



Aquila Capensis

"SEVENTY SEVEN YEARS OF CAMARADERIE, REMEMBRANCE AND SUPPORT" 1946 - 2023

Newsletter of the Cape Town Branch of SAAFA

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The Editor extends his thanks for any contributions received. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or SAAFA National Executive or Branch. The Editor reserves the right to amend or reject any editorial matter submitted for publication. It is not always possible to acknowledge the sources of the pictures and articles as many are downloaded by myself from Facebook or other sources onto my mobile phone, and it doesn't save the source.



A somewhat different picture for the front page, the medal parade held at AFB Ysterplaat -

Editorial:

Greetings once again to all.

This is the 3rd edition for 2023 and is still in production from Langebaan on the beautiful west coast. Flower season was fantastic after really good rains this past year. Unfortunately with the beauty came the severe flooding and damage across the Province.

Being now based in Langebaan I still see and hear on a fairly regular basis activity in the skies from AFB Langebaanweg ,the Silver Falcons, the odd Dakota, and choppers!

Of course most of the Country was glued to their TV's to watch eventually our boys in green bring the the Rugby World Cup back home again.

I would like to thank Dean Wingrin for permission to use the articles that he wrote.

The Editor now also has sub editor, Dr Alan Nelson.

Please if anybody sees or finds some aviation goodies/articles pictures etc which would be of interest to others please send on to myself or Alan.

Apologies from my side with delay in newsletter getting out, I have this year become a sub tenderer for training to TRANSNET. I have ended up being engaged almost 4 out of 5 days a week, lecturing in on 11 different subjects.

So the 66 year old brain has had its work cut out. I must admit I have seen first hand how the trains that deliver iron ore from Sishen to the harbour at Saldanha work and are maintained. These folk who keep them running do a fantastic job. I have also been exposed to the other side which is the port operations — also extremely interesting

So once again to all please enjoy this newsletter .

“Let us make SAAFA Great Again”!

Cheers

John



A view from where I train at Portnet Saldanha

WEAL & WOE NAME LIST



Weal:

Birthday congratulatory cards were sent to all members and their next of kin wishing them well on their respective birthdays in the months.

WOE.

Through various social media platforms, we have reached out to our members who are currently facing medical challenges.

We've sent them get-well cards and messages of reassurance, letting them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to their return to good health. We hope to see them again soon. Stay strong!

GET WELL SOON LAUGHTER HELPS GETTING BETTER

- 1. Why did the germ go to school?** To get a little "bacteria" education!
- 2. Doctor:** "I have good news and bad news. **The bad news is you're sick.** The good news is you can use it as an excuse to binge-watch your favourite TV shows!"
- 3. Why did the tomato turn red?** Because it saw the salad dressing and realized it was feeling a bit underdressed, just like me when I'm sick!
- 4. I told my computer I was feeling sick,** and now it won't stop sending me "get well soon" emails. It's gone viral!
- 5. What do you call a can opener that's sick?** A "can't opener"!

**NEW REGALIA: PANA-MATE FEDORA HAT
CONTACT NICK HAVENGA FOR
FUTHER DETAILS**



They really look smart

Sunset Call :



*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.*

**To all members who have lost family and others condolences from all of us
at SAAFA Cape Town.**

Annual Memorial Service at the Cenotaph held in Adderley Street on 12 November 2023





Chairmans Chatter

*Greetings from the serene shores of Big Bay.
I trust this message finds each of you in good
health and high spirits. May the calm sea bring
you peace and tranquility*

I would like to thank the members of SAAFA Cape Town Branch once again for their support and confidence in allowing me to carry out the role and duties of Chair for SAAFA Cape Town.

It's quite remarkable that a significant majority, 77% of the branch members, are over the age of 60. This could potentially indicate a wealth of experience and wisdom within the group. However, it might also highlight a need for younger members to ensure the longevity and continued relevance of the branch. It would be interesting to explore strategies to attract a more diverse age range of members.

As we move forward, it's crucial to resuscitate the membership and encourage current members to invite their family and friends who belong to the younger generation to join the Association and become part of the amazing and phenomenal SAAFA family. Let's all enjoy the camaraderie, companionship, and fellowship we all know so well and have come to enjoy by getting together on a more regular basis.

It's indeed disheartening to hear that despite being a permanent fixture on the AFB Ysterplaat Base Calendar for venue use during luncheons, the inability to utilize kitchen facilities and staff due to manpower shortages poses a significant challenge. This situation underscores the importance of resource allocation and the need for solutions to address these constraints.

