



Maieshi

Yetu VOLUME 17, 2020

Back to School 2021

**New Dawn for Security
Telecommunication
Services**

Things to look out for in 2021;

- Ulinzi Sports Complex
- Space Science Advancement

Mission Readiness





Kenya Defence Forces

Mandate

The Mandate of the Ministry of Defence is derived from Article 241:1 (a), (b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Kenya Defence Forces Act No. 25 of 2012.

Vision

A premier, credible and mission capable force deeply rooted in professionalism.

Mission

To defend and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic, assist and cooperate with other authorities in situations of emergency or disaster and restore peace in any part of Kenya affected by unrest or instability as assigned.

Commitment

The Ministry of Defence is committed to defending the people of the Republic of Kenya and their property against external aggression and also providing support to Civil Authority.

Preamble

The Ministry of Defence is comprised of the Kenya Army, the Kenya Air Force, the Kenya Navy, the Defence Force Constabulary and the Civilian Staff.

Core Values

To achieve its Mission and Vision, the Ministry is guided by its core values and beliefs namely:

Apolitical: The Defence Forces will steer clear of politics and will remain steadfastly apolitical.

The Civil Prerogative: The Defence Forces shall always subordinate itself to democratic Civil Authority and will treat the people of Kenya and its other clients with civility at all times.

Loyalty and Commitment: The Defence Forces will uphold its loyalty and commitment to the Commander-in-Chief and the People of the Republic of Kenya through the chain of command.

Patriotism: The staff of the Ministry of Defence shall always be patriotic to the Government and the People of Kenya.

Professionalism: Service delivery will be based on the highest professional standards.

Cover Photo



Lt Jacob Githinji at Wamo Primary School in Jubaland State of Somalia.

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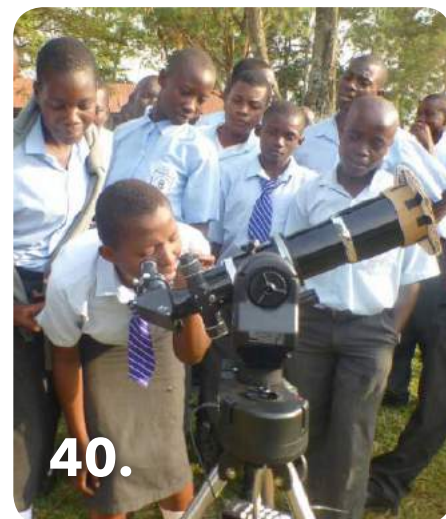
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Colonel Zipporah Kioko

Col Public Affairs and KDF Spokesperson

Many exciting things have happened in 2020, defying the Covid-19 effect around the world. Without a doubt, the real heroes this year have been the medical doctors who have been at the frontlines to screen and treat COVID 19 patients. To the entire Directorate of Medical Services, for the resilience and mission readiness demonstrated at the onset of the pandemic to date, we say thank you! The set up of screening centers and the establishment of Corona Treatment facilities in military establishments, not forgetting the continuous sensitization and issuance of regulations on what to do, went a long way to offer comfort to the entire KDF fraternity and our families.

This, to a large extent protected the Force and enabled the delivery on our constitutional mandate. In hindsight to the pandemic, every account published in this edition venerates the winning spirit of men and women of the Kenya Defence Forces who contributed to delivery of defence in 2020.

In recent times, Kenya has emerged as a regional leader in the field of astronomy under the Kenya Space Agency in-conjunction with local Universities. The milestones made in 2020 resulted in Kenya joining the Moon Village Association – a Vienna-based non-governmental organization comprising stakeholders primed to be future trailblazers in the space industry. One of the objectives by the association is to establish a permanent settlement on the moon, an exhilarating prospect, especially when Kenya is a member of the association.

As you turn the pages you will read ways in which KDF impacted positively to national development, regional security, counter terrorism, aviation safety and air space security, telecommunications and cyber security, health security and conducted humanitarian civic activities. In the words of Martin Luther Jr - the ultimate measure of a man (woman) is not where he stands in moments of comfort but where he stands at times of adversity – to this end, KDF has soared higher, by offering solutions to the Kenyan citizenry whenever called upon. KDF also remains a reservoir of mission ready competencies.

May you relate with the positivity in every story and may the winners spirit conveyed in each account linger throughout the New Year 2021.

*May you have the spirit
of a winner in 2021*

Message From **CABINET SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE**



Amb. Monica Juma DPhil EGH

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to reflect on the year 2020. In this extra-ordinary year, defined primarily by the COVID-19 pandemic and marked by a number of low points for our nation, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) remained steadfast in the defence and protection of the Republic and the citizens of Kenya and their property, against external aggression. Most significantly, we rose to the occasion in responding to new needs of Kenyans and our motherland, and scaled up our support to civil authority exponentially.

I thank all the personnel at the MOD, both uniformed and non-uniformed, for their exemplary service within and outside our borders in the year 2020. Your commitment and patriotic efforts and service for Kenyans and humanity continues to make significant difference.

2020 started and ended on a high note at the Ministry of Defence. We set off with a change of guard and command. In the third week of January 2020, I took up my post as the next Cabinet Secretary for Defence and in May, we had a change of the High Command in the Defence Forces. Our leadership team jelled quickly, as we responded to a number of firsts: the resting of the former Commander in Chief of the Defence Forces, H.E President Daniel Arap Moi in February, the expansion of services and then the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, after the first case in Kenya was announced on the 13th March 2020.

As the Government intervened to cushion the effects of the pandemic on the economy and livelihoods of Kenyans, the MOD scaled its response to the pandemic. We supported the Ministry of Health by offering logistics support and fumigation services to public institutions and semi-formal settlements.

Aware that we needed to keep a healthy force for any needed response, we scaled our sensitization for the prevention of infection. Our commanders and chaplaincy all rose to this need and have all led in the war against COVID-19. Significantly, we maintained the tempo of training and readiness throughout

“ We have deployed our competencies across a range of sectors to aid civil authorities in the delivery of projects that are core to the economic development of our nation. ”

the year, without any threats to our forces. Meanwhile, we stood an international state of the art facility, adding to the health infrastructure for response to COVID-19, and the National Command Centre (NCC), under the KDF. The NCC continues to guide the national response to this pandemic. I am proud to state that at the end of the year, our forces remain healthy, ready and prepared. During this time, we have also been true to our constitutional obligation of contributing to the national aspirations of our country. We have deployed our competencies across a range of sectors to aid civil authorities in the delivery of projects that are core to the economic development of our nation.

The transport infrastructure takes the lead in this regard with the rehabilitation of the Thika-Nanyuki metre gauge railway line. This project has awakened the central Kenya region's economic potential and contribution to the nation. The rehabilitation of the Kisumu Port has spurred regional trade with a haulage of more than a million tonnes of goods across our border to Port Bell in Uganda twice a week, both ways. The ongoing rehabilitation of the Nakuru-Kisumu metre gauge rail road - set for completion in 2021, will guarantee an increase in haulage of goods from the Standard Gauge Railway to the port town of Kisumu, and beyond, seamlessly. I commend our Kenya Defence Forces

engineers and the National Youth Service, for their tireless efforts in the rehabilitation of the railways, and the most importantly reviving MV Uhuru.

Another key project in the year 2020 is the Kenya Navy-led ongoing construction of the Slipway in Mombasa and the upgrade of the Kisumu port. This project set for completion in mid-2021, will ensure that both Mombasa and Kisumu can repair and build vessels, a great milestone in spurring the Blue economy agenda. Other than this project having the huge potential to drive industrialisation, technology transfer and job creation, it will set us apart as a lead nation in the maritime domain.

We have also supported the Ministry of Agriculture in protection of our crop, farms and pasture from the locust invasion. Starting in 2019, the Kenya Air Force has and continues to support in surveillance of locust movement as well as in the spraying of affected areas. In addition, it has responds to various emergencies, including fires and rescue missions across the country. A significant contribution has been the standing of the National Air Support Department (NASD), which brings together government air assets to ensure efficient and timely response to any distress. I am proud to state that the capacity of this outfit, which was commissioned on 17th December 2020,

has already been tested, confirming its value in efficient and effective response. On Christmas Day the NASD successfully responded to the Hells Gate fire. Congratulations to the NASD team.

Perhaps the signature contribution of MOD in 2020 is linked to the honour of having the Commander in Chief nominate one of our own to support his vision of re-engineering the capital city of Nairobi. Maj General Mohamed Badi and his team of officers has executed the guidance of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta with diligence and unsurpassed commitment. I commend him for his drive and thank Kenyans in general, and Nairobians in particular, for their support to his work. His performance confirms the value of the combination of professional competence and discipline. The MOD will continue and stands ready to offer any support to the efforts of revitalising our city and the only UN capital in the global South.

Through our Environmental Soldier programme, we continue to contribute to H.E the President's directive of attaining a 10% forest cover. Across all the services, planting and nurturing the environment has become a way of life at the MOD. We appreciate the cooperation we continue to enjoy from various other stakeholders in particular the Chief Conservatoire and the Ministry of Environment. This year alone we have planted more than 5 million trees, and remain committed to increase these numbers in the coming year.

Operationally, our troops continue to safeguard our territorial integrity and unity – serving with diligence and loyalty to the motherland. On 7th December 2020, with a deep sense of veneration and pride, I unveiled and marked as a point of the KDF history, the VICTORY TREE in Manda Bay. At the base of this historic tree, Operation Sledge Hammer was launched on 25th September 2012, before our troops set sail for the amphibious landing and takeover of Kismayu on the 28th September 2012. It is our VICTORY tree!

To our troops that have paid the ultimate price in the defence of our motherland and its citizens, every Kenyan owes you a huge debt of

gratitude. Your sacrifice was not, and will never be in vain. You inspire our courage, commitment and loyalty to Kenya, every day.

In support to our troops and their families, this year has seen an expansion of our wellness programme and activities. In October, H.E the President and Commander in Chief launched the largest wellness centre, to cater for the needs of the soldiers and their family members that may be affected in the course of their operations. This will be augmented by the MOD sports complex, whose construction has commenced. In addition, we have embarked on a programme to re-engineer all the Moi Forces sponsored schools (13 secondary and 15 primary schools) in an effort to restore them to the original vision of making them centres of excellence that nurture our children to be competent, public serving patriots of this nation, and the world. I am most pleased to note that all the infrastructural repairs and expansion needed for the children to return to school, including adherence to the COVID-19 protocols, are in place in all our learning institutions. I commend the education department and the engineers' battalion for taking a lead that proves focus can achieve any target set.

At the institutional and administrative level, we continue to strengthen our

business processes and modalities of work to ensure good value for the taxpayers – the Kenyan public. In this regard, we have throughout the year engaged with other publics to ensure that we offer services at the highest standards and at optimal cost. I commend the DHQ team that ensures full compliance and adherence to policy, legal and administrative frameworks that guide the delivery of our constitutional mandate.

As I conclude, I wish to underscore and commend the ability of our nation to draw on its resilience. It is critical for each Kenyan in general and MOD staff in particular not to drop their guard. As the MOH warns us, COVID-19 is still amongst us. All our efforts should be geared towards ensuring that we keep healthy. Please wear masks in public, sanitise and keep a safe social distance. Do also drive safely to reduce the carnage on our roads.

For our troops in the various theaters, especially those deployed beyond our borders, I salute each and every one of you; and urge you to continue your exemplary service to our motherland. Happy festivities. I look forward to us executing our constitutional mandate diligently, building on the successes and resilience of 2020.

God bless Kenya!



Cabinet Secretary for Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma inspects a parade mounted by scouts during her visit to Laikipia Air Base Secondary School on 31 October 2020.



