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CONTRIBUTIONS:
Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot accept any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.

EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor: Ms Nelda Pienaar
News Editor: Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo Editor: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole
CO Ally Rakoma
S Sgt Itumeleng Makhubela
Cpl Jonathan Mogano
AB Samuel Ramonyai
L Cpl Paul Mpangala

Interns: Ms Maeshela Kekana
Mr Timothy Makhubele
Ms Esethu Sodo

Text Editor: Mr Deon Smit
Distribution: Mr Jim Tshabalala
Tel: 012 355 6341

Layout & Design: Mr Werner van der Westhuizen

STREET ADDRESS
Defence Headquarters
cor Nossob & Boeing St
Erasmuskloof
PRETORIA

POSTAL ADDRESS
SA Soldier
Private Bag X158
PRETORIA, 0001

TELEPHONE
Tel: (012) 355 6341
Fax: (012) 355 6399
e-mail: sasoldiermag@gmail.com
website: www.dod.mil.za
An SA National Defence Force member interacting with a child while on interactive patrols in the Mayi Moya village. *(Photo by Lt (SAN) Obed Medupe, RSA Battalion: Public Information Officer)*

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Women and gender parity are always hot topics around the globe and in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), since the military caters for everyone, including women. There is plenty of information on these two imperative topics to read about in this edition of SA Soldier.

In this month’s edition, the Deputy Chief Human Resources, Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, contributed a captivating article: Advocacy for gender parity in the SA National Defence Force continues - “The struggle of women towards equality and gender equity is a story of courage, resilience, frustration, setbacks and disappointment. It is a story that shines in the glossy pages of our world renowned Constitution” (see pages 16 to 18).

Women fighter pilots - only one of the ways the SANDF is blazing its own trail - is a not-to-be missed in-depth article by the DOD Head of Communications, Mr Siphiwe Dlamini: “On 25 May 2019 Maj Mandisa Mfeka took to the skies over the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria as South Africa’s first black female fighter pilot, while Maj Nandi Zama, the first black female Commander of a Hercules C130, flew behind as the nation watched the inauguration of South Africa’s fifth President and our Commander-in-Chief, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa” (see pages 20 and 21).

Our SA Air Force female pilots seriously impress us with their undisputed talent and passion, such as Major Nandi Zama, a SA Air Force aviator, who rules the sky in her Hercules C130BZ. During the interview with Ad Astra journalist, Lt Tebogo Kekana, Maj Zama said: “My days in uniform involve checking in at the ‘ops room’ (operational room) for the days’ movements before roll call, daily morning meetings and flying and non-flying activities. When I am flying, as the aircraft commander, my role is to oversee all the aspects of the tasked mission from briefing and preparation to the execution and completion. I am responsible for the safety and success of the aircraft and its occupants for any given task. When not flying, I form part of 28 Squadrons’ Command Council and coordinate the squadrons support services.” Read all about this remarkable female pilot on pages 22 and 23.

SA Soldier had the opportunity to interview another young, female student pilot, CO Zinzisa Makalima. One could not overlook her photo on the front cover of SA Soldier - where she is ready for her routine solo flight in the Pilatus PC7 aircraft! CO Makalima is currently under the capable leadership of the Officer Commanding of the Central Flying School, Col Donavan Chetty, and has been in pilot training for over 12 months. Do read about this talented female student pilot on pages 24 to 25.

Another very topical issue published in this edition of SA Soldier covers how workplace bullying affects employees, including those of the SANDF (see pages 36 and 37). Bullying is such a horrible thing; and a growing and worrying issue. When some people’s ego get the better of them; and some of them lose their composure and start shouting, the workplace becomes a bad and negative environment in which to work. Let us all strive to accommodate each other and show some empathy and love towards our co-workers, subordinates, including our friends and loved ones.

Please take note that since 2018 (Vol 25 No 3 of SA Soldier) has only been available electronically. Kindly visit the Department of Defence (DOD) website at www.dod.mil.za or the DOD Intranet to read SA Soldier. You are also invited to follow SA Soldier on the other DOD social media platforms, such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter (direct link to the DOD website).

Nelda Pienaar
Editor SA Soldier
First State of the Nation Address for the 6th Administration – SA National Defence Force in action

Photos courtesy GCIS and SA Soldier
MONUSCO Force Commander confers medals on South African peacekeepers

By Lt [SAN] Obed Medupe, DRC-RSA Battalion Public Information Officer

The United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) Medals were presented to the Peacekeeping members who served the MONUSCO according to the prescribed regulations and have completed 180 days in the mission.

The MONUSCO Force Commander, Lt Gen Elias, Marthinus, Rodrigues Filho, recently pinned medals on deserving SA National Defence Force (SANDF) members who had done sterling peacekeeping work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for the past 11 months.

The medal parade, which was held in Mavivi near the Beni Airport, was graced by the presence of the Brazilian Ambassador to the DRC, Mr Paulo Uchoa Ribeiro Filho, and his wife, RSA Defence Attaché to DRC, Col Sipho Sabuka, Director Policy and Doctrine Joint Operations Headquarters, Brig Gen Winnie Bobelo, and other invited members.

It was not possible to present all members of the Battalion with the medals as some of them still had to conduct daily routine work, such as the protection of civilians, interactive patrols and escort duties. However, over 200 members on parade were presented with the MONUSCO Medals.
Addressing the guests and soldiers, Lt Gen Filho highlighted the successes of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) operations, the joint operations conducted by the South African Battalion (RSA Bn) with the FARDC soldiers and the successful, unilateral operations conducted by the South African soldiers. Lt Gen Filho hailed our soldiers for their bravery and holding the ground against fearsome Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

Lt Gen Filho mentioned the names of all the South African soldiers who sustained injuries during the standoff with the illegal armed groups (IAGs) while protecting civilians. The Force Commander wished the soldiers that sustained injuries a speedy recovery.

SA National Defence Force members of 7 SA Infantry Battalion with the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) on parade being addressed by the Force Commander.

In closing, the Force Commander thanked all members of the South African Battalion for having served the mission with distinction and he felt honoured to have presented the members with the medals.


As he concluded, Lt Gen Filho shouted out the mottos of 7 SA Infantry Battalion: “Together We Stand” and said: “Ke ya Leboa”. “Hi Khensile”. “Siyabonga”. 🇿🇦
The Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) members of 7 SA Infantry Battalion (7 SAI Bn) have been dominating their area of responsibility in all respect since the cudgel was passed on to them during the rotation in June 2018.

The North Kivu region was declared a red zone due to countless attacks on civilians by illegal armed groups, looting and other forms of human rights violations. South African peacekeepers themselves have survived well-orchestrated and deadly ambushes on few occasions.

That could not deter the South African soldiers from conducting robust vehicle and foot patrols in their area of responsibility. Currently, soldiers are able to conduct interactive patrols within the communities, and the female engagement team (FET) is able to visit clinics, prisons and villagers to help address concerns. This includes inviting key community leaders and ordinary members to South African events or formal ceremonies.

The camps of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) government forces (FARDC) have several times been attacked by the illegal armed groups (IAGs). But in camps where South African soldiers conduct standard combat deployment (SCD), together with the FARDC, the IAGs do not even attempt an attack.

The visibility of the South African soldiers in such volatile areas has rekindled the hope and trust that peace is attainable. Through the South African soldiers' quick reaction to crime scenes, the FARDC have repelled countless activities of the IAGs and managed to “Win the Hearts and Minds” of the civilian population of the DRC.
LEFT: SANDF members on foot patrols in the Mayi Moya village: the SA National Defence Force has the highest number of combat women, if not the only force with combat women.


The Chief SANDF urges recruits to be ambassadors and proud citizens

The 2019 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake had just completed a gruelling six months’ military training programme at the SA Army Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. This gave the Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), Gen Solly Shoke, an opportunity to highlight the level of training imparted to SANDF members.

The Chief of the SANDF said: “You may have heard that our soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are performing sterling work under the United Nations flag and representing the country well. They were able to repel a serious ambush and emerged victorious. They could only do so because of the training and disciplined instilled in them.”

General Shoke was speaking at the passing-out parade where he commended the recruits for successfully completing the Basic Military Training (BMT) at Infantry School. He said that they had started the journey of becoming soldiers and he was pleased with their conduct throughout the training as they did not flout discipline, which is the cornerstone of a military organisation such as the SANDF.

The General said: “Allow me to commend the work of the Directing Staff at the SA Army Infantry School to produce the people we see here on parade. It is quite a difficult task to convert a civilian into these people who just became soldiers.

“You have chosen to serve your country in uniform and that is not an easy task. This profession requires a person to conduct himself or herself in a manner befitting a professional soldier and in line with the Code of Conduct that was read out to you; and it is also expected of you to abide by it.”

General Shoke indicated that soldiering is not for the faint hearted. He urged the recruits to prepare themselves to undergo more rigorous military training and undertake serious missions. The Chief of the SANDF cautioned them that some missions were
life-threatening. However, that would be a sacrifice that they must be prepared to make for the sake of the country and the people. In addition, Gen Shoke encouraged the recruits to further look beyond the call of duty and strive to develop the country and abandon the culture of entitlement. The General said he hoped that they would be ambassadors of the country and be proud citizens of the Republic.

The Chief of the SANDF said: “Being a soldier is a calling and you must be prepared to serve your country anytime it requires you to do so. You must be able to work as a team and must be able to listen to commands and must humble yourself. You must be prepared to be led if you are to become a future leader.”

Lt Kagiso Morokane, a Training Officer of the Delta Company with the MSDS Training Wing, said the recruits gave blood, sweat and tears and all of them managed to pull through. He said they taught them about to operate the R4-rifle and the basic drill movements.

The methods used to teach recruits is a mixture of instruction that includes Education, Training and Development (ETD), which is learner based. On completion of training a recruit must be physically fit, perform drill movements, be able to operate an R4-rifle and must be able to read a map.

Lt Morokane said the recruits are now ready for the next training challenge of platoon weapons to sharpen their skills and then move to their different Corps schools. He added: “Our role as instructors is to introduce the recruits to the fast pace of being a soldier, as we attempt to convert them from their civilian lifestyle into soldiers. This is done gradually and increase as we go along. For instance, we start them with 10 push-ups and add on month to month. At the end the recruits must be able to perform 40 push-ups within two minutes.”

A 21-year-old recruit from Valhalla in Pretoria, Recruit Jacobus Pretorius, won the trophy for best shooting. He feels really proud and confident that he won the trophy for competing against fellow recruits who were very good.

