Soldiers help clear Gauteng mortuary backlog
The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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S Sgt Jacques Fuche of the Gauteng North Senior A Team looking pleased with his nice catch. (Photo by Mr Witney Rasaka)

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FRONT COVER: The SA National Defence Force helped to clear Gauteng mortuary backlog during the recent mortuary strikes. Cpl Noluthando Nkaiseng (left) and L Cpl Freek Jafta (both Emergency Care Technicians) assisted at the Hillbrow Forensic Pathology Services in Johannesburg. (Photo by Mr Paul Mpangala)
It is almost time for everyone around the globe to spend 67 Minutes honouring Madiba on International Mandela Day.

On 10 November 2009 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted 18 July, the birthday of the late Mr Nelson Mandela, as International Mandela Day to celebrate the legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former President of South Africa. The adoption of this resolution was truly historic as it was the first time that the UN had designated an international day in honour of a person.

International Mandela Day inspires all of humanity and reminds us of our public service to each other. This day is not only about doing well, it is about rendering service. It is an opportunity to build upon Madiba's lifelong belief that we must live to serve every day, in whatever we do.

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.” – Dalai Lama

On this day all individuals are called upon to live his legacy by doing 67 minutes of community work in honour of Madiba’s 67 years of uninterrupted and selfless service to the people of South Africa. The late Mr Mandela spent 67 years making the world a better place. On his birthday everyone is encouraged to give 67 minutes of their time to serve humanity to promote a culture of peace globally. On International Mandela Day people all over the world do community service and make time to help those less fortunate or in dire need.

The essence of my message is to encourage our readers to spread goodwill on International Mandela Day. Devote your 67 minutes towards a noble course. Let your 67 minutes make a positive change in the life of someone.

Madiba is recognised as an international icon and a symbol of hope for people around the world. The SA National Defence Force recognises Mr Mandela’s principles, values and dedication to the service of mankind, as well as his contribution to the struggle for freedom and the promotion of a culture of peace.

We should strive to build upon his example of tolerance, compassion and reconciliation.

We should be Samaritans of peace and hope in honour of South Africa’s greatest stalwart and former President Mandela.

Be one of the people who is willing to offer your precious time and in assisting someone in need with the hope of making him or her feeling appreciated and loved.

Try to make the burden lighter of someone less fortunate than yourself. Everyone has something to give or do. It feels good to put a smile on someone’s face. This day gives us an opportunity to reach out and help our fellow South Africans. Each small contribution or gesture can go a long way when it comes to charity. Even a contribution that appears meaningless to some has the potential to make a huge difference to others.

May we persist to honour the legacy of Tata Madiba and uphold the ideals he lived for.

Let us honour the ethos of the late Mr Mandela, and answer the call and devote 67 minutes of our time in community service. Continuing to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate and following in the selfless footsteps of the late Mr Mandela.

Let us strive to spread the Madiba Magic by showing that we love our neighbour by spreading UBUNTU. May we all perform acts of UBUNTU for at least 67 minutes this year on International Mandela Day.

What will your contribution be on Mandela Day?

I end this month’s message with the iconic words of Madiba:

“We do not want bread without freedom, nor freedom without bread.” – Nelson Mandela

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier
"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

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We believe in heroes, we hope you do too.

Together we move South Africa Forward
SEEK HELP OR EXIT WITH HONOUR

I have seen many people being discharged from the military, they end up on civvy street without a job and stressed. It is not a secret but we all know that it is difficult to find a job, not everyone who joins the military wishes to remain there; for some it was just something that will end their joblessness, for some it was luck, but for some of us it was and still is a dream and an honour to serve.

Those who find the military a burden end up absenting themselves from work, later being administratively discharged from the military. Most of the people who were discharged realise later that the military was their greener pasture. Some of the things that lead good soldiers in civvy street astray are alcohol, drugs and family problems. In most cases it could have been sorted if only a member looked for help.

As subordinates we also have a duty of helping and looking out for each other.

Members of the SA National Defence Force must always remember that some of the decisions we make might affect people closer to us, for example our parents, spouses, children or our future. SEEK HELP OR EXIT THE MILITARY WITH HONOUR. L Cpl David Tshivhula, 1 Parachute Battalion

5 SA INFANTRY BATTALION ASSISTS PORT ST JOHNS HEALTH CARE CENTRE

Lt Col Dibuwe Tigele, Officer Commanding 5 SA Infantry Battalion, presenting a goodie bag to a mother of a new-born baby. (Photo by Capt Siboniso Maseko)

5 SA Infantry Battalion (5 SAI Bn) visited Port St Johns Health Care Centre as part of their community projects giving back to the community of Port St Johns. 5 SAI Bn members arrived in full to clean the health care centre and left no stone unturned. The new-born babies were welcomed with bags full of goodies. Mrs Fono, the Sister in the Centre, thanked the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) for their support as it was the first time this type of project had been undertaken at the centre. Mrs Fono said: “Your superiors will be told about the amazing job done by the SANDF members to the Centre.”

The Officer Commanding 5 SAI Bn, Lt Col Dibuwe Tigele, thanked his staff members for making the day a success, and thanked the Port St Johns Health Care Centre staff members for allowing the SANDF to clean the Centre. He thanked the mothers for receiving the gifts. Capt Siboniso Maseko, 5 SA Infantry Battalion

Lt Tshanduko Meshack Mushadu cleaning at the Port St Johns Centre. (Photo by Capt Siboniso Maseko)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily the views of the Department of Defence/ SA National Defence Force. The volume of letters we receive make individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters concerning the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be published - Editor.
THE CALLING TO SERVE

To all the uniformed members and our equally important Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) with different appointments and ranks in the Department of Defence/SA National Defence Force, let us serve with passion, honour and integrity. Resist the temptation of working only for the personal benefits such as job security. Serve the organisation for the greater good of the Republic of South Africa, world peace and stability. Execute your tasks with dedication; ask those with experience if you are doubtful and/or unsure. Develop and learn as much as you can to progress, develop and serve in higher tasks and assignment along your career. *Scout Simon Moela,*
SA Army Intelligence Corps

WE KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED OF US

Even though we did not know what to expect, let us do what is expected of us. Doing the right thing is always the right thing to do. Adhering to military conduct, saluting, complements and compliance is the military paths that all of us have to follow. As Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members the military culture was something new to all of us. Do not let the culture that we have learnt through hard work, determination, perseverance, sleepless nights and of course receiving gas, go to waste.

A change of scenery from Basic Military Training to our different corps/ units should not affect how we were taught to conduct ourselves. The different tasks that we are given should not be regarded as a job, but rather as a platform for career development. Let us always excel, not only for our personal growth but also for the growth of our country.

Let us stand up and echo the words of Malcolm X: “If you don’t stand for something, you will fall for anything”. Let us be a generation that will take our country to new frontiers. This is not a command or an order. It is just a humble plea. Fellow MSDS members, the decision is yours, at your own time, at your own pace, carry on!

*Pte Lebogang Mogotsi,* Area Military Health Unit North West

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN’S LIVES

Those at the Mahayo Day Care Centre pleased with the SA National Defence Force. (Photo by Capt Siboniso Maseko)

5 SA Infantry Battalion (5 SAI Bn) members donated food to three day care centres in the Port St Johns area, namely Port St Johns Day Care Centre, Sinoxolo Pre-school Day Care Centre and Mahayo Day Care Centre. The projects were started by the Chaplain of 5 SAI Bn, Chaplain Joel Mapheto. He requested the members of 5 SAI Bn to join him to make the project a success. They managed to donate to all three day care centres. The project was a huge success. Chaplain Mapheto visited the day care centres with the aim of blessing the children of Port St Johns. The Department of Social Development played a big role in identifying the day care centres said Chaplain Mapheto. He thanked the members of 5 SAI Bn for embarking on this successful project of helping the needy.

*Capt Siboniso Maseko, 5 SA Infantry Battalion*

Sinoxolo Pre-school and Day Care Centre with members of 5 SA Infantry Battalion. (Photo by Capt Siboniso Maseko)

SUPPORT THE LEADER

It is easy to criticise any person who is in a leadership role. The decisions of any leader are governed by the rules and laws of the organisation he or she serves. The leader is responsible for making decisions for his subordinates. The successful implementation of the mission and the vision of the organisation depends on both leader and subordinate working together. Supporting each other makes things easy. The leader cannot implement decisions alone, he needs men on the ground, and therefore a leader must be of a sober mind and also be good to his or her subordinates and be a good listener. The defence force or any other organisation cannot run without someone leading. So let’s take this vision forward, let all leaders lead and let all followers follow. Remember we are all leaders, but there must be a leader of leaders.

*L Cpl David Tshivhula, 1 Parachute Battalion*
letters to the editor

WARRANT OFFICERS INAUGURATED

A ceremony took place where five members from Army Support Base Mpumalanga and four from Mpumalanga were recently inaugurated as Warrant Officers.

This was the second ceremony of this nature to take place in Mpumalanga. During this ceremony the Creed of the Warrant Officer was handed over to each recipient. The creed

Warrant Officers inaugurated

The Creed of the Warrant Officer

Each recipient pledged the following:

“In humble submission to Almighty God, I solemnly undertake loyalty to the Republic of South Africa and its legitimate government, unconditional service to my country and its people and to those placed above me, to give my life, if necessary, for the defence of the honour and independence of my country. At all times to do my duties conscientiously, to keep my integrity above all doubt and to ensure that I be recognised as a Warrant Officer”.

YOU ARE THE SANDF ... YES YOU

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) comprises of components within its structure, as a front line department nationally, I believe it should uphold high moral standards.

Every member should feel the responsibility to uphold good values by taking the Force and personalise it, we all as uniform and civilian personnel we

should OWN it, LOVE it, RESPECT it and CARE for it, every member in the SANDF is in actual fact the SANDF, yes you are the SANDF.

Many of us would have been unable to put bread on the table if it was not because of the SANDF, we curse it and belittle it with its capabilities but little do we know that we are where we are today because it has clothed us, fed us and educated us and it is still sending our own descendants to private schools and universities. We own mansions today and fancy cars because of it. You are the SANDF, yes you.

Cpl Dimakatso Davhana, Army Support Base Johannesburg

NEVER WAIT FOR INSPECTION

A clean place is good for your health. Clean your workplace like your own home. Recognise your lack of motivation and then choose to be responsible. Have you ever faced an unwanted chore and felt as if it were the last thing on earth you wanted to do such as mowing the lawn, cutting trees or even loading the rubbish bins at your workplace? You

might not be paid to clean, but you must do it anyway.

