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Shooting for gold

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FRONT COVER: A member of the Maritime Reaction Squadron on high alert after a rescue exercise of SAS MENDI during the SA Navy’s maritime capability demonstration at the Naval Base Simon’s Town on 15 April 2010. The exercise is in line with the SA Navy’s state of readiness for the borderline security for the 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. Read all about the exercise on page 29. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
From the Editor’s desk

Ke Nako! - It’s time! The long wait is over. It is FIFA World Cup Soccer time! Let us blow our vuvuzelas in celebration. Allow soccer fever to take over and kick out any flu, influenza or winter blues!

The SANDF is more than ready for the FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. Our soldiers will showcase their state of readiness in providing security and stability for all South Africans and our visitors during the FIFA World Cup.

Read on page 28 about the role the SA Air Force will play to ensure safety and security during the Soccer World Cup.

On page 29 the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, emphasises the SA Navy’s ready to ensure the safety of our long coastline for the World Cup.

In celebration of World Cup Soccer month and youth month this edition of SA Soldier is also packed with a variety of articles on sport, ranging from boxing (page 36) to angling (page 40) and many others. Enjoy indulging yourself with our sporting delights: pages 36 to 45.

Read the inspirational story about Rosita Mabuiango who is now 10 years old. Her mother, Ms Sofia Chiure, made headlines when she gave birth to Rosita in a tree during the Mozambican floods in 2000 (pages 16 - 17).

Another young man who is an inspiration to our youth is Capt Willem Jacobus Engelbrecht, a fighter pilot. Read all about his training (pages 30 - 31) of pilots in Britain.

The youth development programme of the Africa Aerospace and Defence 2010 aims to attract learners from an early age to consider careers in aerospace and defence. Read all about this worthy programme on page 32.

On page 33 read about the graduation of young soldiers at the School of Engineers in Kroonstad.

Enjoy the read and experience Africa’s humanity!

Viva Bafana Bafana!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

SA Soldier • June 2010

Van die Redakteur se lessenaar

Ke Nako! Die tyd het gekom! Die lang wag is verby. Dis FIFA Wêreldbeker-sokker tyd! Laat ons ons vuvuzelas blaa om dit te vier. Laat die sokkerkoors oorneem, en weg met enige verkoue, griep of winterneerslagtigheid!

Die SANW is meer as gereed vir die FIFA Wêreldbeker-sokker toernooi. Ons soldate sal hulle stand van gereedheid om sekerheid en stabiliteit te bied aan all Suid-Afrikaners en ons besoekers gedurende die FIFA Wêreldbeker demonstreer.

Lees op bladsy 28 oor die rol wat die SA Lugmag sal speel om veiligheid en sekerheid gedurende die Sokker Wêreldbeker te verseker.

Op bladsy 29 beklemtou die Minister van Verdediging en Militêre Veterane, me Lindiwe Sisulu, die SA Vloot se gereedheid om die veiligheid van ons kuslyn vir die Wêreldbeker te verseker.

Om Wêreldbeker-sokkermaand én jeugmaand te vier is hierdie uitgawe van SA Soldier propvol sportartikels. Dit sluit in boks (bl 36), hengel (bl 40) en nog vele ander. Geniet die sportartikels: bladsye 36 tot 45.

Lees ook gerus die inspirerende storie van Rosita Mabuiango wie nou 10 jaar oud is. Haar ma, me Sofia Chiure, was in die nuus toe sy in ’n boom aan Rosita geboorte gegee met tydens die vloede in Mosambiek in 2000 (bladsye 16 - 17).

’n Jong man wat ook ’n inspirasie vir ons jeug is, is Kapt Willem Jacobus Engelbrecht, ’n vegvlieënier. Lees gerus oor hoe hy vlieëniers in Brittanje oplei (bladsye 30 - 31).

Die jeugontwikkelingsprogram van die Africa Aerospace and Defence 2010 (Afrika Lugruim en Verdediging 2010) het ten deel om leerders vanaf ’n vroeë ouderdom te lok om loopbane in die lugruim en verdediging te oorweg. Lees alles omtrent hierdie verdienstelike program op bladsy 32.

Lees op bladsy 33 oor die graadverwerwing van jong soldata by die Ingenieurskool in Kroonstad.

Geniet die tydskrif en ervaar Afrika se medemenslikheid!

Viva Bafana Bafana!

Nelda Pienaar
Redakteur

* Translation (Afrikaans) by Eugene Muller.
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I AM AN EXTRAORDINARY CHILD OF THE SANDF

Children are like a blank page; we write on them, and whatever we write must be beneficial.
They are like seedlings that require healthy and regular care to be real plants that can produce healthy and fresh fruits.

Truly they are our future so we must handle them with care, but they are clueless in many areas of life, so we must not hesitate to guide them if they go astray.

I, a child of the SANDF, say you deserve a garland for what you wrote about me, because today I am who I am because of what you wrote about me, and it is a fact you wrote to me about perseverance, respect, patriotism, soldiering and leadership.

So I, a child of the SANDF, salute you. Keep it up! email

GOODBYE SERGEANT MAJOR

I refer to the letter “Goodbye Sergeant Major” (SA Soldier April 2010).
As a Warrant Officer Class 1 (a la SA Navy) I concur with the writer regarding the demise of this form of address.
Having spent 30 years in the SA Navy, 16 of them at sea, I was privileged to have interacted and sailed with many members of the other Services during exercises, operations and extended overseas (Showing the Flag) deployments.
As a junior NCO, one always looked up to the ship’s coxswain, shore based Masters-at-Arms and visiting Sergeant Majors and "RSMs". As one progressed through the ranks, so the bonds of friendship grew.
There is nothing better than visiting an Air Force/Army base and meeting a colleague from the past, and recalling old stories.

These friendships and experiences from the past can never be erased and it would be a travesty of justice if the Sergeant Major or "Sant Major" was relegated to the annals of our proud National Defence Force’s history.
WOI Richard Evans, SA Navy Fleet Command, Simon’s Town

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GOODWILL PARCELS?

When I read SA Soldier, the members tell me how impressed they are with the Goodwill Project, but something went wrong because I am presently deployed in the Congo and my wife has not received her parcel up to now.
I went through the right channels to find out, but every time I came to a closed door. Now I want to know what happened. It is not only my wife who did not get her parcel, but nearly a hundred other members in the Op MISTRAL mission. Can someone tell me what is going on? My unit falls under the SA Army Formation in Wonderboom, where not one of the members of my unit has received a parcel.
S Sgt Prins

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

* SA Soldier referred your letter to the Warrant Officer of the SANDF for comment - Ed.

The Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO F.J.S. Scheepers, responded as follows:

*On 4 December 2009 the Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO F.J.S. Scheepers, in person handed over the
FARE THEE WELL MAJOR CHOABI

While working at Molopo Health Centre in Mafikeng as a Primary Health Care nurse, I had the challenge of dealing with lots of patients with psychological problems. There was no psychologist in the unit at that time. As we all know, nurses are jacks of all trades and masters of none. I had to come up with a plan, so I contacted the then Lieutenant, Captain and now Major “Pinky” Choabi who I ended up using and abusing a lot. I would group four to five patients and arrange with her to come over to Mafikeng to consult them. She was very eager and did that job diligently. At times these patients would be sent to Potchefstroom.

After my transfer to Potchefstroom she worked directly with me. I came to know her better from 2002. Dedicated and committed as she was, she joined the Thusano Support Group in 2006 to which she contributed meaningfully and went out of her way to support the patients. The men in our unit will always remember the splendid job she did as Programme Director. She was the real Fiona of the Weakest Link game played in November 2009 in the unit due to her good sense of humour. Potchefstroom Goodwill gift as well as the Goodwill hamper to the Officer Commanding and RSM of 11 Field Postal Unit at Waterkloof AFB with the clear understanding that the Unit was responsible for delivering the Goodwill hamper to the member’s family. The Goodwill gift was handed over in the mission area by the sponsors and SANDF members over the period 12 to 18 December 2009.

According to the member’s personnel record, his next of kin is his father who stays at 80 Lang Street in Darling. If the personnel record has not been updated or corrected then it is impossible for the unit to deliver the Goodwill gift to the member’s home. The accusation that hundreds of members have not received their hampers must be proved. I do not except general comment.

Health Centre will not be the same without her as she is indeed leaving a void that needs to be filled.

Great advice and wise words from a grey haired woman to Pinky was: “As you have now joined Gauteng Command in a more senior position that goes with senior responsibilities, treat your subordinates with respect, consult them, involve them in some decision-making for you to gain their support and realise your goals. Somebody once said: “When you go up, do not forget the people that you leave behind because when you come down you will for sure meet them again.” Remember Pinky, you are taking our image with you, go out and represent us well; if you do wrong things that is how we will be perceived at AMHU NW”.

In conclusion let me leave you with this little story. There were two frogs who had the misfortune of falling into a bucket full of cream. The first frog could not find a footing in the white fluid, so he believed there was no escape and accepted his fate and drowned. The second frog was more positive and did not like the approach of the first frog. He began thrashing around, did everything to stay alive and his churning turned the cream to butter, he crawled on top and hopped out.

The morale of the story is endurance goes hand in hand with persistence; nothing takes the place of persistence. Persistence pays and it yields results. Go well Major Choabi you will be greatly missed. Lt Col S. Motlogelwa, Potchefstroom

WE NEED HELP

Is racism or favouritism allowed in the Government (Department of Defence)?
Look at the situation the guards at Buffalo Volunteer Rifles work under. For the past six weeks the guards there have been starved. Where is the R35.00 food allowance they are supposed to get per person per day? Instead they are given a small amount of food that's been bought some time ago for another occasion.

Are people pigs or dogs, or is it because of the colour of their skins? There are a lot of things that these people are deprived of, eg their Mondays, more hours and less money. Others come for duty from very far, but there is no transport allowance or compensation.

People are victimised and this will cause conflict among the members who are told to “go to hell” if they complain. The response is: “Go inform the Minister of Defence or the President himself, we should look at the structure”. If you can take immediate action you can verify this information via members at the unit. Buffalo Volunteer, Eastern Cape

* SA Soldier referred your letter to

FOREVER THERE

With shaky legs, ignoring the fact that my action was useless
I followed Edward into the forest.
The evidence of his path disappeared instantly. There were no footprints, the leaves were motionless again, but I walked forward without thinking that I could do anything else.
I had to keep moving. If I stopped looking for him,
It was over, love, life, meaning … over.
When forever ends, a new legend begins.
L Cpl Busisiwe Mtshwene,
68 Air School

SA Army Infantry Formation for comment - Ed.

Maj Gen T.M. Nkabinde, General Officer Commanding: SA Army Infantry Formation, would like to respond as follows:

>> on page 8
from page 7

"Racism/Favouritism. The guards are rotated as fairly as possible at both facilities of the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles.

Meals. During September 2009, 150 members were called up and only 120 reported. This resulted in wet rations, e.g. potatoes, butternuts, meat, frozen vegetables being left over. These rations were in good condition and kept in a cool room or frozen in the deep freezer. The rations could not be returned to the supplier and it was issued to the guards in order not to waste food. This was done under the control of the acting RSM.

