

The Shamrock
SA Irish Regiment
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The Shamrock



The official newsletter of the SA Irish Regiment

From the Editor

From: The Editor

On behalf of the editorial team, I want to congratulate the newly elected combined mess committee on their election to their various positions. Please read the article on the mess committee for more details.

Photos of training sessions and news from any Regimental events are also more than welcome. 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 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

As the South African Irish Regiment prepares for possible deployments, we are all saddened by the deaths of our Soldier brothers in the Central African Republic. We as the SA Irish Regiment salute them.

Although this is a tragic event, we must accept the fact that this is the calling of soldiers. We are called upon to serve our country and if need be lay down our lives for it.

For many this is also a reality check. The reality is that what we do is dangerous. We need to reflect upon the situation and learn the proper lessons from this. For those that think deployments are supposed to be uneventful and routine, think again.

We need to intensify our resolve and our training to ensure that if such an

event ever occurred to the SA Irish Regiment on deployment that our actions will be both honourable and professional in the face of overwhelming odds.

I have the utmost confidence that our Regiment's die hard spirit and the spirit of Sidi Rezegh will ensure that we properly prepare for any dangers that we might face on deployment in the future.

- Faugh a Ballagh!

Lt Col. M.A. Bennett

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Regimental Events

By: The Editor

9 September – 99th Anniversary of the Formation of the Regiment.

October – Pre deployment training. (Company commanders to advise their subordinates.)

9 November – Freedom Regiments Parade

10 November – JHB Remembrance Parade – JHB Cenotaph

24 November – Sidi Rezegh Parade

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Did you know?

By: The editor

With the formation of the Regiment in 1914, the original regimental motto was "*Quis separabit?*" ("Who will separate us?" from the Latin "Who will separate us from God?").

During World War II the motto changed to "*Faugh-a-Ballagh*" ("Clear the way"), which has remained to the present day.

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From the Pipes and Drums.

By: *The Pipe Major*

It is with the greatest sadness that I must inform everyone of the passing of Cpl Stewart Third on 10 April. Stewart was a current piper with the SA Irish Pipe Band. He was an excellent musician, an outstanding friend and an exemplary person.

A great man has left this world and his passing will be greatly felt by all who were lucky enough to have known him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones in this time of mourning. Faugh a Ballagh Stewart, and Rest in Peace.

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

13 April – Lyttelton Manor Gathering – Pretoria

27 April – South Coast Highland Gathering – Amanzimtoti, Kwazulu Natal

11 & 12 May – Celtic Fest – Johannesburg

25 May – De La Salle Gathering – Johannesburg

15 June – Pretoria Boys Gathering – Pretoria

29 June – Gathering to be advised

9 – 13 July – Durban Military Tattoo

13 July – St Benedict's Gathering – Johannesburg

27 July – Benoni Gathering (South African Championships) – Benoni
September – S A Tattoo (dates to be confirmed)

4/5/6 October – Barberton raid.

9 November – Freedom Regiments Parade

10 November – JHB Remembrance Parade – JHB Cenotaph

24 November – Sidi Rezegh Parade
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News from the Regiment — The Irish at the Gold Cup

Results courtesy of the SA Army website

The annual Chief of the SA Army Combat shooting competition lasts for a week which consists of a number of shooting competitions.

The annual Gold Cup shoot is hotly contested amongst the Reserve Force regiments only. This year 35 teams participated. There was a visiting team, the Scottish Transport Regiment, which added some colour to the event. This team was due to shoot in Canada and at the last minute were re-routed to this shoot. The scores were close once again this year.

The SA Irish Regiment development team took part for the first time this year and ended up in 21st position. Well done for your first time!

Below are the results:

GOLD CUP

POSITION, TEAM, NAME & SCORE

1 WITS RIFLES 2 121
2 VAR 2 109
3 RPS 2 004
4 FIRST CITY 1 828
5 REGT OOS RAND 1 759
6 BUFFALO VR 1 650
7 1 RNT 1 568
8 RPR 1 558
9 REGT MOOIRIVIER 1 544
10 NMR 1 519
11 MILITARY SKILLS 1 501
12 KBY REGT 1 477
13 RANDLIGHT INF 1 438
14 RBS 1 435
15 RDLR 1 374
16 RDW 1 357
17 SCOTTISH TRP REGT1 269
18 D.L.I. 1 160
19 TSWANE REGT 1 135
20 SAASK 1 128
21 RCB 1 100
22 CAPE FLD ARTY 1 088
23 PAG 1 080
24 REGT BOTHA 1 043
25 84 SIGNAL UNIT 1 017
26 UMR 1 001
27 3 PARA BN 998
28 DURBAN REGT 956
29 R.W.P. 947
30 3 PARA BN 2 848
31 RPK 798
32 TS 766
33 THA 742
34 DURBAN LIGHT INF 737
35 JR 736

The White Horse shooting competition is amongst the 28 Regular Force and 35 Reserve Force shooting teams. The results were also close this year:

