course at the Personnel Service School, is not just excelling academically, but is also at the forefront of athletics. The member recently obtained the following medals while attending the Chief Personnel Clerk Course.

Recently he ran the Akasia four in 10km in 36min 05sec and obtained overall 12th position, and 2nd position in the Masters category, winning a silver medal. He further went on to compete in the Spar Lantern 10km in Irene, Centurion, where he finished in a surprising 37min 53sec.

He got the overall 7th place with a silver medal and in the Masters category he obtained the number 1 ranking as well as the gold medal. Many of his peers celebrated Valentine’s Day with loved ones, but S Sgt Ngoako celebrated it with the sport he loves much by participating in the “Chesa Nyama” 10km run in Pretoria North. More surprisingly, he finished with an astonishing time of 35min 44sec in 2nd overall position and won the Masters category. In both cases he won a gold medal.

All of his achievements in his athletic career are dedicated to his former Principal, Mr Mmatlwa of Khwinana Secondary School in Limpopo Province. He is the proud father of four children and is encouraging all soldiers to participate as it contributes to being an effective soldier: “a healthy mind in a healthy body”.

He believes and is adamant that fitness is the foundation of soldiering. S Sgt Moloto concludes by saying he is grateful to the Personnel Service School for allowing him the opportunity to participate in these events.

Lt Eon Winster, email
A parade is a formal inspection of troops for military purposes done either as a farewell or as a passing-out parade. 15 SA Infantry Battalion (15 SAI Bn) happened to be part of history when the unit held a farewell parade for deployed soldiers to the Sudan. The pride portrayed at this event showed the determination and focus of the soldiers.

The soldiers of 15 SAI Bn dazzled the crowd at the recently held farewell parade with their drill on the parade ground where the Unit Colours displayed the pride of the Unit. The Unit is built on the legendary land of Venda, the nation that holds its culture and tradition in high esteem. The soldiers on parade were honoured by the presence of the delegate from His Majesty King Toni Mphephu Ramabulana. This symbolised the well wishes of the King to the deploying heroes and heroines of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

Addressing the gathering of about 300 male and female soldiers on parade, Brig Gen (Ret) Abel Nelwamondo commended the idea of the parade before the departure for the Sudan and thanked everyone involved, including the invited guests for making the parade a success.

Brig Gen (Ret) Nelwamondo drew attention to the motto: “We train as we fight”. He added that we should embrace the South Africans who are securing peace and stability on the African soil.

In conclusion he said the SANDF has been contributing to peacekeeping missions for years; as a community we should support and pay tribute to their courage and support the deploying soldiers and their loved ones as they will be serving with loyalty and pride.

He urged the deploying soldiers to kiss their families and friends goodbye and to come back and have the peace of mind that they have support both from their loved ones and the community at large. As the parade marched off the guests and the spectators applauded with joy as they were bidding their farewell wishes to the marching soldiers. It showed on the faces of the marching soldiers that they were up to the mission as they carried their Unit’s motto in their hearts: “We serve with dedication”.

“You are known by the friends that you keep” were the words of the Second-in-Command of the Unit, Maj Soraya Cambinda. These words were directed to the friends of the Unit who stood by us through every joy and sorrow. Farewell to all the members that are deploying to the Sudan; we know that you will fly not only the RSA Flag high but the flag of the Infantry Formation and the Unit.

MONUSCO FORCE COMMANDER VISITS ITURI BRIDGE

As the Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Congo (MONUSCO), Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, paid his first visit to Ituri Brigade in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at a small town called Bunia. Lt Gen Mgwebi introduced himself as the new Force Commander to the MONUSCO ground forces in the mission area.

The South African Military Police were part of the Ituri Brigade Headquarters (HQ) forces in Bunia. As part of the United Nations Military Police they were also responsible for escorting the Force Commander during his movements from the airport to the Ituri Brigade HQ.

Addressing the Ituri Brigade HQ personnel, Lt Gen Mgwebi said: “I have brought the Force Provost Marshal (MONUSCO Military Police Commander) with me in order to remind all forces of the importance of their discipline and conduct during the mission. The Military Police are the eyes and ears of the Force Commander in their respective areas of responsibility.”

Lt Gen Mgwebi said: “You can also utilise them to your own benefit. They are not your enemies. We must work together to protect the local population against abuse and harassment. MONUSCO military personnel should at all times conduct themselves according to the code of conduct for blue helmets.”

It was a thrilling experience to meet this man in the war zone of a foreign country with the purpose of maintaining peace and giving the DRC people hope to reclaim their lives. I salute you my Commander for giving me a valid reason to be away from my family other than inflation worries and the tax-man, and instead to serve proudly in the blue helmet.

I would also encourage our friends and families to understand and support our sole mandate out there, namely to protect the local population. We certainly do not exploit or abuse them. Let us make our country proud like our Commander who is respected by the international community and trusted with the responsibility of commanding the largest mission ever since the United Nations was founded. Capt Makodumetja Albert Bopape, Area Provost Marshal, Air Force Base Makhado
The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) deployed forces in support of peace missions under the command and control of the United Nations in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The General Officer Commanding Joint Operational Headquarters is obliged to conduct personal visits to the mission areas in order to obtain first-hand information on the current deployment status and combat readiness of the deployed forces.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) Joint Operational (JOPS) Headquarters (HQ), Maj Gen Jabulani Nkabinde, invited representatives from the Services and Divisions to accompany him on the visit to ensure that individual corps Services personnel are catered for.

Maj Gen Nkabinde, accompanied by Service and Divisional representatives together with JOPS HQ staff Officers, recently visited SANDF deployed troops, Mission Commanders, military authorities and members of the diplomatic corps in the different mission areas.

The delegation left Air Force Base Waterkloof and arrived at Khartoum International Airport in the Sudan in the afternoon of the same day. It was welcomed by the RSA Defence Attaché in the Sudan who escorted the delegation to the Salaam Hotel for a briefing, after which the delegation was briefed on the operational overview of the area of operation.

The South African Ambassador to the Sudan, Mr Francis Moloi, briefed the delegation on the political and economic situation. He highlighted the difficult economic conditions that the Sudan was experiencing owing to political instability in South Sudan with its oilfields, which account for 70% of the economy of the country.

This situation had a hugely negative impact on the political situation and the economy of the country which was moreover experiencing a high rate of unemployment.

The following day the delegation travelled to El Fasher where they were welcomed by the RSA Battalion Commander, Maj Daniel Joubert, and the Liaison Officer, Capt Thabo Molefe.

The delegation paid a courtesy call on the Force Commander, Lt Gen Mushyo Kamanzi of Rwanda, who was informed of our presence in the area. The next day the delegation visited ZAM ZAM Military Camp at El Fasher where Maj Gen Nkabinde briefed them on developments and changes in the SANDF.

The next pit stop for the delegation was the Battalion Headquarters in Kutum. The delegation was briefed on the status of the unit and the security and operational situation in the area.

Thereafter the delegation left the Sudan and arrived at N'djili International Airport (Kinshasa) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where it was welcomed by the RSA Defence Attaché in the DRC, Col Mvuzo Mzinjana, who escorted the delegation to the Kempinski Hotel.

The following day the SA Acting Ambassador in the DRC, Mr Marius Conradie, briefed the delegation on the political and economic situation.

In the DRC, Maj Gen Nkabinde met with Maj Gen Nabiola Prosper, Chief of Forces Armées de la République Democratique du Congo (FARDC) Operations, and had a short briefing on current deployments with members of the SANDF. A courtesy visit was paid to the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, and the GOC JOPS paid a visit to the former Chief of Joint Operations at his office. He was the new Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) Commander in the DRC under United Nations auspices.

The delegation also recently visited Sake Base. After the visit there was a church parade led by Chaplain Boitumelo Moncho from JOPS HQ. This was followed by a visit to the Force Intervention Brigade in Goma where the delegation met with Brig Gen Vicent Nundwe. It was reported that the security situation was red in Beni, Meriki and Lubero due to increased activities of armed rebel groupings.

Sgt Raditshipi Maponyane, Joint Operational Headquarters
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, met her counterpart from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mr Crispen Atama Tabe Mogodi, recently to discuss matters of mutual interest between the two countries at Air Force Base Ysterplaat in Cape Town.

The two Ministers discussed issues concerning the implementation of the Military Strategy for the DRC, which was developed with the assistance of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). The military strategy was presented to the Bi-national Commission which was held in the DRC 2015 before the Presidents of the two countries and approved for implementation.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said that South Africa was ready to send the implementation team led by Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo to help with the implementation of the strategy so that they are able to report in the next Bi-national Commission on the progress made with regards to that strategy.

The strategy, among many issues, deals with the restructuring of the Armed Force of the DRC.

"It is very critical that implementation of this strategy begins in earnest as this is long overdue and our members are waiting and ready to be deployed in the DRC Defence Force to assist and support with the implementation of the military strategy. We implore you to make sure that this is done as quickly as possible so that we can report in the next Bi-National Commission," Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said.

In his response, Minister Atama Tabe Mogodi further agreed that this must be implemented and that they were ready to receive Maj Gen Hlatshwayo and his team in the DRC to start with the implementation. He said when he gets back to the DRC he will facilitate the arrival of the South African Team. Both Ministers agreed that the Implementation Team must be in place by April 2016.

Minister Atama Tabe Mogodi said:
“After we presented that military strategy to our Presidents during the Bi-national Commission which was held in my country, I asked myself when are we going to start with the implementation of the strategy. I am glad today that we have agreed that this should be done with immediate effect.”

