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The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

2014: Our Centenary Year

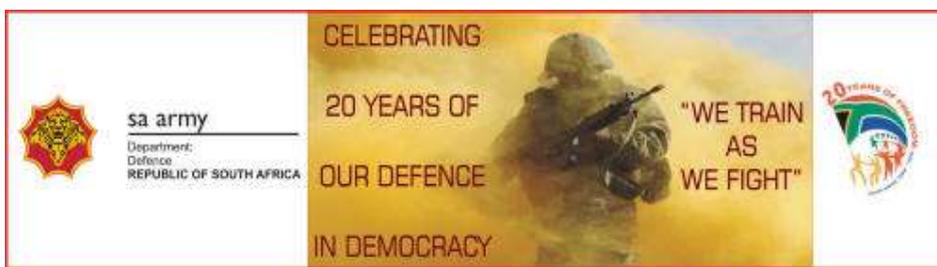
By the Editor

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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.

We salute our brave comrades from our deployment company that has already deployed externally. You are in our thoughts and prayers for your safe keeping. Good luck and keep the flag of the SA Irish Flying high.

We also want to congratulate to the winners of our 2014 Soccer World Cup prediction game on Superbru:

- 1st Place: Major Izak Stins (SA Irish Regiment)
- 2nd Place: Mrs. Trish Steyn (Civilian Participant)
- 3rd Place: Lt Col. Eugene Casey (Former OC – Witwatersrand Rifles Regiment)

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From the OC's Desk

By: Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

It is hard to believe that we are already in the twelfth issue of the shamrock. It has proved to be more of a success that I had hoped for.

Contributions from various members of the Regiment made it possible for the Shamrock to cover a large spectrum of SANDF and Regimental events. Remember to keep those articles regarding regimental events coming.

Judging by the success over its twelve issue run, I can only see it going from strength to strength and we can look forward to more jam packed issues.

I continue to encourage members of the Regiment to submit articles on a regular basis.

To those members on deployment, I only wish the best for them and for their safe return. Keep the name of the Regiment flying high!

- Faugh a Ballagh
Lt Col. M.A. Bennett
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Regimental Events

By: The Editor

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

13 September - Leader-Group Table 3 Night Shoot

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

21 November – Centenary formal dinner. Military members only.

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

The *Batallón de San Patricio*, (Saint Patrick's battalion) was an artillery and later an infantry battalion, of members of Irish descent that fought on the side of the Mexican government during the Mexican-American war of 1846-1848.

For Americans of the generation that fought the Mexican-American War, the *San Patricios* were considered traitors.

For Mexicans of that generation, and generations to come, the *San Patricios* were heroes who came to their aid in time of need when no one else would.

The battalion, whose members were of Irish descent, fought under the command of Major John Riley. They fought with such ferocity in several engagements that they became a specific target for American forces.

They first fought as an Artillery battery, but was later reorganized as an Infantry battalion along with other foreign battalions after having suffered huge casualties.

After the conflict ended several of their members were executed by the American forces that regarded them as traitors and deserters.

Their bravery is still celebrated in Mexico 12 September (the day of the executions) and on 17 March (Saint Patrick's Day) every year.

Even more amazing tribute to their bravery is that each year on the 12th of September the town of Clifden in Ireland (where Major John Riley was born) flies the Mexican flag.

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From the Pipes and Drums.

By: The Pipe Major

S A Irish Regiment Pipes & Drums 2014 Calendar of Events:

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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News from the SANDF – Name change process reaching finality

Written by Kim Helfrich

The final briefing of SA Army Reserve Force units on the details of possible name changes was conducted in the Western Cape on Wednesday (4 June) by Brigadier General Gerhard Kamffer.

He is the officer chosen by Army Chief, Lieutenant General Vusi Masondo, to head up the name review steering committee and will now wait for submissions from Reserve Force formations nationally. The formations had until the end of June to submit possible name changes and motivations for them.

The next step for Kamffer and his committee members after this is to prepare a submission for Masondo.

“We expect to be in a position where examples of names to be changed or retained can be released by the middle of July,” he said.

Included in the criteria for name changes are that units cannot be named after living people. When the name of a dead person is nominated he or she must have played a significant role in the country's military history. Names such as that of Doman, a Khoi-Khoi leader; Gonnema, leader of the Cochogue in the second Khoi-Khoi conflict in 1673; Xhosa chief Ngqika; Field Marshall Jan Smuts; Major General Dan Pienaar; Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu and Chris Hani have been put forward as suggestions.

Where place names have changed since democracy, such as Transvaal and Natal, these should not be part of unit or regiment names. “The temptation to simply update a name to the new name

should be avoided wherever possible and consideration given to a new and imaginative name,” Kamffer said earlier this year.

Ethnic and tribal names are a no-no. Scottish, Irish, Zulu and Xhosa are given as examples that should not be included in new unit name suggestions but the traditions associated with these could be maintained via regimental bands or ceremonial sub-units.

Importantly, there is no indication that colours and battle honours will disappear to be forgotten in dusty storerooms. If a unit changes its name it has the right to retain its colour and battle honours.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF increasingly relying on Reserve Force members

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is relying more and more on part-time soldiers to supplement the regular force in fulfilling its mandate.

This was confirmed by Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, during the recent Budget Vote of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans in Parliament.

She said that the Reserve Force is “providing an increasing proportion of the deployments, both on external peace support operations and for the protection of our borders.”

It is believed the Reserve Force comprises some 22,000 members, of whom 14,668 were called up during the year ending 31 March 2014.

The majority of the members were utilised for internal deployment under Operation Corona, the safeguarding of South Africa’s borders. Specifically, 7 of the 13 companies deployed for border protection are Reserve Force members, or 55% of the forces deployed.

The Reserves also contribute to the manpower required for continental peacekeeping operations, such as the 1,000 South African soldiers serving in the United Nations Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Apart from the battalion of soldiers, three Rooivalk attack heliports and various Oryx transport helicopters support the mission.

The percentage of Reserve Force members on foreign deployment is believed to be 25% of each battalion, i.e., 1 of 4 companies.

Mapisa-Nqakula noted that the Reserves possessed many skills which either did not exist in the SANDF, or were under-represented. These included skills which were acquired by members who had served in the regular force, but had subsequently resigned.