He said that he started using hunting rifles from the age of nine. Recruit Pretorius added: “The instructors taught me some shooting techniques, as well as how to keep the weapon stable, different shooting positions, how to have a better aim for longer and how to concentrate on my target.”

Recruit Pretorius said the training was challenging as they had to wake up early in the morning and train the whole day. It was initially difficult for them to adjust to the programme of doing things differently from being at home. He said it was also challenging to write tests because they did not get much time to study and more often had to study the night before the test.
In conversation with the Chief of the SA Army

Hardly three years ago, Lt Gen Lindile Yam took over the command of the SA Army as its Chief. He took over in an era of divergent and ever-changing threats and a dwindling budget, the looming threat of even bigger cuts and having to deal with ageing equipment and infrastructure that can no longer handle the pressure to which they are subjected. Lt Gen Yam thus commands the SA Army, which is facing a serious challenge. He took over at a time when the SA Army was undergoing a major transformation in respect of the Defence Review 2015.

While this may seem like an insurmountable task, Lt Gen Yam believes that the organisation is capable of overcoming these issues. With his novel approach to problem solving and a proven ability to lead, the Chief of the SA Army and his team are tackling these difficulties head-on. He said his team understands its role and is committed to deliver on its mandate. In line with these commitments, the Chief of the SA Army and the General Staff have created a turnaround strategy and implemented some plans to ensure that they overcome these challenges.

After taking office in 2016, Lt Gen Yam acknowledged the integral role he and the members of the SA Army have to play in ensuring it delivers on its constitutional mandate. Despite having been at the helm for over two years, Lt Gen Yam has made major strides in turning the business around and, most importantly, ensures the SA Army meets its mandate. An early indication of this hard work can be seen in the way the SA Army carries out its tasks despite being underfunded.

SA Soldier recently sat down with the Chief of the SA Army for an exclusive interview to talk about how he oversees the major changes to help the SA Army to hone in on specific modernisation priorities while maintaining the readiness of the current force.

During the interview, Lt Gen Yam hardly made a single statement that did not reiterate readiness as his top priority. The Chief of the SA Army wanted more soldiers to be in shape, better equipped and at the peak of their preparation to deploy at any given time.

Lt Gen Yam discussed his vision and priorities. He provided an overview of the SA Army’s readiness. He also looked to the long term and discussed the types of priority missions and capabilities that will be needed by the SA Army in the highly dynamic security landscape. He also discussed the inadequate budget allocation and its impact on the SA Army, which is affecting its ability to conduct operations.

When Lt Gen Yam took over, he wanted a very responsive leadership that will apply sound management practices to the career management of the soldiers - leadership as the cornerstone of that responsiveness. He said that SA Army members must be multiskilled and efficient and effective SA Army. Lt Gen Yam expected military commanders to dirty their hands in an endeavour to protect the might, efficiency and professionalism of the SA Army. Not to be a casual army, but a highly disciplined organisation that strives for excellence in the conduct of its business.

The Chief of the SA Army said: “More important than what priorities we focus on is how we choose to act to address them. This is our leadership and tone. Ethically informed, values based leadership that inspires, resources and enables subordinates to achieve their best work is always expected of Army’s leaders at every level. As a military that prides itself on achievement, our responses to them should therefore be focused, energetic and aimed at complete success.”

During the interview, Lt Gen Yam highlighted some of the successes achieved by the SA Army through different projects. He said Operation CORONA has seen successes, such as apprehending undocumented personnel, confiscating illegal goods, recovered illegal weapons and stolen vehicles, among others. Project KOBA TLALA continues to become a role player in a strategic alliance for the economic growth and sustainable development of SMMEs. Through this project, a platform was created for various sector programmes to develop into sustainable businesses.

Lt Gen Yam said that the SA Army will continue to embark on skills development programmes for...
its members. Lt Gen Yam said: “Our Foreign Military
Diplomatic Relations afforded us the opportunity to
send members on foreign learning opportunities in
various countries. We also managed to enroll Public
Service Act Personnel (PSAP) through study at state
expense at various institutions.”

Notwithstanding the difficult conditions,
the Chief of the SA Army affirmed the SA Army’s
deepest commitment to achieving the full spectrum
of its Constitutional mandate in ensuring the
successful attainment of its objectives. This includes
meeting its mission ready defence capabilities,
as well as sound defence direction and defence
compliance within its Regulatory Framework.

When you took over command of the SA Army,
what were your main priorities and goals you
wanted to achieve as the Chief of the SA Army?
Firstly, one of my fundamental priorities was to stop the
casual approach of doing things in the SA Army and to
ensure that military culture, ethos and values are the
basis of everything.

What do you mean by that?
By that I want to see every soldier in the SA Army living
up to the values and committing them as their core value
system. Live them in everything they do, whether they are
on the job or off. The core values of the SA Army define the
true meaning of a soldier and what being a soldier is all
about. These values are Military professionalism, Loyalty,
Honour, Patriotism, Integrity, Pride and Personal courage.
I want them to bear the true faith and allegiance to the
Constitution, the SA Army, their unit and other soldiers.

In short, what do these values mean to a soldier?
They must strive to put the welfare of the nation, the
SA Army and their subordinates before their own. The
commitment of each team member to go a little further,
endure a little longer, and look a little closer to see how
he or she can add to the effect, is very critical. Honour
as a matter of carrying out, acting and living the values
of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity and
personal courage in everything they do and by integrity. I
mean to do what is right, legally and morally and personal
courage implies to face fear, danger or adversity.

What other priorities were as important to you
as the first one?
The other things that we set out at the beginning was
readiness, professionalisation and modernisation of the
SA Army, prepping the force for the future, and important
one for me was, you know, taking care of soldiers and their
families.

Meaning we must continue to support operations
because that is why we exist, to continue with
modernisation of our Army because I want us to have the
best chance to win and our people to come back safely
and to continue with a program of cultural renewal
and development because ethical soldiers are our most
powerful weapon. They are broad, but my interest is to see
that we are a modern, jointly enabled,
open and developing the SA Army.

What does readiness entail?
Readiness is central to the military
services. For a landward component,
there are things that go into building
readiness, for instance, you have got to
have trained people, a weapon
system sustainment programme and
serviceable prime mission equipment,
amongst others. Our number one task is
readiness. It is readiness now, because we have no earthly idea what will
happen in the next month or two from
now.

An army has two tasks: either
to prepare for a war or to prepare
for combat. Absent the actual act of
fighting, then our fundamental task is
to prepare for the act of fighting, as our
motto says “We must train as we fight”.
It means training, it means manning, it
means equipping and it means leading.
Our fundamental task is to win in the
unforgiving ground combat. We must
ensure the SA Army remains ready.
Readiness for ground combat is and will
remain the SA Army number 1 priority.

We must improve on readiness
and all the metrics associated with it.
To work on a personnel management
system that is focused on talent. Leader
development is critical to make sure
we grow the right leaders, that we can
accommodate different career paths
so we can improve recruitment and
retention.

Modernisation?
Building an agile, adaptive army
for the future. Developing a lethal,
professional and technically competent
force requires an openness to new ideas
and new ways of doing things in an
increasingly complex world. We intend
to achieve this through many projects
like Project Hoenfyst which is meant
to partially replace the Ratel fleet. We
must change and adapt. The SA Army
must be modernised and adapt as
it looks to the future. But there is no
cheap way to change. The only thing
more expensive than fighting and
winning a war is fighting and losing a
war. Winning is what the SA Army is all
about.

We need to make sure we are
preparing a force for the needs of the
day. We have seen a range of new and
different adversaries, and the flow of
people supporting that cause present
future security challenges, not only
to South Africa, but to our region
and the continent. So keeping the SA
Army relevant and focused across the
spectrum of modern challenges is key
for me.

You mentioned taking care of
soldiers and their families as one
of your important objective. How
do you plan to achieve that?
We are duty bound to improve the
conditions of life for all our soldiers
and their families. Taking care of our
troops is very important to me. Our
own collective strength depends on
the people; their mental and physical
resilience is at our core. We must always
treat them with respect and lead them
with integrity. Our soldiers are the
crown jewels of the nation; we must
love them, protect them and always
keep faith with them. Our Army is an
organisation which people have
purpose and are inspired to serve. We
are working to build resilience within
the force. Well-being programmes
are underway to help maintain the
physical, mental and moral health of
our people.

What part of your job are you
most passionate about?
Like I said before, actually it is the
people. We have wonderful people in the
SA Army and they do a great job every
day. There are occasionally individuals
who need some correction, but the army
is an organisation that responds to
positive encouragement and can quickly
learn from its mistakes. There is a great
generation of young soldiers out there.
When I took over, I set an agenda for
things I wanted to focus on and one of
them was taking care of my soldiers.
They must know that everything I do, I
do for them. I know how tough it is out
there.

What do you expect from your
soldiers?
Be disciplined, committed and
professional. Do your best. Give your
best effort every day. It will be good for
you, good for your team and good for
your Army. It looks like a challenging
request but it is a worthwhile
contribution we can make to our nation.
What has been your favourite posting and why?
Probably my first posting, being a platoon commander, because I learnt a great deal largely through my own mistakes about service in the military and the value of committing your best effort to that service and the real sense of reward you can gain from it.

But how do you plan to achieve all of these priorities amid increasingly tight budgets and the looming threat of even bigger cuts?
The demands on the SA Army have increased over the years. With mandatory budget cuts across the government departments, the SA Army, for example, has had to make reductions in its personnel infrastructure and conventional prime mission equipment capacity. There are a number of things that have disturbed the military culture.

One is a serious underfunding of the SA Army, which affects the SA Army most adversely. For example, we are no longer able to purchase Mess Dress for our officers and aspiring Non-commissioned Officers. The budget cuts impact negatively on our ability to provide trained forces and to renew and maintain combat operational capabilities in the SA Army.

What do you imply by that?
The budget cuts have a negative impact on our priorities. The SA Army is consistently underfunded, which is affecting our ability to conduct operations. The inadequate budget allocation is not crippling the execution of operations, but essentially rendering the SA Army as a landward force not combat ready. The SA Army is pressed to execute a defence strategy that maximises the limited resources available.

That means if budgets dwindle, the projected timeliness will shift out longer. Also, quantities of items that the SA Army needs will take a hit. Anticipated quantities of vehicles, tactical kits, necessary munitions, rations and clothing for the soldiers for current operations on stockpile may be reduced. An inadequately resourced SA Army will have a negative impact on operational outputs, including the loss of life. The longer we delay to arrest the decline, the harder and more expensive it becomes to reverse this trend.

