

# THE RESERVE FORCE VOLUNTEER

Building a future SANDF Reserve Component for 2030



Winter 2014

Support the  
Reserve Force, the SANDF's  
Expansion Capability

Part-time volunteers – making a difference for a better life for all



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Part-time Volunteers: *Making a difference*

## From the Editor's Desk



**W**elcome to yet another great edition of The Reserve Force Volunteer. The Winter 2014 edition is prepared for you, our reader.

As we celebrate 20 years of democracy and freedom, we also celebrate the existence


of the Reserves and their continuous contribution towards protecting South Africa and its democracy, thereby ensuring the security and sovereign integrity of our country.

We have already heard from Chief SA Army and Chief SA Air Force and this time we bring you a message from the newly appointed Chief SA Navy, Vice Admiral Mosiwa Hlongwane, who has something to say to the Reserves. This issue is packed with many interesting articles, including those on the Defence Review and the Reserves of the South

African National Defence Force, a profile of the newly appointed Chief Navy, Vice Admiral Mosiwa Hlongwane; the roles and responsibilities of the Defence Reserves Division and much more.

Upcoming events: The biannual SANDF Reserve Force Symposium is going to be held in Gauteng over the period 11–13 September 2014 and this year's theme is "Employer Support". Keep an eye on our website, [www.rfdiv.mil.za](http://www.rfdiv.mil.za), for the symposium venue and regular updates. It's all happening down in KZN! The famous KZN Military Tattoo will take place from 09–12 July 2014. The SANDF Military Skills Completion will be held in Potchefstroom in October, with participants from various countries. The AAD is going to be held somewhere in September 2014.

We sincerely hope that you are going to enjoy reading this publication as much as we did. Until next time, keep well. Remember to pass this magazine on to a friend when you are done...

Ms Rendani Doizen Khashane  
Editor 

**Cover:** Members of the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) photographed with the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Honorable Minister Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula, MP, during a morning live breakfast event hosted by the Minister.

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# Message from the Newly Appointed Chief of the South African Navy

*Vice Admiral Mosiwa Hlongwane*



I am grateful and deeply honoured to be afforded the opportunity to contribute to this important Reserve Force magazine that is dedicated to a large section of our Reserves. There is no doubt that the Reserves play a major role in the South African Navy (SAN). They represent a remarkable capability in which the cultural values of national zeal and patriotism can be inculcated. The structure and function of the Reserve Force allow for partnerships between civil society and the military entity that are able to forge common identity and national pride like no other.

## Credibility

A credible Reserve Force must reflect the demographics of our broader community. Ours is an organisation that takes pride in being termed a People's Navy, and central to this is that all aspects of our nation must be represented within our naval community. Resembling only a small segment of South African society does little to advance our agenda, and significantly weakens our credibility.

## The Revitalisation of the Naval Reserves

You are given the assurance that all tangible means will be utilised within our budget to continue the revitalisation and transformation of the Navy Reserves so that they can stand shoulder to shoulder with their Regular counterparts as a One Force. The One-Force concept implies a sense of good relationships, consistency and shared perception, not as a matter of administration but as a core of our very identity. Our professionalism is our greatest challenge.

The SAN is doing everything possible, within our limited resources, to achieve the important ministerial priority, "Revitalisation of the Reserves." Training and development of the Reserves in the SAN are primarily aimed at meeting this ministerial priority. Reserves are continually identified to build a Reserve Force that is disciplined, capable and ready for deployment.

The Navy Reserves are an important element in the security and defence networks of our nation. The SAN Reserves are an integral part of the SAN and an economic force multiplier. The majority of these



members carry out duties in the critical SAN musterings while some perform support functions.

The previous Minister of Defence and Military Veterans identified the revitalisation of the Reserve Force as a defence priority in her budget vote in 2011. "The Defence Amendment Act promulgated in December 2010 makes provision for Reserve Force members in terms of their call-up to execute various duties during peacetime."

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Reserve Force Work Session was held in February 2011. The strategic work session was themed "building a future SANDF Reserve Component for 2030" and the aim was to develop a plan to speed up the revitalisation of the Reserve Force and to enhance its contribution to the Department of Defence (DoD).

### **The SA Navy Reserves Indaba**

On the 23 February 2013, the SAN hosted the SA Navy Reserve Indaba in Simon's Town with the theme, "Reserves at Sea." The aim of the Indaba was to provide a platform on which logical and creative thinkers could input strategic guidance for the policy makers to map a clear policy for the SA Naval Reserves (SANR).

The recommendations and critical assessments of the Indaba were noted. The implementation of these recommendations in the form of policies was foreseen after a strategic review to see what works best for the SAN.

Time and again, it has become clear that simply relying on previous modes of thinking, and depending on historical data to derive future forecast, is inappropriate and invalid. We cannot be found wanting.


The men and women who voluntarily commit themselves to our Reserve component do so in demonstration of patriotism and love for our nation, which transcend their individual agendas. These men and women are worthy of our deepest respect and appreciation – they are among the few who are indeed twice a citizen. Every day they go about their daily tasks in the private sector and they are also prepared to serve our country in its defence of its territory and Constitution.

### **University Reserve Training Programme (URTP)**

The University Reserve Training Programme is another programme that supports rejuvenation whilst, at the same time, selecting the best talent to be groomed for tomorrow's senior posts within the SANDF.

This programme is aimed at increasing the engineering capacity in the SAN (especially the Naval Engineering Section (NES.) The NES has already had the benefit of a graduate who has been called up on a full-time basis since January 2014 and has been tasked with specific engineering.

I would like to once again thank you – the people of the Naval Reserve Force – for what you do to make this Navy great. I appreciate your sacrifices and those of your families, and I want you to know just how important you are to the security of this great nation. Whenever and wherever you are needed, I know you will not only be there – you will make a positive difference.

Thank you. 



# Foreword: Chief of Defence Reserves

*Maj Gen Roy Andersen*



**T**his, the twenty-second edition of the Reserve Force Volunteer, contains a message from the Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral MS Hlongwane. As with the messages in previous editions from the Chiefs of the SA Army and the SA Air Force, there is reason to be optimistic about the future of the SA Navy Reserves.


The “cornerstone” article by Brig Gen Kamffer in the previous edition on the Name Review Process in the SA Army Reserves elicited unprecedented

response of which the vast majority was positive. Readers appreciated the opportunity of obtaining a better understanding of why the names of units are under review and how this will contribute positively to South Africa's military heritage and the future of the Reserves.

This edition contains an equally important article by Brig Gen Gibbs on the impact of the Defence Review Report on the Reserves. It is encouraging that the Defence Review Report contains no less than sixty four references to the Reserves and envisages a key role for them in the future.

Defence Reserves congratulates Minister Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula on her re-appointment as Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and Deputy Minister Mr Kebby Maphatoe on his appointment. Their interest in the Reserves is greatly appreciated.

The number of Reserves called up in the financial year to 31 March 2014 was 14 668, marginally up from the previous year. First City is to be congratulated on fielding a full battalion for deployment as part of Ops Corona. The Reserves continue to make a significant contribution.

I trust that you, the reader, will enjoy the wide range of articles which follow. 





# The Defence Review and the Reserves of the SANDF

Article and graphics by: Brig Gen J.J.G. Gibbs, Member of the Defence Review Committee

## OVERVIEW

The South African Defence Review 2014 was undertaken in response to a number of significant international strategic shifts affecting South Africa in general and the Department of Defence (DOD) in particular.

Given South Africa's apartheid past, the 1998 Defence Review provided a defence policy that was largely introspective and focussed on the urgent integration of seven defence organisations into a singular South African National Defence Force (SANDF). It also provided for the transformation of the defence organisation, inclusive of its demographics, its regulation and business processes, towards creating an organisation reflective of society in general and appropriate to the democracy achieved in the 1994 elections. At that time, however, the future evolution of conflict and the role that South Africa would have to assume on the continent was grossly underestimated.

At the outset of the development of the Defence Review 2014, the Minister of Defence provided specific Terms of Reference to the Defence Review Committee regarding the work to be completed as part of the review of South Africa's defence policy. These Terms of Reference extended to the analysis of the current state of the Reserves with a view to a clear understanding of the future contribution they should make to the overall defence capability.

In drafting the Defence Review 2014, the writers had to consider the fact that the Defence Force is



a complex 'system of systems', each of which impacts on the other. The 'One-Force' and 'jointness' were the overarching considerations in drafting the Defence Review 2014. Both these themes are embedded throughout the document as a foundation to all recommendations. The One-Force concept was expanded to include Regulars, Reserves and Defence Civilians.

Analysis revealed that there was, in fact, a disconnect between the policy framework provided for in the 1998 Review and the realities of a Defence

Force that was being utilised increasingly as a strategic enabler. As a consequence of this disconnect, the Defence Force has not had the luxury of being resourced at a level that provided for a sustainable and very much heightened operational tempo.

Changing security circumstances indicate an increasing requirement for mandated military responses in support of diplomatic efforts to resolve both intra- and interstate conflict on the continent.

Given the persistent resource stress on the DOD, the Reserves found themselves disproportionately disadvantaged at the receiving end of budget cuts and the consequent severe restrictions on their recruitment, training, utilisation and retention (Figure 1). But true to its nature and the incredible *esprit de corps* that exists within the regimental system, the Reserve units prevailed and carved out an indispensable role for themselves in proudly representing South Africa and the Defence Force in both domestic and international operations, and from which they received many accolades.



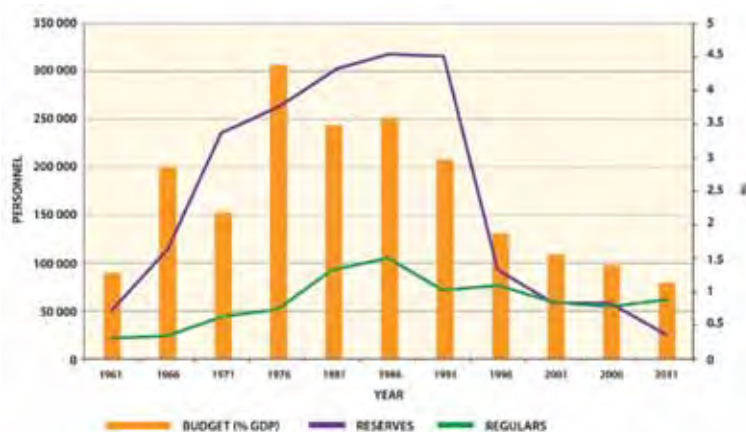


Figure 1: Relative Personnel Strengths vs Budget vs Time.

It was against this dynamic that the Defence Review Committee performed a diagnostic analysis of the Reserves. A detailed study benchmarking ten countries with similar strategic circumstances to South Africa was completed and it became clear to the Committee that the Reserves were indeed indispensable to the SANDF. It was also determined that, apart from being essential to the sustainability of the Defence Force, the Reserves are an asset of national strategic importance. The idiom of 'Defence in a Democracy' is enhanced through men and women who volunteer for service as part of the Reserve.

The Defence Review 2014 articulates the role of the Reserves as that of being designed, structured, maintained and resourced to be able to:

- augment the Regulars in on-going operations and the day-to-day activities of the Defence Force;



Figure 2: Defence Goals and Tasks.

- form part of both the standing and surge military force capability;
- provide the expansion capability of the Defence Force for major combat operations and crisis response;
- provide certain specialist and scarce skills to the Defence Force;
- provide the main specialist capabilities for reconstruction and development, and
- enhance the relationship between the Defence Force and the public and private sectors.

The Defence Review 2014 also articulates that, as a matter of defence policy, the Reserves, as contemplated in the Defence Act, must be an integral element of the 'One-Force' and must be optimised to deliver capabilities for all defence goals and tasks (Figure 2). The Reserves must be sustained by formal governance mechanisms and safeguards and must be appropriately and equitably resourced.

The Reserves must therefore be integral to the design, structure and development trajectories of the Services. As such, Reserves may also be constituted as integrated and composite to, or fully-fledged stand-alone design or structure elements under command of a higher order single Service or Joint Headquarters. The Reserves will therefore be organised, staffed, equipped, trained and maintained at appropriate levels of readiness.

Strategically, the Reserves are to be a cost-effective mechanism for capacitating the Defence Force for *inter alia* operational surges, the sustainment of protracted operations, as well as the provision of specialist and scarce skills not normally found in Defence. In order to





ensure their on-going utility and the sustainability of the DOD, the Reserves will be required to capacitate and serve at all levels of command and management. Interestingly, during the international benchmarking done by the Defence Review Committee, it was found that by diverting ten per cent of the personnel budget towards the Reserves, the DOD would, in fact, double the available personnel for the defence organisation.

Even though the Reserves are part of the 'One Force', in order to ensure their efficacy as a viable component, their management has to be approached and tailored with an understanding of their unique and specific requirements. In the final outcome, however, the Reserves must conform in every respect to the professional military competency required of their Regular counterparts.

To maximise the broader benefits to the Defence Force, the Reserves must endeavour to harness the widest pool of societal talent for Defence and will continue to uphold a volunteer ethos. This obviously implies enhanced access to Reserve service by citizens in both urban and rural areas, and specifically implies that Reserve units must be spread throughout South Africa. This dispersion will complement the Defence Force's ability to both support the authorities and society in times of great need and make a contribution to developmental tasks when so ordered.

The specialist skills vested in the Reserves will be applied, as ordered, to the developmental needs of urban, peri-urban and rural communities domestically as well as to external postconflict reconstruction and development operations.

To ensure the required outcomes within a systematic and programmatic

approach, the Reserves will have to be formally provided for within the defence programmes and subprogrammes, reflected in strategic and annual performance plans and in the performance agreements of commanders.

The personnel acquisition for the Reserves will have to be provided for at Service level through programmes that include *inter alia* an initial military intake stream focussed on the recruitment of the South African youth, the direct recruitment of professionals and specialists, a University Reserve Training System at tertiary education institutions linked to the Defence Academy, the translation of members leaving the Regulars, as well as members from the former statutory and nonstatutory forces who volunteer to join the Reserves.

To make it attractive as a viable service system, there will have to be enhancements to the current Reserve Service System. Measures must be taken to involve business and state entities in assisting young Reservists with employment opportunities. Vocational skills development, in collaboration with the Sector Training Authorities (SETAs) and job placement of the members, will be an ongoing activity. This must be decentralised to Service level with outsourcing contracts awarded to reputable companies that specialise in these services.

Legislation to enhance the Reserve Service System, including an update of the moratorium clauses in legislation to protect members from discrimination by employers and legislation that enables employer benefits for supporting Reserve service, must be reviewed, amended, developed and promulgated.



Figure 3: Milestone 1 Defence Capability.



**Milestone 1** provides for interventions at both the organisational and capability levels and, as part thereof, requires 15 000 active Reserves, with a personnel budget allocation of R1.4 bn. Figure 3 on the previous page depicts the value proposition during this milestone. Other than the contingent commitment to cooperate with the South African Police Service, the remaining operations conducted by the SANDF are essentially unsustainable.

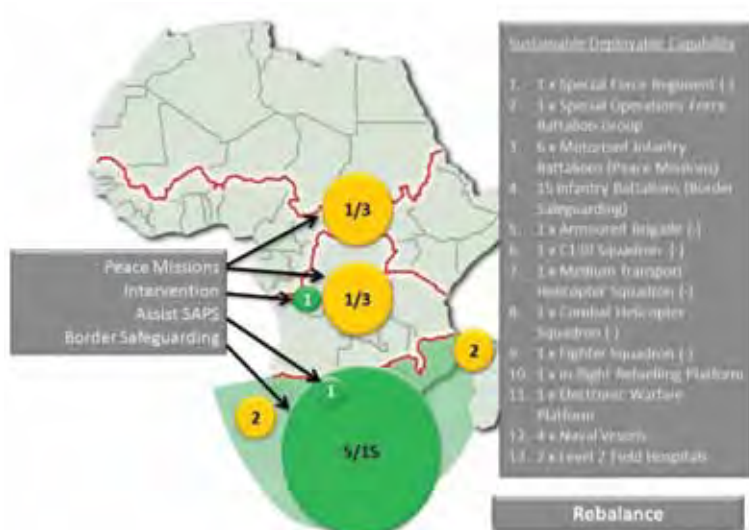


Figure 4: Milestone 2 Defence Capability.