Another matter that was discussed was the help that was required by the DRC in preparations for the elections which are due to be held this year. The DRC was urged to make sure that their requirements for assistance must be made on time so that preparations for such support can be done on time. The meeting agreed that such requirements will be made as soon as possible.

The DRC indicted that preparing for the elections in that country is very difficult and expensive due to the infrastructure and the vastness of that country. They appreciated the gesture by South Africa to assist with whatever support they have at their disposal. The meeting agreed that as a sister country there was a need to help and assist each other to ensure that these elections are run smooth.

An undertaking by the DRC Minister was made that they will discuss all matters with the Chief Electoral Officer in the DRC of the needs of the Electoral Commission for assistance which may be required.
A tribute to all the fallen heroes in the line of duty

By Sgt Nthabla Makhene, 41 Squadron at Air Force Base Waterkloof

As we take this moment to remember you our fallen heroes.

There are many people we meet in life. Some do great deeds but out of all who can proudly be called heroes; there is none greater than the soldiers who lose their lives in the line of duty.

No one had to ask any of you. You just knew you had to go. You left your loving, joyous homes and families, to go to faraway places only to sacrifice your noble lives.

We still remember the day you passed. It started out as a perfect day until we found out the news of the accident that took you away from us.

We will never truly understand why you were taken from this world. However, we reminisce the good memories we had and laughing at how goofy and wonderful you truly were.

SO FLY ON! Ride through, maybe one day we shall fly next to you! SALUTE!

Hamba kahle Mom Hamba kahle

By the SA Army Ladies

Tribute is due to Ma Dinah Masondo, wife of the Chief of Staff and Chairperson of the SA Army Ladies Forum, loving daughter, supportive wife, committed mother, caring friend and willing servant of our beloved country.

In her loving, caring manner she would be pioneering, lobbying and strategising on ways to support and develop military families, irrespective of whether their spouses was in junior or senior rankings. She had the ability to bring the most influential people together with the less fortunate so that the former could see, understand and hopefully support the others’ plight. She guided and helped to bring out the best in her compatriots.

When our Chairperson of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Spouses Forum, Ms Charlotte Shoke, requested involvement in community based projects, Ma Dinah wholeheartedly went into the military community and supported and guided the process as leader of the Thaba Tshwane spouses - a project that involved skills development courses offered.

Leading the SA Army ladies under the umbrella of the SANDF Spouses Forum was to her an effortless role, as there was not a day in her diary that would not include them or some activity that would involve them. Her strength and energy encouraged her team to commit themselves to assist our military families. She was humble, gentle and patient and really loved our military community.

She committed herself to the SANDF Spouses Forum and tirelessly worked for the mission at hand - truly a warrior.

Mom, the void that your departure leaves in our military community is immense and incomparable. However, we know that the following will be a memoir of you: “You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race and you kept the faith”.

Hamba kahle Mom Hamba kahle

Lovingly your “Military Children”
Launch of the National Defence Industry Council

By Sgt Ally Rakoma
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

The saying “Act global and think local” became real when the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, recently launched the National Defence Industry Council (NDIC) at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg.

The event was attended by the Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, the Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, members of the Armscor Board, Department of Defence (DOD) Senior Officials, Captains of Defence Industry and associates from government and the private sector.

Speaking at the launch as Minister Mapisa-Nqakula addressed about round 300 invited guests, she described the gathering as a historic occasion. The Minister said: “It is an historic day for the South African defence industry as its formation is based on government’s stated objective of assisting the local defence industry to develop a footprint in the global defence market, while creating jobs, growing the economy and cultivating a strong skills base in the sector.”

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said that after years of gruelling work and having obtained the approval of both the Cabinet and Parliament to implement the Defence Review, one of the key recommendations emanating from Chapter 15 of the Defence Review is today being fulfilled.

According to the Minister, the NDIC originated from an appreciation that the local defence industry could not function and develop effectively on its own without support and direction from the government and the Ministry of Defence. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said: “This is especially relevant in an environment where local industry has to rely heavily on export sales for sustainability due to limited local defence spending potential.” She also highlighted that internally the NDIC would ensure that the SA Defence Industry was optimally utilised in all defence capital acquisition programmes of the SANDF and other security agencies. This would be in support of the national imperative of localisation of industry as well as some form of strategic independence, particularly in the maintenance of equipment as well as future upgrades thereof.

The Minister told delegates that the NDIC was created to underpin the viability and competitiveness of the
local defence industry and that it would enable the DOD and Military Veterans to develop and preserve capabilities it had identified as being of sovereign and strategic importance in terms of design, development, manufacturing and in-service support, with the co-operation and understanding of the local defence industry as a sector.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula said that the NDIC was the embodiment of who we are and what we want to be and provides a platform to direct, support and preserve the SA defence industry as a national asset. She pointed out that some of the key objectives of the NDIC would ensure that our men and women in uniform are equipped with the best and most reliable equipment affordable within our limited means.

The Minister named Dr Gulube as Chairperson of the newly established National Defence Industry Council.

Dr Gulube mentioned that the NDIC has various work streams and he wanted these to be up and operational by the end of that month so that they would be able to report to the mid-year NDIC meeting. He said that he had scheduled four meetings for this year, but in future it would meet every quarter.

He remarked that because the reduction of the defence budget was a reality, the NDIC would, via its work streams, look into alternate funding models to expedite acquisition and cash flows, among other strategies.

The senior representatives at Director General or Chief Executive level, including the Presidency, the Department of Military Veterans, the State Security Agency, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Public Enterprises, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Small Business Development, as well as Armscor, Denel, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industry Association (AMD), the Chief of Defence Materiel and the Director Defence Industry Governance will make up the NDIC.
Civil-Military Relations Seminar

By Dr Susan Breytenbach, Director Departmental Policy Support
Photo by Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Queen Marie Antoinette of France (1755-1793) became known in history for saying to the poor people that if they have no bread, they should eat cake. Ironically, in actual fact she never said those words.

Similarly, the concept of “Civil-Military Relations” is also often misunderstood and thus a requirement existed for a seminar to equip DOD officials (both civilian and military) to operate within the framework of good civil-military relations and sound defence accountability principles. This knowledge is specifically important in the light of the work that is currently being done with regard to the development of plans to implement the South African Defence Review, 2015.

A Civil-Military Relations Seminar was conducted as part of the United States of America’s Extended International Military Education and Training (USA EIMET) programme. The seminar was recently presented by a USA mobile training team from the Centre for Civil Military Relations at the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey at the Sheraton Pretoria Hotel in Pretoria.

The forty delegates that attended the seminar consisted of four groups. There were members from the groupings involved in the implementation planning of the South African Defence Review, namely: the Secretariat Planning Team, Military Planning Team and the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Restructuring Team, as well as a general group accepted from the nominations received from the Ministry for Defence, the Defence Force Service Commission, the Defence Secretariat and the SANDF.

Some of the topics covered, included the theory of Civil-Military Relations, as well as the history of Civil-Military Relations in South Africa. Different models of Civil-Military Relations as applied in various countries were discussed with a specific focus on policy, management and military autonomy. Furthermore, Defence Policy Implementation, Defence Institution Building and Military Professionalism were also discussed.

The main point highlighted was, however, that Civil-Military Relations is about the relationship that exists between the state/government (“civil” means “state”) and the military. Both these parties have a specific role. Government focuses on politics, while the military focuses on military missions/operations. Politicians take the lead and decide on political objectives, while the military supports political objectives through military missions/operations. In this relationship the civil oversight by the state is linked to sound accountability principles.

It can be concluded that the Civil-Military Relations Seminar has contributed to capacity building in the areas of Civil-Military Relations and sound defence accountability principles.
The SANDF invades the main arena at the Rand Show

By Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano and Pte Paul Mpangala

As in the past years members of the public still could not get enough of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) at this year’s Rand Show. That is because, year in and year out, the static exhibition of the SANDF and its demonstrations in the main arena are rated among the top highlights of the Rand Show by its visitors.

The SANDF presented its highly anticipated arena programme of awe-inspiring capability demonstrations and simulations that last over 45 minutes each. The SANDF had also put an extensive exhibition of equipment ranging across all four Services and covering a massive 10 000 sqm - filling Terrace 1 and Hall 10.

Director Defence Corporate Communication (DDCC), Brig Gen Xolani Mabanga, said the SANDF is privileged to be part of the Rand Show and regards it as one of the key events at which it can educate and raise awareness in terms of its capabilities and career opportunities.

Brig Gen Mabanga said the SANDF has included capability demonstrations that will showcase to the public the roles of various elements of the SANDF. These included a simulation of drills during an ambush in peace support operations, air strikes by a Rooivalk attack helicopter and fighter jets and fast-roping of airborne forces from an Agusta A109 helicopter.

He said: “The participation of the Department of Defence (DOD) and the SANDF at the Rand Show provides a platform for us to interact directly with the general public and international visitors. We aim to educate the public about the role of the SANDF, and create awareness about the capabilities, successes and career opportunities available in the DOD/SANDF.”

The exhibitions at the Rand Show also highlighted the humanitarian side of the SANDF in disaster management and peace support such as the bridge erected on Terrace 1 by the SA Army Engineers. The 20-metre high structure provided a pier between the exhibits showcasing disaster management.

The Chief Executive Officer of Johannesburg Expo Centre, Mr Craig Newman, said that the participation of the SANDF at the Rand Show adds value and is one of the most notable crowd-pullers for its spectacular performances and demonstrations in the main arena, in particular.