A clean place is good for your health. Dirt might block the basins, showers, toilets and drains. Remember to clean your place even if there’s no inspection. If you are living in the mess or a state house you must clean the yard and inside your sleeping quarters at all times. Dust can make you sick. You might not feel like cleaning, but you must do it anyway. Next time you are tempted to shirk your duties just ask God for the grace to do it. Never wait for inspection.

Pte Victoria Mathibela
7 SA Infantry Battalion
SA NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE LOOKS AFTER ITS YOUTH

The SA Air Force presented an aviation tour for learners from various schools within the Gauteng Region recently at Air Force Base Swartkop. The learners visited the SA Air Force Museum where they were shown different kinds of aircraft and their historical background.

The aim of the aviation tour was to motivate and encourage learners to take part and possibly join the SA Air Force as possible future pilots. There were flight attendants and pilots who assisted the learners with questions about aviation and who tried to provoke their interest.

Capt Theunis Naudé and Lt Col Marvin Brentjies from 28 Squadron gave presentations to learners with the objective of motivating them to join Air Force aviation. They both emphasised the importance of education to the learners. They also stressed the importance of doing well in mathematics and science as major requirements if one wanted to become a pilot.

Ms Ketakane Hlongwane and Ms Jayana Rassouw, who are currently doing their internship at Denel, gave a presentation to the learners about engineering. They both hold qualifications in engineering. They emphasised the importance of education, dedication, hard work as all know that engineering is not an easy course.

The tour was very encouraging and motivating to the learners. They were moved by the presentation and a lot of interest was shown in the two interns of Denel. Learners showed their interest by interacting and asking questions. Moreover, they were astonished by the fact that there are different career paths in the SA National Defence Force.

Ms Nthabiseng Lebajoa, Pretoria

SOLDIER EXCELS AT PREMIER’S SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Premier of Gauteng Province, Mr David Makhura, earlier in January 2017 called the public to nominate outstanding projects and individuals that play a vital role in improving the lives of the community especially in Gauteng to be entered in the 2017 Premier’s Excellence Awards.

Premier Makhura recently hosted the Premier’s Excellence Awards ceremony to give recognition to the youth who constantly commit their lives to job creation, social development, enhanced health care methods and social transformation in the Gauteng province.

The categories for the awards were the following, namely the Social Transformation Award, the Economic Growth Award, the Clean Governance Award and the Celebrated Individual Award.

The ever dedicated Corporal Ntokozo Ndlovu who works as a Personnel Clerk at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane received an award given by the Member of the Executive Council of the Gauteng provincial government, MEC Panyaza Lesufi. Cpl Ndlovu was presented with a trophy and a certificate for excellence in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Education Sector.

Corporal Ndlovu is passionate about helping and empowering the community of South Africa, especially children and the youth based in the rural developments and settlements. Thus far this talented young man and his team have delivered more than 3,000 books countrywide. His organisation - The Web Foundation was founded on 2 June 2009 and is a non-government, non-profit and non-political organisation.

“With your support and assistance we shall reach more children in South Africa, especially the disadvantaged,” said Cpl Ndlovu.

L Cpl David Mabusha Tshivhula, 1 Parachute Battalion

L Cpl David Mabusha Tshivhula (right) congratulating Cpl Ntokozo Ndlovu, a Personnel Clerk at the SA Army College, for receiving a trophy and certificate for excellence in recognition for his outstanding contribution to the Education Sector at the Premier of the Gauteng Province’s Excellence Awards ceremony.
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, recently visited the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) members deployed as mandated by Government to protect and defend the Territorial Integrity of the country. Their task is to combat cross-border criminal activities with the support and cooperation of neighbouring Governments as well as build good relations between the Mbuzini community residents and the SANDF soldiers.

The visit started at Macadamia Base in Mpumalanga with a formal briefing by Minister Mapisa-Nqakula. Subsection 8, a base where the deployed soldiers are in Mpumalanga with a formal briefing by Minister Mapisa-Nqakula. Subsection 8, a base where the deployed soldiers are
The community of Mbuzini in Mpumalanga listening to the address delivered by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqukula.

stationed, was the next stop for the Minister. She inspected the facilities and the conditions under which the SANDF members resided for their daily obligations and duties and wanted to understand the day-to-day challenges of every soldier at the base.

The visit proceeded with the Minister meeting up with the Mulambo Tribal Council before encountering and addressing the residents of Mbuzini. This was a gesture of respect and appreciation and it showcased a high level of integrity and regard from the Minister as well as the spirit of UBUNTU that the SANDF upholds for its people and the country. Furthermore, the meeting was held to formally introduce and welcome the Minister to the Mbuzini villagers.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula was able to gain first-hand insight into the daily challenges experienced by the population, regarding cross-border crime syndicates and illicit activities in the area and the pivotal role that the SANDF plays in maintaining order, security and safety along the borders.

During her public discourse, the Minister discussed the importance of the deployed soldiers on the borders. She emphasised on the spirit of building bridges and noble relationships between the SANDF, community and the neighbouring governments. Her message was well received and welcomed before she provided an opportunity to the community to express their views, perspectives, challenges and concerns.
SA Infantry Battalion (5 SAI Bn) is finalising its Jungle Warfare Training at Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape. The soldiers have been there since the beginning of April 2017 to receive training in preparation for their deployment to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They will form part of the Force Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) must, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations (UN), supply forces for deployment under the UN Flag in the DRC. Therefore the SANDF are in the process to prepare for its next rotation of an infantry battalion as part of its contribution for this deployment. To better equip the deploying forces, the soldiers are prepared in a forest environment where it is necessary to adapt the current battle tactics to suit the circumstances that they will operate in the DRC. The only area in South Africa that allows the SANDF to achieve this objective is the Port St Johns area.

The approach of the SANDF is: “We train as we fight and we fight as we train”. With this in mind the deploying soldiers are prepared in an environment that represent as close as possible the area of operations in which they will operate. During this training the focus is on patrols in jungle areas, house clearance, fighting-in-built-up areas, river crossings and fire and movement in dense terrain with the emphasis on command and control of the force. The troops are also trained in rotary wing operations and controlling aerial fire on ground targets from combat support helicopters.

The experience gained from the Jungle Warfare Training is invaluable to members deploying to the DRC. The quality of training that they receive places them in a new bracket and has
surpassed all expectations. This training will prepare them to face all possible eventualities that they may experience in the mission area. From Port St Johns 5 SAI Bn moved to the SANDF Mobilisation Unit in Bloemfontein to receive Mission Readiness Training and to mobilise before they will start the rotation to the DRC around June 2017. They will be deployed for a twelve month period.

Since the advent of democracy in 1994, domestic and international expectations have steadily grown regarding a new South African role as a responsible and respected member of the international community. These expectations have included a hope that South Africa will play a leading role in a variety of international, regional and sub-regional forums, and that the country will become an active participant in attempts to resolve various continental and global conflicts. It is against this background that South Africa got involved in a number of peace efforts of which the contribution to MONUSCO is the biggest of the SANDF at present.

The Joint Operations Division needs to have a high profile among its stakeholders and therefore utilises the media to project a desired image. The only way to avoid having the media digging for information from often uninformed and misinformed sources is to proactively provide any information that may be of public interest, within the relevant security restrictions.

The Minister has made it clear on various occasions and forums that the SANDF should communicate and tell the people of South Africa what it is that we are busy with. In September 2016 a team from Carte Blanche was taken to the deployment areas in the DRC which portrayed the SANDF in a very professional light. Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Mafi Mgobozi, is of the opinion that a proactive and aggressive media approach should be followed and therefore attended the media day to show his support.
The Chief of the SA National Defence Force Medal Parade

By Mr Desmond Lesudi
Photos by Mr Witney Rasaka

The Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke, recently held a Medal Parade for deserving members with a long service record at the Armscor Sports Grounds at Erasmuskloof in Pretoria.

The purpose of this event was to confer medals on SANDF members for long service in executing their mandate of ensuring the safety of the people of South Africa over a long period.

Among the 111 recipients on parade was the Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, who received the Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Diens for 50 Years. He was promoted to the rank of Major General in October 2003 as Chief Defence Reserves. Maj Gen Andersen is still serving the country with devotion, loyalty and discipline. He serves as a source of inspiration to young members of the Reserves.

The medals conferred were: Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Dienis for 50 Years (one recipient), Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Dienis for 40 Years (24 recipients), Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Dienis for 30 Years (86 recipients). The recipients had distinguished themselves in various capacities in the SANDF.

Addressing the guests and members on parade, Gen Shoke acknowledged the work of the recipients in serving the country with loyalty and discipline for thirty, forty and fifty years. He said that the officers on parade had distinguished themselves in serving the country with dedication and determination. Gen Shoke said it took discipline and resilience to serve in an institution, such as the SANDF because without discipline and loyalty we cannot function.

The Chief of the SANDF emphasised that death was part of a soldier’s job description and it was therefore their responsibility to ensure the safety of over 55 million people irrespective of their political beliefs, race, gender, disability, religion or colour.

General Shoke lambasted the culture of entitlement and ridiculed it because soldiers were expected to abide by the rules. He urged soldiers to serve this country anywhere at all times and to perform their duties professionally.
As our country and the rest of the continent observe Africa Month in different ways in a bid to foster unity, Defence Foreign Relations (DFR) recently hosted an accreditation ceremony for the newly appointed Military Attachés and Advisory Corps (MAAC) members at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane.

The event commenced with a short outdoor ceremony where the incoming MAAC members were welcomed and greeted by means of a general salute by the National Ceremonial Guard. Representatives of various countries who are residing in South Africa were among the dignitaries who attended the accreditation ceremony.

The significance of the event was to reconnect, unite, strengthen and consolidate the strategic and historical bilateral relations our government has established with the respective foreign countries.

Col Aletta Mankayi, Senior Staff Officer Defence Diplomacy Services at Defence Foreign Relations, says that South Africa shares a distinguished relationship with the respective foreign countries, which dates back several years.

“Your accreditation today will significantly pave the ideal path towards tighter and more cooperation, friendship and also provide us with the opportunity to promote future goals that can be accomplished by our respective countries.”

The Acting Chief Defence Intelligence, Maj Gen Simon Sigudu, officiated on behalf of the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Lt Gen Jeremiah Nyembe. In his opening remarks he said that one of our government’s international relations policy objectives is the determination to enhance defence relations with those countries whose armed forces share our vision of world peace as a prerequisite for effective trade and investment.

To the newly appointed MAAC members, Maj Gen Sigudu pointed out that some of their countries have a long and proud record of providing and sharing developmental assistance to different nation’s militaries. He added that it is upon this firm foundation that the SANDF is always eager to promote cordial defence relations guided by mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation with other armed forces globally.