**Milestone 2** provides for interventions at both the organisational and capability levels and, as part thereof, requires 25 000 active Reserves, with a personnel budget allocation of R1.8 bn. Figure 4 above depicts a significant improvement in the sustainability of operations due to improved operating budgets, allocations for capital renewal and improved personnel profiles.

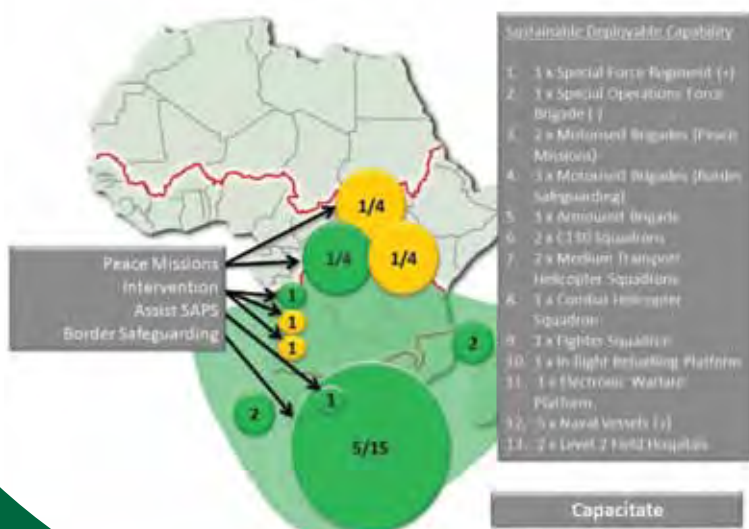


Figure 5: Milestone 3 Defence Capability.

**Milestone 3** provides for interventions at both the organisational and capability levels and, as part thereof, requires 45 000 active Reserves, with a personnel budget allocation of R2.4 bn. Figure 5 below indicates the continued and substantial improvement to both the capacity and capability of the Defence Force.

**Milestone 4** provides for interventions at both the organisational and capability levels and, as part thereof, requires 82 000 active Reserves, with a personnel budget allocation of R2.8 bn.

**Milestone 5** describes a concept war force, whose budget and personnel complement would be determined by the strategic circumstances at that time.

As a general principle, and to give effect to the specified targets and required outcome for the Reserves, eight per cent (8%) of the personnel budget of the DOD will be ringfenced and utilised for the development and maintenance of a viable Reserve. Furthermore, thirty per cent (30%) of all staff posts will be allocated and utilised for the rotation of Reserve members. As a broad principle, the Reserves will provide forty per cent of the DOD staff complement.

The Defence Review 2014 was developed against a backdrop and understanding that South Africa is a developmental state and that all resources of the State, of which Defence is but one, must contribute to the developmental agenda. To this end, the Review recognises that numerous opportunities for a significant defence contribution exist.

Linking to the developmental agenda, it is important to recognise that, in its



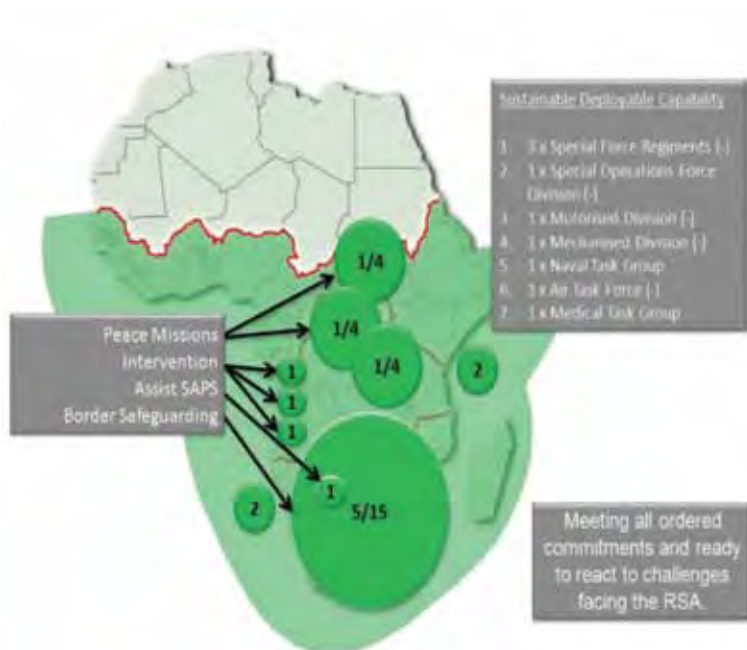


Figure 6: Milestone 4 Defence Capability.

normal day-to-day activities and without disrupting or interfering with its core business of preparing and providing forces for operations, Defence makes significant contributions to the overall development of the people of South Africa.

At an individual level, Reserve service makes numerous significant contributions. These are *inter alia*:

- Firstly, the utilisation of Reserves, particularly from rural communities, provides an income stream to families that would otherwise not have this benefit.
- Secondly, the education, training and development of these members enhance the skills available in these communities.
- Thirdly, leadership development in the Reserves enhances leadership in the communities from which they come.
- Fourthly, participation in Reserve service creates a sense of belonging and pride that would not otherwise be apparent.
- Fifthly, Reserve members are positive role models to the youth in the communities from which they come.

## CONCLUSION

Clearly, this Defence Review is explicit in its pronouncements on the Reserves as an indispensable part of the 'One-Force' and it does this by providing specific targets on its funding and utilisation. It is also implicit in as much as it does not cover all aspects of its development and maintenance, as these are matters that lie within the prerogative and responsibility of the Chief of the Defence Force.

The implementation of the Defence Review 2014 must be done in such a way that all the main considerations and recommendations pertaining to the Reserves are captured and embedded into the long-term defence development plan. Reserve Commanders and planners at all levels now have a unique opportunity and a huge responsibility to create the viable Reserve that South Africa requires. ⚙️





# Roles and Responsibilities of the Defence Reserves Division

By: Maj Gen Roy Andersen



## INTRODUCTION

The Reserves of the SANDF are commanded by their Service and Division Chiefs. The role of the Defence Reserves Division, in support of the Defence Service System, is often not known and is therefore described below.

## VISION

To direct the transformational development of the Reserves so that the provision of combat ready capabilities by Services and Divisions can be brought about in accordance with the requirements of the Core Growth One-Force policy of the SANDF.

## MISSION

To direct the development and maintenance of the Reserve Service System, to provide specialist advice on Reserve matters and to promote/market the Reserves and the Reserve Service System.

## CORE OBJECTIVES

- **Strategic Direction.** To provide strategic direction to the development of the Reserve Service System through the development of strategies and plans for the DOD. This also entails the provision of a legislative, regulatory and policy environment, which is conducive to participation in the Reserves and which is viable and acceptable to both the military and the broad community of South Africa.

- **Specialist Advice.** To provide specialist policy and related advice on all aspects of the Reserve Service System to C SANDF and all Services and Divisions.
- **Promotion and Marketing.** To promote and market the Reserve Service System to all stakeholders and especially the business sector in order to engender community, employer and labour support for service in the Reserves. This includes marketing the University Reserve Training Programme.
- **New York State Partnership Programme (NYSPP) and Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) Military Skills Competition.** To manage the SANDF's participation in the New York State Partnership and in the CIOR Military Skills Competitions.
- **Manage Resources.** To effectively and efficiently manage the resources available to Defence Reserves in order to achieve the maximum output.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Direct the renewal of and changes in the Reserves and the Reserve Service System on behalf of the Chief of the Defence Force.
- Provide specialist advice to and consult the Chief of the Defence Force, including his or her staff, on all Reserve matters.
- Provide strategic direction within the Defence Force on the development and maintenance



of a viable Reserve Service System, using the inherent and acquired Reserve affinity with the wider populace to reflect on government imperatives and to consult with national stakeholders.

- Determine policy, philosophy, concepts and doctrine regarding the maintenance and utilisation of Reserves in order that the Reserves are able to:
  - augment the Regulars in ongoing operations and the day-to-day activities of the Defence Force;
  - form part of both the standing and surge military capabilities;
  - provide the expansion capability of the Defence Force for major combat operations and crisis response;
  - provide certain specialist and scarce skills to the Defence Force;
  - provide the main capabilities for reconstruction and development, and
  - enhance the relationship between the Defence Force and the public and private sectors.
- Monitor the implementation of the Reserve policy, strategy, philosophy and concepts and assist the Chief of the Defence Force in ensuring compliance therewith.
- Make proposals in respect of priorities and the allocation of resources to the Reserves to achieve the Defence Force Strategy.
- Make proposals on any changes required to legislation and regulation to enable an effective and transformed Reserve Service System.
- Monitor, coordinate and market the University Reserve Training Programme.
- Maintain relations with the Reserves of international Defence Forces, as well as other international Reserve organisations.
- Establish and maintain regional employer liaison structures for the purpose of ensuring employment opportunities for Reserves.
- Promote and market the Reserves and the Reserve Service System to stakeholders.

## STRUCTURE


The Defence Reserves Division is structured with a corporate office in Pretoria, supported by ten pro-

vincial offices (two in Gauteng) and eight Defence Provincial Liaison Councils. The Division is supported by the Defence Reserve Board. Close contact is also maintained with the Reserve Force Council.

## DEFENCE RESERVE BOARD

- **Aim**
  - The aim of the Defence Reserve Board (DRB) is to manage the development of the Reserve policy and strategy on behalf of Chief SA National Defence Force (C SANDF) within the mandate of Chief Defence Reserves (C Def Res), and to monitor and report on the implementation thereof.
- **Jurisdiction**
  - The DRB is a nonstatutory body established by C SANDF under the chairmanship of C Def Res to direct the SANDF policy and strategy, and to coordinate multifunctional Reserve matters within the framework of such policy and the SANDF Strategic Direction Process.
- **Authority**
  - The DRB is a board where the representatives of Reserve controlling organisations in the SANDF may, in pursuit of the mission of the SANDF:
    - participate in forming the SANDF Reserve strategy;
    - contribute to the formulation of corporate SANDF Reserve policy, and
    - voice their official considered opinion in respect of matters that will concern their area of responsibility.
- All matters concerning Reserve Policy, strategy and measures to effect such policy and strategy must be submitted to the DRB for consideration and recommendations before they are submitted for approval.

## SERVICES

Each Service has a Director Reserves. Their roles and responsibilities will be described in future editions. 



# The 2014 Polokwane Defence Reserves Gala Dinner

*Article and photographs by: Cdr J.T. Magonono, SO1 Marketing & Promotion (Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo)*

A very successful Defence Reserve Limpopo gala dinner was held in Polokwane on 30 January 2014. The Limpopo provincial office, SSO Reserves, Limpopo Col Van Rooyen was the host of the event. The main purpose for the evening was to market and promote the Reserves and build relations between Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo and Captains of Industry, Provincial and Local Government and Polokwane Chamber of Business.

Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo is a level two satellite office tasked with taking care of all matters relating to the marketing and promotion

of Reserve Force within the province. The office is located in Landanna, Polokwane, at the corner of Bulawayo and Woodbush Streets.

Owing to its capabilities in respect of marketing and promotion, the office has established good relations with the Provincial Legislature, the Office of The Premier, the Department of Safety, Security and Liaison, and all departments concerned, as well as relevant stakeholders within the province.

Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo markets its activities through what is known as project SHIELD, a special programme designed to market



*Group photo of the some of the invited guests.*





and promote the activities of the Reserves through the nine provincial offices countrywide. Through SHIELD, the office has managed to host high profile dignitaries, including the then Minister in the Presidency Office the Hon Mr Collins Chabane, the Health Minister the Hon Dr Aaron Motswaledi, the former Premier Mr Sello Moloto, the Hon MEC Mrs Pinky Kekana, the Hon MEC Mrs Dikeledi Magadzi, Khosi Thovhele, M.P.K. Tshivhase, various religious and traditional leaders and prominent influential business personnel based within the province.

Members of the office give presentations to various stakeholders and play a major role in recruiting the youth of Limpopo into the SANDF through the Military Skills Development System.

Mr Roelf Meyer, Chairperson of the Defence Review Committee, enlightened the guests on the new Defence Review.

Through its initiative, the office has assisted many young people from Limpopo Province in joining the South African Navy, the South African Army, the South African Air Force and the South African Military Health Service. Within these Arms of Service, the youth of Limpopo are exploring rare career opportunities within the SANDF, such as piloting, engineering, electrical courses and the medical profession to name but a few. Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen R. Andersen, as well as the Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen D. Molefe, attended the Dinner. ⚙️



*L to r: Mr S. Motemele, Chairperson of Portfolio Committee; Mr R. Meyer from the Defence Review Committee and Mr N. Sendall from the Defence Review Committee having a chat.*



*Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen presenting a DPLC appointment certificate to Mr L. Ledwaba, brother of the late DPLC chairman, to Mr Lesiba Ledwaba.*



*L to r: On the photo is Mr A. le Roux, acting Chairperson Limpopo DPLC; Ms D. Schutte, SAC PO Limpopo; MWO R.P. Maluleke, RSM PO Limpopo; Col F.R. van Rooyen; SSO PO Limpopo and Cdr J.T. Magonono, SO1 PO Limpopo.*



*L to r: Ms R.D. Khashane, editor of the Reserve Force Volunteer Magazine with Brig Gen S.D. Molefe, Director Defence Reserves and (behind) Col S.A. Motswadira, SSO Corporate Communication Defence Reserves.*



# The University Reserve Training Programme (URTP)

*By: Col Monica Muller, SSO Reserve Force Projects*

*Photographs by: Eng Ter Int Regt and SAAF*

**T**he purpose of the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) is to enhance the skills and leadership capacity of the SANDF Defence Reserves. As an element of the plan to transform and rejuvenate the Reserves, the URTP is a showcase of the progress made in achieving this objective.

The 2014 calendar of the URTP includes three major events which took place in the first four months of the year.

## **SA ARMY, SA MILITARY HEALTH SERVICE AND LOGISTICAL DIVISION**

On completion of the Basic Military Training (BMT) course on 21 January 2014, Regiment Mooi Rivier presented a Revue Parade at 4 Artillery Regiment to

mark the passing-out of 113 URTP Reserve Force members (SA Army, SAMHS and Log Div) of whom 104 were on parade. The training took place under the auspices of the GOC SA Army Armour Formation and was presented in three modules during university recess periods.

The parade, which was executed with high standards of military precision, was well attended by senior military observers, members of the Reserve Force Council, representatives of various universities, and parents and relatives of the young recruits.

The members on parade were selected in 2013 during a recruitment campaign which took place on the campuses of five universities in Gauteng and the North West Province. A number of students studying through UNISA were also selected for the training.





Eight trophies were awarded to students for distinguished achievements including the best female, best male and best overall student.



*Tpr Leonore van Rooyen receives the trophy for the best female student.*



*Tpr Carl Smit receives the trophy for the best overall student.*

In terms of a Service Level Agreement, URTP members of the SAMHS and the Logistics Division are being trained by the SA Army.