CS Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma and PS Defence Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed in a group photo with the KDF Service Members in front of the VICTORY TREE launched by the CS during her visit to Kenya Navy. At the base of this historic tree, Operation Sledge Hammer was launched on 25th September 2012, before KDF troops set sail for the amphibious landing and takeover of Kismayu on the 28th September 2012.



Cabinet Secretary for Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma officially unveils a monument during KDF Day celebrations at Mariakani Garrison on 14th October 2020

Message From CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES



General Robert K Kibochi
EGH, CBS 'ndc' (K) 'psc' (UK)

Reflecting on Year 2020 and Peeping into Year 2021

Season's Greetings to the Officers, Service Members and families of Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). As the year 2020 comes to an end, I thank the Almighty God for His grace as we continue to execute our mandate of defending and protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Kenya. I am also grateful to His Excellency, Hon Uhuru Kenyatta CGH, the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces for his continued guidance and support. Moreover, the goodwill demonstrated by the people of Kenya towards the KDF is forever inspiring and therefore deserves special mention.

This year, KDF was called upon to support National Development in various areas; the Kenya Army together with the Kenya Railways Corporation, and the National Youth Service restored the Nairobi - Nanyuki metre-gauge railway, in addition to various humanitarian and civil military interventions across the country. The Kenya Air Force flew home our people stranded within the region after the Covid-19 travel restrictions, joined the fight against desert locust invasion in Kenya and helped to douse fires in our Game Parks. On its part, the Kenya Navy marine engineers restored *MV Uhuru* after many years of decay, hence stimulating economic rebirth in the Lake Basin Region. Furthermore, the Navy remains a valued partner in creating the conditions necessary for success as Kenya charts a new path in developing her Blue Economy.

KDF has also seconded personnel in non-military institutions namely; the Nairobi Metropolitan Service and the Kenya Meat Commission in order to improve service delivery to the public. In the operational realm, KDF was in 2020 tasked to lead critical multi-agency initiatives, including: the establishment of the National Security Telecommunications Service to enhance operational efficiency by bridging gaps in the National Security Communication architecture; and, formation of the National Air Support Department to manage centrally the Government aviation assets thus enabling optimal return on investment. In the field of healthcare, KDF personnel played crucial roles in the national Covid-19 intervention framework.

Progressively, KDF will play an increasing role in development, industrialization and innovation to showcase the defence community as an important partner in the National transformation agenda. A case in point is the projected operationalization of the Kenya Ship Yard Limited and the restoration of the Kenya Meat Commission. This demands continuous improvement in all dimensions of our mission, including robust research and development capability, underpinned by a state of

the art communication and information infrastructure. In the circumstances, it is incumbent on all of us to continue deepening our capabilities to meet the realities of the day coupled by proactive posture alignment.

The successes registered to date are attributed to KDF's ability to maintain mission readiness in the face of current and emerging threats to Kenya's national interests. In this regard, I applaud our soldiers for their patriotism, commitment and courage while discharging their duties in diverse assignments under the National Government, the Africa Union and the United Nations. In appreciating the challenges and risks inherent in the operating environment, I pay tribute to our gallant soldiers, to whom, the bugler has played the last post, to their families receive my sympathy and assurance that the sacrifices of our fallen heroes are not in

vain. To those, recuperating, I wish you quick recovery.

In addressing the moral needs of our personnel and their dependants, we have a comprehensive strategy to improve the welfare system. For instance, the services offered by the Defence Savings and Credit Cooperative Society will be diversified to assist individuals to accomplish their post-service aspirations. In the same spirit, I envisage that the Defence Forces Wellness Centre will play a critical role in facilitating the healing of physical and emotional wounds amongst our battlefield casualties while also addressing the psychological and emotional needs of our dependants. In addition, I look forward to the maturation of welfare interventions such as housing for the troops and their families as well as the refurbishment of KDF sponsored schools.

I am deeply honoured for the opportunity to lead the Kenya Defence Forces at this defining moment when the security environment is evolving rapidly both nationally and in the global arena. Together we have many reasons to celebrate our accomplishments in year 2020. But we owe it to ourselves and Kenya to assure seamless transition into the new year.

All said and done, year 2021 holds unlimited strategic, operational and tactical opportunities for the KDF and Kenya. Therefore, let us remain focused in our aspirations to secure the country for posterity.

May God bless us all and grant us a prosperous year 2021.



Chief of the Defence Forces addressing KDF troops operating under AMISOM in Somalia. June, 2020



Mrs. Tabitha Kibochi, spouse to CDF, delivers her remarks during the meeting.

KDF Senior Officers Spouses Champion **Welfare Matters** in KDF

By Sgt Loise Nakae

The spouses of the Kenya Defence Forces serving and retired senior military officers on Wednesday 21 October 2020, held a meeting at a Nairobi Hotel to discuss how they could complement the KDF welfare branch in delivery of welfare services to KDF family.

To start off, Mrs. Tabitha Kibochi, spouse to Chief of the Defence Forces General Robert Kibochi, gave her welcoming remarks and outlined the group's vision, "Using their diversity to contribute ideas that will create big impact to the entire KDF families both

serving and retired." This she said will be realised through areas of collaboration with DHQ Compensation and Welfare where they intend to complement the existing welfare service delivery.

She further emphasized on the need for unity in achieving results for the benefit of the KDF community, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together." She stated that as people in leadership, they have an opportunity to make a difference in the well-being of their constituents, not as activists but as influencers for change in identified aspects of the KDF family welfare.

Amongst the welfare issues championed is the taking care of children living with disability.

A recent study conducted by the Defence Forces Memorial Hospital (DFMH) revealed that the highest disability amongst KDF families is cerebral palsy. The burden of raising a child with Cerebral Palsy (CP) does not only take toll on the families emotionally, psychologically, socially but also economically. As a result of this, the productivity of affected household heads who are serving, suffers.

"As mothers we know caregivers of families with children with CP and other disabilities must experience many psychological, social and economic challenges, these include stress, worries, sadness, grief, bitterness inadequate special schools for their ill children, stigma, lack of social support and disruption in social life."

The Senior Officers' spouses intends to take the steering role in setting up a well-established structure to guide their support and operations now and in the future. The association intends to bring all the other spouses on board once the systems and structures are well established. Mrs. Kibochi highlighted a past event where spouses have worked together with the KDF Medical team on family welfare with a focus on maternal health care and cerebral palsy and presented key issues to the KDF leadership. The report highlights the plight of families with children with CP and other disabilities across the services. "Such synergy is a good example to provide much needed assistance, she said."

The idea to come up with the Association was mooted from Mrs. Kibochi's recent visit to India where the military wives have a similar association. The proposed name of the group is, Military Wives Association of Kenya (MWAK).

Colonel Litigation Colonel Alice Mate presented a proposed constitution of the group and moderated the plenary discussions and its adoptions. Lieutenant Colonel Leah Yegon who is also the SOI Welfare and Compensation Branch at Defence Headquarters (DHQ) gave an overview of the KDF Compensation and welfare branch functions and possible areas of collaboration with the KDF Senior Officers Spouses welfare group.

The suggested areas of collaboration with the KDF welfare branch included mentorship and counselling programs to KDF personnel and their spouses, widows and youths empowerment programs, psychological support to KDF families with people living with disabilities, including children, visits to the sick, post burial visits to offer moral support, maternal healthcare support, organising sporting activities and seeking for external donors/initiatives to support the needs of soldiers and children living with disabilities among others.

Those in attendance agreed in one accord to form a welfare club for the members,



Mrs. Judy Mghalu spouse to VCDF shares her input.



KDF Senior Officers' spouses in a group photo at the end of the meeting.



Ground Breaking for Ulinzi Sports Complex and Launch of KDF Wellness Centre

By Sgt Sarah Mwende | Photo by Sgt James Kuria

H.E. Hon Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces on Wednesday, 28 October 2020, led senior government officials in a ground-breaking ceremony for the Ulinzi Sports Complex and the inauguration of the Defence Forces Wellness Centre at Lang'ata Barracks, Nairobi.

In his address, the C-in-C termed the two facilities as morale boosters to the KDF fraternity.

"The new facilities are meant to enhance KDF's readiness to serve. The stadium and wellness centre are aligned with the Universal Health Coverage pillar of the Government's Big 4 Agenda," said the president.

The president praised KDF for being committed and loyal in contributing to the national development agenda in a multi-agency setting.

"Your sense of purpose, the time, energy and focus invested in conceptualizing these projects, is evidence that the KDF is a unique institution, committed to the ideals



His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta operates an excavator during the ground breaking ceremony of Ulinzi Sports Complex on 28 October 2020

of its mission and higher standards in public service," said the C-in-C.

Cabinet Secretary for Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma thanked the president and his government for the continuous support extended to the Ministry of Defence which has provided welfare services to the soldiers, their families and the Kenyan public at large.

Chief of the Defence Forces General Robert Kibochi noted that the two projects will play a central role in the development of sports in the KDF and across the entire sports spectrum, as well as ensure holistic wellness of mental and physical health.

"The Defence Forces Wellness Centre, which is an initiative borne out of lessons learnt from our operational engagement in Somalia, will make much-needed contribution to meet current challenges of mental health, trauma and varying types of disabilities," said the CDF.

The proposed sports complex comprises the main stadium, an indoor arena gymnasium, and outdoor courts for basketball, tennis, volleyball and handball, an Olympic-size swimming pool and a recreational nature trail.

The two projects will play a central role in development of sports in the KDF and across the entire sports spectrum as well as ensure holistic wellness of mental and physical health.

The sports complex and wellness centre will offer therapeutic amenities that build resilience among the KDF's recuperating troops and their dependants by easing the journey to recovery.

The wellness centre is equipped with several facilities that will offer treatment to troops wounded at war and suffering trauma of any nature. The departments within the centre include Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Mental health, Visual, Hearing and Orthopaedic.

Senior government officials, senior KDF officers, service members and their families graced the occasion.

Caring for our **Heroes**

By Lt Col Felister Mutisya | Photos By Sgt James Kariuki

The long awaited ultra-modern Defence Forces Wellness Centre (DFWC) that will serve to restore the Physical, Occupational and Mental Health of the KDF service members, civilians and their dependants is finally fully operational.

Located at 7 Kenya Rifles in Langata Barracks, Nairobi County, the wellness centre is the Ministry of Defence's largest Psycho-social health facility, created to respond to the needs of the KDF fraternity.

As envisaged by the KDF leadership, the wellness centre is indeed a great milestone in the Medical field, from rehabilitation to restoration of functioning.

The grand project was inaugurated by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defense Forces, on 28th October 2020.

In line with the theme: 'Sharpening the arrow head; Contributing to mission readiness' the DFWC will serve to restore the physical, occupational and mental health of KDF Service Personnel, their dependants and civilians through training and therapy with the ultimate goal of restoring functioning or regaining skills in near normal functioning. Each form of rehabilitation serves a unique purpose in helping the client reach full recovery.



With a state-of-the-art bed capacity of 80, the Defense Forces Wellness Centre comprises of six major departments; Mental Health department, Orthopedic, Visual and Auditory department, Physiotherapy department, and Occupational therapy departments. With In-patient and Outpatient services, these departments are well equipped with world class top-notch medical equipment, each serving a unique purpose in therapy and restoration of function.

Incidences of Psycho trauma resulting to mental disorders, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Substance Use disorder have been on the rise too. Lastly, the increasing numbers of children born with delayed or never developed milestones including speech and motor skills have been on the rise world over.

KDF members and dependants in need of Physical and Mental health services, would be admitted at Defense Forces Memorial Hospital (DFMH) and the KDF regional hospitals in Nairobi, Lanet, Eldoret, Nanyuki, Mtongwe and Garissa while undergoing treatment and rehabilitation following physical injuries (combat casualties and Road Traffic Accidents victims) and psycho-trauma. The specialized facility will adequately address the ever increasing need for these healthcare services.

