

The Shamrock
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2013

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In This Issue.

- 1) *From the Editor.*
- 2) *From the OC's Desk.*
- 3) *From the Honorary Colonel.*
- 4) *Regimental Events.*
- 5) *Did you know?*
- 6) *From the Pipes and Drums.*
- 7) *Young Lions training at Alpha base.*
- 8) *News from the SANDF – DOD warns of integrations scams.*
- 9) *News from the SANDF - SANDF receives first upgraded border safeguarding base.*
- 10) *News from the SANDF – SAAF Dakota Crash.*
- 11) *News from the SANDF – More SANDF troops for border duty.*
- 12) *International News – Zimbabwe deploys troops to Mozambique border.*
- 13) *From the Chaplain.*
- 14) *The Chief of the SANDF Badge for voluntary reserve force service.*



The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

From the Editor

From: The Editor

In this first issue of 2013, on behalf of the Officer Commanding SA Irish Regiment and the editorial staff, I wish everyone very prosperous new year.

This year has already started off with a bang, with the Regiment preparing for commitments and possible commitments from the Defence Force higher HQ.

The editorial staff wants to thank everyone that contributed during last year and we continue to extend the invitation to everyone to submit articles for publication.

Remember: Newsletters can be downloaded from the internet. Go to www.sairish.webs.com to download.

You can also join our Facebook fan page or follow us on Twitter.

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From the OC's Desk

By: Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

The beginning of another year is upon us. With the hard work and dedication that I expect from every single member of this Regiment, we will set out to go above and beyond the call of duty to accomplish all tasks given to us by The SA Army and Infantry formation.

Although we can be very proud of all of our achievements last year, we must not be complacent. We must be well prepared for the challenges that lie ahead this year.

On behalf of myself as Officer Commanding and my command staff, I want to wish all the members of the Regiment and their families a very prosperous 2013. - Faugh a Ballagh!

Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

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From the Honorary Colonel

By Col. B. Molefe (Colonel of the Regiment)

Firstly I want to wish every single member of the regiment and their families a very prosperous 2013.

As always this will prove to be a very busy year, with planning and preparation for any and all tasks given to us by our Commander-in-chief. As always I have every confidence that we will not disappoint and we will proudly complete any task given to us in this New Year.

It has in the past warmed my heart to see that numerous members of the Regiment have found gainful employment with Transnet. This is again proof that members of the SA Irish stand out above the rest. Good luck to you all. It is still my greatest wish to see that every single member of this great Regiment find gainful employment.

I wish all of the best to every single member of the unit in the completion of their tasks. -Faugh a Ballagh!

Col. B. Molefe

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Regimental Events

By: The Editor

The Regiment will celebrate the following anniversaries.

Upcoming Regimental events in 2013:

- 18 – 20 January – Unit conference for leader group (Venue to be confirmed).

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Did you know?

By: The editor

During the Western Desert campaign of World War 2, the SA Irish formed part of the 5th SA Infantry Brigade, along with 3rd Battalion Transvaal Scottish and Regiment Botha.

On 23 November 1941 the 15th Panzer Division of the German "Afrika Korps" (*Deutsches Afrikakorps*) launched an attack on the 5th SA Infantry brigade.

After destroying numerous German tanks, the 5th South African Infantry Brigade, Reinforced by the Transvaal Horse Artillery Regiment was overwhelmed and overrun by German Armored units

The casualties of the South African Irish were extremely heavy (only 140 men of all ranks survived), including its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Dobbs who was wounded in the early stages of the battle (he was replaced by Major Cochran).

Major Cochran then led the remnants of the battalion, along with the remaining five guns of 9th Field Battery eastwards towards the lines of the Scottish (these were the only guns in 5 Brigade which were not captured!), in an attempt to escape.

The SA Irish Regiment put up such a strong resistance during the battle that it later received the Sidi Rezegh battle honour.

The fighting was so severe and the casualties so high on both sides, that the Germans referred to the Battle as "Sunday of the Dead"

The German commander, Fieldmarshal Erwin Rommel (nicknamed the desert fox) later commented on the battle...

"...the attack started well, but soon came up against a wide artillery and anti-tank gun screen, which the South Africans had formed at a surprising speed between Haiad and Muftah.

Guns of all kind and sizes laid a curtain of fire in front of the attacking tanks and there seemed almost no hope of making any progress in the face of this fire-spewing barrier. Tank after tank split open in a hail of shells. Our entire

artillery had to be thrown in to silence the enemy guns one by one."