WHITE HORSE TROPHY POSITION, TEAM & SCORE

1 VAR 3 004
2 WITS RIFLES 2 925
3 SCHOOL OF ARMOUR 2 895
4 RPS 2 848
5 INFANTRY SCHOOL 2 735
6 1 SSB 2 721
7 44 PARA REGT 2 574
8 FIRST CITY 2 549
9 SCHOOL OF TAC INT 2 470
10 HQ 43 BRIGADE 2 465
11 REGT OOS RAND 2 434
12 1 SA TANK REGT 2 382
13 5 SAI BN 2 354
14 BUFFALO VR 2 300
15 2 FD ENGR REGT 2 250
16 9 SAI BN 2 201
17 1 RNT 2 187
18 NMR 2 174
19 RPR 2 168
20 REGT MOOIRIVIER 2 144
21 MILITARY SKILLS 2 120
22 ASB MPUMALANGA 2 074
23 121 SAI BN 2 073
24 SA ARMY CTC 2 062
25 RANDLIGHT INF 2 040
26 SA ARMY GYM 2 028
27 SCHOOL OD ADA 2 023
28 KBY REGT 2 022
29 RBS 1 974
30 RDLR 1 872
31 RDW 1 829
32 4 ARTY REGT 1 808
33 SAASIC 1 805
34 SCOTTISH TRP REGT 1 773
35 6 SAI BN 1 719
36 HQ 46 BRIGADE 1 718
37 ENGR TER INT REGT 1 715
38 SCHOOL OF ARTY 1 684
39 3 SAI 1 680
40 D.L.I. 1 630
41 TSWANE REGT 1 583
42 SAASK 1 530
43 101 ASU 1 529
44 CAPE FLD ARTY 1 503
45 1 SAI BN 1 493
46 PAG 1 472
47 REGT CHRIST BEYERS 1 453
48 84 SIGNAL UNIT 1 441
49 UMR 1 431
50 3 PARA BN 1 405
51 REGT BOTHA 1 397
52 SA ARMY COLLEGE 1 358
53 DURBAN REGT 1 345
54 ARTY MOB REGT 1 334
55 SCHOOL OF ARTY 2 1 326
56 R.W.P. 1 310
57 4 ARTY REGT 2 1 255
58 35 ENGR SUP REGT 1 253

- 59 RPK 1 116
- 60 TS 874
- 61 THA 775
- 62 DURBAN LIGHT INF 750
- 63 JOHANNESBURG REGT 748

The annual International shooting competition consists of the top two Regular and Reserve Force teams as well as the four visiting teams of Botswana, Zambia, 2nd Welch Battalion and Scottish Transport Regiment. The results were:

INTERNATIONAL SHOOT POSITION, TEAM & SCORE

- 1 SA RESERVES A 2 278
- 2 SA REGULAR A 2 158
- 3 SA REGULAR B 2 131
- 4 SA RESERVES B 2 015
- 5 BOTSWANA 1 927
- 6 2ND WELSH BAT 1 723
- 7 ZAMBIA 1 644
- 8 SCOTTISH TPT REGT1 343

Top shottists were:

Pos Rank Initials and Surname Gender Team Name Total

- 1 SGT M. COMPTON MALE SA RESERVES A 298
- 2 S\SGT H.J. GROBLER MALE SA REGULAR B 297
- 3 CPL J.T. VILJOEN MALE SA RESERVES A 293
- 4 LT L. LOOCK MALE SA RESERVES A 293
- 5 L\CPL P.M. ERASMUS MALE SA RESERVES A 290
- 6 LT COL J.C.C. KRUGER MALE SA REGULAR A 283
- 7 PTE R. ELS MALE SA RESERVES A 283
- 8 CPL J.H. KARSTEN MALE SA RESERVES B 283
- 9 CAPT C. IHLENFELDT MALE SA REGULAR A 282
- 10 CAPT Q. J VAN RENSBURGMAL SA REGULAR A 282
- 11 LT COL R. BOTHA MALE SA REGULAR B 281
- 12 LT E.G.S. MURRAY MALE SA RESERVES B 281
- 13 PTE S. COERTZEN MALE SA REGULAR A 277
- 14 CPL H.J. V DER MERWE MALE SA RESERVES A 277
- 15 CPL W.J. DE WET MALE SA RESERVES A 275
- 16 WO2 P.A.M. ELOFF MALE SA REGULAR A 273

- 17 S\SGT K. THLOLOE MALE SA REGULAR B 273
- 18 L\CPL O. MOLEBATSI MALE BOTSWANA 272
- 19 LT COL S. MADLAKAMELA MALE SA REGULAR B 272
- 20 PTE A. DAVEL MALE SA RESERVES A 269

There were also 27 **Development Reserve Force** shooting teams. These members are participating for the first time in the national shoot thus giving them the experience for future years. The top twenty were:

POSITION, TEAM & SCORE

- 1 VAR (DEV) 1 149
- 2 BVR (DEV A) 1 045
- 3 RBS (DEV) 1 026
- 4 NATAL CARBINEERS 1 015
- 5 RPR (DEV) 961
- 6 RWP (DEV) 889
- 7 BVR (DEV B) 880
- 8 RPS (DEV) 874
- 9 FIRST CITY (DEV) 861
- 10 REGT BOTHA (DEV) 838
- 11 CGA 2 (DEV) 836
- 12 REGT DE WET (DEV) 832
- 13 APEX (DEV) 816
- 14 REGT OOS RAND (DEV)786
- 15 RAND LIGHT INF (DEV) 747
- 16 18 LIGH REGT (DEV) 665
- 17 KBY REGT (DEV) 654
- 18 REGT ORANJE RIVIER 640
- 19 CGA (DEV) 589
- 20 RCB (DEV) 580

During the Reserve Force shoot the following results were obtained:

FEMALE TOP 10

- POSITION, TEAM, NAME & SCORE ROUND 1 ROUND 2 & TOTAL**
- 1 CPL D.M. ROSSOUW VAR 117 255 372
 - 2 LT A.A. MAARTENS SAASK 87 198 285
 - 3 WO2 C. COETZEE RPR 70 209 279
 - 4 CPL N.C. NOKULILA BVR (DevB)73 197 270
 - 5 CPL N.P. ROHLI BVR (DevB)80 188 268
 - 6 PTE K.R. WHITEBOOI BVR (DevB)59 149 208
 - 7 PTE U. RAMKUSEN 84 SIGNAL50 155 205
 - 8 L\CPL P.H. SITHOLE D.L.I. 41 145 186
 - 9 CPL M.T. MOAWEWE MIL SKILLS61 120 181

- 10 PTE N. LUBAMBO CGA2(DEV)64 102 166

PTE - CPL

- POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 & TOTAL**
- 1 PTE R. ELS 1 RNT 126 278 404
 - 2 CPL W.J. DE WET VAR 119 282 401
 - 3 CPL J.T. VILJOEN FC 126 273 399
 - 4 PTE A. DAVEL ROR 112 285 397
 - 5 CPL H.J. V DER MERWE VAR 115 277 392
 - 6 PTE K.G. ROACH WR 111 276 387
 - 7 L\CPL P.M. ERASMUS RPS 123 260 383
 - 8 CPL J.H. KARSTEN RPS 108 274 382
 - 9 PTE G. HARMSE WR 100 274 374
 - 10 CPL D.M. ROSSOUW VAR 117 255 372