“There are skills which you need from those who are out there in the Reserves,” she explained. This included medical doctors and pilots.

Of the 14,668 members called up last year, 10,316 served in the SA Army, 1,529 in the SA Military Health Services, the Divisions accounted for 1,409, the Navy another 619 and 495 served in the Air Force. It is not known with whom the balance of 300 members served.

These Reserves Force members served an average of 183 days per person during the year.

Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga, spokesperson for the Defence Force, says that this figure is very much an average.

“Some members are called up for retraining and then for a six month deployment, a limited number are called up for (similar) periods for administrative and training duties whilst others are only called up for as little as one evening a month,” he explained.

When a Reserve Force member is not deployed on operations, the goal for each member is to do twelve days of service/training a year.

Whilst Mapisa-Nqakula says that the revitalisation of the Reserve Force remains a priority, progress has been inhibited by financial constraints.

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News from the SANDF – Funding crisis for the SANDF

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) is facing a "catastrophic" multi-billion-Rand financial crisis that could force mass retrenchments and the indefinite postponement of the acquisition of essential equipment.

Johannesburg daily The Times reported defence secretary Sam Gulube as saying a R1.1 billion budget shortfall could compel the SANDF into large-scale retrenchments and compulsory early retirement in order to survive and pay salaries.

The budget shortfall also meant the SANDF would have to cut operations and acquisitions.

Gulube was speaking after briefing Parliament's defence portfolio committee.

The defence force's descent into crisis was slammed by the SA National Defence Union (Sandu) and a defence analyst said the proposed cost-saving measures would degrade the SANDF - already "catatonic" - even more.

Gulube said the Department of Defence was unable to fill 4 000 posts because of insufficient funding.

Various options were being considered, he said, including cutting employees and extending working hours between now and March 2015.

"We hope that for the next financial year we will be covered.

"For the remuneration of employees, we are about R1.1 billion short. By the end of this year, I will have to balance these books.

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"When posts are vacant we don't fill them. We encourage people to take voluntary exit mechanisms. We are looking at the attrition rate. The number of people who retire or die in service will be about 2 000 annually."

The shortfall means soldiers are being deployed for longer on foreign missions to cut down on stand-by shifts at home bases.

David Maynier, Democratic Alliance MP and defence portfolio committee member, said the Department of Defence was spending more than half of its budget of about R43 billion on personnel-related costs.

"The army alone has a R13.8 billion budget, of which R9.5 billion went to pay soldiers and staff. Less than one percent went to payment for capital assets such as vehicles."

Maynier said ideally about 40% of a budget should be spent on pay and benefits and the rest split equally between operations and capital acquisitions.

"The defence force needs to downsize to reduce expenditure on personnel so that it can properly fund operations and acquisitions."

Defence analyst Helmoed Heitman said the cost-cutting proposals would be "catastrophic" for a defence force already in a "catatonic state".

"If they are implemented, the SANDF will suffer severe capability losses.

"Critical acquisitions, such as those of heavy-lift aircraft and maritime patrol aircraft - the latter dating back to World War II - are already years behind deadline."

Heitman said every arm of the defence force was in crisis.

"There are not enough planes, pilots, vessels, sailors, soldiers and vehicles.

"Equipment is ageing ... troops are overstretched ... it is a complete catastrophe."

He said retrenchments might sound like a good idea but "there is hardly anyone left to retrench".

"To operate optimally, doing its currently required work, including peacekeeping deployments and border protection, we need an additional 20 000 troops.

He said the air force's transport capabilities were "a disaster".

"Just look at what happened in the Central African Republic, where we had to rely on a chartered aircraft to get equipment to trapped troops - which was delivered too late.

"To some, it's a joke. To those operating some of this equipment, it's a life-threatening situation."

Pikkie Greeff, Sandu general secretary, said: "The proposals make the 2014 Defence Review appear as a worthless a piece of paper.

"It's the same as the health minister saying there's no money, so let's close hospitals."

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News from the SANDF – SAAF hosts Gripen user Group

Written by Dean Wingrin

The South African Air Force (SAAF) played host to the Gripen User Group taking place at AFB Makhado during the month of June.

The Gripen User Group (GuG) is an inter-governmental initiative between air forces around the world that currently fly the Gripen fighter jet. Representatives of countries that fly the Gripen fighter hold a bi-annual conference in one of the member countries to share their experiences of operational use of the supersonic fighter. These talks revolve around operational, maintenance, logistics, engineering and safety matters.

Attendees at this year's week-long event included South Africa as host, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden and Thailand. The SAAF had previously

hosted the GuG before, in December 2011, but have on occasion had to decline attending events hosted overseas due to, presumably, financial reasons.

Czech Gripen pilot Major Petr Michenka attended a previous conference held in the Czech Republic and summed up the event. "Individual users accumulate different experiences in operating these aircraft, for example, due to different climatic conditions. We share different experiences and information during the conference and found that some of them are very similar. After the evaluation, we can be better prepared for the challenges ahead."

The South African Air Force acquired nine two seat Gripen Ds and 17 single seat Gripen Cs, which were delivered between 2008 and 2012. The final four single-seat aircraft were retained in Sweden to take part in the multinational Gripen exercise Lion Effort in March and April 2012, alongside 30 Gripens from other GuG nations.

Lion Effort is a tactical exercise intended to enhance interoperability between Gripen user countries. The first exercise was held in 2009 in Hungary, while the second was held in Sweden and saw the South African Air Force participate for the first time. It also marked the first time the SAAF has deployed overseas in the last 60 years since its involvement in the Korean War (1950-1953).

The South African Air Force would like to host Lion Effort in 2018, funding permitting, and will send observers to the next exercise in the Czech Republic in 2015.

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News from the SANDF – New deputy Minister is a hands-on veterans' man

Courtesy of defenceweb

New Deputy Defence Minister is a hands-on veterans' man

The new man at the helm of veterans' affairs in the Department of Defence

has been closely involved with particularly MK veterans since 2007 and is also currently president of the national military veterans association.

Kebby Maphatsoe was named new Deputy Defence and Military Veterans Minister by President Jacob Zuma when he announced a new, expanded Cabinet following last month's national elections. He replaces Thabang Makwetla, who served as deputy minister from 2009.