Perhaps exploring volunteer opportunities or partnerships with local culinary schools or catering services could be potential avenues to consider. It's crucial to ensure that the valuable tradition of these luncheons can continue without compromise.

Despite the challenges faced by the events coordinator, it's truly heartening to see the commitment and enthusiasm of the members. The fact that more than 25 members have been regularly attending the monthly luncheons at various locations, as organized by Dave Pearce, is a testament to the strong sense of community and camaraderie within the group.

This consistent participation provides a solid foundation for the group to overcome obstacles and continue its valuable traditions. Kudos to Dave Pearce for his efforts in keeping the spirit of the group alive amidst these challenges.

I am writing to each benefactor to express my deepest thanks for your recent donations to the “Care of the Aged” program. Your willingness to help beneficiaries in our community highlights your unselfish and giving spirit. Your generosity transcends borders, and your contributions are making a profound impact.

The ripples of your kindness are felt in every corner of our community. On behalf of those who benefit from your kindness, I thank you. Your generosity is not just a gift, but also an inspiration to us all.

As we approach the end of November, it’s a good time to reflect on the blessings in our lives and be mindful of those who are less fortunate. Let’s take a moment to appreciate the people and things that bring us joy and happiness. At the same time, let’s also remember those who are struggling and could use our help.

As we witness the cycles of nature, the ebb and flow of the tide, the sunrise and sunset, we remember those members who have faced the loss of their family, friends and loved ones and struggle with the unanswerable question “why”? We send our thoughts and prayers to these members who have endured such pain and offer them the comfort that the branch and its members are here to provide any support they may need. Lest We Forget.

As the year draws to a close, it’s indeed a wonderful time to look back on the past and anticipate the future. I hope that you and your loved ones have a fantastic Christmas and a joyful New Year!

May the spirit of Christ fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter during this holiday season. Here’s to a season filled with warmth, harmony, and good cheer!

God Bless

SAAFAs Greetings

Nick Havenga

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Experiences of an Avionics Technologist in the South African Air Force.

Compiled By Col. Alan J. Nelson(Ret) PS, MMM.

Detachment to C.DEF. Res SANDF.

In September 1999, the Nelson's decided to relocate to retire in Cape Town. At the time, he was a Member of the SAAF Reserve Force Council in the Engineering Portfolio, under Maj.Gen. Ben Foster. As such and being now resident in Cape Town, he was invited by Brig.Gen. John del Monte to an interview for the newly created post of Senior Staff Officer(SSO) Reserves for the Western Cape, reporting to Chief Defence Reserves SANDF Maj.Gen Roy Andersen. With new accommodation in the Castle of Good Hope, the Office was officially opened in January 2000, with Col Nelson as SSO, Lt.Col. Johan Conradie as S01, Maj. Brian Stern SO2 and Ms Elsette Musso as the PSAP.

Detachment to C.SA Army.

The Western Cape Reserve Forces consist of all SANDF Service elements, namely the SA Army, SA Navy, SA Air Force and SA Medical Services.

The main components of the SA Army are comprised of The SA Army Conventional Force(CF) Reserves consisting of 12 Regiments and 4 Units), and the SA Army Commando's, in 2000 some 7000 soldiers in Total.

The Regiments and Units in particular, were scattered all over the Metropoli being accommodated in old School-and derelict SANDF buildings. With the intended closure of the Commando Units, the then GOC SA Army, Maj.Gen. Derrick Mgwebe, called a meeting with all interested parties in the Region and propose solutions to the accommodation problem(s) facing the Conventional Forces .

The outcome of that meeting saw Col. Nelson being tasked to investigate the problem and prepare a position paper for presentation to Lt.Gen. Romano the C. SA Army for comment and consideration. In 2003/4 a R74million budget was approved for the renovation and repair of all facilities at 6 Base Ordinance Depot(6BOD) with the intention of creating a "HOME FOR THE RESERVES" in the Western Cape, and so Project iKapa was born with Col. Nelson as the Project Manager.

A further outcome of this decision was that the first hangar to be converted would be for 3 Parachute Battalion, Charlie Company. On completion- and commissioning of Hangar 629 in 2005, the Officer Commanding 3 Para Bn bestowed honouree membership of the Company on Col. Nelson, and subsequently, he was elected Hon. President of the Cape Canaopy of Paratroopers.

This position caters for the appointment in the Constitution of the Bn, and wearing of all regalia, except for wings. Col. Nelson has held this position ever since and represents the Association at all Military Events when they are invited.