Mr Newman mentioned that over the years the Rand Show had built partnerships, and as of 2014 the SANDF became an official partner and not just a participant of the Rand Show. He said this is an important
event in Gauteng and over 200 000 people were expected to attend this year’s Rand Show.

The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, invited the members of the public, especially the youth to take advantage of the gesture from the SANDF and be informed about the role and achievement of the SANDF. He said the Rand Show should also become an *edutainment* (education and entertainment) platform for the benefit of the young people.

Dr Gulube said: “It is for this reason that the SANDF is proud to be a partner of the Johannesburg Expo Centre which is the owner of the Rand Show. This partnership dates back over a decade when the military became associated with the Agriculture Show back in our history.”

He said the participation in the Rand Show provides the SANDF the opportunity to interact with the people of South Africa in a more social and relaxed atmosphere. He said it also gives a good platform to interact directly with the people and make them understand the work of the military.

Through the Rand Show, the SANDF is able to educate and raise public awareness about its activities in the area of defence. This includes

*ABOVE: Visitors appreciating the static display of 1 SA Tank Regiment.*

*ABOVE: SA Army Engineers members take young visitors on a boat ride at the Rand Show.*

*ABOVE: Children having a fun-filled day at the Rand Show as they explore the military hardware.*
informing the public about possible careers in the SANDF and other capabilities.

Dr Gulube said that important information on the availability of careers in the SANDF would be shared with young people that will be visiting the Rand Show. He said young people would be exposed to information on careers that can enable them to become pilots, flight engineers, technicians, doctors, etc. He added that the SANDF exhibition would offer visitors an understanding of the various careers in the SANDF which complement the fighting element.

The Secretary for Defence said: “In this regard, it is important that people should be exposed to the SANDF and the work it does. Therefore, we invite the public to come and learn about the roles and responsibilities as well as available careers opportunities in the SANDF.”

Dr Gulube added: “It is important for our people to meet and interact with members of the SANDF to learn more about the multi-faceted roles the SANDF plays in the defence of the country and its development. The SANDF plays a crucial role in the economic development of our country. In some parts of the rural Eastern Cape the SANDF constructed bridges to enable communities to access various services such as health, education and general access to economic centres.”

He mentioned that the SANDF also plays an important role in search and rescue missions, as well as humanitarian and disaster missions - in what can be called non-military areas. Dr Gulube urged the public to visit the SANDF stands and familiarise themselves with the defence industry members which manufactures a lot of the equipment used by the SANDF.

During the closing function the Head of Communication of the Department of Defence, Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, received the Platinum Award for the best exhibition (SANDF) from the Chief Executive Officer of Johannesburg Expo Centre, Mr Craig Newman.

Mr Dlamini believes SANDF participants excelled with their different performances and fantastic displays at the Rand Show. He said that their projections of the 10 days they spent at the Rand Show meant that they are a force ready and capable of defending the sovereignty of the country.

Mr Dlamini said: “One thing that we do at the Rand Show is to try and speak to the people directly. We speak to the South African community about the work we do as the SANDF and the reasons why we do the things we do.”

He added: “250 000 people came to the Rand Show to see the SANDF with its explosive performances. On behalf of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and the Chief of the SANDF, I would like to thank you and say that you made us proud.”
Lt Gen Vusi Masondo left command of the SA Army after he was recently appointed as Chief of Staff of the SANDF. He was bidden farewell during a Change of Command Parade held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane.

He handed over command of the SA Army to Lt Gen Lindile Yam who had been the General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation since 2011. Lt Gen Yam ascended to the highest echelon of command in the SA Army in February 2016.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “The four years I spent at the helm of the SA Army were the most rewarding years of my career as I dearly love the SA Army; and throughout my career I have been working hard to see it succeed as an institution. I was fortunate to have in my team men and women who shared my love for the SA Army and who gave me their unflinching support in my efforts to turn the SA Army into an institution fit for purpose and resting on a strong foundation of military discipline, patriotism and highly skilled military professionals. They validated my belief that discipline starts at the top and that as military leaders we have a responsibility to lead by example.”

When he was appointed as the Chief of the SA Army in 2011, Lt Gen Masondo said he wanted to take the time to traverse the country and acquaint himself with the views and feelings of both our soldiers and Public Service Act Personnel. In hindsight, he found the long road trips to the various SA Army installations across the country to have been worth every bit of effort.

He said: “When I eventually had an opportunity to share my intentions with SA Army members as Chief of the Army after listening to their concerns and aspirations, I highlighted the need for discipline, without which no army can function efficiently. I urged our members to adopt an attitude conducive to harmony at the workplace, an attitude that demands that we all pull our weight to advance the interests of the SA Army. This attitude, I said, should be evident even in the way we relate to one another as subordinates and superiors.”

Lt Gen Masondo said he made it his mission to ensure that seniors respect their subordinates, first as human beings, and not to disregard them merely because of the position they fill in our hierarchy. He asked them to respect their subordinates in the same way they would want respect accorded to them. He said: “I then rallied our soldiers to treat our prime mission equipment well and take the means to preserve it in a pristine working condition so that we are in a position to use it effectively to fulfil our mandate.”

He mentioned that during his tenure the SA Army had managed to bolster its military equipment inventory with new prime mission equipment to enable the army to do its work properly and to prevent equipment decline: an undertaking that he believes Lt Gen Yam will continue to champion, encouraged by the present Defence Review Report.
Lt Gen Masondo added: “We are indeed in good hands and with everyone putting their shoulders to the wheel, progress is inevitable. We have come a very long and challenging way and have recently celebrated the operational readiness of our force contribution to the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) force in September last year. That milestone meant that the SA Army now had combat-ready forces equipped with suitable hardware waiting to be rapidly deployed by the Chief of the SANDF (and by extension Chief Joint Operations) anywhere on the African continent to suppress instability and prevent the loss of life that has characterised most conflicts on the continent.”

He further advised Lt Gen Yam to keep the SA Army as a close-knit family so that its human and material capital is harnessed in a unifying manner. There is no limit to the possibilities of maintaining it as a force for good, either during continental peace missions or in meeting domestic responsibilities.

Lt Gen Masondo said: “To Lt Gen Yam, an experienced military strategist and longstanding member of the Army Council who moved mountains with other members of the Army Council to ensure that there was no lack of support for me in delivering on the SA Army’s mandate during my tenure, I have no reason to question or fault your ability to lead this pride of lions. As the outgoing Chief of the SA Army I am glad to note that this organisation is in good hands. There is no doubt in my mind that you are adequately empowered, having distinguished yourself over the years as a patriot in all of the positions in which you were deployed.

“As I hand over the reins of this important, constitutionally sanctioned institution, our country’s mighty landward force, the SA Army, I do so without hesitation because I know you will acquit yourself well. Good luck; serve well, lead well and remember that you are never alone in command; you always have the option to consult our country’s military brains trust.”

Lt Gen Masondo leaves from the pinnacle of the SA Army, having spent a long and illustrious career in the SANDF. In 1994, before integration, he served in the Joint Military Coordinating Council as the Chairperson of the Inspection Group which paved the way for him to lead the different divisions and formations in the SANDF.

He became further entrenched in the SA Army’s hierarchical fraternity through his appointment as Chief Army Force Preparation after his promotion to Major General in 2007. He subsequently became Chief of the SA Army in October 2011 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.

His career highlights include his appointment as Director of EXERCISE GOLFINHO, a Southern African Development Community (SADC) peace support operation exercise intended to train the SADC Standby Force in the execution of its duties.

He completed all his military courses, including the Executive National Security Programme, at the same time pursuing his academic studies and holds a Certificate in Defence Management from the University of the Witwatersrand, a Certificate in Labour Relations from the University of Pretoria and a B Comm Degree from Unisa.

**New Chief of the SA Army**

Lt Gen Yam was integrated into the SANDF with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was the first member of the Non-statutory Forces to become an Officer Commanding of a unit when he was appointed as the Officer Commanding of 13 SA Infantry Battalion in November 1994.

He completed the Senior Command and Staff Course in 1998, and subsequently completed the Executive National Security Programme in 2000. In November 2001 he was appointed as Director Physical Training and as South African representative at the Conference for International Military Sport (CISM), serving with representatives of 133 countries.

Lt Gen Yam was then appointed as the Chief Eastern Cape and Southern African Liaison Offices as well as member of the CISM Board of Directors serving on the International Strategy and Planning Committee. He was also co-opted as South Africa’s Mega Games Security Committee member before he was sent to the United Kingdom Royal College of Defence Studies in 1995 for a Global Security Strategy Course.

Lt Gen Yam returned to South Africa to be appointed as the Commandant of the Military Academy in Saldanha. On 1 November 2011 he was appointed as General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation in the rank of Major General.
Meet the new Chief of Logistics

By AB Samuel Ramonyai,
trainee at SA Soldier
Photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The newly appointed Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen Morris Moadira, was officially handed over the reins and command of the Logistics Division by the Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke, at the Confirmation of Command Parade recently held at Air Force Base Swartkop.

Upon accepting the responsibility entrusted to him by the Chief of the SANDF, the Chief of Logistics solemnly undertook to serve his country and the SANDF and perform his duties with diligence, loyalty, courage, dignity and honour. Lt Gen Moadira was convinced that by working together with all his stakeholders, the Division would be able to meet whatever challenges it might face. Their collective efforts will ensure that it delivers quality service to the people.