Payment of the Commando Ration Allowance. Members on guard receive the ration allowance of R36.30 if they do not receive meals. However, since meals were provided for a certain period in 2009, they did not receive the allowance. The payment of the allowance is only done after the names of the members, who qualify for it, are published in the unit.

Travelling Time. Members from the East London area do not qualify for travelling time, but members from areas 100 - 150 km away receive one day of travelling time (i.e. ½ day in and ½ day out) while members from further away qualify for 2 days travelling time (i.e. 1 day in and 1 day out).

"Go to hell" or "Go and inform the Minister of Defence or President himself". These allegations are emphatically denied as members are informed to make use of the channels of command and both the Officer Commanding and RSM are available should members have any grievances."

ANGISOZE NGAKULIBALA NINI NANINI

Lidama enzini waseMandlangosi; wena wawungikhoselisile. Umbhaha nganginanganazi nagawazi ngawaze. Ungifakamisile kahle okwezuphathu lenyoni. Amehlo amini alihle capha ukuculeka ngabona wena

Ubaba nganginangama kondwa wena wakwazi ukuthi uba uba, uphinde Ubabe nyanana kimi. Angisoze ngakulibala nini nanini.


Impela angisobe ngakulibala nini nanini. Ithemba lami uma liphela wena wawungiphasile.


SWORDS

It is with reproach that I have to respond to the article published on page 18 in the March 2010 edition of SA Soldier.

It seems very valiant of us (SANDF) handing over ten swords to the Vietnamese People’s Army, but how can our senior officers dispose of equipment that is not available for issue to junior levels. I am an officer, but have never owned a ceremonial sword. Every parade, photo, etc seems incomplete for this reason.

When the storms of life come, I find strength in order not to waste food. This was reported. This resulted in wet rations, e.g. potatoes, butternuts, meat, frozen vegetables being left over. These rations were in good condition and kept in a cool room or frozen in the deep freezer. The rations could not be returned to the supplier and it was issued to the guards in order not to waste food. This was done under the control of the acting RSM.

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"Go to hell" or "Go and inform the Minister of Defence or President himself". These allegations are emphatically denied as members are informed to make use of the channels of command and both the Officer Commanding and RSM are available should members have any grievances.”

When I arrive there it is as if
I am going to see you
When I first opened my eyes, I saw you
When the storms of life come, I find strength
To withstand them through you
I wonder what your secret ingredients were,
To withstand them through you
I wonder what your secret ingredients were,
When I lost hope you were there to uplift me
When I lost hope you were there to uplift me
As your words give guidance
To lead good lives.

I will never ever forget you.

M.P. Zungu Masango, 121 Bn

* Translated into English by Mr Manelisi M.P. Zungu Masango, 121 Bn

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As your words give guidance
To lead good lives.

I will never ever forget you.

M.P. Zungu Masango, 121 Bn

HONOURING A GENERAL

I should like to honour a Brigadier General with a good personality in the SA Army.

Life is full of surprises no matter what a hard or difficult day you may have had. There is always light at the end of the tunnel.

Just bumping into him or even seeing him from a distance he always has the most beautiful smile on his face, always smiles at you or others, though he does not even know you. He just makes my day and that’s you: Brig Gen A.M. Sibango.

SA SOLDIER ● JUNE 2010
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OPERATION CORDITE

The Acting Commanding Officer RSA Contingent 121 SA Infantry Battalion Operation CORDITE X, Maj A.M. Nyalunga, encouraged the Battalion on its fifth month of deployment in the Sudan to help safeguard the elections that had taken place in the Sudan in April 2010. Maj Nyalunga addressed the Battalion about the extension of the tour to May 2010.

The Commander urged the leadership to bear with the situation and to work together as a team, and to keep control of their subordinates by motivating them to keep going until the end of the tour. He was always giving positive guidelines to the members by telling them that the mission was over and that they needed to prepare their handing and taking over for the coming contingent. Maj Nyalunga informed the members about the unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of members in the mission area, including the commanders.

Nevertheless, members were kept motivated by carrying out their task of winning over the minds, souls and hearts of the locals within their area of responsibility, which had been the wish of the Commanding Officer of 121 SAI Bn, Lt Col B. Klaasin, from the beginning of the mission. This wish became a reality and the Battalion

DEPLOYMENT IS NOT ALL ABOUT MAKING MONEY

The success of the mission rest on the shoulders of the members of SANDF. The attitude of going on deployment to make money will lead to the failure of the mission at the end of the day. There are individuals who, when they need to achieve a certain goal, use deployment as the way of achieving that goal; nothing wrong with that, but the needs of the organisation must be accorded priority.

Some individuals struggle to deploy externally for various reasons. Some want to gain deployment experience, while others have other reasons.

OP CORDITE needs members who are committed and dedicated towards achieving the goals of the organisation and not only their personal needs. It is difficult to operate with reduced strength due to withdrawals or misbehaviour with the idea of being repatriated. The contingent may start the tour with a certain number of personnel, but within two or three months members start withdrawing. This has an impact during the Contingent Own Equipment (COE) inspections as it is a disgrace to our country because we do not meet the United Nations’ standards.

I would like to urge our members to understand that we are competing with other countries in the mission areas, so let us raise our flag with pride. “Let us do our best, not try our best”. Lt Collens Bongani Baloyi, Kutum Base: Sudan

PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN SAILORS IN THE DRC

The Maritime Reaction Squadron is currently deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of OP MISTRAL XIV, and is attached to the MAOT/Aviation element in Goma. This group of highly disciplined members arrived in the mission area on 3 December 2009. Upon their arrival in Goma half the group was redeployed to Gemena by the United Nations. Their deployment was over the period 29 December 2009 to 3 February 2010. Life was tough because of a lack of facilities and equipment in that part of the world.

Allow me to express my deepest appreciation to the following members that were deployed with me in Gemena: Leading Seaman T.D. Mkovhola, Able Seaman P. Tshomo, S. Ditinti, M.R.T. Honoko and S.D. Rasetsoke. These sailors contributed a lot during their period of deployment, and they were dedicated and committed. Once they had settled in Gemena, their efforts were not only noticed by me as the Platoon Commander, but by the community of Gemena. These five members contributed money from their own pockets and paid school fees for one of the children in Gemena. It might not sound like a lot, but they made a difference in someone’s life in the DRC. They initiated a plan to raise funds for that young man. Together with F Sgt Kunana from the SA Air Force, they managed to raise an amount equivalent to 40 000 frambos (41 US dollars). I was humbled by their gesture of humanity and social responsibility towards the locals, nor was that the end. Upon our arrival in Goma, AB Tshomo donated a pair of new soccer boots to one of the locals who was working as a casual in the unit. He is really a true ambassador of the SANDF and a proudly South African sailor who is patriotic about his country. To AB Tshomo and friends, your efforts are really appreciated and please keep up the good work. May God bless you. S Lt Thabo Kolobe, Maritime Reaction Squadron Platoon Commander OP MISTRAL XIV.
As the country gears up for the hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, it is business unusual at 14 SAI Bn (Mthatha) as the unit prepares once again for another peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - OP MISTRAL. On 23 April the unit held its combined farewell and medal parade to bid farewell to the remaining members and to congratulate the members who have been serving the SANDF proudly and excellently as an employer of choice throughout the years.

The newly appointed Officer Commanding, Lt Col Viscount Zwelithini Ngcobo, reminded the members on parade to be ready to deploy for the duty that lay ahead and that it was a national duty to keep the flag of the Republic flying high abroad as a leader in the quest for peace. He said that as much as the deploying members would be part of the history of hosting the first soccer world cup on African soil, they would be playing their own beautiful game of soldiering and maintaining peace in Africa, while Bafana Bafana would be conquering the world on the soccer pitch. The Officer Commanding also thanked members for the contributions being made by the Reserve Force company from Buffalo Volunteer Rifles (East London) and members from other units attached to 14 SAI Bn who were disciplined and committed to the mission.

Frederick Herzberg’s theory of motivation depicts clearly that it is quite common for people to complain about poor working conditions because they feel bored and unmotivated. It is also natural and easy to point the finger at visible or external conditions rather than to say they feel unappreciated and not stimulated in their job. People generally will not mind doing their own thing in poor working conditions if they are enjoying themselves, but they will not cope with these conditions if they are bored at work.

This is also the rationale behind the Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR) activities performed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Sport is another area in which members may express themselves, receive public appreciation and feel “part of the team”.

Lt P.P. Tlhabanelo, 121 SAI Bn, deployed in Kutum (Sudan)

Is always more threatening
Than bloodshed
I am the peace king
Hail me at my passage
Or throw me stones
I love flowers
And stones are my friends
But beware
My visits are scarce
And often go unnoticed
As I am clear as the wind
Dark as a starless night
And fluttering as love promises.

Lt M. Msutu, B-Company Commander, receiving the General Service Medal. (Photo: Lt D.M. Mavuso)

The newly appointed Officer Commanding, Lt Col Viscount Zwelithini Ngcobo.

(Photо: Lt D.M. Mavuso)

The Officer Commanding congratulated the recipients of the day who had been honoured with the General Service Medal and the 10 Years Service Medals. A special medal was also issued for participation in OP BATA (2007) during the Public Service Strike. For some former MSDS members this was their first medal and they received it with great joy. 

Lt D.M. Mavuso, 14 SAI Bn

OP MISTRAL VIX IN THE DRC
EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

In the recognition of the broader forces of life, total fitness includes quality of life in all its aspects, i.e. social, mental, physical and psychological.

Let us cite the example of marching drill. The aim of the drill in the SANDF is to develop in each and every individual soldierly pride, alertness and a sense of instinctive obedience that will assist him or her to carry out orders in the battle; it is the foundation of discipline that must be proved again and again. One of the drill movements is "Attention" and its proper execution involves "Stomach in and chest out". Surprisingly, many soldiers cannot execute this basic drill action properly. In other words it is a failure to perform a basic soldiering task and is caused by lack of physical exercise. Then it becomes clear that the aspects of total fitness are interrelated: a high level in one of the areas enhances the other areas and, conversely, a low level in any area restricts the accomplishments possible in other areas.

Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR) is one of the enabling mechanisms to ensure combat-ready and mission-ready forces. Unfortunately, some of the members have negative connotations about physical activities. However, understanding the origins of negative connotation about physical activity is a precondition for getting rid of this negativity. Although this unhappy situation may be gone, people are likely to hold onto the feeling it evoked, either consciously or unconsciously. A precise understanding of this negative feeling about physical activity in general can be traced from the traditions of the past. Our history was broadly characterised by physical abuse in all sectors of society, including families, community institutions, and the workplace. Furthermore people were physically abused as a nation. In recognition of this abuse it became one of the constitutional imperatives that physical activity could not be used as a punishment. The SANDF also adopted the policy to stipulate that under no circumstances may physical activity be used as a punishment.