SGT - WO2

- POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 & TOTAL**
- 1 SGT M. COMPTON VAR 105 288 393
 - 2 SGT J.J. WILKEN VAR 109 259 368
 - 3 S\SGT S.F. MARAIS FC 106 250 356
 - 4 SGT A. STEYNBERG RLI 94 256 350
 - 5 SGT T.C. WINK VAR 119 228 347
 - 6 S\SGT M. HILES BVR 92 245 337
 - 7 S\SGT E.K.K. FRANK RPR 98 230 328
 - 8 S\SGT L.J. MOSOLOLI RMR 103 221 324
 - 9 SGT G.T. DE BEER FC 102 219 321
 - 10 WO2 P. SMITH ROR 83 226 309

WO1

- POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 & TOTAL**
- 1 WO1 S.C. NELL BVR 97 272 369
 - 2 SWO J. POTGIETER RLI 107 195 302
 - 3 WO1 H.W. SCOEMAN 1 RNT 91 183 274
 - 4 WO1 A.J. HOFFMAN KR 77 173 250
 - 5 WO1 P. SHUNMUEAM 84 SIGS 78 161 239
 - 6 WO1 M.A. FOURIE 3PARA BN 34 153 187
 - 7 MWO M.M. MOTLOHI WR (DEV) 73 113 186
 - 8 WO1 D. PYPERS FC (DEV) 55 122 177

CO - CAPT

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POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 & TOTAL

- 1 LT J. LOOCK WR 126 292 418
2 LT E.G.S. MURRAY MILSKILLS 109 270 379
3 LT P.G. BEKKER RPS 105 268 373
4 LT H.D. HEINE 1 RNT 93 274 367
5 2 LT T.J. VERWEY RPS 96 270 366
6 LT E.W. IRLE WR 90 276 366
7 LT J.A. DU PLESSIS RMR 97 233 330
8 CAPT R. LENCI ROR 74 233 307
9 CAPT A.J. TRUTER FC 58 232 290
10 LT A.A. MAARTENS SAASK 87 198 285

MAJ - LT COL

POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 & TOTAL

- 1 LT COL H.D. HEINE 1 RNT 112 262 374
2 MAJ L.A. KORFF RPS 105 232 337
3 MAJ H.H.P. STARK RMR 85 243 328
4 LT COL S.J. LOMBARD RPR 101 209 310
5 LT COL M.J. ROWE NMR 94 214 308
6 MAJ B.C. VORSTER KR 79 227 306
7 LT COL R.P. GOUS FC 76 228 304
8 LT COL J.G. MELLITCHEY RLI 103 198 301
9 MAJ S.J. VAN DEN BERG RPR 59 235 294
10 MAJ S.J.B. BROOKS NMR 66 226 292

COL - GEN

POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 TOTAL

- 1 COL W. ALBERTS MILSKILLS 89 239 328

Top Shots Development

POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 TOTAL

- 1 PTE G. BARTOSCH RPR (DEV) 93 253 346
2 PTE M.W. DUMA DLI 84 218 302
3 PTE M.K. LEHANYA BVR(DevA)113 186 299
4 PTE N.S. MAQAMBALALA VAR (DEV) 87 210 297
5 PTE N.J. NHLAPO RBS (DEV) 75 219 294
6 PTE R.S. MOLATODI VAR (DEV) 61 229 290
7 PTE M.C. JONGANI VAR (DEV) 80 209 289
8 PTE . MORRIS ROR 98 184 282
9 PTE S. BRITZ FC (DEV) 92 189 281

- 10 L\CPL M.J. MBHELE NC 82 196 278

- 11 CPL T.J. MAKUTOANE RBS (DEV) 84 189 273
12 CPL T.S. THETHANI VAR (DEV) 73 200 273
13 CPL N.C. NOKULILA BVR (DevB) 73 197 270
14 CPL N.P. ROHLI BVR (DevB) 80 188 268
15 PTE M.L. MOTHUDI RDW (DEV) 80 187 267
16 SGT SEOE RPS (DEV) 75 192 267
17 PTE L.T. TAYIGANA BVR (DevA) 66 200 266
18 PTE M.W. VILANE RB (DEV) 73 186 259
19 PTE T.A. NAKEDI RBS (DEV) 63 194 257
20 PTE S.M. BHENGU NC 80 176 256

TOP 25

POS RANK NAME UNIT ROUND 1 ROUND 2 & TOTAL

- 1 LT J. LOOCK WR 126 292 418
2 PTE R. ELS 1 RNT 126 278 404
3 CPL W.J. DE WET VAR 119 282 401
4 CPL J.T. VILJOEN FC 126 273 399
5 PTE A. DAVEL ROR 112 285 397
6 SGT M. COMPTON VAR 105 288 393
7 CPL H.J. V DER MERWE VAR 115 277 392
8 PTE K.G. ROACH WR 111 276 387
9 L\CPL P.M. ERASMUS RPS 123 260 383
10 CPL J.H. KARSTEN RPS 108 274 382
11 LT E.G.S. MURRAY MILSKILLS 109 270 379
12 LT COL H.D. HEINE 1 RNT 112 262 374
13 PTE G. HARMSE WR 100 274 374
14 LT P.G. BEKKER RPS 105 268 373
15 CPL D.M. ROSSOUW VAR 117 255 372
16 CPL R. CAINE NMR 120 250 370
17 PTE J.P. UYS VAR 101 269 370
18 WO1 S.C. NELL BVR 97 272 369
19 SGT J.J. WILKEN VAR 109 259 368
20 LT H.D. HEINE 1 RNT 93 274 367

Maj Gen Yam, GOC of Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Andersen, Chief Defence Reserves, and Maj Gen Mokoape, Director Army Reserves were present. Dr Job, Chairman of the Reserve Force Council, along with Brig Gen Nqapayi,

Del Monte and Komane as well as members of the RFC Executive and Regional Chairmen were present in support of the competition but especially the Gold Cup shoot. This shoot has become the biggest of its kind and growing each and every year. Well done to everyone involved in a well-run competition once again.