He was elected president of the SA National Military Veterans Association (SANMVA), which includes all South African veterans ranging from Umkhonto we Sizwe, through to Apla and Azanla as well as retired SA Defence Force (SADF) and SA National Defence Force (SANDF) members.

He lists membership of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC as well as the party's NEC peace and stability sub-committee and a two-year stint as a member of the ANC Greater Johannesburg Region regional executive committee and a term as a Johannesburg City councillor (proportional representative) as examples of his political leadership.

He led the task team on the veterans group for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 2010 and was also a member of the South African Ministerial task team on military veterans in 2008.

In addition to presidency of SANMVA, Maphatsoe has been provincial chairman of the Gauteng MK Veterans Association and Johannesburg regional executive chair of the same association.

Maphatsoe acquired his junior military qualifications in Angola in 1986 and three years later completed an army officer's course in Uganda before doing officer basic in 1991.

That he plans to continue being a hands-on man now that he is in the Defence Ministry was made clear in an interview he gave to Johannesburg daily The Star.

He said: "We can't be an office-based department. I am going to be outside the

office. People will rarely see me in the office. I'll be on the ground with veterans trying to resolve their issues and uplift their lives.

"That's my priority. People are dying. Situations are dire, so we can't wait any longer. This includes the dependents of comrades. Or history will judge us otherwise."

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News from the SANDF – Properly trained Reserve Force will be an asset for national development.

Courtesy of defenceweb

The utilisation of well-trained and equipped Reserve Force soldiers can contribute to national development maintains Lieutenant Colonel Philip Coetzer, Staff Officer, Reserves in the SA Army Armour Formation.

As South Africa gears up to mark National Youth Day on June 16 he sees the paradigm shift in the country's defence sector, as set out in the Defence Review, being a positive opening for the SA National Defence Force and particularly its Reserve Force component to contribute to national development.

If implemented his initiative will also be in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) which aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality in South Africa by 2030.

"The NDP says South Africa can achieve these goals. Promoting leaders and partnerships throughout society could be important building blocks and the development of young soldiers in the Reserve Force fits well into this," Coetzer said.

It also dovetails with goal four, task 13 set out in the Defence Review where the military is expected to "contribute to the development of South Africa and its people".

"The defence contribution to national development can be realised virtually immediately as a direct output of day-to-day peace force activities," he said

adding the challenge is to obtain and utilise human and other resources.

"Apart from the important role as regards youth development and utilisation, spatial dispersion of defence infrastructure by means of employment and improving the economic profiles of communities contributes to the utilisation of Reserves in supplementing income levels of poorer households. In essence this means community services also are rendered.

"A strong case can be made that there is room for further development opportunities for Reserve Force soldiers and even Young Lions. Not only can valuable work experience be gained inside and outside the SA Army and/or the non-profit organisation sector but the multi-level utilisation of Reserve soldiers as community development practitioners will add even more value"

Quoting from a published paper Coetzer said the non-profit sector is a major force in the national economy.

"Its relative stability apart, it is also a leader in employing black people and women in decision-making positions. Managerial staff is almost 60% women and 73% black people."

He sees empowering Reserve Force soldiers with particularly social service educations and backgrounds as relevant.

"The first step would be to obtain a National Certificate in Community Development (level three – ID 66749) or Auxiliary Social Work FET certificate in Auxiliary Social Work (NQF4 ID 23993). So yes, there are great opportunities in the field of Social Service Practitioners.

"This priority area opens up opportunities for Reserve Force soldiers also to be utilised as group facilitators. Seta-accredited training on facilitation of learning events, project management of community programmes and short SAQA-aligned training and development could be utilised as building blocks in this career path development.

"Considering that post-school qualifications (on NQF5 level with a

minimum of 120 credits) are required for possible officer selection, a relevant qualification to equip members for such roles is indispensable. Without partners, it would be difficult to implement such a concept.

“An example of where a viable partnership model can be implemented is co-operation between a university and Directorate SA Army Reserves.

Directorate SA Army Reserves gives inputs regarding the curriculum development of an existing course, utilises part-time Reserve Force staff officers as mentors and assists with the screening of part-time soldiers for joining the Certificate in Community Leadership programme at the relevant university. The course could be compiled in such a way that learners (Reserve Force soldiers) could facilitate a small-scale community project over three months. Such community facilitation can be done in a previously disadvantaged community where further impetus can be given to the potential defence contribution to the national development concept.

“The concept could be developed further to address the need to include trained Reserve Force soldiers in various community development posts. Subsequently, it not only leads to further development of career paths and helping the thousands of unemployed but also to well-trained soldiers as community or assistant community development practitioners, an approach that recruits, trains and places professionally qualified and allied professionals back into their own communities. A consequence of this approach is that capable Reserve Force soldiers play a vital role as community leaders in their own communities

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News from the SANDF – Badger IFV manufacturing to start within the next 24 months.

Courtesy of defenceweb

Serial production of the Badger infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) for the South African Army will start within the coming 24 months, with the first fully-

completed local Badger to roll off production facilities in Lyttelton in late 2016, according to Denel.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and state arms contracting company Armscor placed an order for 238 of the vehicles in November 2013, to be delivered over a ten year period.

At the moment the vehicle is undergoing operational testing and evaluation at various testing grounds in the Northern Cape such as Armscor’s Alkantpan facility and the SA Army’s combat training centre at Lohatla. The SA Army – as the end-user – and Armscor are involved with the process every step of the way to ensure the final design meets their requirements, Denel said.

“The evaluation of the prototype vehicles is in process and we have received very positive feedback from the joint teams responsible for the testing,” said Stephan Burger, the CEO of Denel Land Systems (DLS).

Burger said the locally-designed and produced Badger is the culmination of decades of research, testing and development that produced a mature vehicle which will provide South African soldiers with unrivalled firepower and mobility and maximum armoured protection.

The vehicle’s platform is based on a design from Finnish company Patria, which was modified by DLS to meet local user requirements including landmine protection, manoeuvrability and firepower.

A South African team will soon spend a few months in Finland to participate in the manufacturing of the initial 16 vehicles after which the entire production process will be migrated to South Africa. During this second stage 70% of the vehicle will be produced in South Africa using local skills, manufacturing capacity, defence technology and subcontractors, Denel said.