The reduction in the defence budget had serious implications for the functioning of the SA Army. These included insufficient members to sustain operations, an increase in skill gaps and an accelerated loss of expertise. Over the past years, the reduction in the operating and capital portions of the defence allocations has adversely affected training and operations. This has far-reaching implications for the SA Army and the country, given the ever-increasing demands being placed on the SA Army.

In your view, what do you think must be done to reverse this phenomenon?
There is no doubt that it is in our national interest to have a national defence force capable of supporting our national security imperatives, foreign policy objectives and the country’s economic interests. It must have the capacity to defend and safeguard the sovereignty of the Republic, keep and enforce peace outside its borders, and have an offensive capability to deter potential aggressors.

Therefore, in my view, in order to be this, the SA Army should be sufficiently resourced and skilled to execute operations across the full spectrum of conflict. The key factor in making all of it happen is a bigger budget. Increased funding also means new training for units working their way back to full strength. As a result of that, we will see the training, the skills, the knowledge, the attributes required to fight that kind of war will improve because they will be getting more practice. The larger budget will make the force larger, more ready and modern while also positioning it to better confront changing threats globally.

What legacy do you want to leave as the Chief of the SA Army?
Firstly, a disciplined army not just in theory, but in practice as well. The SA Army is fearless in conducting its business and feared by those who want to harm our people. A force for good and an educated force, as well as an Army that is respected, trusted and dependable.

Any closing thoughts?
I am honoured and humbled to lead a remarkable Army. No matter where we are around the world, South African soldiers are displaying courage, commitment and character. We are demonstrating unparalleled competence and agility. No matter the challenge, no matter how complex the environment or how dangerous the situation, our soldiers fight and win. We have the most skilled, ethical and combat hardened SA Army. Our Army remains globally engaged in a complex, dynamic and increasingly uncertain world and we stand ready to fight and win our nation’s wars.

Most recently our members found themselves battling the rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and they come out top. That shows the quality of soldiers we have in the SA Army.

The past 25 years have heralded some major achievements but there are still immense challenges facing the SA Army. I am satisfied that my leadership and I have upheld the pledge we made three years ago to professionalise the SA Army and transform it.

Lastly, let me thank my soldiers for their commitment to the SA Army. We should be enormously proud of the achievements and innovation of our people across a wide range of endeavours. To name just a few, the success of Operation CORONA, peacekeeping operations in the DRC and the professionalisation of the SA Army.

We are achieving this and so much more, while continuing to meet a range of real time commitments, including current operations, contingency forces, the defence cooperation programmes, the SA Army’s assistance to aboriginal communities and defence aid to the
The theme for the 2019 SA Army Writing Competition is ‘The Landward Component as Part of a Joint, Interdepartmental, Interagency and Multinational (JIM) Force’.

Members entering the competition are encouraged to generate their own topic within the confines of the theme. They are free to discuss their choice of topic with the organisers in order to confirm its relevance.

Adjudicators are not aware of the identities of the authors of the papers they mark. All marking is done following a double blind system and all entries received will be acknowledged by e-mail.

All papers should have a title page with the following information of the entrant:

- Title of paper
- Unit
- Force number
- Appointment
- Rank and name
- Mobile number
- Work telephone number
- Work fax number
- Postal address

See the SA Army Intranet for further details or contact Lt Col L. Thatcher at 012 355 1213.

Each identified category will have a first, second and third place winner.

Closing date: 30 September 2019

All entries must be addressed by e-mail to: 2019saarmywritingcompetition@dod.mil.za or by Lotus Notes to: 2019saarmywritingcompetition
Advocacy for gender parity in the SA National Defence Force continues

The struggle of women towards equality and gender equity is a story of courage, resilience, frustration, setbacks and disappointment. It is a story that shines in the glossy pages of our world renowned Constitution. But this glory and pride in the success to achieve gender equality is rarely reflected in our institutions and state owned entities.

Sadly, the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) is a mirror of South African society that reflects this unending struggle and failure to allow women to take their rightful place in the leadership ranks. The National Defence Force provides a clear window through which to determine the lack of transformation or failure to implement constitutional principles and ideals. For instance, the fact that Lt Col Tiisetso Sekgobela is the second female Battalion Commander in 25 years into democracy is a serious indictment. This was preceded by the appointment of the first female Battalion Commander of 14 SA Infantry Battalion, Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, way back in 1998.

Uncomfortable as it is, it is a fact that discrimination on the grounds of gender has yet to be recognised, addressed and eradicated in the military and society in general. There is an intuitive connection between the poor progress and lack of opportunities experienced by women in the armed forces and what is happening in greater society. In fact, this is confirmed by available statistical data on the implementation of equity legislation - numbers provide an objective picture of the status quo.

In what was perceived as heralding a turning point, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000. This buoyancy was followed by other resolutions underscoring women's participation in all governance processes, and their protection against violence. The African Union (AU) has domesticated this global agenda through the promulgation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, which calls for the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace processes.

In an exciting development, AU Member States are expected to develop National Action Plans and adopt policies, strategies and programmes that incorporate the women's peace and security agenda. The AU has also demonstrated its continued commitment through the development and adoption of the Continental Results Framework that has 28 agreed upon indicators, for tracking and reporting on progress achieved in the implementation of the Women's
Peace and Security Agenda by Member States.

Of course, these are exciting starting points that commit all and sundry to act in unison towards the eradication of systematic and structural inequalities that undermine women’s full enjoyment of their rights, freedom and opportunities. The African National Congress (ANC) led government took giant steps to enact legislative frameworks that would eradicate all forms of discrimination against women. It can rightly be concluded that, legally speaking, there is no room for discrimination in all spheres of society.

In fact, the Department of Defence’s policy stance since the advent of democracy envisages a Republic of South Africa (RSA) that benefits from a defence posture and approach that espouses equality between women and men. Practically, this means equal opportunity and power in decision-making, tasks and operations in addressing national, continental and international human security matters. The implementation of this policy would have brought gloss to shine in the practise of the country’s Constitutional injunctions.

In addition, principle five of the 2015 Defence Review stipulates that the SANDF will strive to be seen as a representative of the country’s demographics and equitable. These are crucial characteristics for credibility and legitimacy of our armed forces.

In continuing with the legacy of working for a just and peaceful world, the SANDF is still regarded as an essential tool in the implementation of this country’s foreign policy and international obligations, as it plays a crucial role in the promotion of peace and stability on the continent.

As we celebrate 25 years of democracy, there is a flickering light at the end of the tunnel. Late as it is, the appointment of Lt Col Tiisetso Sekgobela as the first Battalion Commander to the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) was a significant step in the right direction. There is hope, as we observe with excitement our Commander-in-Chief, President Cyril Ramaphosa, walking the talk by appointing women to key positions in State entities. In addition, the President has also appointed a 50/50 gender representative Cabinet for the sixth democratic Parliament.

of International Relations and Cooperation. This team is charged with the responsibility of drafting the country’s National Action Plan for the implementation of the Women Peace and Security Agenda. This provides yet another great opportunity for the advancement of the gender equality agenda within the military milieu. Also, going forward, special attention will have to be given to all issues that impinge on women’s maximum participation in peace and security.

The wisdom of hindsight teaches us that the status of female soldiers since the advent of democracy leaves much to be desired. For instance, women and men are subjected to the same training within the SANDF. But the reality on the ground is that they are not awarded the same opportunities and recognition. The predictable patriarchal excuse is always that “women are not ready”.

Therefore, the Military Command Council’s acceptance that Gender Mainstreaming be incorporated in all military development courses marks an excellent opportunity to inculcate a paradigm shift in the provision, preparation and employment of forces.

There is no doubt that this will influence military culture and doctrine, because education and training in important concepts such as women’s rights, patriarchy, masculinity, feminism and the protection of women against all forms of violence will inspire new ways of thinking and practises. Our hopes now rest in the transformation of a curriculum that promotes equal opportunities. The envisaged outcome of the incorporation of the Transformation and Gender Mainstreaming Curriculum in all military development courses will result in the internalisation of the tenets that will, ultimately, create an equal, inclusive, fair and just organisation in which male colleagues understand, support and embrace the gender parity agenda.

Female soldiers on the other hand will regard their enlistment in the armed forces as a historic mission. This will empower them to become their own liberators in the eradication of the systematic structural inequalities that undermine women’s full enjoyment of equal recognition and opportunities.

The desired outcome is for female soldiers to appreciate the fact that, the requisite skills in all levels of command are that they must be knowledgeable, assertive and decisive in order to invoke confidence and make their presence felt.

With the breaking of the New Dawn, relevant Chapter 9 institutions and members of the Portfolio Committee on Defence will rise to the occasion to effectively monitor and evaluate progress. For us to be seen to be moving forward there is an urgent need for the implementation of systems and processes to hold the leadership of the National Defence Force accountable. The fact of the matter is that women have played a pivotal and equal role in the Liberation Movement and Struggle for freedom and democracy.

Women in Defence stand on the shoulders of giants. Thus, they owe it to generations to come to claim their space within this organisation by ensuring proper policy implementation. Global stats released in 2018 indicate that it will take 202 years to achieve gender equality and 108 years to close the gender gap. Therefore, every generation has a critical role to play in the advancement of the gender parity agenda. In our beloved country, the Commander-in-Chief is leading by example and we have every reason to be hopeful.

As female soldiers, we all have to be agents of the changes we want to see. The road to gender parity is long. Therefore, the situation demands for all women, irrespective of rank or station in life, to forge alliances with feminist men, and protect their hard won rights. The fact of the matter is that, in a gender equal world everybody wins! Therefore, a gender equal RSA would be productive, prosperous, healthier and peaceful. No one else but women themselves can make these dreams come true.
Female fighter pilot – only one of the ways the SANDF is blazing its own trail

By Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, DOD Head of Communications (first published online: Independent Media)

A quarter of a century ago four Generals saluted their brand-new Commander-in-Chief as Mr Nelson Mandela took to the podium to be inaugurated as South Africa’s first President in the democratic era. It was a moment of deep symbolism that reverberated around the world.

The Generals were white, the President was black, once former foes they were all South Africans though, sworn to uphold the sovereignty of this nation.

Today, the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) does not just reflect the society it serves, it also breaks the glass ceiling of stereotypes by creating opportunities for all, irrespective of their class, creed, colour or gender. South African women serve in the military, not in the pigeon holes of prejudice of before, but anywhere they qualify.