WARM AND CORDIAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP: The newly appointed Military Attachés and Advisory Corps members were welcomed to South Africa at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane.
The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) is an important pillar of our government. One of its military strategic objectives is to provide support to the people of South Africa, when citizens are facing a severe threat or deprivation and civilian assistance is hampered or prevented in cases where the responsible authorities are unable to render the required support.

In the Gauteng Province for some weeks in June there has sadly been chaos as forensic pathology staff downed their tools to protest against their working conditions, which include their salaries, shortage of equipment and lack of work recognition.

The situation has led to bodies piling up at Gauteng state mortuaries. Mortuaries which have been the hardest hit by the deadlock are the Diepkloof Forensic Pathology Services Centre in Soweto, the Hillbrow Forensic Pathology Service in Johannesburg, Roodepoort and Germiston.

Owing to the strike there is a backlog in regard to autopsies that still need to be done and there is therefore a lengthy waiting period for bereaved families who need to collect the remains of their departed ones from various areas in Gauteng, other Provinces and neighbouring countries, and they are thus being forced to postpone the burials of their loved ones.

The Gauteng Provincial Department of Health called for the assistance of the SANDF to help relieve the workload and to conduct autopsies in the affected state mortuaries to try and reduce the backlog. This comes as the backlog reached a count of more than 200 bodies awaiting forensic examinations. This has been caused by a strike that started on 8 June.

As the labour action remains unresolved, the SANDF has, since 14 June, been deployed to Gauteng mortuaries to assist with the mortuary backlog.

The SA Soldier team accompanied by Lt Col Mdmiseni Olayi, SO1 Operations, Area Military Health Formation, recently visited the Diepkloof Forensic Pathology Services Centre in Soweto.
The SA Military Health Services deployed members at the Hillbrow Forensic Pathology Services in Johannesburg, frtr: Cpl Maryann Mokgonyana (Operational Emergency Care Practitioner), Cpl Noluthando Nkaiseng (Emergency Care Technician) and L Cpl Freek Jafta (Emergency Care Technician).

Services Centre in Soweto and the Hillbrow Forensic Pathology Service in Johannesburg to witness SANDF members performing this important duty in support of the Gauteng Provincial Department of Health with the forensic pathologists in the mortuaries.

Lt Col Olayi took us to different points of the morgue and informing us about his work. He mentioned that ten SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) personnel were deployed to mortuaries on 14 June. They are from 7 Medical Battalion and the School for Military Health Training.

He said that upon their arrival they were provided with induction training which included, among others, forensic mortuary process, assisting the forensic pathologist in autopsies, evisceration, handling of corpses, performing tasks such as lifting of corpses onto a trolley, checking and ensuring cleanliness of mortuary materials, tools and equipment and also adherence to the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Asked under which categories the members are deployed Lt Col Olayi said: “The team deployed members comprising Operational Emergency Care Practitioners (OECPs) and Emergency Care Technicians (ECTs) as general assistants and they are Reserve Force and Regular Force members”.

How many bodies do they work on, on an average day? Lt Col Olayi said: “We had a shortage of manpower and they worked very hard, under very difficult circumstances and conditions. On a day, they can process around 11 to 15 bodies.”

SA Soldier conversed with the deployed team whose members are qualified as OECPs and ECTs. It is their first experience of working under conditions of this nature. They indicated that they rendered assistance and support to forensic pathologists.

Asked what type of bodies are they busy working on Lt Col Olayi said there were bodies resulting from motor vehicle accidents, gun shots, stab wounds, poisoning, burn wounds, suicide, unknown and natural death and some bodies were decomposing. They dissected the bodies in preparation for the pathologists to do examinations for post-mortem results.

Col William Bucibe, Senior Staff Officer Operations from the Directorate Military Health Operations at SAMHS Headquarters, pointed out that the SANDF provides the means of last resort when other organs of State are unable to and our Constitution mandates us to preserve life and health and the provision and maintenance of essential services.

He said: “In the event of an imminent crisis, we are always geared up to help out. Our Department of Defence (DOD) and the National Department of Health have bilateral relations. The SANDF was approached by the Department of Health to assist in the matter. We received instruction from the Chief of the SANDF and the Surgeon General to do the work and we are handling this crisis as a military operation.”

Do we have the indicated time frame for our members deployed at mortuaries? Col Bucibe said that it will last until the labour action is resolved and officially called off, because community and bereaved families are facing a severe threat or deprivation. He added: “Our own internal time frame is three to four months as the mortuary services were severely disrupted.”

Asked how the SANDF would benefit from this deployment and any lessons to be learnt Col Bucibe said that the SANDF could be tasked to render any specific community service. He added: “As soldiers we are also required to conduct a wide range of multi-dimensional operations other than war across a spectrum of complex scenarios.” He added that the recent mortuary strike was a national message.

Col Bucibe added: “Our members are now well rehearsed for putting skills into practice for this type of situation. We are assembling a team of psychologists for the resumption of counselling and debriefing sessions for the team. We are so passionate, when we deploy elsewhere internally or externally and we would be able to react quickly at the start of a crisis. We use this as a refresher. Experience of the recent situation has highlighted the requirement to possess skills in forensic mortuary processes.”

In conclusion, Col Bucibe mentioned that South Africa, as a member state of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) would join international efforts to widen the frontiers of military health skills and it is noteworthy to mention that the SAMHS representatives were invited to attend the SADC Military Health Services Work Session on Management of Dead Bodies to be held later this year in Zimbabwe.

SA Soldier

health matters
SA Air Force bids farewell to its Deputy Chief

By Sgt Ally Rakoma
Photos by Mr Witney Rasaka

It is never easy to say farewell to a legend. It’s a heartening moment of human interaction. The SA Air Force recently held a dignified retreat parade for its outgoing Deputy Chief, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga, at Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof in Pretoria.

As he received a standing ovation, he stepped onto the podium to receive a final compliment. The marching columns marched past the podium, greeting the outgoing leader. Maj Gen Malinga bowed out after spending almost 42 years in the military. He was satisfied to leave the SA Air Force as an air force that inspires confidence.

During his retreat address, Maj Gen Malinga said that goodbyes always invoke a sense of sadness. He said: “I stand before you here, with mixed feelings, although retirement marks the end of an era for me. Given the chance, I would do it again, exactly the same as what I have done to date without any doubt.”

To members of the Air Force Command Council and all members who served under his leadership he said: “The peers and subordinates that I have interacted with were of a very high calibre, I am forever grateful. We have shared many memorable moments, we have faced diverse challenges, overcame those we could and managed those we could not as best as we could for the benefit of the organisation.” Maj Gen Malinga expressed gratitude to the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang, for the support, confidence and trust he had in him. He added: “I can only wish you and the SA Air Force the best for the future”. He thanked his wife, Ms Faith Malinga, for standing with him and supporting him in every step of the way in his military career and everyone who contributed in his career. To his successor Brig Gen Mzayifani Buthelezi, he said: “Yours will be a successful endeavour”.

Upon returning to South Africa from exile, he integrated into the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the SA Air Force in 1995. Maj Gen Malinga in his illustrious military career have numerous highlights where he was afforded the opportunity to be the Officer Commanding of 41 Squadron in 1998, making him the first black officer to command a flying Squadron. He was also a Commander of 21 Squadron in 2002 at AFB Waterkloof as well.

Maj Gen Malinga was born in Johannesburg on 18 May 1957. He attended St Martins Catholic Primary School and Orlando West High School in Soweto. He joined the Azanian People’s Liberation Army (APLA) in 1975 and left South Africa for military training in exile in 1976. He qualified as a pilot at the Nigerian Civil Aviation Training Centre in Zaria and later obtained his Commercial Pilot’s Licence and a Diploma in 1980. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts Business Administration (Double Major) from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa Alabama in the United States of America.
J oint Tactical Headquarters Mahikeng recently held a Change of Office Parade for the Acting Chief of Defence Legal Services Division, Maj Gen Bailey Mmono (outgoing) and Maj Gen Eric Mnisi (incoming) in Mahikeng.

The purpose of the parade was to confirm and hand over the command of the Defence Legal Services Division to Maj Gen Mnisi, the newly appointed Adjutant General of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) with effect from 1 June 2017. On parade was 2 SA Infantry Battalion with 10 SA Infantry Battalion members giving support by providing tents and setting up the parade.

The Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa, Mr Dunstan Mlambo, did the affirmation and declaration in his capacity as alternate Chairperson of the Court of Military Appeals.

Accepting the responsibility entrusted to him, Maj Gen Mnisi said it was his privilege and honour to be entrusted with the reins of responsibility. He gave the assurance to the members on parade that he would be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other laws.

Addressing the attendees, Maj Gen Mmono remarked that the 31st of May 2017 marked the end of a chapter in his life as he was retiring from the Department of Defence (DOD), specifically the SANDF after 33 years as a soldier. He said that he was grateful to the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF for permitting the change of office parade to be held in Mahikeng.

Maj Gen Mmono said that it had been a great privilege and honour to serve as the Adjutant General in the SANDF for the previous twelve years. He proudly added he had no doubts about handing over the baton to Maj Gen Mnisi as his successor because the latter was a capable and competent individual who could take the division to the next level. He further wished him well in his appointment as Adjutant General.

Maj Gen Mmono concluded his speech by thanking members of the Defence Legal Services Division (DLSD) for their unwavering support over many years. He thanked his wife Bes and his family for their support and understanding in the execution of his duties. He added: “To be a soldier you are most of the time on the road, but they kept the home fires burning during my absence.”

During the gala evening that closed the proceedings of the day, Col Bruno Michael Tlagadi, Officer in Charge (OiC) of Legal Satellite Office Polokwane, when addressing the guests, remarked that Maj Gen Mmono took over the DLSD at a difficult time, a time when difficult decisions had to be taken, especially around issues of representivity. Col Tlagadi added that Maj Gen Mmono had gambled and gave opportunities to young black and female officers. They were appointed as Military Judges, Senior Military Judges, OICs and Senior Staff Officers (SSOs) within the DLSD directorates, as well as SSOs at the various Services.

He added that when one took a cursory look at the DLSD, one could surely conclude that the gamble had paid off. Maj Gen Mmono was instrumental in the shaping of both the senior and middle management of DLSD. The DLSD is one of the most compliant divisions within the DOD with regard to issues of representivity. Col Tlagadi alluded to the fact that some other state departments had also benefited from Maj Gen Mmono’s efforts, notably the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, which enjoys the services of Ms Tshepo Mahlaela as the Chief Director Legal Services, previously from the DLSD where he was SSO Legal Services at the SA Air Force.