Burger said the contract will create and retain at least 2 000 jobs in the downstream South African defence

industry among local subcontractors as well as 200 direct jobs at Denel Land Systems. These jobs cover a wide spectrum from graduate engineers, system designers and artisans to skilled and semi-skilled workers.

“The programme makes a decisive contribution to meet the country industrial objectives with regards to skills development, advanced manufacturing and job creation,” he said.

The Programme Manager, Avishkar Govender, said the modular infantry system has been developed by Denel Land System in five variants, namely Command, Section, Mortar, Missile and Fire Support derivatives. The common turret structure, fitted with different weapon modules as well as a common platform, with variant specific fits will simplify the logistic support and reduce the cost of through-life support.

The Badger variants are equipped with various weapon systems. The main weapon system, used on the Section and Fire Support Variants, is the 30 mm externally-driven cam-operated cannon. This was developed by DLS, along with the 30 mm ammunition produced by Denel’s PMP division.

For the Mortar Variant, a 60 mm breech-loading long-range mortar was developed by DLS, along with 60 mm long-range NATO ammunition while the Ingwe anti-tank missile system, developed by Denel Dynamics, is used on the Missile Variant.

Burger said the Badger confirms Denel’s position as South Africa’s premier producer of world-class defence products and systems and a strategic partner of the SANDF.

The Badger project has already resulted in Malaysia ordering R3.5 billion worth of turrets and weapons from Denel, developed for the Badger.

The cost of the Badger programme amounts to R15.4 billion, up from the original estimate of R8 billion, according to Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

The order for the 238 vehicles was trimmed down from 264 due to funding constraints. "The total requirement of 264 vehicles as per the SA Army requirements was acknowledged, but because of available funds for the project, approval for 238 vehicles was granted to remain within the allocated funds," the Minister said in February.

Military analyst Helmoed Heitman told Business Day the cost increase could be due to inflation as the original project was mooted some five years ago. The current contract also included spares, an item not in the original estimate.

The full fleet of Badgers will replace the Army's ageing Ratels when deliveries conclude. Last year Denel said the first Badger would roll of its production facilities in October 15 but this timetable has slipped.

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News from the SANDF – Seboka 2014 will be ACIRC force preparation exercise for the SA Army

Courtesy of defenceweb

South Africa's commitment to the African Union (AU) African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) force goes to another level in September when the Army's annual force preparation exercise will be geared specifically to the fledgling rapid response force.

ACIRC is seen as a precursor to the African Standby Force (ASF), originally envisaged by the AU as its rapid response unit for speedy intervention in conflict or other crises on the continent.

This year's force preparation exercise will, as in the past, be known as Exercise Seboka, but will not test combat readiness of the landward arm of service of the SANDF in the conventional battle arena.

"Seboka 2014 is going to be an SA Army force preparation exercise for ACIRC," is the word from a reliable source.

It will take place at the Army Combat Training Centre (CTC) at Lohathla from September 9 to 26 with 43 SA Brigade as the brigade headquarters. No further details of units and/or regiments taking part in the exercise were available at the time of publication but the exercise is deemed as important for South Africa, which is currently one of ten African states who have committed to supplying troops and equipment for ACIRC. The other countries are Algeria, Angola, Chad, Liberia, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The cancellation of an AU field training exercise (FTX) in Lesotho, originally set down for October, as part of the continental body's preparations to operationalise the ASF by 2015, puts into perspective South Africa's commitment to ACIRC.

Last November South African President Jacob Zuma, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, hosted a meeting in Pretoria to plot the way forward in making ACIRC a reality. He told that meeting the decision to establish ACIRC came about "due to the realisation that independent and swift African response to crises that arise on our continent cannot wait while the building blocks of the ASF are carefully being put into place".

The ASF has been in the making for more than 10 years with any number of planning meetings and programmes on its structure, deployment and logistic matters held by the AU African Peace and Security Architecture.

The dates of September 9 to 26 for Exercise Seboka 2014 have been confirmed by a reliable SANDF source. The "official" calendar of SA Army events for 2014 lists the exercise as taking place between November 10 and 28 this year.

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News from the SANDF – Reserves are important to the Navy

Courtesy of defenceweb

In common with the other arms of service in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), the Navy constantly battles to maximise minimal resources to meet demands set by its political masters.

One of these areas is that of revitalising the reserve component across the SANDF as identified as a defence priority by previous Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Lindiwe Sisulu, in the Defence Amendment Act of December 2010.

Vice Admiral Mosuwa Samuel Hlongwane has been at the helm of the Navy for four months since taking over from Johannes Mudimu and he expounded his views on the importance of the Navy Reserve to the Reserve Force Volunteer.

"All tangible means will be utilised within our budget to continue the revitalisation and transformation of the Navy Reserves so they can stand shoulder to shoulder with their regular counterparts as one force. The 'One Force' concept implies a sense of good relationships, consistency and shared perception, not as a matter of administration but as a core of our identity," Hlongwane said, adding the Navy's professionalism was its greatest challenge.

The Navy would continue doing "everything possible" to meet the Ministerial priority.

"Reserves are continually identified to build a Reserve Force that is disciplined, capable and ready for deployment.

"The Navy Reserves are an important element in the defence and security network of our nation. Additionally, SAN Reserves are an integral part of the SAN and an economic force multiplier. The majority of these members carry

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out duties in critical SAN musterings while some perform support functions.”

The only vice admiral in the country pointed out South Africans who volunteered as Reserve Force soldiers were “twice the citizens” others are.

“Every day they go about their daily tasks in the private sector and they are also prepared to serve our country in defence of its territory and Constitution.”

Hlongwane said the Navy since the beginning of this year had the benefit of a graduate. He is currently working in the Naval Engineering Section (NES) and was recruited via the Reserve Force’s University Reserve Training Programme (URTP).

The South African Air Force is also focusing on reserves. SAAF chief Lieutenant General Fabian Msimang earlier this year said that the SAAF was committed to the use of the reserve force in light of budgetary constraints and has consistently used, trained and developed “this cost effective segment of our human capital.”