On 25 May 2019 Maj Mandisa Mfeka took to the skies over the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria as South Africa’s first black female fighter pilot, while Maj Nandi Zama, the first black female Commander of a Hercules C130, flew behind as the nation watched the inauguration of South Africa’s fifth President and our Commander-in-Chief, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

We have women flying our world renowned and locally made Rooivalk attack helicopters. Lt Col Catherine Constable became the first women Gripen fighter pilot in the world almost 10 years ago. We have female Chaplains, women command front line infantry battalions, qualify as paratroopers, and most recently, in what is probably if not a world first then certainly a conquering of the last bastion of male privilege, we have a fully qualified and serving female Submarine Officer in the SA Navy, Lt (SAN) Gillian Malouw.

The SANDF was forged from the amalgamation of the old apartheid South African Defence Force, the defence forces of the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and the Ciskei and the liberation armies of Umkhonto we Sizwe and Apla.

Today, 25 years later, it has written its own history and blazed its own course through Africa, not as a warmonger, but as a peacekeeper – bringing stability to people exhausted by bloodshed and carnage. Its first major success was Burundi, as its first Force Commander, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, now retired, worked tirelessly to bring peace to the Great Lakes Region.

Lt Gen Mgwebi (Ret) had a distinguished local career first as the General Officer Commanding Special Forces before becoming the Chief of Joint Operations. He would lead United Nations (UN) soldiers again in 2015, when he was appointed Force Commander of the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world with 20 000 soldiers based in the DRC. MONUSCO also has the only UN peace enforcement unit – the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) – which is the only UN force mandated to engage in military offensives against enemies. The current Commander of the FIB is also a South African - Brig Gen Patrick Dube.

South Africa is the 11th highest contributor to the UN’s peacekeeping efforts in Africa and the 17th largest contributor in the world, but it keeps the peace for the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) too, notably in Lesotho in 1998. The SANDF has been involved in 14 peace missions since 1999 in countries as diverse as Eritrea and Ethiopia, the Comoros, the Sudan and Uganda, Liberia, Ivory Coast and the Central African Republic – where our paratroopers
and Special Forces’ operators fought like lions, earning the respect of friend and foe alike for all time.

We have a vested interest in keeping the peace and nurturing democracy in Africa, it’s an important structure of government to ensure our foreign policy is understood. The peace and stability we enjoy in South Africa is meaningless if there is no peace elsewhere on the continent, which we see in the influx of economic and political refugees.

The SANDF also safeguards our territorial sovereignty through Operation CORONA, walking patrols along all 4 471km of them; from the Atlantic in the west with Namibia, all the way across Botswana and Zimbabwe, down past Mozambique and around eSwatini ensuring a 10km deep cordon, combating poachers, apprehending and checking undocumented persons, stopping car syndicates from smuggling stolen vehicles out of the country or criminals trying to bring contraband, counterfeit goods, alcohol and drugs into South Africa.

What we are doing on the borders is to ensure that the people of South Africa are not just protected, but that our economy is too. The more prosperous our country is, the healthier the economy, the greater the opportunity for a better life for all who live in it. But that’s not all the SANDF does, our soldiers, our sailors, our military health professionals and our air force personnel also get involved during humanitarian disasters; most notably in 2000 during the Mozambican floods literally plucking hundreds of people out of trees from our helicopters.

We went in again this year after Tropical Cyclone Idai and we were recently in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal after the ravages of the storms that hit the coast, displacing thousands and killing scores. We have gone down to help, to provide emergency medical care and shelter, while our engineers sort out the disruption in water supplies.

Roofs that do not leak, windows that are not broken, drains that are not overflowing with sewage are not excessive expectations. There is a fundamental mismatch between the funds we get and the expectations our country’s leaders - and the continent’s - have on us.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary of proud service to this young country, it’s high time that we fixed it – so that we can continue and improve that which we do – for all of you.
**FOCUS ON WOMEN**

**SA Air Force aviator rules the sky in her Hercules C130BZ**

By Lt Tebogo Kekana, journalist at Ad Astra
Photos by Sgt Lindokuhle Hlomuka and Cpl Tlotlo Kgosana

Major Nandi Zama oozed all things confident during the recent New Castle Air Show in KwaZulu-Natal explaining her military career path to young aviation enthusiasts. “I go by the name Nandi. I am 34 years old and am based at Air Force Base Waterkloof, operating at 28 Squadron as a C130 pilot.”

Before the concept of female aviators, navigators and air traffic controllers became a springboard for all genders serving in uniform, the “It Girl” career status was not unearthed, but as the number of female aviators increases, a host of brilliant pilots, who position themselves as credible, well-trained officers, redefine the status quo.

Major Zama mentioned to the learners: “Pursuing aviation was an obvious choice, I thrive on challenges, and I am passionate about travel, seeing the world; making a tangible difference in the lives of the people I encounter in my work and my family.”

This pilot, whose daily role and duties span across a myriad of tasks can be easily pitted against Ms Michelle Obama - a woman who sacrificed, became the most qualified, was often overlooked, but remains visible with a grace that makes her hard to ignore in a time when her competence is needed the most.

Major Zama said: “My days in uniform involve checking in at the ‘ops room’ (operational room) for the days’ movements before roll call, daily morning meetings and flying and non-flying activities. When I am flying, as the aircraft commander, my role is to oversee all the aspects of the tasked mission from briefing and preparation to the execution and completion. I am responsible for the safety and
accomplishments and challenges to date have had her question many things about the space Maj Zama takes up and a multiple roles she plays. Some of which that have brought her to the rewarding phase which she currently enjoys. During this one-on-one conversation with Ad Astra, when asked what these current years had given her in terms of memories, she responded with a word that symbolises a state that represents a life's goal for many.

Ever so calmly, Maj Zama said: “Going solo”. She added: “Getting my ‘wings’, qualification and command. The most fun moments were during my first external operational deployment. I was a CASA 212 commander during deployment. Also memorable is being chosen as one of the Inspiring Fifty in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) of 2018.”

Major Zama does not just fly aircraft, she cares to do so to the extent that she gets to experience the greater societal difference that the SANDF makes on the African continent. Perhaps, an understanding that the only thing that makes wisdom valuable, is when it is shared. It is no wonder that Maj Zama was ready to tackle all the questions that were posed by the learners at the recent New Castle Air Show.

Talking about her flying journey, “I joined the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) in 2004, then completed Basic Military Training and flying training soon thereafter. I received my ‘wings’ in 2006 and have since continued to loyally serve in the SA Air Force (SAAF), accumulating a total of 2 100 hours of active flight. I am an aircraft commander at 28 Squadron, this after having successfully commanded at 44 Squadron for four years. I have flown various types of aircraft, the most recent being the Hercules C130BZ aircraft, which is the most tactical airlifter in global military standards.”

As a female soldier, who has just passed the age of 30, her life’s accomplishments and challenges to date have had her question many things about the space Maj Zama takes up and a multiple roles she plays. Some of which that have brought her to the rewarding phase which she currently enjoys. During this one-on-one conversation with Ad Astra, when asked what these current years had given her in terms of memories, she responded with a word that symbolises a state that represents a life’s goal for many.

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What kind of a leader do you think you are?
I am a fairly firm person (in general) so I think that translates into my leadership. I am a believer in inclusivity and empowerment with the people I work with.

How does it feel to be the first black woman to qualify to fly the C130 in the SAAF?
It is an incredible feeling to fly these amazing machines. I do not think it feels any different being a black woman, but perhaps extremely rewarding and humbling in light of the efforts of all the people who have paved the way and helped me get to where I am. I can only hope that it does not continue to be an anomaly but we, as an organisation and an industry, get more and more women of colour into these spaces.

The types of military aircraft Maj Zama has flown: the Astra Pilatus PCVII in 2006 (Ab Initio); the Cessna Caravan C208 in 2007; the CASA 212 between 2008 and 2012; and the C130BZ since 2013.
Central Flying School trains pilots to reach for the stars

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos by Cpl Jonathan Mogano

After driving approximately 137 kilometres (the short route) or 167 kilometres (the long route) from Cape Town International Airport towards Somersveld on the southwest coast, you get to the home of the Silver Falcons Aerobatic team – This is where Air Force Base Langebaanweg: the Central Flying School is located. This is where all the SA Air Force pilots and flying instructors are trained. Central Flying School firmly believes in its motto Tenax Propisiti Vinco (meaning: Through tenacity comes success). Indeed one has to be tenacious if one is to master and tame great machines, such as the unrivalled Rooivalk fighter helicopter, supersonic Gripen fighter aircraft and the agile Pilatus PC7 that the Silver Falcons Aerobatic team uses.

The School falls under the capable leadership of the Officer Commanding, Col Donavan Chetty. Col Chetty is a qualified pilot (with full wings) whose passion for flying and training is palpable. With unrivalled passion he indicates that the School concentrates on training pilots in the fighter line, helicopter line and the transport line. The school under his command had enjoyed a 100% pass rate in all the training provided.

Colonel Chetty attributes the School’s success rate to the methodology and individualistic approach to training. They train their students without gender-based prejudices and assessment is done looking at the best ways to enhance one’s capability because once they get to qualify to be at Langebaan Central Flying School they have what it takes to be a pilot. Col Chetty said: “We use our prerequisites and guidelines given to us and we factor in considerations in between. Not everybody is built the same, and individually, the students relate to training differently. Without lowering standards and maintaining high proficiency we relate specific students based on personality with specific instructors. The strategy in employing this is to ensure that everyone involved in training works with one mentality of success of the team without any regard for the student’s gender, creed or race.

“Flying is a great equaliser. The aircraft does not know or care about your gender as a pilot, nor do the ground troops who need your support. You just have to perform. That is all anyone cares about when you are up there – that you can do your job, and that you do it exceptionally well.”

Under the capable leadership of Col Chetty at the Central Flying School one would meet one of the young, female student pilot, 28-year-old Candidate Officer (CO) Zinzisa Makalima. CO Makalima has been in pilot training for over 12 months. She was born in Eastern...
Candidate Officer Zinzisa Makalima, a student pilot, with her instructor, Col Catherine Constable, in her office where she gives CO Makalima a morning pre-flight briefing.

Cape at Tsitsana, but grew up in Margate in KwaZulu-Natal. Coming from a family closely associated with the military, belonging to an elite group of aviators was not only a passion for her, but a life-long dream and thirst that could only be quelled by joining the SA Air Force with an unparalleled desire to be a pilot.