The DFWC will serve to restore the physical, occupational and mental health of KDF Service Personnel, their dependants and civilians through training and therapy with the ultimate goal of restoring functioning or regaining skills in near normal functioning.

The highly trained medical specialists, managers and Trainer of Trainers (ToTs) who have further been trained both locally and overseas, are highly motivated and ready to offer quality services to KDF service members, their dependants as well as civilians.

According to Lt Col Obadiah Yator, a clinical psychologist and the Commanding Officer of the Defence Wellness Centre, Combat stress is a condition that affects not only

military personnel but also civilians. The concept of observing, mitigation and combating stress through post-event briefs will see affected soldiers taken through their incidents for reassurance and assessments conducted.

Soldiers with mental health trauma symptoms can present themselves for family support through their units or Base Welfare centres or referral for treatment/therapy at DFWC.



His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta cuts a ribbon to officially launch the Defence Forces Wellness Centre.



His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta is taken through some of the special equipments at the DFWC.

21st
January



Outgoing Defence Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo hands over briefing notes to the incoming Cabinet Secretary Amb. Dr. Monica Juma.

12th
February



Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) pole bearers pay their last respect to the late President Daniel Arap Moi during the final send off at Kabarak.

24th
February



Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Engineers' Water Drilling Squadron, sinks a borehole at Thika Landless.

11th
March



Counter-Terrorism awareness campaign at Husna Islamic Centre in Gede, Malindi.

1st
April

KDF troops from Engineers Brigade repair Archers Post-Larisoro main water supply line to restore water supply to residents in the town and its environs.



06th
May

Outgoing CDF Gen Mwathethe with VCDF Lt Gen Mghalu investiture ranks upon the newly promoted Navy Commander Maj Gen Mutai at Kenya Navy Base, Mtongwe.



8th
May

Outgoing Chief of the Defence Forces Gen Mwathethe hands over the KDF flag to Chief of the Defence Forces Gen Kibochi during the Change of Command ceremony at the Defence Headquarters.



14th
June

Fumigating exercise by Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) at Kawangware, Nairobi to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



25th
June



*MV Uhuru
refurbished
by the Kenya
Navy Marine
Engineers.*

8th
July



*Cabinet Secretary for
Defence Amb. Dr. Monica
Juma, KDF leadership and
Kenya Railways officials at
Thika Railway Station during
a maiden trip on the newly
rehabilitated Thika - Nanyuki
railway line.*

4th
August



*Tanks forming up during a
training exercise at 81 Tank
Battalion.*

New Dawn for **Security Telecommunication Services**

By Capt Aquinas Nyakundi PHOTO: Sgt Samuel Mweresa

National Security Telecommunications Service (NSTS) is the latest multi-agency centre through which security agencies will operate, and that will improve communication and operational efficiency.

Inaugurated by H.E. Hon Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and the Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, at Embakasi Garrison, Nairobi, the centre will provide necessary integrated multi-agency communication systems to address identified gaps and challenges in telecommunications within the security sector.

In his address, the President termed NSTS as a golden thread bringing together all security agencies in Kenya for operational efficiency.

"Before, each agency utilized their own communication networks in executing their roles making cross-agency communication difficult. NSTS provides an integrated platform for efficient communication through enhanced coordination as a result of real-time information exchange," said the President.

The President said that NSTS, whose mandate will stretch to our forces deployed beyond the Kenyan borders, is a force multiplier in the security system.

Amb. Dr Monica Juma, Cabinet Secretary, Defence said the actualization of NSTS is a milestone in providing synchronized communication among the security actors in the country.

"We believe this will enhance security in the country and secure our people. The agencies will not have to rely on private networks that are sometimes compromised," she said.

Chief of the Defence Forces, General Robert Kibochi, commended the effort put in place by the agencies to meet the deadline for the establishment of NSTS, saying the facility is a central point for all communication systems, enabling communication and interoperability amongst security agencies for enhanced security operations.



"NSTS provides an integrated platform for efficient communication through enhanced coordination as a result of real-time information exchange."



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta cuts the ribbon to officially launch the NSTS.



Kenya Defence Forces Service Commanders and heads of other security agencies under the National Security Telecommunications Service salute during the National Anthem.



Director NSTS Brig Patrick Nderitu waves the NSTS official flag during the launch.



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta tours the NSTS call centre.



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta gives his speech during the official launch of the NSTS.

National Air Support Department (NASD)

By Capt Linet Koile | Photos By Sgt Jamally Juma



H.E Uhuru Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces gives his speech during the official launch of the NASD.

The National Air Support Department (NASD) was launched at Nairobi's Wilson Airport by President Uhuru Kenyatta on December 17, 2020.

The Multi Agency Aviation department will coordinate and provide centralised management of all state-owned aircraft to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness in service delivery to the public.

In his speech, the President emphasised on NASD's mandate to provide a centralised management of national aviation assets for optimal utilisation, management and serviceability of air assets in order to enhance safety, swift response and quality of aviation services in line with the various stakeholders' core mandates.

The Chief of Defence Forces, General Robert Kibochi, reiterated the need to synergise government aviation cooperation through streamlined

The Multi Agency Aviation department will coordinate and provide centralized management of all state-owned aircraft to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness in service delivery to the public.

and standardised operations and maintenance standards for efficient service delivery.

The National Aviation Support Department comprises of key government ministries, departments and agencies such as the Kenya Defence Forces(KDF), Kenya Police



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta unveils the plaque to officially launch the NASD.

Airwing, Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC).

Back to School 2021

By Col Jared Oigara and Lt Col Tom Mwanga

I never teach my pupils, Albert Einstein once said, I only attempt to provide ideal conditions in which they can learn.

The same can be said for the Kenya Defence Forces' (KDF) initiative to renovate KDF-sponsored public schools to make them better suited for learning.

The initiative is in line with the Defence Forces Standing Orders (2015) that provides for the management of sponsored public schools through the provision of education facilities within military establishments.

The Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Robert Kibochi, has identified provision of high quality, easily accessible and affordable education to children of service personnel as one of the core welfare pillars that feeds into the realization of his vision dubbed 'Sharpening the Arrowhead'.

In his wisdom, he granted authority for the formation of a committee that would assess, and improve, the infrastructure of KDF-sponsored public schools.

The committee was tasked with formulating a budget for Infrastructural improvements within the said schools. It would also identify and make recommendations on feasible initiatives for the sustainability of infrastructural standards in such schools.

The committee, chaired by Commander Engineers Brigade, Brigadier Stephen Radina, was convened on July 15, 2020, and it visited the 15 primary and 14 secondary, schools spread across the country.

The fact-finding mission established that many schools were in deplorable conditions and needed repairs and submitted a report of the same to the Defence Headquarters Personnel & Logistics unit. The committee identified a facelift of the institutions as one of the strategic requirements needed to turn around their performances in national examinations

The primary schools are Moi Forces Academy, Kahawa Garrison, Kenya Navy Base, Nakuru East, Embakasi Garrison, Lanet, Mariakani Garrison, Moi Barracks, Langata Barracks, Thika Garrison, Nanyuki Garrison, Isiolo Barracks, Laikipia Air Base (LAB), Moi Airbase and Gilgil Garrison.

The secondary schools are Moi Forces Academy-Nairobi, MFA-Mombasa, MFA- Lanet, Isiolo Barracks, Embakasi Garrison, Lanet Day Mixed, Nanyuki Garrison, Thika Garrison, LAB, Gilgil Garrison, Moi Barracks, Langata Barracks, Kahawa Garrison and Koelel High School.

The assessment report categorised the schools into three levels based on the scope of rehabilitation required. Schools classified as 'poor state' required major repairs while the 'fair state' schools required general repairs and 'good state' schools needed minor repairs that entailed final touch-ups and paintworks.

Also, each school was to benefit from the construction of two new ablution blocks, each with 10 doors.

Proper infrastructure creates a conducive environment that enhances the teaching and learning process.

The report was presented to the Service Commanders Committee Meeting (SCCM) and the CDF authorized the release of required funds, based on the raised bills of quantities for each school so that the Engineers Brigade would undertake the scheduled works and repairs.

The renovations of the schools began in early October 2020 and will be completed by end of December 2020, before the schools resume full learning in January 2021.



Renovated floor at Isiolo Barracks Primary School.

The closure of schools, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic that is still ravaging the world, provided an ideal opportunity for the KDF to carry out the repairs, and new constructions, without interrupting the learning process, as students were at home.

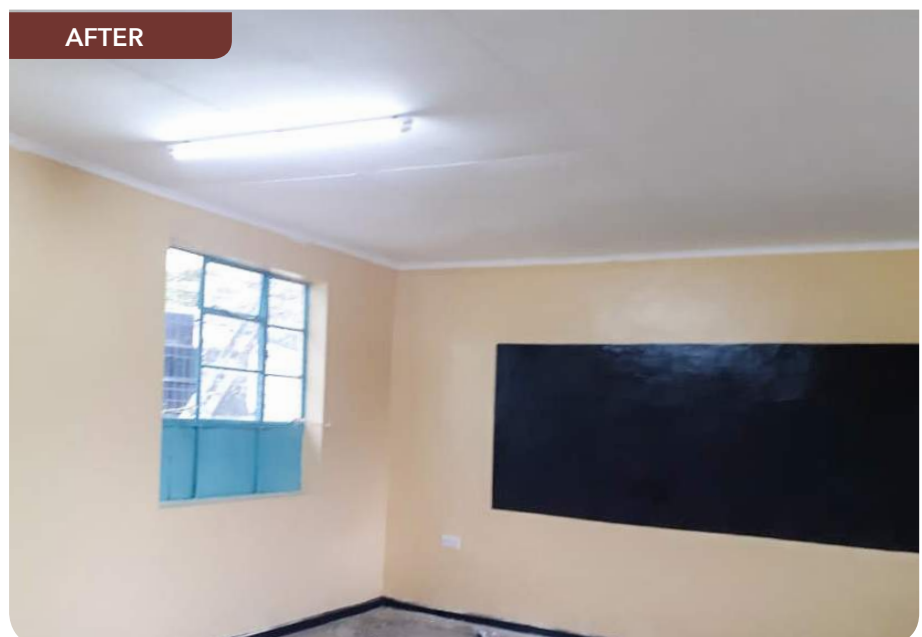
Commenting on the various works of renovations undertaken, Brig Radina cited the major works that had to be done that included floor, wall, roof, and electrical repairs, as well as setting up hand washing points.

He pointed out that the timely completion of the projects was because funds were made available in good time, funds which were put to prudent use.

"We managed to meet our timelines regardless of the challenges. Remember, these renovations were mainly carried out by our service personnel and we, as soldiers, are trained to push ourselves beyond human limits," Brig Radina said. Colonel Education, Colonel Jared Oigara, affirmed that proper infrastructure creates a conducive environment that enhances the teaching and learning process.

The Colonel Education explained that KDF-sponsored public schools were established to be Centres of Excellence that would provide quality education, grounded on a solid character.

"The nature of military duty is characterised by high mobility and long periods of separation from family. Our Service personnel need to be at



Renovated ceiling at Lanet Primary School



Window repairs and fixing at Mariakani Garrison Primary School.

"These renovations were mainly carried out by our service personnel and we, as soldiers, are trained to push ourselves beyond human limits."

ease, comfortable and psychologically at peace with themselves knowing that even if they are away on duty, their children have access to quality education," Col Oigara elaborated.

The Head teacher of Laikipia Primary School, Mrs Loise Simam, echoed the same sentiments by noting, "When the learning environment is good, students tend to try to match their performance with it."