The appointment of Maj Gen Mmono as Adjutant General in 2005 ushered in a new way of doing business within the division. According to Col Tlagadi, Maj Gen Mmono was never hasty in making decisions and believed in consultation before deciding. On behalf of Maj Gen Mnisi and the DLSD, he said it had been an honour to serve with him and under his command.
Chief Human Resources strategic dialogue with the Services and Divisions

By Mr Tsholanang Zwane, Assistant Director Communication: Human Resource Division
Photos by Mr Witney Rasaka

The Human Resources (HR) Division deemed it appropriate to convert its annual work session into a strategic dialogue with HR functionaries of the Services and Divisions in order to highlight and consolidate achievements and to further determine areas of improvement going forward. According to higher order instructions and guidelines the Defence Personnel Management must be institutionalised as a command function with delegated authority, HR system including accountability mechanisms. Therefore, this Division is charged with the following:

- Provision of strategic direction in respect to HR policies, strategies and philosophy;
- Discharge personnel management duties in compliance with regulations and set standards for service delivery across Services and Divisions;
- Coordinate the execution of joint training.

The essence of what is done in HR is indeed to attract, develop and retain the most highly specialised talents. Therefore, measuring the impact of service delivery has become an imperative. Furthermore, there needs to be a correlation between efforts and results within the key areas of performance. Not only do we need good HR practices, we also need to strive to create optimal working conditions and cultural inclusivity.

The purpose of the strategic work session was to consolidate progress achieved and reach consensus on the outstanding HR issues to be finalised going forward in the FY 2017/18. In terms of the proceedings, Major Generals Lungisa Sitshongaye, Ansuyah Fakir, Lawrence Mbatha and Brig Gen Sandra Lekalakala made presentations on progress achieved in the implementation of the 2014 HR Indaba Resolutions and 2015 Defence Review. This was followed by questions and answer sessions. The Plenary discussions were facilitated by Deputy Chief Human Resources, Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi. She reminded the delegates about the fact that our forebears laid a great foundation for the establishment of a new and united National Defence Force. We owe it to generations to come to ensure that our organisation is correctly structured and is functioning optimally.

In his opening remarks the Chief Human Resources, Lt Gen Norman Yengeni, expressed his gratitude to all members for their hard work in pursuit of the Division’s Mandate and further encourage members to be bold and guided by organisational policies in the implementation of given tasks. His Deputy, Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, underscored the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans pronouncement on the promulgation of the Defence Reserves regulations that already have been gazetted.

Brig Gen Debbie Molefe, Director Defence Reserves, informing the attendees about the promulgation of the Defence Reserves regulations that already have been gazetted.

Lt Gen Norman Yengeni, Chief Human Resources, addressing attendees, while Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, Deputy Chief Human Resources, listens attentively.
Brig Gen John Andrews, Director Human Resources Divisional Staff, commenting on Human Resources outcomes.

Brig Gen Carel Laubscher, Director Integrity Systems Human Resources Development, emphasising the importance of the Services coming to the party in respect to the utilisation of Education, Training and Development opportunities available, while Lt Cdr Motsalepula Moshe, Acting SO1 Staff Support at Defence Corporate Communication, looks on.

In Parliament during her budget vote, whereby she declared “2017 as The Year of Change”. She further alluded to the fact that we are expected to do more with less and the situation further demands interventions and strategies that would respond appropriately to the situation on the ground and take the organisation forward.

There were robust discussions during the Plenary Sessions and it became apparent that some of the challenges experienced were due to inadequate structures and lack of capacity at all levels. One of the highlights of the strategic dialogue was the presentation made by Deputy Director General Sumayya Khan and Deputy Director Kenetswe Mosenog I from the Department of Sport and Recreation on the envisaged collaborative partnership with the Department of Defence (DOD). This will see the refurbishment of military sport facilities as well as the establishment of sports academies throughout the country for the development of sportswomen and men.

In his closing remarks Chief Human Resources expressed satisfaction that the objectives of the strategic dialogue with the Services and Divisions were met and further emphasised the under-mentioned areas as important for taking HR forward:
- A new HR IT system that support HR activities across all spectrum should be acquired
- The implementation of the revised learning pathways for Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Defence Civilians must be instituted
- The alignment of HR Structures to be ensured through reviewal and organisational work studies in order to ensure that HR functionaries at level 2-4 are operating optimally
- Policy reviews to be conducted on time in order to remain responsive and relevant
- The current Performance Management Development System (PMDS) to be shortened and made applicable to the DOD
- The HR Division to support Chief Defence Reserves in the hosting of a conference to address all pertinent issues
- The quality of military training to be ensured
- Capacity building programmes to be rigorously implemented on a continuous basis in the Services in order to promote good governance
- The management of ethics within the DOD to be aligned with other policy documents and be led by the Chaplain General
- Leaders at all levels of command to serve as role models who practise the core values of the organisation

Lastly, there was consensus that measuring the effectiveness and quantifiable results of what we should do, must be regarded as a commitment to continuous improvement in HR practices. There was commitment from all the attendees to collectively put their shoulders to the wheel so as to make a difference in the lives of soldiers.
Change of Office Ceremony of the General of the Gunners

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos by Pte Paul Mpangala

After his appointment as the General of the Gunners in December 2005, Maj Gen Roy Andersen handed over the reins of office of the General of the Gunners to Maj Gen Jabulani “Jabu” Mbuli recently at Fort iKapa in Cape Town. This endeavour cements the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) commitment to pursue and display transformation within its ranks thus moving South Africa forward.

The General of the Gunners has been an honorary and prestigious title in the South African gunner society for more than thirty years. The General of the Gunners’ duties are of a ceremonial nature. One of the primary duties is to promote the interests and traditions of both the SA Army Artillery and the SA Army Air Defence Artillery Corps.

The General of the Gunners’ is a spokesperson for all South African Gunners, serving and non-serving at national and international level. SA Army Gunners encompass both Air Defence Artillery and Field Gunners.

Maj Gen Andersen commenced his National Service at 4 Field Regiment on 4 January 1966 and after completing his Basic Military Training, he attended a junior leader officers’ course at the School of Artillery. He subsequently commanded the Transvaal Horse Artillery. He is the current Chief of Defence Reserves with more than 50 years of service in the South Africa military. He received his Medal for Loyal Service – 50 Years on 2 June 2017.

MIDDLE: The outgoing General of the Gunners, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, addressing the Fort iKapa members, guests (consisting of both serving and ex-service members of the Air Defence Artillery Formation) and the rest of the Gunner fraternity present at the ceremony.

ABOVE: Maj Gen Jabulani Mbuli, the incoming General of the Gunners, delivering his acceptance speech as the new General of the Gunners.

RIGHT: Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, the Chief Director Force Preparation, ceremonially handing the symbols of office to Maj Gen Jabulani Mbuli, the incoming General of the Gunners.
Addressing the Fort iKapa members, guests (consisting of both serving and ex-service members of the Air Defence Artillery Formation) and the rest of the Gunner fraternity present Gen Andersen expressed his gratitude as the General of the Gunners and reflected on his 50 year military career saying, “few of the privileges I have experienced compare with the honour of becoming the General of the Gunners”.

Maj Gen Andersen highlighted that after his induction in Potchefstroom in December 2005 as the General of the Gunners he correctly foresaw his role and events he was going to have to attend that included (but not limited to) memorial services, change of command parades, medal parades in Potchefstroom, Kimberley, Durban and Cape Town. Apart from attending these functions he pointed out that he particularly enjoyed seeing the displays by the two formations at various public events. “Why did I enjoy that?” he asked, “Because I could talk to the Gunners, shake their hands and talk to them about matters Gunnery.”

To put the role of the General of the Gunners in perspective he stated that the role of the General of the Gunners has a far deeper meaning. Maj Gen Andersen said: “We are responsible for setting the Gunner tone and making sure traditions are maintained. The two formations, the Gunners’ Association, the Regular Force and the Reserve Force, are one big family.”

In concluding his address he indicated that though he is handing over the reins of office of the Gunners, he will always be a Gunner.

Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, Chief Director Force Preparation, attended the ceremony on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Lungile Yam, and ceremonially received the symbols of office from Maj Gen Andersen and handed them to Maj Gen Mbuli.

After receiving the symbols of office, Maj Gen Mbuli formally acknowledged the responsibility bestowed on him saying: “With every title comes associated responsibilities”. He declared: “I am a Gunner and I will promote the image and traditions of the Gunners.”

Acknowledging and paying homage to the role played by ex-service members, he said: “I am especially glad this ceremony is also attended by our veterans. It has always been fruitful to revisit the history and past traditions when taking Gunners into the future. Our veterans are a great source of knowledge and that is still applicable”.

Maj Gen Mbuli joined Umkhonto we Sizwe (ANC Military Wing) in 1981. He began his military career as a Section Commander during General Military Training in Angola. On returning back to South Africa in July 1995, he integrated into the SANDF. Maj Gen Mbuli has been appointed and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General as Chief of Logistics of the SANDF with effect from 1 July 2017.

After the Change of Office Ceremony, both Generals were given the opportunity to fire a GV1 25-pounder ceremonial gun.

LEFT: The outgoing General of the Gunners, Maj Gen Roy Andersen (left), with the incoming General of the Gunners, Maj Gen Jabulani Mbuli.
Alfred Duma Local Municipality accords armed forces freedom of entry

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos by Mr Witney Rasaka

The Mayor of Alfred Duma Local Municipality, Councillor Vincent Madlala, extended his hand to the British Army regiment, The Rifles, by giving them the right of freedom of entry of Ladysmith city in KwaZulu-Natal on 10 June 2017. This was a friendly gesture in commemoration of all the British soldiers who perished in what became known as the Anglo Boer and Anglo Zulu Wars.

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) men and women marched through Murchison Street in a parade much to the delight of locals who came to witness the day’s event. The parade by SANDF members signified the permission of freedom of entry of the city granted to the armed forces by Councillor Madlala. The parade was commanded by Lt Col Nhlahla Zama. The colours on parade

The Mayor of Alfred Duma Local Municipality, Councillor Vincent Madlala, and the General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Rudzani Mapwanya, exchange tokens of appreciation.

The Mayor of Alfred Duma Local Municipality, Councillor Vincent Madlala, inspecting the parade.
were 5 SA Infantry Battalion, 121 SA Infantry Battalion, Durban Light Infantry, Durban Regiment, Light Horse Regiment, Natal Mounted Rifles and Umvoti Mounted Rifles under the command of WO1 Thozamile Mqhayi. The Band on parade was the SA Army Band KwaZulu-Natal.

**History of freedom of entry**

Granting of FOE upon military Units is a custom between the military and political head(s) of a specific geographical area. Political head(s) ceremonially permit the armed forces the right to enter the town and march in the form of a parade through the streets in accordance to the military law and tradition. The armed forces are at liberty to march through the streets with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and ensign (colours) flying.