Reminiscing on her first day on course was bittersweet. “While feeling excited about the prospects of the course and what was to become of me after the training. I was also quite nervous about the prestigious yet daunting training task I was about to embark on. From the onset it was stressed that throughout the training every sphere of our being was going to be tested and challenged. As a team of pilots to be, we were informed that the success of this training opportunity was dependant on what we make of it and what we make of it would be what we will get as the end result,” said the inspired young CO Makalima.

True to her name Zinzisa, which means the one who is grounded and stable in isiXhosa, she is a disciplined soldier and aspirant pilot who religiously adheres to the strict daily routine that begins no later than 04:00. Starting with 30 minutes’ inspection or physical training depending on the day of the week. At 06:30 she would then go for her breakfast. At 07:00 the student group would then be on the parade ground for roll call and further inspection as per Central Flying School prescripts and etiquette. From the parade ground the pilot trainees are off to the morning briefing class where they are informed of the day’s weather, go through the flying precautions and safety. The day culminates into flying either in a simulator or flying the Pilatus trainer aircraft.

Interestingly, what CO Makalima found to be a bit challenging at the beginning of the training was not the training, but to set aside individualism to become part of a team with other students from various backgrounds. The young CO Makalima asserted: “Flexibility from individual student for the benefit of the team is of utmost importance. Working like a well-oiled machine with one objective was and is always expected from each student. Teamwork is key. You fly for the benefit of those you are giving support to and therefore as a pilot you do not just fly without consideration of various aspects that are dependent on various members of the team. Individualism and ignoring team of the aircraft and not the other way around.

“Great dreams come to life for those who have the will power to put it into action.” After saying the words that seem to be her mantra, the young, confident, disciplined and beautiful pilot elegantly strode off to fly “her” Pilatus aircraft. CO Makalima indelibly fortified my pride in the SANDF and its endeavours to empower the South African youth.

CO Makalima simply left with me a great sense of awe. How I wished she could be my daughter, how I wished South Africa can have great young people like her. She does not believe she can fly, she knows she flies … the sky is not her limit …
Maj Gen Nobanda calls time on four decades of devoted military service

The courage of a soldier is heightened by his knowledge of his profession and he only wants an opportunity to execute what he is convinced he has been perfectly taught.” - Publias Renatu. These words explicitly exemplify the manner in which Maj Gen Luvuyo Nobanda lived his life in the military. He recently retired from the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) bringing to an end 41 years of devoted service.

Devotion to duty, selfless service and personal courage are some of the attributes that come to mind when one thinks of his military career. These values epitomise a life of a soldier well lived. Maj Gen Nobanda distinguished himself as an outstanding soldier and a leader who was respected by his subordinates and colleagues alike. His service to the SANDF and the country has been absolutely invaluable.

In appreciation of his outstanding support and dedicated service to the SANDF, Maj Gen Nobanda was given a rousing send-off with military honours during a farewell ceremony. During the ceremony, his contributions were acknowledged and he was thanked for his dedication and hardwork. As they bid him farewell, he was recognised as having been essential to the SA Army’s success and a valued member of the SANDF.

As a qualified Special Forces operator and a paratrooper, Maj Gen Nobanda served in various capacities since joining the SANDF, viz General Officer Commanding (GOC) SA Army Engineer Formation, Chief Army Force Preparation, Chief Army Force Structure responsible for the structuring and sustainment of the SA Army, including future projects regarding the development and acquisition of prime mission equipment and GOC SA Army Support Formation responsible for the day-to-day support of the SA Army.

Maj Gen Nobanda was also a military diplomat who served as Military Attaché in Gabon. Some of his highlights and achievements when he was GOC SA Army Engineer Formation include when he and his team proposed and erected bridges around South Africa for communities. He was also entrusted with the responsibility to lead the SANDF elements support to the funeral of the late Mr Nelson Mandela, among others. He also served as Chairperson of the Board of the SA Army Foundation.

Maj Gen Nobanda’s colleagues and subordinates he had the privilege to work with gave accounts of his character and what it was like working with him. They thanked...
him for his contribution to their personal and professional development. He was described as someone who exemplified the servant leadership he worked to instil in every subordinate during his military career.

The Chaplain of the SA Army Support Formation, Chaplain Pieter Roos, described Maj Gen Nobanda as a good leader who profoundly demonstrated the spirit of Ubuntu, selfless in his approach to challenges, relevant in decision-making and very clinical in executing his duties.

Chaplain Roos said: “Maj Gen Nobanda committed himself to an exemplary leadership and was an example of living the values of the SANDF. His actions were a testimony of integrity, loyalty and patriotism in an unbiased and non-political manner. To know him is to know love without pretense and service without self-regard.”

The Formation Warrant Officer of the SA Army Support Formation, CWO Mokete Tladi, remembered him as an exceptional and outstanding leader whose behaviour, attitude, lifestyle and actions in general helped steer the successful development of thousands of principled leaders. He said they looked up to him and his devotion to duty and his integrity, sense of honour and his commitment to the SANDF.

CWO Tladi was impressed with Maj Gen Nobanda’s work ethics and professionalism. He said: “Maj Gen Nobanda brought an exceptional reputation for integrity and leadership to the formation. He provided foresight, courageous leadership and sobriety of making sound decisions under pressing circumstances and demonstrated a sense of selfless volunteerism.”

Ms Penny Mahlangu has worked closely with Maj Gen Nobanda for years as his Secretary. She said Maj Gen Nobanda was like a father figure, the greatest role model in her life. She said: “Maj Gen Nobanda was intelligent, understanding and a respectful boss. A man of integrity, an advisor, who always encouraged me to further my studies. Always wishing people well with their careers. He had a lot of sense of humour, bold, brave, outspoken and a super boss. I learnt a lot from him and he respected and acknowledged his juniors and lastly, was a man of his word.”

During his farewell speech, Maj Gen Nobanda gave an account of his career in the SANDF. He thanked his colleagues he had the privilege to work with since his first appointment in the SANDF. He said that he was highly indebted to a number of individuals, such as Lt Gen Temba Matanzima (Ret) and Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi (Ret), among others and the organisation that molded and shaped him to be the person he is today. He also attributed his achievements to the teachings he received from various instructors.

Maj Gen Nobanda said: “I can stand before you today and say that there has been no greater privilege and no greater honour than serving in the SANDF. My multiple combat deployments and progression through the leadership ranks have instilled in me the grave responsibility and deep appreciation for what it requires to take care of my men and equipment while I strive to accomplish the task.

“That unbroken service ends today. I will leave with very few regrets and with deep pride in the men and women who I have been honoured to work with for over 41 years. The Army will pause only momentarily, if that, to mark my passing from its ranks. To the soldiers, you are our Army and your capacity for selfless courage is second to none. To my family, especially my wife, whose support and love have been unshakeable, you have made my service years possible and I am forever in your debt. I promise to live a life less regimented from today.”

The parade marching past in columns of platoons.
Chief Human Resources rewards meritorious service by HR Division personnel

Awards and decorations in the military milieu come a long way dating back as far as the first century. History records that these accolades have been used as tokens of distinction to honour military heroism, meritorious or outstanding service and achievements.

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Norman Yengeni, said the members of the Human Resource Division deserved the awards for their diligence at work.

Women of the Human Resource (HR) Division for their long service to the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

During the Medal Parade Long Service Medals for 10 and 20 Years were conferred onto uniformed members and long service certificates to Public Service Act Personnel.

Addressing the guests and members on parade, Lt Gen Yengeni acknowledged the work of the recipients who had served the country with loyalty and discipline for a period of 10 and 20 years respectively. The Chief Human Resources perceived the event to be a gratifying moment for the recipients as it epitomises hard work and personal achievement in pursuit of their given tasks.

Lt Gen Yengeni indicated that the recipients outworked themselves beyond measure to have received these accolades. He encouraged them to always wear their medals with pride and to hang their certificates on the walls of their houses and offices.

In addition, Lt Gen Yengeni commended the SANDF members for pursuing its mandate without fail for 25 years. The recent example he gave was the presence of the National Ceremonial Guard and Review Parade including the SA Air Force display during the Presidential Inauguration of our Commander-in-Chief, President Cyril Ramaphosa. Lt Gen Yengeni added that this event evoked feelings of pride in our people for their country’s National Defence Force.

President Ramaphosa has been consistent in conveying the message that we must build a capable state and ensure that things are done in time and in accordance with the required skills and competencies, said Lt
The Chief Human Resources concluded by saying a true patriot must be prepared to sacrifice everything— even lay down his or her life for the good of the country. Lt Gen Yengeni mentioned that members of the SANDF were the symbol of hope to the people of our country.

Yengeni encouraged HR members to catch up with or to be at a higher level in the ever-changing world of technology. Furthermore, Lt Gen Yengeni said the President had also been appealing to all and sundry to embrace the fourth industrial revolution, as technology had become part of our lives.

The Chief Human Resources cautioned that this meant a challenge for HR functionaries to sharpen their technological and computer skills. In a similar vein, Lt Gen Yengeni encouraged HR members to catch up with or to be at a higher level in the ever-changing world of technology.

Lt Gen Yengeni highlighted the fact that our Commander-in-Chief had also emphasised women’s maximum participation in all government processes. The President had demonstrated this by appointing 50% representative Cabinet for the sixth democratic Parliament. The breaking of the “new dawn” has indeed created opportunities for all South Africans to work together and think outside the box.

In addition, Lt Gen Yengeni said all the recipients deserved their medals and certificates that had been awarded. He added: “Remember that you are an example to many soldiers since the medals that you wear are a symbol of dedication, commitment, loyalty and patriotism.”

The Chief Human Resources concluded by saying a true patriot must be prepared to sacrifice everything— even lay down his or her life for the good of the country. Lt Gen Yengeni mentioned that members of the SANDF were the symbol of hope to the people of our country.

Members of the National Ceremonial Guard marching past in column to salute the dignitaries of the event.
The advent of democracy and the resilience of the freedom fighters who fought for it, mark a notable contribution to the history of South Africa. Those were some of the sentiments shared by the enthusiastic youth in dialogues at the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Youth Day commemoration parade held at Air Force Base Makhado.

The parade was organised by the Chief Directorate Transformation Management under the theme: “Entrenching our democracy with the aim of cementing youth cohesion, endurance, productivity and soldiering”. The well-organised event took off with an amazing drill competition by all the Services. The drills were executed by young recruits from 2019 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intakes, fresh from basic military training.

