

CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE CHIEF OF THE SA NAVY

- Vice Admiral M.S. Hlongwane was born on 06 July 1962 in Frankfort (Orange Free State), but he grew up in Vaal Triangle in a small township called Bophelong (Vanderbijl Park). He started school in 1970 at Mqiniswa Combined School (Bophelong in Vaal Triangle), he completed his Junior Secondary School in 1980 at Lebohang Junior Secondary School (Boipatong) where he obtained his Junior Certificate. In 1982 he completed his matric at State Senior Secondary School (Sebokeng).
- He joined the African National Congress (ANC) and its Military wing UM khonto We Sizwe (MK) in 1982, working as an under ground operative and left South Africa in September 1984 to join the ranks of Umkhonto We Sizwe in exile (Angola).
- He received his military training in Angola and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). He successfully completed the basic MK course that was conducted over a period of 9 months in Caculama Malange Province (Angola). On completion of the basic course, he was deployed at the Armoury in the base, later he was deployed as a Security and Protector in the Regional Headquarters in Luanda,(securing and protecting the leadership whenever they visited MK Cadres in the camps).
- In August 1986, he was amongst the Umkhonto We Sizwe cadres, who were selected to attend the Naval Course in Azerbaijan (Baku) at the Caspian Naval Red Banner College named after Kirova. He specialised in Ship Navigation Command for a period of four and half years. In November 1991, he successfully completed the Naval Ship Command Course in Navigation and he obtained a qualification of Diploma in Ship Navigation.
- In 1991 he was appointed as Chief of Logistics of the two MK Camps i.e. Mgagawa and Kidete Camps in Tanzania. In 1993 - 1994 he participated in the Joint Co-ordinating Committee (JMCC) as a member of the Navy working group.
- After the integration of the Armed Forces in April 1994, he attended the Bridging and orientation courses at South African Naval College and Maritime Warfare School (Combat Orientation Course).
- On 1 January 1996 he was deployed to SAS UMGANI as a learner on board the vessel. On 1 January 1997 he re-mustered to Maritime Intelligence (Counter Intelligence Section).
- On 1 November 1999 he was promoted to the rank of Commander and appointed as SO1 Maritime.

- On 1 March 2003 he was promoted to the rank of Capt (SAN) and appointed as Senior Staff Officer Operations Counter Intelligence (SSO OPCI).
- On 1 March 2005 until 30 March 2008, he was appointed as the South African Defence Attaché to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) & The Republic of Congo.
- On 1 April 2008 he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral Junior Grade (JG) and appointed as Chief of Fleet Staff at the Fleet Command Headquarters in Simon's Town.
- Rear Admiral Hlongwane holds a Diploma in Ship Command Navigation.
- He has successfully completed all military courses prescribed for senior officers since 1994. Rear Admiral Hlongwane has successfully completed Joint Senior Command Staff Course and the Executive National Security Program (ENSP).
- Rear Admiral M. Hlongwane has been awarded the following decorations:
 - Ten (10) years Good Service Medal
 - Unitas Medal
 - Merit Medal in Silver
 - Merit Medal in Bronze
 - Merit Medal for Internal & External Operations
- Rear Admiral M. Hlongwane is married to Thandi and they are blessed with two children.