The SAAF chief added that the rollout of the University Reserve Training Programme is continuing in the SAAF and that the SAAF College has established a Reserve Training section dedicated to training University Reserve Training Programme students.

“The SAAF is doing everything possible to remove all the remaining obstacles that keep our Reserve Force Squadrons grounded. I need the Reserve Squadrons to get back to flying in order to add capacity to the SAAF’s core business, especially against the background of our ever-increasing responsibilities and commitments in support of the South African government’s peace initiatives on the African continent.”

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News from the SANDF – Revamped strike craft ready for anti-piracy duty

Courtesy of defenceweb

The third Warrior Class strike craft to be refitted as an offshore patrol vessel (OPV) – SAS Makhanda – is en route to the Mozambique Channel for Operation Copper counter-piracy duties.

Prior to becoming an OPV, her condition had deteriorated to such an extent she could not make own passage from Simon’s town to SA Shipyards in Durban and was towed to the east coast port for repair and refurbishment work.

The former SAS Magnus Malan completed harbour and sea acceptance trials in Durban before setting course for her home port last month. She was first spotted in the Simon’s town area on June 29 and was seen in the bay less than a week later sporting her 76 mm forward gun.

No official confirmation was forthcoming from the Navy but it has been reliably learnt the third revamped member of the SA Navy’s current offshore capability will replace sister ship, SAS Galeshewe, in the Mozambique Channel.

The other two converted strike craft are SAS Isaac Dyobha (P1565) and Galeshewe (P1567). Makhanda’s pennant number is (P1569).

The return to service of Makhanda means SA Shipyards has met its obligation to supply three serviceable and reliable vessels the Navy “will be able to use effectively for the next five years,” SA Shipyards marketing officer Lucinda Creamer said.

Just over a year ago then Director: Force Preparation for the Navy, Rear Admiral Bravo Mhlana (now Flag Officer Fleet), told defenceWeb the refurbishment of the strike craft was in line with the eventual acquisition of new offshore patrol vessels in terms of Project Biro.

“We have to keep these vessels (refurbished strike craft) as long as we can so crews can be transferred from them to the new OPVs.”

Recent indications from new Navy chief Rear Admiral Mosuwa Hlongwane are the renewal of the offshore patrol and hydrographic capabilities of the Navy remain on track.

In April he told defenceWeb projects Biro (OPVs) and Hotel (a new hydrographic vessel to replace the ageing SAS Protea) are in the final acquisition study phases.

“Once complete we will have a clearer indication of the capability we will receive and when delivery can be expected,” he said.

The upgrading of Naval Station Durban to a fully-fledged naval base housing the OPVs, both existing and to come, is also still on track according to Hlongwane.

“The re-establishment of the naval base on Salisbury Island is on track and the OPVs will be stationed in Durban. As this facility is in the heart of South Africa’s busiest harbour, a balance has to be found between commercial and defence requirements in the ever-growing Durban port.

“I cannot over-emphasise the importance of the Indian Ocean and our ability to conduct maritime security operations from South Africa’s eastern seaboard. Central to this is Naval Base Durban and the OPVs that will operate from there,” he said.

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News from the SANDF – Veterans getting free services

Courtesy of defenceweb

Military veterans.South African military veterans are getting access to a range of free services, including healthcare, education support, skills development and housing, according to the Department of Military Veterans.

DMV spokesperson Mbulelo Musi made the announcement on Youth Day

yesterday in honour of the youth of 1976 and the 38th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising. On 16 June 1976, a group of schoolchildren set off from Morris Isaacson High School in Orlando, Soweto, to protest against Afrikaans being their medium of instruction. The ensuing protests in Soweto are now commemorated as Youth Day.

Musi said the benefits afforded to veterans include access to free health care services, education support for them and their dependants, business support, creation of job opportunities, skills development as well as the provision of decent houses.

Musi congratulated the thousands of military veterans who "took the bull by its horns" over the last 40 years. "They took brave steps to swell the ranks of the armed wings of the liberation movements such as Umkhonto we Sizwe and the Azanian People's Liberation Army," he said.

Military veterans have since February this year been getting access to benefits including housing, health, education, burial support and pensions after the Military Veterans Benefits Regulations (MVBR) were gazetted in Section 5 of the Military Veterans Act, stipulating guidelines for the roll-out of benefits.

DMV Director-General Tsepe Motumi earlier this year said the benefits will be rolled out in strategic spending of the R300 million that the National Treasury has allocated to the department. Motumi said R72 million has been allocated for the provision of 505 houses to military veterans in the current financial cycle.

Between October and December last year the DMV staged road shows in all nine provinces with 5 000 medical healthcare cards distributed to military veterans. The cards enable veterans to get free medical care at any medical facility of the SA Medical Health Service (SAMHS) of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

On education, Motumi said during the previous academic year, 100 bursaries at a cost of R2 million were provided to military veterans at both basic and tertiary education level. This figure has

been doubled for the 2014/15 academic year.

"200 bursaries have been provided to military veterans and R6 million has been allocated to ensure that books, laptops and other education materials necessary for military veterans and their dependents to study are also provided," he said.

To date, the DMV has provided burial support to almost 500 military veterans who died destitute. Before gazetting of the MVBRs, R10 000 was provided to families of military veterans for burial support. Following publication of the gazette, this amount has been increased to R25 000 as well as the provision of a coffin.

Well over a thousand military veterans have been assisted in accessing job opportunities through memoranda of understanding entered into with the departments of Water and Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Affairs, Agriculture as well as other state entities.

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News from the SANDF – Exercise Winter Solstice testing SAAF readiness.

Courtesy of defenceweb

Starting on Saturday 26 July the SA Air Force (SAAF) will stand up and be counted for operational and combat readiness when Exercise Winter Solstice IV starts.

The two week long exercise will see portions of airspace over Eastern and Northern Cape utilised by jets, helicopters and transport aircraft in partially simulated field training exercise. Areas where heightened military activity can be expected are Bulembu and Port Elizabeth in Eastern Cape with Upington, De Aar and Kimberley also in line for more military movements than usual.

"The field training exercise will exercise and evaluate military personnel, military systems and procedures in the operational command and control environment at all different

levels responsible for command and control of SAAF air operations. What the exercise will do is ensure SAAF command and control competence in terms of the force's responsibility to provide combat ready SAAF elements to the Chief: Joint Operations," Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Maseko said.