It is possible for us to learn from mistakes and adjust our plans so that they reflect more accurately the realities of the situation. However, from the objective point of view when one acts according to the correct view of reality, the result will be predictable. The result will always be beneficial, particularly if the cause and effect one has decided on, is correct. However, if the view of reality is distorted or just mistaken, the expected results will not occur, and there will be a different effect. This unintended consequence will remove the beneficial result and leave some unforeseen and probably unwelcome consequence. As a matter of principle the PTSR programmes must be put together as far as possible to take into account the likes, needs and aspirations of members. There will be no contradiction and the constituent elements of the programme will remain intact. However, if we impose the PTSR programme from the point of view of our own subjective wishes as an element of old school thought, then the result will be contradictory because the programme will not be compatible with the needs and aspirations of the members. We end up being overburdened with the crisis management of trying to implement a programme that is irreconcilable with the aspirations of people.

Consequently, more energy will be spent in managing disciplinary challenges to the PTSR programme than putting more effort into enhancing conditions conducive to people developing their potentials independently to the fullest extent. If people can do things independently, it will cultivate conscious discipline rather than inculcate mechanical discipline.

PTSR activities in OP MISTRAL XIV are therefore conducted within the limits of what is currently revealed by practice. What members like and aspire to is manifested in the sporting codes that are currently in place, eg soccer, volleyball, netball, weightlifting, running, table tennis and recreational activities such as choir and indoor games.

I sincerely acknowledge that PTSR forms an integral part of both the physical and psychological conditioning of members. Capt T. Ngwane, PTSR Co-ordinator OP MISTRAL XIV

Capt Thobela Ngwane, RSA National Contingent PTSR Co-ordinator: OP MISTRAL XIV

Corporal Sikenete came third (ladies) during the 10 km fun run recently held in the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Capt Thobela Ngwane, RSA National Contingent PTSR Co-ordinator: OP MISTRAL XIV, awarding a medal to a Malawian soldier for winning the 10 km fun run (men).
The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, honouring fallen gunners.

The commemoration was held at the National Gunners Memorial site in Potchefstroom. During the Memorial Service, fallen gunners who had served in the Artillery during both World Wars, as well as gunners who had fallen in other wars and operations serving South Africa, were remembered and honoured for their sacrifice. During the service gun salvoes fired by 88 mm G1 ceremonial guns and the laying of wreaths by various dignitaries and guests to honour these members took place.

The 2010 Gunners Memorial Service was attended by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Mnyamezeli Booi. Other VIP guests included General (Ret) Constand Viljoen and Warrant Officer Class 1 (Ret) Koos Moorcroft.

During the last year the Gunners Memorial site has undergone a tremendous transformation from the former pale and bleak looking monument to a well-maintained and professional looking monument. Upgrading and renovations to the Gunners Memorial site included the extension of paving for VIP guests, the planting and layout of gardens, the building of a new lectern-type podium and the replanting of sixteen poplar trees to replace the old ones that had died over a number of years. The Gunners Memorial site has developed into a monument that we, the South African Gunners, can be proud of, and that now affords the necessary courtesy and respect to those whose names are inscribed on the walls of the Gunners Memorial.

During his address, the National President of the Gunners Association, Maj Gen (Ret) Philip Pretorius, honoured the fallen gunners that were being remembered at the memorial service. He also gave thanks to the members involved with the renovation and maintenance of the Gunners Memorial site. He specifically mentioned the involvement of the Thlokwe City Council and individuals of the Potchefstroom branch of the Gunners Association who were responsible for the transformation of the Gunners Memorial.

Maj Gen (Ret) Pretorius announced his retirement from the Gunners Association, having served the Association for more than 20 years.

Remembering the sacrifices of those who went before us is essential for us to reach our future successfully and for the Gunners now serving in the Artillery it forms the cornerstone of our commitment to secure a safe tomorrow for the people of our beloved country.

Until next year then, we will live by our motto, UBIQUE, and for those who are no longer with us we can only say: “End of Fire Mission, Well Shot, Stand Down”.
The MOD Budget Vote 2010 is packaged with milestones

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, delivered her budget vote in the Old National Assembly Chambers in Parliament in Cape Town on 4 May.

Her second annual budget vote was one of the important events in the DOD calendar. Minister Sisulu announced an increase in the Defence budget from the current 1.3% budget (R34 billion) to 2% of the current Gross Domestic Product (R17 billion).

The 2010 Defence budget vote proceedings were broadcast live to over 30 000 SANDF members and the defence stakeholders by DSTV. This live transmission was made possible through the sterling work of Defence TV, an internal television service within the Defence Corporate Communication (DCC), as well as Global Access, the channel used for the broadcasting of the proceedings.

Members of the SANDF in their respective units had the opportunity to watch the announcement by Minister Sisulu about the importance of increasing the defence budget in order for the SANDF to fulfil its constitutional obligations to defend the country against any aggression.

"The SANDF is special because members take an oath that commits them to giving their lives in order that you may keep yours, and no country or nation worth its salt should expect any less for members of its defence force.

"We have gone a long way towards establishing a separate dispensation for the SANDF, and the Cabinet has approved the regulatory mechanism to govern and oversee the dispensation, as soldiers are not workers, precisely because the SANDF is so different from all other arms of state in that we take extraordinary measures to enforce discipline. Our relationship with the State is not that of workers and it is not governed by an employment agreement, but by an oath.

"The relationship the State has with its soldiers is unique and based on an exceptional amount of trust and responsibility. It requires the State to
make an enormous investment in each member, including his conditions of service, education and training. We have been working on this and over the past year we have made significant progress in a number of areas. However, we still have serious challenges in the SANDF, most of which are as a result of serious underfunding. If we do not invest in our SANDF, we are doing ourselves an injustice,” the Minister said, to much applause and the delight of the SANDF members and stakeholders back in parliament.

Soldiers were further stunned when Minister Sisulu announced recommendations by the Interim National Defence Force Services Commission (a commission equivalent to the Public Service Commission established in late 2009 specifically to look at, among others, the unique conditions of service of SANDF members and their salary dispensation) that resulted from the tight budget allocated to the DOD. The Department still has a huge backlog in terms of the salary adjustments of the SANDF members.

"The Interim Commission has recommended that the salary adjustments, which were given in December 2009, be backdated to 1 July 2009 - 30 November 2009. I am therefore happy to announce that the soldiers on salary levels 2 to 12 will be given their 5 months back-pay incrementally as of 15 May 2010,” announced the Minister, to the cheers and smiles of SANDF members present in the Chamber.

Minister Sisulu further announced that the Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD), as recommended by the commission, had been attended to. "We have had to find the budget for the salary adjustment for the Military OSD, and again I am happy to announce that those who have not benefited will have their salary adjustments with effect from 1 July 2010. This will be backdated to 1 July 2009. However, the details of the backdated payments will be discussed at a later stage. I would like to thank the commission for the wonderful work they have done to ensure that our dispensation responds to our unique environment."

On the continuous call-up of Reserve Force members, Ms Sisulu promised that “legislation would be put before Parliament which will enable a call-up of those members who would like to be deployed by the Chief of the SANDF during peacetime. At the moment they can only be deployed in time of war or national emergency. We look forward to this as the Reserves are an essential part of our SANDF and, as our responsibilities increase, so does our need to absorb them”.

There was also jubilation from all quarters when the Minister announced the provision of decent pensions to all the Non-Statutory Force Military Veterans, which will be effective as from 15 May 2010. This will also be implemented incrementally and the first adjustment will be done in May 2010. The office of the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, is responsible for the administration of the Military Veterans affairs.
To address the social challenges that are currently tormenting our society, Minister Sisulu also announced the establishment of the voluntary non-conscription National Service for the unemployed youth of South Africa. It is envisaged that after the introduction of the legislation and the appropriate infrastructure is put in place, the service will offer life skills and on-the-job training to alleviate the shortage of artisans and instilling discipline and patriotism will be instilled in the youth of the country. It is hoped that the SANDF will help to provide the necessary expertise in this regard.

More information on National Service will be made available in due course.

* For those units that require DVD copies of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans 2010 Budget Vote broadcast, these will be available on request at Defence TV. They should contact Mr Ronnet Kgaphola on (012) 312 2239.

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Operation LITCHI
10 years down the line

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Sg Elias Mahuma

Rosita Mabuiango (10) and her mother, Ms Sofia Chiure, were the guests of honour at the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans’ budget vote on 4 May 2010 in Parliament, Cape Town, where Minister Lindiwe Sisulu announced that the SANDF had formally adopted Rosita, and would be contributing towards her educational costs and other costs related to her upbringing.

On 1 March 2000 the villagers in the Gaza Province in Mozambique woke up to a flood that endangered not only their village, but other nearby villages as well. Torrential rain had resulted in the river overflowing its banks and inundating the surrounding area.

Owing to a lack of capacity and resources to rescue stranded villagers, Mozambique requested the South African Government to offer humanitarian assistance. The rescue mission, called Operation LITCHI, was undertaken in response to the request.

The decision to send SANDB members to the distressed villages in Gaza Province had a positive impact on the people being evacuated from the deadly floods. When this mission was broadcast and published on international media the world witnessed the bravery, humanity and empathy that the SANDF had for the less fortunate in times of difficulty. An Oryx helicopter of the SA Air Force, one of the four deployed for the Operation LITCHI rescue mission, was seen hovering over a

tree to rescue a newly born baby and a mother.

That tiny little bundle is today a bright 10 year-old, Rosita Mabuiango, whose 33-year-old mother, Ms Sofia Chiure, made headlines after giving birth in a tree during the ranging floods.

During the announcement in her budget vote, Minister Sisulu said that Rosita represented...
something uniquely good about the SANDF, including its humanity, bravery, skilful techniques and the values inculcated in the members of the SANDF.

The family met with the 2000 rescue team members: Lt Col (Ret) Jaco Klopper (Task Force Mission Commander), Capt (Ret) Chris Berlyn (Pilot) and WO2 Tshifiwa Nengovhela (a SAMHS Medic) for the first time on 4 May 2010. The occasion was televised during the annual Defence budget vote. The other members who participated in the rescue mission were Lt (Ret) Dave Talbot (Co-pilot), Sgt (Ret) Neville Jeanes (Flight Engineer) and Sgt (Ret) Stuart Buck (Rescue Personnel) who was not present.

"I am grateful for the SANDF’s help during the floods in our country, Mozambique. It is due to them that we are alive today. Rosita is a clever girl and excels in her schooling and enjoys Portuguese. Her peers regard her as a national symbol and a heroine to have triumphed over the devastating floods in 2000, and it is because of her that the world has come to know about our plight and that the SA Air Force came down to assist," said Ms Chiure who thanked the Government of South Africa for sending the SANDF to her country to rescue its citizens from the floods.

"It is an honour for the SA Air Force to have been associated with the much publicised rescue efforts. We could not have made it possible had it not been for our dedicated and brave members of the whole defence family, who understood fully the risks involved in such rescue missions, for example the thatched roofs that might have been struck by our helicopter blades, which could have cost us millions in damage to our helicopters, but here we are today with a bright, clever little girl to show for it," said a proud Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano.