Moi Forces Academy Lanet Chief Principal, Mrs JedidaMwangi, appreciated the repairs that would have ordinarily been almost impossible given that many schools were facing a financial crisis in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

While speaking on the value of the improvements, Mrs Lucy Mugo, the Principal Kahawa Garrison Secondary school, remarked that the new school's new look would give a sense of pride and belonging by the entire school fraternity.

She added that the electrical sockets and wiring provided would facilitate Information Communication and Technology (ICT) integration for learning purposes.

The renovations immediately began paying off as attested by Mr Michael Bakari Kombo, the headteacher for Lanet Primary School during an interview on the benefits of the facelift. "Last term alone, while the renovations were still going on, we registered an increment on our mean score by 21 marks. Imagine what we will achieve once the works are done," he commented.

Mr Bakari further added that the community around the school was thrilled and that the renovations had changed their perception of soldiers. "We thought that all they knew was war, but this experience has taught us that our soldiers are capable of many things."

Master Alvin Weyusia, the student Captain at Kahawa Garrison Secondary school was thankful to KDF for constructing a Chemistry laboratory that would offer them more practical lessons in the subject.

Mr Shi Jatan, the parents association Chairman at LAB Primary School, confided that the school's renovation had helped calm fears about the safety of their children once schools reopen in January.

"It was clear that social distancing and sanitation were going to be a challenge. We thank the KDF for it putting up hand washing points for all the pupils, and 20 additional toilets for boys and girls are under construction," he said.

Indeed, as Einstein pointed out ages ago, all we can do is try to make learning a friendly experience. And for as long as we can, the KDF will do its best to see this happen.



KDF Medical Conference on **COVID-19**

By Lt Col Mary Njoroge

The health of military personnel and their families is critical to our officers' overall readiness for missions. The Kenya Defence Forces Medical Services (KDFMS) is charged with the responsibility of keeping service personnel and their families healthy, a responsibility which the KDFMS has undertaken diligently during the Covid-19 era.

They have also monitored troops in both peacetime and operation areas and guided pandemic management and control. Since large scale disasters including pandemics such as Covid-19, Ebola and Avian flu are likely to overwhelm the national health care systems, KDFMS has remained ready to execute tasks as may be assigned in aid of civil authority.

Medical training, just like military training contributes towards the accomplishment of the strategic, operational and tactical objectives by promoting health protection, hence the establishment and improvement of military capabilities.

To effectively perform its mandate during the Covid-19 pandemic, the KDFMS endeavours to build capacity in its medical manpower by promoting their knowledge base.

Upon the declaration of Covid-19 as a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020, and further a pandemic on March 11, 2020, KDF sought to prepare for immediate response by training its medical personnel on Covid-19, its prevention, control and management.

The training was meant to ensure an adequate response to the diverse medical tasks associated with the operational threat/enemy at that time. (Photos for training at HQKA Officers mess and KN Mtongwe Base).

Information on Covid-19 has continued to evolve, leading to new protocols in the management and control of the pandemic, causing the promotion or discontinuation of presumed supportive therapies and practices. Case in point is the advisory on the discontinuation of the use of disinfection tunnels that had been adopted to combat the Covid-19

The key focus, therefore, for all health care workers, should be to develop, strengthen and maintain the capacity to prevent, detect, report and respond to public health emergencies in the best way possible to reduce the impact of epidemics.

pandemic in many parts of the world (to disinfect personnel at the entry points to prevent cross-infection within specific premises).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued advisories against the use of these disinfection tunnels as there was no clinical evidence that such tunnels were effective in preventing Covid-19 infection.

Another reason for the directive was that the respiratory tract of a Covid-19 positive patient remained infectious even after passing through a disinfection tunnel.

Additionally, hands as a transmission mode can rapidly become contaminated again, nullifying the benefits of disinfection tunnels. Further, there are associated health risks that arise from physical and inhalation exposure to disinfecting agents, which include irritation to the skin, the mucosa (eyes, nose and mouth), the digestive and the respiratory tracts. Resultant coughing and respiratory tract damage may aggravate the virus's transmission and can lead to long term pulmonary, dermatological and ophthalmic complications.

Cognisant of evolving new information on Covid-19 and the fact that success of any military assignment depends on detailed planning, clear protocols and Standard Operating Procedures, proper leadership and realistic, up to date training among other factors, a KDF Medical Conference on Covid-19 was convened. The conference was held at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) - Karen on September 30 - October 20, 2020.

The conference was held amid a decline the number of Covid-19 cases in the country, hence a perfect timing to critique activities and outcomes in the management of the first wave (with minimal risks to participants) and initiate proper plans and strategies for implementation in response to the inevitable second wave.

KDF healthcare providers (HCPs), drawn from various cadres, attended the conference, whose aim was to address existing gaps in patient management in a Covid-19 environment.

The conference provided a good platform for discussions on Covid-19 (Pathophysiology, control and management), Covid-19 and other diseases (Co-morbidities) and experiences sharing and strategic planning. As an achievement, the conference was able to address lessons learnt and participants came up with ways to ensure KDF medical personnel are better-prepared in the implementation of prevention, management and control measures during the second wave and development of strategies for responding to future pandemics.

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Mohamed Ibrahim, highlighted the vulnerability of the world to outbreaks and the effects of outbreaks to society.



"When outbreaks do happen, they take a terrible toll both on human life and the global economy. They disrupt travel, trade and livelihoods."

Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed
PS Defence

"When outbreaks do happen, they take a terrible toll both on human life and the global economy. They disrupt travel, trade and livelihoods," he noted.

This was illustrated with examples of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa 2014, the Spanish Flu in 1918, and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 which not only caused fear and panic but also caused immense economic damage. He further urged all the health care providers present to endeavour to ensure that service personnel have access to quality health care services (health promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitative health care services) at all times. The Defence PS also commended health care workers for their contribution during the Covid-19 response period.

The Covid-19 conference provided an opportunity for KDF medical personnel to share experiences and learn new information as well as recent advances in the management and control of Covid-19.

The healthcare personnel were equipped with sound scientific knowledge that will contribute towards the proper management of KDF healthcare institutions and the provision of the much-needed services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Such knowledge will ultimately lead to the improvement of health care delivery in KDF.

Provision of health care during the Covid-19 era has provided a learning opportunity for the medical fraternity and the healthcare systems worldwide. For KDF, which has traditionally prepared and has been involved in the management of trauma and trauma-related cases, the shift into the management of infectious diseases with a clinical, rather than surgical, approach has provided immense learning opportunities. Luckily for the KDF medical fraternity, routine military training opportunities have facilitated an easy adaptation to this new paradigm shift, and the military discipline has supported adherence to procedures on the use of PPEs.

In conclusion, an epidemic response, which involves planning and preparation that includes logistics, training and coordination, early detection, containment, control and mitigation, elimination and eradication, should be enforced with continued surveillance and control to prevent a resurgence of epidemics.

The key focus, therefore, for all health care workers, should be to develop, strengthen and maintain the capacity to prevent, detect, report and respond to public health emergencies in the best way possible to reduce the impact of epidemics.

Health promotion, disease prevention and strong surveillance systems should be our guiding principles since prevention is not only better than cure, but it is cheaper.

KDF Medical conferences on selected topical issues will be held annually in addition to the annual scientific conference and the routine weekly Continuous Medical Education (CME) programs.

We should all participate in the prevention and control of Covid-19 by adhering to the various guidelines and protocols issued by the Ministry of Defence, as advised by the Ministry of Health.

The World of **Nano-Satellite** with **The Kenya Space Agency**

By Guyo G Boru - KSA

"They can fit in the palm of your hand and are providing new opportunities for space science and Technology".

Good things come in small packages. A tiny cube, slightly smaller than a loaf of bread, is the new way to space exploration.

When we think of satellites that assist with communications, weather monitoring, remote sensing and GPS (navigation & positioning) here on Earth, we likely picture them as large objects. Many are as big as a school bus and weigh several tonnes. Yet there is a class of smaller satellites that are growing in popularity. These miniaturized satellites, known as nano-satellites or CubeSats, can fit in the palm of your hand and are providing new opportunities for space science and technology.

nano-satellites or CubeSats are small satellites weighing between 1 kg and 10 kg. They are very light, low cost and have a short delivery time from design to launch compared to the traditional satellites which can weigh anything up to a few tonnes. They are built to standard specifications of 1 unit (U), which is equal to 10cmx10cmx10cm. CubeSats can be 1U, 2U, 3U or 6U in size, weighing about 1.5kg per (U).

They are launched into orbit, mainly Low Earth Orbit (with an altitude of between 100km-1000km), as auxiliary payloads aboard rockets or from International Space Station (ISS).

One example of a launch from ISS is a CubeSat developed by University of Nairobi known as 1KUNS-PF or "First Kenyan University nano-Satellite-Precursor Flight" which was successfully deployed on May 11, 2018, from Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" off the International Space Station.



The Kenya Space Agency (KSA) under the Ministry of Defence has already undertaken a huge stride in making sure that Kenya reclaims her leadership position in the Space sector.

The 1U cubesat is the first outer space object registered by Kenya and the first Kenyan Satellite that has gone into space.

The successful deployment of 1KUNS - PF heralds the next phase for Kenyans. Having recently launched its strategic plan for the year 2020-2025, the Kenya Space Agency (KSA) under the Ministry of Defence has already undertaken huge strides in making Kenya a leader in the space sector. This is through the Research Chairs programme with Kenyan universities to contribute towards Kenya's socio-economic development by promoting capacity building and linkages between academia and industry.



Hepta nano-satellite for capacity building in space science technology at KSA.

The agency awarded grants of Sh 1 million each to several universities for the development of nano-satellites. They include the University of Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Technical University of Kenya, Moi University and Kenyatta University.

The objective of the nano-satellite development project is to build the capacity of the local universities to develop space systems and enhance their understanding of space science, technology and applications.

Indeed, this opportunity will enhance improvement on 1KUNS-PF and the development of a higher resolution nano-satellite with more scientific and technological value for the country.

The use of these technologies, more so high-resolution earth observation imagery and remote sensing, will significantly assist in physical spatial planning and the agricultural sector. Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy, contributing to one-third of gross domestic product.

Farmers will remarkably benefit in terms of soil moisture estimation, irrigation monitoring and management, soil

