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The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

2014: Our Centenary Year

By the Editor

100



Years

1914 - 2014



The 27th of April 1994 is generally accepted as the birthday of both the South African democratic dispensation as well as the birthday of the SANDF.

As part of the SANDF, the South African Irish Regiment celebrates the 20th anniversary democracy and the 20th birthday of the SANDF, we salute all soldiers that have served in the SANDF for all 20 years of its existence.

From the Editor

From: The Editor

Thank you once again to all our loyal readers for contributions and making this newsletter a success.

Contributions towards "The Shamrock" can also be emailed to irish.regiment@gmail.com

Remember: Newsletters can be downloaded from the internet. Go to www.sairish.webs.com to download Regimental newsletters and copies of the latest SA Soldier magazines in PDF format. You can also listen to the Regimental march on our website.

Our website is now cell phone friendly and you can now visit our website via your cellular phone.

With All the excitement surrounding the Soccer World Cup starting in Brazil on 12 June 2014, the Regiment has decided to get in on the action and participate in some friendly competition. To participate, register yourself on www.superbru.com and request permission to join the SA Irish Regiment World Cup pool. Then make predictions... and let the fun begin. Remember registration on superbru is free and all in good fun and we all play for Irish bragging rights.

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From the OC's Desk

By: Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

As members of the South African Irish Regiment prepares for the final stages of training for their scheduled deployments, I wish those involved well in this endeavour.

I am pleased with the very high standard of training and preparation. Once again you have made me proud to be our Officer Commanding. You have brought honour to our unit with your professionalism.

To all of you I say keep up the good work and stay safe. Remember what you do as a soldier is dangerous.

I have the utmost confidence in you and I know that you will not let your Regiment down.

- Faugh a Ballagh!

Lt Col. M.A. Bennett
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Regimental Events

By: The Editor

12 July - Leader-Group Adapted Table 2 Shoot.

28 July – 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1.

13 September - Leader-Group Table 3 Night Shoot

27 September – Centenary combined mess formal dinner.

11 October - Freedom of the City of Barberton parade

1 November - Leader-Group Table 2 Proficiency Shoot

8 November - Freedom Regiments Parade

9 November - JHB Remembrance Parade – JHB Cenotaph

23 November - Sidi Rezegh Commemoration Parade

29 November - Regimental Association Ball

1 December 2014 - Regimental Birthday (100 Years)

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Did you know?

By: The editor

There are also several honorary ranks and appointments within traditional regiments of the commonwealth.

***Colonel-in-chief** is usually a royal patron of a Regiment. They do not have an operational role. They are however kept informed of all important activities of the regiment, and pay occasional visits to their operational units. Their chief purpose is to maintain a direct link between the regiment and the Royal Family. While it is traditional for a royal personage to hold the position, it is at the discretion of the regiment whom they invite to be their Colonel-in-Chief.

***Colonel of the regiment or Honorary Colonel.** The ceremonial position is often conferred on retired general officers or colonels who have a close link to a particular regiment. Non-military personnel, usually within the Reserves may also be appointed to the ceremonial position. When attending functions as "Colonel of the Regiment", the titleholder (this title distinguishes it from the military rank of colonel) wears the regimental uniform with rank insignia of (full) colonel, regardless of their official rank. A member of the Royal Family is known as a "Royal Colonel". A Colonel of the Regiment is expected to work closely with a regiment and its Regimental Association to promote the interests of the Regiment.

***Colonel Commandant.** Colonels Commandant are honorary appointments within the Reserve Regiments of certain countries within the commonwealth and act as advocates for members of the particular unit. They are usually members or former members of the regiment with distinguished service and are awarded as a reward for distinguished service. They act in head-of-family roles, approachable in varying degrees by anyone in the "regimental family" regarding regimental matters. They are expected to work closely with a regiment and its Regimental Association to promote the interests of the Regiment.

***Honorary Lieutenant Colonels.** These are honorary appointments within the Reserve Regiments of certain countries within the commonwealth and are

awarded to members and former members of a regiment as a reward for distinguished service. Serving members may use the title for ceremonial purposes, but must wear their substantive rank until retirement. They are expected to work closely with a regiment and its Regimental Association to promote the interests of the Regiment.

Personnel holding these honorary ranks are not part of the military operational chain-of-command. Rather, they serve in a ceremonial manner, often as a guest of honour at parades, mess dinners, or at other military traditions such as during Remembrance Day. They may act in an advisory role to the Officer Commanding on Regimental matters, but are prohibited from interfering in command decisions.

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From the Pipes and Drums.

By: The Pipe Major

S A Irish Regiment Pipes & Drums 2013 Calendar of Events:

14 June – Pretoria Boys Gathering – Pretoria

28 June – Gathering to be advised

12 July – St Benedict's Gathering – Johannesburg

26 July – Benoni Gathering (South African Championships) – Benoni

Date to be Advised - SA Irish Gathering and beating of retreat.

8 November – Freedom Regiments Parade

9 November – JHB Remembrance Parade – JHB Cenotaph

24 November – Sidi Rezegh Parade

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Regimental News – Regimental basic computer training

By the Editor

During the month of May, the Regiment started with an in-house basic computer training course aimed at expanding the capability and computer skills of members of the Regiment.

This course is designed to teach basic computer skills to junior leaders from

our previously disadvantaged communities, many of whom have no other access to computers or computer training.

This course is the brainchild of our Second-in-Command, Maj. J.A. van Straaten.

It is presented on the second and third Tuesday evening of each month and will run for 16 weeks, with Lieutenants Howard and Chambers as our course instructors.

At the end of this course the students will have basic computer skills in Word, Excel, Power Point, Internet Explorer and the basics of Windows.

Good luck to all our students.
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News from the SANDF – Defence Review 2014 – The Defence Industry

Written by Helmoed Heitman

An important element of the Defence Review is its consideration of the defence industry which is needed to define the capability actually required and how best to support that capability, to provide a policy as the basis for a defence industry strategy that can guide both the Defence Force's acquisition planning, and planning by companies in the defence sector.

The purpose of the defence industry is to provide a practicable degree of strategic independence, to develop capabilities considered to be of 'sovereign' importance (eg the algorithms for secure communications), to develop optimised equipment where that is of real operational benefit, and to support equipment in service. Beyond that, a vibrant defence industry is also able to support foreign policy by helping equip the forces of allies, is able to support wider industrial development policies, establish new technologies and capabilities in South Africa, and generates foreign currency earnings and reduces outflows.

The Review makes it clear that there is no intention to regain the breadth and depth of capabilities developed during

the arms embargo years. That is not necessary, would not be cost-effective, and would divorce the industry from international technology developments. Instead the focus is on retaining, rebuilding or, where necessary, creating the capabilities to:

- Support equipment and systems in service.
- Manufacture critical munitions, batteries and spares of which the availability cannot be guaranteed.
- Integrate equipment and systems, to allow optimised combinations of local and foreign equipment and systems, and to facilitate modernisation and upgrades during the typically thirty years or more of a major system's service life.
- Develop, manufacture and support items of 'sovereign' importance.
- Develop, manufacture and support optimised equipment and/or to optimise foreign-sourced items to meet specific requirements of the Defence Force, where there is real operational benefit to be realised by doing so.
- Develop, manufacture and support equipment and systems in which South Africa has a demonstrable technological lead or niche capability.
- Manufacture any equipment that is required in large numbers or where similarities of manufacturing processes allow parallel or sequential manufacturing.

The Review then goes on to identify key technology domains and focus areas, for instance command and control systems and night-fighting equipment, and areas in which the industry has an edge or potential edge, for instance long-range artillery and low-cost but very effective guided weapons.

It further makes the point that a viable defence industry depends on long-term acquisition planning by the Defence Force, which must be visible to the industry to enable it to develop its own long-term plans, expand or modernise plants, establish new technologies, refocus training of new engineers, etc. That same long-term equipment planning will also enable the Defence Force to avoid the block obsolescence such as it currently faces (eg Ratel, Casspir, Samil) by adopting a system of phased or half generation change-over.

With an eye to efficiency, the Review also argues for multi-year contracts, which have been demonstrated to quite dramatically reduce costs by allowing the manufacturers to plan and operate more efficiently: Nothing is as costly or damaging to long-term capability, military and industrial, than on/off acquisition programmes.