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From the Pipes and Drums.

By: The Pipe Major

On behalf of the pipes and drums I want to wish everyone a very prosperous 2013.

It is going to be a very busy year indeed, so keep an eye on our website for event updates. Our full program will be available in time for the March issue of the Shamrock. - Faugh a Ballagh!

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Young Lions training at Alpha Base

By: Cpl. Z.H. Mbhalati



Young Lions 2012 at Alpha Base with SA Irish Instructors
Photo by Cpl. Z.H. Mbhalati

Over the period of the 7th of December 2012 until the 13th of December 2012 the S.A Irish Regiment conducted continuation training for the Young Lions Youth Development Programme at Alpha Base.

The cadets cleared in at Kensington Garrison with an additional ten cadets clearing directly at Alpha Base, those cadets who cleared in at Alpha Base were the members from the Heidelberg area.

The camp was under the command of Lt. Z.S. Nkosi and MWO G.S. Moseki and Cpl. Z.H. Mbhalati as the acting Chief Instructor.

Cpl. M.J. Mamabolo, Cpl. A.P. Makumbe and Cpl. Q.V. Xulu were the instructors with the assistance of L/Cpl. ND Hlongwane and L/Cpl. F.I. Segatsho.

The cadets enjoyed meals prepared by Pte B.P.E. Bodibe and Pte M.M. Maoto as our chefs, Rfn S.S.C. Shelembe was tasked with preparation and issuing of the kit to the cadets upon their arrival, he was assisted by Rfn M.R. Mazibuko who is also the duty driver for the cadets during the camp.

Preparation for the camp started around August, the members working on the preparation for the camp planned for this camp to be the most exciting and

fun filled camp for the cadets as this was going to be the last camp for the cadets especially for those who were currently completing matric.

During this camp the cadets had an opportunity to visit Florida Lake for Dragon boat race challenge which was organised in conjunction with the Johannesburg Emergency Medical Services. At Florida Lake a practical

lesson on Dragon Boat racing was presented to the cadets by an instructor for the Gauteng Dragon Boat Challenge who is based at the Florida Lake.

The S.A Army Young Lions Cadets had a Dragon boat challenge competition with the Jhb EMS cadets immediately after the lesson which was presented. The weather was of favourable conditions for Dragon boat challenge with slightly cloudy condition and a cool southerly breeze.

As the Jhb EMS cadets are regularly doing the Dragon boat challenge, the cadets decided to merge the two groups and two teams were formed with members of both groups being on two teams.

At the end of the challenge as for any competition, there can only be one winner and one team won the challenge, as the teams comprised from both groups, all the cadets were declared winners as they were all represented on both the winning team and the losing team.

During the stay of the cadets at Alpha Base, they continued with their exploration of military life, the lessons were made fun for the cadets by the instructors by presenting less theory and more practical lessons were introduced.

During the practical lessons the cadets got an opportunity to role play by being the commanders of their various sections and platoons. This was a good experience for the cadets as this exercises and role playing helped in building the cadets' confidence as they all got an opportunity to be in command of a platoon or section.

Fifteen Cadets had just finished their matric exams for 2012 and thirteen of the cadets were looking forward to getting a response from the Recruiting Department as they had applied to be part of the 2013 MSDS intake, the staff members of the Young Lions Project at S.A Irish Regiment would like to wish them good luck on their exams and their application for the MSDS and we are looking forward to seeing them in uniform as defenders of our lovely country.

As we are going into the new year of 2013, we hope to see more students from different schools joining the

programme and we hope those who will still be with the programme continue to be young responsible adults and carry on with the programme. When the project started in 2010 the students were strangers and they did not know anything about each other, three years later they consider each other as one big family that looks out for each other.

From the Young Lions staff members of the S.A Irish Regiment, we would like to thank all the cadets for attending camps for the past three years and we wish them all a happy and prosperous new year. We would also like to send out our most sincere New Year's greetings to all members of the SANDF.

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News from the SANDF — DOD Warns of integrations scams

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The Department of Defence (DoD) has warned of a scam being carried out across South Africa by individuals falsely promising benefits and integration into the South African National Defence Force.

Certain individuals and groups are soliciting money from ex-soldiers mostly and unemployed youth with false promises. The areas that are affected by this scam include Western Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Free State, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape.

“The department has previously issued statements concerning this matter and continues to condemn any activities intended to mislead members of the public regarding integration into the SANDF. The department reiterates that there is no integration planned by the department as the integration process concluded on December 2002,” the DoD said in a statement.

