I would like to extend my best wishes to you all on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the SA Navy.

This year our Navy is seventy years old. Although seventy years is not considered a long time compared to some other navies, there has been ample time for our own traditions and customs to become established and to give an identity of which we can be proud. Pride, of course, comes from achievement, and our Navy has recorded many achievements - and sacrifices - over the years, for example:

- Our many sacrifices made during WW II and the many occasions where gallantry and professionalism resulted in decorations, awards and commendations,
- Our successful acquisition of submarines,
- Successfully achieving our objectives in the maritime missile era in spite of the arms embargoes,
- Keeping pace with the world's technological advances,
- Maintaining a high level of professionalism in spite of rationalisation and many more.

Our tasks will continue to support other government departments with their diplomatic initiatives or the protection of our maritime resources. Never before have our ships been so busy. They have visited 12 countries in the last two years, and have earned a reputation as a small but professional navy.

Together we face the future with confidence secure in the knowledge that we can build on the experience that we have amassed over the years, to remain a national asset to our country and all its people.

My best wishes go out to you all.
Vice Admiral L.J. Woodburne, DVR, SD, SM, Chief of the SA Navy.
(Photo by Navy Photo Unit, Naval Printing Press, Simon's Town)