Another point in the Review is the importance of synchronised acquisition to enable the Defence Force to field coherent force elements: for instance, it makes little sense to give a mechanised infantry battalion a set of brand new and vastly more capable infantry combat vehicles, if neither the field engineers nor its own logistic elements can keep up with those vehicles. Acquisition must take place in coherent 'packages' and phased accordingly.

This will take time to achieve, and the Review proposes four partially overlapping phases, plus a fifth that will overlap the others for much of the time:

- Ensuring the retention of selected existing capabilities, primarily by placing sufficient manufacturing, development or research orders to enable the organisation to remain active for now.
- Ensuring the sustainment of those capabilities, primarily by placing longer-term orders or supporting export efforts.
- Supporting the turn-around of the industry, primarily by developing and setting out a long-term plan for Defence Force equipment and system acquisition, upgrading and support, and for defence R&D.
- Supporting further development of the industry by working with it to identify future needs and also by supporting future export efforts.
- Recovery, recreation or development of sovereign capabilities, which will overlap with all the above phases.

Looking to the longer-term development of the industry and support to the Defence Force, the Review has also recommended the appointment of a Chief Defence Scientist with a small staff to monitor technology development and plan, focus and control defence-related research and development. It also refers to the

National Defence Industry Council already established by the previous Minister of Defence, as a critical body to facilitate close coordination among the Defence Force, companies in the defence industry and any research bodies conducting research in defence-related technologies.

The other major aspect of the defence industry chapter of the Defence Review is identification of what is meant by local or foreign companies, an issue that has brought some complications in the past. To this end the Review identifies five types of company, in the order in which they will enjoy certain preferences in bidding for defence contracts:

- South African owned companies (51%) can bid for any contracts and will enjoy absolute preference in respect of 'sovereign' and 'strategic' items.
- Partly South African owned companies (26%) can bid for any contracts but will stand behind fully-owned companies in respect of 'sovereign' items.
- South African based companies (factory in South Africa), which can bid for most contracts but stand behind the wholly and partly owned companies in respect of strategic items, will only be able to bid for 'sovereign' items given special security measures.
- Foreign-controlled companies in South Africa (other factories or assets in South Africa), which can demonstrate commitment to South Africa's development, will be able to bid for all general contracts and for some strategic contracts with the proviso that local manufacture and the establishment of local support capability will be mandatory in some cases (e.g. for a strategic item).
- Foreign companies with no presence in South Africa, which will be allowed to bid for general items and will be allowed to bid for strategic items where there is no local alternative, but in for which they will have to establish at least a fully localised support capability.

In each case the level of ownership must also be matched by the degree of South African management and actual control of the operations of the company in respect of the equipment or system to be acquired.

A final aspect of the defence industry policy is that it must be aligned insofar as practicably possible with wider national industrial and related policies. That said, the phrase "insofar as practicably possible" is key in that a strategic imperative must override other policy considerations.

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News from the SANDF – Defence Minister stays on.

Written by Kim Helfrich

The retention of Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula as defence minister has been welcomed "in the interests of continuity".

She is the only member of the Cabinet's Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster to retain the position in the new Cabinet accounted on Sunday by President Jacob Zuma, now serving his second term as South Africa's first citizen and also Commander-in-Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa has been re-deployed to the arts and culture portfolio and Siyonga Cwele, formerly the number one spook now finds himself in the newly created telecommunications and postal services department.

Freedom Front Plus defence spokesman Pieter Groenewald said: "At the least it means continuity both in terms of the Minister as well as senior officials and with the Defence Review the most pressing item on the defence agenda her knowledge of it will be a necessity."

Democratic Alliance shadow defence and military veterans minister, David Maynier, said Mapisa-Nqakula's re-appointment "will provide the necessary continuity during the Defence Review process, the success of which is vital to the future of the SANDF".**READ MORE**

Mapisa-Nqakula was appointed Defence Minister in June 2012, replacing Lindiwe Sisulu and while her

public appearances have not been at the same level as Sisulu's, defence sector insiders say she is a hard worker and has the best interests of the country's soldiers and the local defence industry at heart.

That she is not afraid of ruffling feathers was illustrated by her summary dismissal of former Armscor chairman "Mojo" Motau and his deputy Refiloe Mokoena last year. She also did not hesitate to take the matter to the Constitutional Court when the pair had their dismissals overturned by the North Gauteng High Court.

New deputy Defence Minister is Kebby Maphatsoe, a man long aligned to Umkhonto we Sizwe and its structures. He is expected to be the point man on veterans' affairs as his predecessor, Thabang Makwetla, was.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF investigates incident.

Written by Kim Helfrich

Calls for the suspension of an Army general following his apparent personal involvement in attempting to have arrested soldiers released from police custody in Oudtshoorn are on hold while the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) investigates.

The call, made by opposition Freedom Front Plus party defence spokesman, Pieter Groenewald, and echoed by military analyst Helmoed Heitman, comes after the SA National Defence Union (Sandu) said the general deployed Ratels and busloads of armed soldiers to secure the release of soldiers arrested at a shebeen in Bongilethu, Oudtshoorn, last Friday.

The general, who has not been named by either the military trade union or the SANDF, reportedly went to the police station to demand the soldiers be released. When this was not acceded to he apparently returned with Ratels and armed soldiers. A brief stand-off with armed soldiers on the outside and armed

police inside ensued before the soldiers were released. No shots were fired.

Indications are 31 soldiers were arrested at what police have called an "unlicensed liquor premises". Western Cape police spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Andre Traut said the arrested people, whose employment cannot be disclosed or verified, were released on admission of guilt charges.

Not known at this stage is whether those arrested were soldiers, to which unit they belonged or whether they were AWOL or off-duty.

SANDF Director: Corporate Communications, Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga, said the alleged confrontation between soldiers and police was being treated with the "seriousness it deserves".

"The SANDF will study the incident report from the Infantry School and media reports to verify information in order to ascertain the exact circumstances around the alleged incident," he said.

Groenewald said the general should be suspended "with immediate effect" because reports indicated he was drunk at the time.

"He must also be charged with obstructing the course of justice, abuse of State property and abusing a position of power.

"Actions of this nature are a further indication of poor discipline in the SANDF, especially when it is taken into account that a senior officer was apparently involved and sees himself as being above the law."

Heitman said if reports were correct it was "an extremely serious situation".

"A court martial should be underway. The commissioned officer involved, if it is true, should be jailed for life without the option of parole. It was a manifestly illegal act, a manifestly illegal order. No excuse at all, end of story," IOL Online reported him as saying.

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News from the SANDF – AAD 2014 on track

Written by Kim Helfrich

While not denying some members of the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2014 management team have, or are leaving, exhibition organisers said the success of the event will not be affected.

In an effort to clear up confusion, rumours and speculation around the September 17 to 21 event at AFB Waterkloof, defenceWeb contacted AMD (SA Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association) to obtain clarity on South Africa's and Africa's premier defence and security exhibition. This because AMD is the host of this year's event which rotates between it, the Department of Defence, Armscor and the Civil Aviation Association of SA. Questions addressed to its director Simphiwe Hamilton were responded by e-mail, using the admin@aadexpo.co.za address. No name was given.

The response did not supply any direct answers on either the resignation of exhibition director, Leona Redelinghuys, or that of marketing and public relations manager, Vhongani Shumba. Her post has and is still being advertised on the AMD website.

A number of people in both the aviation and defence sectors told defenceWeb they were resigning and expressed concern about, not so much this year's event, but future AADs.

"While the 2014 exhibition will happen one can only wonder how successful it will be as a platform to market the 2016 and 2018 events to particularly international exhibitors," an Armscor retiree who was closely involved with DEXSA (Defence Exhibition of SA), AAD's forerunner as well as earlier iterations of AAD, said.

This view was echoed by the editor of a leading South African aviation publication while a retired SA Air Force officer said it would be "a disaster" if the exhibition director left with AAD just over four months away.

"Arrangements for AAD 2014 are on track," the e-mail read. "As with any premier event there are challenges but these are being addressed by the organisers. This year's AAD also coincides with South Africa celebrating 20 years of democracy and with the full support of government".

More than 95% of exhibition space at AFB Waterkloof in Centurion has been booked and all 37 the hospitality chalets on the flight line have also been reserved. As of this week 35 civilian aircraft have been confirmed as static displays with the majority of them also set to do demonstration flights.