REUNION: Ms Sofia Chiure and her daughter Rosita Mabuiango (10) with the 2000 rescue team members: Capt Chris Berlyn (Oryx Pilot) and Lt Col Jaco Klopper (Op LITCHI Task Force Mission Commander) reunite after 10 years since their internationally acclaimed rescue mission in Mozambique on 1 March 2000.
The SANDF returns to border control

By Manelisi K. Ndaba, DCC: Specialist writer
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SANDF recently returned to safeguard the country’s borders, and the general public has received the return of the SANDF to borderline control, known as Operation CORONA, positively, particularly the communities closest to these borders. This was evident during the Portfolio Committee on Defence’s visit in which they wanted to examine the conditions under which the SANDF redeployed to South Africa’s borders.

Led by the Chairperson, Mr Mnyamezeli Shedrack Booi, the Portfolio Committee took road trips along the borders at Zimbabwe-Musina (Limpopo), Mozambique-Macadamia (Mpumalanga), and Mozambique-Muzi (KwaZulu-Natal).

During the road trips it became clear that the decision to return responsibility for borderline control to the SANDF was of crucial importance and necessary for national security.

The Portfolio Committee members were confronted by the challenges that lay ahead in the SANDF’s return to borderline control. The facilities around the borders are in a dire state, the fence is currently riddled with holes as a result of forced entry by illegal immigrants. Deployment quarters in some areas need to be renovated, and the limited amount of patrol equipment is another area of concern.

Right: The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, with a member of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, Mr David Maynier, discussing the conditions under which the SANDF is to be redeployed on South Africa’s borders. She is confident that the SANDF is up to the task.

General Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF (front row, middle) and Mr Mnyamezeli Booi, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence (front row, second from the right) with members of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and SANDF members at Waterkloof Air Force Base before their departure for the borders.
for the SANDF as it resumes this duty.

The Portfolio Committee on Defence was joined by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, on the second day. Ms Sisulu reiterated: "This is a major programme. The infrastructure is not the best it can be, the fence is not in a good state, we have over 2 000 km of borders we have to look after and that requires both financial technology and human resources, but we are up to the task and I am confident that many South Africans are happy that their troops are back on the border."

The SANDF is currently finalising an operational plan to ensure that it effectively secures the borders. This plan will be rolled out in phases due to budgetary constraints.

Advance teams reported to the operational bases on 11 May, while the main force for each base deployed on 18 May 2010. The SAPF remained in the bases and started scaling down their activities in the first week of May 2010. The target date for the completion of the SANDF roll-out of Phase 1 was 31 May 2010.

Part of the plan was to introduce technological sensors such as a force-multiplier to monitor even longer distances in a short space of time. Although this is expensive technology, it is necessary for effective protection of the border.

Operation CORONA will also support Operation KGWELE, which is to ensure that South Africa hosts a free and secure 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. In this regard the SANDF will work in close co-operation with all Government departments involved to ensure optimal control of the RSA borders, not only before and during the 2010 World Cup, but also into the future, in execution of the mandate of the Defence Act.

Having seen the challenges faced by the SANDF, the parliamentary committee has committed itself to supporting the SANDF in dealing with its limitations. "As this visit has a direct link to the Defence Minister’s budget speech, it gives us as the Portfolio Committee an insight into the realities that are currently facing the Department of Defence (DOD) in terms of this operation, particularly on the issue of funding, which will be debated during the budget vote," said Mr Booi.

South Africans living near these borders, especially farmers and farm workers, are pleased with the SANDF’s return to the borders. They believe that this will help curb criminal activities committed by illegal immigrants. Mr Sibusiso Nkosi, a local resident in Pongola, on the border between South Africa and Mozambique, said: "We are very pleased to see the military back at the borders as this will help resolve the high level of crime committed by illegal immigrants that we face in this community."

A farmer also indicated that illegal immigrants often used farms as hiding places to steal a variety of things on their way to main roads leading to cities.

The Minister went on to call on the communities along the borders to help in stopping criminal activities on the borders by reporting such cases to the authorities.

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, who accompanied the Minister reiterated that the SANDF will work hard to quell any potential threats to the territorial integrity of South Africa. Furthermore, the SANDF is engaging the defence forces of neighbouring countries to ensure that there is co-ordination in dealing with cross-border offences.

The SANDF remains committed to fulfilling its constitutional obligation to defend the territorial integrity and people of the Republic of South Africa. As the Minister indicated: “We are ready to take on this task.”
South Africa has faith in the SANDF

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, assured South Africans that the return of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to the borderline was in line with the SANDF’s constitutional mandate and that patrol duties would enhance the country’s safety.

He made this reassurance before approximately 400 SANDF soldiers at the send-off parade of the deploying soldiers at the DOD Mobilisation Centre at De Brug near Bloemfontein on 12 April 2010.

Inspecting the parade, Lt Gen Shoke said that South Africa was counting on its soldiers to conduct themselves professionally and to lead by example since they would be representing the country. He reminded the soldiers that their task was to defend the integrity and sovereignty of the country, "South Africa has put her faith and trust in you and expects you to conduct yourselves in a professional manner and to be good ambassadors. It is through the discipline and dedication that you have shown here today that you will overcome all the challenges that you are likely to face in your new environment. The SANDF is sending you out there on its behalf and that of the whole country to carry out the different tasks that you have been assigned to do".

At the press conference that preceded the parade, Lt Gen Shoke said that the SANDF was in the process of deploying companies in different phases to perform border patrol duties in order to defend the public from a wide range of cross-border crimes. The SANDF members who will be deployed on the Operation CORONA mission to patrol the borders are from 1 Parachute Regiment, stationed at Bloemfontein. The other members to be deployed on Operation CORDITE are volunteers from a variety of SANDF units.

Lt Gen Shoke inspected the parade on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, who had initially been scheduled to officiate, but had to withdraw owing to other pressing commitments.
Deputy Minister endorses upgrades at Peace Mission Training Centre

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: Frank Louw Photographic Services

The prevalence of civil strife and political unrest could cause foreign governments to intervene. The SANDF is by far the most prominent when it comes to peace missions in Africa. With the help of Canada and the United Kingdom, a Peace Mission Training Centre (PMTC) was established at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane.

This facility is used to prepare SANDF personnel for operational deployments on United Nations and African Union peacekeeping missions. The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, has welcomed the Centre’s recent donation of four Land Cruisers from the Canadian Government. They are to be utilised during practical driving modules by students attending military observer courses, the staff officers’ course and the logistical staff officer course.

The Centre has made significant progress using international donor support training. The Canadian High Commissioner to South Africa, Ms Adèle Dion, commended the Centre: “I understand that this centre is a little over two years old, but it has already provided invaluable training to many civilian, police and military peacekeeping personnel”.

“It is a leading and dynamic institution with a growing reputation that reaches beyond the borders of South Africa,” she said. She added that these four vehicles would also provide driver training to South African military observers and police officers to be deployed on the United Nations Armed Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and other peacekeeping missions in Africa.

The High Commissioner acknowledged the British Peace Support Team that had also provided assistance and facilitated numerous projects. She also cited the SANDF’s 10th anniversary of peace operations as a symbol of its exemplary contribution. The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans was the highest dignitary officially to accept the donated vehicles at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 9 April 2010. Mr Makwetla said: “The Peace Mission Training Centre here in Thaba Tshwane was established to enhance national capacity. Let me convey the South African Government’s sincere gratitude and appreciation for the contribution of the United Kingdom through the British Peace Support Team, and the contribution of the United States through ACOTA and Canada.”

Deputy Minister said that the facility had been able to accomplish its objectives with limited resources. Therefore the donation by the Canadian Government would add significantly to the facility and improve its training. “The PMTC does not have enough 4x4 vehicles for its programmes. The vehicles you have donated today will serve us well in meeting our training needs.”

He expressed his gratitude to those who gave assistance and donations for further upgrades of the facility and for promoting global peace and security.

The Deputy Minister remarked: “On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, the SANDF and the PMTC, in particular, let me thank the High Commissioner of Canada and those who have been involved for this generous gift.”
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, busy cutting the ribbon to declare the offices of the military veterans officially open at the Denel Campus. She is flanked by her Deputy, Mr Thabang Makwetla (left), and Mr Tsepe Motumi, Director-General of the Department of Military Veterans.
The Director-General of the newly launched Department of Military Veterans, Mr Tsepe Motumi, unveils the logo with the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu.

culmination of long discussions and debates. It had been incumbent upon the Commission to draft policies that best suited the challenges of the military veterans. The solution would then be to attempt to resolve the issues of the past, the present and the future.

Mr Makwetla said these policies should be relevant to the young and in accordance with their background. He mentioned, however, that the resolutions were mainstream as they addressed socio-economic issues as well. The Department will also be made a platform as a career of choice and the Deputy Minister has pledged his support.

The former Acting Secretary for Defence, Mr Tsepe Motumi, was appointed as the Director-General of the new department. After years of struggle to be recognised the Military Veterans can now have a department to deal specifically with their challenges. The President of the SA Military Veterans Association (SAMVA), Mr Kelby Mphatso, emphasised the fact that it was an honour for them to get recognition and to have a platform to express their issues.

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude at the launch of the newly established department. He said that they would continually meet to discuss their organisational growth and empowerment. After their relentless struggle to achieve their goal, they are honoured finally to be recognised for their efforts.

On behalf of the SAMVA he pleaded for peace and co-operation with the new department so that consensus could be reached on matters affecting them. Mr Sandi Sijake of the Veterans League commended the outcome and proclaimed this a long travelled journey. In support of the military veterans, he said history had been made and they were merely adding to it. He was also hopeful that the department would meet expectations and pledged his total support.
Minister improves SANDF service conditions

Members of the Air Force Base (AFB) Makhado will cherish 19 April 2010 as a special day in their careers and the history for their unit, after the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, visited them. The aim of the visit was for the Minister to interact with SANDF members and get first-hand experience of the conditions under which they operate. This was also one of many trips the Minister had scheduled to visit SANDF bases countrywide.

During the ministerial inspection of the AFB Makhado facilities, she was introduced to the basics of operating a Hawk Mk 120 combat fighter jet by means of a simulator training programme presented at the 85 Combat Flying School, one of the flagships of the SA Air Force combat training facilities, which train fighter pilots to make South African airspace among the safest in the world.

Addressing the media after her interaction with the soldiers, Minister Sisulu said that through the Interim Defence Service Commission that was established to improve the service conditions of the SANDF members, her Department was committed to addressing challenges that the soldiers experienced in executing their duties. “In my interaction with our soldiers I have had an opportunity to understand their service conditions and have addressed certain task execution related challenges,” Minister Sisulu said.

She assured the soldiers that the management is doing all it can to urgently address those challenges for them to be able to provide the necessary service to the country as mandated by the constitution.

She further said that her visit to different SANDF units would also help her Department to have an insight into the complexities of running a highly modernised and sophisticated SANDF, especially with the conditions brought about by the economic downturn.

“Talking to our soldiers I also assured them that the Government was committed to addressing their challenges despite the unfavourable global economic conditions and creating an environment in which the SANDF becomes the first career choice to aspirant youth, with attractive salary packages and excellent career pathing to rejuvenate and modernise the National Defence Force.

Contrary to the reports that our soldiers are living under appalling conditions, I found the AFB Makhado facilities one of the best and also encouraged them to look after and maintain those amenities,” she said.

The media team that were present during the ministerial visit were introduced to the preparations of a combat ready pilot, whose task was to secure the country airspace and intercept unidentified aircraft in the country’s airspace.