Addressing the members on parade, Lt Gen Moadira acknowledged and thanked his predecessors for their services to the Defence Logistics community and the Department of Defence (DOD) as a whole. Lt Gen Moadira also thanked them for their liberality and cooperation as shown throughout this transition and for the legacy they left behind.

Lt Gen Moadira said: “Just like Martin Luther King said: ‘I have a dream’, I too have a dream. A dream that we can all be better logistics today than we were five years ago. A dream that all logisticians will be educated and combat ready. Our focus has surely grown and this dream is achievable because it’s a dream that each logistician surely shares.”

As our country works its way through the challenges with the economy and a continent filled with seemingly persistent conflict, our SANDF will be faced with new demands. In this regard, he highlighted that the budgets would likely not be what they used to be. Things will have to be done better, faster and cheaper. And this time logistics will grow increasingly important, especially in the deployment areas, in force preparation and in upgrading DOD facilities.

Lt Gen Moadira thanked the wellwishers for his promotion and was humbled by hundreds of messages of support and the congratulations that he received after the announcement of his promotion. He also expressed his gratitude to everybody that was at the parade and the people who made the auspicious parade possible.

Because of his exceptional leadership skills and discipline Lt Gen Moadira rose within the ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) where he was an instructor and Free State Front Commander. After integration with the SANDF in July 1994, he served in various capacities and was accorded the following commendations and medals: the Unitas Medal, the Merit Medal in Silver, the General Service Medal Bronze, the Good Service Medal Silver (20 years), the Conspicuous Leadership Star, the Mandela Medal Bronze, the Medalje vir Troue Dienis 10 Years and the Maluti Clasp. Lt Gen Moadira also obtained the following qualifications from various universities and colleges: National Certificate in Journalism from University of Zambia, Certificate in Business Management, Certificate in Strategic Logistics Management, Certificate in Project and Advance Project Management, Certificate in National Cyber Security, Certificate in Supply Chain Management, Certificate in Effective Stakeholder Management and Certificate in Events Management.

When the qualifications of Lt Gen Moadira were read at the parade, they served to inspire young people to study. Conducting an interview with the youth about his qualifications after the parade, the majority of them said they were inspired and for that reason were going to enrol at universities and colleges.
A change of command parade is a military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one leader to another.

Maj Gen Monde Mbiza, the outgoing General Officer Commanding of Department of Defence (DOD) Logistic Support Formation, handed over the reins of the unit to his successor, Maj Gen John Kobbie, the new General Officer Commanding during a change of command parade held at the unit’s sports grounds at Tek Base.

Addressing the members on parade and guests, Maj Gen Mbiza congratulated Maj Gen Kobbie on his new appointment. He said: “You are inheriting a very stable Formation. Thanks to the close cooperation and high morale of the members of DOD Logistic Support Formation across the board, both members in uniform and Public Service Act Personnel, the Logistic Support Formation has gone from strength to strength. You are taking over an entity whose members are highly motivated because they have a sense of belonging and direction that the Formation has inculcated.”

Maj Gen Mbiza furthermore acknowledged everyone who played a role in helping him to succeed in his military career. He told the members on parade that they owed allegiance to South Africa under the banner of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The incoming General Officer Commanding, Maj Gen Kobbie, has a long and outstanding military career in which his various exceptional capacities have earned him numerous honours. He joined the military as a Cadet at the South African Cape Corps, later joining the Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. He studied for four years at the Military Academy in Saldanha and graduated in 1994 from the University of Stellenbosch with a Bachelor of Military Science Degree (Honours).

Thereafter, in 1995, he served as a training wing commander at 151 SA Infantry Battalion at Tempe, Bloemfontein. As a Company Commander he was part of operational deployments at the Lesotho border and in KwaZulu-Natal between 1996 and 1997. He completed the Junior Command and Staff Duties Course at the SA Army College in 1998, and was awarded as best overall officer and best operational unit commander. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1999 and appointed as Staff Officer One Operations at 43 SA Brigade. In 1998 he completed the Defence Management Programme and graduated from the School of Public and Development Management at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Maj Gen Kobbie was promoted to the rank of Colonel in 2002 and completed the Joint Senior Command and Staff Course in 2003 at the SA National War College. In 2003 he graduated with a diploma in Strategic Management from the then Technikon Pretoria. From 2004 to 2006 he served as Officer Commanding of General Support Base Durban and thereafter served as Officer Commanding Army Support Base Western Cape from 2007 to 2008.

He was privileged to study for a diploma at the United States Army War College in 2008/2009 and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Strategic Studies Degree in 2009. In 2010 he became the Officer Commanding of Army Support Base Western Cape and was later appointed as General Officer Commanding of General Support Base Garrison from 2011 to 2014.

In 2015 he completed the Security and Defence Studies Programme at the SA National Defence College. He is currently completing his final year for the Master of Philosophy Degree (Security Studies) at the University of Stellenbosch. In December 2015 he graduated with a Master of Military Science from the University of Stellenbosch. He was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed as General Officer Commanding of DOD Logistic Support Formation in 2016.
Patriotism, professionalism, discipline and good leadership skills can take one's military career to greater heights as was seen when the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, and members of the Air Force Command Council came to witness the Combined Change of Command Parade.

28 Squadron, 21 Squadron, Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre and 5 Air Servicing Unit held their Combined Change of Command Parade recently at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria.

The Chief of the SA Air Force handed over the command of Air Force Base Waterkloof to newly appointed Brig Gen Kenneth Petso who will now take over the command of the base.

Lt Gen Msimang also handed over command to the new Officer Commanding of 21 Squadron, Col Keith Fryer. The outgoing Officer Commanding of 28 Squadron, Col Hans Prinsloo, handed over command to Col Carl Moatshe. The outgoing Officer Commanding of 5 Air Servicing Unit, Col Lochan Ramchuran, handed over command to Col Johannes Molomo.

The outgoing Officer Commanding of Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (JARIC), Col William de Pinho, handed over command to the first woman to lead JARIC, Col Selina Toodi.

Addressing the members on parade, the Chief of the SA Air Force said: “Command is the single most important element in our defence organisation and no other element or function is more meaningful. Our success of our defence force is totally dependent on the quality of leaders and staff officers and those in positions of command. The person in command has command responsibility, authority and accountability and this is absolute.”
In conclusion, the Chief of the SA Air Force said: “In 2016 the SA Air Force will be concentrating on the following areas:

- Building Reserve Force capacity in all musters and reactivating the Reserve Force flying squadrons.
- Building capacity in every respect.
- Foreign learning opportunities.
- Restructuring the SA Air Force.
- Transformation of the cockpit.
- Pilot line specific training.
- Career planning.
- Partnerships to promote youth development.
- Creating créches, day-care centres and primary schools at our bases.
- Consolidating spousal forum activities at all SA Air Force bases.”
Social upliftment

**SANDF building bridges to link remote communities to established infrastructure**

*Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Thaole*

In support of the Government’s drive to achieve more with less, partnerships are pursued with other organs of state to assist in the delivery of the justifiable socio-economic needs of rural and local areas. The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) in conjunction with the Department of Public Works (DPW) has embarked on the construction of four bridges in the Eastern Cape villages of Bawa, Amazizi, Zuzalwana and Mancam.

The recent rains and accompanying floods damaged numerous roads and bridges in rural areas. Rivers have had a negative impact on the community for a long time and have claimed many lives in recent times. Many people cross the rivers daily to access nearby basic amenities such as shopping complexes, public transport, schools and clinics. Municipalities in these areas do not have sufficient funding or expertise to provide services for these communities, which has led to a huge backlog in service delivery.

To address the problems communities face and the
current status of roads and bridges in rural areas the construction project will employ SA Army Engineers to build bridges and re-establish communications that will link remote communities to established infrastructure. This is an opportunity for the SANDF to optimise collateral socio-economic capabilities to provide for service delivery. The SANDF intervention is through the provision of expertise, manpower and equipment for the construction of bridges.

The project is being hailed as an initiative to use SANDF skills in service delivery projects in support of government departments, particularly in poor communities. This bridge building exercise is an expression of the SANDF commitment to make clinics and schools accessible and safer for communities to reach. This project also facilitates government job creation and creates an environment for communities to initiate their own development by providing equal access to critical government services.

The construction projects are driven by the DPW and are part of the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) aimed at bringing service delivery to millions of South Africans living in rural areas, many of whom are cut off from schools, clinics and towns during the rainy season. Its mandate is to improve the lives of the people, alleviate poverty, provide

ABOVE: About 80% of the workforce are women. These women from the SA Army Engineer Corps beat all the odds and performed exceptionally well in building these bridges.

TOP and ABOVE: Significantly skills training took place and included mixing of concrete, painting and working with basic construction tools.
income, work experience and skills development through the creation of work opportunities.

The construction is generally labour intensive in order to provide short-term employment opportunities for the poor, thus contributing directly to the reduction of poverty. During construction, local labour and resources are used, which increases employment in the area thus boosting the economy and developing skills for the future.

Maximum impact is therefore guaranteed, both during construction and later, with the local community deriving the benefits flowing from the new infrastructure. Apart from providing local job opportunities, the project has embraced community outreach initiatives, including among others, in-service skills training opportunities and career guidance.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Ms Nomonde Hiya, Ward 9 Councillor, said that the bridges would significantly improve the road network in the area. Ms Hiya added that before the bridges were built many lives were lost owing to floods. Ms Hiya said: “Children from the age of 6 are forced to cross the river daily in order to attend classes. This puts their lives in jeopardy and results in frequent school absenteeism. This project will benefit us as a community very much as it brings family members together that have been separated by the rivers.”