*URTP SAMHS members with Brig Gen A.N.C. Maminze (Dir SAMHS Reserves), Brig Gen S.D. Molefe (Chairperson URTP STEERCOM) and Col R.S. Ramasodi (SAMHS URTP Proj Off).*





## SA AIR FORCE

The 4<sup>th</sup> of April was a special day for the SA Air Force, when Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen F.Z. Msimang, handed out certificates to 17 students who had completed their BMT. On the same occasion, Lt Gen Msimang unveiled the Candidate Officer insignia of these members.

These students are mainly from the engineering faculties of the Universities of Pretoria, Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand.



*CSAAF appointing the new candidate officers.*



During the ceremony, 5 students were rewarded for special achievements and received trophies from Lt Gen Msimang.



*The recipients of special achievement awards: FLTR, COs T.M. Moima (fittest female), A. Sanders (best academic), M.O. Bookholane (fittest male and best overall), N.E. Nkambule (best male shottist) and T.W. Nevhutalu (best female shottist).*

Now that these students have completed their BMT (SA Army, SAAF, SAMHS and Log Div), they will continue to pursue their academic studies and undergo further military training during university vacations.

### **THE ROLL-OUT OF THE URTP IN KWAZULU-NATAL**

The SA Army and the SA Military Health Service recently extended the roll-out of the URTP to Kwa-Zulu-Natal when, in April, a recruitment campaign was launched on the campuses of 3 universities. Approximately 1 600 students attended recruitment presentations on 9 different campuses.

During the marketing and recruitment campaigns, a sound relationship is forged between the SANDF, the Executive Management of the universities and the various Student Support Offices.



*The above photo illustrates the lively interaction between the students and the SANDF recruitment team after the formal presentation was made.*

From the applications received in KZN, 140 students will eventually be selected to undergo military training. The first phase of the training will be BMT, which will commence in December 2014. Further details are contained in the article which follows. ⚙️



# SANDF Reserves in Search of the Cream of the Crop

*By: Pte Phillip Pitso, SA Soldier*  
*Photographs by: Sgt Elias Mahuma*

**D**efence Reserve Division, in conjunction with the SA Army and the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS), was involved in a marketing and recruitment campaign for participation in the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) 2014. The focus this time was on KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), with specific attention being given to the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the University of Zululand (Unizulu). The aim was to attract the best students to participate in the URTP.

Chief Defence Reserves took charge throughout the campaign, with representatives of both SA Army and SAMHS giving presentations. They divided themselves into teams for Durban and Pietermaritzburg and had sessions at these universities from 07 to 11 April 2014.

Institutions of higher learning are proven to be fertile breeders of quality leaders and scarce skills. This is evident from the recent success, as, to date, the URTP has boosted the Reserve Force with more than 150 junior officers.

As it is rolled out nationwide, this programme has proved to be fast and effective since its inception in 2011. To date, it has been made available out on 11 campuses in five of the country's nine provinces.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans was quoted as saying that most Reserve Force officers are older than 50, with 51 per cent of the Reserves, who are colonels, having an average age of 61 years. "Graduates and undergraduates will enhance the professional, intellectual and leadership qualities of the Reserves," said Brig Gen Debbie Molefe. Now the URTP is effectively closing that age gap and improving scarce skills within the SANDF Reserves.

The students were assured by Col Carlton-Barber, SSO Force Preparation (Res), that this is a great



*Col Shuping Motswadira, SSO Corporate Communication Defence Reserves, introducing the programme and his recruitment team.*





opportunity that will enhance their lives. He went on to say that the programme would not thwart their ambition to complete their studies.

Students came, eager to hear and find out what this programme is all about. All in all, this marketing and recruitment campaign attracted a total of 1 612 students on the three campuses. Students showed great interest and were willing to fill in the forms. One such student is Gugu Mkhize, who is doing her final year bachelor's degree in Public Management at DUT; she said she can't wait to join the programme.

After this hugely successful marketing outreach, the Chiefs of the SANDF Services are now faced with the formidable task of choosing exceptional leaders with scarce skills and of grooming a force that may, in time, make a major contribution to the SANDF. ⚙️



*Col Ramasodi, SSO SAMHS Reserves, and Col Carlton-Barber, SSO Force Preparation (Res), having a one-on-one with students after the presentations.*



*DUT students came in numbers to grab the opportunity.*



# The SANDF Celebrates Armed Forces Day

*By: Ms R.D. Khashane, Defence Reserves*

*Photographs by: Sgt N. Malatji, Defence Reserves*

**O**n Friday 21 February 2014, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) celebrated Armed Forces Day at Air Force Base Bloemspruit, Bloemfontein. The event was aimed at honouring the men and women in uniform who serve the nation. Armed Forces Day allows the nation to pay tribute to the in selfless service at home and abroad.

The commander-in-chief of the SANDF, the Honourable President Jacob Zuma, was the functionary during the military parade and paid a special tribute to those soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty whilst serving their country. Bravery medals were also conferred on those who demonstrated heroism during the battle of Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR).

The SSO Reserve Promotions, Col S.A. Motswadi-ra, Provincial Office Free State, in conjunction with the Free State Reserve Force Units, supported and participated in the event.

## **Armed Forces Day was introduced to achieve several objectives:**

- To unite all South Africans behind our military
- To allow the SANDF to interact with communities
- To enhance public understanding of the military and its purpose in society
- To showcase the latest equipment and technologies that protect the public

*Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma, inspecting the parade.*





- To demonstrate that the SANDF is ready for any threat or challenge

Members of the public and dignitaries who attended the event were entertained by military parades by different Services and a flypast by the SA Air Force. After the formal military parade was completed, the SANDF mechanised column drove through various communities around Bloemfontein to showcase the country's state-of-the-art armaments, as well as to thank the communities for their continued support.

The day ended with soldiers and their families celebrating Armed Forces Day with various forms of entertainment and sports activities which were engaged in at a fan park at Air Force Base Bloem-spruit, Bloemfontein.

This year, Armed Forces Day coincided with the country's celebration of 20 years of freedom. It also marked 20 years of defence for the SANDF since its establishment in 1994.

In his closing remarks, President Jacob Zuma thanked all the families of the members of our Armed Forces who endure long hours and days without the presence of their sons, daughters, fathers and mothers, because they are deployed within the country or abroad on peacekeeping missions. ⚙️

*Some info sourced from Defence Corporate Communication/ Defence Reserves*



*President Jacob Zuma addressing the guests.*



*The medals to be presented.*



*A family member receiving a bravery medal on behalf of one of the deceased.*





# SANDF Reserves' Participation in the 2014 Rand Show

*By: Col Shuping Motswadira, Defence Reserves*

*Photograph by: Sgt N. Malatji*

Once again, the South African National Defence Force Reserve took part in the 2014 Rand Show, which was held over the period 18–28 April 2014. This year was special, as the SANDF was celebrating twenty years of democracy and freedom.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms N.N. Mapisa-Ngakula, officially opened the show on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2014. In her address, the Minister said that she is proud that the military has been associated with the Rand Show for the past 100 years, and the relationship continues today.

Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen Molefe, was afforded the opportunity to visit the Reserve stall and was impressed by her staff members. She had the opportunity to present the CEO of the Johannesburg Expo Centre, Mr Graig Newman, with a Defence Reserves Shield as a token of appreciation and to ensure future cooperation. The Rand Show began 120 years ago as an agricultural event but grew both in size and scope to reflect the diversity and complexity of an industrial economy. Today, the Rand Show is one of the biggest events of its nature in Africa. Last year, over 250 000 people visited the show. The show has undergone many changes over the years both in its character and size but has maintained its association with the military.



*Director Defence Reserves presenting a shield to the CEO of the Johannesburg Expo Centre, Mr Graig Newman.*

The SANDF four arms of service had both indoor and outdoor exhibition stands at this 10 days “edutainment” showpiece, aimed at enhancing and protecting the image of the Force. The SANDF Defence Reserves had an in-house exhibition stand, together with Reserve Force units, such as the SA Irish Regiment, 7 Signal Group and 11 Field Postal Unit. The stall attracted many showgoers, who showed an interest in and displayed a better understanding of SANDF Reserve Force matters, such as the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) and other volunteer programmes.

As usual, various companies, government and nongovernment institutions displayed and promoted various products and services that they offer. The Minister welcomed everyone and encouraged everybody, especially young people, to visit all the SANDF stalls and to interact with officials, as they were there to inform and educate the public about the Defence Force. ⚙️



# The SANDF Education Trust

*By: Col Monica Muller, SSO Res Force Projects*

*Photograph by: Cpln M.P. Koliti*

Since the announcement of the establishment of the SANDF Education Trust in October 2013 by the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, and the publication of the previous edition of “The Reserve Force Volunteer”, enormous progress has been made by the Trustees in achieving the following:

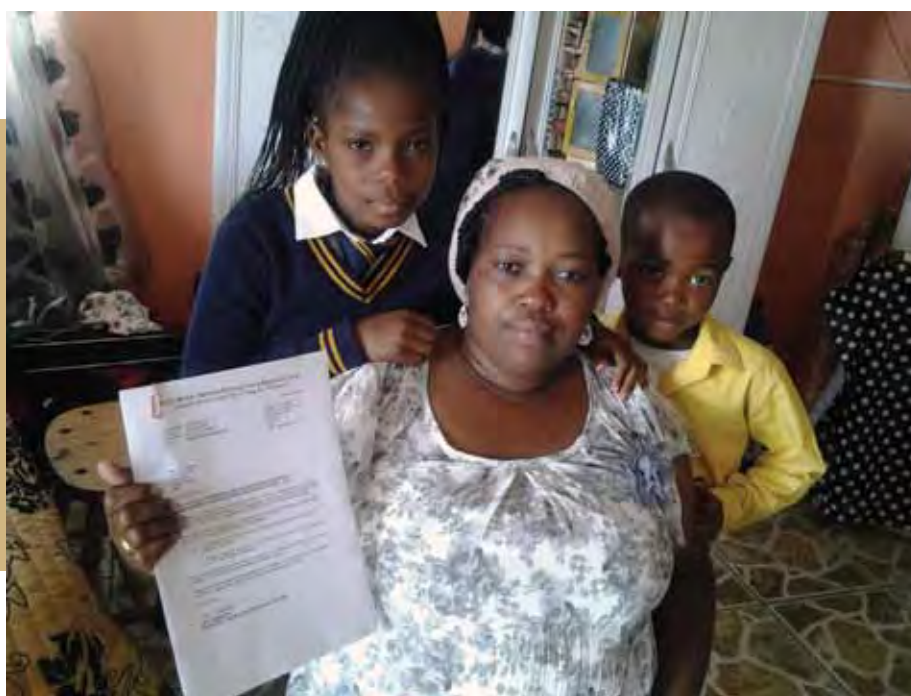
- Cash donations to the amount of R3 930 766 have been received.
- Pledges for a further amount of R1 353 333 have been recorded. In this regard President Jacob Zuma, Commander in Chief of the SANDF set an example to the Nation when in his address during the Armed Forces Day on 21 February, he had announced that he will personally contribute R500 000 to the Trust

- 36 Bursaries with a total value of R359 067 have been awarded for the 2014 academic year.
- Audited financial statements have been lodged with the Department of Social Development and distributed to donors.

Bursaries were awarded in the following categories:

- Primary School – 13
- Secondary School – 17
- Tertiary – 6

Seven of the above bursaries were awarded to the dependents of Reserve Force members who died in the execution of their duties.



*A widow, Mrs T. Sobantu, receives a letter from the Trustees of the Trust in which it is indicated that the Trust will contribute towards the school fees of her two children.*



Eleven applications were received for financial aid to preschool learners. As the Deed of the Trust, in terms of the Income Tax Act, does not provide for financial aid to preschool applicants, the Trustees have referred these applications to the SANDF Fund. The SANDF Fund has agreed, in principle, to provide conditional financial support for the school fees of the applicants who are regarded as being in financial need.

The object of the South African National Defence Force Education Trust is to provide bursaries and scholarships for study purposes to the dependants of the following persons:

- SANDF members killed or severely injured subsequent to 27 April 1994 whilst on official duty
- Civilian members of the Department of Defence killed or severely injured subsequent to 27 April 1994 whilst deployed in operations with the SANDF
- Citizens of the Republic of South Africa killed or injured subsequent to 27 April 1994 during the course of an operation of the SANDF, provided that such citizens were not engaged in an activity in opposition to the aims of the SANDF operation

When considering requests for financial aid, the Trustees apply the following criteria: The applicant must

- be a registered/certified dependant of the deceased or severely injured member of the SANDF as reflected on the official database of the SANDF;
- be school going – Primary or Secondary; or
- be studying at a registered tertiary institution;
- be financially needy (means test will apply), and

- in the case of tertiary studies, display academic potential/progress.

Although the establishment of the Trust was widely communicated within the Department of Defence and to the general public, there are still many prospective beneficiaries who are not aware of its existence. For this reason, the Trustees have not, during 2014, confined applications to a fixed closing date, and applications are considered as they are received.

The closing date for applications for the 2015 academic year will, however, be 15 October 2014.

Projections indicate that the future requirement for the awarding of bursaries annually can increase to an amount of between R800 000 and R1 000 000. For this reason, fundraising efforts will continue until the interest earned on the capital invested keeps the Trust sustainable. 

### **Contributions to the SANDF Education Trust can be paid into the following bank account:**

**Name of Account:** Nedgroup Trust  
**Branch Number:** 145209  
**Account Number:** 1452016976  
**Reference:** SANDF Edu Trust and the name of the Donor

**Enquiries relating to the Trust can be directed to Colonel Monica Muller at [sandfedutrust@gmail.com](mailto:sandfedutrust@gmail.com) or telephone number 012 355 5107.**





# Military Skills Competition 2014

*By: Lt Col (Rtd) G.J. Giles, (Rtd), RFC Communications*

The Military Skills Competition, Mil-Comp, run by the Confédération Interalliée des Officiers de Réserve (CIOR) or, in English, the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers, was established in November 1948. CIOR represents the interests of over 1.3 million Reservists across 36 participating nations within and beyond NATO, making it the world's largest military Reserve officer organization.

Over 250 athletes participate in CIOR's military pentathlon each year. Established in 1957, it is an internationally recognized competition, focused on military skills, that truly challenge the leadership and physical robustness of Reservists from across the Alliance and its partners.

This year's event is organized as part of the annual Summer Congress to be held in Fulda, Germany, during August 2014.

Milcomp is designed to test all of the key infantry and other military skills. It has developed over recent years to include novice and female categories. All ranks are eligible for the competition.

The CIOR Military Competition is a team competition in which each member of the team must complete the competition events together with the other members of the team. The three-day competition



consists of the following:

- First day – Pistol and rifle shooting, where competitors fire the standard infantry weapon of the host nation at targets located over 200 meters from the firing line. The course of fire consists of a precision-fire phase at a sport-rings-target and a rapid-fire phase at 3 silhouettes. For the pistol, the rapid fire includes a change of magazines within the time allotted.
- Second day – Obstacle course and utility swimming with the standardized 500-metre CISM land obstaclecourse, which consists of 20 demanding obstacles. The course requires strength, stamina, coordination and flexibility. It is run in military uniform with a free choice of shoes. The teams are allowed to assist one another at the obstacles, since only the last one makes the run time. A 50-metre CISM water obstacle course with five demanding obstacles requires good swimming skills, strength, coordination and flexibility. Competitors wear the host nation's military uniform without boots. The teams may assist one another at the obstacles.
- Last day – Orienteering, where the teams must complete a 12 to 14 km cross-country course on unknown terrain, using only a magnetic compass and various maps. The dress is combat uniform with hand weapons. This requires both teamwork



and leadership under physical stress. In addition, the teams have to perform range estimation, map reading, hand-grenade throwing and additional tasks.

After the very successful level Milcomp competition, in association with Defence Reserves, a squad was chosen to undergo further training before the final team was selected. This squad received extensive training during the year.