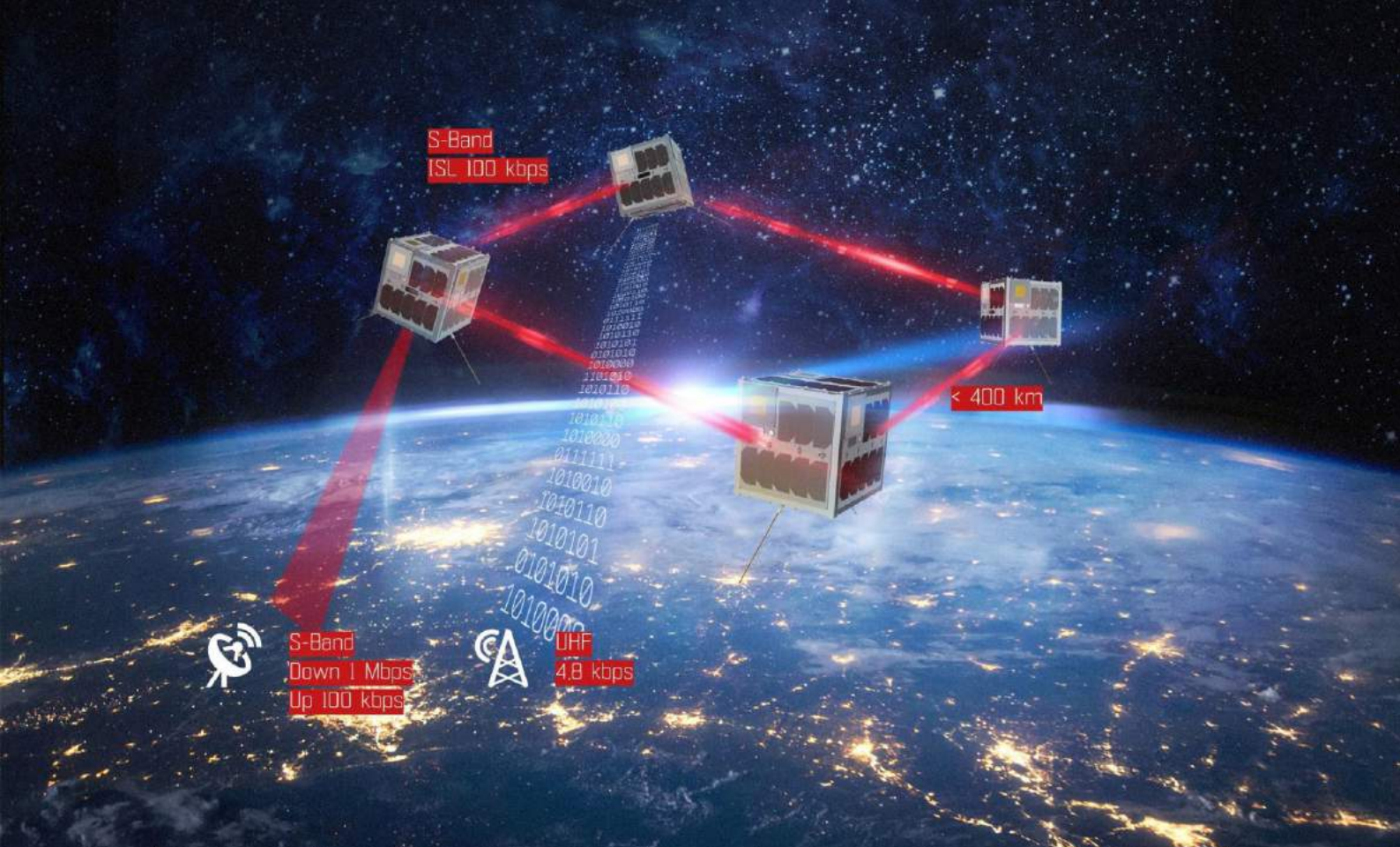


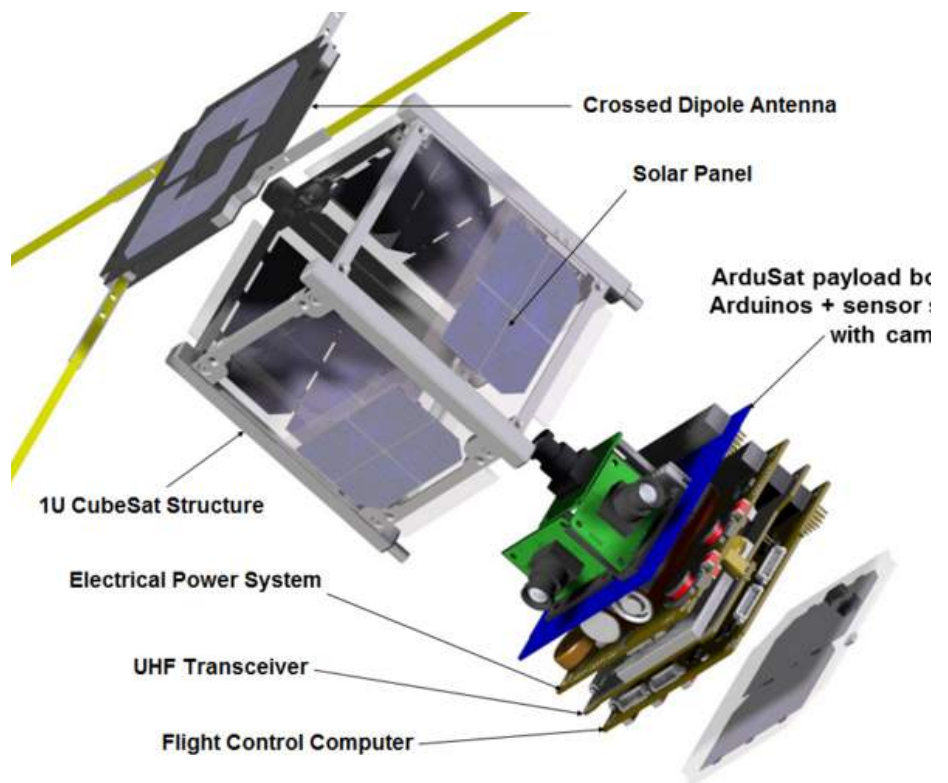
Photo Courtesy: A Nano-satellite platform

SIZE	MASS
Pico-satellite	1g < 1kg
Nano-satellite	1kg < 10kg
Micro-satellite	10kg<50kg
Small-satellite	50kg<250kg
Medium-satellite	250kg<500kg
Large-satellite	500kg<1000kg
Extra-large	Greater than 1000kg

Table showing Satellite size classification by weight

mapping, monitoring of droughts etc. This follows the Big Four Agenda pillar of food security for all Kenyans.

To achieve this milestone, the Kenya Space Agency is working very closely with various stakeholders including universities to deliver on its mandate of promoting, coordinating and regulating space-related activities to enhance the utilisation of space technology for socio-economic development.



A Nano-satellite

**11th
August**



Close-quarter battle training of the KDF Special Forces.

**13th
August**

Cabinet Secretary for Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma interacts with the staff of Kenya Ordnance Factories Corporation (KOFC) during her visit to the Factory.

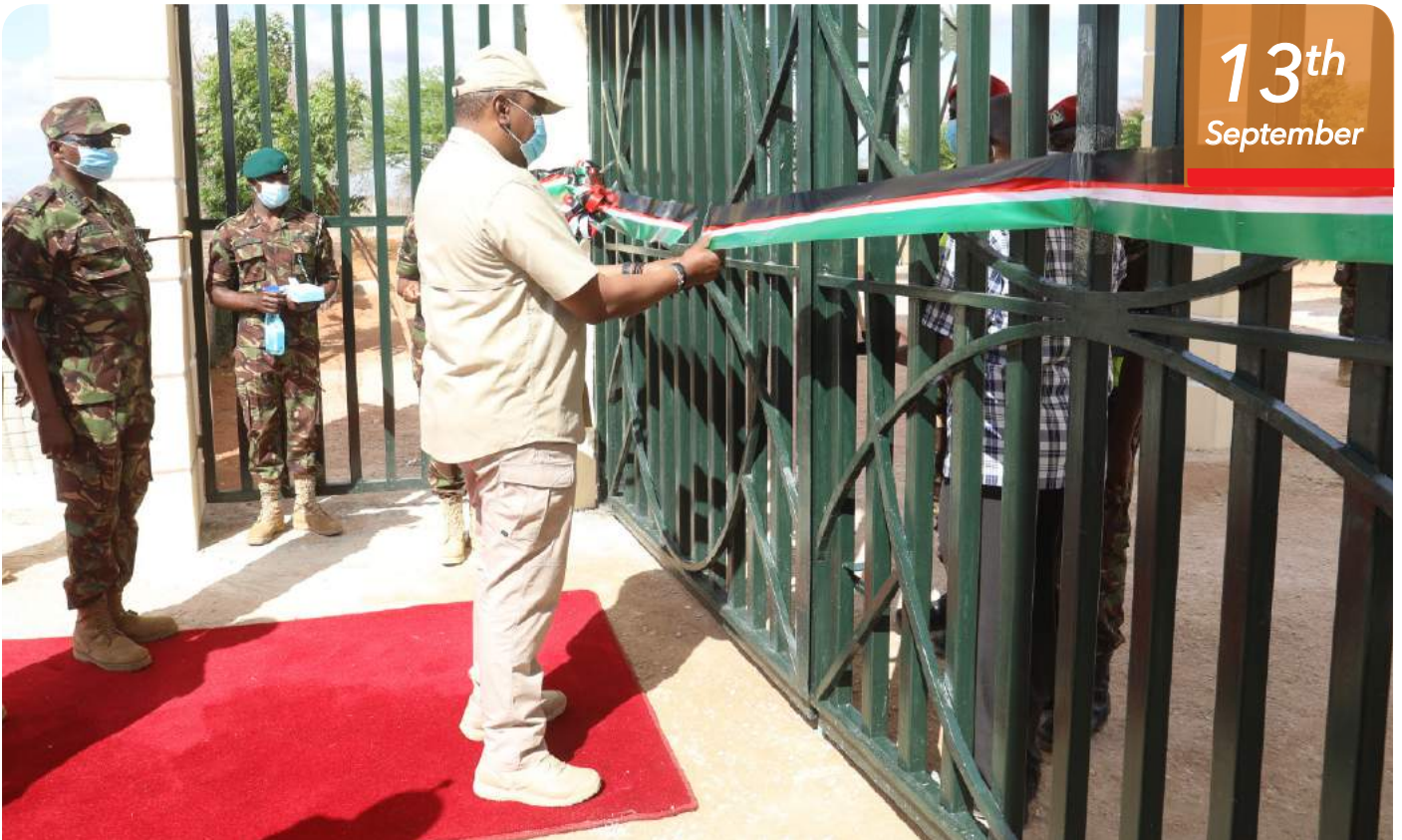


**25th
August**

A young child quenches his thirst with water from a borehole that was officially commissioned by KDF at Kaimbaga Healthcare Centre in Nyandarua County.



13th
September



H.E Uhuru Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces cuts a ribbon during the official opening of Wajir Border Security Command HQs.

24th
September



Recruits salute the dais at a pass out parade graced by H.E Uhuru Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces at the Recruits Training School in Eldoret.

6th
October



H.E Hon Uhuru Kenyatta the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces flags off NMS vehicles which were repaired by KDF personnel.

29th
September



Chief of the Defence Forces General Robert Kibochi presents a flag of the newly inaugurated Defence Intelligence Academy to the Commandant Lt Col Murithi.