Ms Hiya added that this project would lead to new economic activities, thereby contributing to the spatial spreading of development which would result in an increase in agricultural production and employment and therefore rural income.

SA Soldier also conversed with two casual workers from Bawa, Mr Anele Finca and Ms Nokubonga Mbotho, who said that the project had added substantial value to the local community. They said that they had gained additional general construction skills.

TOP and ABOVE: SA Army Engineers preparing the ground at Zuzaalwana before the bridge can be build.

LEFT: Female Sappers carrying bridge panels.
skills through this project. They maintained that the project had given them the ability to provide for their families and had provided them with valuable work experience in bridge and road construction skills that would make them more employable.

They both now believed that they possessed the capability and skills needed to ensure the site was fully operational. They felt that working with soldiers had enhanced opportunities for poor people and that intergovernmental projects such as this should be implemented more often and that such best practices could be duplicated. They suggested that more projects should be undertaken by the DOD so that the community could benefit from them.

Previously construction was seen through the eyes of men. It was men who dug the trenches, mixed the mortar and did the actual building of the structures. But this has changed according to the strong willed community of women from the SA Army Engineer Corps who used this project to improve livelihoods through their active participation in the project. This in turn contributed to the general empowerment of women as a labour force. About 80% of the workforce consisted women. They beat all the odds. They show the nation that it had a capable National Defence Force that it could be proud of, one that people could count on to make a difference and that it was skilled, disciplined and technologically advanced SANDF that remained committed to being a Force for Good. These women are assets to the SANDF. Without their dedication, devotion, commitment and loyalty, the SANDF will never be effective or efficient. Their efforts matter. Loyalty in this context means commitment to keeping the SANDF flag flying high. Bravo women, the SANDF salutes you for a job well done.
Once SAS SPIKENKOP was alongside, various exercise planning meetings recently took place. The Special Forces component of the exercise was planned for both ashore and at sea. The teams comprised SA Special Forces (Recces), Brazilian Special Forces Gurmece and Indian Special Forces Marcos.

The early morning began when Special Forces elements of all participating vessels assembled at the Goa Air Force Base to commence with training. A training programme that would normally have taken two to three weeks to complete was achieved within four days.

Day 1 kicked off with presentations from each Special Forces team. This included history, background, training and capabilities. There was thus an opportunity for these members to interact with one another and to compare their levels of training.

Thereafter, a show and tell event commenced with each force showing off the capabilities of their equipment to be used during the exercise. These comprised weapons, safety gear, gadgets, parachutes and all equipment that a Special Forces soldier needs to carry out his task.

With no time wasted after lunch, training continued. The group was then divided into two, one group proceeding with rope work and a Seaking helicopter from the host country. The rope work consisted of fast roping, repelling and laddering. The second group conducted urban training, which consisted of entry drills into a building and clearing of buildings.

Day 1 of training concluded with debriefings, a safety brief and free fall ground training procedures. Day 2 continued with the Seaking helicopter taking off and rising to an altitude to ten thousand feet at the Goa Air Force Base, which was also the drop zone for free fall jumpers. After completion of each parachute descent, each member had to pack his own parachute for the next jump. This was the hardest part due to humidity and hot conditions for which India is known, and members were drenched in sweat.

After lunch, after a drive of 1
ABOVE: The teams comprised SA Special Force (Recces), Brazilian Special Force Gurmec and Indian Special Forces Marcos.

With the exercise due to commence the next day, Special Forces teams gathered early in the morning and received a scenario based on a non-compliant vessel (opposed boarding) to be executed the following day.

While team leaders gathered and immediately started planning for the opposed boarding, simultaneous action by team members continued with preparations for opposed boarding. This concluded with the team leaders presenting their final execution plans to the rest of the team members. This was how the opposed boarding was to unfold with each member of the team knowing his position and role during the final execution.

On D-day this culminated in one final execution of the Special Forces component of EXERCISE IBSAMAR V – Opposed Boarding. The opposed boarding was executed during daylight, but in any Special Forces operation this would be undertaken under cover of darkness to maintain the element of surprise.

ABOVE and LEFT: Urban training, consisting of entry drills into a building and clearing of buildings.
Denel Aviation and the SA Air Force hosted a week-long demonstration to showcase the capability of the Rooivalk attack helicopter shooting with a Mokopa missile.

The sharp end of the SA Air Force, a Gripen fighter aircraft, was backing up the Rooivalk attack helicopter using its laser to pinpoint the target for the helicopter to fire its Mokopa missile. The demonstration was recently held at the Denel Overberg Test Range.

The week-long demonstration by the Rooivalk saw it demonstrating its fighting power and dominance in the sky. The helicopter showed how it was able to discharge its weapons with precision. The fire power of this attack helicopter is impressive.

**The armament**

- 1 X 20mm cannon, 585 rounds
- Up to 16 Denel Dynamics Mokopa long-range anti-tank guided missiles
- The potential for 4X air-to-air missiles
- Up to 76 X 70mm rocket
- 2 X external fuel tanks (550 litres each)

The external fuel tanks are new on the aircraft, which is undergoing more tests. The Rooivalk attack helicopter employs an integrated and intuitive human-machine-interface philosophy which results in a minimum workload with increased mission effectiveness. Furthermore, it incorporates an ingenious mechanical vibration isolation system, resulting in lower crew fatigue.

This locally designed attack helicopter is operated by a crew of two (pilot and weapon systems officer). Its maximum take-off weight is 8 450kg (18 630 lb). Denel Aviation is the proud Original Equipment Manufacturer and custodian of the intellectual property, and the SA Air Force is operating it with success.

“Denel Aviation is the design authority and original equipment manufacturer of the Rooivalk. The intellectual property of the Rooivalk attack helicopter is vested in Denel Aviation and the state. It is a qualified and a fully military certified aircraft. The present Rooivalk MKI will require a midlife upgrade in the next...
five years as a result of obsolescence in the computers controlling the avionics system.

“There has been interest in the Rooivalk as an attack helicopter system, which has resulted in the concept of a Joint Rooivalk Attack Helicopter Programme,” says Shalan Chetty, the Head of Engineering at Denel.

The integrated electro-optical sensor suite enables the crew to operate. It is able to perform its missions regardless of environmental conditions such as dust, high humidity, high temperature and high altitudes above sea level. It is further fitted with equipment to enable the crew to fly safely in adverse weather conditions. The missions that the Rooivalk attack helicopter can perform include armed reconnaissance, armed escort, attack, deep strike, precision strike and fire support.

The Mokopa Long-range Precision-guided missile may be used against a variety of targets and may be launched from various platforms.

Director Helicopter Systems, Brig Gen Hardus Engelbrecht, said the helicopter has a “good self-protection system”, most of which is classified, and the Rooivalk is also capable of operating on one engine.

Moreover, the Head of Engineering at Denel said that as the demonstration was still in its infancy they are mindful that anything can go wrong, but all necessary precautions as far as safety is concerned have been taken into account. He added that with this process, significant opportunities exist for technology transfer as well as industrial participation.

The Denel Aviation CEO, Mr Mike Kgobe, said the Mokopa missile was not certified yet for the Rooivalk. He urged the Defence Attachés present to buy into the future that is being created by the Rooivalk which will be beneficial to all. Countries such as Egypt, Nigeria, China, Japan and many others attended the week-long demonstration. Maj Gen Leo Irabor, representing the Nigerian Army, was also in attendance.

“We have to solve our African problems with African solutions. I have already marked the various areas in which we from Nigeria can partner with our South African brothers and sisters. I believe that, we will work together in the near future,” said Maj Gen Irabor.

The success of this unique and indigenous South African system is making big waves on the continent already. Therefore it was no surprise that the Nigerian Army wanted more information on the attack helicopter.

The Deputy Chief of the Air Force, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga, said: “The organisation is proud to operate the Rooivalk attack helicopter. This has been the best demonstration by the Rooivalk thus far considering that it also had to work alongside the Gripen with a Mokopa missile. Denel is our strategic partner and we are there to help.”

Maj Gen Malinga reminded military officials and defence industry players about the success of the Rooivalk in Central Africa. According to him the SA Air Force is in a healthy discussion with Denel Aviation to enhance the Rooivalk.

The executives at Denel Aviation say they are open to joint business on the Rooivalk and a roadmap for its success is already in place. The company had a week to showcase the next generation Rooivalk. Denel Aviation is working on this next generation attack helicopter and they have aligned themselves with the imperatives of the government of the day (Defence Review and National Development Plan). “The South Africa incorporated is a reality,” says Mr Kgobe.

Mr Kgobe says: “More tests of this nature are still going to be done, and the teams involved in the experiment are now going to analyse the data from which we will know what has to be improved to ensure that all is 100% when in battle.”

**Mokopa technical data**

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<tr>
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Designing the Rooivalk, Denel Aviation followed a design philosophy with the following priorities:

- Do not be seen – However if seen
- Do not get hit – However if hit
- Sustain flight – However if unable
- Survive crash

**ABOVE: Capt Tlhalefo Moroole, a pilot on the Rooivalk.**
The Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC), also referred to as “International Humanitarian Law” (IHL) or the “Law of War” (LOW) is not a “modern age” or “western world” concept, but has been in development since the earliest days of skirmishes between nomadic clans right up to fully fledged modern armed conflicts between nation states. As such, war fighting practices over time have developed and given rise to [unwritten] customary rules and ultimately [written] treaties governing warfare.