Chief of the Air Force Medal Parade at AFB Ysterplaat By Dean Wingrin

Lt Gen Wiseman Mbambo, Chief of the South African Air Force (SAAF), officiated at a Medal Parade held at Air Force Base Ysterplaat on Friday 27 October 2023 to honour those members who have dedicated years of service to the SAAF.

The recipients of medals came from all Bases and Units in the Western Cape, namely Air Force Bases Ysterplaat, Langebaanweg and Overberg.

The Airforce Chief noted that he always looked forward to medal parades as it gives an opportunity to celebrate and honour the contribution made by fellow airmen to the growth of the SAAF in particular and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in general.

Mbambo said that he was buoyed by the achievements that the Bases and their various sub-units have accomplished over the last two years, “particularly the daring rescues that have been witnessed nationally, specific reference goes to the one that 22 Squadron did to our sister service, the South African Navy members who experienced challenges at sea just recently.”

A medal parade, Mbambo told the invited guests, “is a reflection of our diligent and professional behaviour. This behaviour, is in accordance with the Military Code of Conduct.”

“This parade is in line with the military culture to recognize all those who have provided extraordinary and professional service to the South African National Defence Force,” he continued, “The bestowal of medals has been part of the military culture for centuries. Medals are intended to recognise remarkable service rendered. They reflect the bearer's history, bravery, merit and loyalty in support of various activities of the South African National Defence Force.”

Mbambo emphasised that being honoured with a medal comes with great responsibility and challenges: “You will be expected to conduct yourself in an exemplary manner, both in private and public spheres. Discipline is necessary for the effective execution of our respective tasks and operations. It enhances our ability to fulfil our constitutional obligation to support the people of South Africa and to protect our country's sovereignty.”

Due to the weather, the medal parade was held in the large 11 Hangar, which many members may remember as being the Shackleton servicing hangar. This hangar is now used to house the C47-TP TurboDaks of 35 Squadron.

During the Parade, 41 airmen and women were presented with various medals, recognizing their dedication and years of service.

The recipients include those receiving the South African Medal (Azanian People's Liberation Army or Umkhonto We Sizwe), Tshumelo Ikatelaho (General Service) Medal and Bar to the Good Service Medal (20 years).

The South African Airforce Association (SAAFA) was represented by Cape Town branch Chairperson Nick Havenga and Alan Nelson.



He saw an opportune moment to proudly share the remarkable progress and achievements of the organisation, “The SA Air Force is currently at the forefront of developing space capabilities, by working in close collaboration with our industry partners, especially the National Earth Observation Space Secretariat (NEOSS), SANSA, Director of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and partaking in internal and external operations. The SA Air Force was actively involved in disaster relief in February through Operation CHARIOT when the country was hit by floods.”

He then shared that, “Tragically, in February this year we lost one of our members who was deployed under Operation Mistral, Sergeant Vusumuzi Mabena, a Flight Engineer that still had so much to live for, may his brave soul continue to rest in peace. I would like to take the opportunity to commend Major Jan Augustyn, Captain Rebotile Mothoa, Warrant Officer Class 2 Alistair Prince and Sergeant Kamogelo Raphiri for the daring rescue mission that they conducted on the Lurio River, in Mozambique on 10 March 2023, that man is alive because of them,” Lieutenant General Mbambo said.

The Chief of the SA Air Force emphasised the importance of “freeing the eagle”, which is the SA Air Force’s new slogan that speaks to the mind shift, a change in the organisation’s thinking to thrive innovatively through its challenges. He shared with the SAAFA members that there are many changes that have happened within the organisation’s command structure, all the Major Generals are newly appointed.



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Membership:

Membership levies/Finance

The annual levy for being a member is R200 per year, and R50 of this amount goes to SAAFA National as a capitation fee.

We kindly ask you to add a R100-00 donation for the “Care of the Aged” project, which helps us to support our beneficiaries with a monthly stipend.

The best way to pay is by EFT, as cash deposits have extra bank charges for the branch.

Banking Details

Bank: Standard Bank

Acc Name: SAAFA Cape Town

Branch Code: 051001

Account No: 07 297 491 5

Account Type: Current

Please use reference number that is on your invoice, and forward Proof of Payment to saafa.cape@gmail.com / cpt.saafa.finance@gmail.com



Sunset over the lagoon at Langebaan.

This is where the editor calls it quits for this edition. The next one will be in the new year 2024 . So have a merry Christmas and a great New Year. Stay safe and well and if travelling drive carefully.

So as said at the end of this flight folks, It is Out until next time.

**DROOPY EYES AND
SAGGING HEAD,
THAT'S it for me
I'm off to BED...**



GOODNIGHT!