Last year, during Operation KGWELE, such pilots were employed to safeguard the Confederations Cup stadiums.

According to Brig Gen John Bayne, Director Combat Systems, the SA Air Force was ready to safeguard the country’s airspace during the FIFA Soccer World Cup.
Brig Gen Bayne confirmed that the SA Air Force deployed quite a number of aircraft to help in patrolling our airspace. He stated that the Gripen fighter jet with the capability to provide an airborne radar system will be utilised for both the World Cup and the border patrol duties. According to him the SA Air Force will work closely with the Air Transport Navigation Systems to intercept suspicious aircraft cruising in the red zones (surfaces closer to the World Cup venues). “We have been successful in that because during the Confederations Cup last year we managed to escort a light passenger aircraft that flew in the demarcated zone and we re-routed it to Lanseria Airport. We subsequently handed it over to the South African Police Service, as it was called then,” Brig Gen Bayne said.
South African Security Forces and other Government departments participated in a joint maritime operation, Operation PROSPER, over the period 6 April to 30 April 2010.

The SA Navy frigate, the SAS AMATOLA, arrived in Durban on 15 April 2010. It was on a maritime border patrol of the SA East Coast extending from Cape Agulhas to Kosi Bay.

The Commander of the SAS AMATOLA, Capt (SAN) Micky Girsa, was appointed as the Operational Commander for Operation PROSPER and the operation was directed from the National Joint Operations Centre in Pretoria.

On 17 April 2010 the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure held a media conference on board the SAS AMATOLA to showcase its work to the media, including South Africa’s skill in enforcing its laws in South African waters in preparation for the FIFA Soccer World Cup.

At the media conference Capt (SAN) Girsa stated: “I have been tasked to co-ordinate and ensure an integrated and effective enforcement of state authority, sovereignty and legislation along the RSA coastline”.

He added: “In order to achieve my objectives I have been allocated the following assets:

- Valour Class frigate, SAS AMATOLA.
- River Class minehunter, SAS UMKOMAAS.
- Inshore vessel, the LILIAN NGOYI, from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- An SA Air Force Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- An SA Air Force Lynx helicopter.”

Asked by the Durban Bureau Chief for Beeld newspaper, Mr Dries Liebenberg, what the extent of the search area at sea was, Capt (SAN) Girsa replied: “The task force had been tasked to focus primarily on the waters up to and including 24 nautical miles out to sea, which is the territorial and contiguous zone. The secondary focus was the waters out to 200 nautical miles...
The patrol vessel of the South African Police Force, INKOSAZANA, during the exercise.

which entailed the Exclusive Economic Zones.

Capt (SAN) Girsa added that in order to search and cover such a vast area, the maritime patrol aircraft was used on a daily 4 to 6 hour sortie to search for and report on all vessels of interest (vessels of 500 tons displacement and less).

Once the maritime patrol aircraft has located a vessel of interest, the Maritime Coastal Management personnel on board verify the details of the vessel encountered. They advise on whether the vessel should or should not be intercepted. The SAS AMATOLA engages all vessels that are far out to sea, while the LILIAN NGOYI and SAS UMKOMAAS confront inshore vessels. The Lynx helicopter on board is then used to find the vessel.

Brigadier (SA Police Force) David Garnett, National Joint Operations Command Pretoria, said: “We are confident of controlling any threats. We do not plan in isolation. Up to 17 departments came together to formalise a plan of execution. Over 40 000 policemen will be deployed during the FIFA Soccer World Cup.”

Brigadier Garnett also commented on the boarding of vessels. “We are capable and efficient in attending to any threat at sea. Our task force is highly trained and has conducted itself well in situations where the boarding of vessels was opposed”.

After the media briefing, a simulated maritime capability display took place in the port of Durban. The display included a casevac by the Super Lynx from SAS TEKWANE with the Maritime Reaction Squadron. Then SAS AMATOLA was opened to visitors. She sailed on 19 April 2010 for Port Elizabeth. (Operation PROSPER ended in Simon’s Town on 30 April 2010.)

Chinese visit to Logistic Division

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of the Logistic Division, Maj Gen Justice Nkonyane, hosted Maj Gen Zhao Zhanping, Chief of Military Traffic and Transport Department of the People Liberation Army and his delegation from China on 19 April 2010. This was intended to boost the already good relations between the two countries, especially in the field of logistics.

It was also aimed at improving communication and co-operation between the Department of Defence (DOD), the Logistic Division and the People Liberation Army in respect of military traffic policies. Issues that were discussed included the DOD road transport service, strategy and policies, the DOD vehicle structure and composition, and command and control with regard to transport services within the DOD, and implementation, research and development of universal product systems within the Logistic Division.

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Brigadier (SA Police Force) David Garnett, National Joint Operations Command Pretoria, said: “We are confident of controlling any threats. We do not plan in isolation. Up to 17 departments came together to formalise a plan of execution. Over 40 000 policemen will be deployed during the FIFA Soccer World Cup.”

Brigadier Garnett also commented on the boarding of vessels. “We are capable and efficient in attending to any threat at sea. Our task force is highly trained and has conducted itself well in situations where the boarding of vessels was opposed”.

After the media briefing, a simulated maritime capability display took place in the port of Durban. The display included a casevac by the Super Lynx from SAS TEKWANE with the Maritime Reaction Squadron. Then SAS AMATOLA was opened to visitors. She sailed on 19 April 2010 for Port Elizabeth. (Operation PROSPER ended in Simon’s Town on 30 April 2010.)
SA Air Force participated in Operation KGWELE

Information supplied by Brig Gen Les Lombard, Officer Commanding Air Force Command Post
Photo: WO2 David Nomtshongwana

The SA Air Force has been tasked by Chief Joint Operations with the execution of the safety and security aspects during the 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. These aspects can broadly speaking be divided into two distinctive categories, namely to ensure the air space security of the venues during the event and secondly to provide air support to surface operations be it land or sea during the event. The participation in these two areas will be briefly elaborated on.

Air space security

The core business of the SA Air Force is the provision of an air defence capability for the nation. This makes it the only force able to ensure air space security during the event. The scale of the operation and the complex nature of the air space and high traffic volumes expected makes this intricate operation totally dependant on excellent co-operation between the SA Air Force, Air Traffic Navigational Services Company, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and the aviation community.

During the event a range of air defence capabilities will be deployed. Air Defence Identification Zones and venue restricted airspace areas have been proclaimed via SACAA that will enable the SA Air Force to manage their air space security with the available air and radar assets and visual observation posts supplied by the SA Army and the SA Navy.

Aircraft entering, or flying within the areas will be required to have aircrews screened by the ICC as well as request flight authority form the Air Force before filling flight plans for their flight. The Air Force will then monitor compliance to the flight plan and clearances provided and act with intercept aircraft against any transgressors. Transgressors will be guided to land at airfields where they will be further managed by a reception force.

Every event at every city will be covered during the entire period of the FIFA World Cup 2010. Exercises (Exercise SHIELD) have been held at every host city during the past two years, which has allowed the final plan to be developed with some confidence of success.

Air support

This area covers all the relevant air assets to transport forces that require to be rapidly moved in support of the surface safety and security.

Helicopters can also be used for evacuation and rescue operations during disaster management. The various transport aircraft will be extensively used to transport personnel and equipment during the event. Certain Air Force Bases will be used as diversionary airports as well as to handle overflows of civilian aircraft for the purposes of parking and in some cases even movement of passengers.
SA Navy is good and ready for the FIFA World Cup

By Kgabo Mashamaite

Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

If one would dare ask me about the SA Navy’s state of readiness for border security for the upcoming FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament in June, my answer would be very simple: the SA Navy is good and ready for the FIFA World Cup and can ensure the safety of our long coastal borders,” said the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, after witnessing yet another well presented SA Navy maritime capability demonstration on board the SAS MENDI at Naval Base Simon’s Town on 15 April 2010.

The purpose of the maritime capability demonstration was to demonstrate to the people of South Africa and the world at large, the combat-readiness of the SA Navy’s maritime components in support of the South African Police Force and the implementation of the national security and safety plan for the 2010 Soccer World Cup Tournament.

A prompt response by the Maritime Reaction Squadron (MRS) to rescue a hijacked vessel from pirates treated spectators to high quality simulated attack on a vessel. The highlight of the demonstration was a high speed chase of the SAS SPIOENKOP by small boats, while other MRS members were fast-roped from an Oryx helicopter onto the deck of the hijacked ship.

After boarding the vessel, the MRS team proceeded to the bridge (the command post of the vessel), where they overpowered and captured the pirates and regained control of the vessel. The captured pirates were then handed over to the police.

At the press conference after the demonstration Minister Sisulu, who was beaming with pride, said that the SA Navy had clearly understood that the obligation of providing maritime safety was a huge responsibility.

“The onus is on us as the National Defence Force to showcase our state of readiness to provide security and stability to our country and our guests who will be visiting our shores during the FIFA World Cup. After today’s activities I can comfortably say beyond reasonable doubt that the SA Navy is capable of protecting our coastal lines from any underwater or sea threat. The South African public and the visitors can comfortably pin their security hopes on the SA Navy as we have just witnessed today. Our coastline will be safe,” Ms Sisulu said.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) and FIFA had given the SA Navy the mammoth task of drafting a protection plan to safeguard 3 coastal stadiums, namely the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Port Elizabeth and the Green Point Stadium in Cape Town from any terror threat during the FIFA World Cup in June and July 2010. Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Rusty Higgs, added that the responsibility was to ensure the security of our coastline.

“With the capabilities and the resources you have just witnessed the SA Navy has been afforded the huge task of securing our territorial waters that stretch about 12 nautical miles (naut mi), the contiguous zone stretching (24 naut mi) and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which stretches 200 naut mi underwater. The EEZ is region where you are likely to find our indigenous fishes and precious resources normally found only on the seabed. This is where, together with other law enforcement agencies, we are fighting against illegal fishing and the removal of abalone and other endangered aquatic species. We will also be responsible for providing underwater security as well as search and rescue activities, which as you already know, is our normal day-to-day business and we can prove to the whole world that we are capable of providing it,” R Adm Higgs said.

According to Capt (SAN) Theo Stokes, Officer Commanding SAS PROTEA, the SA Navy did not have to think twice about accepting the territorial water security tasks because it has highly disciplined and capable personnel to satisfy any maritime request at any given time.

Capt (SAN) Stokes, who has been commanding the hydrographic survey vessel for almost two years now, said: “The SA Navy prides itself on the high level of discipline of its members, and their fitness level is top class. Our members know that for the country to be accorded full respect by the international community it must be able to rely on its National Defence Force members who are motivated to defend their country with courage. That is why we can say that in the approximately 57 days to the Soccer World Cup we will be ready to provide security to the almost 450 000 football lovers who will be coming here for the first time, and they will leave our shores as good ambassadors of our country and as our friends, because we would have kept them safe for their month-long visit to our shores. Every SA Navy member is a sea and ship lover.”
SAAF officer trains UK pilots

By Amn Tebogo Kekana, Ad Astra
Photo courtesy Capt W.J. Engelbrecht

The SA Air Force’s Namibian-born Capt Willem Jacobus Engelbrecht oozes confidence. He has qualified as a fighter pilot, something he has always yearned to be.