He could not provide details of participating aircraft but did say he was sure the necessary arrangements were in place with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to ensure general, civil and other aviation sectors would be made aware of movement of military aircraft.

"A simulated battle will see increased military presence and activity in part of Eastern Cape for the duration of the exercise. There will also be increased aircraft noise in the area as jets, various helicopter types and fixed wing aircraft will be deployed in execution of Winter Solstice IV.

"Heavy duty vehicles will be utilised to deploy radars and other ground support systems. These transport vehicles will be on Eastern Cape roads during the deployment of ground support systems and elements as well as during the various stages of the 'attacks' and repositioning of support systems and elements as the simulated battle reaches different advance stages," he said.

The exercise is set to end on August 10 when the Blue Force succeeds in its intervention against the Red Force to ensure the continued sovereignty of Eastern Cape.

Previous iterations of Winter Solstice have seen command post exercises staged in North-West, Northern Cape and Free State.

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Historical facts – A short overview of World War 1.

Courtesy of Wikipedia

With the centenary of the First World war commencing, here is a short overview of the conflict.

World War I (WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War, was a

The Shamrock

global war centred in Europe that began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918.

From the time of its occurrence until the approach of World War II, it was called simply the World War or the Great War, and thereafter the First World War or World War I.

More than 9 million combatants were killed; a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and tactical stalemate. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, paving the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved.

The war drew in all the world's economic great powers, which were assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom, France and the Russian Empire) and the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

These alliances were both reorganised and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, and the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria the Central Powers. Ultimately, more than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history.

Although a resurgence of imperialism was an underlying cause, the immediate trigger for war was the 28 June 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo.

This set off a diplomatic crisis when Austria-Hungary delivered an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia, and international alliances formed over the previous decades were invoked. Within weeks, the major powers were at war and the conflict soon spread around the world.

On 28 July, the Austro-Hungarians fired the first shots in preparation for the invasion of Serbia.

As Russia mobilised, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg before moving towards France, leading Britain to declare war on Germany. After the German march on Paris was halted, what became known as the Western Front settled into a battle of attrition, with a trench line that would change little until 1917.

Meanwhile, on the Eastern Front, the Russian army was successful against the Austro-Hungarians, but was stopped in its invasion of East Prussia by the Germans. In November 1914, the Ottoman Empire joined the war, opening fronts in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia and the Sinai. Italy and Bulgaria went to war in 1915, Romania in 1916, and the United States in 1917.

The war approached a resolution after the Russian government collapsed in March 1917, and a subsequent revolution in November brought the Russians to terms with the Central Powers. On 4 November 1918, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to an armistice. After a 1918 German offensive along the western front, the Allies drove back the Germans in a series of successful offensives and began entering the trenches. Germany, which had its own trouble with revolutionaries, agreed to an armistice on 11 November 1918, ending the war in victory for the Allies.

By the end of the war, four major imperial powers—the German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires—ceased to exist. The successor states of the former two lost substantial territory, while the latter two were dismantled. The maps of Europe and Southwest Asia were redrawn, with several independent nations restored or created.

The League of Nations was formed with the aim of preventing any repetition of such an appalling conflict. This aim, however, failed with weakened states, renewed European nationalism and the German feeling of humiliation contributing to the rise of fascism. All of these conditions eventually led to World War II.

The world's last known surviving Service person from the First World

War died aged 110 on 4 February 2012. Mrs. Florence Green, served as a mess steward at Royal Air Force bases in Marham and Narborough from 1918 to 1919.

The world's last known combat veteran of the war, Briton Claude Choules, died in Australia aged 110 on 5 May 2011.

Casualties and losses:

Allied Powers

Military dead: 5,525,000

Military wounded: 12,831,500

Military missing: 4,121,000

Total: 22,477,500 KIA, WIA or MIA

Central Powers

Military dead: 4,386,000

Military wounded: 8,388,000

Military missing: 3,629,000

Total: 16,403,000 KIA, WIA or MIA
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International News –

NATO extends anti-piracy operations until 2016

Written by Defenceweb

NATO Defence Ministers on Tuesday decided to extend NATO's counter-piracy operation Ocean Shield until the end of 2016.

Since August 2009, NATO ships have patrolled the waters off the Horn of Africa as part of Operation Ocean Shield. Their mission is to contribute to international efforts to fight maritime piracy and to help build the capacity of regional navies. Operation Ocean Shield works closely with other naval forces patrolling the Indian Ocean including US-led maritime forces and EU naval forces, such as CTF-151 and EU Navfor.

As part of the broad international effort, Ocean Shield has helped to significantly reduce pirate activity in the region, NATO said in a statement. In 2011, pirates captured 24 ships and NATO recorded 129 pirate attacks off Somalia. In 2012, the number of attacks had fallen to 20. Not a single ship has been captured off Somalia since May 2012, and no merchant ships are currently held by Somali pirates, according to NATO.

Despite the successes, piracy remains a threat, the organisation cautioned. "NATO assesses that pirates continue to possess the intent and capacity to attack ships. NATO ships continue to detect attempts by pirates to capture vessels. In addition, the root causes of piracy inside Somalia remain."

Some 90 per cent of all global trade is carried by sea, about half of that passes through the Indian Ocean. In 2013, the World Bank estimated that piracy costs the world economy \$18 billion per year. NATO counter-piracy efforts help reduce that cost.

Ships from Spain, Italy and Turkey are currently part of the NATO fleet which operates roughly from the Arabian Gulf to the north, the Seychelles in the south, the Gulf of Aden to the west and the Maldives in the east, covering an area greater than 2 million square miles or the size of Western Europe.

NATO vessels verify the activity of shipping off Somalia, separating out legitimate maritime traffic from suspected pirate vessels. Commercial ships that are transiting the area are in many cases escorted to ensure their safe passage. NATO ships can actively pursue suspected pirate ships to prevent attacks. NATO boarding teams can board a suspect ship to determine if pirates are on board. As a means of last resort, NATO vessels can use force to stop pirates. Any detained pirates are transferred as soon as possible to national law enforcement agencies, NATO said.