Ten national pavilions have also been confirmed for AAD 2014 with Argentina and the Czech Republic as first-timers. They join India, Turkey, Germany, the United States, China, the United Kingdom and Russia as countries with national representation at AAD which opens its gates to trade visitors on September 17. The last trade day is September 19 followed by the open days, including an airshow on the weekend of September 20 and 21.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF border protection paying dividends

Written by Kim Helfrich

The thin line that is the SA National Defence Force's (SANDF) border protection deployment is acquitting itself well despite a shortage of resources that can be laid directly at the door of a shrinking defence budget.

Elements of the SANDF are presently deployed along the seven provinces that have landward borders with surrounding countries according to Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster spokesman Nikelwa Tengimfene.

In the past 12 month period the 13 companies deployed as part of Operation Corona have confiscated contraband, mainly cigarettes and liquor, worth more than R100 million and also stopped more than 15 tons of

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dagga, valued at R50 million, from reaching illegal markets in South Africa.

The soldiers patrolling the country's borders, on foot and horseback as well as on motorcycles and in specifically modified and strengthened bakkies, also apprehended 80 000 undocumented persons. These range from people attempting to enter South Africa illegally, either in search of work or to sell goods on which no tax or excise duty has been paid. Soldiers handed them over to the SA Police Service and Department of Home Affairs for further action.

With the broad mandate of securing South Africa's borders the soldiers were also responsible for the arrest of 2 000 known criminals, recovering more than 300 stolen vehicles and 18 000 head of livestock, mostly cattle but also goats, sheep and chickens.

A hundred and three weapons of various calibres and types were also confiscated from undocumented persons and illegal immigrants.

The SANDF was instructed by Cabinet to take back its border protection function from the SA Police Service in 2009 and since 2010 the military has been implementing a phased-in approach to patrol the country's notoriously porous landward borders. Operation Corona has as its mainstay the protection of South Africa's territorial integrity against cross-border crime and illegal activities, Tengimfene said.

The presence of soldiers in the Kruger National Park, which borders both Mozambique and Zimbabwe, has seen soldiers given an additional task providing assistance to the park's ranger corps and other security agencies to prevent rhino poaching.

Tengimfene said soldiers provided a force multiplier particularly with regard to intelligence to give ground-based counter-poaching teams advance warning of where poachers are likely to strike.

The world renowned game reserve is the preferred target of rhino poachers,

the majority of who enter Kruger illegally from Mozambique. The most recent statistics available from the Department of Environment Affairs show the country had lost 147 rhinos to poachers by the third week in February. The majority of these – 95 – were killed in Kruger.

The SANDF plans for Operation Corona will see 22 companies, each comprising about 165 personnel, deployed along the country's 4 471km landward borders by the end of the 2015/16 financial year.

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News from the SANDF – Department of Military Veterans establish call centre

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The Department of Military Veterans (DMV) has gone live with a call centre to provide veterans with "easy, quick and free access" to information about benefits and services.

DMV spokesman Mbulelo Musi said the centre went "live" on Tuesday, 1 April 2014, and veterans or family members can now channel all enquiries through 080 232 3244.

"The call centre will assist the DMV to deliver services to veterans faster and smarter. It is a service military veterans have been asking for over the past few years.

"We are happy to at last be addressing this long awaited service for information about military veterans and other relevant information. We call on military veterans, their dependents and other stakeholders to take advantage of this opportunity," said DMV director General, Tsepe Motumi, who will officially launch the centre on April 24.

Earlier this year the DMV relocated to new premises in the Pretoria suburb of Hatfield at 1052 Festival Street as part of its overall commitment to bettering service to military veterans. The new premises are within easy reach of a Gautrain station and not far from the Tshwane metro's rapid bus transit

system, currently under construction.

The DMV previously occupied offices on Denel's Irene campus, south of Pretoria not within easy reach of bus and train commuters.

Apart from issuing around eight thousand healthcare cards to registered and verified military veterans the DMV this year has embarked on a group therapy programme. This will see about a thousand military veterans receive counselling to improve their lives and self-belief.

Other benefits the DMV, under the leadership of Deputy Defence and Military Veterans Minister Thabang Makwetla, has started rolling out to registered and verified veterans include injury compensation, job assistance, the use of public transport at subsidised rates, housing and bursaries for further education.

The over-arching criteria for qualification as a military veteran, apart from the obvious of having served in either MK, Apla, the SADF or military arm of any other freedom movement, is that he or she should not earn more than R125 000 a year to qualify for benefits such as R25 000 for burial support, amongst others.

Veterans wanting assistance with "employment placement" will have to submit a comprehensive CV to the DMV which will then facilitate employment placement, subject to the availability of work opportunities.

The just opened call centre replaces individual numbers veterans previously had to call for, among others, registration, employment placement, skills development and empowerment and establishing a business.

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News from the SANDF – URTP recruitment moves to KZN

Courtesy of Defenceweb

With five provinces canvassed for University Reserve Training programme (URTP) volunteers, the

Reserve Force next month moves into KwaZulu-Natal hoping for results similar to those in Gauteng and North West.

The whistle stop tour of tertiary institutions including the universities of Johannesburg, North West (Potchefstroom campus) and the Tshwane University of Technology saw the SA Army and SA Military Health Services sign up more than 900 URTP volunteers.

Representatives from the same two arms of service will be in KwaZulu-Natal from April 7 to 11 hoping for a similar response from students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the University of Zululand and the Durban University of Technology.

Colonel Monica Muller SSO Reserve Force said students at these places of higher learning who were keen on becoming part of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Reserve Force should attend presentations on their campuses after which they would have the opportunity to speak to recruitment officers for more details.

Since it commenced in 2011 the URTP has been rolled out at 11 campuses in five of the country nine provinces to attract graduates to become members of South Africa's part-time military component with particular emphasis on scarce skills. These include various engineering and medical disciplines necessary to bring the SANDF up to speed in technology terms.

To date URTP has boosted Reserve Force junior officer numbers by 153, all of whom bring specialist skills as well as leadership qualities to the SANDF's part-time component.

Speaking during a meeting with URTP volunteers doing part of their basic military training (BMT) at Regiment Mooirivier in Potchefstroom in December, Brigadier General Debbie Molefe, Director: Defence Reserves told them their training and subsequent utilisation would benefit the SANDF for the next 45 years.

"You, as graduates and under graduates, will enhance the professional,

intellectual and leadership qualities of the Reserves," she said adding the military skills acquired during URTP would stand the volunteers in good stead in their civilian careers.

"In the military environment teamwork is essential and students will develop a sense of responsibility and respect towards fellow members in the group. This will not only develop their social interaction capabilities, but will also facilitate their induction into new career environments," Molefe said.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF continental deployments extended

Courtesy of Defenceweb

That South Africa will continue to honour its commitments to continental peacekeeping and anti-piracy efforts comes in the form of three terse statements from SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma.

Operation Copper, the SADC tri-nation anti-piracy tasking in the Mozambican Channel, has been extended to March 31, 2015. In terms of the agreement entered into between Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania the operation was due to wrap up next Monday.

The Valour Class frigate, SAS Spioenkop, is currently on station and will be replaced at the beginning of April by an offshore patrol vessel (OPV).

At the same time Zuma extended SANDF contributions to peacekeeping and peace support missions in Darfur and the DRC.

A Presidency statement said: "The employment of 850 SANDF members in Darfur, Sudan, has been extended from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015."

The South Africans are part of the hybrid AU/UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

South African involvement in the UN Forward Intervention Brigade (FIB) in eastern DRC, part of MONUSCO in the strife-torn central African country, has also been extended until the end of March next year.

An extra six soldiers will join the South African contingent, bringing to 1 351 the number of South African military personnel in DRC.

South African soldiers and equipment have been in the forefront of FIB's success in forcing M23 out of the country and into Uganda with the locally manufactured Rooivalk combat support helicopter in the vanguard of operations.

On Operation Copper, The Presidency said 220 SANDF members, from the Air Force, Military Health Services and Navy, would continue to be employed in "Mozambican, Tanzanian and international waters monitoring and deterring piracy along the southern African coast of the Indian Ocean".

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News from the SANDF – Upgrade for air defence systems

Courtesy of Defenceweb

German defence company Rheinmetall AG will be responsible for the modernisation of South Africa's air defence systems.

"The contract was signed some days ago. Including logistics and training services with the complete package scheduled for completion by 2017," the company, represented in South Africa by Rheinmetall Denel Munitions, with State owned Denel a 49% shareholder, said in a statement.