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News from the Regiment — Young Lions Training Camp

By: Lt. Z.S. Nkosi & L/Cpl. N.D. Hlongwane



A young lions training camp was conducted from 20 to 26 March 2013 at Alpha Base in Heidelberg.

All kit issue and administrative functions were completed at the Regimental Headquarters at the Kensington Garrison. After completing all administrative necessities, the eager Cadets were transported to Alpha Base.

All training was conducted under the watchful eyes of both Lt. Nkosi, as Young Lions co-ordinator and MWO. Moseki, as RSM and Chief instructor of the Regiment.

Spirits among the Cadets were high as subjects like musketry, cordon and search, field craft and urban patrols were eagerly completed.

The Young Lions team wants to thank everyone that was involved with making this camp such a huge success.

A special thanks to our supports staff and instructors:

- Transport: WO1. McDonald, Rfn. Chitja and Rfn. Xulu.
QM: WO2. Bezuidenhout and Rfn. Shelembe.
All kitchen staff especially Rfn. Maoto as our Chef.

Instructors: Cpl. Makumbe, L/Cpl. Hlongwane, L/Cpl. Segeatsho.

We are all looking forward and preparing for the next Young Lions camp.

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News from the Regiment — The election of the new combined mess committee.

By: The Editor

At a special meeting, convened by the Officer Commanding, Lt Col. Marius Bennett and under the chairmanship of the second-in-command, Maj. Kobus van Straaten, a new combined mess committee was elected by their peers.

The members elected are:

Mess President:

Lt. G.R. Howard

Mess Vice President:

Lt. E.L. Shabe

Mess Treasurer:

Lt. D.W. Chambers, PS

Mess Secretary:

WO2. A.J. Bezuidenhout

Additional members to the mess will be elected by the committee as the need arise.

The editorial team of “The Shamrock” wish all these individuals well for their future endeavours in their new assignments.

The first mess open evening was held on 9 April when the national chairman and secretary of the junior reserve officers association visited the regimental HQ.

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News from the SANDF — Soldiers in CAR took on overwhelming numbers

Courtesy of Defenceweb

In the aftermath of an extended fire fight that saw South African soldiers take on overwhelming odds in the Central African Republic (CAR),

SANDF Chief General Solly Shoke summarily dismissed rumours this continental SANDF deployment will be cut short.

“It is not for the SANDF to decide when to come home or not and we do not run away. Our soldiers are still in the operational area waiting for the next call,” he said at a media briefing in Thaba Tshwane following heavy fighting in and around the CAR capital of Bangui at the weekend.

About 200 of the South African protection contingent engaged more than 3 000 rebels, armed with assault rifles, mortars and heavy machine guns, in a prolonged 19 hour fire fight, interrupted by two truce appeals. The fire fight had its origins near Bangui Base where the South African soldiers had set up an ambush. Overwhelmed by the sheer number of opponents they withdrew and regrouped in readiness “for the long haul” Shoke said.

“Sadly we lost 13 soldiers and 27 were wounded. But we as South Africans must be proud of them all. They performed outstandingly, doing the work they trained long and hard for and all are a credit to both the country and the national defence force.”

He said a good indication of the way the South African soldiers stood up against a massively superior force in number terms was that the rebels came seeking truce under a white flag.

Asked what lay ahead for the SANDF contingent in the troubled country Shoke said they would stay and do the job they had been tasked to do - protect South Africans and South African assets – until orders to the contrary were issued.

“We do not run away,” he declared.

All the wounded personnel have already been safely evacuated to 1 Military hospital in Thaba Tshwane while others, with light injuries, were treated in theatre and are ready to take up arms again, if needed, Shoke said.

He would not be drawn on the logistic trail to keep the South African soldiers properly supplied with ammunition and

other essentials, including medical supplies, other than to say: “We have done it so far and will continue doing it”.

“Protection of our people is our top priority and it will be done,” the tall and authoritative four star general told media representatives.

“I personally highly commend both the discipline and calibre of the SANDF members deployed in the CAR. They are true South African heroes and I praise them for conducting themselves valiantly in the face of overwhelming opposition,” he said.

Editorial note:

The soldiers killed in action in the CAR were all from 1 parachute Battalion.

The SA Irish Regiment SALUTES you:

- Corporal Mokgadi Darius Seakamela
- Corporal Ntebaleng Andrew Mogorosi
- Lance Corporal Daniel Sello Molara
- Lance Corporal Lukas Mohapi Tsheke
- Rifleman Lesego Maxwell Hertzog
- Rifleman Zamani Jim Mxhosana
- Rifleman Xolani Dlamini
- Rifleman Vusumzi Joseph Ngaleka
- Rifleman Karabo Edwin Matsheka
- Rifleman Khomotso Paul Msenga
- Rifleman Maleisane Samuel Thulo
- Rifleman Motsamai William Bojane
- Rifleman Thabiso Anthon Phirimana

President Zuma as Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF has since announced the withdrawal of South African troops from the CAR.

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News from the SANDF — New Chief of corporate staff

Courtesy of Defenceweb



Lieutenant Veejay Ramlakan takes over from Major General Tim Dlulane, who has been acting in the position at Defence Force headquarters.

Ramlakan will vacate his current position as Surgeon General on April 1 and move up the road from the SA Military Health Service headquarters in Kasteel Park to the Armscor campus where the country's military headquarters is housed.

He is replaced as surgeon general by Major General Aubrey Sedibe who earns promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General when he becomes the military's number one medic at the beginning of next month.

Sedibe is currently chief director: military health force preparation and was previously general officer commanding the Military Health Formation. Prior to that he spent five years in the directorate: physical training and sport recreation.