The South Military Skills training camp kicked off in Bloemfontein in March 2014. It started with civilian orienteering training in Johannesburg and then swimming in uniform, crossing obstacles in the swimming pool at the University of the Free State. Thanks are due to 3 Parachute Battalion, in particular, the Officer Commanding, Lt Col Dawie Fourie, who did an excellent job of preparing the obstacle course. Some of the team members were able to participate in the Gold Cup shoot and gained experience in musketry training.

The fifth training camp was held in Potchefstroom in April 2014, where a Special Forces instructor assisted the team with the orienteering programme. Capt Le Roux drafted and compiled the applicable orienteering maps, which greatly assisted with this training. The shooting schedule was greatly enhanced by the professional services of Col Van Zanten, who assisted with training on the R4 and 9 mm pistol. The swimming ability of the members underwent an amazing improvement due to constant training according to international standards. This was due to Virgin Active allowing the members to swim in their heated pool in uniform and with the water obstacles placed inside the pool. Virgin Active must be congratulated on their outstanding support towards the SANDF and RFC in creating this opportunity. The obstacle-course training went very well and there was a major time improvement in this event.

The sixth training camp was held in Potchefstroom in May 2014. Once again, the team was able to swim in the Virgin Active heated pool and made tremendous progress with its time trails. International

targets were used, but G3 rifles or the pistols to be utilized in Germany were not available for the team to practice with. The times on the obstacles course improved once again. During orienteering, a range finder from the Officer Commanding 4 Artillery Regiment was utilized to include range estimation prior to the orienteering run, as it would have been done overseas. The grenade-throwing event was included in the orienteering event with the exact targets as utilized overseas. The only shortcoming in this event was the orienteering maps, as well as the various military maps (1: 5 000, 1: 25 000 and 1: 50 000) of this specific training area. The team was able to train with canoes, thanks to Maj Van Schalkwyk, SAASIC Reserves (the hosting unit). This was a first-time experience for some of the members, which eventually led to some taking a dive instead of paddling!

The confirmed members of the team are Maj Labuschagne (3 Para Bn), Capt Ditshego (SAAF), Lt Du Toit (Regiment President Steyn), L/Cpl Hlope (Umvoti Mounted Rifles), Rfn Mdlalose (3 Para Bn) and Rfn Smit (3 Para Bn). The remaining three members, Ngidi, Muchlanga and Neethling, will compete for the remaining position, and the successful candidate will be announced during the June training camp.

Lt Cols Uys van der Westhuijzen and Mark Whitson, Capt Le Roux and WO1 Nell are congratulated on their efforts in respect of the training of the RFC Mil-Comp 2014 Team.

Now you can get involved – enter for the National MilComp 2014 to be held in Potchefstroom from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The closing date for nominations is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Contact Mrs Fryer, RFC HQ 011 444 2843 or email [uys@cornergate.com](mailto:uys@cornergate.com) or fax Lt Col Kamana 012 355 1570.

The flyers for the competition have been distributed it to all the Arms of Service and Formations. Major General Andersen has obtained approval for the international teams to participate in this competition. This is an opportunity to meet Reserves from other countries, as well as other units in South Africa. 🌀



RESTRICTED



# MILITARY SKILLS NATIONAL COMPETITION ENTRANCE FORM



(After completion fax to 012 355 1570 / e-mail: [uys@comergate.com](mailto:uys@comergate.com))

Competitor				
	Force Number	Rank	Surname	Initials
Unit Name				
Unit Postal Address				
	Postal Code			Gender
Unit Phone No			Unit Fax Number	
E Mail Address	Unit	Member		
Unit Formation			Competitor Contact No	
Date of Birth	mm/yy/yy	Age	ID Number	
Service	Army	Air Force	Navy	SAMHS Other
Type of Transport	BUS	CAR	MILITARY	AIR T- Shirt Size
Medical Classification			Medical Deficiencies	
Fitness level on a scale 1-10	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8
	9	10		
	Weak		Average	
	Excellent			
Medically Fit	Yes	No	Dietary Requirement	
9mm Pistol Competence	Yes	No	Swimming Competence	
	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8
	9	10		
	Weak		Average	
	Good			
Confirmation by Competitor	I hereby confirm that the above information is correct.		Signature of Competitor	Date
	I hereby confirm that the above competitor is a member of this unit and hereby authorise his/her participation in the Military Skills Competition and that man days are available for the member.			
Unit Commander Name			Signature	
Date			For Official Use: Accepted	Yes No



Map reading.



Running and jumping to see the beacons.





# Young Reserve Officers' Workshop – YROW

*By: Lt Col (Rtd) G.J. Giles, (Rtd), RFC Communications*



The YROW is run by the Confédération Interalliée des Officiers de Réserve; (CIOR) or, in English, the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers, established in November 1948. The CIOR represents the interests of over 1.3 million reservists across 36 participating nations within and beyond NATO, making it the world's largest military reserve officer organization.

This week-long workshop is designed to be a junior reserve officer's first exposure to a multinational environment and to colleagues from NATO and Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations. It constitutes a unique professional development opportunity for approximately 60 junior reserve officers annually. Junior reserve officers up to the rank of Captain (Army/Air Force) or Lieutenant (Navy) or below work together for a week in an intense international setting. They are afforded the opportunity to learn about and discuss current defence issues of relevance to the reserve forces. The YROW is an enriching experience for these young officers, who are the future of the reserves, affording them an opportunity to forge professional relationships that often last throughout their careers, and offering a strong foundation on which to build their military experience.


South Africa sent its first participant in 1996 – he is now Lt Col Uys Van der Westhuijzen, the Regional Chairman of RFC Western Cape and portfolio head of the CIOR RFC Military Skills Competition. There were always comments on how well our participants had done every year. As the project coordinator for the YROW in January 2010, I approached the RFC Executive Committee to take the YROW involvement to a higher level and to establish a "YROW Club". The idea was to get the old YROWs to assist the RFC in coordinating the junior officers who could apply to attend the

YROW. This led to the establishment of the RFC Junior Officer Association, RFCJOA in 2011, who now run the YROW selection process.

This year's YROW will be held in Fulda, Germany, in August 2014. The selection process was conducted first at a regional level, culminating with a national selection weekend held at the RFC HQ, in Johannesburg from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> May, and involved a challenging series of presentations and written submissions. The four Junior Officers selected to attend the YROW 2014 are:

- Captain G Shingange (Regiment President Steyn)
- Sublieutenant A Truter (South African Naval Reserve)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant T Motshwane (Regiment Mooirivier)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant S Mtshali (Regiment President Steyn)

Our congratulations to them and we look forward to their report back on this workshop.

It is hoped that this will encourage all Junior Reserve Officers to join the RFCJOA, which aims to bring Junior Reserve Officers from across the Services together to create a network and run events designed to up skill the future leadership of the SANDF Reserves in a way that complements the training received within unit lines. For further information on the RFCJOA, please feel free to contact the National Secretary, Lieutenant Damian Adsetts, via email on [secrfcjoa@rfcsa.org](mailto:secrfcjoa@rfcsa.org) or mobile 082 859 3100. If anyone is interested in the CIOR, visit their website [www.cior.net](http://www.cior.net) or with reference to YROW on [http://www.cior.net/Organisation/Young-Reserve-Officers-Committee-\(YROW\).aspx](http://www.cior.net/Organisation/Young-Reserve-Officers-Committee-(YROW).aspx) or Facebook [http://www.cior.net/News/2013/Young-Reserve-Officers'-Workshop-\(YROW\)-activity-du.aspx](http://www.cior.net/News/2013/Young-Reserve-Officers'-Workshop-(YROW)-activity-du.aspx) and the local RFCJOA Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/RFCJuniorOfficersAssociation?ref=bookmarks>. 



# CTH Change-of-Command Parade and Freedom-of-the-City Parade

The Cape Town Highlanders welcome their new Commanding Officer

*By: Lt Col Johan Conradie and Mrs Regine Lord*

*Photographs by: Mrs Regine Lord*



*Military music is provided by the Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders, led by Drum Major Hashiem Isaacs, and the SA Army Band Cape Town, led by Drum Major WO2 André van Schalkwyk.*

**O**n Saturday, 1 March 2014, Lieutenant Colonel Andre van der Bijl JCD stepped down as commanding officer of the Cape Town Highlanders, having served in this position since 2006. His successor is Lt Col Tienie Lott, who has 19 years of Regular Force service and 17 years in the Reserve Force. The Regiment celebrates its 129<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

The Change-of-Command parade was held at the Castle of Good Hope, in front of many invited guests and members of the Defence Reserves and Regulars, including Major General R.C. Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves.

Military music was provided by the Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders, led by Drum Major Hashiem Isaacs, and the SA Army Band Cape Town, led by Drum Major WO2 André van Schalkwyk. After the Change-of-Command parade,

the troops regrouped for the annual Freedom-of-the-City parade through central Cape Town. With the Drums and Pipes of the CTH playing a couple of stirring marches, the troops marched out of the Castle of Good Hope and into Darling Street, where they lined up in front of the City Hall.

Deputy Executive Mayor of the City of Cape Town, Alderman Ian Neilson, took the salute from the steps of the City Hall. Together with Lt Col Tienie Lott and Maj Gen Roy Andersen, he inspected the regiment and confirmed their right to exercise the Freedom of the City. This honour was bestowed on the CTH on 10 October 1967, and it allows them to march through the city centre with flags waving, bands playing and bayonets fixed.

After a short service and prayer, the Regiment, led by their new Commanding Officer, Lt Col





*Lt Col Andre van der Bijl inspects the troops for the final time before handing over command to his successor, Lt Col Tienie Lott.*

Tienie Lott, marched around the City Hall and back into Castle Street. Turning left into Strand Street, they collected a convoy of military vehicles and marched all the way into Adderley Street before turning into Darling Street once more, and passing the City Hall on their way back to the Castle.

The parade was well supported by passers-by, some of whom walked alongside as it wound its way through the city centre. Locals and visitors alike gazed admiringly at the neatly attired soldiers and the convoy of imposing military vehicles, waving and cheering excitedly as the parade passed.

The vehicles included four SAMIL 20 gun tractors of Cape Field Artillery, drawing their well-known 25-pounder guns, two Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicles from the CTH, four Mamba Armoured Personnel Carriers, a Rooikat Armoured Fighting Vehicle from Regiment Oranjerivier, and a Samil 50 Recovery Vehicle from 30 Field Workshop.

The new commanding officer set out his vision for the Regiment in the coming years:

*"Firstly, I believe that a Commander should always be visible to his men and feel the vibes of his soldiers on the ground. He should not be afraid to be close to the troops and close to the ground, and not afraid to get his hands dirty. He should get out of his HQ and his office environment as often as possible or allowed.*

*He should be involved and participate in all training activities and operations without neglecting the other, just as important, management responsibilities, like Log, HR, OHS etc.*

*I also believe that discipline in its entirety, amongst the other pillars, such as fitness, training and combat readiness, is the cornerstone on which the CTH should build their future.*

*I strongly believe that the Unit should have a well-structured, easy to implement and practical 'Branding Plan'. The broader community of Cape Town and the surrounding areas should know who the CTH are, where we come from, what we stand for and where we are going.*

*My Vision for my Unit is: 'Strive to organise the Cape Town Highlanders (CTH) into a professional, disciplined and dynamic force, ensuring that their plans are implemented, that discipline is of a high standard, and that the troops are well trained, fit and combat ready for the internal and external tasks, which are laid upon us.'"*

**We wish the new Commanding Officer of the Cape Town Highlanders all the best!**

**Lieutenant Colonel Andre van der Bijl**  
JCD

Lt Col van der Bijl completed his national service at 1 SAI Battalion in Bloemfontein in 1982, where he qualified as a mechanised platoon commander and assault pioneer. Transferring to CTH, he held a number of administrative and leadership posts. In 2001, he was appointed as second-in-command, and in 2006, as commanding officer of the Regiment.

As commanding officer, he has been instrumental in transforming this very active fighting mechanised







*Captain Vena and Capt Murdoch escort Alderman Ian Neilson, Maj Gen Roy Andersen and Lt Col Tienie Lott as they inspect the parade.*

infantry unit of the Army's Mechanised Reserves. Since then, the strength of this very active fighting mechanised infantry unit has increased considerably, with the CTH being active in both internal and external deployments.

Lt Col van der Bijl has brought about a fundamental change in the leadership ethos within the unit while strongly defending its historic 129 year-old unique identity, culture and values. He has been a strong supporter of the maintenance of the unit's custom and tradition, and has supervised the Pipes and Drums' attendance at six international tattoos.

Lt Col van der Bijl is a graduate of the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University (the latter with a Masters' degree in Education). He is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Further Education and Training at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (formerly the Cape Technikon), and has guided countless undergraduate and postgraduate students towards worthwhile careers in education, commerce and industry. He is currently completing a PhD in adult education.

### **Lieutenant Colonel Tienie Lott**

Born on 21 August 1957, Lt Col Marthinus Petrus 'Tienie' Lott grew up in Tiervlei (now known as Ravensmead) and matriculated at the nearby Florida High School. In 1976, he commenced tertiary stud-



*The Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders create a stirring musical backdrop to the Freedom-of-the City Parade.*

ies at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), then taught at Uitsig Primary School for a while before joining the Defence Force (SACC) in September 1978.

Over the next decade, promoted on merit and appointed as Company Commander, he was deployed in various provinces in the Republic, as well as in northern Namibia and Angola.

In 1990, the then-Major Lott was transferred to Group 39 (Queenstown) as SO2 Operations. In January 1994, he was promoted to the rank of Commandant and transferred to Group 8 in East London as SO1 Operations. In 1996, he took a severance package and moved back to Cape Town with his wife Pauline, and three children, Yvette, Nathaniel and Anthea.

Since then, Lt Col Lott has been involved in the SA Army's Reserve Force. He has served with several units and in various posts, including Group 1 (SO1 Ops), PAA Cmdr during the 2010 FIFA World Cup, acting 2IC of J TAC WC, as SO1 Career Manager RF at Army HQ. 🛡️



# The Transvaal Horse Artillery Celebrates its 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Article and photographs by: Maj Y.A.D. Pestana, Commanding Officer



The Transvaal Horse Artillery, which celebrated its 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 17 March 2014, has a long and proud history of service to the people of the Republic of South Africa.

The long and hard fought war in South Africa, which culminated in the Treaty of Vereeniging, signed on 31 May 1902, and the withdrawal of the bulk of the

Artillery Volunteers. In January 1907, it was renamed "The Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA)".

A second battery was raised in 1905 and a section was later formed in Pretoria, but only one battery was accepted into the Active Citizen Force when the latter was established with effect from 1 July 1913.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, the THA volunteered to serve and was enlisted for active duty as the THA Battery (S.A.M.R.) and it was in this guise that one section of the battery fought its first wartime action at Sandfontein, in German South West Africa (GSWA), in September 1914. Unfortunately, the small force which included the two guns had been led into a trap and were forced to surrender.



*The THA visiting the HAC in London.*

Reformed as a four-gun battery, the THA returned to GSWA by way of Walvis Bay in late February 1915 and joined Col Coen Brits' mobile column. The Gunners distinguished themselves at Riet, completely outshooting the six German guns in the foothills of the Langer Heinrich. Alongside the 1<sup>st</sup> Mounted Brigade, the THA took part in the remarkable desert march of 376 miles in 21

British forces from the country, led eventually to the establishment of volunteer corps in the new Crown Colony of the Transvaal. One of these units was the battery of artillery known as the Lys Volunteer Corps, named after its founder, Maj G. Lys. Established on 17 March 1904, the first volunteers were enrolled on 30 March 1904. Six months later, the title of the battery was changed and became The Transvaal Horse

days from Usakos to Namutoni which outflanked the German defences and brought about their eventual surrender. The last 200 miles had been covered in ten days, and from Lemputz the battery had moved 52 miles in 52 hours, without water.