At the age of 28 the shy, bilingual officer is on a United Kingdom exchange programme with the Royal Air Force (RAF) as a qualified Flying Instructor. He trains students on the Tucano T1 aircraft.

Capt Engelbrecht said: “I am here to represent not only the SA Air Force (SAAF); I am also an ambassador for my country. This opportunity gives me the chance to show commitment through action and that action will definitely bring my dream closer.”

He is also completing an Instructional Technique Course with the RAF. The course modules seek to ensure compatibility between the SAAF and the RAF in procedures and techniques of instruction. He said that he hated rushing things in life because he did not want to risk stepping on his dreams. Ad Astra interviewed him:

At what stage of your life did you...
decide to pursue a career in the SAAF?

"I grew up in a military family, and a career as an Air Force Pilot was my greatest desire from when I could walk."

When you are not flying, what are your other interests?

"I love paintball and camping. I read a lot about military history, and I cycle."

If you could have your career all over again, would you have made the same decision to choose the SAAF as employer of choice? If anything, what would you have changed, if you could?

"The SAAF has its shortcomings, but exposure to another air force has made me realise that every organisation has faults. Knowing what I know now, I would choose the SAAF again."

You are currently completing as a qualified pilot instructor in the RAF. How did this come about, and what was required of you academically?

"I had to meet all the academic requirements of the SAAF to become a pilot, but in order to qualify for this tour I also had to be a qualified B-Category instructor and have flown a similar type to the Tucano."

You are currently completing an Instructional Technique Course. In your opinion, what are the main challenges you face in your studies? Elaborate on the differences between what we are used to in the SAAF and the RAF?

"The RAF places more emphasis on meteorology and instrumentation theory than the SAAF, as their weather is a lot more complex than sunny RSA! Flying procedures are also vastly different with regard to radio terminology and control of airspace. One of the hardest things to get used to is the congested airspace. In the middle of winter I found there was, within me, an invincible South African summer."

During your career have you had any remarkable achievements? Elaborate on those you wish to highlight.

"I have had some fairly unique opportunities in the SAAF, having been part of the last team to participate in the President's Air Race with the C-185, and having had the opportunity to represent my country and my Air Force in the RAF. Recently I also had the opportunity to fly with the Red Arrows, which was definitely a highlight in my career."

What do you consider will be more important: quantity, quality or to have state-of-the-art technologies?

"Quality will always triumph over quantity, but only if you know how to use it!"

Which types and variants of military aircraft did you fly in your SAAF/RAF career?

"I have flown the PC-7 Mk II Astra and the Cessna C-185 in the SAAF, and I am currently flying the Shorts Tucano T1, which is similar to the Astra in many ways."

Captain, any "close shaves" with nature you have had during your flying career? What was the lesson learnt from this experience?

"In three words I can sum up everything I have learnt about life: it goes on."

What, in your opinion, are characteristics that a military pilot should have?

"Foremost is the desire, or passion if you prefer, backed up by sound knowledge and the ability to assimilate new knowledge quickly. The ability to think on your feet and confidence tempered with self-discipline are attributes I consider necessary in a military pilot."

After such an illustrious career of service in the DOD, what would your message be for young aspiring SAAF members?

"Hold fast to your dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly. Work hard, take nothing for granted."

What do you intend doing next year, any future plans?

"While I am in the UK I would like to see as much as possible of Europe, but when I get home I would like to further my career in the SAAF in the Combat Line."

Flying expertise

He was a pupil pilot at various SA Air Force training institutions from 2002 to 2005.

He qualified as an SA Air Force pilot on Pilatus PC-7 Mk II aircraft at the Central Flying School at Air Force Base Langebaanweg in March 2005. He completed an instructional tour (January 2008 to September 2009) at Central Flying School and served as Ab Initio Instructor, Disciplinary Officer, Second-in-Command Bravo Flight, and Delta Flight Instructor (Student Instructors). He was selected as Ground Liaison Officer for the Silver Falcons aerobatic team.

Capt Engelbrecht’s flying experience includes:
- Pilatus PC-7 Mk II hours: 820 (turbo, aerobatic trainer)
- Cessna 185 A & E hours: 290 (piston, reconnaissance)
- Instructional hours: 380
- Pilot-in-Command hours: 650
- Total military flying hours: 1110
- Night/Instrument/Aerobatic/Formation/Low Level Rated (SAAF)
The scarcity of skills in South Africa is acutely felt in the aviation and defence sector in the same way as it is felt other sectors.

While many industries embark on employee training to rectify the situation, Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) has for some time now focused attention on the young. Its youth development programme (YDP) aims to entice learners from an early age to consider careers in aerospace and defence.

By showcasing the exciting world of flight, engineering, technology and science at the forthcoming AAD 2010 in Cape Town the YDP hopes to give young learners a "hands-on" experience at the exhibition and airshow.

Exhibiting companies have come to the party through generous sponsorships of the YDP’s initiatives. With these funds in hand the YDP is able to go beyond creating awareness. The YDP has identified certain schools where it actively assists in programmes to improve learners’ marks in subjects essential for tertiary studies in engineering, such as mathematics and science. At the same time the YDP is calling upon South African industry to participate in its "Adopt a School" or "Adopt a Graduate" project. This initiative essentially extends the YDP’s own activities towards improved academic performance, narrowing the skills gap and employment. Ultimately the sponsoring company would benefit from school leavers who are better equipped for the workplace, particularly in the technical and engineering fields.

The AAD YDP is part of the AAD, a partnership of the DOD, Armscor, AMD and CAASA. As the leading partner for the 2010 event, Armscor is chairing the YDP committee.

Importantly, the South African government considers AAD a national asset which it actively supports through other national departments, including Trade and Industry, Transport, Public Enterprises, as well as Science and Technology.

For this reason the YDP finds itself aligned with the Government’s socio-economic development objectives. These are focused on getting young people suitably qualified to play a bigger role in the economy and industry. The YDP’s initiatives thus assist the youth to obtain technical and engineering qualifications.

In the medium and long term these learners should begin to fill positions in South Africa’s aviation and defence industries, which would reduce the skills gap and make our country more competitive on the global stage.

Slogan: “Mobilise the youth today to sustain the aerospace and defence capability tomorrow.”
Young men and women displayed allegiance

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

A passing-out parade for young men and women who displayed allegiance to the SANDF was held at the School of Engineers in Kroonstad on 14 May 2010. The passing-out parade symbolised the rejuvenation of the SANDF with young and disciplined soldiers.

The graduation of these young soldiers affirms the DOD’s commitment to service delivery and skills development. Not only did the Department proved to be an effective State asset in crisis and conflict prevention, but also in youth development and other Government initiatives to improve the socio-economic conditions of our youth. A passing-out parade is more than just a graduation; it is a moment of pride for the families, parents and friends because a young person has chosen to serve instead of responding to the need for self-fulfilment. This particular type of young person is usually passionate, dedicated, very bright and eager - exactly what the Engineer Corps’ members (affectionately known as Sappers) are searching for.

In the SANDF and for those who have graduated, Basic Military Training is meant to introduce the learner to the military environment and to produce a soldier with basic military etiquette who would go on to undergo further corps functional training. The focus of this programme has been the establishment of the required soldier/warrior ethos through rigorous repetitive training in critical military skills and competencies, enhanced by training in several subjects to develop these critical skills.

Basic Military Training is meant to produce professional soldiers ready to undergo the next step in military training -corps functional training. These are soldiers that have been trained in general military skills, drill, musketry training, field craft, map reading and navigation, buddy aid, physical training and regimental aspects.

Recipients of awards with their proud parents after the passing-out parade held at the School of Engineers.
events

Defence Inspectorate members celebrate Freedom Day

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

M embers of the Defence Inspectorate Division, including Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, the DOD Inspector General, visited historical monuments in Soweto on 22 April 2010.

According to Lt Col Sonto Mbatha, the trip organiser, the bonding session between the staff members was planned in line with Freedom Day.

Lt Col Mbatha explained: “We thought it necessary that in order to deliver an effective service to the Department, our staff members should get to know one another and it was relevant that we arrange a trip to Soweto for us to get together and at the same time celebrate Freedom Day in the township by visiting historic monuments within the area.”

The expedition also helped Ms Maletsatsi Kgetsi, an auditor in the Regulatory Audit Section, to have a fuller understanding of the circumstances that led to the establishment of the Human Rights Charter located at Walter Sisulu Freedom Square, one of the stopovers.

Ms Kgetsi said that the Square was close to her heart because that was where the Freedom Charter was adopted to enable all the people of South Africa to have their human rights protected.

Other places visited included, among others, the Aaron Motsoaledi Informal Settlement, the Hector Pieterson Memorial and the UBUNTU Kraal.
Or the Defence Attaché at the SA Embassy in Germany celebrating Freedom Day (our National Day) was an opportunity once again to celebrate and honour the close relations and the heartfelt friendship between the Defence Attaché Office Berlin and the Bundeswehr. Similarly, close are the relations with the Berlin Police. They played a crucial part in the World Cup hosted by Germany in 2006 and have since then shared their experiences with the Defence Attaché and South African Embassy officials on many occasions. High-ranking members of the Berlin Police also accepted the invitation and used this occasion to celebrate the year of the World Cup hosted on South African soil and the members in uniform were clearly visible, enjoying themselves among the guests.

Although the focus of the evening was obviously on the celebration of South Africa’s unique heritage and cultural diversity, the World Cup was an ongoing theme throughout the night. The vuvuzelas, which had been placed on every table, were certainly one highlight for the guests and they all enjoyed sounding them for the first time in their lives; many guests also used the opportunity to take a picture with Zakumi, the mascot of the 2010 World Cup. The images shown on the screens throughout the evening portrayed not only South Africa’s amaz-
Infantry School hosts yet another successful boxing tournament

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Thabo Shirinda

A multitude of boxing fans descended on the Infantry School in Oudtshoorn for the one-day Western Cape Provincial Boxing Tournament on 22 May 2010.

The objective of the tournament was to showcase amateur boxing talent in the Western Cape and award Provincial Colours to deserving athletes. SANDF soldiers from Infantry School constituted the South Western Districts (SWD) Team, which competed against boxers from other regions of the Western Cape. The SWD Team was composed entirely of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) boxers belonging to the January 2010 intake. Most of them got involved in this game from quite a young age. They were recruited as part of the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC)/SANDF/South African National Amateur Boxing Organisation (SANABO) pilot project aimed at nurturing talent to represent the country at the next Olympic Games in London in 2012 and beyond.

History was proved that boxing, like other combat sports, eg karate and tae kwon do contribute immensely to producing soldiers with tenacity, mental and physical endurance and discipline, i.e. soldiers who can withstand the rigours characteristic of the profession. Many of these boxers will go on to serve as role models for the youth of our country and they will set goals for South African youth who want to realise their dreams.

The match groupings were determined as follows: 46 kg straw weight, 48 kg light flyweight, 51 kg flyweight, 54 kg bantam weight, 57 kg featherweight, 60 kg lightweight, 64 kg light welterweight, 75 kg middleweight, 81 kg light heavyweight, 91 kg heavyweight and 91+ kg super heavyweight.