A former MK member, he was wounded in Angola and moved to Germany for medical treatment. In the European country he continued his medical studies including laboratory diagnostics as well as receiving the Humboldt University Award bursary.

On his return to South Africa Sedibe integrated into the SANDF and worked as a medical officer at 1 Military Hospital in the urology and surgery departments.

He has completed all military courses, from officer formative to the Executive National Security Programme and also spent four years as the general officer commanding of I Military Hospital in Thaba Tshwane, the defence force's flagship medical institution.

In another senior appointment Major General Jeremia Nyembe has been made Chief of Defence Intelligence. When he takes up his new post on April 1 he will also be promoted to Lieutenant General. He was previously deputy in the same department.

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News from the SANDF — First armed forces day parade

Courtesy of Defenceweb

Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula inaugurated a day to honour South Africa's National Defence Force as well as soldiers of times past on 22 February 2013.

She linked the day to the disaster that saw the troopship SS Mendi sink with the loss of more than 600 soldiers and sailors some 97 years ago and began the new Armed Forces Day by laying a wreath at the SS Mendi Memorial in the Gamothakga Resort, Atteridgeville, Pretoria.

The ceremony was attended by a large contingent of general and staff officers, including Chief of the South African Defence Force (SANDF) General Solly Shoke, Lieutenant General Vusi Masondo, Chief of the Army and Lieutenant General Zakes Msimang, Chief of the Air Force, among others.

The organisers invited the hosts of the memorial, the South African Legion of Military Veterans, represented by National President Godfrey Giles and Atteridgeville Branch Chairman Abel Sefoloshla.

Giles said: "The SA Legion is grateful for the invitation to attend this ceremony, we appreciate the Defence Force wanted to recognise the monument belonged to the Legion which has a memorial service here every year."

The SA Legion and the Pretoria Monuments Council last memorial to the heroes of the SS Mendi took place on Sunday, February 17, 2013.

It had been announced President Jacob Zuma would lay the wreath but he was unable to attend and the Defence Minister stood in for him. The main parade was held at the Lucas "Masterpieces" Moripe Stadium, also in Atteridgeville.

The Defence Minister expressed the

hope that the new Defence Force or Armed Forces Day would become a part of the national calendar. Mapisa-Nqakula linked today's parade to the country's history and said she hoped it would "forge unity and express a common patriotism". This time, the government had "taken care to identify a historic moment in the life of the Defence Force that best represents the values of patriotism, comradeship, valour and common sacrifice."

The parade, made up of all four arms-of-service of the SANDF comprised an "amended brigade" of some 1 200 soldiers, airmen, sailors and medics. The 10 companies included a combined colour party and the home crowd clapped and cheered as soldiers marched onto the field.

It had earlier been hoped to hold a "capability demonstration", including armoured vehicles and cannon, but media were told the heavy vehicles might damage the sprinkler system under the pitch and the home team was expected to play the next day (Saturday).

The minister received a 19-gun salute fired by the Transvaalse Staats Artillerie, a reserve force unit which has links to one of the oldest units in the country, which was originally part of the armed forces of the old Transvaal Republic. The unit, known as the TSA, exists as a museum in Pretoria.

Following the scripture reading and prayer by the chaplain, Rear Admiral M.S. Hlongwane, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula; and generals Shoke and Masondo inspected the brigade. Two Oryx helicopters performed a flypast as a salute to the minister, flying the national and SANDF flags.

The colour party, bearing flags of local units of the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Military Health Service then led the parade in a march past which was well received by the crowd.

The march past was followed by an air display featuring Oryx helicopters, Cessna C-208 Caravans, Pilatus PC-7 Astra trainers and a two-ship C-130 Hercules flypast. A four-ship combined BAE Hawk 120 and SAAB Gripen C

formation shot overhead, all to the delight of the crowd.

Mapisa-Nqakula praised the work of the SANDF in rescuing more than 400 people in recent flooding in Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces, as well as in neighbouring Mozambique. She also had praise for the SANDF's border protection work and its peacekeeping operations in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic and Sudan.

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News from the SANDF — New GOC for Army Intelligence Formation

Courtesy of Defenceweb



Change of command parades are not an unusual occurrence in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) but one that took place in Potchefstroom on 7 March marked another milestone on government's gender agenda.

When Brigadier General Nontobeka Mpaxa takes over command of the SA Army Intelligence formation from Major General Norman Yengeni, she will become the first woman to head up the landward force's overall intelligence capability.

The parade takes place at the School of Tactical Intelligence, one of two units making up the Army's intelligence arm along with 1 Tactical Intelligence Unit.

Mpaxa is no stranger to breaking the previously male command mould of the early SANDF.

She was the first woman soldier to

command an infantry battalion – 14 at Umtata in the Eastern Cape. Following this she was promoted to colonel and became the first woman to head up an army support base. This was also in the Eastern Cape at Port Elizabeth. Her next posting was to the Northern Cape where she served as commandant of the Army combat Training Centre at Lothlatla.

Her appointment as General Officer Commanding of the Intelligence Formation also marks a first in that she becomes the first woman to head up an Army formation.

Yengeni served in the Intelligence Formation GOC post for two years before being promoted to major general. He is now Chief Director: Human Resource Management in the Department of Defence and Military Veterans.

Editorial Note: In a press statement on 25 March the SA Defence National Force Union lodged a complaint with the minister of defence to halt the appointment of Brigadier General Nontobeka Mpaxa.

The SANDFU objects to the appointment due to the fact that the General is allegedly under investigation for alleged irregularities during her time as GOC Lothlatla.

At Time of going to press there has been no further response from either the Minister or SANDFU.

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News from the SANDF — Reserves important for Navy Operations

Courtesy of Defenceweb



The South African Navy has formulated a Reserve Force strategy at a Reserve indaba held in Simon's Town, due to it being a "vital" component of the South

African National Defence Force's maritime arm of service.