In short, the LOAC is a set of international rules/laws, established by treaty or custom, and are specifically intended to regulate armed conflicts by prescribing and regulating conduct and behaviour. It is referred to as ”Jus in Bello” or “law applicable in/during armed conflict”.

The LOAC neither condones nor condemns the resort to armed means to solve disputes (this lies within the domain of the United Nations Charter and international politics); it merely provides binding rules to be followed when armed conflict is resorted to.

While it is the military objective of all commanders to win in battle, there are legally acceptable limits to the means and methods that may be employed to reach the desired end-state. The legal limits pertaining to war-fighting have been developed, and exist, to curtail armed operations that deteriorate into wanton massacre and total war in which no distinction is made between lawful and unlawful military objectives.

LOAC is a complex body of law that requires both in-depth knowledge of its prescripts and sound military knowledge and expertise in order to correctly apply it during the planning for, and execution of, armed operations. It is an undeniable fact that a lack of balanced expertise in both fields will needlessly see soldiers and arms carriers killed in battle or, in a worst-case scenario result in war crimes being committed.

A common complaint heard from armed forces personnel is that international law relevant to armed military operations is a patchwork of provisions from many different treaties and customary rules, often without obvious operational meaning, and that these instruments are difficult to stitch together into operationally relevant doctrine, education and field training. Another common complaint is that intricate terminology tends to dominate discussions of this body of law. These are serious concerns, since commanders stand at the interface between the law and its application in the field. The role of LOAC experts to guide and shape the planning and execution of armed operations is thus of the utmost importance. This naturally requires instructors/advisors to be trained to a higher level of functional expertise, i.e. they should be able to function as specialists and not generalists.

Col Andre Retief has been a Director of Training and a member of the Training Advisory Group at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy, for the past 19 years and in 2011 was elected a permanent member of the Institute’s General Assembly.

Domestically, Col Retief is the LOAC advisor to the National Prosecuting Authority and the SA Police Service. Currently Col Retief is a member of a team comprising international LOAC experts that is reviewing the Geneva Conventions under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Department of Defence (DOD) is fortunate to have a resident internationally recognised expert in the form of Col Andre Retief, who is staffed as Senior Staff Officer (SSO) LOAC within Chief Directorate Human Resources Development. Col Retief has been a Director of Training and a member of the Training Advisory Group at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy, for the past 19 years and in 2011 was elected a permanent member of the Institute’s General Assembly.

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Col Retief, in close

Saudi Arabian Armed Forces with Col Andre Retief, Senior Staff Officer Law of Armed Conflict within Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (back row, 5th from left).
collaboration with the Defence Legal Service Division (DLSD), annually presents a four-week, internationally acclaimed LOAC Master Trainer and Advisor’s Course at the School for Military Justice to DOD personnel and selected personnel from other government departments, such as the Departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs. This extremely intensive programme achieved a 100% pass rate in 2015, and is scheduled for presentation in 2016 over the period 1 to 26 August at the School for Military Justice. Those wishing to attend can nominate themselves through the command channels on MILQUAL under 700HL2016 01. In January 2016 Col Retief was selected by Saudi Arabia to present a two-week LOAC programme to their armed forces under the auspices of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

During this lecture tour Col Retief was invited to brief the General Staff on the LOAC, and to visit their combat operations planning cell. The General Staff expressed their intention to make the course an annual event under Col Retief’s leadership.

Civilian Education, Training and Development Workshop

By Mr Danie Foster, Senior Personnel Practitioner at Chief Directorate Human Resources Development

The Department of Defence (DOD) Education, Training and Development (ETD) system operates within the national ETD system. Since 2006 the Republic of South Africa’s (RSA) ETD landscape has undergone many changes, which in turn has had a significant impact on the ETD of civilians in the DOD. This impact has resulted in the alignment of the ETD of civilians with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), the guidelines of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and the requirements of the DOD and the individual.

In order to provide Services and Divisional ETD representatives with strategic direction on the ETD of civilians, with special reference to the objectives for the FY 16/17, and thirdly, to discuss the main projects coordinated by CD HRD (Civilian ETD) for the FY 16/17.

Development Programmes

During the FY 16/17 the following development programmes will be coordinated by Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (Civilian ETD) and more information on the dates, cost and entry requirements are available on the Civilian ETD Intranet portal.

Civilian ETD Projects

During the FY 16/17 the following Civilian ETD projects will be coordinated by Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (Defence Civilians ETD):

- Review of Civilian ETD Policies
  - The review of the Defence Civilian, General Education and Training (GET) inclusive of Adult Education and Training (AET) and Further Education and Training (FET) policies is in process and was adapted in accordance with the Policy Board. It has been amalgamated into one and will be known as the Policy on the Professional Development of Defence Civilians in the DOD. The reviewed policy will be implemented by 30 September 2016.

- Matric Equivalent: Pilot Programme Certificate in Public Administration Learnership
  - The intervention covers aspects of administration within the legislation and policy framework of the public sector and thus addresses practices in all government departments. It is presented as theoretical knowledge with practical application in the workplace. The knowledge and skills acquired can be utilised in the DOD, e.g. when exiting to other Departments. The target group comprises officials in Gauteng Province (within the Pretoria area) not in possession of Grade 12/Matric and not currently registered for any Grade 12/Matric programme. This is due to the fact that this project will be a pilot project that will therefore serve as a benchmark for the other provinces. Furthermore, this will ensure feasibility, accessibility, efficiency and proper management of the project by Chief Directorate Human Resources Development.

Chief Directorate Human Resources Development acknowledges the commitment and participation of Services and Divisions at the annual Defence Civilian ETD Workshop that contribute to the professional development of Defence Civilians in the DOD. Continued support by Services and Divisions and the Defence Civilian workforce that participate in ETD opportunities will contribute to qualified, competent Defence Civilians for effective Defence.

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<td>9 - 12</td>
<td>1</td>
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The SA National War College (SANWC) recently opened its doors to welcome the 2016 learners of the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP) during the course opening ceremony.

The purpose of the study programme is to prepare selected officers for senior appointments at the operational level by developing their command, staff and analytic skills. Officers will have the opportunity to exercise their understanding of joint and combined operations and the management of defence and its various aspects of conflict.

The Commandant of the SANWC, Brig Gen Siseko Nombewu, believes that any officer selected to attend this programme is considered to be privileged. He said: “I believe all the learners realise how honoured they are to be given an opportunity to attend this programme.”

The General Officer Commanding Training Command, Maj Gen Gordon Yekelo, said the programme is a challenging curriculum that is benchmarked against the best in the world. He said that it will help officers to function effectively at the military strategic level of war.

Maj Gen Yekelo said: “It is therefore imperative that our armed forces and leadership cadre be prepared and equipped to meet and address all possible security challenges that face Southern Africa and Africa in general. Currently many military operations take place in conjunction with the United Nations or the African Union.”

He mentioned that the role of multi-national corporations, humanitarian and non-governmental organisation has expanded. However, they do not necessarily make the execution of military operations easier. He said the African security environment is much more complex and volatile than in the past.

Maj Gen Yekelo said: “The SANDF has an obligation to prepare itself accordingly for whatever possible tasks the future holds. In order to operate effectively in the joint and multi-national environment, it is essential that we train our future commanders and senior staff officers accordingly.”

The implementation of the JSCSP has ensured that the SANDF has aligned itself with internationally accepted norms with regard to joint and multi-national training at the operational level. This principle will be tested during the 7th Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX), Exercise UHURU.

The aim of CJAX is to train at the operational level of joint, multi-national and interagency environment in order to promote synergy between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Command and Staff Colleges as well as coordinating a complex, multinational peace support operation. Maj Gen Yekelo said the SANWC has received resounding international recognition from representatives of countries who have attended the JSCSP. Currently the College has officers who serve as Directing Staff from countries that include Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria and the United Kingdom. He said: “In addition the College also makes provision for programme members and Directing Staff to conduct international study visits. This opportunity allows members to familiarise themselves with international command and staff training methods.”

Maj Gen Yekelo added: “This year the College envisage visiting four or five countries out of the seven that have been proposed. This wide range of choice countries will allow for easier access and simplicity of command and control upon arrival in the host country.”
“We believe in heroes. We keep your spirit alive”

The SANDF Education Trust


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

- SANDF members killed or severely injured subsequent to April 1994, while on official duty.
- Civilian members of the Department of Defence (DOD) killed or severely injured subsequent to 27 April 1994, while deployed during official SANDF operation.
- Citizens of the Republic of South Africa killed or injured subsequent to 27 April 1994, during official SANDF operations provided that such citizens are not engaged in activities opposing the SANDF.

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

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

The banking details are as follows:

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For further enquiries and to obtain application forms please contact:

Tel: +27 (12) 355 5107          Fax: +27 (12) 355 5882
Email: sandfedutrust@gmail.com

We believe in heroes, we hope you do too.

Together we move South Africa Forward
Military spouses and SA Defence Industry ladies enhance their relations

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo by Pte Paul Mphangala

Defence Foreign Relations took the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Spouses Forum and ladies from the SA Defence Industry of relevant business stakeholders recently on a day-long social visit to the Bon Hotel in Vereeniging where the spouses of the foreign military attachés of the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps and ladies from the SA Defence Industry got to interact in a relaxed environment.