The exercise of the freedom of entry of the city enables the local government to honour a distinguished unit of the armed forces and strengthens the ties between citizens and servicemen and women.

This tradition of the freedom of entry can be traced back to medieval times when cities built high walls for protection from incursion by outlaw bands and feudal lords. The citizens of the walled cities refused entry to their area to armed groups, including legitimate troops unless they were absolutely sure that the carried weapons were not meant to be used against them.

Cities were mainly situated on the main roads. Refusal of entry made it hard on armed forces on the march; food and arms could not be replenished conveniently as it meant that soldiers had to take long detours over (sometimes) challenging terrain to reach their destination or objective. These challenges then necessitated it to establish an agreement with the citizens of the walled cities. This concession was not easily granted and therefore highly valued by armed forces as it made a difference in achieving their objectives. This concession became known as the freedom of entry.

During his speech Mayor Madlala congratulated the security cluster (of which the SANDF is part) for the sterling job they do in providing peace and stability that enables all South African citizens to live their daily lives with relative ease. He called upon the SANDF to continue offering humanitarian assistance all over the continent where there is a requirement.
The incorporation of gender perspectives and dynamics in all military development courses

Speakers and attendees at the Gender Consensus Building Workshop.

By Mr Tsholanang Zwane, Assistant Director Communication: Human Resource Division
Photos by AB Samuel Ramonyai

The Peace Mission Training Centre (PMTC), under the leadership of the newly appointed General Officer Commanding of Training Command, Maj Gen Lawrence Mbatha, hosted a three day-long Consensus Building Workshop on the incorporation of Gender Perspectives and Dynamics in all Military Development Courses as directed by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. Instructors from the Services attended this workshop. The General Officer Commanding of the Training Command gave opening remarks and set the scene by tracing women’s involvement in the Military since World Wars I and II and further raised questions about women’s glass ceiling seemingly being that of a Major General, 23 years since the advent of democracy.

Prof Cheryl Hendricks from the University of Johannesburg delivered a paper on, The Importance of Gender Training within the Military Milieu, while Brig Gen Shawn Stratford, Commandant of COLET, made a presentation on the Training of SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Instructors. This was followed by WO1 Kobie Liebenberg from COLET who addressed Diversity Management Training offered to the Instructors. Maj Gen Ansuyah Fakir, Director Human Resource (HR) Development, touched on the role of Education and Training in the Entrenchment of Constitutional Injunctions, and Maj Gen Rudzani Maphwanya, General Officer Commanding Infantry Formation, reflected on the Observations made on the Performance of Female Soldiers who Serve in the Infantry Corps. The discussions were facilitated by Lt Col (Fr) Michael Phillips.

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The term gender was underscored as not referring to women but refers to the social roles respectively allocated to women and men in particular societies and particular times. Gender therefore is a social construction and different from sex which is biologically determined. Gender is important because it stems from the Constitution of South Africa as it is grounded on the values of equality, social justice, and human dignity, the advancement of human rights and freedom, equal protection under the law, non-racialism and non-sexism. The second imperative...
stems from the requirement for South Africa, to align with prescripts at the International, Regional and Continental levels as they relate to gender equality. The integration of gender issues is further recognised as key to operational effectiveness. There was consensus that it is on these basis that the Department of Defence (DOD) must have a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. All and sundry within the DOD needs to be on the same page in respect to the fact that gender must first and foremost be integrated in the organisations policy, military strategy and thus applicable to all levels. Furthermore, gender considerations must also be integrated in all organisational processes regardless of the fact that some processes may appear to have nothing to do with the equality between women and men. These include recruitment; training; career management; promotions; force generation; operations; mission assessments; service conditions; logistics; infrastructure as well as budgeting.

The workshop delegates were divided into four commissions with specific questions to interrogate during their discussions. In their feedback the male Instructors, first and foremost echoed civil society organisation’s clarion call of #NotInMyName campaign. This was in response to the drastic increase in the numbers of senseless killings of women and children in 2017. The stance underscored was the same as that expressed by our first Commander-in-Chief in a Democratic South Africa, the late President Nelson Mandela when he stated “We need a fundamental change of mind set with regards to the way we speak and behave about sex and sexuality. Boys and men have a particularly critical role in this regard, changing the chauvinistic and demeaning ways sexuality and women are traditionally dealt with in both our actions and speaking is thus fundamental.” The workshop delegates further pronounced themselves on the malicious compliance of HR policies as they do not promote a goodness fit between individual skills and competencies with the job profile. This practise creates the wrong impression that the affirmation of previously disadvantaged groups is tantamount to the lowering of standards. The involvement of women in the military was again emphasised as not being a new concept, and stories of women’s participation in the colonial wars including in the liberation struggles were further cited as examples.

Some of the recommendations made further was that the SANDF must attract a pool of young people willing to serve with the sole desire to give and not to take, to build and not to destroy those who pursue excellence and do not accept mediocrity, commanders who listen without speaking unduly, as well as the need to dismantle cultural and patriarchal tendencies that impinge on women’s advancement within our organisation. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the reporting channels in the management of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse including fraternisation must also be reviewed, as discipline needs to be maintained under all circumstances. The revised Military Disciplinary Bill must have specific charge sheets for these offences as they can never be lumped under behaviour unbecoming of an Officer - Perpetrators must be held accountable! Last but not least, the development of an App, educating members about gender neutral and sensitive language was also recommended, as this would deepen members’ understanding in the entrenchment of gender equality and equity within the SANDF.

In terms of the way forward, both General Officers Commanding Infantry Formation and Training Command must allocate slots for gender training during Basic Military Training as well as in all Joint Training. Time allocated must cover theoretical framework, group discussions and the Portfolio of Evidence. Secondly, Lt Col (Fr) Phillips was instructed to have follow-up discussions with Prof Hendricks on the enhancement of the current DOD Gender Curriculum. Thirdly, the COLET’s Diversity Management Course must be reviewed and expanded to ensure applicability to the military milieu. Fourthly, Instructors were encouraged to nominate themselves for the Annual Gender Instructor Courses that are already scheduled in the Military Qualification System. Finally, collective reflections on the advancement of the Gender Agenda within the DOD need to be conducted annually in order to gauge progress achieved and challenges experienced. The attendees left the Workshop feeling empowered and invigorated.
Acceptance parade for Honorary Colonel of 44 Squadron

By AB Samuel Ramonyai and Mr Desmond Lesudi
Photos by Pte Paul Mpangala

The Deputy Chief of the SA Air Force, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga, recently held a first honorary Colonel Acceptance Parade for Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi at Air Force Base Waterkloof (44 Squadron) in Pretoria.

The purpose of this parade was to acknowledge the undeniable generosity and pivotal role of Kgosi Molotlegi in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) as well as officially to confer on him an Honorary Colonel rank.

He will be working hand-in-hand with the SA Air Force to improve, develop, promote and sustain strong public and community support for 44 Squadron.

Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi (left), the Honorary Colonel, thanking the Deputy Chief of the SA Air Force, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga, for welcoming him to the 44 Squadron family.

West University. He is a fixed wing and rotocraft pilot. Kgosi Molotlegi is a prominent citizen working to maintain the customs, traditions and well-being of the SANDF. In 2010, on account of his readiness to serve, he was appointed as Honorary Colonel of 16 Squadron.

Maj Gen Malinga, who officially conferred the honorary rank on King Molotlegi, believes that the contribution of the latter will help 44 Squadron meet its set goals. He remarked that his vast experience in various fields acquired over time would stand him in good stead. The Deputy Chief of the SA Air Force further acknowledged the contribution of everybody in making the event a success.
SA Army embraces tertiary education

By Col Bobby Keller, Master of Business Administration (UK), Senior Directing Staff, SA National Defence College

The SA National Defence College (SANDC) started with the initiative to present Continuous Education Programmes (CEP) in partnership with the North West University School for Business and Governance last year. A total of 147 delegates from Services, Divisions and other government departments attended the five programmes during 2016.

Based on the positive achievements and feedback of members regarding the CEPs of 2016, the SA Army decided to nominate their next generation of strategic leaders to attend the 2017 programmes.

This year the initiative started with 31 SA Army members attending the first CEP in Scenario Based Planning, followed by the second CEP in Strategic Planning.

The SANDC, as a centre of excellence for strategic leadership in security studies, introduced strategic level CEPs to add more value to the Department of Defence (DOD) with education to the broader DOD and other government departments.

The reason for the development of CEP is to address the strategic level skills training requirement and the brain drain taking place due to so many senior officers retiring. It is an opportunity to empower the next generation of senior leaders to step into their footsteps.

This year’s first CEP aimed to apply Scenario Based Planning as a key to understanding the future. The prerequisite was to have a comprehensive appreciation of South Africa’s current national security situation. It also analysed the international and national security related information to synthesise and evaluate strategic trends of uncertainties covering the present to 2040, which affect national security in South Africa.

The learning objectives and benefits of the CEP were to improve the quality of long-term strategic planning, strategies and policies. The CEP was theoretical and practical of nature and linked very well to the second CEP the members attended.

The developed scenarios were then used by the members attending to develop a strategic plan for a future defence capability according to the timelines stipulated in the Defence Review. The members graduated with the required skills and tools to develop comprehensive and well-researched strategic plans to address future challenges.

Upon full attendance of the first two CEPs and successful completion of the assessment, members received Continuous Education Programme Certificates from the North West University. Mr Theo Venter from North West University facilitated the CEP over the five days and handed out the certificates while Senior Directing Staff, Col Keller, coordinated the programmes.

In accordance with the Defence Review requirements, the SANDC is also presenting other CEPs on strategic level for DOD members and other government departments on topics of a national security nature.

The CEPs will offer one-week education with the following topics during 2017: National Security, Strategic Leadership, Strategic Resource Management and Strategic Media Management. Nominations to attend the SANDC CEPs can be made through the channels of command to Chief Human Resources Director Career Management. The contact persons for nominations are Col Phoshoane on 012 339 5024 and Lt Col Luvhengo on 012 339 5031. For more information regarding the CEPs contact Col Bobby Keller at the SANDC on 012 674 6509.
There is always that moment that can ruin a pilot’s day. However at the Air Show that was recently held at Air Force Base Swartkop this was not the case. The stage was set for a phenomenal show and the weather was perfect for flying.

The annual air show of the Swartkop SA Air Force Museum this year had the theme: “Pioneering our Future”. The purpose was to raise awareness of aviation and offer an opportunity to the general public, flying enthusiasts, aviation organisations and aerospace industries, past and present and SA Air Force members to witness an air spectacle. It reflects both the current and past of aviation history at the backdrop of a historical setting. Moreover, the air show showcased the Swartkop SA Air Force Museum and demonstrated why it should continue to be a heritage landmark.