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International News – African Union progressing to military force by end-2015.

Written by Defenceweb

African Union soldiers. Africa is making progress towards a regional military force by the end of next year, a senior African Union official said on Wednesday, as local leaders urged less reliance on foreign intervention.

Delays in implementing the African Standby Force (ASF) forced African states to request French intervention to

tackle crises last year in Mali and Central African Republic.

African officials have voiced scepticism that the 5,000-strong force, under discussion for more than a decade, would be ready by next year's delayed deadline, prompting African leaders to approve a stop-gap rapid reaction force last year.

Smail Chergui, the 54-nation African Union's Commissioner for Peace and Security, said four of the five regional brigades due to make up the Standby Force were in an advanced state of readiness, including the North African one.

At a meeting to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Peace and Security Council, he said "progress is being made to have (the Standby Force) fully operationalised by December 2015."

The Peace and Security Council was providing analysts to regional blocs in Africa for a continent-wide early warning system for conflicts, aiming at improving prevention, he said.

Chadian President Idriss Deby said a series of conflicts across Africa - from South Sudan to Central African Republic - were a reminder its leaders that the continent needed to do more to strength its own security institutions.

Ahead of a two-day summit of the African Union, which officially opens on Thursday in the capital of Equatorial Guinea, Deby called for more resources to be channelled into the AU's Peace and Security Council.

"It is time for us to take our destiny into our own hands," he said, noting the rise of armed Islamist groups like Boko Haram in Nigeria presented a new kind of challenge for the continent's security.

However, South African President Jacob Zuma urged closer cooperation between the AU's Peace and Security Council and the U.N. Security Council, in light of the continent's limited resources to tackle crises on its own.

"We need to do more to address the root causes of conflict on this continent," Zuma said, urging the African Union to work more on crisis

prevention and do work in post-conflict countries to prevent relapses into violence.

More than 90 percent of the AU's peace and security efforts, including its AMISOM mission in Somalia, are funded by external actors such as the European Union and United States.

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International Comments – The US Military and Non-conventional war: Is firepower cheaper than manpower?

*Written by Bernard Loo and Kumar Ramakrishna*21 June 2005*

IN HIS memoirs *Fighting On*, General Sir Walter Walker, a distinguished British army officer who later became the Director of Borneo Operations during Malaysian-Indonesian Konfrontasi in the 1960s, recalls an incident where, as a young second lieutenant in British India in 1933, he was hit on the forehead by a soda bottle while attempting to pacify a communal riot. Bleeding and angry, Walker instinctively drew his pistol from its holster, but was stopped by his older and more experienced platoon sergeant, Green, who gently reminded him: "Minimum force, sir". Green was referring to the official imperial principle that had been enunciated after the heavy-handed military response to the Amritsar disturbances of 1919 that severely undermined British prestige in India.

The "minimum force" axiom sought to carefully circumscribe the use of coercion in dealing with civil disturbances and insurgencies throughout the Empire, so as not to alienate entire local communities. Walker apparently underwent an epiphany of sorts, and later did his part to enshrine the principle of minimum force into British Army counterinsurgency doctrine. It is worth noting that future post-World War Two British counterinsurgency successes in Malaya and elsewhere were partly the result of ingrained military acceptance of the minimum force ideal.

It is interesting that this ideal of exercising restraint in the use of military force seems relatively less pronounced in American strategic behaviour in its military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and in its current war against terror decades later. Fresh plans to further streamline US military forces, as outlined in Defence Secretary Rumsfeld's statements in the Shangri-la Dialogue recently held in Singapore, only raise further questions over America's ability to prevail in future counterinsurgency conflicts. The historical record suggests that when force levels drop, reliance on high-technology firepower solutions increases. A US military Vietnam War-era maxim encapsulates this logic aptly: "Firepower is cheaper than manpower".

Non-conventional Warfare: A Primer

However, while firepower may be cheaper than manpower in conventional force-on-force war, it is a whole lot more expensive in the highly politicised milieu of non-conventional warfare, which encompasses both counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism. In non-conventional warfare a balance has to be struck between military force and so-called "hearts and minds" measures. While military force is important to neutralize immediate terrorist or insurgent threats, it has to be very carefully calibrated. The concern is to prevent civilian damage that would undercut the positive political value of longer-term socio-economic and other measures crafted to ameliorate the discontent that nudge people into the terrorists' or insurgents' fold. Minimum force and "hearts and minds" are hence two sides of the same coin.

The fundamental objective in non-conventional warfare is the provision of a sense of security amongst the civilian population, the creation and maintenance of a popular belief that their best interests lie in supporting the government forces and not the insurgent or terrorist forces. A population that has lost faith in the government forces and turns to the insurgents provides food, refuge, recruits and most importantly intelligence on government forces. This provision of a sense of security often requires manpower-heavy deployments of infantry forces constantly patrolling population areas and winning over the

people through both cultural sensitivity and military restraint. Politically then, in non-conventional war, manpower is always better than firepower.

American Strategic Culture and Military Transformation

Such sentiments, however, do not appear to be held within some elements of the US strategic community. Firepower, particularly high-technology firepower, is seen as the war-winning combination. To be sure, this emphasis on overwhelming firepower has been a predominant pattern of American strategic culture. One reason for this emphasis is the belief in force protection – the idea that American lives ought not to be placed in harm's way where possible. During the Korean War, General Van Fleet, commander of the 8th Army in Korea said: "We must expend steel and fire, not men. I want so many artillery holes that a man can step from one to another all the way to Pyongyang." This concern often results in the related tendency to engage the enemy at standoff ranges, or at least as far as possible. This is evident in the American preference to use airpower to engage enemy forces where possible, in lieu of deploying ground force elements.

What the current American military transformation is doing in this respect is confirming American strategic cultural preferences for overwhelming military force, force protection and engaging the enemy at standoff ranges. The current transformation agenda in the American military emphasises the use of technology – sensor, information, communication, and precision engagement – to provide solutions to the full spectrum of strategic problems. This transformation agenda has certainly borne fruit, as manifested in the use of long-range precision-guided munitions that can engage enemy forces beyond visual ranges, with virtually single-shot kill probabilities. It has also allowed US forces to operate in small, networked bands, instead of the more traditional heavy ground force elements involving brigades and divisions and corps. Combined with precision strike technologies, this allows American military forces to actually play out the mantras of "more bang for the buck" and "fight light, fight fast".