Other scams involve perpetrators inviting the public to pay money with the promise of getting employment in the SANDF through its Military Skills Development System (MSDS). “The Department would like to inform the public that it does not cost money to join the SANDF.”

The DoD issued a similar warning for the Western Cape in August last year, saying that the perpetrators promised employment in the SANDF after receiving between R300 and R500 from their victims. Alleged suspects were operating at Mfuleni, Paarl (Smartie Town), Eerste Rivier and Khayelitsha.

In October 2009 a similar warning was issued for Mpumalanga Province, when scammers promised jobs for fees ranging between R100 and R300. As a result of the fraud, the department of defence cancelled a selection process for invited candidates, which was scheduled for the 5th to 9th October 2009 at Nelspruit in Mpumalanga.

“Members of the public are encouraged to report any person or persons who demand money from them with the promise of integration into the SANDF at their nearest police station,” the DoD said.

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News from the SANDF – SANDF receives first upgraded border safeguarding base.

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) officially received the revamped and expanded Operational Base Madimbo after it was upgraded and expanded by defence and security company Saab Grintek.

The base near the Zimbabwe border to the east of Musina is the first of a number to be modernised and improved since the SANDF was again given responsibility for border security. The Madimbo base was today officially opened by Major General Barney Hlatshwayo, the Chief Director Ops Development in the office of the SANDF's Chief of Joint Operations, Saab Grintek said.

Saab Grintek Defence was awarded a contract by the Department of Defence to upgrade the dilapidated Madimbo operational base, initially built in the 1970s. Modern accommodation is now provided with separate for male and female defence force members.

The base allows Joint Operations, which coordinates the SANDF's border security efforts, to deploy soldiers very close to the border they must secure. Units from Madimbo will mount foot and motorised patrols from the base, checking fences, arresting smugglers, undocumented migrants, poachers, and others attempting to cross the border illegally or with criminal intent.

The revamped base includes a new Military Police facility, including a charge office, holding cells, and a secure store for confiscated contraband. A secure car park has been created to allow the SANDF to store stolen vehicles interdicted from crossing the border until they can be handed to police to be returned to their rightful owners.

"We are extremely pleased, as Saab South Africa, to be able to contribute our know-how and project management skills in assisting the SANDF to protect the integrity of our borders," said Saab Grintek Defence CEO Magnus Lewis-Olsson. "This newly revamped base will play an important part in helping secure South Africa's borders as a significant contribution to ensuring the ongoing safety and security of all of us who live here."

Operational Base Madimbo includes an airstrip, a parade ground, water purification facilities, and new medical and two way radio battery charging facilities. Roads, the electrical supply, and sewerage systems, and a vehicle wash bay with oil and water separators were upgraded, while new messes with enlarged kitchen, laundry and recreation facilities were installed.

"Wherever possible, local contractors were used, helping create employment and economic benefit in Northern Limpopo province," said Lewis-Olsson. "As Saab, we are particularly happy that we have been able to deliver this state of the art facility on time and on budget.

Saab Grintek Defence is currently engaged in upgrading further operational base facilities for the SANDF.

At present there are 11 SANDF sub-

units deployed along South Africa's borders, with a total of 1 800 soldiers. They are deployed along the borders with Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (there are no troops on the borders with Namibia and Botswana).

Border safeguarding is being rolled out under Operation Corona, with phase three currently underway. Phase one of the border safeguarding initiative witnessed deployments on the South Africa/Zimbabwe borderline.

Phase two saw the SANDF deploy on the Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho borders, with two sub-units to Limpopo (Pondrft and Musina), two sub-units to Mpumalanga (Macadamia and Skukuza), two sub-units to Kwa-Zulu-Natal (Ndumo and Pongola) and one sub-unit to the Free State (Ladybrand). Phase three, which began on April 1, is also focusing on these borders. By 2013, the Lesotho/Free State border will be covered, to be followed by the Lesotho/KwaZulu-Natal border in 2014.

At present, Corona sub-units are deployed to Ladybrand, Fouriesburg, Maluti, Pongola, Ndumo, Zonstraal, Macadamia, Sandriver, Madimbo, Musina and Pondrft.

In addition to soldiers, around 80 engineers are deployed to maintain the Nabob fences on the borders with Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Four battalion headquarters (one in Musina, Sandriver, Ladybrand and Pongola) manage the Operation Corona border deployments.