"The Reserve is a vital part of our Navy. Members serve on a part-time basis but the contribution they make to the Navy as a whole is highly valued," was part of the summation at the Navy Reserves indaba in Simon's Town.

The indaba, titled "Reserves at Sea", was co-ordinated by Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Rusty Higgs, with the objective of better utilising this part-time component.

The key message to come out of the gathering, attended by 170 delegates, was that Navy Reserves must generate trained individuals and teams whose skills will then be applied to deployments (both local and continental).

At the same time, support for the Navy's efforts in connecting with all South Africans via maintenance of a broad national presence is another part of the future naval reserve strategy. This is in line with the "Peoples' Navy" slogan adopted by Navy Chief Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu.

The necessity for an SANDF-wide reserve strategy was emphasised by Major General Roy Anderson, SANDF Reserve Force Chief. He told delegates it was a ministerial priority good for both citizenship and nation-building and had to be implemented.

The assessments and recommendations of the indaba have all been noted. Their implementation in the form of policies after a strategic review to see what works best for the maritime arm of service will be the final outcome of the indaba.

No timeframe was set for the policy aspect and its implementation.

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News from the SANDF — SANDF is a key national asset

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The work and importance of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), both

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internally and continentally, was the thrust of Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula’s address during the Parliamentary debate on the State of the Nation Address.

Probably the most encouraging to the larger defence community in South Africa was her statement that the Defence Review would be finalised by the end of the current financial year.

The Review process was led by former Defence Minister Roelf Meyer at the behest of Mapisa-Nqakula’s predecessor Lindiwe Sisulu and was originally due to be tabled in Parliament last October.

“It positions the SANDF as a key national asset that can, without detriment to its primary functions, carry out directed actions to support national development,” she said in alluding to the role the military can play in the National Development Plan (NDP).

“The Review acknowledges the inherent potential of the SANDF to support national development can be realised almost automatically as a direct result of its normal peacetime activities.”

She also stressed the importance of the SANDF as an instrument of government’s foreign policy to support peace and stability in Africa.

“Situations of war and instability, in any part of the continent, are detrimental to effective development and as a result may pose direct or indirect threats to South Africa’s own national interest,” she said in support of troop deployments to the Central African Republic (CAR) and the DRC.

As far as Mali was concerned Mapisa-Nqakula said South Africa would not be contributing troops to peacekeeping efforts there. The country has pledged US\$ 25 million (about ZAR 220 million) in humanitarian aid to the continent’s latest hotspot.

“Troops have been pledged by the ECOWAS region,” she told MPs.

On the CAR deployment Mapisa-Nqakula told the House the additional

“up to 400 soldiers” sent there formed part of the extension of an existing memorandum of understanding.

“The MOU was extended for another five years and the additional South African soldiers were sent as protectors, should the need arise, for the 26 trainers there and to ensure South African assets – ammunition and vehicles – do not fall into the wrong hands.”

South Africa’s commitment to the MONUSCO deployment in the DRC currently stands at 1 250 troops and she envisages no more SANDF personnel will be deployed to that country.

“We have pledged to contribute a brigade to the intervention force proposed for the eastern DRC. This will be the brigade currently deployed in eastern DRC under MONUSCO,” she said.

This intervention force is part of a strategy developed by SADC and ICGLR (International conference on the Great Lakes Region) Defence Force Chiefs.

As far as the use of SANDF assets to support SA Police Service crime fighting efforts was concerned Mapisa-Nqakula said this should only happen in “exceptional circumstances”.

“It is important to resist the temptation to easily call on the SANDF to conduct normal policing work as this could easily gravitate the country into a military state reminiscent of the perpetual state of emergency.

“As experienced in the past this kind of action has the potential to erode public confidence and trust in the SANDF, a situation that can have dire consequences for the stability of the country,” she said.

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News from the SANDF — Reserve Force recruiting in Gauteng.

Courtesy of Defenceweb

Buoyed by the success of its Western Cape recruitment drive, the South

African National Defence Force (SANDF) Reserve Force next month aims at Gauteng tertiary institutions for its next intake of University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) volunteers.

The universities of Johannesburg and Pretoria as well as the Tshwane University of Technology will be called on by Reserve Force recruiting officers on March 5, 6 and 7.

They will give students an overview of the Reserve Force, its importance as a component of the full-time force as well present specific opportunities for trainee Reserve Force officers in five different SA Army formations. These are artillery, air defence artillery, armour, intelligence and signals.

The visit to the University of Pretoria will be the second and follows a successful recruitment drive among engineering faculty students last year.

In December 94 students from three Western Cape tertiary institutions successfully completed basic military training, conducted in eight modules, and will this year start with officer formative training.

Students who volunteer during the Gauteng recruitment round will follow the same route and should, by year-end, also be able to invite family and friends to their passing out parade signalling the start of a military career that will complement their civilian careers.

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News from the SANDF — Rooivalk ready to deploy after upgrades completed.

Courtesy of Defenceweb



The South African Air Force (SAAF) has its full complement of Rooivalk combat support helicopters back on inventory after Denel Aviation returned the final aircraft following more than two years of work on Block 1F upgrades.

This week saw what Denel Aviation Chief Executive Mike Kgobe called the culmination of a 26 year partnership between Denel and the SAAF.

“We took this aircraft through all its stages – from design to manufacturing, upgrading and retrofitting – to the point where it will soon be deployed,” he said.

Only 12 of the locally designed and manufactured Rooivalks were ever built. The home-grown rotary-winged aircraft was originally a tank buster set for use in the Bush War. The Rooivalk was never deployed in this role and the end of hostilities and arrival of democracy in 1994 meant a rethink, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to market it internationally. One Rooivalk was written off in a crash some years ago, leaving just eleven in service with 16 Squadron.

Denel will continue to be involved with Rooivalk through on-going maintenance and repair services and provision of continued airworthiness engineering support to ensure the fleet of eleven remains mission ready.

Kgobe said the Rooivalk project was indicative of the symbiotic relationship between Denel Aviation and the SAAF. “We are always ready to provide technical and ground support to ensure operational readiness of the Air Force fleet.”