These elements, combined, result in an American military that is simply world-class in conventional war. But they do little to give the US the edge in complex non-conventional military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In these contexts the premium is on a constant and pervasive military presence that assures the civilian population, but carefully calibrated to avoid politically-alienating collateral casualties. In this connection the reported 600 civilian deaths arising from the US Marine attack on Fallujah in April 2004 was not only politically counterproductive, it provided more grist for the radical Islamist propaganda mill in Iraq and worldwide.

Again, in non-conventional contexts, manpower is simply superior to firepower. That the American military is downsizing - reflecting the belief that high technology firepower holds all the answers - is testament to the fact that the Pentagon has got it the other way round.

A Little Self-Awareness May Go A Long Way

In today's complex strategic environment, the military transformation agenda has to be seen as comprising more than just extremely accurate and long-range weapons systems. It has to be regarded as much more than the so-called "shock and awe" capabilities that apparently characterised the American-led coalition offensive against Iraq in the first week of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In this respect strategic culture and the current technology-fixed military transformation agenda need not doom the US military to non-conventional strategic failure. The transformation agenda can be modified to ensure a more balanced force structure for fighting in both conventional and non-conventional conflict. Thomas Barnett in his excellent book *The Pentagon's New Map* makes such an argument.

Strategic culture, on the other hand, ought not to be seen as a straitjacket limiting strategic options and choices. Rather than something cast in stone, culture is necessarily dynamic and ever-changing, whether driven by external environmental forces or by forces promoting change from within the



culture. What is required most of all is strategic cultural self-awareness. This is obviously not an easy virtue to cultivate, especially amongst action- and results-oriented military planners and commanders.

Nevertheless, unless and until this self-awareness begins, US military forces in non-conventional conflicts will likely face strategic failure, not success. Nevertheless, the example of General Walker ought to be an encouragement. He learned to appreciate that firepower is not always cheaper than manpower, and as a distinguished senior commander in Malaya and Borneo down the road, he reaped his reward.

* The authors are, respectively, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Revolution in Military Affairs Programme, and Associate Professor and Head of Studies at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

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From the Chaplain

Read John 14 (A message of comfort to our members deployed)

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me.

2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you

really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 “If you love me, keep my commands.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[c] in you.

18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you.

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

28 “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me,

31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

“Come now; let us leave.

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SANDF Medals —

Authorised post nominal letters

Courtesy of Mr. Arthur Radburn - SA Medal Site and the SA Army website

In keeping with the British tradition, recipients of the more important South African honours and awards are granted the privilege of the placing letters of that decoration behind their names.

In order of seniority.

- * No Longer awarded
- ** Has never been awarded

- CGH** - Castle of Good Hope Decoration **
- HCD** - Honoris Crux Diamond **
- HCG** - Honoris Crux Gold *
- GSB** - Azanian People's Liberation Army Gold Star for Bravery *
- SBG** - uMkhonto we Sizwe Star for Bravery in Gold *
- NG** - Nkwe ya Gauta ("Leopard Decoration - Gold")
- LWD** - Louw Wepener Decoration *
- HCS** - Honoris Crux Silver *
- DVR** - Van Riebeeck Decoration *
- HC** - Honoris Crux *
- BSS** - Azanian People's Liberation Army Bravery Star in Silver *
- SBS** - uMkhonto we Sizwe Star for Bravery in Silver *
- NS** - Nkwe ya Selefera ("Leopard Decoration - Silver")
- PVD** - Pro Virtute Decoration *
- SD** - Southern Cross Decoration *
- PMD** - Pro Merito Decoration *
- CLS** - uMkhonto we Sizwe Conspicuous Leadership Star *
- SCL** - Azanian People's Liberation Army Star for Conspicuous Leadership *
- GDM** - Azanian People's Liberation Army Gold Decoration for Merit *
- DMG** - uMkhonto we Sizwe Decoration for Merit in Gold *
- PG** - iPhrothiya yeGolide ("Protea Decoration - Gold")
- VRM** - Van Riebeeck Medal *
- LWM** - Louw Wepener Medal *
- PVM** - Pro Virtute Medal *
- NB** - Nkwe ya Boronse ("Leopard Decoration - Bronze")
- AAD** - Ad Astra Decoration *
- CM** - Army Cross ("Crux Militaria") *
- CA** - Air Force Cross ("Crux Aeronautica") *
- CN** - Navy Cross ("Crux Navalis") *

- CC** - SA Medical Services Cross ("Crux Curationis") *
- SM** - Southern Cross Medal *
- PMM** - Pro Merito Medal *
- SMM** - Azanian People's Liberation Army Silver Medal for Merit *
- MMS** - uMkhonto we Sizwe Medal for Merit in Silver *
- PS** - iPhrothiya yeSiliva ("Protea Decoration - Silver")
- DTM** - Danie Theron Medal *
- JHM** - Jack Hindon Medal *
- MMM** - Military Merit Medal *
Originally (1974-93) called the C SADF Commendation Medal
- BMM** - Azanian People's Liberation Army Bronze Medal for Merit *
- MMB** - uMkhonto we Sizwe Medal for Merit in Bronze *
- PB** - iPhrothiya yeBhronzi ("Protea Decoration - Bronze")
- JCD** - John Chard Decoration *
- DWD** - De Wet Decoration *
- RD** - Decoration Emblem for Exemplary Reserve Force Service (Reserve Distinction)

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Regimental Photos



Our colours and battle honours

**Nina akudingekile ukuba sibe
Irish ... ukuba abe IRISH!**



**Ukuze sibe Isosha Irish
kumele sibe ... Usizo
lwabenza imisenenzi,
abakhaliphile, aqotho,
Uqine!**

 **Ingabe ungumuntu isosha IRISH?** 

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

**JY hoef nie lers te wees...
... om IERS te wees!**



**IERS beteken ...
Professioneel,
Innoverende, Getroue en
Taai!**

 **IS JY IRISH?** 

A recruitment poster courtesy of
Lieutenant G.R. Howard.
Featuring our Major I.D. Stins, RD