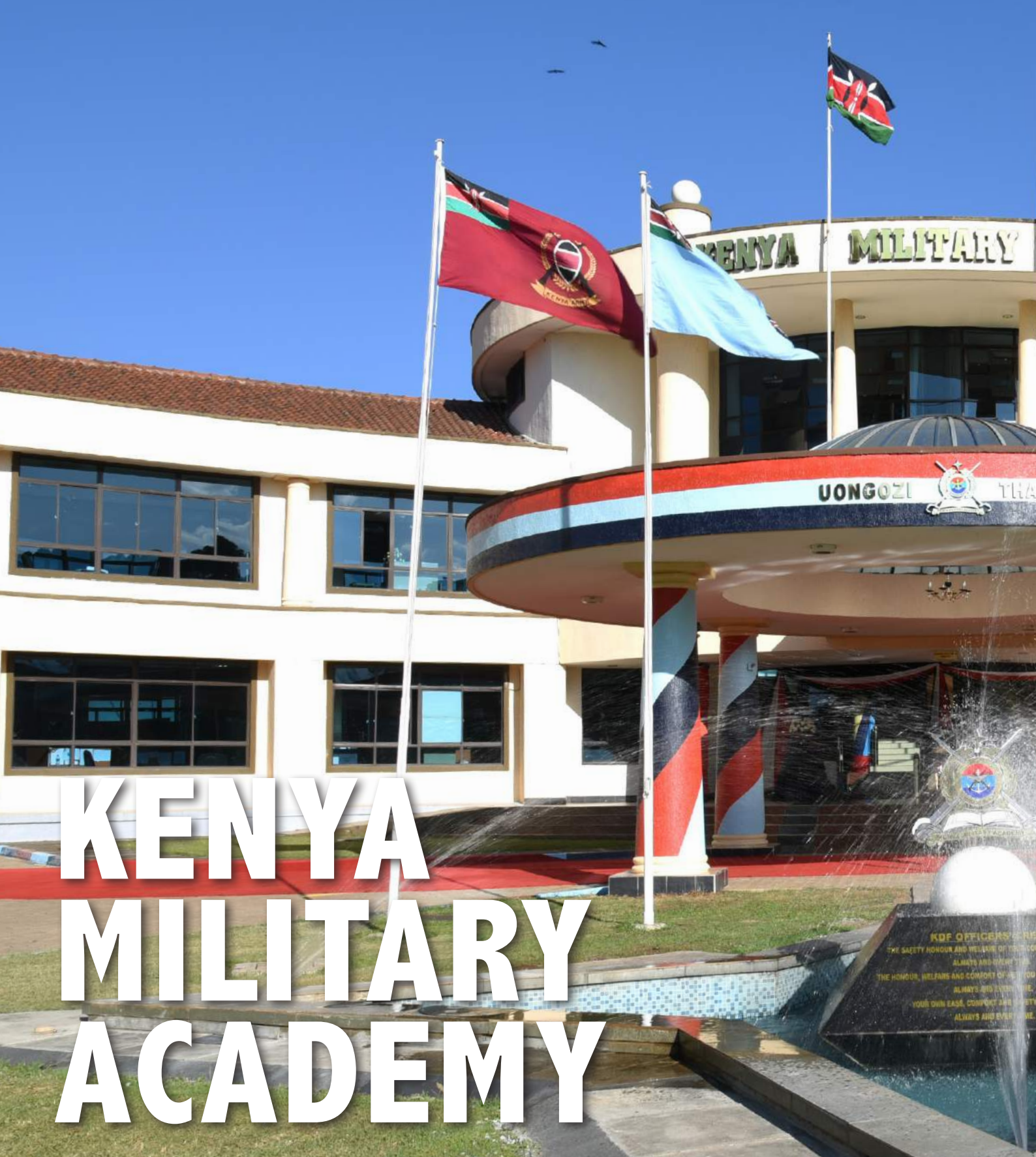
14th
October



Cabinet Secretary for Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, Chief of the Defence Forces Gen Robert Kibochi and the Service Commanders join students in a dance during KDF Day celebrations at Mariakani Garrison.



Parade mounted by 15 Kenya Rifles salutes the dais during KDF Day celebrations at Mariakani Garrison.



KENYA MILITARY ACADEMY

Battle is more than a combination
of fire and movement

By Maj Winfred Gicovi - KMA | Photos By WOI Irahuya

General Yigal Allan of the Israel Army, in 1970, said that battle is more than a combination of fire and movement. He said that it is an integration of fire, movement and consciousness where commanders must guide their soldiers' mental reaction to battle and are responsible for their mental preparedness.



In that regard, the function of Kenya Military Academy (KMA), in terms of mission readiness, is pegged on training and leadership development. The focus is on foundational training for cadets, career progression courses for service members and welfare that encompasses psycho-social support for service personnel.

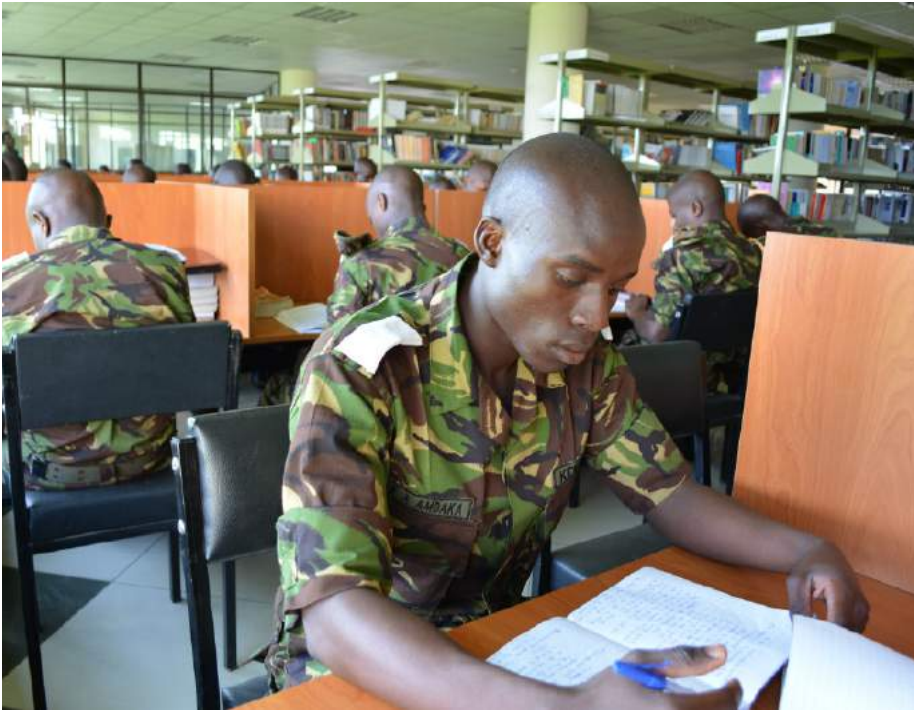
The function of Kenya Military Academy (KMA) in mission readiness is basically training and leadership development.

KMA is a tri-service regional center of excellence whose main function is to train recruited cadets to commission them as young officers in the KDF and allied countries. This means that the Academy is mandated to prepare both General Service Officers (GSO) and Specialist/Special Duty Officers (SDO) cadets for commissioning. Every year, at least one GSO intake is commissioned by the Commander-In-Chief adding into KDF manning strength and levels. In the year 2020, KMA has had two cadet intakes commission, Specialist/SDO Intake 01/20 in July and GSO Intake KMA 08/20 in November. It is projected that in the year 2021 a double Intake of GSO cadets will be considered for recruitment to address the envisioned officers' shortfall in the near future.

The cadet course conducted in the academy is designed to convert cadets from civilians to young military officers. The KMA cadet training concept is anchored on three pillars namely: professional training (30%), academic development (30%) and character development (40%). The three pillars are designed to develop a cadet's willingness to fight therefore strengthening their psychological readiness for military operations.

It is during the cadet training course that they are introduced to mission readiness concepts. The training includes field exercises that simulate real theatre threats and the possible courses of action. Character development instills the values of resilience esprit de-corps, mentorship, warrior spirit and discipline (morality).

Professional training on the other hand equips cadets with necessary soldiery skills which builds their competence and confidence to enable them perform assigned tasks effectively. Academic development provokes their intellectual capacity which instills critical thinking which is an important quality in military leadership. The reading culture promoted therein encourages being up-to-date on current trends of warfare and equipment. All these evidently point to an Academy that produces



Cadet Ambaka studying at the KMA library

junior military leaders grounded in mission readiness from the onset of their careers.

The Academy trains its instructors on various fields in order to hone their skills and instructional abilities. Physical fitness is a key determinant of individual readiness in military operations and a contributor to their overall wellbeing is domiciled in all training programmes. Basic and Advanced Physical Training courses are taught at KMA by a team of dedicated instructors who graduate competent physical training instructors for all the KDF.

For this year, two Physical Training courses were fully conducted amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Other career courses taught in the Academy include Skill at Arms which aims at equipping soldiers with necessary arms proficiency whose role in cultivating the will to fight and morale cannot be over emphasized. Such is a build-up to mission readiness due to competency in weapon handling. The KMA contributes to KDF mission readiness by catering for the welfare and psycho-social support to Service Personnel. The Academy boasts of having one of the most vibrant welfare centers in the KDF which has seamlessly provided the much-needed psycho-social support to our personnel.

Albeit the exigencies of Covid-19 pandemic, protocols observance has somewhat affected welfare programs projected for this financial year. For instance, welfare personnel have not been able to reach all those who are



Cadets during weapon training

in need of their services although occasionally they resort to virtual means. The Welfare Centre in conjunction with the Research, Standards and Character Development department of the Academy were able to conduct empowerment courses that include but not limited to counseling for the Academy personnel, welfare for officers, moral and spiritual empowerment, and widows and spouses' seminars.

Psychological aspects for soldiers are important because they impact directly on individual preparedness towards mission readiness. It is also an important component of morale and service personnel need to be mentally

The KMA cadet training concept is anchored on three pillars namely: **Professional training**, which accounts for (30%), academic development (30%) and character development which accounts for (40%) of the entire training.

prepared to perform well in operations. Welfare and psycho-social support also reflect on the human dimension in mission readiness.

In summary, human resource is arguably the most important component of mission readiness. It is military personnel who operate equipment, contribute to manning levels, conduct supply, audit of logistics and apply themselves to individual readiness. The academy strives to support our Chief of Defence Forces rallying call for mission readiness by providing a conducive environment for cadets and service personnel to appreciate the necessity for the same.

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF CORONAVIRUS INFECTION

Do's



Cover

your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Sanitize

frequently



Proper

disposal of tissues and wipes used

Don'ts



Stop

shaking hands or hugging



Distance

yourself at least 2m away from the next person



Avoid

touching eyes, nose or mouth



Don't

travel unnecessarily

Signs & Symptoms



Fever



Cough & Chest Pain



Shortness of Breath

If you have any of the above signs and symptoms visit your nearest
MRS, BMC or Sick Bay





Why You Should Take Your **Oath** Seriously

By Col Zacharia Burudi | Photo By Cpl Patrick Shinyosi

An oath is a commitment to walk with dedication in the thin line of a promise with readiness to face the consequences that come thereafter. This definition is covered in the Hippocratic Oath -one of the world's oldest and most famous and, in fact, the present oaths bear origin from it.

It says : *"I swear . . . according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this Oath. . . . With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practice my Art. . . . While I continue to keep this Oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all men, in all times! But should I trespass and violate this Oath, may the reverse be my lot".*

Reflecting on this oath, it comprehensively covers the solemn promise inclusive of the positive and negative repercussions.



Recruits taking an oath during a passout parade at Recruit Training School in Eldoret

As a military person who is under oath, we are expected to live in accordance to the conditions of the oath for us to live fruitful lives during our tenure of service.

According to Lt Col Thomas H (1964), the military oath dates back to ancient Rome Empire where soldiers pledged loyalty to a specific general for a specific campaign. After the campaign ended, the oath was no longer applicable.

With modernization and establishment of professional military in Rome around 100 BC, an oath was effective within a soldier's full colour service, which was 20 years. The British on the other hand swore their oath to their Kings and

Queens. These oaths were binding and any defiant behaviour contrary to the oath was summarily dealt with by the appropriate superior authority.

On October 1779, for instance, Gen George Washington court-martialled his Quarter Master staff, Benjamin Ballard for selling public property, rum, flour, pork, hides, tallow and other stores. Ballard was convicted for selling public property without any orders or authority contrary to the tenure of his bond and oath of office. While the law evolved later to create the Defence Forces Act, the tradition of oath taking has continued as a military culture where military graduands are required to pledge allegiance.

In Kenya, all graduands from the military academies are expected to take an oath in the presence of many witnesses, their families and friends. Reflecting on the graduation ceremony for example, the clergy who

lead the graduands into the oath are very careful not to mention their names because they already took their oath before. However, they leave it open for the graduands to fill in their names. The Swahili version is very emphatic. It says: *'Mimi (jina), sasa naapa, mbele ya Mwenyezi Mungu kwamba, nitakuwa mwaminifu, na mtiifu kwa Rais, na kwa Jamhuri ya Kenya. Nitafanya kazi zote, na amri zote, na masharti....., kwa mujibu wa sheria zilizowekwa, ewe Mungu nisaide'*.

Since the graduands are very excited to finish their training and leave for their units, they shout as they pledge allegiance, not reflecting on the repercussions for breaking the oath. It is said that when one signs the work ticket of a military vehicle to travel to Nairobi City then take a different direction, the journey will hardly be fruitful. While many attribute this to bad luck, spiritually, it is the oath taken to God in the presence of many witnesses that haunts us. As a military person who is under oath, we are expected to live in accordance to the conditions of the oath for us to live fruitful lives during our tenure of service.