This relationship has been strengthened by an agreement which sees Denel Aviation continuing to deliver maintenance services, leading to continued airworthiness and the upkeep of air assets.

“This is a win-win situation for Denel and the SAAF resulting in retention of high-level critical skills, a focused service delivery and cost effectiveness for the SAAF,” he said.

The company recently received a “zero defect report” from the SAAF to confirm all 11 Rooivalk helicopters have been upgraded to block 1F baseline standard.

Denel Aviation is receiving good feedback from the SAAF – especially 16 Squadron at AFB Bloemspruit – where the first batch of revamped helicopters has been flying since April 2011.

Dewald Steyn, Rooivalk project manager, said aircraft performance was being closely monitored and evaluated from a design and development perspective.

“The helicopter has exceeded expectations and no major maintenance or repair work has thus far been required.”

The Rooivalk project started its design phase in 1984 and had its first flight in April 1990. It attracted world-wide attention for its design and capabilities and was displayed at international air shows in England, Dubai, Malaysia and Cape Town.

Denel Aviation was responsible for the final modifications - at least 130 per aircraft - to improve its safety and reliability and accuracy of its weapons systems and to complete all outstanding certification flight testing to enable the application for a full military type certificate at the Cabinet-agreed deployment baseline.

Immediate past SAAF Chief Lieutenant General Carlo Gagiano is on record as saying Rooivalk is one of the first aircraft he would deploy on continental peacekeeping and peace support missions.

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News from the SANDF — Kruger park border fence to be rebuilt?

Written by Kim Helfrich

Rhino poaching has now reached a level where it has become necessary for a physical barrier to again be put in place

between the Kruger National Park and Mozambique.

SAN Parks chief executive Dr David Mabunda has recommended to Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa, on behalf of the national conservation agency’s board, that the boundary fence be reconstructed.

The recommendation follows the killing of a rhino in the park in the past 15 days. Kruger has lost 107 of the 146 rhinos killed for their horn to date this year.

This move is sure to find favour with specifically the SANDF’s Joint Operations Division, responsible for border protection and assisting with rhino anti-poaching operations in the Kruger park.

The possibility of rebuilding the fence was first raised in January last year, with Mabunda pointing to a cost in the region of R250 million. Subsequently then-Minister of Public Works Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde and Defence and Military Veterans Minister Lindiwe Sisulu visited the park to see first-hand the situation on the ground. Cost considerations, they said after an inspection of the boundary, put rebuilding the fence out of reach.

At the same time senior Joint Operations officers said the border protection task was made more difficult by the nature of the terrain. It was described as wild and difficult to negotiate with no roads and only game tracks to use as some form of usable guide surface for the 4X4 bakkies employed as personnel carriers in the bush.

The division’s Brigadier General Koos Liebenberg said various technology options, including electronic beams for early warning, were under investigation.

He warned then cost was a hampering factor and this is likely to be even more so now with another two companies to be deployed on border protection in the coming financial year.

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News from the SANDF — SANDF to be part of UN DRC intervention brigade

Courtesy of Defenceweb

South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma, has confirmed that South Africa will be part of the recently announced UN intervention brigade that will undertake offensive operations in the DRC.

According to an official Presidency statement, he has authorised until the end of April next year: “The employment of 1 267 SANDF personnel in the DRC for service in fulfilment of international obligations of South Africa towards the United Nations. The members were employed in the DRC for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, to participate in the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC and will continue in this mission”.

The same statement also informed the country another 11 SANDF members would be based in the DRC until April 2014 to assist with capacity building of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) with a further 67 South African soldiers to be deployed as trainers for the FARDC.

Zuma also approved the deployment of 850 SANDF members to Darfur as part of the hybrid AU/UN operation in that country. This deployment is also effective until the end of April next year.

Zuma did not elaborate on whether the around 1 100 SANDF troops and support personnel currently in the DRC at Goma as part of MONUSCO (the UN operation in the Congo) would all join the intervention brigade but the numbers indicate there will be extra South Africans going to the central African country, probably at month-end.

South Africans will serve alongside soldiers from Malawi and Tanzania in the intervention brigade. No

commander has yet been announced for the 3 069-strong brigade by the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission.

Each country will send an infantry battalion of 850 soldiers, amounting to 2 550 men. The remaining troops will come from an artillery company, a special forces company and a reconnaissance company. The brigade will operate under the command of a Tanzanian general, according to MONUSCO.

The intervention brigade, with a mandate to conduct “targeted offensive operations” against eastern DRC rebels, was approved by the UN Security Council on March 28. The landmark brigade has been given a mandate to conduct offensive operations, a first for UN peacekeepers.

No details of the composition of the brigade were available at time of publication.

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News from the SANDF — People’s Navy goes green.

Written by Kim Helfrich

The maritime arm of the SANDF has unobtrusively been adding to its status of “The People’s Navy” as an active participant in two environmental operations.

Naval Base Simon’s town personnel, ships and auxiliary equipment were all involved in a rescue attempt following a mass beaching of pilot whales off Noordhoek beach.

While some of the whales could not be saved five were transported to Simon’s town harbour where a massive rescue operation saw them first put onto the synchrolift and then moved onboard the multi-role tenders (MRTs) Indlovu and Tshukudu for release in False Bay.

“Once the whales arrived in Simon’s Town, they were placed on the synchrolift platform by crane with special harnesses designed to help with whale beachings used. Following this manoeuvre the large mammals were

placed on board two Navy MRTs. The tenders then transited to a point north of Roman Rock Lighthouse where the whales were to be released.

Unfortunately rough seas prevented their release, so a point closer to the harbour was chosen. The first whale was released from MRT Tshukudu whilst the final whale was released from MRT Indlovu. The success of the final phase of this rescue operation was largely down to the experience of the two tug skippers as well as the engineers/crane operators and crew member,” Navy Senior Warrant Officer Richard Smith said.

Three of the rescued whales beached themselves a second time the next day off Long Beach.