Boxing fans were treated to good sportsmanship during the three final bouts that featured Samkelo Mchunu (Infantry School) and Masana Manganyi (Infantry School) of the light heavyweight division, Themba Bengu (Infantry School) against Michael Kern (Infantry School) of the light heavyweight division and Collin Zondo (Infantry School) against Rowan Julies (Western Cape) of the super heavyweight division.

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, was the guest of honour at the Western Cape Boxing Tournament.

Marketing Director of the SA Army Foundation, Mr Angel Ramphele (right), hands over a cheque of R10 000 to the President of the SA African National Amateur Boxing Organisation: Western Cape, Mr Morris Dakada, towards the development of boxing in the SANDF.

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Sports stars awarded for their achievements

By Mandla Mahlangu
Photos: Lt Sello Segone

Selected sportsmen and women were acknowledged for their excellence and the improvement in their particular sporting codes during the SANDF Sport Merit Awards function held at Pretoria Military Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane on 16 April 2010.

Top officials of the SANDF, Chairpersons of Military Sports Councils, SANDF Sports Patrons, Chairpersons and three members per sporting code were there to receive tokens of appreciation at the function.

The Chief Functionary, Maj Gen Molefi Mokoena, Chief Director Human Resources Development, congratulated the winners. Maj Gen Mokoena said: “You have proven yourself over the past year. The hard work, dedication and the will to win that you portrayed over the past year are exactly the characteristics that are needed to boost the SANDF and keep it from not veering off course.” He said he felt proud that his generation was dominant at the function. “Where are the young folks?”

The Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, said: “I just went back to see what we had been doing. All members of the SANDF are fit and physically ready for any combat. Our members have participated in regional and national events and on the international stage.”

Brig Gen Sedibe explained: “We managed to tap into the recruiting system of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) to bring on strength 107 boxers and 20 of whom have been honoured with national and provincial medals. This achievement was possible on account of the healthy relationship between the DOD, the South African Sport Confederation and Olympic Committee and the South African National Amateur Boxing Organisation (Project ‘2012 The Road to London’).”

He added that some of the planned international activities, such as the 2nd Africa Military Games, had been postponed to this year by the Organisation of Military Sport in Africa. Brig Gen Sedibe said: “I can proudly say we are combat-ready and prepared to participate maximally as the SANDF.”

Brig Gen Sedibe outlined that they are now busy with a programme known as ‘2012 The Road to London’ aimed at the Olympic Games. He concluded: “I would like to say friendship through sport.”

The Directorate Physical Training, Sports and Recreation (DPTSR) hosted the awards with the theme “Woza Football World Cup”.

Award categories
SPORTING CODE OF THE YEAR:
Swimming
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR:
Maj J.J. Wahl
BEST ACHIEVER PER SPORTING CODE:
Tennis
Best Achiever Runner-up:
Cpl A. Opperman
BEST ADMINISTRATOR PER SPORTING CODE:
Military Pentathlon
Best Administrator Runner-up:
Lt Col J. Zietsman

Maj Gen Molefi Mokoena, Chief Director Human Resources Development, hands over the award as Administrator of the Year to Maj Jan Wahl during the SANDF Sport Merit Awards function.

A football player displays his ball juggling skills to those present at the SANDF Sport Merit Awards function.
The SANDF Rugby Association (SANDFRA) Rugby Week was held at the Rugby Stadium at Tempe Military Base in Bloemfontein from 12 to 16 April 2010.

Sixteen teams representing the nine rugby regions participated in two leagues in this year’s event, namely a Senior and President’s League. Western Province (WP), Boland (BOL), South Eastern Cape (SEC), Free State (FS), Northern Cape (NC), North West (NW) and Gauteng (GT) competed in the Senior League, while WP, KZN, FS, NC and GT competed in the President’s League.

The fairer sex also took part in this year’s event with a team each from WP, FS, NC and GT.

The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) has participated in previous Rugby Weeks since 2005, but unfortunately they could not participate in this year’s event.

The official opening ceremony of the Rugby Week took place at 09:00 on Monday 12 April 2010. Mr Peter de Villiers, the Springbok coach, was the main functionary at this event.

In a short address Mr De Villiers said that it would be a sad day if success were to be defined by the number of trophies won. He stressed the fact that character builds success and that every achievement on the rugby field relates to one’s character.

Mr De Villiers also handed SANDFRA tokens of appreciation and friendship to Col (Ret) Cassie Schoeman and Capt Hannes de Jager. Col Schoeman was the Chairperson of Defence Rugby in the Free State during the nineties and retired after suffering a stroke. He also served on the SANDFRA Executive Committee. Capt De Jager was the team captain of the Free State Rugby team in 1997, but broke his neck during a match, which left him paralysed.

During the annual Rugby Week matches were played every second day, while coaching clinics were presented on the remaining two days in close co-operation with the FS Rugby Union. On 13 April 2010 WP and FS respectively presented coaching clinics for approximately 550 learners of the Rocklands and Batho Townships. The NC, KZN and SEC coached almost 200 learners of the Heidedal Township on 15 April 2010.

The Wednesday night of the Rugby Week is traditionally reserved for a Sponsors and Colours function. The purpose of this function is to convey SANDFRA’s gratitude and appreciation to donors and sponsors on the one hand and to present SANDFRA colours and honorary colours to qualifying players and officials.

In addition to the presentation of colours and honorary colours, certificates were also presented by the President of SANDFRA, Col (Rev) P.J. Oberholzer, to members of the local organising committee and support staff, the referees, selectors, medical support staff, ballboys, as well as the SANDFRA Executive and Head Committees in recognition of the
hard work done with regard to the presentation of Rugby Week 2010. Amidst all the matches and coaching clinics a ruby coaching course was presented for team officials under the auspices of the FS Rugby Union. In a similar vein a coaching course was also presented.

**The overall winners of Rugby Week 2010**

FS took the honours in the Senior League, WP in the President’s League and FS again in the Women’s League. The official SANDF Senior and President’s teams were also announced.

No formal matches were played in the women’s league. Only trials took place in order select an SANDF women’s team.

Mr Harold Verster, Chairperson of the FS Rugby Union, was the main functionary at this event. He congratulated all the winners and receivers of trophies and extended an invitation to the SANDBF teams to play against FS teams.

The Rugby Week is only the beginning of SANDFRA’s planned events for the 2010 rugby season, which will include, inter alia, participation in a

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**Infantry School hosts yet another successful boxing tournament**

From page 36

division. The three bouts produced a top class performance.

In his speech before the start of the games, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, who was the guest of honour, urged the competitors to give their best in the ring. “I trust that this is the moment you have been waiting for and that this moment has arrived. Boxing is a sport and not a battle and all athletes should shake hands and enjoy themselves in the ring.”

According to Ms Patience Shikwambana from SASCOC, the controlling body for all the high performance sports in the country, the organisation was immensely proud to have SANDF boxing as a pilot project to assist in training and preparing our boxers for the 2012 London Olympics.

“IT is through the cordial engagements between our President, Mr Gideon Sam, with the SANDF Directorate of Physical Training, Sports and Recreation that has forged co-operation in the development of sport in South Africa, and we come here to look for talent to represent the country at the next Olympic Games in London. We as SASCOC are grateful for the opportunity the SANDF has given us by opening its doors for us to scout for boxing talent,” said Ms Shikwambana.

Handing over a donation to the President of SANABO: Western Cape, Mr Morris Dakada, towards the development of boxing in the SANDF the Marketing Director of the SA Army Foundation, Mr Angel Ramphele, said that the Foundation was proud to have been approached to assist in developing boxing within the SANDF. He added that the Foundation would continue to persuade other organisations to also lend a hand in the build-up to the Olympic Games.

The Executive Mayor of the Greater Oudtshoorn Municipality, Ms Dianne de Jager, thanked the SANDF for affording the Infantry School an opportunity to host the tournament.

Dignitaries present at the contest included the Western Cape Director of Sports and Recreation, Mr Thami Tutu, the President of SANABO: Western Cape, Mr Morris Dakada, the SANDF Director Physical Training, Sports and Recreation, Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, and the SANDF Boxing Patron, Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo.

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Provincial Women’s Tournament in August 2010, and in a 7-a-side National Tournament in November 2010.

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Northern Cape taking the gap in their match against Western Province on 16 April 2010.

Boxers compete during the Western Cape Boxing Tournament.
The announcement of the SANDF Angling Team

By Mandla Mahlangu

After three days of SANDF angling trials, which started on 20 April 2010 at Rietveld Dam near Ventersdorp the SANDF announced its National Freshwater Bank Angling Team during the prize-giving ceremony held at the Officers’ Mess at 4 Artillery School on 22 April 2010.

Altogether 46 anglers from different units and provinces participated in the SANDF angling trials. (The head official of the South African Freshwater Bank Angling Federation, Mr Pieter Hoffman, said they were supposed to have had 60 anglers, but some decided to withdraw.) The anglers were divided into three different zones and had to rotate the zones for each day. Each angler had to catch as much fish as possible weighing over 150 grams to accumulate maximum points within a period of 8 hours.

Anglers who caught a fish weighing 150 g got 10 points, while a person who caught a fish that weighed 1 kg received 10 points for the weight and 10 points for the fish.

The SANDF Angling Team consisting of 15 members were selected on merit pending the outcome of the trials on a point system per zone placement. A further three members were selected as Team Captain, Team Manager and Team Custodian.

The constitution of the South African Freshwater Bank Angling Federation (SAFBAF) facilitated the participation of affiliated South African anglers in bank angling, match angling and carp angling for affiliated members to qualify for SA National Protea and SAFBAF Colours.

The SANDF Angling Team will participate in the South African Security Cluster Angling Competition against the Police and the Department of Correctional Services. The team will also participate in the annual tournament that takes place between four SA national teams, namely two SAFBAF teams, the SA Police Service Angling Team and the SANDF Angling Team. This year’s event will be held either at Bloemhof Dam or Vaal Dam from 6 to 10 September 2010.

Selected SANDF Angling Team (Freshwater Bank)

Lt Col J.J. Jonker (Team Captain)
Lt Col C.J. Moorhouse (Team Manager)
Lt Col E. van Gent (Team Custodian)
Lt Col M.M. de Beer
Capt G. Boshoff
Capt C. Schoeman
SWO J.L.P. Coetzee
WO1 W.J. Wessels
WO1 J.J. Zietsman
WO2 I.J. Jacobs
WO2 C.A.J. van Aswegen
S Sgt J.C. Fouche
F Sgt H.G. Jansen van Vuuren
S Sgt M. Nel
F Sgt S.F. Rusch
S Sgt F.J.H. Spyer
Sgt P.S. Jansen van Vuuren
Sgt J.P. Naude

Participants in the SANDF Angling Trials smile while waiting for their catches.
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Celebrating 70 years of jukskei

By Maj Lizette Lombard, Marketing and Sponsorship Representative for Jukskei SA
Photo: John Keogh, FotoFirst

Jukskei players from all over South Africa descended on Kroonstad in the Free State for the 70th SA Senior Jukskei Championships on 2 April 2010. Eighteen SANDF members took part in this year’s Senior Championships. Although the doubles games were held on 3 April, the official opening of the championships took place during the gala event in the evening, in honour of the 70th anniversary of jukskei in South Africa.