Defence Foreign Relations is primarily responsible for the promotion of relations with the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps and the SA Defence Industry. Given the mandate of Defence Foreign Relations it was important for them to encourage and enhance diplomatic relations with foreign military attachés. This endeavour extends to the spouses of these attachés.

Ms Afrika Msimang, wife of the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, on behalf of Ms Charlotte Shoke, wife of the Chief of SA National Defence Force, Gen Solly Shoke, hosted the ladies. During the exchange of gifts ceremony she thanked all the ladies for honouring the event. She encouraged them to continue to do what they as spouses did best and that they should all strive to do the best in whatever they do.

The SA National Defence Force Spouses Forum, spouses of foreign military attachés and ladies from the SA Defence Industry at the Bon Hotel in Vereeniging.
The National Defence Industry Council Golf Day

By Sgt Ally Rakoma
Photos by L Cpl Jonathan Mogano

Following the launch of the National Defence Industry Council (NDIC) by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, the Department of Defence (DOD) Materiel Division hosted a golf day, followed by a gala dinner, at the Centurion Country Club.

The golf day was a charity fund-raising project and the proceeds generated will be donated to a charity chosen by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans as part of the DOD social responsibility initiative.

The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, who was the main functionary during the gala dinner and prize-giving function, expressed gratitude to Captains of Industry, friends of the DOD/SANDF, sponsors and all the stakeholders for taking the time off from their busy schedules in order to make it to the golf day and for contributing to the success of the prestige event. He commended all the participants for the fine example they displayed.

The Programme Director, Mr Trevor Mketi, the Director Defence Industry Governance, said that an event of this nature was a true reflection of the ability to bring about unity, friendship, networking and the further strengthening of relationships.

The competing teams played unbelievably well in an amazing spirit of camaraderie and goodwill on the greens.

ABOVE: Fltr: The Chief Executive Officer of Denel Dynamics, Mr Tsepo Monaheng, the Director of Tekatakho Consulting, Mr Bongani Ginindza, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, and the Surgeon General of the SA National Defence Force, Lt Gen Aubrey Sedibe, at the golf day.

ABOVE: Director Defence Industry Governance, Mr Trevor Mketi (left), receives a gift bag from the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube.
Walking wisdom

By Maj Michelle Fogwill, Biokineticist
Photo by LCpl Jonathan Mogano

Walking is convenient, and easy. Humans are natural walkers. Walking is how we propel ourselves from one point to the next. Now that we have cars, stairs, escalators and elevators, we walk much less and the results are obvious. We are burning fewer calories and we are getting fatter than ever before.

The benefits of walking are many - it improves your circulation and cardiovascular capacity, helps to build and maintain muscle mass, strengthens your bones, helps to relieve stress, burns calories and generally gives you a feeling of well-being. You do not need to spend a lot of money on fancy equipment. In fact all you need is comfortable clothing, a good pair of socks and a pair of good shoes. Do not skimp on the shoes - they protect you from blisters and cushion your feet. Always walk the distance and speed you feel comfortable with. Start slowly if you have not walked for a while.

Focus points while walking

Before you start: Dress comfortably. The best walking clothes are loose, comfortable and breathable. Your socks and shoes are important. Warm up and stretch, no bouncing. Hold the stretch for 30 sec do it twice. Stay hydrated.

Back and Posture: As you walk, your back should be straight, not curved or swayed. You can lean forward slightly, but do not bend at the waist. If you overdo the leaning, you will place strain on your back. If you are in the right position, you should be able to draw a straight line through your ear, shoulder, hips and ankles.

Abs and buttocks: Part of how you achieve proper back position is to contract your abs a bit. Your buttocks should be tucked in. That follows naturally when you tighten abs.

Weights: You should not be carrying special weights. These not only distort your centre of gravity, they also pose a danger of injuring your joints. For example, ankle weights can cause knee injuries. To intensify your workout most experts suggest walking faster and longer instead of using weights.

Stride and pace: Do what comes naturally. If you are shorter than your walking partner, you may find that you have to take shorter, more frequent steps to keep up.

Breathing: Breath naturally. As you walk, you should find yourself taking deep, rhythmic breaths, which help you get maximum oxygen through your system.

Routine: If you are new to walking, start off with slow, short sessions and build your way up gradually. If you have any health concerns or medical conditions, be sure to check with your doctor for advice before you begin your routine.

Weekly walking programme

For starters, try this weekly walking programme - Work up to any time limit you like:
By Sgt Thapelo Nyalungu,  
Air Force Base Waterkloof  
Corporate Communication Clerk  
Photo by Cpl Nthabozuko Sana

Water scarcity is the lack of sufficient water resources to meet demands of water usage within a region. It already affects every continent and around 2.8 billion people around the world, at least one month out of every year.

On 4 March 2016 Air Force Base Waterkloof contributed about 4 000 to 5 000 litres of water for people who lack access to clean drinking water. The water was transported to the Moreleta Church in the east of Pretoria from where it was distributed to the regions where they have a shortage of water.

The Environmental Section at Air Force Base Waterkloof started this unique project as part of the water shortage in South Africa. 28 Squadron and the Fire Section donated water bottles in making sure that the project becomes a success.

Maj Meriska Vogel, Environmental Officer, said: “This small contribution made by Air Force Base Waterkloof aims to help people that are in need of water for animals, cooking and washing.” She added: “With this water contribution, we hoping to save the animals, plants and it will also aid more on nature conservation. The main goal of the base is to reduce the level of water scarcity in the region.”

The Officer Commanding of Air Force Base Waterkloof, Brig Gen Motlhokomedi Kenneth Petso, said: “He was glad and thrilled with excitement to have made this tangible contribution to our country.”

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LEFT: The Officer Commanding of Air Force Base Waterkloof, Brig Gen Motlhokomedi Petso, with the contributed water by the base for people who lack access to clean drinking water.
The 43rd edition of the world’s largest open water swimming event – the aQuelle Midmar Mile – was recently held at the picturesque Midmar Dam in Howick.

Although weather conditions were perfect for swimming over the two days, the water levels were at their lowest since the inception of the competition due to the country’s crippling drought. This resulted in poor entries and attendance for this year’s event, but this did not dampen the spirit and atmosphere of this fun-filled occasion as young and old from all parts of the country plunged into the dam water for their one mile swim.

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) swimming contingent encompassing members from all four Services took part in various competitive races over the two days. Led by the Patron of SANDF Swimming, R Adm Rusty Higgs, emphasised the importance of swimming in the SANDF saying: “Swimming is more than a sport, as soldiers in the SANDF we must operate and fight in all facets.

While briefing the swimmers at their campsite opposite the race site, R Adm Higgs emphasised the importance of swimming in the SANDF saying: “Swimming is more than a sport, as soldiers in the SANDF we must operate and fight in all facets.”

The Chairperson of SA National Defence Force Swimming, Lt Col Craig Stanton, finished his race.

ABOVE: Capt Francois du Toit thrilled to finish his 8th mile swim.

ABOVE: Fltr: AB Ntuthuko Mathe, AB Gugu Makhathini, PO Nkosinathi Mtololo and AB Bongiwe Sishange happy to finish the Midmar Mile.

ABOVE: Chairperson of SA National Defence Force Swimming, Lt Col Craig Stanton, finished his race.
“When involved in rescue missions across the African continent, we must not say we cannot rescue people because we cannot swim”. 

Lt Col Stanton briefed the swimmers on what to expect during their races, including the new rules associated with each race. Thereafter the Chairperson of SANDF Swimming handed over swimming costumes to the exclusive 8th mile swimmers.

The Midmar Mile would not be complete without the naval presence in the water looking after the safety aspects of the competition with Naval Station Durban assisting with water borne safety of search and rescue and water traffic control. Divers from the Operational Diving Team and the Protection Force of Naval Station Durban were deployed to ensure overall safety of this international event.
Cpl Lesiba “Lebisa” Mashishi – A rising star of Hip Hop

Cpl Lesiba Ephraim Mashishi, known as “Lebisa”, is an Aircraft Electroplater stationed at 10 Air Depot in Thaba Tshwane. The 24-year-old rising star hails from the small town of Mokopane in Limpopo Province. He is a heart and soul self-taught Hip Hop rapper and producer who raps with lyrics sung in the vernacular.

Cpl Mashishi has shown great potential and more exposure could see him becoming a Hip Hop star and make waves in his musical career.

While others go to great lengths to fine-tune their musical craft by enrolling at music and performing arts institutions, the youngster fell in love with Hip Hop music at an early age. His vocal abilities create magic with his songs which take the stage by storm. There is a lot of variety in his songs that appeal to many.

The talented rising star has appeared in TV productions and made his TV debut on SABC1 on Koze Kuse music entertainment programme and eTV Shizniz.

He released his first single titled Haikabi featuring RedButton, and has been blowing waves and getting good feedback from his supporters and listeners since March 2014.

He recently released his album Extended Project titled LONG WAIT. On the Extended Project he has worked with various artists such as Redbutton, A-Reece, Sbuda P, Benchmarq, Stan B, Froz, TMI and he is willing to work with other artists as well.

Cpl Mashishi says his music is being aired on various radio stations, such as Ukhozi fm, Vow fm, Tshwane fm, University of Johannesburg (UJ) fm, Capricorn fm.

He says nothing can separate him from Hip Hop. His inspiration is said to be drawn from Molly, Kwesta, Skwattakamp, Pro, RedButton and Proverb. He says that he did not want to sound the same as them, but he wanted something different to reach their level of greatness in terms of Hip Hop music. He said: “Hip Hop was not a talent I was born with, but it is just a skill I learnt.”