Among others, the contract will see Oerlikon Skyshield fire control systems being supplied to the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). These, the German company said, will substantially improve the performance and accuracy of the twin-gun systems currently used by the SA Army's Air Defence Artillery Formation.

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A number of guns will be retrofitted with upgrade kits to accommodate Rheinmetall's state-of-the-art Ahead airburst ammunition.

"The new Skyshield technology will enable the SANDF to protect sensitive installations such as the Houses of Parliament, power plants, stadiums and other critical and civilian assets from a wide array of aerial threats, including asymmetric terrorist-type attacks. Because Skyshield air defence systems can be easily transported they can basically be deployed anywhere depending on the evolving threat situation," the statement said.

The value of the contract was not disclosed.

South Africa is no stranger to Oerlikon, having acquired and used the former Oerlikon Contraves in the 1980s for air defence purposes.

The SA Army currently operates twin 35 mm air defence guns acquired from Rheinmetall ancestor company Oerlikon. The landward arm of the SANDF acquired 169 of these guns, along with 75 Superfledermaus fire control units (FCUs) in 1963. In 1990, 48 of these Mark (Mk) I guns were upgraded to Mk V status and the Superfledermaus fire control units replaced by Italian LPD20 radars, according to Engineering News.

Rheinmetall specialises in short range air defence systems, including fire control technology, anti-aircraft guns, integrated guided missile launchers and Ahead airburst ammunition.

An Ahead shell comprises 152 tungsten spin-stabilised sub-projectiles, which, when released, form a cone-shaped metal cloud, placed so the target, whether aircraft, missile or bomb, flies into it and is destroyed. The shells know when to detonate because an electronic timer is programmed, as it leaves the barrel, by an electromagnetic inductor in the gun muzzle. These inductors are fitted to the Mk VII guns.

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News from the SANDF – Gunners remember their fallen

Written by Chris Szabo

A possible record number of wreaths have been laid at the Gunners' Memorial Service in Potchefstroom on April 13 including international military attaches, local dignitaries, serving military members and veterans organisations.

Members of the Gunners Association and more than 60 other organisations recalled fallen comrades who had paid the ultimate price in various military operations and wars as South Africa marked the 20th anniversary of democratic rule and the centenary of World War I in which its gunners suffered their first casualties at the Battle of Sandfontein.

The National President of the Gunners' Association, Lieutenant General Philip du Preez drew attention to the scale of South African casualties, especially among the Artillery units: "Almost 10 per cent of those who died in WW I were gunners, and almost a quarter of those names inscribed here are from WW I casualties."

General Du Preez praised the bravery of the South Africans and spoke of a particular incident in the then German South West Africa soldiers where South African gunners were acknowledged by their enemies. He said the opposing German commander, although winning the Sandfontein battle, insisted on the South Africans being buried first as a tribute to their courage.

The ceremony culminated with the laying of wreaths by more than 60 serving military units, military veterans groups, foreign military attaches and the mayor of Tlokweng Kgotsi Khumalo, who took up his post in January.

The wreath-laying was preceded by the traditional last post, two minutes silence and reveille. In true gunners style the ceremony would not have been complete without guns – two salvos of

ear-splitting blasts were also fired by the G-1 ceremonial guns.

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News from the SANDF – SAAF doing its bit for border protection

Written by Kim Helfrich

The resource-stressed SA Air Force (SAAF) is still, to paraphrase Deputy Chief Major General Jerry Malinga, undertaking and completing the tasks assigned it.

Two examples are the ongoing border protection, including anti-poaching, and counter-piracy operations in the Mozambique Channel.

An ageing C-47TP maritime patrol aircraft is permanently based in the Mozambican port city of Pemba to provide extra eyes for the tri-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) counter-piracy effort Operation Copper. The 35 Squadron aircraft is maintained and kept airworthy by technical personnel from AFB Ysterplaat but returns to the Cape Town air force base for major service, said SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Joint Operations spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Piet Paxton.

"The Dak, along with a Super Lynx from 22 Squadron also based at AFB Ysterplaat deployed aboard one of the Navy's frigates, is the SAAF's ongoing contribution to Operation Copper."

When both are airborne they significantly extend the effective range of the frigate to search for and locate suspected pirates.

If a frigate is not on station in the Mozambican Channel, the Navy presence is either through its replenishment ship, SAS Drakensberg, or one of the converted Warrior Class strikecraft, now serving as offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), until such time as the SANDF's maritime arm of service acquires new vessels for this purpose. A project study for the acquisition of three inshore and three offshore patrol vessels has been

completed and the Navy is expecting to take delivery of the first new acquisitions in the next four years.

SANDF Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma, last month extended South Africa’s commitment to Operation Copper until the end of March next year. Mozambique and Tanzania are also contributing to the operation.

While Operation Corona, the country’s border protection effort, is land-based, the SAAF does provide assistance when requested.

“Helicopters, either Agusta A109 or Oryx, are deployed from time to time to assist in Operation Corona,” Paxton said.

“An Agusta from 17 Squadron at AFB Zwartkop has been utilised in counter-poaching operations in the Kruger National Park when requested by the force commander on the ground there. This generally happens over full moon periods but is not always the case as SANParks now deploy their own rotorcraft for this purpose. The last time a SAAF helicopter was tasked in Kruger was December last year.”

In March last year, An A109 crashed in the world-famous game reserve, killing all five aboard. Apart from the two man aircrew, three members of 5 Special Forces Regiment in Phalaborwa died in the crash, which occurred at night.

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News from the SANDF – First SAAF URTP Officers

Written by Kim Helfrich

A welcome boost to SA Air Force (SAAF) Chief Lieutenant General Zakes Msimang’s stated intent of bringing the Air Force Reserve back to life has come via the Reserve Force’s University Reserve Training Programme (URTP).

He was on hand to present students from engineering faculties at the Gauteng universities of Johannesburg, Pretoria and the Witwatersrand with their basic military training (BMT)

certificates in Pretoria recently. The seventeen students were the first air force volunteers to successfully complete the BMT part of their overall training and now carry the rank of Candidate Officer until they finish – and pass – officer formative training for the airborne arm of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

They did the training under the auspices of the SAAF College in Thaba Tshwane over weekends and during university vacations.

The group will start with officer formative training next month in preparation for becoming junior officers in the SAAF.

Msimang said rejuvenation of the SANDF Reserves was a Ministerial priority with the URTP an important component. It aims to enhance the intellectual and leadership capabilities of the Reserve Force across all four arms of service.

Earlier this year the helicopter pilot who now heads up the SAAF said the Air Force Reserve was a major part of the SAAF and he was “addressing the multiple and unforeseen challenges” that have effectively seen it grounded for more than a year.

“I am confident the Reserve squadrons will soon take to the air again, especially with border protection responsibilities now the SAAF’s.

“The SAAF is doing everything possible, within our limited resources, to achieve the important Ministerial priority - rejuvenation of the Reserves. Training and development of the Reserves in the SAAF is primarily aimed at this priority and Reserves are continuously being trained to build a force that is disciplined, capable and ready for deployment,” Msimang told the Reserve Force Volunteer.

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News from the SANDF – Jungle warfare training for SANDF personnel headed for DRC

Written by Guy Martin

The South African National Defence Force is using Port St Johns as a jungle warfare training facility in preparation for the deployment of 850 troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo in May, when they will join the UN’s Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) tasked with rooting out rebels.

5 South African Infantry (SAI) Battalion will replace 6 South African Infantry Battalion at the end of May under Operation Mistral, marking the unit’s first time in the DRC. The deployment will be for a year – most previous UN deployments were for six months but it is more economical and effective to deploy forces for a year, as less time is spent acclimatising with one deployment per year than two.

6 SAI deployed in May-June last year, joining a battalion sized element from Tanzania and a battalion sized element from Malawi. Lieutenant Colonel Piet Paxton of the SANDF’s Joint Operations Division said that, to his mind, the Tanzanian and Malawians have demonstrated good performance in the DRC.

5 SAI started with pre-deployment training and is now busy with mission readiness training. Phase 1 of training was conducted at the Boschoek Training Area between 10 and 22 February and covered shooting, helicopter drills, buddy aid, GPS training and offensive and defensive attacks. Phase 2 started on March 3 in Port St Johns and will end on March 21. It is covering patrols, jungle warfare, water orientation, combat shooting, house clearing and offensive and defensive actions.