After a tough competition the SA Air Force was the winners, followed by the SA Army, with the SA Navy in third position and the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) in fourth position.

Though the SAMHS was in fourth position, the platoon was well drilled by Sgt Tsholofelo Mabitsela, the only female instructor at the competition. Sgt Mabitsela said she always pushes herself twice as hard whenever she gets an opportunity to compete with male counterparts.

Sgt Mabitsela remarked that she had competed with men before.
Members of different Services showcasing bull strength during the tug-of-war competition.

and this parade could not intimidate her. She added that she has won competitions before and became the first woman among all Services to win the drill competition.

Although this year put her in fourth position, Sgt Mabitsela still said this will not deter her from rising to the skies of her glittering instructor career.

Sgt Mabitsela developed the love for drilling after matric when she was working at a civilian fire department company. There she learned how to drill platoons giving commands. She mentioned that, there is where she gained confidence in leading people.

She then joined the SANDF and followed the steps of becoming an instructor. Ever since she has been an instructor, she has been learning all drilling moves and disciplines within this career. Sgt Mabitsela concluded by saying she loves the military and more so to produce proper and sharp soldiers.

The drilling competition then became the catalyst to usher the Chief of Human Resources, Maj Gen Norman Yengeni, to deliver a keynote address.

Lt Gen Yengeni advised the youth not to forget the message that the nation expects from them today and that message is to follow in the footsteps of the 1976 youth and become agents of change. He said: “The struggle must continue in the view of a better life for all our people. In 1976 the youth of our country correctly identified the challenges and tasks they had to confront of (poor education system). Youth Day holds great significance in the history of South Africa and continues to be a day of commemoration, sharing and learning.

“We must never forget the sacrifices made by those who fought for what we stand to enjoy today and keep the cause close to heart.”

Lt Gen Yengeni mentioned that today, 43 years later, once again our youth are faced with the obligation to identify the challenges of today, such as drugs abuse, alcohol abuse, unemployment, increasing crime and to have access to economic survival.

The Chief of Human Resources added: “As youth today within the SANDF, we should bear in mind that the youth of 1976 fought against inferior education as part of the struggle from freedom, but it is expected of today’s youth that they should confront (illiteracy and lack of skills) as part of the struggle for development and economic survival.” With the same sentiments, Assistant Director Tshepiso Mudavheni from Chief Directorate Transformation Management said the event was to commemorate 16 June 1976 and the sacrifices made by the struggle icons of our democracy and freedom which we enjoy today and also express our youthfulness.

Mr Mudavheni said: “The message we were trying to relay to the Department of Defence community and the units surrounding Makhado was exploring the possibilities that could be opened up through youth development that are at the disposal of the youth developing discipline.”

He added that they were further sensitising youth about the challenges confronting our youth day, such as drug and alcohol abuse, as well as teenage pregnancies.

Mr Mudavheni said: “We also encourage youth to take note of the fourth industrial revolution and to further align themselves for future eventualities.”
The Constitution of South Africa enshrines the rights of all people in our country and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. However, these fundamental rights, including the right to freedom and security, are seriously violated by criminals in our country. Today, we see something far removed from what is cherished in the Bill of Rights owing to an increase in crime rate.

All over South Africa criminals threaten the existence of the right to freedom and security. The prevalence of criminal activities is now perceived as an enemy of any human advancement which renders all efforts for freedom null and void.

South Africa has become a hot spot for major crimes. Among all recorded crimes in the country, residential burglary, theft of and out of motor vehicles, and murder seem to be the most prevalent.

With the state of crime in our country, Maj Ernest Motala, Personnel Staff Officer to the Provost Marshal General, R Adm (JG) Mokgadi Maphoto, affirmed that there are nevertheless still security elements in place that can be used to prevent oneself from becoming a victim of crime.

Maj Motala mentioned invulnerability as one of the security elements that can help to reduce crime. He said people should avoid making themselves more vulnerable to crime and criminal activities by always being aware of their surroundings. He highlighted the fact that the most common problem discovered in our generation emanates from being more glued to our cell phones instead of evaluating our surroundings. The key to avoid falling into a trap is to be cognisant of the environment, consciously evaluating your surroundings. People need to understand and identify the existence of danger and possible loss of their belongings, he cautioned.

He further said the spotlight on crime can be dimmed by putting in place security measures, such as personal and physical security, information and communication security, installation of security cameras, walls and gates, as well as the use of body guards. These measures can help diminish the number of criminal activities in our country, he advised.

Moreover, if one happens to be a victim of crime, Maj Motala suggested some steps to be taken. These will depend on the type of offence committed against someone, but generally, he said if you are in a public place, identify the potential witness; in most cases the bystanders. Maj Motala advised that victims should immediately call or go to the nearest police station to report the incident or case. It is important to explain every detail of the incident to the police. Do not withhold any information because it might be critical to a breakthrough in the case, he said.

When asked how public safety can be improved, Maj Motala remarked that the starting point for improving public safety is to bring the public/community and the police together.

Maj Motala explained: “The police alone cannot do everything. The perpetrators of crime are within the community and if the community members are not willing to work closely with the police, the criminal activities will always increase. Both the public and the police have got roles to play in improving public safety.”

The roles of the police include:
- Conduct random searches of personnel, vehicles and liquor shops.
- Do observation in order to detect unusual behaviour.
develop strategies that will reduce criminal activities and improve public safety. The roles of the community include:

- Report any criminal activities to the police as whistleblowers.
- Be part of the community police forum (CPF).
- Neighbourhood watch.
- Taking responsibility and not harboring criminals.

Maj Motala concluded by saying the improvement to the public safety can be achieved by the community who’s ready to keep all general safety precautions mentioned in this article. This will ease the job of the police and reduce the crime rate in our country and more so when the community is working together with the police.

He believes that the community and the police can make South Africa a better country to live in. What is needed is to apply safety precautions and to work together with the police towards building a better country.

Photo posed.

• Vehicle Inspection (authorities).
• Improve police visibility by conducting regular patrols.
• Conduct regular crime awareness campaigns in order to educate the public about new crime trends and also to give safety tips.
• Analyse the crime trends and

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We believe in heroes, we hope you do too.
Together we move South Africa Forward
SA Army Armour Formation celebrates two decades of existence

The year 2019 marks two decades of existence for the SA Army Armour Formation, and this special occasion was celebrated with a military ball hosted at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.

Addressing the guests and members, Brig Gen Fezile Mbotyi, General Officer Commanding SA Army Armour Formation, said: “... allow me to thank all the forefounders of this Formation, both the living and dearly departed at all levels of command. We will always recognise their contributions.”

This military ball was filled with the music and vocals of the National Ceremonial Guard, glitz and glamour of the smartly dressed guests, and just the sheer pride of all SA Army Armour Formation members in attendance.

The SA Army Armour Formation proudly upholds the cultures and traditions of the SA Army Armoured Corps, and this was evident in every aspect of the function, from the armoured vehicles on display outside to the finest décor details on the tables.

The Flame of the Armour reminds its members of qualities such as:

- **Energy** – Because it radiates heat and inner strength.
- **Light** – Because it changes insecurity into certainty and confidence.
- **Life** – Because it is constantly in motion.
- **Purity** – Because it separates, cleanses and refines.
- **Unity** – Because it confirms the Armoured Corps’ dependency; for alone it cannot achieve anything.

One of the many Armoured Corps traditions was executed during the function, namely the lighting of the “Flame of the Armour”. The symbolism of this action is deeply rooted. The Flame of the Armour symbolises the inextinguishable spirit and energy of the SA Armoured Corps.

In addition, the Flame of the Armour reminds its members of the fire within every armour soldier, inspiring its men and women with extraordinary performance and achievements. Irrespective of the enemy, the armour will advance and go forward with the flame in their hearts.

Furthermore, the Flame reminds its members of the destructive firepower that the armour can concentrate on enemies of the country in order to ensure peace and stability for all South Africans. The Flame of the Armour also embraces the National Torch of Tolerance symbolising that outwardly they are people of many colours, races, cultures, languages, religions and origins, yet all are still tied to one another by a million visible and invisible threads that make them share a common destiny from which no one can escape.

The Flame of the Armour inspires members of the SA Army Armoured Corps always to stand firm and proud – faithful to God, the country and their task. “Faithful, true and steady – come what may, they are ready!”

The SA Army Armour Formation has certainly been faithful, true and steady for the past twenty years.
After opening cancer treatment services, the Oncology Department has been boosted with extra recliner chairs and other resources to manage the volumes of booked patients.

Lt Col Puleng Bucibe, SO1 Nursing Area Military Health Formation Headquarters, said that since the Oncology Department was expanding, they thought of lending a helping hand to alleviate the shortages of resources. She indicated that their programme has supplied recliner chairs first because the unit could only book a few patients for chemotherapy in the past.

She added: “We expect that the volume of patients they will be able to book (as many patients as possible) and attend to, will increase with the additional recliner chairs. They will add value to the treatment with patients knowing that they will be booked at the earliest opportunity.”

Lt Col Bucibe is in the forefront of the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, which mainly focuses on the Oncology Department. Last year, they were working with a non-governmental organisation that is called Reach for Recovery, which is dealing with Breast Cancer survivors. They are now focussed on capacitating the Oncology Department at 1 Military Hospital. She said: “The campaign is growing and we are looking to have a fully-fledged campaign through which we can invite the whole of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) to participate. Oncology treatment delivered at the Oncology Department at 1 Military Hospital will depend on the need in line with their shortages.”

Brig Gen Ntshavheni Maphanya, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 1 Military Hospital, said that they ran annual fundraising campaigns for cancer treatment. He said that they were supporting the expansion plan of the Oncology Department. He said that they were supporting the expansion plan of the Oncology Department.

Brig Gen Steven Masipa, GOC Mobile Military Health Formation, said that they were supporting the expansion plan of the Oncology Department.

Brig Gen Masipa said: “We thought we could give as much assistance as possible. These recliner chairs are part of our initiative to support cancer treatment in the hospital.”

The GOC 1 Military Hospital said: “That will allow us to give our patients full treatment without outsourcing any services to private hospitals, which will also save costs. We are hoping that on the master plan that will be designed for the hospital, this unit will be expanded and fully resourced.

“In the future, the plan is that various hospital units must specialise in their fields and hopefully, 1 Military Hospital will excel in cancer treatment.”

Brig Gen Puleng Bucibe, SO1 Nursing Area Military Health Formation Headquarters.