All the spiritual books promise serious repercussions for breaking oaths. The bible says, in **Prov 18:21**, that **Death and life [are] in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof**. The Quran says, *and be not like her who undoes the thread which she has spun after it has become strong, by taking your oaths a means of deception among yourselves... (al-Nahal, 92)*. The patriarchs swore by the holy books and the repercussions were severe for any contrary behaviour.

As military people who are under oath (the oath is only in-applicable once one accomplishes their colour service), it is incumbent upon us to remain faithful to the conditions of the oath. Those who visit magicians and witches are normally put under oath and they remain faithful to the oath for it to work for them. If those who keep the oath of men get their rewards, how much will it be to us if we adhere to the conditions of the oath? It is high time we considered every word in the military oath we take so that we can abide by them. This will draw profound blessings in our lives and to our generations.

Looking beyond the **SKIES**

By Malkia Kelelue

Astronomy is one of the oldest sciences. Its basic activity is to study the sky and learn about our universe. Looking at the stars and galaxies gives us a glimpse into how the universe came into being, how it works and, more importantly, our origin.

Each object and event tells a tale of cosmic history. In a real sense, astronomy gives us a sense of our place in the universe. The late astronomer Carl Sagan put it succinctly when he said, "The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself."

At the Kenya Space Agency (KSA), we hope to utilise the space economy for our national sustainable development, and we plan to make use of Astronomy

The agency's outreach programs include the Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) that has been a key player in encouraging the younger generation to investigate their surroundings and build skills in science and technology for future benefit of the planet.

and Space Sciences to promote and educate the public about the benefits of space as an industry.

In order to support the development of national space capability within the country, our team is working to acquire the relevant knowledge and expertise in this field.

According to Paul Freire, a Brazilian educator, knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, and the relentless, continual hopeful inquiry into our existence. One of our priorities is, therefore, to pursue and investigate the fundamental sciences that support all space-related activities as the country ventures to establish a sustainable and productive space industry.



PHOTO COURTESY: Longonot Earth Station



KSA is running several exciting activities that will encourage human resource competency and development of services to facilitate the optimal exploitation of space. Some of these programmes include educational outreach, awareness-creation and collaborations with scientific and technological organisations with space-related functions. For instance, the agency is working in close partnership with the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) to implement the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project. The project is an international effort to build the world's largest radio telescope, with an antenna area equivalent to one square kilometre (1km²), that will collect large amounts of data from space. A project of this magnitude will be of invaluable use for the country's economic and technological development and the general progression of the human race, especially in the world of space science and technology.

Proposed Site for SKA antennae in Suswa, Narok East

The agency's outreach programs include the Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) that has been

PHOTO COURTESY: *Students at Buhuyi Secondary School, Western Kenya, observes the Sun through a telescope with a solar filter*

a key player in encouraging the younger generation to investigate their surroundings and build skills in science and technology for the future benefit of the planet.

Our department is working on incorporating Astronomy and Space Science as tools for educational outreach to ignite interest and create awareness among adults, children and the youth to encourage the pursuit of the physical sciences and therefore solidify the foundation for the future space industry.

There is an international effort dubbed the Moon Village Association, which was recently established as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Vienna. Its goal is the creation of a permanent global informal forum for stakeholders like governments, industry, academia and the public interested in the development of the Moon Village.

It is an organisation geared towards creating a scientific and technological hub on the moon. Though not exactly like our local vijiji, the project seeks to create a permanent settlement on the lunar surface in the near, and distant, future. Kenya and other countries around the globe are working to develop sustainable resource systems that will be used in the Moon Village. This project will transform our perspective on life by pushing the human limits on where exactly in the universe we can exist. By encouraging scientific and technological innovations such as these, new structures can be set up to optimise space utilisation for the country's sustainable development.

The department, in collaboration with the technical teams in various universities, is also working on developing the first Astronomical Observatory in East and Central Africa. Achieving such a milestone will raise the country's status as a scientific, technological and educationally diverse tourist destination. It will also create new jobs and career opportunities for young Kenyans with interests in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)-related disciplines of study and space science subjects. It will also support efforts to study our universe and how it can be used for the benefit of humanity.

A destination of this kind will serve to diversify the already established travel and tourism industry and contribute immensely to the country's foreign exchange income through Astro Tourism.

Imagine tourism packages like: 'The Mara and the Sky', 'The Indian Ocean and the Observable universe', 'The Wildebeest migration and the Milky Way' and many other exciting tours for your friends, family and tourists all around the globe. One will have a chance to enjoy the country's scenery, culture, wildlife and its beautiful night sky, revealing space and the wonders of the universe!

These intriguing safaris are underway courtesy of the Astronomy and Space Science department. Keep an eye open for these and more exciting developments by the Kenya Space Agency.



RED Berets

By Sgt Shambi Christine

'By
Example
Shall We
Lead!'

There is always a feeling of panic and irrepressible anxiety that engulfs any soldier when they bump into a Military Police Officer famously known as 'the red berets'. Am I wearing something I shouldn't be wearing? Does my shirt have a nametag? Did I forget to wipe off my make up before getting into my uniform?

It is a combination of respect and a touch of fear that can perhaps be explained by the fact that their red berets make them look different, and in effect, intimidating.

In case you were wondering what this dreaded outfit does, Lieutenant Nyamita, an officer attached to the Special Investigation Unit, has some insight.

"We are the Corps mandated to police the KDF by promoting and ensuring the highest standard of conduct through quality military policing and provision of tactical provost support to KDF in all operations," he says.

Being good is easy, Victor Hugo, a celebrated French author said, what is difficult is being just.

In order to join the military police, one has to stand out from the rest. The desire for justice and fairness must be unquestionable. Character and integrity must be beyond reproach, and the level of discipline should be exceptionally high.

Additionally, one must succeed in the various courses for both officers and service members.



*Military Police Personnel at Defence Headquarters.
PHOTO | Sgt James Kariuki*

As an investigator at SIU, Lieutenant Nyamita says they handle all kinds of cases, ranging from fraud and forgery, among other sensitive and complex crimes.

They strive to maintain a good rapport with the civil police because there are several times where the need to work together arises.

Lt Nyamita gives the example of a case involving a serviceman and a civilian, and in which a civilian is a witness. In such an event, the civil police recover evidence then hand it over to their military counterparts. The Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) also provides scientific support and forensic analysis in such a case.

The trial authority has the final verdict on whether to acquit or convict an accused, but before the case gets to trial, investigating officers follow an investigation protocol.

First, an allegation is lodged against someone or something. Then an investigating officer gathers as much information as he

can by conducting interviews and interrogations where necessary. They then analyse the evidence to determine whether the suspect committed a crime. If there was an offence, the officer prepares an abstract of evidence. If not, they write an investigative report.

The main challenge faced is the lengthy time it takes to investigate cases which majorly require ballistics, toxicological and document examination reports.

In other situations, some senior officers can be uncooperative to the investigating officers.

'By Example, Shall We Lead!' is a service motto of the military police corps. These soldiers undertake their duties with fairness and professionalism.

"The principle of the Rule of Law subjects all persons to be accountable to the law regardless of one's rank, appointment or social status," said Lieutenant Nyamita, emphasising that the red berets relate well with other soldiers.

"The principle of the Rule of Law subjects all persons to be accountable to the law regardless of one's rank, appointment or social status."

-Lt Elsa Nyamita-

21st
October

Cabinet Secretary for Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma officially opens the new Kenya Space Agency (KSA) Offices in Nairobi. With her is the Chairperson KSA Management Board Maj Gen (Rtd) James Aruasa.



29th
October



Cabinet Secretary for Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma signs visitors book during her visit to the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). With her is the chairperson of the Kenya Meat Commission Lt Gen (Rtd) Joseph Kasaon.

30th
October

CS Defence Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, British High Commissioner Jane Marriot and the Director of Medical Services Maj Gen (Dr) George Ng'ang'a follow a demonstration on Covid-19 testing procedure by the Defence Forces Memorial Hospital (DFMH) Head of Laboratory Department Lt Col Robert Gatata during handing over of test kits at DFMH.



12th
December



H.E Uhuru Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces inspects a Guard of Honour mounted by the Kenya Defence Forces during 57th Jamhuri Day celebrations at Nyayo Stadium.

14th
December



Commander USAFRICOM General Stephen Townsend inspects a Guard of Honour during his visit to the Defence Headquarters, Nairobi.

Protecting our Cyberspace

By WOII Kenneth Mbae

The rapid technological advancement of the 21st century has brought with it new threats in the cyberspace. Various establishments have had to develop ingenious ways of dealing with such threats.

Among those in the frontline against cyber-attacks at the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), is Warrant Officer II (WO2) Kenneth Mbae, who was enlisted into KDF's Kenya Air Force (KAF) in 1997 as a UT tech.

Following the basic military training, WO2 Mbae joined the then Kenya Armed Forces Technical College, now Defence Forces Technical College (DEFTECH), to pursue a four-year diploma course in Computer Studies.

During the course, he was attached to various institutions outside the military environs for FTD and OJT to give him a hands-on experience on real technical situations in the field.

On completion of his four-year course, he graduated and was deployed as an IT expert within the military establishment. "I've worked in several military establishments, from colleges to operational units, a tour that has seen me rise from the level of a user-support to a level of a system administrator," WO2 Mbae says.



• WOII Mbae at work

IT Expert Roles:

- Define network policies and procedures
- Specify system requirements and design solutions
- Fully support, configure, maintain and upgrade networks and inhouse servers
- Install and integrate new server hardware and applications
- Keep an eye out for needed updates
- Support and administer third-party applications
- Ensure network security and connectivity
- Monitor network performance (availability, utilization, throughput, goodput, and latency) and test for weaknesses
- Set up user accounts, permissions and passwords
- Resolve problems reported by end user
- Research and make recommendations on server system administration

According to WO2 Mbae, one must be well-versed with IT knowledge and experience to come up with the right solutions as an IT expert in the military. They must be familiar with major operating systems and be abreast of recent developments and updates within.

With fast technological advancement, it often requires continuous research, ability to analyse and synthesise acquired information, to develop practical solutions and remain effective.

WO2 Mbae believes that it is hard to execute tasks without effective communication and interpersonal skills, regardless of an individual's intelligent and tech-savviness.

An IT expert needs to extract information to diagnose a problem and steps/requirements that are required to resolve it.

The IT specialist must acquire the ability to break down information into a layman's terms because many computer users only having a basic comprehension of technology.

Also, a specialist should have etiquette and a polite demeanour to ensure pleasant conversations.

To safeguard communication gadgets from cybercrime, WO2 Mbae outlines five necessary practices.

Keep Everything Up to Date:

Most computer companies issue regular updates to protect against emerging vulnerabilities. Keep your software and operating systems updated by turning on automatic updates when possible. Also, be sure to install software to scan your system for viruses and malware to catch anything that might get through.

Use Strong, Unique Passwords:

It is essential to use unique passwords that are different for each site, and not easy to hack. An ideal password would be at least 14 characters long. Use letters, numbers and punctuation or symbols for complexity, but length is more critical. Make sure to change any default factory-set passwords, like those that come with your Wi-Fi router or home security devices.

Enable Multi-Factor Authentication:

In many situations, websites are requiring users not only to provide a strong password but also to type in a separate code from an app, text message or email message when logging in. This extra step makes it harder for a hacker to break into your system/account.

Encrypt and Back Up Your Most Important Data:

Encrypt the data stored on your smartphone and computer by installing a software or changing system settings. If a hacker copies your files, all he'll get is gibberish and not your information. Some manufacturers do this without the knowledge of their users, which helps improve everyone's security. For crucial data, like medical information, or irreplaceable ones like family photos, it is best to keep copies. These backups should ideally be duplicated as well, with one stored locally on an external hard drive only periodically connected to your primary computer.