Port St Johns was chosen as the ideal spot for jungle warfare training as its dense forests are an almost exact replica of what troops will experience in the DRC. The SANDF’s other more established training facilities focus

more on grasslands and savannah scenarios.

Brigadier Gen Manneljies de Goede, from the SA Army Infantry Formation, said that experiences in the Central African Republic and DRC made the SANDF realise that the battlespace has changed and that the SANDF needs to adapt with it. Training was occurring in silos, he said. Before 6 SAI deployed to the DRC it trained in Grahamstown which does not have forests – current training areas do not cover tropical training hence a request was made to train in Port St Johns. Training in jungle terrain is part of the SANDF’s initiative to improve combat readiness as soldiers will go straight into battle when they arrive in the DRC, de Goede pointed out.

Some combat readiness training was demonstrated to the media on Wednesday, including scenarios with 81 mm mortars, 12.7 mm heavy machineguns and 40 mm grenade launchers. Journalists were taken on a tour of the forest when ‘rebels’ attacked, capturing some and holding them hostage before SANDF troops charged through the foliage and rescued them, firing a good many blank rounds along the way.

However, training has not all been simulated. Whilst conducting urban patrol training in Port St Johns, the 5 SAI soldiers responded to a real life event on March 12. Armed men attempted to rob a cash in transit security crew in the town’s business district. The robbers opened fire at the soldiers, who retaliated. During an hour-long standoff, three armed robbers and a security guard were killed and R21 million was recovered. It appears that the security guard was in plain clothes and was carrying a gun when he was shot. No soldiers were injured in the incident but one bystander was injured by a bullet that tore through his shin. Several weapons were confiscated, including an R-4, an AK-47, a .38 Special revolver and 9 mm handgun.

In addition to training, 5 SAI also engaged in an outreach programme that assisted a place of safety that takes local boys off the street. SANDF personnel voluntarily donated R4 963 to the

Eluxolweni initiative, which was used to buy clothes, food and blankets.

5 SAI will be deploying as part of the Force Intervention Brigade, made up of South African, Tanzanian and Malawian troops, and under the direct command of the Monusco Force Commander. The FIB’s offensive mandate is to reduce the threat posed by armed groups to state authority and civilian security in the eastern DRC and to make space for stabilisation activities. Other objectives are to protect civilians, monitor the arms embargo and support the DRC government. They are also charged with protecting United Nations personnel, facilities and equipment.

The troops of 5 SAI are expected to be engaged in combat operations as soon as they arrive in the DRC as there are still numerous rebel groups active following the withdrawal of the M23, such as the FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda). Paxton said that there was a lot of action in the DRC last year and he didn’t see this changing in 2014.

At the moment there are various South African elements in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A special contingent includes aircraft personnel, military police, logisticians, engineers and others. This group is headquartered in Kinshasa and is under command of the UN mission in the DRC (Monusco). The South African aviation unit, which includes Rooivalk combat helicopters and Oryx transport helicopters, is based in Goma. The aviation unit is an operational tool of the Monusco’s force commander, meaning that the helicopters are under UN, not South African, control.

As the FIB supports the DRC government’s armed forces (FARDC), South Africa has also provided training to the FARDC under operation Thebe.

The DRC rotation, expected to take three weeks to complete, is one of the SANDF’s three external deployments. The other two are Operation Copper ensuring maritime security in the Mozambique Channel and Operation Cordite with Unamid in Sudan.

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News from the SANDF – SAS Spioenkop back on station

Written by Kim Helfrich

“Last out, first back” is an apt way to describe the current and immediate preceding task of the Navy’s Valour Class frigate SAS Spioenkop (F147).

She was on station in the Mozambique Channel in March when President Jacob Zuma, Commander-in-Chief of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), announced a 12 month extension to South Africa’s Southern African Development Community (SADC) counter-piracy operation off the east coast.

“Spioenkop is back on station,” Navy fleet media liaison officer Commander Adrian Dutton said on 14 April.

“She returned to Simon’s town when her tour of duty was finished on March 31, was assigned another task and with that successfully completed steamed up the east coast to again, in early April, take up station in the Mozambique Channel.”

Spioenkop is due to spend 12 weeks off the coast of Mozambique working at counter-piracy patrols in conjunction with naval personnel from Mozambique and Tanzania.

Dutton said the ship steamed fully replenished but would refuel and restock with food and other supplies at the port of Pemba, where an SA Air Force (SAAF) contingent, including a C-47TP, is also deployed as part of South Africa’s commitment to combatting piracy off the continental east coast.

Initial indications from the Defence Ministry were that the frigate would be replaced by one of the converted Warrior Class strikecraft, now serving as offshore patrol vessels, on counter-piracy duty.

President Zuma’s extension of the SADC counter-piracy tasking, made on March 25, said 225 SANDF members

would be deployed to serve in Mozambican and Tanzanian, as well as international, waters on counter-piracy operations until March 31 next year.

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International News – SA must decide on its role in Africa

Written by Helmoed Römer Heitman

One year ago 280 South African soldiers came under attack by several thousand well-armed rebels at Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR).

After an ambush of a patrol on March 22, the main force was attacked the next day. Fighting finally ended when the commander of the Seleka rebels proposed a ceasefire, having lost many of his armed vehicles and far too many of his troops – 800 or more plus many wounded.

With the CAR army having melted away and the Central African Community Force (Fomac) having stood aside, 280 South Africans alone could not prevent the fall of Bangui even had that been their mission.

With no reinforcements, 13 killed, 27 wounded and short of ammunition, the commander agreed to the ceasefire.

Seleka occupied Bangui, and the South African force moved to the airport to await orders, having fought outstandingly against a vastly stronger and better armed foe.

Pretoria promptly deployed forces to restore the situation – Special Forces, Rooivalk attack and Oryx transport helicopters – to Gemena in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 180km from Bangui, paratroops to Entebbe in Uganda and Gripen to Kinshasa.

That was an impressive effort for a small defence force dealing with a theatre of operations 3 500km from home, and that counter-strike would have crippled Seleka's forces, already badly mauled, and forced their leaders out of Bangui.

But the AU and the Community of Central African States rolled over and

decided to give Seleka a chance to prove themselves to be “nice guys”. South Africa was not going in alone without follow-on forces to stabilise the city, and so withdrew its troops.

The result is the CAR today – a failed state with more than 1 000 civilians killed and thousands driven from their homes, and 2 000 French and 6 000 African troops failing to restore any semblance of order, while the UN plans a 12 000-strong peacekeeping force.

There has been much speculation, but the reality is that, whatever other reason there might have been, there were real strategic reasons to intervene.

Most importantly, South Africa needs a stable region in which to develop and expand its economy. The collapse of a state on the periphery of the SADC, particularly one adjacent to the fragile DRC, would inevitably bring instability, a reduction in foreign capital investment, in economic development and in South Africa's ability to export to its closest and most profitable market.

Simple national self-interest or Realpolitik?

The developments since March last year have driven home that point: The CAR has imploded and aggravated instability in the region, including guerrillas supplied through the CAR and operating from the DRC against Uganda. Not good news for the SADC or the Great Lakes region. Nor is it for South Sudan, which now has a hostile Sudan to the north and a failed state to the west, and which is itself one of the buffer states on the SADC periphery.

Second, South Africa wants to be a leader in Africa and could not afford the impression of running away. Thus the decision not to withdraw the training team in the CAR and to deploy a small force to protect it or cover its withdrawal if necessary.

There was the chance that an actual commitment of troops, together with the French troops protecting the airport and the reinforced multinational Fomac, would give the rebels pause – which it did.

They did not rush Bangui.

The troops fought magnificently and executed their primary missions, undeclared and declared. Their deployment was a factor in causing Seleka to negotiate and when Seleka reneged they covered the evacuation of the training team, which did not suffer one casualty.

The casualties the protection force suffered were the fortunes of war, always a chance-driven undertaking. Nevertheless, Seleka toppled the government and plunged the CAR into catastrophe: precisely what Pretoria had hoped to avoid by deflecting rebellion into negotiations.

What led to that outcome?

First, the forces that were supposed to prevent Seleka seizing power, did nothing. Fomac simply stood aside and let them pass through their positions; the Chad contingent, or parts of it, seem to have changed sides and the CAR army mostly melted away, although some fought on for several weeks.