Asked why he rapped with lyrics in the vernacular, he said: “I want to connect with people. I want them to hear me. I believe rap or Hip Hop music is growing and is a path between cultures. The most important thing about any music is quality sound and a positive message: that is the vision I try to bring to my music. In my music I inspire to make people better, including myself. It is good when you are accepted and people appreciate your work (lyrics and the beat).”

As asked, challenges in the rap or Hip Hop music, he pointed out that he is aware that sometimes music brings negative perceptions as it’s associated with gangsterism.

His message to young people is: “Do not stop dreaming and seize every opportunity to put your talent on the map. Everything is possible. If you dream it, you can live it. Keep your heads high.”

Cpl Lesiba “Lebisa” Mashishi encourages the youth to seize every opportunity to put their talent on the map.

ABOVE: Cpl Lesiba “Lebisa” Mashishi singing to his rap lyrics during a studio recording. (Photo supplied by Cpl Lesiba Mashishi).
Who said soldiers cannot sing, dance and practise soldiering?

Am passionate about Maskandi music; I breathe, eat, sleep, and dream Maskandi. I have always been fascinated by the sounds of the strings of my guitar and the Xabhashe praise poetry,” declared Rfn Zamokuhle “Masaladi” Xulu originally from the rural mountainous eQhudeni village in Nkandla.

Rfn Xulu, who is best known by his stage name “Masaladi”, was born in 1986. He joined the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) in 2007 as a recruit. After passing his basic military training he joined one of the elite forces in the SA Army, 1 Parachute Battalion, in Bloemfontein. In 2011 his passion for music evaporated, and instead made the whole battalion sing and clap as he danced while leading them in the sports parade at the unit. He later moved to 101 Air Supply Unit in Pretoria where he pursued his childhood dream of producing his first Maskandi album, titled “ICALA”.

Masaladi got to know Maskandi music at the young age of 16, and immediately his love for his art emerged. “I started working on this album, all along writing and doing research. Then in December 2014 I started recording in a studio in Johannesburg at Takk Studios,” says the hard working paratrooper.

On this album he worked with Thuthani Ndlovu, the sound engineer who is well known among other Maskandi artists, such as Khulekani “Mqumeni” Khumalo, Imfez’emnyama and Osaziwayo. He also worked with Mphumzeni Xulu, his cousin, Valinduku Xaba, and Maqhude Mkhize. This album will soon ebe much played by radio stations countrywide, including Ukozi FM, Umhlobo Wenene FM and Ikwenkwezi FM. “Seeing people dancing to my tune, ‘ukubona abantu besinela ushuni wami’ inspires me,” says the humble Zulu boy. He says he draws inspiration from Mahawukela Mseleku’s music, and he grew up in a place where Maskandi music was the only music that was played.

Fortunately with creativity comes responsibility and truthfulness to his military career. As a paratrooper, Rfn Xulu says he greatly respects his work as a professional soldier who has pledged to serve with loyalty and pride to defend the country and its people. Rfn Xulu would also like to thank the SA Army which granted him the opportunity to grow, explore and expand his passion for music. Xabhashe, his praise clan name, said he was striving to maintain a balance at work by doing his music as an extra-mural activity while playing a leading role within the airborne environment of the SANDF.

Now let me speak as the person who has listened to this album. Rfn Xulu is more of a story telling type of musician, one with a deep cultural and traditional style. Track numbers 2, 4, 7 and 10 are his favourite songs. They speak about his real-life experiences growing up as a boy in the mountains of eQhudeni.

His music reflects his joys and sorrows and his observations of the world. He rapidly recites Xulu Xabhashe kaDonda praise poetry, or “izibongo” which explains their family history in a poetic style. The message that is in this album is: “I need people to know creativity changes the world and needs to be acknowledged, respected and supported. My calling is to heal you. Play this CD at traditional ceremonies, weddings and any other functions, and you will be blessed”, says the paratrooper.

This album can be purchased at Dakota Music Stores all over the country. In Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg and in the Western Cape it is available at Bellstar Music stores. Rfn Xulu wishes to request that the SANDF, Defence Corporate Communication and other government institutions take advantage of his services during special parades before international audiences, functions and ceremonies. It’s the music of the man who’s got the Zulu Blues, a man on the move. Where he originates from KwaZulu-Natal they say: “Umculo ogijima negazi” (It’s the music that runs with the blood).

Rfn Xulu has broken down stereotypes about what soldiers are capable of doing during their spare time. I believe with this initiative he will change the perceptions that soldiers only know how to operate a weapon or stay in the bush. I am of the view that his work will also give courage to young soldiers to explore a literary or artistic career, be it poetry, writing, acting, DJ, or music. I think it’s imperative for the SANDF to start encouraging and empowering young soldiers who have artistic talents to showcase what soldiers are capable of doing in peacetime and to develop themselves.

I know he is not the only one as there are many like him. Support them by buying their books or CDs and attending their shows. This will keep them motivated to work hard and produce more of their craft.

*For more information please contact Rfn Zamokuhle “Masaladi” Xulu on 073 636 7719 or email him at: zxulu85@gmail.com

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**Focus on Youth**

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**Article and photo by L Cpl Ntokozo Edward Ndlovu, SA Army College**

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**Rfn Zamokuhle “Masaladi” Xulu, a sensational traditional Maskandi singer, produced his first album called titled “ICALA”.**
God turns bad into good

By Col (Rev) Bonga Bosiki, Senior Staff Officer Spiritual and Moral Support at Chaplain General Division

I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, he will do everything I want him to do” (Acts 13:22) -

God does not think the way we think. He does not act the way we act. He does not plan the way we plan and yet we are created in His image and likeness. He takes favour in the life of David despite his obvious mistakes. The life of David serves as a mirror and a lesson to everyone.

David was an imperfect man with careless mistakes and yet God sees him as a man after His heart. He committed all sorts of bad deeds and some of them were unimaginable acts of cruelty and inhumane. However, God was seeing what the world could not see in him. By mere human judgement, David would be seen as a sinner who has committed horrendous crime against humanity and yet God says he is a man after His heart.

Look at the following and judge for yourself who David was. David was a warrior who shed much blood (1 Chronicles 22:9). He committed adultery with a woman named Bathsheba. He made Bathsheba pregnant

Col (Rev) Bonga Bosiki.

(2 Samuel 11:4). To solve the problem, he ordered the husband of Bathsheba to be put into a forward battle position where he was killed (2 Samuel 11:5-17). He was a negligent father, and his family was plagued with strife and tragedy (2 Samuel 13:28-29; 18:31).

David pride resulted in the deaths of 70 000 of his own troops and the punishment of a plague to the whole nation (2 Samuel 24:10-15). Surely, one would expect condemnation and total curse from God. Yet, God states, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do everything I want him to do.

How can that be? How can God possibly not commend a man with blood on his own hands this way?

David sought to be righteous and his heart’s desire was to do the will of God. God is looking for this kind of a person. God is able to see in a person what the other person cannot not see. He sees that the heart of David was after Him and his desire was to do His will. God forgives the repenting sinner.

David would always judge himself in the face of God. It is clear as we see the life of David that God concerns Himself with the internal parts of a human being while we concentrate on the external appearance of a human being. David did all that we consider unforgivable, but due to his constant dialogue with God wherein he asked for forgiveness of sins, God forgave him.

He turned what was considered bad into good. God is a good God. We must imitate and resemble Him. We must always strive to do well in whatever we are doing. We were all meant to be like God and so it is vital that in all our endeavours, we seek God’s goodness and grace. As you read this message, may the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warmly upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields and may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Therefore, that which is bad in your life can be turned good.
Easter is a commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death on Calvary. The Military community, friends of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and esteemed guests recently congregated at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall for the annual Chief of the SANDF Easter Church Service.

The highly inspiring service to observe the holiest religious Easter period was led by the Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile, and his team of Chaplains, with the theme: “Good news from the graveyard”.

Proceedings began with Scripture reading and prayers and a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of SANDF warriors, such as the late Cpl Mxolisi Edward Mnyipika who lost his life following an ambush in the Sudan and well-wishes for the speedy recovery of Rfn Cebo Gumede who was wounded during the attack.

This special event is also held to remind members of the Department of Defence/SANDF to be the light of hope, and to be goodwill messengers and caring and disciplined servants.

Col (Rev) Bonga Bosiki, Senior Staff Officer Spiritual and Moral Support at the Chaplain General Division, explained Easter’s religious significance and the observance of Lent and said it was a time of reflection, fasting, prayer and penance. The Chaplain General of the SANDF said that Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead after his death on the cross. Brig Gen (Rev) Jamangile said: “We must be driven by the good news from the graveyard. Good news came from a lonely graveyard.”

V Adm Mosiwa Hlongwane, the Chief of the SA Navy, was the main functionary on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke. In delivering his goodwill message he paid homage to the SANDF men and women who had departed in the service of the country and all those who continued to serve and who were safeguarding our country. V Adm Hlongwane prayed also for those deployed beyond our borders who were contributing to peace and stability on the continent. He told members that they were duty bound to uphold military discipline.

The SA Military Health Service Band, the SA Air Force Choir and the Department of Defence HQ Unit Choir performed spiritually uplifting praise and worship hymns.
Medicinal myths and a lack of care for our natural environment will be the forces behind the extinction of this magnificent animal.

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

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