True to tradition an SA Air Force
As tradition demands, the SA Air Force Cessna Caravan dropped parachutists to get the air show started.

The aircraft taking part included modern aircraft: the SAAB JAS39 Gripen, BAE Hawk Mk120, Agusta A109 LUH, Casa C-212, PC7 MkII Silver Falcons and the Denel Oryx. Then there were also SA Air Force Museum aircraft: the Bosbok, Kudu, Harvard, Vampire, Cessna 185, Patchen Explorer, Alouette II and III, and the Puma. Other aircraft on show were the Cheetah, Impala, An2, Extra 300 and 330, Slick 640 and those of the Flying Lions Harvard Display Team.

The fans’ favourite war bird turned out to be the mighty SAAB JAS39 Gripen. It displayed perfect balance between operational performance and precision, with split-second mid-air aerobatics. The fighter aircraft demonstrated why it is regarded as the best in the SA Air Force. Another aircraft that not only won the spectators’ hearts but made the crowd go insane was the PC7 MkII of the Silver Falcons.

On its 50th anniversary, the Silver Falcons showcased some outstanding aerobatics and demonstrated the skills and abilities of the SA Air Force pilots. Their airborne exhibition prowess and synchronisation proved to be inspirational and lived up to the theme: “Pioneering our Future”. This was evident when at the end of the show the pilots were greeted by the applause and admiration of the spectators.
Hard work and dedication always pay off

By Sgt Ally Rakoma
Photos by Mr Witney Rasaka

“Learning is a treasure which accompanies its owner everywhere”
- Chinese proverb. SA Soldier recently interviewed Maj Ramatua “Trompie” Segone. One’s first impression upon meeting him is that of a man of discipline, triumphant drive, hard work, intelligence, feistiness, passion, ambition and a delightful sense of humour. His achievements are testimony that the military indeed requires much education to perform one’s duties.

Born and bred in Mohlakeng at Randfontein he completed his matric at Phahama Senior Secondary School. From 1996 to 1999 he studied at the former Vaal Triangle Technikon (known now as the Vaal University of Technology) and obtained a National Higher Certificate in Electrical Engineering. In 2000 he joined the SA Police Service (SAPS) and underwent basic police training at the SAPS Training College in Pretoria West. He worked as a...
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE: Maj Ramatua Trompie Segone showing that hard work and dedication always pay off.

Crime Intelligence Handler with the rank of Constable.

He says there is nothing as profound as the yearning to join the SA Air Force. His career in the military began on 3 October 2001 when he did Basic Military Training. In 2002 he completed the Officer Formative Course and in 2003 obtained a Certificate in Military Studies from the Military Academy.

Maj Segone takes pride in serving in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and has acquired scarce skills in military aviation and qualified as a Navigator in 2004. He, Lt Col Meshack Tau and Maj Motete Matsilili were the first three African officers to qualify as Navigators in the SA Air Force. He qualified as a pilot in 2011 and is based at 41 Squadron at Air Force Base Waterkloof.

He attributes his success to the SANDF, especially the SA Air Force’s Directorate Education Training and Development. Having a passion for Law, he enrolled for full-time studies in 2012 for the undergraduate degree of Bachelor of Arts in Law at the University of Pretoria.

Academic excellence is nothing new to him and he graduated again recently as Bachelor of Law (Latin: Legum Baccalaureus) from the same institution (University of Pretoria). He subscribes to the expression: “Every success is built on the ability to do better than good enough”.

Maj Segone says that success does not happen by chance and achievements do not come by coincidence. Asked who has been the most positive influence or inspiration in his life, he says he finds inspiration from his family, particularly his wife, Ms Ayanda Segone, who would not let anything deter or stop us from achieving our dreams and personal development. He proudly informed us: “She made anything and everything bearable”.

What advice would you offer other aspiring youngsters and colleagues wanting to follow in your footsteps?

He replied that every great destiny is a product of great preparation. As human beings we do not have compasses to navigate our lives, but our willingness to try is all we need. Maj Segone said: “Nothing is impossible. You are capable of more than you could ever dream of; all you have to do is finding yourself, have a mental picture of where you are going and remember dreams do not have deadlines, you can achieve your dreams, no matter how long it takes.”

What challenges have you overcome?

He replied that although it might be hectic to juggle the demands of his work commitments, studying and family time he had to prioritise time management and strike a balance. Maj Segone added: “Despite sleepless nights, challenges and work demands I have made it. I am happy with the journey thus far.”

What’s next?

Maj Segone replied that he now plan to further his studies with a view to obtaining a Masters degree in Airspace and Telecommunications Law through the University of Pretoria. He said: “I also want to serve articles so that I can be admitted as an Attorney.” Currently he is busy with the Junior Staff and Command Course at the SA Air Force College and would like to continue with Military Law courses presented by the Military School of Justice. Maj Segone enthused: “I am glad to have completed the degree and I cannot wait to start with my Masters degree.”

Has it not been a dilemma having to choose between aviation and law?

Maj Segone replied: “I loved both fields, but I was keen on Law studies because law as a field is so diverse”.
The famous Chinese General Sun Tzu believed that success in competition of any nature depends largely, if not entirely, on the quality and strength of leadership. This concept, which is still relevant today, is evident in the fact that the importance of understanding the nature of leading and developing strong leader skills, especially under conditions of great difficulty such as change, chaos and uncertainty, has without doubt remained probably the single most important challenge facing nations and organisations that prosper or decline solely on the vision and capability of their leaders.

The challenge, however, manifests itself in the understanding of the concept of leadership. There are as many definitions, principles, styles, approaches and characteristics of leadership, including military leadership, as there is literature on the differences between leaders and managers and the concepts of leadership and management. In this regard, General Colin Powell, a former American Defence chief remarked that “leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible”.

To be “in charge” or “to be in a position of power”, however, does not make someone a leader, especially where qualifications, experience, expertise as well as leadership and managerial skills, for a variety of reasons, are not a requirement for appointment at top level in organisations. Whether a military organisation, due to its specific role and functions and the fact that proper training and experience may determine the difference between life and death should be exposed to such a scenario, is a question that requires intense debate.

Noudelman, in this regard, argues that it is vital to understand that just because someone is in a leadership position, does not necessarily mean they are meant to be in it. Not all leaders are born leaders. Many organisations do not recognise this and therefore cannot distinguish the good leaders from bad ones. Key behaviours that characterise weak leaders include issues such as teams that routinely suffers from burnout due to a crisis-driven management style; a lack of emotional intelligence (envious of other people’s successes and being happy when other people fail); not providing adequate direction; finding blame in everyone but themselves; not providing honest and constructive feedback; being blind to the current situation (being egocentric and believing that their way is the only way; their followers being too afraid to suggest anything new); surrounding themselves with sycophants who praise them, but leave them clueless as to what the current situation as well as the changing trends in the work environment is; and being self-serving (by not understanding the concept of “service above self”, they will not retain the trust, confidence, and loyalty of their subordinates).

Any leader is only as good as their team’s hope to be led by them. Too much ego, pride, and arrogance are not signs of good leadership. There can therefore be no question that the impact of leaders on the success of organisations is not negotiable and that a new approach is urgently required to address obvious gaps and challenges facing individuals and organisations in this regard.

Where ethics are the principles, values and beliefs that define what is right and wrong behaviour, Van Buren defines leadership as the process of influencing others to achieve goals through principles, values and beliefs that embrace what has been defined as right behaviour. This does not differ from the military perspective of leadership as the “ability to influence or persuade individuals or groups to perform assignments or tasks willingly, as desired by the leader”.

All leadership is accordingly responsible for influencing followers to perform an action, complete a task, or behave in a specific manner. Effective leaders influence process, stimulate change in subordinates’ attitudes and values, augment followers’ self-efficacy beliefs, and foster the internalisation of the leader’s vision by utilising strategies of empowerment. It is believed that the nurturing aspect of leaders can raise organisational cultures and employee values to high levels of ethical concern. Ethical leadership requires ethical leaders. If leaders are ethical, they can ensure...
that ethical practices are carried out throughout the organisation.

Where the traditional view of leadership has been that the main goal of leaders is to increase production and profits, or in military terms to accomplish its mission, this view of leadership is slowly diminishing. According to Wikipedia, leaders also have the responsibility for ensuring standards of moral and ethical conduct. Good leadership therefore refers not only to competence, but to ethics and transforming people and organisations as well.

This is not a new concept. Sun Tzu and his contemporary, the philosopher Confucius, believed that leadership, at its most fundamental level, comes from within. They were convinced that the power to lead is generated within the context of a person’s moral and philosophical framework in relation to one’s followers and constituents. It was therefore a function of character, which can only be developed through careful, intentional practice.

As is the case with any organisation, the leadership of the organisation, regardless of its leadership style, is responsible for the full spectrum of the ethical dimension of the organisation and the moral conduct of its members. It is therefore important for the military to understand that commanders are the custodians of ethical conduct in the organisation.

Heard argues that like all leaders, military leaders cannot avoid making ethical decisions. While this in itself is not controversial, selecting the best method to resolve the ethical problems that confront military leaders sometimes can be. This controversy is made more difficult to resolve because the military’s ethical values are often in conflict with its non-ethical values. Military culture calls on its members to follow rules and to accomplish missions. A leader is ethically good to the extent he or she follows the rules and effective to the extent he or she gets things done. Sometimes, however, a leader cannot do both. When the leader cannot do both, the likelihood for ethical crises increases. These crises sap the strength of the military and divert the attention of its members and its supporters to things that do not directly relate to ensuring combat readiness. For this reason, a leader’s ability to determine right and wrong is essential to promote and maintain the long-term health of the military.

When leaders attempt to balance the demands of morality with the demands of the profession, they typically consider a number of things: their immediate and long term goals; the consequences their decision will have in attaining these goals, as well as the effect it will have on others; and the rules and principles that govern their profession. When these conflict, leaders need an approach that will allow them to resolve these conflicts in a consistent and coherent manner.

Ethical leadership therefore is an important component of effective military leadership, requiring skills which are virtually unknown in the civilian world. According to the website Liberty References, these leadership skills are taught through extensive training in leadership theory and focused development of time-tested military leadership styles.

Special attention should accordingly be given to the historically proven requirement that officers must have a sophisticated understanding of military ethics and that they must appreciate their responsibility to take positive action to ensure that their soldiers act ethically.