Brig Gen Ntshavheni Maphanya, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 1 Military Hospital, Brig Gen Steven Masipa, the GOC Mobile Military Health Formation, and Dr Lesiba Khalo, an oncologist at 1 Military Hospital unveiling the new recliner chairs for chemotherapy treatment.
There is recourse for victims of workplace bullying

By S Sg t Itumeleng Makhubela

Advocate Thamesni Ramcharan, Director Legal Advice at the Defence Legal Services.

Adocate Thamesni Ramcharan, Director Legal Advice at the Defence Legal Services.

every employee has the right to be treated with dignity and respect in the workplace. However, where does one draw the line when being bullied and what does one do if he or she experiences any form of harassment?

A clinical psychologist, Maj Wendy Ketlhaetse, describes workplace bullying as a form of abuse when a person, usually a senior, takes advantage of or mistreats a subordinate by misusing his or her power. It can also happen the other way around when one finds that a subordinate does not do his or her work, blackmails or completely disregards authority.

Maj Ketlhaetse said: "It may happen that a subordinate has a history of being mistreated by a senior person over time. It could also be a major incident that happens only once and if severe enough to cause a lot of distress for the victim."

The clinical psychologist says many people who tend to bully others may be experiencing pressure from their own seniors at work which they transfer to others. Others may have personal problems at home that they have to deal with and as such it affects their behaviour and the impact is felt by subordinates. Maj Ketlhaetse explains that at times competition brings out bullies in the sense that colleagues who are up for the same job or even promotion may feel threatened by the others.

Maj Ketlhaetse said: “Incompetence often causes individuals to bully others as they may not feel sure of themselves or have the expertise to do their own work, and as a result, they just lash out. This is indicative of someone who is not functioning well emotionally.”

The clinical psychologist added bullying has severe consequences for the mental state of the victim. It varies in form and can be either physical or verbal, for example, being ridiculed in front of colleagues. It can also be emotional when
A bullied person may start avoiding work and when they start to think about work they become emotional. The victim could also experience anxiety and other physiological symptoms. The victim would then end up thinking about work more than he or she should and continuously worry about deadlines.

“The bullied person find him or herself feeling depressed, not wanting to engage with others as the person used to and becoming withdrawn, always on his or her own and feeling low. With anxiety and depression the victim may find that he or she does not deliver work on time and the quality deteriorates because the victim is preoccupied with thoughts of the bullying.”

Maj Ketlhaetse says the issue of bullying in the military is quite complex because in the rank system the victim will find it difficult to question authority and needs to adhere to command and control. However, the code of conduct prohibits the abuse of power.

The clinical psychologist explains that when a person feels that he or she is being bullied the victim can approach a social worker or a psychologist for consultation. They work in a multidisciplinary team of professionals, which includes a social worker, a psychologist and a doctor. If the bullying of the victim is severe and the workspace affects and impacts the person negatively, a social worker can recommend that the victim is moved elsewhere for a short period.

Advocate Ramcharan said that there are provisions in the Military Discipline Code (MDC) which state that a member, who treats another employee improperly, can be charged. A person that is being harassed can lay a charge with the Military Police and that can be followed up in the military court. Disciplinary steps will be taken against the person being accused.

Advocate Thamesni Ramcharan, Director Legal Advice at the Defence Legal Services, indicated that the employer has an obligation to ensure that the employee is supported in the workplace and that includes protecting the person against any incidence of harassment.

The Advocate said that harassment, which includes bullying, can happen in many ways and the employee must call the relevant people in and discuss what the problem is.

Advocate Ramcharan added: “If there is an indication that there is harassment taking place, the employer must do something about it. This can include warning the other employee or go as far as taking disciplinary steps against the person accused to stop the harassment. Legally, a person may be dismissed for harassment.

“However, the employee has the obligation to inform employers his or her predicament. If there is a constructive dismissal, the person that left the employment may approach the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) or labour bargaining councils to attend to his or her case.”

Maj Ketlhaetse said: “There will be a workplace assessment and intervention and if the emotional symptoms are severe enough, the psychologist can take the bullied person into therapy in cases where they have developed anxiety and depression. A person may be given medication and booked off, especially if the victimisation gets physical. We treat every referral as an individual case and deal with each person accordingly and do not apply a blanket approach.”

The clinical psychologist said managers have the responsibility to care for their people and engage regularly to identify when they have challenges. Maj Ketlhaetse added: “We have a programme as social workers and psychologists which we call the Supervisors Wellness Programme. It teaches supervisors how to identify problems such as unproductivity, deadlines being missed, untidiness or abuse of alcohol or substances among their subordinates. We train them how to handle an employee who is not productive or one that has social problems.”

Advocate Ramcharan said that there are provisions in the Military Discipline Code (MDC) which state that a member, who treats another employee improperly, can be charged. A person that is being harassed can lay a charge with the Military Police and that can be followed up in the military court. Disciplinary steps will be taken against the person being accused.

The Advocate added: “The other avenue is that a member can lodge a grievance against the person harassing him or her. However, the person must first give the employer the chance to resolve the matter. Both uniformed members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) are bound by the Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics.”
Celebrating Youth Day and to address the challenges of slow economic growth, unemployment and poverty faced by the youth of the country, the SA Army Spouses Forum, together with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Small Businesses recently hosted a Youth Day event at the Pretoria Military Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane. Various schools around Pretoria were invited.

During the event, members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) from all Services, along with the abovementioned three government departments, provided information on possible career opportunities through presentations and exhibitions to enhance access to decent employment and entrepreneurship. They also created a platform that allowed the youth to engage with one another in numerous sporting activities and a talent show.

The SA Army Spouses Forum, as an important supporting entity to the SA Army, took this action to make sure that South Africa strives for a better future. The Forum, together with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Small Businesses, developed a plan to focus on empowering and uplifting the youth of South Africa, who are faced with the current economic struggle, by hosting this event. A segment of the population, especially the youth, is still faced with socio-economic challenges such as a high unemployment rate, poverty and lack of business opportunities and skills relevant to the market needs.

This initiative also seeks to support young people economically in order to unleash their potential to create wealth, sustainable and decent employment, increase their savings and investment levels and develop their human resource capacities, entrepreneurship and technical knowledge.

According to the Chairperson of the SA Army Spouses Forum, Ms Rebecca Yam, explaining the aim of the youth economic empowerment event.

The Chairperson of the SA Army Spouses Forum, Ms Rebecca Yam, explaining the aim of the youth economic empowerment event.
The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Lindile Yam, accompanied by pipers, arriving at the Youth Day commemoration organised by the SA Army Spouses Forum.

Ms Rebecca Yam, the intention is to provide greater job prospects for the youth. Ms Yam believes that it is crucial for the youth to have knowledge and skills to succeed in life if they were to break the cycle of poverty. She said this event was hosted to assist in reducing the calamity of high unemployment currently affecting the youth as shown by statistics. Ms Yam added that this initiative involves providing entrepreneurship development and capacity building activities to the youth in the community.

The Chairperson of the SA Army Spouses Forum said: “Investing in youth economic empowerment and skills development is one of the most urgent and effective means to drive progress on gender equality, poverty eradication, unemployment, as well as inclusive economic growth.”

Speaking to the youth at the event, the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Lindile Yam, challenged the youth to follow in the footsteps of and emulate the youth of 1976 in confronting their challenges. Lt Gen Yam urged them to use the same energy to fight against the current challenges of inequality, unemployment, poverty and other socio-economic problems.

Quoting Frantz Fanon, Lt Gen Yam said it falls upon each generation to discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it. The Chief of the SA Army said: “This is so, because to a greater extent, the generation of 1976 have managed to discover their mission and managed to fulfill it.” Lt Gen Yam said the youth of today must also be courageous and fearless to fulfill their mission. He added: “The bravery and courage of that generation should serve as an inspiration to the youth of today.”

The Chief of the SA Army described the initiative of the SA Army Spouses Forum as a source of immense inspiration. Lt Gen Yam said initiatives such as these that relate to putting in place sustainable platforms for economic growth cannot succeed without the mass participation of the youth. Lt Gen Yam urged the youth to take advantage of career opportunities offered in the SANDF and the various resources which have been made available by Government which look to empower them.

SA Soldier spoke with some of the learners who attended the event. Luke Buckers, a learner from Pretoria Technical High School, said it was an eye-opener because he was not aware that there were so many career choices available within the SANDF. He said: “We were not exposed to such information before, but thanks to the SA Army Spouses Forum, our school had been invited to this event.” He would like to serve in the SA Air Force as a pilot once he had completed his studies.

Beyonce Booysen and Tamika Meyers, two learners from Eldorado Park High School, said they enjoyed the proceedings of the day and would also love to swell the ranks of the SANDF once they had completed their studies.

In closing Ms Yam said the effort was successful and contributed to solidifying the vision of the SANDF being an employer of choice.
Youth were challenged to find their purpose during Defence Headquarters Youth Day celebrations

By Ms Esethu Sodo
Photos by Mr Timothy Makhubele

The Acting Chief Director Transformation Management, Brig Gen Phage Mosianedi, had only words of motivation and encouragement for the youth of 2019 during the Defence Headquarters Youth Day celebrations, which took place at the Armscor Sports ground in Pretoria on 7 June 2019.

This event took place in commemoration of the 16 June 1976 Soweto Student Uprising. On that day, over 10 000 black students from Soweto mobilised themselves to gather at the Orlando Stadium and protested against Afrikaans that had been made the compulsory medium of instruction in schools.

On their way, the demonstrating students were unfortunately met by heavily armed police who fired teargas and later live ammunition at them.

Forty-three years later,” Brig Gen Mosianedi said: “We have the common responsibility to always recall the events of that bloody Wednesday of 16 June 1976, so that the bravery and sacrifices of both generations of black people should serve as inspiration to the youth of today.”

Brig Gen Mosianedi continued to say that the youth of 1976 correctly identified the challenges they had to confront and that today’s youth have the obligation to identify theirs. He emphasised that different tactics were needed to confront current challenges as they differ from those of the past.

The youth of 1976 fought for a better education for everyone, but the youth of today should confront illiteracy and the method of transferring skills when students enroll to tertiary institutions to acquire the skills necessary for the advancement and development of the country and the continent.

Furthermore, the youth should use education and skills to fight poverty and unemployment by working in partnership with the Government to put into good
use all the opportunities brought forth by this democracy.

Young people should join together and be at the forefront of the country's struggle to defeat violence and crime. They must not indulge in drug and alcohol abuse and should protect women and children against violence while respecting the law.