Second, South Africa had its own failings. Pretoria's diplomatic presence in the region, and thus its understanding of local dynamics, was inadequate and it “believed its own advertising”. It took the AU and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (Cemac) seriously, only to find both fail miserably.

Defence Intelligence, while it had warned of trouble for some time and was correct in its initial assessment of Seleka, did not pick up the change from ragtag rebels to well-armed, well-led guerrillas.

There were two failures to pass on critical information – that Seleka had resumed attacks on March 12 last year, and a French warning that Bangui would be attacked and that Fomac would not fight.

That left the protection force out on a limb, too small and too lightly armed and equipped. There were few support weapons, no protected vehicles and no air reconnaissance to provide warning or build a clear picture.

But the key problem was the lack of airlift – partly the result of naiveté in 1996/98 when the government was persuaded that the Defence Force would never operate outside South Africa, one result being the disposal of half the existing transport aircraft and partly the result of a belief that the answer to strategic mobility was to charter aircraft or ships when needed.

Even the initial deployment of just 280 troops and a few light vehicles required chartering aircraft.

Not surprisingly, once Bangui was under attack, no one could be found to fly vehicles and equipment there and the South African Air Force lacked the aircraft to do so quickly enough.

There were other mistakes. The SANDF has no air-transportable combat vehicles, and has too few linguists; the force should have had a Department of International Relations and Co-operation official to liaise with the CAR government and the French embassy in Bangui, and the reception of the returning soldiers was little short of disgraceful, redeemed only by the outstanding efforts of some officers.

There have also been failures since. How is it that the medals for this outstanding action were awarded almost a year after the battle? That should have taken place as soon as the last wounded soldier could be on parade, even if in a wheelchair and with a drip.

All of the soldiers should have been there and all of them should receive a campaign medal.

Corporal Molatelo Nkoana was particularly heroic. It is important to remember how she spent two days leading her colleagues out of an ambush, saving a high number of lives.

And why did Susette Gates, the civilian official who showed such presence of mind and courage on her first international deployment, receive only a certificate? The defence force could have petitioned the president to award a civilian medal for bravery.

The defence force has taken note of lessons learnt: Key officers who were in Bangui assisted with training the battalion for the Monusco Force Intervention Brigade in the DRC and are training the battalion that will relieve it. There is nothing like combat experience to make troops pay attention.

Also, the Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant-General Derrick Mgwebi, made it clear that what the battalion headed for the DRC wanted, it would get, even if that was not part of its normal equipment, and he made sure that was so.

The battalion also has air support – three Rooivalk attack helicopters – and enough Oryx transport helicopters to provide mobility and casualty evacuation capability. Its capability was stiffened by incorporating a paratroop company, Special Forces, with hard-earned combat experience, and forward air controllers to direct not just the Rooivalk attacks and the battalion’s own mortar fire, but also the attacks of Monusco’s Mi-35 attack helicopters and the fire of the Tanzanian artillery.

Beyond that, senior South African officers were placed with every commander of the major Armed Forces of the DRC formations involved, to advise and to ensure co-ordination, which has boosted the self-confidence of the Fardc commanders, their staffs and their troops.

There have also been serious debriefing sessions, including one by the Military Health Service, for which the surgeon-general demanded everyone be “brutally frank”, and “brutally frank” they were.

Looking forward, the need for airlift has also been taken aboard and the charter myth finally exploded. As Mgwebi puts it, if we are going to go in, we need to do it “in double quick time” and that demands having our own transport aircraft.

The real lesson of Bangui is the need to decide on South Africa’s role in Africa – a regional security role commensurate with our economic strength and our need for a stable neighbourhood; or a

focus on border security, hoping that someone else will deal with any crises in sub-equatorial Africa.

Either way, a decision is needed. We paid with 13 lives to make that clear. It would be criminal to have wasted them.

* Helmoed Römer Heitman is an independent defence analyst and is the South African correspondent for Jane’s Defence Weekly and several other periodicals.

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**International News –
Why South Africa needs a capable
and properly equipped defence force**

Courtesy of Defenceweb

A pertinent illustration of why South Africa needs a capable and well-equipped defence force comes from a discussion by the chairman and three members of the Defence Review committee.

Taking the example of South African losses suffered in the Battle for Bangui last year, Roelf Meyer, Nick Sendall, John Gibbs and Tefo Koketsi said the country needs to stand aside from the emotions generated by events in the Central African Republic (CAR) and clearly assess the strategic purpose of its military commitments.

“Such commitments, with the potential to put South African soldiers in harm’s way, must always be measured against a clear understanding of both the role which South Africa wishes to play on the continent, as well as its own national interest. The national interest must be determined amidst the collective aggregate of those indispensable political, economic, social and often intangible factors that advance South Africa’s democracy, freedom, security, well-being, prosperity and continuance.

“From a domestic perspective, the South African national interest focuses on the inter-related priorities of sovereignty, constitutional order, the security of its institutions, the upliftment of its people and the growth of the economy. Significant growth of the economy requires accelerated

inbound and outbound trade (in particular higher-value products) as well as attracting significant volumes of foreign direct investments. Sustained value and volume of exports to traditional markets must be sustained and other high growth emergent markets must be accessed in Africa and beyond.

“The IMF projects that between 2013 and 2017, Africa will have 10 out of 20 fastest growing economies in the world. South Africa must penetrate these markets and enhance its share of intra-African trade by negotiated market access for South African exports through the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. The growth of the South African economy is thus intrinsically dependant on enduring peace, stability, economic development and deepened democracy on the continent. Security and development go hand in hand; the two are inter-linked and intertwined; and both are the continent’s biggest challenges.

“From a regional perspective, the South African national interest hinges on the recognition its own future is inextricably linked to the stability, unity and prosperity of the African continent. The African Agenda is rightly at the centre of South African policy. Africa however faces the enormous challenge of ‘rooting’ democracy. Of the 15 countries where leaders remain in power after coups d’états; 12 are in Africa, including the CAR with its own unique history of successive coups. History demonstrates stability is seldom achieved through dialogue and negotiation alone. Sometimes robust action, or at least the threat thereof, must be applied to resist threats to democracy and constitutional order.

“Africa cannot continue to expect the rest of the world to solve its problems; it has to become the architect of its own destiny. South Africa is undeniably a major power in Africa, with the leading economy accounting for 24% of African GDP before it was overtaken by Nigeria earlier this year and as such, has a vested interest in contributing to the rooting of democracy, the promotion of economic advancement and the pursuit of peace, stability and development on the African continent.

“South Africa must further, both in terms of its continental leadership role and its own national interest and in partnership with other like-minded African states, play a leading role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction and security sector reform.

“This will manifest in contributions to UN, AU and SADC security, democracy and good governance initiatives, as well as the conclusion of specific bilateral partnerships with other African states in the political, economic, social and security realms.

“Consequently South Africa’s future military capability must be commensurate with South Africa’s international status, its strategic posture and its inescapable continental leadership responsibilities. South Africa’s military capability must ultimately be able to support and enable this leadership role, as well as the pursuit of its own national interest.

“As South Africa increasingly assumes this leadership role, it will similarly increasingly assume the obligation to provide experienced military leaders and proficient and well-led military forces for peace missions and other military operations on the African continent.

“These may range from non-combat operations (where the use of force will be absent or restricted to self-defence) to major combat operations potentially utilising extreme and deadly force. All deployments will require appropriate command and control, intelligence, firepower, protection, manoeuvre and sustainment. Notably, an operation in a complex post-conflict environment may be just as dangerous as any major combat mission.

“The future South African National Defence Force (SANDF) design, although informed by the primary object of the defence force as prescribed in the Constitution, must also be sufficiently robust and flexible to project and sustain special, land, air and naval forces over long distances and for protracted periods on the African continent.

“The focus of its future force generation must extend to: enhanced early-warning, intelligence and domain awareness; increased capacitation of Special Forces and Special Operating Forces; projectable medium landward forces with enhanced fire power, manoeuvre and protection for a range of complex contingencies; versatile littoral maritime forces with credible deep water abilities; comprehensive close air support, air combat and air mobility abilities; multi-role lighter forces for border safeguarding and other protection tasks; a core of mechanised forces which can be expanded as required; layered and deployable military health support and the support of a viable and responsive defence industry.