There was little training in the years after the war due to the economic situation, but the battery was mobilised when martial law was declared in March



1922 as a result of an armed strike by miners. The 1930s saw an increase in the establishment of the THA to a brigade of three batteries. Mobilised for war in 1939, the THA Brigade moved to Potchefstroom at the end of October where, on 1 February 1940, it became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade (T.H.A.).

The brigade left Potchefstroom for East Africa in September 1940 with 18-pdr MK II and MKIV guns, but in January 1941, the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Battery were ordered to exchange their guns for the 4.5 inch howitzers of 11<sup>th</sup> Field Battery. The brigade fought with other South African Artillery units through the rigours of the East African campaign in support of the 1<sup>st</sup> SA Division and the 12<sup>th</sup> African Division, together with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Field Brigades and the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Battery (CFA).

Once the campaign was nearing its end, the South African artillery units moved to Egypt in August 1941. The THA handed in their old guns and were issued with 25-pdrs, at the same time undergoing conversion training to become 3 Field Regiment (V) South African Artillery (T.H.A.).

The regiment moved to Mersa Matruh and with the commencement of the Crusader offensive it went forward with the 1<sup>st</sup> SA Division to become involved in what a brigadier later described as "...the bloodiest and most heroic encounter of the war", the Battle of Sidi Rezegh. It took place on 23 November 1942, Tottensondag to the Germans; the Sunday of the Dead was to live up to its name.

Attacked by the Afrika Korps, the gunners fought over open sights in rising smoke and dust. Casualties were heavy on both sides. The war diary of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade recorded that the South Af-

rican gunners "had been magnificent", and a simple soldier said "... they gave it stick, they never faltered."

Remnants of the unit escaped the irresistible tide of German armour, but by 1 December 1942, only 375 officers and men answered roll call at Mersa Matruh. A few more trickled in over the coming days. The regiment had managed to extract five of its 24 guns from the scene of battle and later recovered ten guns from the battlefield, seven of which were those of the THA.

Reinforced and reequipped but lacking adequate transport, the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Battery moved to Gazala at the end of January 1942, followed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery a month later. RHQ and the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Battery remained at Matruh to calibrate guns and provide live shell shoots for courses before moving to Tobruk at the end of April. They were joined by the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Battery and most personnel were taken prisoner when Tobruk fell to the Afrika Korps on 21 June 1942. A party of the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Battery managed to escape with the Reserve Company of the Coldstream Guards.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment was badly hurt in the withdrawal from Gazala, the entire regiment reaching Alamein in a parlous state. Reinforced by officers and men from 5 Field Regiment, the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment (with the THA battery) fought at Alamein from July to the final battle in October.

The Transvaal Horse Artillery (V) was depleted at Tobruk and was removed from the Order of Battle, together with 2 Field Regiment (NFA).

The Transvaal Horse Artillery was represented during the Italian Campaign of 1944/45 by 7/64 Field



*THA Ceremonial Guns*







GV6 gun.

Artillery (V). The South African Artillery (T.H.A.), one of the three batteries, combined with those of 22 Field Regiment to form 4/22 Field Regiment, equipped first with 105mm Priests and later 25-pdr Sextons.

The prewar brigade was resuscitated on 1 January 1946 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment (T.H.A.) and commenced annual peacetime training camps. Its next call to action was in January 1976 in support of 72 Motorised Brigade in Operation Budgie, following Operation Savannah. Recalling their wartime activities, the batteries of the regiment were, as in 1946, numbered 7, 8 and 9 and the 8<sup>th</sup> battery was the first, during the Operation, to be equipped with the 140mm gun (GV2) whilst the other three batteries were equipped with 25pdrs (GV1s). The fourth battery was (incorrectly) numbered 10<sup>th</sup> Battery.

Several tours of duty on the SWA/Namibian border were subsequently undertaken, including Operation Protea, where the THA was equipped with the GV4 155mm gun. On two occasions, the THA was employed as infantrymen in Northern South West Africa and Angola. The regiment also served in COIN roles during the periods of unrest which preceded the change of government in 1994.

The Freedom of Johannesburg was awarded to the regiment in 1964, and, in 1986, the THA took part in a mechanised parade to celebrate the Centenary of the City of Johannesburg. Four years later, the Johannesburg Artillery Regiment (previously 2 Locating Regiment) and 7 Medium Regiment were amalgamated


ed with the THA, the latter retaining its traditional name. The regiment celebrated its centenary in March 2004 with a well-attended dinner at the Rand Club and by exercising its freedom of entry into the City of Johannesburg with both a mechanised and a marching column. In 2006, the THA was tasked with providing ceremonial gun salutes within the Gauteng province.

The regiment was affiliated with the Honourable Artillery Company on 13 August 1937. On the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Regiment was privileged to share a Royal Salute alongside the HACat, the traditional saluting base, the Tower of London, in honour of the Official Birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh, Consort to Queen Elizabeth II. It was the first time that any non-Commonwealth troops participated in such an event in the United Kingdom.

In recent years, the Regiment has been very active in Continuation Training activities, which see the members reporting once a month to the School of Artillery in Klipdrift outside Potchefstroom for training on the Prime Mission Equipment in groups and teams. This culminated in October 2013 when the THA provided the core personnel for a Medium Self-Propelled Battery during Exercise Rhino, which was held at Sheldon's Rest Military Base and on Dirkie Uys Range in Potchefstroom. The THA exercised alongside their regular counterparts from 4 Artillery Regiment and also with members of the Natal Field Artillery.

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013, the THA had the honour of firing a 21-gun national salute for the President at the official parade to commemorate the Day of Reconciliation and also in honour of the late President Nelson Rolihlala Mandela on the occasion of the unveiling of his statue at the Union Buildings. Later in 2014, the Regiment will commemorate the Centenary of the Battle of Sandfontein, which took place in Southern Namibia on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1914.

The THA is under the command of the SA Army Artillery Formation and the Regimental Headquarters is currently located at Mount Collins, Kelvin, Sandton.

The current ordnance of the THA is the GV6 155mm Self-Propelled Gun/Howitzer. 



# Centenary of the Outbreak of World War One

*By: Col (Rtd) L. Crook*

In August this year, one hundred years ago, war erupted in Europe – a war in which, when it ended, 37 million people had become casualties.

It was a war that drew in all the great powers and assembled them in two opposing camps – the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom, France, and Imperial Russia, and the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Both would be joined by other nations, for instance, Japan and the United States joined the Entente (Allies) and the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers. Ultimately, more than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised. It was the largest war in history.

The underlying cause was a resurgence of imperialism, but the ultimate cause was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by a Yugoslav nationalist in Sarejevo on 20 June 1914.

Tempers ran high. The first shots were fired on 28 July by Austria-Hungary in preparation for the invasion of Serbia; Russia mobilised; Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg before advancing into France; Britain declared war on Germany.

After Germany's march

on Paris was halted the war in France became a stalemate. What became known as the Western Front became lines of trenches – on both sides – stretching from Belgium to Switzerland. It did not alter much until 1917.

It was on the Western Front that the 1<sup>st</sup> South African Brigade found itself in 1915.

## THE IMPERIAL SERVICE CONTINGENT

General Botha, the South African Premier, saw that the fortunes of the country were bound up with those of the British Commonwealth and he offered to assist the Imperial Government in Europe. South Africa's finances, depleted by the conquest of German South West Africa, could not undertake the logistics of the campaign in France. It was therefore arranged that volunteers would be equipped, as far as possible, from resources at hand, and be paid until the date of embarkation. They would thereafter be paid at the same rate as British regular troops and have the same status as the new service battalions of the British Army.





## An Infantry Brigade

A Brigade of four regiments of infantry was raised and the battalions were constituted as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> S.A. Infantry – Cape of Good Hope Regiment.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> S.A. Infantry – Natal and Orange Free State Regiment.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> S.A. Infantry – Transvaal and Rhodesia Regiment.
- 4<sup>th</sup> S.A. Infantry – Recruited from the Scottish regiments then existing in the country and from Caledonian Societies.

## A Regiment of Heavy Artillery

A regiment of heavy artillery of five batteries was raised from those who had fought in the heavy batteries in German South West Africa and from members of the Cape Garrison Artillery and the Durban Garrison Artillery. The conditions of service were the same as those for the infantry battalions. The batteries were representative of the four provinces.

## Signal Company

A Signal Company was recruited. Picked men with a high standard of specialised knowledge, character, intelligence and military experience resulted in the assembly of 230 men by September 1915.

## Medical Services

Apart from men who volunteered for regimental duties, One Field Ambulance Unit and a General Hospital Unit were formed for service in France.

## Railway Companies and Trades Companies

Months after the units described above had left South Africa; two Railway Operating Companies were formed from volunteers. In July 1917, a Miscellaneous Trades Company was formed for service in France.

## Cape Auxiliary Horse Transport Companies

In February 1917, the War Office asked the South African Government if it could raise companies of drivers for the Army Service Corps in France. Eight companies of coloured drivers were raised with the recruiting centre being established at Kimberley. Artificers and drivers eventually numbered 3482. The first detachment arrived in France in May 1917. Others followed soon after.

## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SOUTH AFRICAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

The Brigade, under command of Brigadier General Henry Timson Lukin, CMG, DSO, arrived in England in late October and underwent two months training. But then, on 7 December 1915 instead of France, the Brigade was sent to North Africa where the tribes of the Senussi were up in arms, stirred up by German and Turkish agents. The Brigade arrived in January and almost immediately moved into the battle area where the 5000 Senussi were causing mayhem. The Brigade was involved in the Battle of Halazin and was in action again at Agagia, and in the march on Sollum. On 25 March, they began the return to Alexandria and moved from there to Marseilles in mid-April 1916.

Reaching Flanders, it took its place as a Brigade of the 9<sup>th</sup> Division on 14 May 1916. And in Flanders it took part in the murderous Battle of the Somme, where Britain lost 60 000 officers and men as casualties in one day.

During the first months the battle, which began on 1 July, the 9<sup>th</sup> Division was in reserve but ten days later, the South Africans had been drawn in and were involved in the fight for Trônes Wood. It was taken, but could not be held. The 2<sup>nd</sup> S.A. Regiment had 200 casualties here.

An attack on the German Line by XIII Corps on 14 July was successful and all the objectives were taken but on the right flank – the most difficult of all, 9<sup>th</sup> Division had been ordered to take the village of





Longueval. But it became obvious that the whole of Longueval could not be taken unless Delville Wood was also taken.

In desperate hand-to-hand fighting, the Division's 26<sup>th</sup> Brigade (8<sup>th</sup> Black Watch, 10<sup>th</sup> Argyll & Sutherlands, 9<sup>th</sup> Seaforth and 5<sup>th</sup> Cameronian Highlanders) secured all except the northern section of the village. The 1<sup>st</sup> S.A. Regiment under Lt.Col Dawson was deployed with the Scottish Brigades. It returned to Lukin's command after the three other regiments of the Brigade began to move to the Wood.

Lukin's brigade was ordered to take the Wood. On the cloudy morning of 15 July, as the sun rose, the sky lightened, and men noticed how small birds still sang in the ruins and larks rose from the battered ridges. The attack went in from the south-west and, at first, the advance moved swiftly, despite violent shelling. Lt.Col. Tanner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> S.A. Regiment, who was in charge of the attack, was able to report that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment held everything south of Princess Street. He then sent the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment to occupy the northern perimeter. It proved a heavy undertaking but they reached their objective.

No sooner had they done so when the whole Wood was violently shelled by enemy, with machine-gun and rifle fire from the strong German positions around the perimeter. At 2.40pm, Tanner reported he had taken the whole Wood with the exception of strong points abutting on Longueval and the northern orchards.

The problem was to continue to hold it. Although it had originally been planned to thin out the troops in the Wood and leave it to be held by detachments on the perimeter, armed with machine-guns, the scale and fury of the German reaction made this impossible. The entire Brigade became involved in holding Delville Wood.

An advance by the 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade to take the northern sector of the village and capture the orchard failed in the face of intense opposition. The situation was desperate. Longueval and Delville Wood had proved to be too strongly held. It was a vicious cir-

cle. Longueval could not be won and held without Delville; Delville could not be won and held without Longueval.

It was decided to make another assault on the north-west corner of the Wood. The attack was made shortly before dawn on 17 July but it met with stubborn resistance, and the troops were forced to fall back to their original position. Further attempts to gain ground were made but, by now, the Germans had advanced into a section of the Wood. A counterattack was launched and cleared the ground, but only at the cost of heavy casualties.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Brigade of 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was brought in and succeeded in obtaining a foothold in the orchard and Thackeray of 3<sup>rd</sup> S.A. Regiment was ordered to link up with them. He directed a company of 1<sup>st</sup> S.A. Regiment to do so. That morning, the fourth day of the battle, was a crisis day for the defenders of the Wood. The arrival of the company of 1<sup>st</sup> S.A. Regiment on the outskirts of the Wood was the signal for an enemy bombardment of unprecedented fury. Every part of the area was searched and smothered by shells. The rate of fire was often as high as 400 shells a minute.

All through the morning, the rapidly thinning handful of men held out. Their one relief was when the shelling ceased and enemy troops advanced upon them, for their accurate shooting took a heavy toll. By half-past two that afternoon, the position had become desperate. Lt.Col Dawson of 1<sup>st</sup> S.A. regiment, with only 150 men remaining, had just been withdrawn in a thinning out process of withdrawal after having been continuously in action for four days. He was ordered to take them forward as reliefs. The men of the Brigades Trench Mortar Battery – three officers and about eighty men – were brought from Montauban and placed at Dawson's disposal.

Dawson found Thackeray's 3<sup>rd</sup> S.A. Regiment in serious straits. In many parts of the Wood, the garrison had been utterly destroyed and the few survivors had been forced back. The wounded filled the trenches. It was impossible to remove



them since Thackeray's entire stretcher bearers were casualties and no men could be spared to take their place. The Trench Mortar Battery was sent to reinforce 3<sup>rd</sup> S.A. Regiment.

At 6pm that evening – 19 July – came the welcome news that the South Africans would be relieved. But it was a slow and intricate business. By midnight, however, portions of two companies of the 4<sup>th</sup> were withdrawn.

The enemy had brought up fresh troops and they made repeated attacks, three on the night of 18 July; in the last of them Thackeray's men were assaulted on all three sides. All through 19 July they held on, suffering incessant shelling and sniping, the latter now from close quarters. It was the same on 20 July, but at six o'clock that evening, troops of 76<sup>th</sup> Brigade (from 3<sup>rd</sup> Division), were able to take over what was left of Longueval and Delville Wood in the hands of 9<sup>th</sup> Division.

Thackeray marched out with two officers – both wounded – and 140 men, made up of details from all the regiments of the Brigade.

When Lukin received orders to take the Wood the Brigade strength was 121 officers and 3 030 men. The total ultimately assembled was about 750.

The value of the Wood is proved by the fact that the enemy used his best troops against it – successively the 10<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Division, the 8<sup>th</sup> Division of their 4<sup>th</sup> (Magdeburg) Corps and the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps.

For six days and five nights, the South Africans had held the Wood against the flower of the German Army and they did not give way to the challenge. John Buchan wrote: As a feat of human daring and fortitude, the fight is worthy of remembrance by South Africa and Britain.

On 18 July, Thackeray – who had taken over command from Tanner when the latter was wounded – was holding the Wood with nine and a half com-

panies, strength of about 1 500 men; two days later, he had only 140. From this we may judge the fury of the conflict.

Delville Wood was not the end for the South African Brigade in Flanders. There was more to come.