Brig Gen Mosianedi did not forget to salute the youth serving as peacekeepers of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) all around Africa, as well as those playing an important role in our society and contributing to the transformation of our country.

He encouraged others (young people) to be proudly South African and to always defend the rights of Africans wherever they are.

Sharing Brig Gen Mosianedi's sentiments, R Adm (JG) Emily Masanabo, Director Navy Transformation, said that to win a race took practice, discipline, as well as personal productivity, which would allow one to accomplish more in the time provided.

R Adm (JG) Masanabo asked: "What have you contributed to the youth of today? Are you encouraging others or are you looking out for yourself?"

The event was concluded by the youth participating in different sporting codes such as aerobics, soccer, volleyball and netball.

Mr Jonathan Kebe from the South African Sign Language Association interpreting the message of Mr Gabriel Hoffman, Manager at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

A Defence Headquarters player tussles for the ball with an opponent from Navy Headquarters during a soccer match at the Youth Day celebrations.
AMHU KZN marks 26 years in support of the Comrades Marathon

The Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal (AMHU KZN) celebrated 26 years of support to the Comrades Marathon this year. The participation in this event started in 1993 and AMHU KZN has continued to provide uninterrupted support to the Comrades Marathon ever since.

The Comrades Marathon Association has acknowledged the Unit’s contribution by giving them an award for 26 years’ participation in this huge annual event.

This year AMHU KZN manned station No 19 where the athletes received all the necessary refreshments/sustenance and treatment to continue with the race. The station provided water, Energade, Coke, cakes, fruit, chocolates, Amahewu, etc.

Maj Lindani Shabangu (right) and Capt Lungelo Msomi ready to massage athletes to get relief for their sore muscles.

The first male runner who passed the refreshment station of Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal after 02:24:45 since the starting of the race.

RIGHT: An SA National Defence Force member, Col Zirk Louwrens (Ret), still feeling strong during the Comrades Marathon at the time of passing refreshment station No 19, manned by members of Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal.
boiled potatoes and a massage for athletes experiencing muscle cramps.

Members of the AMHU KZN are very passionate about this event and always have a hands-on approach to ensure the manning of the Unit’s station is executed professionally and without hassles.

Members of AMHU KZN who were given the task this year made a point of executing the task in the same way they have done over the years.

The visibility of military personnel in uniform ensured that the flag of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) was held high.

The athletes showed their appreciation for the service rendered to them by saluting and drilling as they passed the military station. The encouragement of the spectators and the Unit members meant a lot to them one of the athletes said while he had his muscles massaged.

The SANDF athletes from all over the country received much support and encouragement to complete the race. The appreciation shown by the organisers, and most importantly, the athletes participating in the race, motivates AMHU KZN to continue supporting the Comrades Marathon for another 26 years and beyond.
Training and Education Management Indaba charts the way forward for the Chaplain Service Division

By AB Samuel Ramonyai and Ms Kopano Letwaba
Photos by Mr Timothy Makhubele

"Educatiion, Training and Development presents a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge base of all employees. Employees who receive the necessary training and education are more able to perform in their jobs and in turn it builds their confidence,” said Col (Rev) Zolani Makalima, the Chairperson of Education, Training and Development (ETD).

Col (Rev) Makalima was speaking at the Training and Education Management Indaba of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Chaplain Service Division that recently took place at the Waterkloof Officers’ Mess in Pretoria.

Maj Gen Lawrence Mbatha, General Officer Commanding Training Command, who sets the scene at the Training and Education Management Indaba of the Chaplain Service Division.

However, this conference was not only looking to equip, but also to refocus chaplaincy management on the current state of training and education in response to the organisational needs and national interest, Col (Rev) Makalima said.

The Indaba created a bigger forum for invited experts in various fields to present the challenges experienced in training and education within our country. Col (Rev) Makalima highlighted the fact that whatever the challenges experienced in our country, they somehow affect them as Chaplains.

The invited guest speaker, Maj Gen Lawrence Mbatha, General Officer Commanding Training Command, who sets the scene at the Training and Education Management Indaba of the Chaplain Service Division.

Brig Gen Lester Gardiner, Director Military Strategy, said Chaplains should make a difference in shaping the ethics and values of the future military leaders.

He mentioned that there was a need for this conference. An enthusiastic Col (Rev) Makalima added: “For functional and operational effectiveness, Chaplains need to be equipped with requisite knowledge and skills. Chaplains need to be developed for effectiveness in the work they have been appointed to do in the Department of Defence. We want to be of better service to the rest of the Department. Hence, we saw a need to host this developmental programme.”

Col (Rev) Makalima further said this meeting gave Chaplains a greater understanding of their responsibility within their role, which in turn built their confidence.

According to him, this confidence will enhance their overall performance and this can benefit the organisation.

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The invited guest speaker, Maj Gen Lawrence Mbatha, General Officer Commanding Training Command, whose presentation preceded all, elaborated on some of the skills development constraints at national and departmental level.
Col (Rev) Zolani Makalima, the Chairperson of Education, Training and Development, said the Indaba gave Chaplains a greater understanding of their responsibility within their role and in turn built their confidence.

Maj Gen Mbatha’s presentation focused on the following vital points:

- How to deal with matters of ETD within the broader Department of Defence and its training institutions.
- Challenges with regard to refocusing and realigning ETD.
- Reference to 2015 Defence Review as far as military ETD has to be realigned.

Maj Gen Mbatha concluded his presentation by saying: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter the most”. With these words he commended the Chaplain Service Division for hosting a conference with such a provoking theme.

Further presentations were also made by Brig Gen John Gibbs, Head of the Defence Review Implementation Project Team Support Office, and Brig Gen Lester Gardiner, Director Military Strategy, respectively. Their presentations were about the strategic contextualisation of defence training and education. However, Brig Gen Gibbs unpacked a strategic overview that covered, inter alia, economics, education and budgetary issues.

In his presentation, Brig Gen Gardiner focused more on the chaplain’s role and how they should make a difference in shaping the ethics and values of the future military leaders.

Brig Gen Carel Laubscher, Director Education, Training and Development Systems Integrity, delivered the last presentation of the day, which focused mainly on training and education in the SANDF Chaplain Service Division. He pointed out focus areas for the Chaplains such as maintaining the current capabilities, functions of the Chaplain Service, developing future capabilities and functions of the anticipated future Chaplain Service.

After the presentations, Col (Rev) Makalima said: “The presentations gave us a better perception of education and training within our organisation and the rest of the country. We now know what to do and where we should be lending a helping hand. We want to better our organisation and the rest of the country.”

At the end of the three-day conference, three task groups were appointed. The first group was tasked to generate a training and education strategy, while the second group should develop a training and educational plan and the third task group to do a survey and skills audit.

Col (Rev) Makalima stated that this Indaba was not a waste of time, it has addressed the challenges they had in the Chaplain Service Division. He mentioned that a developmental conference such as this one enables all members to reach a higher level of shared skills and knowledge.
By Chaplain Mothibi Maleho,
Chaplain at Air Force Base Swartkop

The Ascension of Christ and Pentecost are very important events in the Christian calendar which are celebrated annually.

**Ascension of Christ.**

Ascension of Jesus is described in Acts 1:9-11. It happened in Bethany. It’s all about the departure of Christ from earth into the presence of God in heaven. Christ ascension happened immediately after Jesus informed the disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes upon them they will be filled with power, and will be witnesses for him in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Before his ascension, Christ spent forty (40) days teaching the Apostles and disciples about the kingdom of God (Acts1:3). He also instructed them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the gift He told them about, the gift the Father has promised (Luke 24:49), referring to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Another thing to bear in mind is that Christ’s ascension is reflected on the Christian creeds and confessional statements, in Christian tradition.

**Pentecost**

The day of Pentecost is noted in the Christian church as the day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, and on which, under Peter’s preaching many of them believed and were baptized, and about three thousand people were added to the group of believers (Acts 2:1-42).

It is recorded in the Bible that on the day of Pentecost, all the believers were gathered together in one accord in one place (Acts2:1). The Holy Spirit descended from heaven as cloven tongues like a fire and sat upon each of the disciples.

They, then, began speaking in different languages, addressing each and every individual in their respective language. The crowd that have gathered there was amazed on how possible can Apostles address them in their own respective languages.

Not knowing that the Apostles were empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit, the third person in “Trinity.”

1 view the day of Pentecost as the day that the promise of God uttered by Jesus to his disciples being fulfilled.

The fulfillment of the Promise made before his death, after resurrection and before his ascension. The fulfillment of the promise he made in John 14:16 “And I will ask the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.” When Jesus spoke about the “Comforter” He was actually referring to the “Holy Spirit.”

He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see or know him. But you know him, because He remains with you and is in you.

It is also the fulfillment of the promise of the gift the disciples had to wait for in Jerusalem. Remember they were with one accord in one place, and that place is Jerusalem.

The promise made by God himself can also be fulfilled in our lives, even today, as long as we love the Lord and obey his commandments. And wait upon the Lord for the fulfillment of the promise.
SANDF SAYS NO TO RHINO - POACHING
We remain on standby to assist in disaster areas like the ones during the Port St. John’s and Ethekwini floods.

WE CONNECT COMMUNITIES
We build bridges in Port St. Johns, Matatiele and other areas and ensure that children are able to access their places of learning and cut-off communities gain passage to their livelihoods.

WE DEFEND OUR HARD-EARNED DEMOCRACY
We ensure that fellow South Africans exercise their hard-earned right to elect the government of their choice without fear or prejudice.

WE BRING HOPE TO OUR PEOPLE
In emergency or humanitarian relief operations:

We lead search and rescue efforts and Coordinate the provision of relief to fellow Africans in distress like during the Tropical Cyclone Idai devastation in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

THE SANDF SECONDARY MANDATE:
Our soldiers serve in support of other state departments.

We support the people of South Africa to achieve socio-economic upliftment and a better life for all.

The SANDF:  
25 PATRIOTIC YEARS of selflessly rendering SUPPORT to fellow South Africans and other state departments.

From Port St. John’s to Matatiele, Mahikeng to the Vaal and beyond our borders, the SANDF is the bearer of hope through the various humanitarian interventions it is engaged in to alleviate the plight of distressed South Africans and other fellow Africans.

Our soldiers reached out with a helping hand during:


The SANDF ensured that the CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT to have the provision of essential services to communities in distress continue unhindered, and that the preservation of life and health is realised.