“But the persistent disconnect between the defence mandate, South Africa’s growing defence commitments and the defence allocation has eroded its defence capabilities to the point where the defence force is unable to fully fulfil its constitutional responsibility to defend and protect South Africa and its people, and is hard pressed even to maintain its current modest level of domestic and international commitments.

“The current balance of expenditure between personnel, operating and capital is both severely disjointed and institutionally crippling.

“There must be either a greater budget allocation or, a significantly scaled-down level of ambition and commitment aligned to the current budget allocation.

“In short, there are two strategic options available for government: budget must be determined by policy or, budget must drive policy. The reality will most probably lie somewhere in between the two. Nonetheless, the fundamental principle remains that force design must match the level of commitment and a balanced expenditure ratio must be achieved.

“South Africa is a developmental state with competing economic and developmental priorities that have seriously limited the resources available

to maintain the defence force as a balanced and combat capable force capable of supporting South Africa's strategic posture and its inescapable continental leadership responsibilities.

“However, the key question is not whether South Africa can afford to play a significant leadership role in Africa, but rather, can it afford not to? “

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From the Chaplain

Read Psalm 121

A song of ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—

he will watch over your life;

⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going

both now and forevermore

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South African National Orders — SANDF Decorations

Courtesy of defenceweb

The medals and decorations list of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) currently numbers 66, of which 52 are for acts of bravery, valour and other meritorious deeds performed before April 2003. The remaining 14 are presented for these and other acts performed after that date.

The pre-April 2003 list is:

Castle of Good Hope/ Kasteel de Goede Hoop (CGH). Instituted as the prime military award and also the highest award that may be bestowed on a South

African. The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by a significant act of valour or most conspicuous bravery or during a pre-eminent act of self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of an enemy. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Honoris Crux Silver/ Honoris Crux Silwer (HCS). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by performing exceptional deeds of bravery, against an armed enemy, while in great danger of life. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Gold Star for Bravery/ Goue Ster vir Dapperheid (GSB). The decoration may be awarded to former members of Apla who have distinguished themselves by performing exceptional deeds of bravery against an armed enemy while in great danger of life before April 27, 1994.

Star for Bravery in Gold/ Ster vir Dapperheid in Goud (SBG). The decoration may be awarded to former members of MK who have distinguished themselves by performing exceptional deeds of bravery against an armed enemy while in great danger of life before April 27, 1994.

Honoris Crux (HC). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by performing deeds of bravery against an armed enemy while in danger of life. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Bravery Star in Silver/ Dapperheid Ster in Silwer (BSS). The decoration may be awarded to former members of Apla who have distinguished themselves by performing deeds of bravery against an armed enemy while in danger of life before April 27, 1994.

Star for Bravery in Silver/ Ster vir Dapperheid in Silwer (SBS). The decoration may be awarded to former members of MK who have distinguished themselves by performing deeds of bravery against an armed enemy while in danger of life before

April 27, 1994.

Pro Virtute Decoration/ Pro Virtute Dekorasië (PVD). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF in recognition of distinguished conduct and exceptional combat leadership in the field. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Star for Conspicuous Leadership/ Ster vir Uitnemende Leierskap (SCL). The decoration may be awarded to former members of Apla in recognition of distinguished conduct and exceptional combat leadership in the field before April 27, 1994.

Conspicuous Leadership Star/ Uitnemende Leierskap Ster (CLS). The decoration may be awarded to former members of MK in recognition of distinguished conduct and exceptional combat leadership in the field before April 27, 1994.

Southern Cross Decoration/ Suiderkruis Dekorasië (SD). The decoration may be awarded to officers of the SANDF for outstanding service of the highest order and the utmost devotion to duty. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Pro Merito Decoration/ Pro Merito Dekorasië (PMD). The decoration may be awarded to other ranks of the SANDF for outstanding service of the highest order and the utmost devotion to duty. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Gold Decoration for Merit/ Goue Dekorasië vir Verdienste (GDM). The decoration may be awarded to former members of Apla for outstanding service of the highest order and the utmost devotion to duty before April 27, 1994.

Decoration for Merit in Gold/ Dekorasië vir Verdienste in Goud (DMG). The decoration may be awarded to former members of MK for outstanding service of the highest order and the utmost devotion to duty before April 27, 1994.

Pro Virtute Medal/ Pro Virtute Medalje (PVM). The medal may be awarded to other ranks of the SANDF and the Auxiliary Service of the SANDF and

other armed forces attached to or serving with or rendering service to the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by their distinguished conduct and exceptional combat leadership in the field.

Ad Astra Decoration/ Ad Astra Dekorasie (AAD). The decoration may be awarded to air crew members of the SANDF on board aircraft for excellent flying skill or outstanding ingenuity or skill during emergencies or unusual situations. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Army Cross/ Leerkruis (CM). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SA Army who have distinguished themselves in dangerous or critical situations by exceptional courage, leadership, skill, ingenuity or tenacity in the handling of personnel, weaponry or other equipment. The Air Force Cross, Navy Cross and a Medical Service Cross may be awarded to members of the appropriate services under similar circumstances. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Southern Cross Medal/ Suiderkruis Medalje (SM). This medal may be awarded to officers of the SANDF for exceptional meritorious service and particular devotion to duty. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Pro Merito Medal/ Pro Merito Medalje (PMM). This medal may be awarded to other ranks of the SANDF for exceptional meritorious service and particular devotion to duty. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Merit Medal in Silver/ Verdienstemedalje in Silwer (MMS). This medal may be awarded to former members of MK for exceptional meritorious service and particular devotion to duty before April 27, 1994.

Silver Medal for Merit/ Silwer Medalje vir Verdienste (SMM). This medal may be awarded to former members of Apla for exceptional meritorious service and particular devotion to duty before April 27, 1994.

Military Merit Medal/ Militere Meriete

Medalje (MMM). This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF for service of a high order and devotion to duty. A bar may also be awarded for a successive similar achievement.

Merit Medal in Bronze/ Verdienstemedalje in Brons (MMB). This medal may be awarded to former members of MK for service of a high order and devotion to duty before April 27, 1994.

Bronze Medal for Merit/ Bronsmedalje vir Verdienste (BMM). This medal may be awarded to former members of Apla for service of a high order and devotion to duty before April 27, 1994.

Pro Patria Medal/ Pro Patria Medalje. This campaign medal may be awarded to members of the former SADF for service over a period of 55 days continuous or 90 days non-continuous operational service in the operational area of the former South West Africa, or other operational area as defined by the Minister of Defence, before March 21, 1990.

Cunene Clasp/ Kunene Gespe. Awarded to members of the former SADF for participation in Operation Savannah over the period August 25, 1975 to March 27, 1978.

Southern Africa Medal/ Suider-Afrika Medalje. This campaign medal may be awarded to members of the former SADF for participation in cross-border operations after April 1, 1978 and before March 21, 1990.

General Service Medal/ Algemene Dienstemedalje. This campaign medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF for military service of 55 days continuous or 90 days non-continuous between January 1, 1983 and August 19, 1993. The medal may also be awarded for participation in internal military operations as from August 20, 1993, or for service rendered as part of a military operation beyond the borders of the Republic of South Africa, or for official visits or inspections in connection with an operation. The period of qualifying service shall be a minimum of 30 days which may be continuous or non-continuous.

Maluti Clasp. Awarded to any members of the SANDF or Auxiliary Service in the SANDF, or any armed force attached to or serving with, or rendering any service to the SANDF who was engaged, for one day or more directly in, or in support of Operation Boleas and Operation Maluti over the period September 22, 1998 until May 14, 1999 and the second phase of the operation in Lesotho, codenamed Operation Maluti over the period May 18, 1999 until May 26, 2000.

Operational Medal for Southern Africa. This campaign medal may be awarded to former MK/Apla members who rendered service in a military operational capacity beyond the borders of the RSA for at least 60 days (which need not be continuous) before April 27, 1994.

South Africa Service Medal. This campaign medal may be awarded to former MK/Apla members who rendered service in a military operational capacity within the borders of the RSA for at least 60 days (which need not be continuous) before April 27, 1994.

Unitas Medal/ Unitas Medalje. Instituted as a commemorative medal for the unification of defence forces and armed forces in the RSA which commenced on April 27, 1994 and who rendered actual service over the full period April 27 to May 10, 1994.

Bat to the Medal for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service. The bar may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have rendered 50 years qualifying service.