Jukskei South Africa showed that they were on a par with big name sports when it came to holding gala events. After the welcoming by Ms Melanie Jacobs, Vice-President of Jukskei South Africa, Mr Gerrie Jacobs, the President of the International Jukskei Federations, mentioned that a staggering 660 people had registered for this year’s championship. Flags of the 19 jukskei unions in South Africa were taken onto the stage and ceremoniously planted by the various union presidents.

The Namibian National Flag was taken onto the stage by Mr Christie Horn, President of the Namibian Jukskei Board. Then Ms Melanie had the honour of introducing Ms Mantebu Mokgosi, Executive Mayor of the Moqhaka Local Municipality. In her address, Ms Mokgosi praised Jukskei South Africa for the positive influence the sport of jukskei has had every year on the town of Kroonstad.

The national teams and officials were also officially presented on stage, where Mr James Letuka, Executive Member of the South African Sport Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASOC) and an executive member of the Tennis Council of South Africa, stood proudly to meet these members personally and share words of inspiration, whereafter Mr Letuka officially declared the 70th SA Senior Jukskei Championships open.

It was a week of long hours of standing in the sun, and strong competition, but every game was well worth it. The SANDF as a whole, and the respective division/formation/unit commanders, can be proud of their jukskei players and officials whose dedication and sportsmanship during the week was so evident and for making it to national level.

The SA Navy making dreams come true

Article and photo by Sea Nompilo Dimba, MSDS member at Naval Base Simon’s Town

The mission statement of Reach for a Dream Foundation is: “We believe in the power of dreams; we encourage children to use their dreams to fight life-threatening illnesses and we seek as far as possible to make these dreams come true.”

Leonique (Lolla) van der Walt and her brother Istwahn recently visited the SA Navy as part of the Reach for a Dream campaign. These siblings from Nelspruit (Mpumalanga) had always desired to visit the SA Navy and its ships. The team began their tour around Cape Town and passed all the beautiful landmarks of the Mother City.

They made their way to Simon’s Town where the Navy Fleet was situated. On arrival, the team proceeded to SAS SPIOENKOP, one of the SA Navy’s frigates, where S Lt M.M. Mekhoe welcomed them and took the children on a tour of the vessel.

The team then went on to one of the SA Navy’s submarines where they were hosted by Lt J.M.R. Delport who gave the children an exhilarating tour of the boat and showed them how to use some of the equipment on board the submarine. This really put a big smile on their faces.

By the end of the day, Reach for a Dream was able to fulfil Lolla and Istwahn’s dreams. All this was made possible by WO1 N. Arendse, Alison (Reach for a Dream Co-ordinator) and Ms Van Der Walt (the children’s mother).

The day ended with supper and lots of memories - that’s what dreams are made of!
Shooting for gold

By Maj B. Korff, Second in Command Regiment President Steyn
Photo: Lt Col Deon Erasmus

The annual Chief of the SA Army Combat Rifle Shooting Competition was held at the General De Wet Classification Shooting Range at De Brug near Bloemfontein from 1 to 6 March 2010. The main focus of the shooting event was to promote assault rifle shooting as part of the SA Army’s training programme. (The programme started on 1 March with a seminar and a presentation of training aids by Infantry School.)

Altogether 28 eight-man Regular Force Unit teams entered the competition. The international competitors comprised two eight-man teams from Botswana and Zimbabwe.

On 3 March the competition started with competitors firing the standard Table 2. Individuals and teams competed all day. The following morning the same teams and individuals fired the new Adapted Table 2. (The Best Regular Force Team was the School of Armour.)

On 4 March altogether 22 eight-man Reserve Force teams and 23 four-man Unit development teams competed. At the end the winner of the prestigious Whitehorse Trophy was Regiment President Steyn with a score of 1 790. (Winning the Whitehorse Trophy meant that Regiment President Steyn was the best shooting team in the SA Army, which included Regular and Reserve Force teams.)

All Reserve Force teams later took part in the prestigious Gold Cup Trophy (Best Reserve Force Team) and the Rembrandt Trophy (Best Development Team).

The winners of the Gold Cup were the Natal Carbineers with a score of 1 740.

The winner of the Rembrandt Trophy was Regiment De la Rey with a score of 716.

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief Defence Reserves, presented the trophies and medals to the deserving teams and individuals at the prize-giving function.

Two eight-man Regular Force teams and two eight-man Reserve Force teams (including a captain and coach) were selected to compete in an international match against the teams of...
Botswana and Zimbabwe on 6 March 2010. (It was the first time an international competition was held in this format.)

The visiting Dutch team was invited to shoot as well, but they could not win any medals as they all used optical sights.

The Reserve Force teams excelled again by taking the first two places. The scores were Reserve Force A-Team (1 899), Reserve Force B-Team (1 877), Regular Force A-Team (1 722), Regular Force B-Team (1 632), Botswana (1 571) and Zimbabwe (1 493).

**Chief of the SA Army Combat Rifle Champions**

**Best Shooting team overall:**
Regiment President Steyn

**Best Reserve Force Team:**
Natal Carbineers

**Best Reserve Force Development Team:**
Regiment De la Rey

**Best Regular Force Team:**
School of Armour

**Top 10 Individuals**
Lt Johan Loock (Wits Rifles) - 262
Lt Erich Earle (Wits Rifles) - 255
Cpl Johan Karsten (Regiment President Steyn) - 243
Bdr Willie de Wet (Vrystaat Artillery Regiment) - 242
Lt Piet Bekker (Regiment President Steyn) - 241
Maj Braam Korff (Regiment President Steyn) - 238
Cpl Rudi Mentor (Regiment President Steyn) - 238
WOI Archie Smythe (Natal Carbineers) - 237
Rfn Weber Truter (Cape Town Rifles) - 235
Lt Piet Spies (Natal Carbineers) - 234

**SA National War College Library celebrates World Book Day**

**By Thabo Shirinda**

**Photo: S Sgt Lebohang Tlhaole**

The SA National War College Library in Pretoria hosted the annual World Book Day on 23 April 2010. The day is celebrated worldwide as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated day for books and the culture of reading. The library had books donated to it by the British Peace Support Team. Assistant Director for Libraries in the DOD, Mr Morris Mabasa, lauded the gesture by the British and expressed his gratitude for the 46 books donated.

The running of the library has not been without challenges, and Mr Mabasa revealed that there were plans to visit the University of Pretoria and the University of Stellenbosch libraries, to see how they manage and market their libraries. Good relations with the SA Army were reiterated by Mr Mabasa as a step in the right direction in terms instilling the culture of reading in the SA Army. It has been proved that the Internet has become direct competition for the culture of reading.

“Libraries, particularly in the DOD need to take advantage of international days, such as World Book Day and market their services to their respective clients, and affirm the fact that books are irreplaceable sources for research, reference and recreation,” said Mr Mabasa.

UNESCO chose 23 April as a day to celebrate and honour the William Shakespeare. The British author’s legendary pen has been a benchmark for book writing. His work has not received enough attention.

William Shakespeare died on 23 April 1616. The connection between 23 April and books was first made in 1923 by booksellers in Spain as a way to honour renowned author Miguel de Cervantes, who also died on 23 April. This has over the years become part of the celebrations of this day. Organisations such as Book Aid International also support events on this day. The organisation currently supports the reconstruction of libraries in Sri Lanka that were ravaged by the tsunami in 2004. The day is also supported by organisations such as World Library Partnership.

“It is our commitment to introduce and make sure that the culture of reading prevails within the SANDF; that is why we have taken the unprecedented step to make sure that we collect as many books as we can for our libraries,” said Lt Col Christo Lombard, Directing Staff Research and Training. The fact that the SA National War College hosts students on course makes it convenient to have a library within its precincts. Mr Mabasa has made a commitment to create a DOD database where books can be found with ease. The establishment of a library forum within the DOD is also on the cards.

He also spoke about the fact that they have a good relationship with the SA Army. The library department is now establishing relationships with the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service. A documentation support system is also in the offering.
Stewardship

By Chaplain (Rev) E. Vinqi, AFB Ysterplaat

Stewardship is the idea that humankind has been given dominion over the world to rule as vice-regents on behalf of God. Stewardship is a test to see how well mankind can care for God’s creation. This idea is also known as Khalifah in Islam. Khalifah is Arabic for "stewardship" of nature and family, a key obligation of a Muslim (one accepting Islam). By contrast, in the Judeo-Christian tradition, the term "dominion over nature" is the usual translation of the Hebrew word רדָי in Genesis. In comparative stewardship among the Nigerian Yoruba, and the Bapedi, Bavenda and Botswana people of Southern Africa, traditionally a farmer who needs enough hands on the farm would call a Letsema (a number of helping hands) or Esusu (Yoruba for a number of helping hands). In urban areas the stewardship changed from the helping hand to the umgalelo (IsiXhosa) or Mogodisano (Sesotho) - commonly known as stokvel.

One member of the stokvel collects a specific amount, the total being determined by the number of people involved in accordance with the pre-arranged order of benefiting from the funds. Andrew Lukhele, author of the book: Stokvels in South Africa, narrates that stokvels could play a humanitarian role in society. Black women began to use stokvels as a means of protection against police harassment. When a stokvel member is arrested, the others would help with the home and the children until the member came out of jail. In this way stokvels became more than just an organisation for the circulation of money, and evolved into comprehensive support systems, which do not benefit all the members equally.

Stewardship in the military realm is best described in the words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, where, in his final message as president of the United States, he warned Americans in 1961 of the far-reaching effects of militarism: "(The) conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence - economic, political, and even spiritual - is felt in every city, every state house, and every office of the Federal government ... we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society".

Militarism refers to the predominance of military values in a society, a policy of aggressive military preparedness, and a preference for military means for projecting national power. To avoid militarism, we pray for discernment to choose those actions that will advance God’s kingdom and the courage to follow Christ’s way of love. Through such obedience we pray that all may come to know Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

As chaplains we believe that God’s Shalom, the divine gift of salvation, reconciliation, peace, justice, and wholeness in Jesus Christ is the answer to a world of division, domination, and devotion to military security. The notion of "People First" is what stewardship is all about and not to serve our own interest under the pretext of serving the people, so stewardship is "choosing service over self-interest".
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Reverend Marthinus Lourens de Villiers

Nko-si Si-ke-le-la thi-na lu sa-pho-hwa-ya Mo-re-na bo-lo-ka Se-tjha-ba sa he-so

O fe-di-se di-nwale ma tshwe-nye-ho, O se-bo-lo-ke O se-bo-lo-ke, Se-tjha-ba sa he-

So, Se-tjha-ba sa, South A-fri-ka South A-fri-ka, Uit die blou van on-se he-mel, uit die
diep-te van ons see oor ons e-wi-ge-ge-ber-tes waar die kran-se ant-woord gee, Sounds the call to come to-
ge-ther and u-ni-ted we shall stand, Let us live and strive for free-dom in South A-fri-ca our land.