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News from the SANDF – SAAF Dakota crash

Courtesy of Defenceweb

Eleven people died on 5 December 2012 when a South African Air Force C-47TP Turbo Dakota transport aircraft crashed during severe weather in a remote area of the eastern Drakensberg mountains.

The 35 Squadron aircraft, flying from Air Force Base Waterkloof, Pretoria, at about 7:45 am to Mthatha Airport, Eastern Cape, went missing around 9:45 am local time, the Department of Defence said.

Unconfirmed reports state that the aircraft last communicated with Air Traffic Control when above Giants Castle in the Drakensburg mountains, stating that they were at 11,000 feet and flying in Instrument Meteorological Conditions due to the bad visibility. The aircraft never arrived at Mthatha Airport.

"After the expected time of arrival and no communication from the aircraft, the SAAF activated a search and rescue mission," the Department of Defence said. An Oryx helicopter was tasked to search for the missing aircraft, but had to abandon the search due to the very bad weather in the area.

"At first light this morning (6 Dec 2012) the rescue team continued their effort and located the wreckage in the Drakensberg Mountains. On board the aircraft was a crew of six and five passengers and it was confirmed that there are no survivors."

The South African National Defence Force will release the names of the deceased when all the next of kin have been informed. A board of inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the cause of the accident.

The Department of Defence said the aircraft was "on an official tasking". There was speculation that the aircraft was carrying medical personnel to attend to former President Nelson Mandela, but a spokesman denied this. It was also confirmed to defenceWeb that the aircraft was not carrying medical personnel for Mandela.

Military doctors responsible for the well-being of the 94-year-old Mandela often fly to the same Eastern Cape airport before proceeding to Mandela's home in Qunu, the rural village where the anti-apartheid leader was born.

"The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula,

the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, and the Chief of the Air Force Lt Gen Zimpande Msimang would like to convey their sincere and deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the deceased,” the Department of Defence said.

Just under a month ago, on 7 November, another C-47TP Dakota of 35 Squadron was involved in a landing accident at Mthatha Airport, when it bounced on landing and left the runway. Damage included a torn-off main undercarriage, bent propeller and damaged engine and wing. Fortunately, none of the 16 passengers on board was injured.

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News from the SANDF –More SANDF troops for Border duty

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The South African National Defence Force will deploy two more companies in the Northern Cape and North West Provinces as part of Phase 4 of the border safeguarding Operation Corona. This will increase the number of companies on the borders from 11 to 13, involving around 2 000 soldiers.

This will take place in 2013/14, according to Lieutenant General Derrick M Mgwebi, Chief of Joint Operations, who briefed the media in Pretoria this morning.

At present there are 11 sub-units deployed along South Africa’s borders, with a total of 1 800 soldiers. They are deployed along the borders with Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (there are no troops on the borders with Namibia and Botswana).

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to Limpopo (Pontdrift and Musina), two sub-units to Mpumalanga (Macadamia and Skukuza), two sub-units to Kwa-Zulu- Natal (Ndumo and Pongola) and one sub-unit to the Free State (Ladybrand). Phase three, which began on April 1, is also focusing on these borders. By 2013, the Lesotho/Free State border will be covered, to be followed by the Lesotho/KwaZulu-Natal border in 2014.

At present, Corona sub-units are deployed to Ladybrand, Fouriesburg, Maluti, Pongola, Ndumo, Zonstraal, Macadamia, Sandriver, Madimbo, Musina and Pontdrift.

In addition to soldiers, around 80 engineers are deployed to maintain the Nabob fences on the borders with Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Four battalion headquarters (one in Musina, Sandriver, Ladybrand and Pongola) manage the Operation Corona border deployments.

Mgwebi gave a detailed breakdown of the successes of operation corona over the past two years. For FY2010/11, the SANDF seized R63.6 million worth of contraband goods, ten weapons, 230 kg of dagga, 76 livestock, 463 kg of precious metals, arrested 403 criminals, recovered 22 stolen vehicles and apprehended 20 107 undocumented persons.

For the FY2011/12 year, 15 904 undocumented persons were recorded while R29.5 million worth of contraband goods were seized; 19 firearms were recovered; 8 682 kg of dagga were seized, 61 stolen vehicles and 453 kg of precious metals were recovered while 414 criminals were arrested. 1 373 livestock were confiscated.

