

MSDS member cares for our environment

By Lt L. Perumaul,
Environmental Officer

Lt Lorraine Perumaul was born and brought up in Durban and lived her entire life there until the SA Army happened. After school she studied computers and administration at Oval International Computer College because of the boom in the computer industry at that time. She graduated with a diploma, but her passion for nature and the environment kept burning. In fact, it grew stronger. Thereafter, she studied at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and completed her BA degree in Environment and Development. Lt Perumaul graduated in 2004 and joined the SA Army through the 2005 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake.

A new chapter unfolded in January 2005 in Lt Perumaul's life from the moment she boarded the bus to 3 SA Infantry Battalion for basic training. "A decision that will have an impact on my life like never before - basic training - something you hear stories about, but only experience the reality of it when you are part of it!" she says.

July 2006 saw the start of her career



Lt Lorraine Perumaul.

in the SANDF when she was appointed as an environmental officer at Army Support Base Potchefstroom. She was quite fortunate to have attended the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems and Auditing Course, which was presented to key role players in the unit. She also attended the Environmental Law for Environmental Managers and the Environmental Risk Assessment and Management in 2006 at the Centre for Environmental Management, which is part of Potchefstroom University.

One of the highlights of her career thus far was being part of the Environmental Considerations team during Military Operations (ECOps) for EXERCISE SEBOKA, which provided her with valuable insight and information on how military activities impact on the environment and how this can all be minimised by utilising mitigating measures. For her, it was quite remarkable seeing soldiers doing their part and caring for the environment. Another highlight was attending Ecological Management Level I at the DOD Log School, a course packed with invaluable information necessary to the execution of daily environmental activities.

"I always had an avid love for nature and hope that one day every person realises the importance of it and that, 'we need nature, nature doesn't need us!' Being an environmental officer, especially in the DOD where your core business is military training and being combat ready, really requires a lot of hard work, commitment and dedication, but my passion and love for nature and the environment make it all very rewarding at the end of the day." 

A boxing legend begins

Article and photo by Sea J.G. Grant,
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Seaman Myolisi "Boxer" Xayo, who has received sporting awards for boxing, soccer and athletics is excelling well in these sports and is leaving a legend for youngsters who still want to join the SANDF as part of the programme to rejuvenate the Defence Force. While still at school, Xayo quickly realised the importance of education and excelled at his Secondary School in Centane in the Transkei. His keen sense of right and wrong pushed him in the direction of various sports. Xayo joined the SA Navy in 2006. Although he had heard of many people joining the SA Army, the idea of a life of adventure at sea appealed to him more. Though he had little knowledge of the Navy, he believed in himself and knew that he could make a positive contribution to



Seaman "Boxer" Xayo.

the organisation. He is now working at Cole Point in Simon's Town where he is qualified to protect Government buildings and other assets. This 22 year old wants to make a career in the SANDF, but is also very serious about his sports training. On the days that he is off duty

he travels to Wynberg and sweats it out for his dreams. This champion in the lightweight division is rated 2nd in the SANDF boxing ranks. He wants to be a professional boxer in future, and speaks passionately about boxing. He says that when you're in the ring it's all about you, and the crowd knows this, so when they cheer it's not for a team, but solely for him as an individual. When asked what advice he had for other youngsters, he said that they should know what they want and believe in themselves. They should also try and associate themselves with the right kind of friends who will keep them motivated because there will come a time when their morale is low and then they will need someone to keep them from temporarily abandoning their dreams. Seaman Xayo, who was a member of the Masonwabe Choral Society, is also a poet and has entertained and impressed audiences up to the highest rank level. 