In another environmental operation Navy divers contributed substantially to the wreck reduction efforts on the Seli 1 off Table View.

The Navy divers were part of a multi-disciplinary team comprising Department of Transport and Cape Town metro council specialists tasked with reducing the Seli 1 wreck so it will collapse onto the seabed. The final stage will see the wreck disappear under the water level as ocean forces slowly drive it downwards. The wreck has been a blot on the seascape as well as an environmental risk since the ship beached in November 2009.

While the wreck is still visible following the first efforts of the team, significant progress has been made in weakening the ship’s structure. Expectations are it is now sufficiently weak for ocean forces to complete the job, a Navy spokesman said.

The task team reported that minimal quantities of oil were released but these were speedily contained and dealt with. Marine life in and around the wreck was unaffected by the operation.

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News from the SANDF — 30 SANDF deaths in four months.

Courtesy of Defenceweb

The importance of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) as an instrument of government has been highlighted, sadly, on the debit side of the ledger, by Deputy Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Thabang Makwetla.

“Over a period of four months we have lost close to 30 members of our defence force in the course of executing their duties,” he told a memorial service for five SANDF members who died when a helicopter crashed in the Kruger National Park earlier this month.

Three of those who died were members of 5 Special Forces Regiment in Phalaborwa and the remaining two were from the South African Air Force’s 15 Squadron in Durban.

Makwetla said all five were on duty as part of the national Operation Rhino anti-poaching effort. They died when an Agusta A109 light utility helicopter crashed.

“The soldiers we are honouring distinguished themselves through dedicated, disciplined and efficient execution of their duties in the preservation of our precious national heritage,” he said during the memorial service at 28 Squadron, AFB Waterkloof.

The SANDF has been involved in anti-poaching efforts in Kruger since March 2011 in addition to its primary function of border protection.

The Kruger Park deaths come hard on the heels of the 13 deaths in the Central African Republic (CAR). Many media commentators subsequently pointed out the arrival of 13 bodybags at the SAAF’s major transport base had brought home to South Africans exactly what the hardships and dangers faced by soldiers, either on continental or internal deployment, are.

Eleven SANDF members died in

December when a C-47TP Dakota crashed in the Drakensberg en route to Umtata and a Navy sailor was killed in a demolition accident at Touws River, also in December.

With more taskings facing it, including protection of the massive Benguela Current and its various ecosystems, the SANDF will be even further stretched. This follows the signature of a trilateral agreement between South Africa, Angola and Namibia on protection of the east African coast current, acknowledged as home to one of the world’s largest marine ecosystems in terms of food supply as well as a source of minerals and energy. Another maritime task waiting in the not too distant future is surveillance of the Prince Edward islands group in the Southern Ocean. This area was proclaimed a marine protected one by Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa earlier this month.

At the time of the Benguela Current agreement signing, military analyst Helmoed Romer Heitman said the new commitment “will add to the headaches of an over-stretched and under-funded defence force”.

The ever-growing work roster of the SANDF is putting more and more strain on the organisation, a point acknowledged by South African Air Force Deputy Chief Major General Jerry Malinga. Speaking ahead of Air Force Day in February he said “financial and other resource constraints had not prevented the SAAF from successfully completing each and every task assigned to it.”

He also warned “inadequate funding” would hamper maintenance and development in the airborne arm of the SANDF.

South Africa has committed itself to the new UN intervention brigade set to take on the M23 rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo. While the SANDF will not release details as to the size of its involvement for security reasons, this will increase the workload of the uniformed public service.

In terms of border protection, the SANDF has indicated two more

companies, with the necessary support elements, will be deployed on border protection in the coming financial year. The deployment will be on the Botswana and Namibia borders.

Navy Chief Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu has also warned his arm of service continues to face the same challenges – insufficient financial operating budget and a shortage of trained personnel – in the immediate future.

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From the Chaplain

Read Luke 6:35-37

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

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South African National Orders — The Order of The Baobab

By the Editor

National Orders are the highest form of recognition that a country can bestow on deserving citizens. It differs from military decorations and medals in that it can be bestowed on civilians. The President as Grand Patron of National Orders awards these National Orders.

The Order of the Baobab

This Order is awarded to South African citizens for distinguished service. The service awarded is well above and

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beyond the ordinary call of duty. It is an award for exceptional and distinguished contributions in the following categories:

Business and the economy
Science, medicine and technological innovation
Community service.

Organisation

This Order can be awarded in three classes:

Class 1 = Supreme Counsellor of the Order of the Baobab (Gold)
Class 2 = Grand Counsellor of the Order of the Baobab (Silver)
Class 3 = Counsellor of the Order of the Baobab (Bronze).

Symbolism/design elements

Central motif/symbolism

This Order finds its inspiration from the **Baobab** which is a **tropical African tree**. The origins of the name Baobab is part of the many rich legends and mysteries of Africa. It has probably been more often described than any other tree in Africa for, among other things, its vitality, and magical and symbolic value to indigenous people. The endurance and tolerance shown by the tree in growing old is reflective of the sustained and exceptional service to South Africa that is awarded by this Order. Similarly, the service rendered still ensures the enduring and growing status of South Africa.

The Baobab is an important element in many African agro forestry systems. It provides bark for cloth and rope, fruits for food and fuel, and many other useful products. The familiar, broad and strong protruding root system supports a massive tree commonly known as a place for many important meetings and protection in traditional African societies.

Elements:

1. **Baobab (Baobab or *Adonsonia Digitata*)** - known for its roots and longevity. Provides not only shade and a place for meetings, but is also central in supporting the communities it is found in.
2. **Nonagon shape** - a nine-sided polygon background symbolising the many different areas of possible contribution and service to building a prosperous and advancing nation. The icon is also symbolic of the nine

provinces of our country.

3. Exterior organic holding shape -

Baobab bark texture finish; the bark is commonly used for the making of mats and hats.



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Photos from Young Lions Training Camp

Photos by: Maj. I.D. Stins



Young Lions 2013



Falling in for lunch time



Interesting topics during lectures