Ethical leadership requires special qualities in military leaders, including the following:

- Leading by example and in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of others.
- Demonstrating the utmost integrity in everything they do on duty and off duty.
- Making their values and the ethics they claim to espouse known and preaching them consistently in their leadership style and actions. This must be done by living out the values of the organisation through codes of ethics, conducting and evaluating all decisions into ethical principles, identifying and addressing issues in terms of consequences and implications before it becomes a problem or a challenge, and addressing problems and challenges instead of symptoms.
- Knowing “their line in the sand” ahead of time and “being mindful” about where they stand on difficult issues. This, according to Bucaro, implies keeping alert and periodically evaluating their work environment and making sure that they are familiar with its best practices and the organisation’s codes of ethics and conduct.
One in three South African men will suffer from a heart condition

By Martina Nicholson Associates (MNA) on behalf of the Government Employees Medical Scheme

Photo by Mr Witney Rasaka

Potentially dangerous heart conditions, such as heart disease, are a growing problem not only in South Africa, but also around the world. It has been estimated that by the age of 60, a staggering one in three South African men and one in four women will have a heart condition of one type or another. They are, in addition, a leading cause of death of South Africans of both sexes and from all backgrounds.

In the majority of cases, heart conditions can be either avoided through the adoption of a healthier lifestyle or at least effectively managed if they are identified early. In the view of the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) it is therefore critical that more people inform themselves about these diseases and seek medical assistance should they require it.

Diseases of lifestyle

In the majority of cases, heart conditions are caused or complicated by an unhealthy lifestyle, including a lack of exercise and poor diet. Many people overeat on fatty foods and become obese. Others smoke and drink too much alcohol.

All of the above have had negative implications on the health of South Africans. More individuals than ever...
are suffering from conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels and type 2 diabetes, all of which are hazardous to our health.

It is not just the wealthy and elderly who are being made ill by these “diseases of lifestyle”, as they are known. Dr Timothy Armstrong of the World Health Organization (WHO) says that 85% of premature deaths from these types of diseases occur in developing countries such as South Africa, in individuals between the ages of 30 and 70 years. They amount to no fewer than 11.8 million deaths.

Lack of warning

One of the problems is that people are often unaware that they are developing cardiovascular diseases or diseases of the heart and blood system. Heart disease and high blood pressure may develop without any warning and can go on to potentially cause heart failure, stroke and other life-threatening problems.

For this reason, it is important to discuss the risks with your doctor and have the health of your heart monitored regularly. It is recommended that blood pressure and cholesterol levels be checked at least annually, particularly if you are over the age of 30 or have a family history of heart conditions.

Risk factors

There are a number of risk factors for cardiac or heart diseases. Knowing what your personal risk factors are can help you to take responsibility for your own health and take steps to reduce those risks. These risk factors include:

- Poor diet and obesity – healthy eating habits can help you to overcome problems with your weight and improve heart health. Adopt a diet that is low in saturated fats and rich in foods such as fish, raw nuts, vegetables and fruit.
- Sedentary lifestyle – ask your doctor how you can go about getting regular exercise, which has great benefits for your health.
- High cholesterol can damage the heart and blood system. Get yours tested.
- Diabetes needs to be well controlled to ensure it does not cause heart disease.
- High blood pressure can damage the body’s organs and must be brought under control.
- A family history of heart disease could suggest that you may have a heightened risk of developing the condition.
- Smoking and excessive alcohol can contribute to the development of heart disease and high blood pressure. If you smoke, you should stop immediately. Heavy drinkers should reduce their alcohol intake.

Coronary heart disease

One of the most common cardiovascular conditions is coronary heart disease or CHD. CHD is caused by the development of fatty deposits of cholesterol and other materials on the walls of the arteries. The arteries become diseased as they are clogged with fatty deposits, restricting the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart and other vital organs.

When arteries and/or heart valves are diseased and become blocked, this places strain on the cardiac system and increases the risk of heart attack, high blood pressure and stroke. An unhealthy lifestyle, advancing age and a family history of heart disease can greatly increase the risk of developing the condition.

Staying healthy

GEMS focuses on keeping its precious members healthy, which it sees as being far more preferable to treating an individual who has already become seriously ill.

The early identification of potential health threats is an important part of this, as early intervention and treatment can assist in preventing certain medical conditions, such as heart disease and high blood pressure, from getting worse, and keep GEMS members strong and productive members of society.

It is advisable not to wait for your health to start failing before doing something about it. We can all take responsibility for our own heart health by monitoring our risk factors and adopting healthier lifestyles.
Having trouble falling Pregnant?

By Martina Nicholson Associates on behalf of Government Employees Medical Scheme

Having children can be one of life’s greatest joys but did you know that about one in seven women have trouble falling pregnant? Thirty percent of these cases of failed conception are due to fertility problems in the male, 30% to fertility problems in the female and 40% are due to unexplained cause or multiple factors involving both partners.

If you and your partner have been having unprotected sex for a year (six months if the woman is 35 and older), then it is wise to consult your GP who can conduct a range of tests or else refer you to a specialist to discover why you are not getting pregnant.

Why women struggle to fall pregnant

There can be many reasons for a woman struggling to fall pregnant. Some of these include:

- Age - the older you get, the more difficult it is to fall pregnant; women over 35 often struggle to conceive;
- Endometriosis - when tissue grows outside the woman’s uterus;
- Poor egg quality - where the quality and number of eggs produced by the woman’s ovaries declines significantly with age;
- Polycystic ovarian syndrome - where the follicles in the woman’s ovaries do not develop into the mature follicles needed to release eggs;
- Tubal factors - where the woman’s fallopian tubes stop the man’s sperm from getting to her egg and also prevent the fertilised egg from getting to her uterus;
- Ovulation problems - where a mature egg does not develop in the woman’s ovaries.

The male factor

Fertility problems may also be evident in a man, such as ejaculation problems, irregular sperm and blockages. Sperm production can be affected by smoking, drinking, taking drugs, sexually transmitted diseases and excessive heat, such as taking hot baths. In addition, childhood diseases such as mumps and having a history of injuries to the testicles can also play a role.

Treatment

There are medical treatments for most of these problems, including medicine, fertility drugs and surgery to unblock tubes or remove abnormal tissue.

Photo posed

artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilisation.

How to improve your chances of falling pregnant

Women who are generally healthy have a better chance of conceiving, so ensure that you and your partner eat nutritious foods, reduce your stress, stop smoking, exercise regularly, maintain a healthy weight, and decrease your alcohol intake.

It is also wise to track your ovulation cycle so that you know when the best time for conception to take place is. There are many cellphone Apps you can use for this, so you do not need to spend a lot of money on this very clever invention.
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No matter how fit, strong and well prepared you are for the Comrades Marathon, on race day everything can change. Then survival mode kicks in -

The Comrades Marathon is one race one should not challenge, as it is known as “The Ultimate Human Race”. During one’s training in the months preceding race day, it is important to set yourself an achievable goal to finish the race successfully. But it is also advisable to have an alternative plan in place should the ideal plan not work out.

I, Lt Col Thérèse Doman, decided to dedicate this year’s race (my fourth Comrades Marathon) to Maj Michelle Fogville, the Biokinecist at Defence Headquarters, who has cancer and is currently fighting her way through chemotherapy. I was well prepared; stronger and fitter than previous years, as Maj Fogville contributed by assisting me with thorough training and strengthening programmes in order for me to participate and better my finishing time (Plan A), as a bonus.

I experienced the unknown side of the Comrades Marathon during this year’s race; although I was better prepared and more experienced than the previous three years. Unfortunately sinusitis got hold of me a few days before race day. This did not discourage me to participate and continue with my mission. The first 35 kilometres of the race went according to plan, successfully conquering the first two big hills of the Five Big hills: Cowies Hill and Fields Hill, but as I approached the third Big Hill, Botha’s Hill, knowing that the last two Big Hills, Inchanga and Pollys Shortts, are still lying ahead, I started to experience difficulty to breath caused by the sinusitis when attempting to run up the hills, so I decided to rather walk up all the hills. Plan B had to kick in to finish the race before the 12:00:00 cut-off time ...

As I was running and forced to walk up all the hills, the thought crossed my mind that I only suffer from sinusitis and not cancer as Maj Fogville, which is a life threatening disease. I know Maj Fogville is experiencing a lot of pain and discomfort while receiving chemotherapy and that motivated me to keep on pushing and successfully finishing the Comrades Marathon. I knew I had what it takes to finish this race! Through the grace God gave me I managed to endure. Talking to God, from the Start...
to the Finish was an awesome spiritual experience. I did manage to finish this year’s race before the 12:00:00 cut-off time and I dedicated the race to my friend, Maj Fogville - mission accomplished!

Athletes who did not accomplish their Plan A or could not successfully finish the race this year should not be discouraged. Those athletes should re-appreciate their experience and training programmes; it will motivate you to stand-up, prepare and try again in 2018. All the best for 2018!

During this year’s Comrades Marathon the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) athletic clubs had 177 participants (159 men and 18 women) from the nine provinces. At the end only 135 SANDF participants (125 men and 10 women) completed the race. The results of those SANDF club members (both military and civilian) who finished the 2017 Comrades Marathon were as follows:

**SANDF Male Club Members**

**SANDF Male Open Category (20 – 39 years)**
First overall SANDF male athlete:
Mr Petrus Mabolgola from Kimberley Military Marathon Club in a time of 06:51:32 (Silver Medal and 88th overall position)

Second place: Mr Tebogo Moipolai from Kimberley Military Marathon Club in a time of 07:00:35 (Silver Medal and 119th overall position)

**SANDF Male Veteran Category (40 – 49 years)**
First place: Sgt Okabetse Thole from Kimberley Military Marathon Club in a time of 07:17:27 (Silver Medal and 76th overall position in his age category)

Second place: Mr Boitumelo Moeng from Kimberley Military Marathon Club in a time of 07:18:16 (Silver Medal and 79th overall position in his age category)

**SANDF Male Master Category (50 – 59 years)**
First place: S Sgt Pele Sindana from Pretoria Military Marathon Club in a time of 08:21:36 (Bill Rowan Medal and 67th overall position in his age category)

Second place: Pte Piet Sethosa from SANDF Athletics Club Limpopo in a time of 08:41:08 (Bill Rowan Medal and 113th overall position in his age category)

**SANDF Female Club Members**

**SANDF Female Open Category (20 – 39 years)**
First place: S Lt Sinethemba Masana from SANDF Athletic Club Western Cape in a time of 10:30:10 (Bronze Medal and 397th position in her age category)

Second place: AB Katlego Matshaba from Pretoria Military Marathon Club in a time of 10:58:18 (Bronze Medal and 641st position in her age category)

**SANDF Female Veteran Category (40 – 49 years)**
First overall SANDF female member:
Ms Raylene Bosman from Pretoria Military Marathon Club in a time of 09:18:19 (Bronze Medal and 79th position in her age category)

Second place: Laura Anne Coetzee from Kimberley Military Marathon Club in a time of 10:31:27 (Bronze Medal and 292nd position in her age category)

**SANDF Female Master Category (50 – 59 years)**
First place: Ms Christel Pelser from Kimberley Military Marathon Club in a time of 11:56:14 (Vic Clapham Medal and 317th position in her age category)

Second place: Lt Col Thérèse Doman from Pretoria Military Marathon Club crossing the finishing line. She dedicated the 2017 Comrades Marathon to Maj Michelle Fogville, the Biokenicist at Defence Headquarters.
By S Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela  
Photos by Mr Witney Rasaka

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Freshwater Angling Association held its annual SANDF Freshwater Bank Angling Championships recently at Bloemhof Dam over a five-day period. Two days were earmarked for practice and for the anglers to familiarise themselves with the conditions of the dam, while the championships were held on the last three days.