Medal for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service/ Medalje vir Uitnemende Gedrag en Toegewyde Diens. This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have rendered 40 years qualifying service.

Good Service Medal (Gold)/ Medalje vir Troue Diens (Goud). This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF who served in the Permanent Force on the date of 30 years qualifying service.

Gold Service Medal/ Goue

Diensmedalje. This medal may be awarded to persons who served with the former Apla on the date of 30 years qualifying service before April 27, 1994.

Service Medal in Gold/ Diensmedalje in Goud. This medal may be awarded to persons who served with the former MK on the date of 30 years qualifying service before April 27, 1994.

John Chard Decoration/ John Chard Dekorاسie (JCD). This decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who served in the Citizen Force on the date of 20 years qualifying service. A clasp may be awarded for 30 years qualifying service.

De Wet Decoration/ De Wet Dekorاسie (DWD). This decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who served in the Commandos on the date of 20 years qualifying service. A clasp may be awarded for 30 years qualifying service.

Good Service Medal (Silver)/ Medalje vir Troue Diens (Silver). This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF who served in the Permanent Force on the date of 20 years qualifying service.

Silver Service Medal/ Silwer Diensmedalje. This medal may be awarded to persons who served with the former Apla on the date of 20 years qualifying service before April 27, 1994.

Service Medal in Silver/ Diensmedalje in Silver. This medal may be awarded to persons who served with the former MK on the date of 20 years qualifying service before April 27, 1994.

John Chard Medal/ John Chard Medalje. This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF who served in the Permanent Force on the date of 10 years qualifying service.

Good Service Medal (Bronze)/ Medalje vir Troue Diens (Bronze). This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF who served in the Permanent Force on the date of 10 years qualifying service.

De Wet Medal/ De Wet Medalje. This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF who served in the Commandos on the date of 10 years qualifying service.

Bronze Service Medal/ Brons Diensmedalje. This medal may be awarded to persons who served in the former Apla on the date of 10 years qualifying service before April 27, 1994.

Service Medal in Bronze/ Diensmedalje in Brons. This medal may be awarded to persons who served in the former MK on the date of 10 years qualifying service before April 27, 1994.

SADF Champion Shot Medal/ SAW Kampioenskut Medalje. This medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF who were adjudged the annual champion shots in the categories of small bore, full bore, service and pistol shooting.

Cadet Champion Shot Medal/ Kadet Kampioenskut Medalje. This medal may be awarded to the school cadet who is annually adjudged the champion during the final school cadet Bisley.

Mention in Despatches/ Vermelding in Berigte. This award is a miniature replica of the national Coat of Arms worn on the appropriate campaign medal related to the operational service the member rendered. The award may be awarded to members of the SANDF as special recognition for conduct and devotion to duty during operational circumstances for which no other medal can be awarded. If the recipient has no campaign medals the emblem is worn junior to all medals, mounted on a bar covered with the appropriate piece of tunic. If the member has no medals, the emblem is worn mounted on a bar covered with the appropriate piece of tunic.

Chief of the SANDF Commendation/ Hoof van die SANW se Aanprysing. This award is a certificate and may be awarded to military and civilian members of the SANDF and DoD, civilians employed by the State or the private sector and other institutions who have committed themselves to render a direct contribution and meritorious

service towards the SANDF.

Other Commendations. Commendation certificates are instituted for all Chiefs of the Services as well as Chiefs of Staff Divisions for meritorious service and a meaningful contribution towards the SANDF. Various officers commanding have instituted commendation certificates and the use thereof enjoys high esteem.

Decorations on the post April 2003 list are:

Nkwe ya Gsuta (NG) (Golden Leopard). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of exceptional bravery during military operations. A bar may be awarded for a successful similar achievement. The award of an insignia shall indicate the award of the decoration for service in active military operations. Insignia will be awarded/issued according to the Service in which the recipient was serving at the time of the action for which the decoration was conferred.

Nkwe ya Selefera (NS) (Silver Leopard). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of conspicuous bravery during military operations. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement. The award of an insignia shall indicate the award of the decoration for service in active military operations. Insignia will be awarded/issued according to the Service in which the recipient was serving at the time of the action for which the decoration was conferred.

Nkwe ya Boronse (NB) (Bronze Leopard). This decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of bravery during military operations. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement. The award of an insignia shall indicate the award of the decoration for service in active military operations. Insignia will be awarded/issued according to the Service in which the recipient was serving at the time of the action for which the

decoration was conferred.

iPhrothiya yaGolide (PG) (Golden Protea). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who distinguished themselves by exceptional leadership or exceptional meritorious service and the utmost devotion to duty. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement. The award of an insignia shall indicate the award of the decoration for service in active military operations. Insignia will be awarded/issued according to the Service in which the recipient was serving at the time of the action for which the decoration was conferred.

iPhrothiya yeStilva (PS) (Silver Protea). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who distinguished themselves by outstanding leadership or outstanding meritorious service and particular devotion to duty. A bar may be awarded for a similar successive achievement. The award of an insignia shall indicate the award of the decoration for service in active military operations. Insignia will be awarded/issued according to the Service in which the recipient was serving at the time of the action for which the decoration was conferred.

iPhrothiya yeBhronzi (PB) (Bronze Protea). The decoration may be awarded to members of the SANDF who distinguished themselves by leadership or meritorious service and devotion to duty. A bar may be awarded for a successive similar achievement. The award of an insignia shall indicate the award of the decoration for service in active military operations. Insignia will be awarded/issued according to the Service in which the recipient was serving at the time of the action for which the decoration was conferred.

Tshumelo Ikatelaho (General Service). This campaign medal may be awarded to members of the SANDF and of any Auxiliary Service in the SANDF and of any Armed Forces attached to or rendering any service to the SANDF who was engaged for one day or more directly in or in support of a military operation, belligerent or otherwise.

Medalje vir Troue Diens/ Medal for Loyal Service. The medal and

subsequent bars may be awarded to members of the SANDF and of any Auxiliary Service of the SANDF whose character and conduct have been irreproachable and who, on or after April 27, 2003, completed the required years qualifying service, which need not be continuous.

Emblem for Reserve Force Service (RD). This emblem is awarded to officers and other ranks of the SANDF Reserve Force who, after April 27, 2003, completed the prescribed period of 20 years loyal service to qualify for the award of the Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Diens 20 years and whose character and conduct have been irreproachable and who are in every way considered worthy and deserving of recognition for Reserve Force service. The required minimum of five years' service in the Reserve Force may be rendered in any years (which need not be consecutive) prior to, during or after, the qualifying period for the award of the 20 year Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Diens provided the member shall be serving as a member of the Reserve Force at the time of qualifying for the Emblem.

Okhankanyiweyo (Mention in Despatches/Vermelding in Berigte). The award is a miniature replica of the national Coat of Arms worn on the appropriate campaign medal related to the operational service the member rendered. The award may be awarded to members of the SANDF as special recognition for conduct and devotion to duty during operational circumstances for which no other medal can be awarded. If the recipient has no campaign medals the emblem is worn junior to all medals, mounted on a bar covered with the appropriate piece of tunic. If the member has no medals the emblem is worn, mounted on a bar covered with the appropriate piece of tunic.

Long Service Awards for Civilians. The award of long service certificates may be awarded to civilians members (PSAP) of the SANDF. Certificates are awarded for 10 and 20 years continuous service.

Public Service Certificates (PSAP members). The award of long service

certificates may be awarded to civilian members (PSAP) of the SANDF. Certificates are awarded for 20 and 30 years continuous service. A cash amount is also awarded on completion of 30 years continuous service. The amount will be adjusted annually on April 1 according to the CPIX for the period January to December of the preceding year.

Badge for Voluntary Reserve Force Service. This emblem is awarded to members of the SANDF Reserve Force who have distinguished themselves by rendering five years praiseworthy voluntary Reserve Force service. This emblem is awarded for service rendered from October 28, 1985.

Commendation by Chief of the SANDF. This award is a certificate and may be awarded to military and civilian members of the SANDF and DoD, civilians employed by the State or the private sector and other institutions who have committed themselves to render a direct contribution and meritorious service towards the SANDF.

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Regimental Photos



Major (Rev.) "Patsy" Nolan (SA Irish
Regimental Chaplain during the Second



A recruitment poster courtesy of
Lieutenant G.R. Howard.
Featuring our RSM,
Master Warrant Officer G.S. Moseki