## THE LOSS OF THE TROOP SHIP MENDI

After their arrival in England in October 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> South African Infantry Brigade were sent to North Africa on 7 December to deal with a problem there, but, by May 1916, it was back in France, in positions at the Somme battlefield. The South African Field Artillery was in action in East Africa serving their guns while enduring the ravages of malaria, dysentery and short rations; and the five batteries of South African Heavy Artillery landed in France in April 1916.

Huge numbers of men were being lost daily in the fighting in the trenches of what was called the Western Front. But men were needed to keep the front lines supplied with ammunition, rations, medical supplies and all the other items required to wage war. Britain needed to call those men to the front lines to replace the heavy casualties being experienced.

In September 1916, Louis Botha, the South African Prime Minister, agreed to a request from the British Government to recruit 10 000 black troops to replace those troops presently undertaking the chores at the ports and supply dumps in France. Recruiting offices were opened in South Africa and the High Commission territories. Volunteers came forward quickly and received initial training at the Western Province Agricultural Societies show grounds at Rosebank, Cape Town, where the men were housed in tents. (A memorial to commemorate them was discovered about five years ago in the grounds of what is now the University of Cape Town). They were sent off to Europe in groups as their training was completed. The 4 230 ton steamship MENDI – an Elder Dempster Line single screw vessel, (named after the Mendi tribe in Sierra Leone – a more usual port of call for the ship) carried the last of the 10 000 troops. It left Cape Town on 6 January 1917 in convoy with



five troopships carrying Australians and escorted by the cruiser EDINBURGH – just before the German raider WOLF laid mines in Cape waters. For most of the men of the 5<sup>th</sup> SANLC Battalion on board it was their first view of the sea.

After a call at Plymouth, MENDI sailed steamed at reduced speed for Le Havre, her final destination, escorted by HMS BRISK. Just at about 04.55 on the foggy morning of 21 February, approximately eighteen kilometres from the Isle of Wight, the 11 484 ton DARRO came out of the mist at full speed and crashed into the two forward holds of MENDI. The holds had been converted to troop decks and the gash made by DARRO cut to a depth of 20 feet (6 meters) from deck to keel. Many men were filled immediately – others began to climb out to the main deck but one of the stairways was damaged and not all men reached their allotted lifeboat stations. With water pouring into the ship, a quick list to starboard soon developed and of the seven lifeboats only two were successfully launched and were able to reach DARRO with about one hundred survivors. There are many stories of courage and self-sacrifice. It is told of Padre Isaac Wauchope Dyobha that he cried out to the men on deck:

*Be quiet and calm, my countrymen. What is happening now is what you came to do. . . You are going to die, but that is what you came to do. Brothers, we are drilling the death drill. I, a Zulu, say you are all my brothers . . . Swazis, Pondos, Basutos . . . so let us die like brothers. We are the sons of Africa. Raise your war cries, brothers, for though they made us leave our assegais in the kraal, our voices are left with our bodies.*


And they stamped the death dance together. . . It is a story that has been immortalised although it can never be confirmed. It is, however, unlikely that South African oral tradition would have repeated an account that has no foundation whatsoever.

Twenty minutes after MENDI was hit, she sank, taking with her all those that were still on board. Of the many who jumped in the 32°F water most suc-

cumbed to the freezing temperature. HMS BRISK launched her lifeboats to try and rescue as many as possible, but the life had been sapped from many of them by the icy water. The search went on through the darkness until it was light at 09h00. They landed 137 survivors and the bodies of twelve men.

Of the 802 troops, 607 were lost; nine of their white officers and NCOs and 31 of the crew of 69 were also lost. The MENDI disaster was one of South Africa's worst tragedies of the First World War – surely none could claim to have killed so many so quickly. This incident prompted the Prime Minister, General Louis Botha, to move an unopposed motion of sympathy with the bereaved relatives of those who had died.

The names of all those who lost their lives in the tragic accident – one that should never have happened – are inscribed on the impressive Hollybrook Memorial near Southampton – 'For those with no known grave but the sea.' Queen Elizabeth unveiled a stone plaque at the Avalon Cemetery in Soweto on Thursday, 23 March 1995, to mark the opening of a Garden of Remembrance in honour of the victims lost in the sinking of the MENDI.

Altogether about 21 000 black South Africans – all of them volunteers – eventually served in France with the South African Native Labour Corps between 1916 and 1918. They formed part of the labour force that included French, British, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Egyptian and Canadian, as well as German, prisoners of war. Most men worked in the harbours at Le Havre, Rouen and Dieppe, where they unloaded supply ships and loaded trains with supplies for the front lines; but, by the time the SANLC was disbanded, other tasks had been undertaken – they laboured in quarries, laid and repaired roads and railway lines and cut vast quantities of timber. Their work was highly regarded and those employed at the harbours earned special praise. Three hundred and thirty-three gave their lives in France and most are buried at the British Military Cemetery at Arques-la-Bataille. 





# Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Centenary Commemoration of the First World War

*Article and photographs by: Capt (SAN) (Rtd) Charles Ross  
Previous Secretary of the South African Agency  
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

As the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for the care and maintenance of the graves and memorials (to those with no known grave) of the Commonwealth war casualties from the two World Wars, it realised some 5 years ago that many of the centenary commemorations of the First World War, in 2014 to 2018, would take place in and around cemeteries and memorials maintained by the Commission. The Commission then took the initiative and appointed a special team at its Head Office in Maidenhead, United Kingdom, to ensure that, from the Commission's side, everything would be in place by August 2014.



*Inside of the Menin Gate Memorial.*

As the bulk of the war was fought in France and Belgium, it was only natural that many of the events would take place there, so graves, cemeteries and memorials were identified and repairs and renovations scheduled to be completed by the start of the commemoration. At the same time, member states (Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom) were approached for events that would be planned at Commonwealth sites. With the available information, the Commission set

out to prioritise what had to be done first. A priority was the nearly 1.1 million headstones maintained by the Commission worldwide. Legibility of headstones is essential and the Commission's criteria demand that a headstone should be legible from a distance of 2 and half metres and at an angle of 45 degrees. If deemed illegible, headstones are either reengraved *in situ* or a replacement is ordered. In 2011, a total of 465 000 headstones were surveyed of which 33 000 were identified for immediate replacement and a further 45 000 during the next three to five years.

The number of headstones that had to be replaced provided the Commission with a new challenge. The Beaurains Production Facility near Arras in France had to be upgraded from within the existing Commission resources. This was achieved and the production facility is now capable of manufacturing 22 000 headstones a year. It needs to be pointed out that, in South Africa, headstones are not ordered from the production facility, but are manufactured locally from Rustenburg Granite.

Numerous cemeteries and memorials were also identified for major renovations and upgrade. This included the Helles memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, where more than 20 000 Australian, British and Indian casualties from the Gallipoli campaign in 1915 are commemorated. The Menin Gate in Ypres was another that received attention. A total of 560 South Africans from the First World War are commemorated on this impressive memorial where, every night, a ceremony takes place remembering the dead and others who made the supreme sacrifice. With more than 8 5000 casualties (4 South Africans), the Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in



the United Kingdom and is directly maintained by Commission staff.

The Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery is a privately owned cemetery with Commonwealth war casualties from both World Wars. In the 1970s, the cemetery deteriorated and it was necessary to commemorate the 267 casualties (7 South Africans) buried in the First World War plot on a screen wall just inside the main entrance to the cemetery. In a recent joint effort by the Commission and private contractors, the war plots were cleared, cleaned and the memorial reengraved. This was the single largest restorative project involving a First World War plot ever undertaken within the United Kingdom area.

Another cemetery containing South African casualties is the Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium, where 95 South Africans are buried. During July 2013, the remains of three unknown South African soldiers from the First World War were reburied in this cemetery with full military honours.

Next on the list of priorities was the identification of cemeteries and/or memorials where National and/or private acts of remembrance would likely take place. A total of 500 cemeteries and/or memorials were identified and the 2014 – 2018 Team set about preparing new Visitors' Information Panels (VIPs) for these sites. Each of the panels supplies information about the site of the cemetery or memorial, and the reason why it is situated where it is. The VIPs would be erected over the four-year period shortly before the event was due to take place. The first 100 VIPs have been erected. Using modern technology, visitors can scan the Quick Response (QR) code with their smart phones to access further information, including personal stories of some of the casualties buried at the location.

As the Western Front was the main scene of battle, it is not surprising that 245 sites were identified in France and 65 in Belgium while another 100 sites are in the United Kingdom. Of the sites identified, South African graves are in Beaulieu British Cemetery (64), Bertry Communal Cemetery (10), Ors British Cemetery (41), Arras Memorial (76), Brown's



*The author at the grave of 20216 Pte T. A. Knowles, age 15, a South African and one of the youngest casualties in the Brookwood Military Cemetery.*

Copse Cemetery (130), Etaples Military Cemetery (68), Pont du Jour Military Cemetery (74), Terlincthun British Cemetery (42), Arques-la-Bataille British Cemetery (270), St Sever Cemetery and Extension (103), Aubigny British Cemetery (50), Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval (18), Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval (152), Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-Le-Grand (87), London Cemetery, High Wood, Longueval (33), Poziers British Cemetery & Memorial (321) and the Thiepval Memorial (833).

In addition, South Africans are buried/commemorated in a number of sites identified in Belgium which include Bedford House Cemetery (21), Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery (29), Mendinghem Military Cemetery (33), Messines Ridge British Cemetery (57), Tyne Cot Cemetery (95) and Ypres Menin Gate Memorial (560).

Outside of Europe and the United Kingdom the following sites have been identified where South Africans are commemorated:

**Egypt.** Alexandra (Chatby) Military Cemetery & War Memorial (28), Alexandra (Hadra) Cemetery and War Memorial (22) and Kantara War Cemetery (14).

**Israel and Palestine.** Jerusalem War Cemetery and Memorial (51).

**Kenya.** Nairobi South Cemetery (42) and Tavera Military Cemetery (123).

**Mozambique.** Pemba Cemetery and Memorial (33).



**Tanzania.** Dar es Salaam War Cemetery (6 120 and Moshi Cemetery (65).

In the area of responsibility of the South African Agency (South Africa, Namibia and Lesotho), a number of sites with First World War graves have been identified.



*Tyne Cot Cemetery.*

## South Africa

The following cemeteries have been identified: Bloemfontein Hamilton Military Cemetery (12), Bloemfontein Rooidam Military Cemetery (77), Cape Town Maitland Cemetery (438), Cape Town Plumstead Cemetery (145), Durban Stellawood Cemetery (193), Durban Wyatt (Ordnance) Road Cemetery (81), Johannesburg Braamfontein Cemetery (13), Johannesburg Brixton Cemetery (149), Kimberley West End Cemetery (242), Port Elizabeth South End Cemetery (16), Potchefstroom Military Cemetery (93), Pretoria Rebecca Street Cemetery (46), Simon's Town Dido Valley Naval Cemetery (77) and Thaba Tshwane Old No 1 Cemetery (163).

There is also a memorial on the outskirts of Kakamas, where seven German soldiers are commemorated. This is not part of the 500 identified sites, but the South African Agency will be renovating the site in preparation for the centenary commemoration and intends erecting a VIP, in both English and German.

## Namibia

The following cemeteries have been identified; Aus Military Cemetery (65),

Gibeon Station Cemetery (33), Swakopmund Municipal Cemetery (38), Trekkopje Cemetery (8), Warmbad Cemetery (22) and Windhoek Old Cemetery (90).


## Lesotho

While the memorial in Maseru is not on the official list of 500 sites, the South African Agency intends erecting a VIP at the site.

Of the 100 VIPs that have been erected to date, the following are important to South Africa:

**Southampton Hollybrook Memorial.** There are 113 burials from the First World War and 186 from the Second World War and almost 1 900 men and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transport or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters. A total of 715 South Africans are commemorated, most of whom are casualties from the sinking of the SS MENDI on 21 February 1917. The VIP was unveiled by the President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, on 19 February 2013. Scanning the Quick Response code on the panel reveals the heroism of The Reverend Isaac Wauchope Dyobha.

**Delville Wood Cemetery.** The Delville Wood Cemetery is close to the South African National Memorial at Delville Wood in France and the VIPs at the cemetery were unveiled during November 2013. Scanning the Quick Response on this panel reveals the personal stories of many South Africans.

On 04 August 2014, St Symphorien Military Cemetery, near Mons in Belgium, will host one of the first events to mark the Centenary of the First World War. As the final resting place of both the first and last Commonwealth casualties of the Western Front, and almost equal number of Commonwealth and German war dead, the decision to open commemorations here is significant. It also brings the work of the Commission into sharp focus; our cemeteries and memorials will be a focal point for international and private acts of remembrance from the very start of the four-year period. 





# 7 Signal Group's Participation in the 2014 Rand Show

*By: Maj L.D. Ferguson and WO2 J. de Kock*

*Photographs by: Cpl G. Schoeman*

**7** Signal Group is a vibrant Reserve Force unit based at "The Garrison" in Kensington, Johannesburg. The group will be celebrating its 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 27 November 2014. However, the lineage of this group dates back through various name changes to 1934, with the formation of 5 Brigade Signal Company; a span of service to this city and country that dates back some 80 years.



The unit has participated in numerous exercises at the Combat Training Centre and still supports 46 SA Bde for the annual Exercise Seboka at the same training area. Apart from that, the unit gives signal support to other Reserve Force Infantry units in both their internal and external deployments. Unit members also offer annual support to Gauteng-based civic and military remembrance and Regimental parades. Unit members participate in internal continuation training exercises, as well as in training exercises with other Chief Reserve Force units.

In the near future, "The Garrison" will be redesignated "Fort Igoli" and will become the nodal point for all the Reserve Force units in the Gauteng area. The mandate for 7 Signal Group will extend to providing a comcen and ops room for all of these Johannesburg-based Regiments and units falling under this nodal pointing.

As the sole Reserve Force Signals unit based in Gauteng, this unit's HQ has been based in Johannesburg for the past 39 years. Its members have been drawn from the greater Johannesburg area. Thus it is these members stationed in Johannesburg that have contributed and continue to contribute to

the peace and protection of this area, as well as of our country as a whole, for a period of some 80 years and into the future.

That future was initiated in 2013 with the off-the-street recruiting of 25 members who did Basic Military Training and Platoon Weapons Training at Infantry School, followed by the R13 Course at the School of Signals in order to guarantee the rejuvenation of the unit. The majority of those members have just concluded predeployment prior to their deployment for Ops Corona.

The unit is currently recruiting for a further off-the-street intake in early 2015 and, as such, this was one of the reasons why we participated in the 2014 Rand Show.

The SANDF's participation in the 2014 Rand Show was widely advertised and televised in 2014. The SANDF flexed its muscles for this bigger and bolder show for the period 18 – 28 April 2014, with the visitors agreeing that it had definitely improved over the past 3 years.

One of these Reserve Force units participating in the Rand Easter Show for the first time in 2014 was 7 Signals Group. 7 Signals Group participated in a tent in the outdoor display under the auspices of the SA Army Signal Formation, together with Gauteng Signal Unit, the School of Signals and 3 Electronic Workshop. The display detailed the core tasks of the Signals Formation – provision of communication and power to the SA Army. The demon-





strations on field power had many a visitor in awe when the safety of the power was displayed with an underwater globe being changed by Gauteng Signal Unit Communicators. The School of Signals exhibited its training expertise with a large screen presentation. 3 Electronic Workshop displayed its power supply equipment and technologies utilised to tune or repair the signal and power equipment.

7 Signals Group displayed its signals equipment “then and now” to demonstrate the rich history this Reserve Force unit has. Many an “ou man” from the border war reminisced over stories about the old generation radios such as the TR15 Base station and the A55 Man-pack radios. Although many ex-Signallers knew the old radios, it was a privilege to introduce them to the newer signal equipment unfamiliar to them, the C21 Base/Vehicle installation, the B46 Base/Vehicle installation and the A43 Man-pack radios. The 7 Signals operator “Jimmy” showed all visitors how a man-pack was carried as well as the daily operational rations in the form of a ration pack or “Ratpack”.