The FY2012/13 year has not yet ended but so far Operation Corona has recorded 13 316 undocumented persons and 8 630 livestock, recovered 64 stolen vehicles, arrested 371 criminals, and seized R13 million worth of contraband goods, 28 weapons, 2.8 tons of dagga and 212 kg of precious metals. 64 stolen vehicles have been recovered and 28 weapons seized.

Most illegal activity recorded on the

borders took place in the Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Free State provinces.

Operation Rhino, in the Kruger Park, is aimed at combating rhino poaching. Mgwebi said a challenge was that most of the poachers are Mozambicans who are merely just operators on the ground while the ‘big guns’ are elsewhere and need to be stopped by the police, as the SANDF presence is just to deter them on the ground.

According to Joint Ops, in the first quarter of the year, seven suspected poachers were arrested and five killed as part of Operation Rhino, while two hunting rifles were seized. In the second quarter of the year, 20 suspected poachers were arrested and five killed, while nine rifles, one AK-47 assault rifle, and a backpack with four rhino horns were seized.

With regard to Operation Copper, the anti-piracy patrol in the Mozambique Channel, Mgwebi said that the South African Navy was patrolling with ships while the South African Air Force has a maritime patrol aircraft (C-47TP) in the region. Special Forces are also involved and their expertise in boarding vessels is particularly valued.

Mgwebi pointed out the vast distances involved in safeguarding the borders: the land border is 4 471 km long while the sea border is 2 798 km long. He said that South Africa would never have a force to cover the entire border in terms of men on the ground, but instead of trying to put men on the ground, the SANDF needed to use technology as a force multiplier.

Due to the increased tempo of border deployments, as well as external peacekeeping operations, the South African Army in the 2011/2012 financial year used 10 090 Reserve members to make up for the shortfall in Regular members. A total of 15 316 SANDF Reserves were called up between April 2011 and March 2012, for border and peacekeeping operations as well as registering military veterans.

The DoD noted that additional funding will have to be allocated to ensure all 15 sub-units of Operation Corona are adequately prepared to safeguard the

borders. An additional R100 million for this task was allocated in the 2011/12 defence budget vote. In 2012/13 the DoD will request an additional R236 million for this task and an additional R357 million in 2013/14.

Since taking over border safeguarding duties from the South African Police Service, this task has become very important to the SANDF, so much so that the Department of Defence drafted a Border Management Strategy document. This was recently handed over to the Defence Review Committee for integration into the draft Defence Review.

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International News

— Zimbabwe deploys troops to Mozambique border.

Courtesy of Defenceweb

Zimbabwe has deployed troops to its border with Mozambique as concern over military instability emanating from an uprising by Alfonso Dhlakama looms large.

Dhlakama is the leader and commander in chief of Mozambican opposition party and rebel movement Renamo. He said last month that his dissident army was keen to wage war and destroy Mozambique unless the government there met his demands, which include political reforms and a revision to the 1992 peace accord.

There are fears that Dhlakama’s troops could terrorise Zimbabwean citizens in the Manicaland border province with Mozambique. Concerns have also been raised over the possibility that the troops could attack facilities like the Feruka oil pipeline.

Dhlakama and his nearly 800 troops are camped at the Casa Banana base on the foot of Mount Gorongossa.

Knowledgeable sources in Zimbabwe have confirmed to defenceWeb that troops have been deployed to keep watch over the activities of Dhlakama and his troops. The Zimbabwean troops will likely intervene should Renamo

dissident soldiers cause problems inside Zimbabwe’s territory.

“Of particular concern is the pipeline. Troops will be guarding the pipeline because it is an important property,” said one source privy to the developments.

Colonel Everson Mugwizi, the Zimbabwean Defence Forces spokesperson, would not comment on the deployment of troops to the border with Mozambique. However, sources have confirmed the development comes in the wake of a recent discussion between the Zimbabwean and Mozambique military.

The two countries are said to have close military ties and information at hand suggests that Zimbabwe is openly willing to assist the Mozambique government should Renamo embark on a civil war campaign that could plunge the Southern African region into instability.

Diplomatic sources said this week that Zimbabwe requires a Southern African Development Community (SADC) mandate to send troops into Mozambique although no green light would be required for Zimbabwe to deploy troops to maintain stability in its territory. If the need to send troops into Mozambique arises, said the diplomats, President Robert Mugabe would have to seek a SADC mandate – which can be granted by the troika on peace, politics and security.

The mandate will clearly outline the course of action to be taken. There is also the possibility that Mozambique’s other neighbouring countries will intervene, although political analysts said an SADC brokered and peaceful settlement will likely yield results and end differences between Renamo and Frelimo.