The Chairperson of SANDF Angling, Lt Col Ig Grundlingh, said freshwater angling was “resuscitated” in the SANDF and that this was the 9th consecutive championships. He said: “We group the best anglers from all regions across the country for this event. The various teams are selected strictly according to set criteria and the merit list remains the guiding factor.” He said these teams are the flagship of the sporting code in the SANDF. At the end of the championships the 15-man SANDF Team is announced for the SA Freshwater Bank Angling Federation (SAFBAF) versus the National Forces Tournament in September 2017.”

Lt Col Grundlingh commented that the SAFBAF Bank Angling Tournament, which is the most prestigious annual freshwater angling tournament in South Africa, hosts the National Team, the SANDF Team and other forces teams, the Provincial A teams as well as a Combined Team from South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The fact that the SANDF enters a Development Team forms part of the SANDF Freshwater Angling Association’s transformation agenda, albeit an imperative of the SAFBAF.

There are various development programmes, however, these are decentralised to the various provinces. The SANDF Freshwater Angling Association has its own development event and this is normally conducted...
before the SAFBAF versus the National Forces Tournament.

The Vice Chairperson of SANDF Angling, Lt Col Jaco Steyn, said that in the past they had only two divisions; one for the seniors and the other one for development. Two years ago they started with a separate Masters Division.

Lt Col Steyn said: “The age and level of competence of the anglers determine whether he or she should be in the Masters, Senior or Development Division. An SANDF angling team consists of 12 anglers, team management (two persons) and one official reserve. Angling is conducted strictly according to SAFBAF Rules.”

The teams that participated in the SANDF Freshwater Bank Angling Championships were Gauteng North, Free State, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Central North West and Northern Cape. Lt Col Steyn said that nine of the 93 members who competed in the championships were development anglers.

He said: “We have three zones per Division, viz A, B and C. The anglers rotate through these three zones during the course of the tournament. This is a way of giving every angler a chance in different waters and providing every angler with an equal opportunity. The official angling days starts at 08:00 until 16:00.”

Lt Col Steyn said medals and trophies are awarded in each division which include the individual winner, the heaviest bag and the most fish over three days. There are also team winners for the third, second and first places in the three divisions.
The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Golf Championship was recently held at the Port Shepstone Country Club in KwaZulu-Natal.

The aim of the championship was for participation between all qualifying SANDF golfers to test their skills and perseverance as well as to determine a single winner for each category and providing players an opportunity to compete within the SANDF.

On the first day the golfers played a practice round in the form of an Individual Points Scored (IPS) competition. Lt Col Blackie Swart won the day with a gross score of 74 with 41 IPS points. The following day the SANDF Golf Championship was officially opened by the Patron of SANDF Golf, Brig Gen Ashton Sibango (Patron), Maj Tinus Jacobs (Tournament Director), Lt Col Ilze du Toit (Corporate Communication) and Lt Col Antoinette du Preez (Acting SA Air Force Representative).

Winners of the different categories, fltr: WO1 Frans Smith (winner of the Veterans’ category), Cpl Dennis Williams (Champion), Col Karin Watts (winner of the women’s category).

Normally the championship is played over four rounds of 18 holes, but owing to weather conditions the last day was cancelled.

This championship also identified players that will represent the SANDF during upcoming events of 2017, participating against other state departments and on international level.
The Military Attachés and Advisory Corps Tour to Bloemfontein

Article and photo by AB Samuel Ramonyai

The office of Defence Foreign Relations (DFR), recently conducted a tour for members of the Military Attachés and Advisory Corps (MAAC) under the supervision of Lt Col Willem van Wyk, SO1 MAAC, to Bloemfontein.

The primary objective of the tour was to create a platform for diplomatic interaction between the delegations of the Republic of South Africa, the South African Defence Industry (SADI) representatives and the MAAC members as well as to enhance and strengthen relationships and cooperation shared between the concerned countries.

Addressing the guests at the gala evening, Col Aletta Mankayi, Senior Staff Officer Defence Diplomacy Service, on behalf of the Chief of DFR, Brig Gen Talita Mxakato, welcomed and thanked them for attending and for travelling such long distances in spite of their busy schedules. According to her, DFR serves as a defence diplomacy platform and plays a pivotal role to ensure that it supports, manages and directs MAAC members through active involvement in the promotion and sustainability of good relations between South Africa and their countries.

Col Mankayi highlighted that DFR is primarily responsible for the promotion of relations with the various MAAC and Department of Defence members as well as SADI representatives. Given the mandate of DFR, it was important for them to encourage and enhance diplomatic relations with foreign military attachés throughout the tour. She alluded that the MAAC Tour stands to reaffirm the commitment of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) to enhance and strengthen the excellent relationships and cooperation shared between the concerned countries. It also helps in acquainting MAAC members with the manner in which the SANDF operates its military business. Col Mankayi concluded by urging the MAAC members from other countries to make use of the opportunity to accomplish the goals set for them. She also thanked the SADI representatives for their constant support in sponsoring these events.

The office of DFR organised an interesting tour by involving various prominent places in Bloemfontein. The MAAC members could not wait for each day to unfold owing to the captivating programme. The four-day long tour unfolded with a star-studded landward fire power projection on the first night: an SA Army capability demonstration where the state of readiness of the SA Army was demonstrated in full force at the General De Wet Shooting Range at De Brug Training Area near Bloemfontein. The capability demonstration was meant to show that the SA Army was combat-ready and deployable. It projected the multi-role landward and airborne capabilities of the different components complemented by the SA Air Force as a force multiplier.

On the second day, one could tell that the MAAC members were ready for yet another day light capability demonstration of the SA Army at the De Brug Training Area. The tour was concluded by a visit to the Naval Hill Planetarium where the MAAC representatives explored materials from the Nano-scale up and the night sky. Furthermore, there were visits to the South African Police Services Airwing, the Women’s Memorial Museum and the Armour Shot Action Museum in Bloemfontein. In addition, the tour ended with a braai where everyone was served with refreshments while interacting and strengthening relationships with each other at Tempe in Bloemfontein.
By Chaplain Abdullah Abrahams, Chaplain at 2 Military Hospital

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious Most Merciful. I bear witness that there is only one Creator that deserve to be worship but Allah and I believe that Muhammad is the final Prophet of Allah. I believe in all the Prophets that Allah send including Jesus (A.S).

It is a great mercy of Allah upon the Muslims to grant us the opportunity to witness and be part of the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a spiritual journey where the Muslim clean his soul and concentrate on his relationship or connection with his or her Creator.

Allah says in the Quran: 'O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, even as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may attain God-consciousness.' (2:183)

Derived from this verse, we learn that the ultimate goal of fasting is not to stay away from eating and drinking but it is to reach the highest level of believe and that is TAQWA (Piety). The staying away from eating and drinking is to show obedience and loyalty to the commands of Allah as He tests us to see if we are prepared to leave the things dear to us for His pleasure. The reward for following divine orders, the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said: “The one who fasts Ramadan with pure faith and conviction, Allah will forgive his sins”.

Six things we need to take care of while in this month of Ramadan:

1. **Lower your eyes**: Only look to what has been made permissible to you. Refer to the Qur’an 24:30 and 31.
2. **Guard your tongue** against telling lies, unnecessary conversation, backbiting, arguments, swearing, etc.
3. **Protect your ears** from listening to prohibited things, rather use this time to listen to the recitation of the Qur’an or Islamic lectures. The Prophet said “Backbiting both the backbiter and the listener are equal in sin”.
4. **The rest of the body should be kept away from sin.** Neither the hands should touch it nor the feet made to walk towards it.
5. **After breaking your fast, never fill your stomach completely even with halal food.**
6. **After completing a day of fasting, always ask Allah to accept your fasting and all good deeds done while you were fasting.** This should be done with all ibaadah (prayers) in and out of Ramadan.

Finally, we ask and beg Allah who is Most Merciful to accept all our good deeds that we have done this far in Ramadan and overlook our short falls big or small. May He forgive us all and reward us for the sacrifices we have done in this month of Ramadan, Ameen In Sha Allah (Amen by the mercy of God).
Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo members spreading generosity

By Sgt Ally Rakoma
Photos by Pte Paul Mpangala

The spirit of UBUNTU has driven members of Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo, under the leadership of Col Joseph Tshugulu and Lt Col Mashudu Tshivhase, Second-in-Command, to take action to inspire change by donating mattresses and sweet treats to Maphoshane Community Crèche in Ga-Ramongoana village, situated outside Polokwane.

This social outreach project of Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo aims to care for the less privileged.

Addressing the teachers, children and members, Col Tshugulu said that the ongoing killings and abuse of women and children were a worrying factor in our society. He mentioned that people should come together to protect the rights of these vulnerable groups.

Col Tshugulu warned community members, parents and children who do not report cases of abuse that their silence is promoting this unacceptable behaviour of the perpetrators within and outside their families. He urged child care-givers and teachers to be cognisant of abused children and that it should be a cause for concern. He made an appeal to members of the community to leave no stone unturned against all forms of abuse of women and children.

Ms Elizabeth Teffo, a teacher at the crèche, was overwhelmed with joy when she received the mattresses on behalf of the crèche and said that the donation came at the right time because it’s winter. Mr Raymond Mabotja, a representative from the local Boshomane Tribal Authority, and Rev Alpheus Mohlapamaswi mentioned to SA Soldier that it was a special moment for them to witness SA National Defence Force members putting smiles on the faces of young children. They said that they were personally touched by the generosity, goodwill and spirit of giving to the needy. Jubilant young faces showed excitement as they received snacks and sweet treats from members of Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo.

ABOVE: Members of Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo took action to put big smiles on the children’s faces.

RIGHT: The Officer Commanding of Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo, Col Joseph Tshugulu, urging members of the community to ensure that the rights of women and children are protected.

SMILES: Lt Col Mashudu Tshivhase and Capt Tsakani Mahlahlane with jubilant young faces showing excitement at Maphoshane Community Crèche.
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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