*Static display with “new generation” equipment, together with SANDF publications. (NB. The Communicators noted that “The Reserve Force Volunteer” was the most popular of the publications. That explains why there are no copies left on the table!)*



*7 Signal Group Communicators: WO2 J de Kock, L/Cpl B Mogatusi, Sgt Thapa (2 Signal Regt), L/Cpl M. Makhuba, L/Cpl M Koaho, Smn Maishoane, Sgt S Nkejane.*

Each visitor was taken on a journey through the life and day of a Signaller in the field through the generations. The 7 Signals Communicators enjoyed accompanying all the visitors on this journey, sharing with some their experiences and memories.



*Minister Mapisa-Nqakula inspecting the parade.*

## OPENING

The opening of the show was graced by a parade by the National Ceremonial Guard and Band, supported by a fly-past from the SAAF. The parade was inspected by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Nolutando Mapisa-Nqakula.



## PARTICIPATION BY OTHER RESERVE FORCE UNITS

### WITWATERSRAND RIFLES

Witwatersrand Rifles, a traditional Reserve Force, Johannesburg-based, mechanised Infantry Regiment in the SA Army conventional reserve, participated in the show with a static display of their Ratel 20 ICV, assisted by Reserve Force Communicators from their HQ in Johannesburg.



*"Wit" Rifles Communicators interacted with the visitors and explained the characteristics of their static display. The children thought the display was really "cool"!*

### 11 FIELD POSTAL UNIT



11 Field Postal Unit also participated in the show with an information stand in the SANDF main hall, where its communicators explained to visitors the good work its members do in supplying postal mail to all those SANDF members, Regular Force and

Reserve Force, who are deployed externally in Africa or participating in large SANDF exercises.

#### Some facts about 11 Field Postal Unit

The unit was established in 1964 with 11 initial members. It is dedicated to providing an efficient field postal service to the SANDF and its members,

wherever they may be deployed, during operations and/or large-scale field exercises. All reserves called up for service at field post offices are full-time employees, or previous employees, of the SA Post Office. A total of 25 employees of the SA Post Office did Basic Military Training at 3 SAI Bn in 2011 in order to guarantee the rejuvenation of the unit.

11 Field Postal Unit is situated at AFB Waterkloof in Pretoria and its HQ is the heartbeat of the unit's operations and its main dispatching hub. Currently, the unit serves members deployed in the various Peacekeeping Missions in Africa. The unit handled 246 tons of post in the Financial Year 2011/12. A total of 118 tons of post was handled in the Financial Year 2012/13. The DOD provides postal fees for our soldiers' out-going mail. In the previous financial year, the amount of R610 876 was spent. This year, a total of R356 834 has been spent. There are eight Field Post Offices in operation in Africa. They are the following:

- FPO 31: Munigi Base, Goma (DRC)
- FPO 312: Goma (DRC)
- FPO 313: Likasi, Lumbumbashi (DRC)
- FPO 33: Kinshasa (DRC)
- FPO 34: El Fasher (the Sudan)
- FPO 341: Mellit (the Sudan)
- FPO 35: Bangui (CAR)

The unit is manned exclusively by Reserve Force members employed by the SA Post Office. The SA Post Office is the only organisation that allows its members to do Reserve duties whilst remunerating them. Without the support of the SA Post Office, the unit would not be able to perform its important tasks.

### CLOSURE

The SANDF participation in the show officially ended with an address to all the SA Army participants by the Chief of the SA Army, Lieutenant General Vusi Masondo. 🌀





# An Artillery Compendium

## Book by: Col (Rtd) L. Crook

*(Compendium: A concise summary; an abridgement)*

It began many years ago – in 1973 to be more precise. The Artillery Symposium in that year looked with a little puzzlement at the mixture of names and numbers of the seven existing field regiments. Tradition was almost thrown out of the window at that stage. Common sense prevailed and the junior officer present was 'requested' to investigate and report on the historical background and reasons for the unusual mixture of titles carried by the units concerned. The investigation was quickly completed.

But it had been an interesting exercise and thought of it remained in mind. Forgotten at first but later, with a renewed modicum of interest, investigation and research slowly began and data was recorded whenever discovered. And it has resulted, in 2014, in more than five hundred titles of artillery units on roughly four hundred typed pages.

Brief histories of all the artillery units that have served the governments of the day since 1857 are included: the Volunteers of the Cape Colony; the militia of the Colony of Natal; Het Artillerie van den Oranje Vrystaat in the Orange Free State and the Staatsartillerie van de Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek to their north; the new Transvaal Colony, the Union Defence Forces; the South African Defence Force and those that still exist in today's South African National Defence Force.

The pages contain all the various groups of field branch artillery that were taught

during courses at the School of Artillery in the 1950s – light, field, medium, heavy, antitank, mountain, etc., all of them somewhat mythical to a junior officer at that time. The apparent multiplicity of units was learnt by rote and duly recorded in the theoretical portion of promotion examinations. It was not, however, fact – there were only field and medium regiments in the South African Artillery Corps, although there was from 1946 also a strange 'thing, called an observation battery and it had a sound-ranging base that never seemed to be operational. Very few knew what its function was. But there were also the largely unknown antiaircraft units and, as for coast artillery – well, what was their function in the Defence Forces? They were always conveniently ignored.

Research for the compendium opened the eyes of the author to the multiplicity of units, and the range of different types of artillery units is somewhat fascinating. Even in the early days of producing the lists of units, the late Lieutenant General FEC (Frans) van den Berg – who knew more about the subject than most – was astounded at what he was presented with...

Light, field, medium, heavy, antitank, mortar, mountain, pack, rocket and locating (no longer Observation), they are all there. The compendium includes the air defence units which were, at different times, to be found in the SA Artillery, the SA Air Force and even in the SA Corps of Marines before being transferred



back to the SA Artillery and, much later, to become an independent Air Defence Corps. Coast artillery, a branch of the corps which has been long forgotten and has almost faded into obscurity, is also featured. The coast artillery batteries and the fixed defences that resorted under them also moved from under command of the Corps of Artillery to the SA Corps of Marines and finally ended as shore establishments of the SA Navy. Their heavily-built emplacements may still be found around our coasts.

Not forgotten are the Generals of the Artillery, Honorary Gunners, Formation Commanders and Directors Artillery (both Field and Air Defence), and the Schools, Training Institutions and Depots – Field, Air Defence and Coast. There is much more.

Last, but not least, the final section of the work covers the field and heavy units of the Imperial Service Contingent. Personnel were recruited by the Union Defence Forces but were paid and fought in France and Flanders, East Africa and Palestine as units of the British Army, suffering a large number of casualties in the process, but adding tremendous prestige to the name: South African Artillery.


The titles of units include all the changes in designations that most units have suffered from the time of their establishment. One unit has, over the years, had twelve different titles, so it is quite obvious, when one boils it down, that the number of titles versus the number of actual units differs considerably. The numbers and types of artillery units will, however, probably be a surprise to many.

Some units take enormous pride in their heritage, and details of commanding officers and

RSMs are meticulously recorded. Full particulars of changes in dress, heraldry, training and operations, and social life were included in annual History Returns provided by these proud regiments. The Returns have provided much of the information used but there are units that gave nothing but the bare bones and some, even less; so the brief stories of units vary from a few lines to a page or two per unit. Sadly, apart from only one unit – and it is not a gunner unit – no annual returns have been completed since the mid-1990s.

There are some surprises in its pages : who would have thought that many years ago, the Cape Mounted Riflemen (with a couple of gunners in the team) won the football Currie Cup; or even that one Cape Town coast artillery unit had a 15-inch gunned naval ship as a battery; and that in 1940, when war was declared against Germany with its fast-moving mobile blitzkrieg, the SA Artillery included a newly formed horse-drawn mortar battery, complete with Pirow bush-carts that could be heard rattling along a road more than a mile away.

It is hoped that the SA Navy will be persuaded to print the compendium, otherwise a sponsor will have to be found so that it can be published in 2014.

One chapter has been omitted. It listed the evolution of artillery ranks, of current alliances, artillery bands, regimental marches, and mottoes, regimental journals/ newspapers, battle casualties, the artillery colour code, salutes by gunfire, the memorial guns that were taken off their pedestals and went to war once again – and much more. It would have made the book unwieldy. Perhaps it could be published later as “A Book for Gunners”. 



# Cape Town Rifles Call the Shots


Article and photographs by: Capt John Manning

**S**kill-at-arms is the primary competency of a front-line soldier, and for the infanteer this translates into proficiency with the R4 rifle. Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) recently consolidated their position as the premier Western Cape Reserve Force unit in this discipline. Returning from a successful SA Army Gold Cup competition in Bloemfontein in March 2014, during which their 8-man mixed team placed a credible seventh against more specialised competitor teams, and L/Cpl Thandi Viti brought home the trophy for best female shot in the SA Army, CTR closed the season at the Western Province Championships with some even more impressive performances.

Held at the Good Hope Shooting Range in Atlantis over 24–26 April 2014, the WP Championship drew almost 100 entrants from five provinces representing the SANDF, SAPS and Correctional Services. CTR were the only Reserve Force unit to compete, and fielded a foursome in the form of Capt John Manning, WOII Pieter Groenewald, Cpl Aniesha De Bruin and L/Cpl Thandi Viti. Friday 25 April, the day on which the individual matches were to be shot, dawned clear and crisp with a westerly too weak to draw even a wispy cover over Lions Head, standing guard over the Mother City just across the still waters of Table Bay. Taking full advantage of the fine conditions, the four CTR shots, all of whom are active in various unit functions, amassed a grand total of sixteen individual medals for the day, including 3<sup>rd</sup> placed female shot to L/Cpl Viti. The provincial and national competitions, unlike the Gold Cup competition, include provision for rifles fitted with telescopic sights. This raises the bar significantly for shots with standard iron sights, which, in our case, numbered three of our members.

Adding to our prestige, Capt Manning qualified for his Western Province 'B' Colours, joining L/Cpl Viti who received her 'B' Colours in 2010 as

the first black female in the country to qualify for the honour. Western Province Combat Rifle, unlike other provincial associations, requires that a shot represent the province three times before he or she qualifies for colours. Five active members of CTR now sport provincial colours.

Spirits were high the next day for the team shoots, with CTR represented in both WP 'A' and 'B' teams. The members did not disappoint, and WP 'A' took the championship, with Free State edging WP 'B' into an honourable third place. This was not the end, however, and CTR closed the day with arguably their most impressive performance of all in the 4-man competition. Stepping up to the firing point with just a single telescopic sight among them, the CTR team pulled off an almost unbelievable feat by taking the top spot against 10 other teams, several of whom had three and even four telescopic sights in their teams. This extraordinary victory, achieved through a combination of individual dedication, skilled coaching by SWO Pedro Dias Lobo, and good fortune on the day, cements the regiment's position as the top musketry unit in the SANDF in the Western Cape, and confirms that this is a discipline in which all soldiers can aspire to excel. 



*Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) 8-man team at the 2014 Gold Cup Competition. Back row (l to r): Rfn Nkibi, L/Cpl Pienaar, S/Sgt Gibbons (Coach), L/Cpl Viti, Rfn Mjacu, Cpl Philander, Cpl De Bruin; Front row (l to r): L/Cpl Wadriif, Capt Manning, WO2 Cairns (Captain).*





# Regiment De La Rey – Conventional Infantry Reserve Force Unit in the North West Province

*By: Mr Kabelo Tsogang, SA Soldier Intern*

*Photograph by: Mr Kabelo Tsogang*



*Regiment De La Rey entrance board.*

**A**fter Commando units (SA Army Territorial Reserves) of North West Province were phased out in 2004, Regiment De La Rey became the nodal point for commando members wishing to become Reserve Force members, in one of the SA Army Conventional Regiments. Since 2009, Regiment De La Rey has received more than 150 MSDS Reserves. It remains an active Reserve Force unit, ensuring that its members are well trained and prepared to supplement the Regular Force in terms of internal and external deployments, providing redeployment training, guard duties and continuation training. Despite the fact that budget constraints continue to impact on the Reserves, the role and commitment of Reserve Force members are, however, not in doubt.

Regiment De La Rey annually conducts a successful Young Lions programme, which was instituted in the SA Army to orientate learners during school holidays about life skills, leadership, team work, discipline and the role of the SA Army. The maintenance of military standards and discipline ensures that the military is, at all times, prepared for and capable

of undertaking its primary tasks and the successful conduct of military operations. Discipline permeates all aspects of military life; it is the force that guides the ethical and moral behaviours of soldiers during both combat and peacetime.

Regiment De La Rey was called up for active duties and was externally deployed to the DRC in 2005 and 2010. It is currently deployed in the Sudan with 7 SAI Bn. RDLR enhances diversity, is a combat-ready both motorised and mechanised infantry regiment with a core competency of landward capability of the infantry Formation and the SANDF.

Regiment De La Rey Officer Commanding, Lt Col S.G. Mokoma and Regimental Sergeant Major WO2 J. Matho exhibit leadership and enthusiasm that inspire soldiers in the unit. They inculcate military professionalism. Their good conduct and discipline are beyond reproach. Discipline is the backbone of the efficiency of an army; no changes in methods of warfare or in scientific developments will affect this truth. ⚙️



# Newly Appointed RSM of Kimberley Regiment

*Article and photograph by: Cpln L.S.F. Motlhaudi, Cpln Kimberley Regiment*



*RSM Ramonne Jopa Khunou.*

**O**n 10 February 2014, Kimberley Regiment welcomed the newly appointed RSM, WO2 Ramonne Jopa Khunou. RSM Khunou was born on 18 September 1960 in a village called Bapong 2, situated outside Rustenburg in the North

West province. He completed his high school education at Semetsa High School in Bapong 2. He served in the former Bophuthatswana Defence Force from 17 February 1977 to 26 April 1994. RSM Khunou joined the SANDF for the period 31 April 1995 to 31 October 1997. He has served in the following SANDF units: 10 SAI Bn in Mahikeng, Base Ordnance Depot in Tshwane, and Joint Tactical Headquarters North West in Mahikeng.

RSM Khunou enlisted as a Reserve Force member on 15 January 2008 and served at Regiment De la Rey in Potchefstroom. During his service in the military, he acquired in-depth knowledge of his work, values and ethical trends in the Defence Force. The unit's OC, Lt Col K.D. Williams, and the members of Kimberley Regiment welcomed RSM Khunou to the unit. ⚙

## Tribute to the Kimberley Regiment Member who Paid the Highest Price

*Article and photograph by: Cpln L.S.F. Motlhaudi, Cpln Kimberley Regiment*

**P**te Matlhomola Charles Monyamane, a former member of Kimberley Regiment, was called to higher service on 11 May 2014 in Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal, where he was deployed with 10 SAI Bn. He was born on 19 March 1971 in Galeshewe, Kimberley, and attended Tlhomelang Secondary School, where he completed Grade 11.

Pte Monyamane was a former voluntary serviceman and served at 3 SAI Bn from 1992 to 1993. He enlisted as a Reserve Force member at Kimberley Regiment in 1997 and was utilised at the QM stores. Monyamane was part of Kimberley Regi-

ment's detachment with 10 SAI Bn in Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal, where he met his untimely death due to a motor vehicle accident on Sunday 11 May 2014 while on active duty. He is survived by his mother, five brothers and two children – a son and a daughter.