“It’s not easy to send in troops to another country, whatever the situation. In this case, a SADC mandate would have to be sought and granted. But if the troops are deployed inside Zimbabwe, then I don’t see any problem because it’s just to maintain peace in local territory,” said one of the diplomats.

Renamo and the ruling Frelimo party government fought a bitter civil war which raged from 1977 and ended with the signing of the Rome Peace Accords in 1992. The accord led to the formation of a unity government.

In terms of the agreement, political leaders were to share government posts equitably while all former combatants who were not demobilised were to be integrated into the police and the Armed Forces for the Defence of Mozambique (FADM).

Dhlakama and his Renamo insist that the Frelimo government has not even tried to honour the agreement and its members say they also want a bigger share of Mozambique’s expected coal and gas profits and an overhaul of the electoral system to prevent alleged fraud.

“I am training my men and, if we need to, we will leave here (Gorongossa) and destroy Mozambique. If it is necessary, we can go backwards. We prefer a poor country than to have people eating from our pot. We want to say to Guebuza, ‘You are eating well. We want to eat well too’,” Dhlakama has said.

“The situation cannot go on like this. We are thinking of asking for the country to be divided. Frelimo will have the south and we will have the centre and north. If they delay, they will be held responsible for the consequences. I will not leave here without solutions for everything I have demanded”, Dhlakama declared in a recent interview with AFP.

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From the Chaplain

Read Galatians 6:1-6 Doing Good to All

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without

comparing themselves to someone else,⁵ for each one should carry their own load.⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their teacher.

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Chief of the SANDF Badge for Voluntary Reserve force Service

Courtesy of SA Soldier magazine



New Badge for Voluntary Service in the Reserve Force

“On 28 October 1985 the Chief of the SA Army instated the Emblem for Voluntary Service by South African Army Order GS1/4. This was an award for Reserve Force members of the Defence Force (then known as the Citizen Force and Commandos), which recognised the exemplary service of the officers and other ranks who had voluntarily served for five additional years at any time after the prescribed compulsory periods. The Emblem for Voluntary Service (EVS) was an acknowledgement of outstanding service by personnel, often at the cost of great sacrifice to themselves and their families and frequently under difficult working conditions and under great pressure from employers.

It was awarded at a point halfway to the completion of service required for the various decorations and medals then available for long service.

The emblem of Voluntary Service served to encourage continuing voluntary service to ensure a Reserve Force, which had a substantial experienced part-time core in the command and operational and administrative structures of divisions, formations and units. Subsequently, for similar reasons, the use of the Emblem for Voluntary Service was approved by the Chief of the SA Navy and the Surgeon General as an award to their Reserve Force members.

When the Emblem for Voluntary Service was introduced, legal compulsion was the main means of recruiting for the Reserve Force and most members were legally required to remain in the service for lengthy periods. Since 1994, however, the Reserve Force has come to rely entirely on volunteers prepared to give up their free time to serve part-time in the SA National Defence Force. With the impetus of the changes and the development of PROJECT PHOENIX, encouraging citizens to volunteer for part-time service in the Reserve Force has become very important.

The Chief of the SA National Defence Force accordingly considers it desirable to continue to give special recognition to uniformed members who complete a period of five years of exemplary voluntary service in the Reserve Force of the SA National Defence Force. Moreover, the desire is to extend recognition for such exemplary voluntary Service Force service to officers and other ranks of the Reserve Force of all four Services of the SA National Defence Force.

In accordance with the need expressed, the Chief of the SA National Defence Force issued an instruction, which instituted and regulated the Chief of the SA National Defence Force’s Badge for Voluntary Reserve Force Service.

On 17th August 2004, the “Badge” was instituted to give special recognition to officers, warrant-officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks of the Reserve Force of the SA National Defence Force who had completed a period of five years of exemplary voluntary service in the Reserve Force of the SA National Defence Force.

The “Badge” shall be awarded by the Chief of the SA National Defence Force on the recommendation of the Chiefs of Services. The design is the emblem of the SA National Defence Force in enamel, encircled by a gilt protea wreath.

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Photo of WO2 Craig Herwil at the El Alamein Commemorations service in Egypt. This photo featured in the November issue of the SA Soldier Magazine. SA Soldier Magazines can be downloaded by visiting the newsletters page of the SA Irish website. www.sairish.webs.com

Photo courtesy of Mr. Kgabo Mashamaite from the SA Soldier Magazine