PHOTOS | Cpl Patrick Shinyosi

Fitting The Military

By Cpl Francis Maina

Long before I knew how to fire a gun, I was learning the science of knitting clothes. As a boy of 10, I would wait for my grandfather to leave the house, sneak to his sewing machine, sit on the chair, stretch my legs to the foot pedal and try winding the machine.

Once in a while, my grandfather would catch me in my mischief and would let me go with a warning. But I persisted, not knowing that my fascination with the sewing machine would last my entire life.

In primary school, home science was my favourite subject. Our teacher helped us make sweaters and sew different flower patterns on pieces of cloth. We even knit gloves from woollen yarn.

Though the interest lay deep down in my heart, my high school studies did not involve sewing or knitting, but when I completed high school, I pursued my passion by joining Uzuri Institute for a tailoring course.

One month into the institute, I opted out, to pursue lighter duties and became a bus conductor, then a bus driver - between 2006 and 2009 - when I got my license.

In 2010, I made another transition, becoming a loader at the then Kenya Breweries, and since I could not afford the bus fare, I would jog seven kilometres to, and the same distance from, work. One day I came across a notice, advertising a recruitment exercise at

the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). I applied to be recruited despite lots of discouragement from friends.

I showed up for the recruitment exercise and emerged second in a 5km race out of the over 700 youth who participated and, after undergoing medical tests, I qualified to enlist in the military. I was issued with a calling letter to report to the Recruits Training School (RTS), Eldoret.

Upon completing my training, I was deployed to the Kenya Defence Forces Ordinance Depot (DEFOD), which had different departments from which we would be working based on our respective interests.

Given my love for stitching and sewing, I picked tailoring, along with 45 others with whom we joined the Basic Tailoring Course at the Kenya Army Tailoring Unit (KATU).

As I entered the class on the first day and saw the manual sewing machine, fond memories flooded my heart. I confidently took a seat, all the while recollecting my childhood days as an aspiring tailor.

The tailoring-skills course at KDF involves the use of manual sewing machines for two months, during which you learn how to take measurements, record them, transfer and lay them on the cloth, and cut out the material.

Other skills we learned were pattern drafting and designing, which are essential for creativity, and must meet the military's demand for precision and accuracy.



After two months of foot-pedalling and spinning the handwheel on the manual machine, we switched to automatic sewing machines.

Having learnt the gist of sewing on the old model, adapting to the new equipment was easier. The automated sewing machine is faster, more accurate with stitches, is less tiring on the user and is easier to maintain.

There are various classes of a tailor's training. During basic tailoring, one learns to make combat trousers and shirts. Class two of tailoring accords one the skills to sew jungle caps while class one enables them to sew number one dress, bush jacket, mess kit and body armour.

I have on several occasions like a boy falls many times while learning how to ride a bike, sewn my fingers during the initial tailoring classes.

That, though the hard way, taught me focus, which is applicable even on personal matters.

Tailoring is an art that involves craft and design any person can train to become a dressmaker. However, to be



KDF Service Members at Kenya Army Tailoring Unit (KATU) at Kahawa Garrison.

PHOTOS | Sgt James Kariuki

a tailor, you have to be passionate and develop skills that will enable you to deliver demanded products.

I sometimes sit for long hours, especially when we have items to be dispatched to operation areas. And even while fatigued, my ability to study and interpolate designs has enabled me to develop outstanding sewing skills.

On a day-to-day basis, a tailor's role entails cutting and sewing clothes both for mass production, special sizes, quality control of incoming fabrics, finishing, packaging and dispatch.

Completion of mass production at short notice is possible through teamwork. We embark on piece production where each individual handles a stage in the line production of the demanded dress. When time is not on our side, we work overtime to accomplish the task.

"I get excited seeing recruits and cadets pass out, soldiers marching during national holidays and the band playing at national functions in colourful outfits that have passed through my hands."

The occasional breakdown of sewing machines, which at times derails the production line, is among the challenges we encounter. But regular servicing addresses these shortcomings.

But while being a tailor, I am a soldier first, and I take part in regimental duties and other military exercises and training. This frequent breaks from the production line offer time off to rekindle my creativity for the next tailoring assignment.

I get excited seeing recruits and cadets pass out, soldiers marching during national holidays and the band playing at national functions in colourful outfits that have passed through my hands.

Tailoring is like riding a bicycle. Once learnt, the skill cannot be unlearned. At home, I make and mend my clothes. I can make civilian suits, shirts, pants, jackets, bags and even car covers. It gives one leverage to be flexible in what he or she can put together.

Everyone wears clothes, explaining rather obviously the importance of tailoring. It is no wonder that my grandfather guarded his sewing machine jealously.

Burgavo Water Harvesting Project

By Sgt Wesley Ngeno | Photo By Sgt Gilbert Mwangi

"I will always endeavour to uphold the prestige, honour and high esprit de corps of the Rangers" is a portion of the ranger's creed that always keeps me morally upright and flexible to any adverse changes we (Rangers) face.

We were deployed at the Burgavo Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Somalia on February 26, 2020, and have faced several challenges.

But this is nothing new. Soldiers in the Kenya Army are always ready to venture into hostile territories to protect our people and their freedoms. Hostilities range from a menacing enemy, harsh weather and terrain.

Burgavo lies along the southern shores of the Indian Ocean in Somalia's Jubaland state. The area has a rugged and dusty terrain, punctuated by blinding winds and unforgiving heat.

Such conditions ensure that clean water remains scarce - an impediment to effective combat. The closest clean water source is 46km away in Ras Oddo with the only other available source 70km away in Kiunga. The coral-filled terrain doesn't make accessing such places easy.

But such are the challenges that the Kenya Defence Forces take pride in overcoming. When Bravo combat team Rangers were deployed in the area, they found ways to navigate the water challenge.

One of the measures they took involved installing water pumps and pipes from the ocean to supply water to nearby plastic water tanks. The seawater was then purified by a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit machine.

The method worked for about a month before an inevitable challenge came up courtesy of the ocean's erratic tides. Low tides made it difficult to access the sea, while high tides resulted in strong waves which occasionally broke the plastic pipes.

Another challenge was that the ROWPU could not purify sufficient for the FOB.

The situation necessitated a long-lasting solution. And in a light bulb moment, I proposed the idea of an underground water tank that could store harvested raining water, to the Officer Commanding.

The idea was later proposed to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Sector II Commander, Brig Paul Njema, during his visit to the FOB. The Sector II Commander was impressed with the idea and promised funds for the initiative. He directed that we translate the concept into a project by coming up with its design.

The combat team Officer Commanding, Maj Evance Okoth, constituted a dedicated team - which I led - whose immediate task was to research on



"H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta awarded me with the Head of State Commendations medal for the outstanding innovation."



The underground water tank constructed at Burgavo, Somalia.

various underground water tanks similar to that we were to put up. We would construct the tank using locally available materials.

After conclusive research, my team agreed on a simple design which comprises two major parts – a hyperextended roof and an underground water tank.

The hyperextended roof provided a large surface area that maximized harvesting rainwater and channeled this to the underground tank. The next stage was coming up with a tank capacity that would adequately hold water for consumption of about four months. Sixty thousand litres would suffice.

The building team comprised 12 men who started construction work immediately. We faced different challenges and successfully addressed them guided by our slogan, improvise, adapt and overcome.

We completed the project in two and a half months, and we started collecting water. The tank was officially opened on August 24, 2020, by the Kenya Army Commander, Lt Gen Walter Koipaton, accompanied by Brig Paul Njema.

The tank has alleviated the need for constant road movement in search of water. It has reduced the routine and exposure of troops and equipment to the improvised explosives devices emplaced along the route by al-Shabaab militiamen.

The hyperextended roof serves a multipurpose role, acting as a ration store and a warrant officers' and sergeants' mess.

The Kenya Army commander was pleased with the initiative and encouraged us to come up with more innovations.

During this year's Jamhuri Day Celebrations, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Defence forces awarded me with the Head of State Commendations medal for the outstanding innovation.



Suppressing IEDs

By Capt James Chumo

The father of two says that Combat Engineering is a basic course for all soldiers posted to Engineers Brigade regardless of their specializations. However, those without special trades are accorded the opportunity to choose a career of choice.

Sgt Kilonzo opted for Counter IED expert that entails stages of learning courses at the Combat School of Engineering (COSE). After undergoing a specialized course, Sgt Kilonzo became an IED-D operator dedicated to safeguarding lives, property and restoring normalcy as soon as possible.

He is also mandated with collecting and preserving evidence without compromising safety.

According to Kilonzo, this is possible with the use of a remote operated vehicle, semi-remote by use of hook and line equipment and by manual approach, wearing bomb suit or personal protective equipment.

Because of the ever-changing tact by the enemy, Sgt Kilonzo has earned firsthand experience working in Somalia under AMISOM as an Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) and Improvised Explosive Detection (IED) operator.

He says this is not an ordinary task because the IED has become the enemy's weapon of choice against troops and as an EOD operator, he has to be on the frontline to eliminate the threat in the shortest time possible.

"I am always guided by the philosophies of an EOD/IED operator and my calling to serve Kenya keeps me going no matter the circumstance," Sgt Kilonzo says.

He recalls the day he briefed soldiers before boarding Armoured Personnel Carrier (APCs) convoy leaving Dhobely to Afmadhow on routine patrol.

"I pointed out to the team, especially the drivers, where we were likely to face enemy threat and advised to them to approach such areas with caution", he narrates.

A few kilometers into the journey, the team halted and combed the area. As the journey progressed and before hitting the 10km mark, an IED prematurely detonated forcing the troops to disembarked and comb the area.

Several soldiers sustained injuries from shrapnel from the impact but there was no actual contact with the enemy although it was suspected that they were in the vicinity.

Our air support spotted the enemy few kilometers away and engaged them killing several. It was suspected that they were on standby to ambush AMISOM soldiers after the IED explosion.

Sgt Kilonzo says the incident reminds him of how important his work as a Counter IED experts is.

"I appeal to my fellow EOD operators to always stick to the mandatory procedures. The ever-changing technology means our area of expertise faces new threats with each day. We need to stay ahead of the game as we are a critical component to soldiers in operation world over. Let's strive to always be the hunter to avoid being the hunted. We, however, can't do all this without God who keeps watch over us despite the high risk that comes with our job. We appreciate our families for being there for us."

Sgt Kilonzo continues to serve in his capacity as an EOD and remains undeterred to the cause of degrading the enemy by imparting knowledge to fellow soldiers as well as accepting the challenge when called upon.

PHOTO | Sgt Robert Ouko

Improvised Explosive Detection and Disposal (IED-D) is an integral unit that has helped the Kenya Defence Force (KDF) accomplish its fight against an enemy posing the greatest danger to the country.

Soft-spoken Sergeant Clement Kilonzo is a twenty-eight year old KDF member specialized in Improvised Explosive Detection and Disposal (IED-D).

Enlisted in KDF in 1992, Sgt Kilonzo was posted to the Engineers Brigade, first in 12 Engineers for 14 years after his basic military training.

He was transferred to 10 Engineers in 2005, where he served until 2011 when he was posted as an instructor to the School of Combat Engineering. Sgt Kilonzo is married with two sons.



MEDIO MARATÓN VALENCIA
TRINIDAD ALFONSO

edp

2020

ELITE EDITION



WORLD RECORD

FIRST UNDER 58 IN HISTORY



FUNDACIÓN
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Cultura
del
Esfuerzo

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Gunner Kibiwot Kandie after breaking the World Half Marathon record in Valencia on 6th December 2020.