He will be sorely missed.  
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE. ⚙



*Pte Matlhomola Charles Monyamane.*



# Operation UXOLO: Cape Field Artillery at QUNU

*Article and photograph by: Col (Rtd) L. Crook and Maj D. Coetzee*

**T**he Salute Troop of the Cape Field Artillery had the honour, together with a troop from the Light Regiment, Potchefstroom, of firing two 21-gun salutes at the funeral of the late Nelson Mandela at Qunu in the Eastern Province on 15 December 2013.



*Cape Field Artillery personnel in Dress No. 1, firing a 21-gun salute.*

Urgent orders were received by the commanding officer, Lt Col CA 'Kees' de Haan, on Friday, 6 December 2013, and well-tryed and practiced procedures were immediately put in place. Troops were called up. Vehicles and ammunition had already been organised following a warning order in mid-year. Rounds had been in the unit's magazine since then, but now vehicles were again checked and serviced. Meanwhile, a movement order was prepared and typed. Arrangements were made for accommodation at Fort iKapa (where the unit is headquartered), at Oudtshoorn and Port Elizabeth. The headquarters at Fort iKapa was a bustle of ordered activity, while preparations were in progress for the journey to the Eastern Province.

A final order group was held at midday on Sunday, 8 December 2013, and, at 02:20 on Monday, four gun tractors, guns and support vehicles, under the command of Captain Leon Carstens, quietly departed, leaving the headquarters and swinging through the quiet suburb of Goodwood., With the long journey before it, the convoy moved to the N1 and thence the R62 en route to its first major stop at Oudtshoorn. There the vehicles were refueled

before the convoy moved via Long Kloof to Port Elizabeth, where it remained overnight. The next morning saw the convoy move via East London before arriving at Qunu in the afternoon of Tuesday, 10 December.

At Qunu, the Cape Field Artillery joined the military contingent that was already there. Personnel found the weather cold and very wet during the time that they were there but, together with the Light Regiment, practice drills were held and, on 15 December, with all personnel in Dress No.1, the two 21-gun salutes were fired, one as the cortège moved to the burial site and the second as the first President of a democratic South Africa was laid to rest. After cleaning guns, rest and sleep were the order of the day. And then it was back to Cape Town via the same route, the convoy leaving Qunu at 03:00 on Monday, 16 December, and arriving back at the Regiment's headquarters at 20:00 on Tuesday, 17 December 2013.

Major Dalene Coetzee, assisted by six other members of the unit, including Warrant Officer Bill Hennings, manned a 24-hour operations room at the Regiment's headquarters, and every two hours was provided with progress reports by a Reaction Force platoon attached to the Troop. It was a rather emotional moment when the Salute Troop returned and was safely back at Fort iKapa.

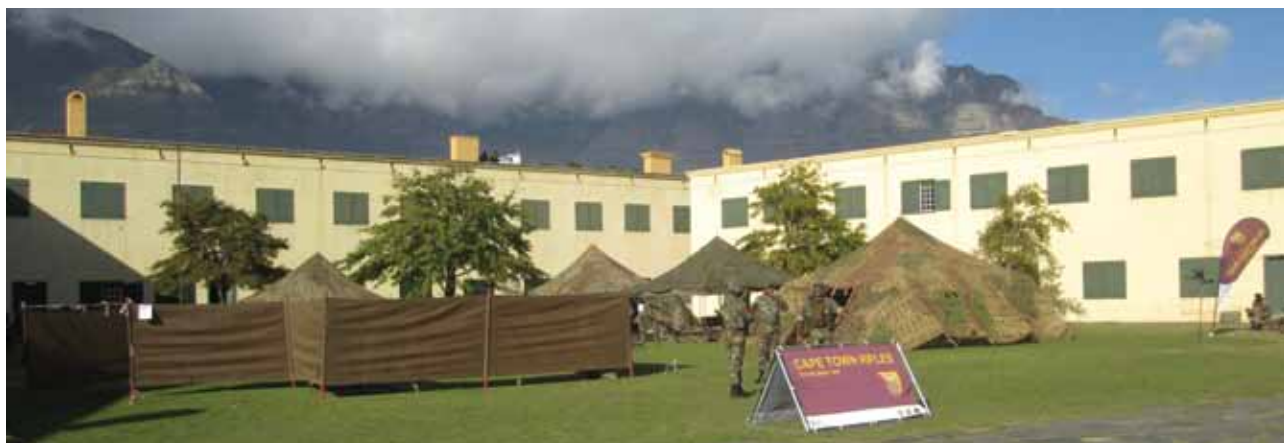
It was one of a few long journeys the regiment has made. The first was in 1974, when Major Ian McKinney, then second-in-command, took a convoy of eight tractors and guns with support vehicles from Cape Town to Potchefstroom, returning with replacement guns that had been calibrated. Other, similar journeys have been made. In 2012, the Salute Troop travelled to Grahamstown, where it fired a 21-gun salute during a visit by President Zuma; and it went to the Eastern Cape once again in 2013 to fire a 21-gun salute when the President attended the Heritage Day celebrations. 





# A Fire Base for Freedom Day

*Article and photograph by: Capt John Manning, Cape Town Rifles*



*The mock fire base erected by Cape Town Rifles at the Castle of Good Hope for the 2014 Freedom Day Celebrations.*

**T**he 2014 Freedom Day Celebrations in Cape Town were centred on the Castle of Good Hope, diagonally opposite the City Hall and the balcony from which Mr Nelson Mandela delivered his historic address to the people of South Africa on 11 February 1990. The Castle of Good Hope has had a continuous military presence for over 350 years, and has been the centre of Cape Town's military and cultural life for much of the time since its completion in 1678. It still houses the regional headquarters of the South African Army in the Western Cape, as well as the ceremonial facilities of Cape Town's traditional regiments. The oldest of these regiments, Cape Town Rifles (Dukes), provided the centrepiece for the Freedom Day Celebrations over the weekend 26/27 April 2014.

A forward fire base, recreated in perfect detail on the "Wapenplaats" courtyard, transported visitors from the peace of central Cape Town to the action of the frontline. Camouflaged tents, complete with equipment and furnishings, showcased an Ops Room (radios and signallers supplied by 71 Signals Regiment), sleeping quarters, and a field kitchen.

A field ablution facility provided more intimate details. Sandbagged bunkers completed the

recreation: a central mortar pit with an 81 mm mortar for base protection and four corner bunkers with LMGs for further base protection.

Members of CTR were on hand to demonstrate the workings of the exhibits, bringing the ordered bustle of a forward military base to life, and providing the fascinated public with a glimpse of the lives that the uniformed members of our country lead at the front.

The CTR field base was the star of the show, drawing local and foreign visitors alike into the military ambience. The intense curiosity of the children struck Lt Cyril Roode, the officer in charge, especially strongly: 'The field beds and the personal battle equipment were most exciting to them. People were also amazed at the demonstration of battle planning – the way we could bring the battles to life in front of them.'

The brainchild of CTR 2IC, Maj Steve Brimacombe, with immediate support from the OC, Lt Col Francois Marais, the recreated field base set a new standard for static exhibits, taking the public into the heart of the workings of Cape Town Rifles and the SANDF. They responded enthusiastically to the opportunity. ⚙️



# Lessons learnt in the training and development of South African Army Armour Reserve Force Members: The S-Curve Theory and the Strategic Implementation of the ETD Plan

*Article and photograph by: Lt Col Philip Coetzer,  
SO1 Reserves South African Army Armour Formation*

## BACKGROUND

In previous articles, reference was made to progress made and lessons learnt at the SA Army Armour Formation, especially with regard to education, training and development (ETD). Several “but” questions were asked. To be honest with ourselves, the newly announced ETD for Reserves had to be scrutinised to determine whether it is useful and can improve effectiveness. It was decided that the new ETD for Reserves was welcome and could be a breakthrough in realising the One-Force Concept further. The Armour Formation is looking forward to its implementation.



The so-called assessment of weaknesses and threats, as well as the identification of strengths and opportunities as part of strategic planning, is generally well-known. Strategic planning must not stop here, however. It is only the basis for considering several options. When the so-called SWOT exercise has been done, the weaknesses and threats should be grouped and the energy/inputs required to address these should be categorised as “reactive energy” or ER. Next, the strengths and opportunities and energy required for them can be categorised as “proactive energy” or EP.

## SUCCESSES OF THE STRATEGIC ETD PLAN

One of the greater challenges, when it comes to the implementation of new systems, is the monitoring of the strategic plan: The “but” question that should be asked is, “How can we determine the possible dangers of any course of action, considering the pitfalls of strategic plan monitoring?”

## S-CURVE UTILISATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Often, strategic plans are made *ad nauseam*. Days are spent planning and sketching scenarios, only to realise after a year or so that no substantial progress is noticeable after much blood, sweat and inputs have gone into making the new strategic plans.

The use of the S-curve theory, including its role in facilitating the strategic implementation of a plan within the ETD scenario, is possible and is elucidated below.

Eventually, over a period, more energy should be expended in the proactive aspects (strengths and opportunities) and relatively less in the reactive aspects (weaknesses and threats). If it is the other way round, it is often found that progress in implementing the strategic plan is not noticeable.

In the Armour Formation, it was soon evident that progress with the Strategic ETD plan became noticeable only after inputs regarding the proactive elements (EP) exceeded the reactive elements (ER). As soon as that happened, good progress became noticeable.

Based on the EP and ER inputs, we can now predict when progress with implementing the Strategic ETD Plan will be noticeable. It is



when the EP line and the ER line cross on the so-called S-curve model! According to Figure 1, success with implementing the Strategic ETD Plan is indeed possible.

Figure 1 shows that two S-curves can be used to indicate inputs for the Strategic ETD Plan over a period of time. According to this, the so-called EP and ER inputs are indicated from the moment the EP and ER S-curves cross each other, and progress with the Strategic ETD Plan will be more easily noticeable. Thus, the longer it takes for the EP to cross the ER line, the more patience and management support should be exercised.

The use of the S-curve in strategic ETD planning has merit, because it enables strategic planners to manage the EP and ER energies required meaningfully without necessarily taking risks with regard to the implementation of the ETD plan.

### IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS IN THE SA RESERVE FORCE

If we argue that the sole purpose of an ETD system is to transfer knowledge and skills and that not only the knowledge to be transferred but also the method of transferring this knowledge changes constantly, the question is whether the demonstrated applications of the S-curve theory have benefits over other business development theories. If we further argue that a system, especially an ETD system, should be seen as a continuous cycle and not necessarily something with a beginning and an end, the question again is whether the S-curve theory really holds ground.

Must the application of the S-curve theory be seen as a

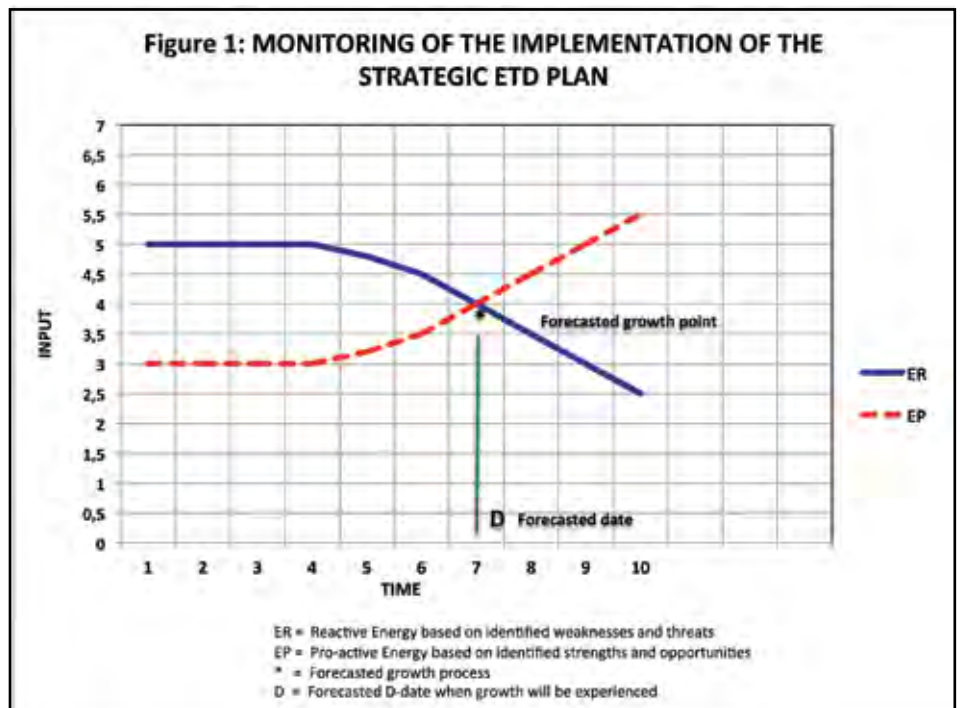


Figure 1: Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic ETD Plan.

supportive tool, or is it more than that? Does the S-curve theory indicate when to invest in new technology and do away with the current one? Does it give an indication of what new technology will look like and by when it will be introduced? No, no single theory can do that!

We have seen that application of the S-curve theory indicates the need to watch out for technological incongruities. It also indicates the necessity for strategic alignment when productivity gains decline. In the Army Formation, a good start has been made with creating a conceptual and theoretical basis for further management of the training and development of an armour reserve force.

One of the demonstrated applications of the S-curve theory is to monitor and evaluate further development and implementation of the ETD system focussing on the reactive (ER) and proactive (EP) energy elements. The illustrated practical application of the S-curve complements the conceptual and theoretical basis required for the further development of Reserves.

Back to the question as to whether application of the S-curve theory has benefits. We would like to agree and say "YES, definitely!" 🌀





# Conferring the Freedom of Entry into the City of Pietermaritzburg on the Umvoti Mounted Rifles

By: Cpl Ally Rakoma and Ms Thuli Ntuli, intern at SA Soldier

Photograph by: Sgt Elias Mahuma


**O**n 15 May 2014 members of the Umvoti Mounted Rifles from KwaZulu-Natal and 1 Special Service Battalion from Bloemfontein paraded through the streets of Pietermaritzburg with pipes playing, drums beating, regimental colours flying, fixed bayonets and armoured vehicles which made their way around the City Hall.

The parade was in honour of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Umvoti Mounted Rifles, an SA Army Armour Formation Reserve Force unit in KwaZulu-Natal. The Umvoti Mounted Rifles is one of the oldest regiments in the SA National Defence Force and it stands proud as the only SA Army Armoured Car Regiment in KwaZulu-Natal. In his speech Councillor Chris Ndlela, the Mayor of Msunduzi Local Municipality, expressed his pride and said that the Municipality was proud to have taken a council resolution to grant the Umvoti Mounted Rifles freedom of entry into the city of Pietermaritzburg. He said: "You are an inspiring sight. It is rare to see such practised and perfect discipline these days."

He added that a celebration of this magnitude marked a huge milestone. Councillor Ndlela said: "Seeing you march here today I realise that I am looking at something very different to an old building or what you read about in a book or brochure. I am looking at history brought to life by real live people in an extremely powerful, vibrant and unique way."

On accepting the Freedom of Entry into Pietermaritzburg, the Officer Commanding of the Umvoti Mounted Rifles, Lt Col Pat Titlestad, thanked the Council for the symbolic gesture of trust bestowed upon the Regiment. He said: "We serve as citizens and volunteers; over the years we have stood the test of time. Thank you for a symbolic token of appreciation and making us part of the city." In recognition of the services rendered to the city in particular and the country in general, and as a sign of gratitude, the Regiment received its scroll of the Freedom of Entry into the City of Pietermaritzburg.

The event was concluded with a retreat parade at the Pietermaritzburg Royal Agricultural Showgrounds. As part of the customs and traditions of the SA Army Armoured Corps, the Flame of Armour was lit. It inspires members of the Armoured Corps to stand firm and proud and symbolises their inextinguishable spirit and energy.

Brig Gen André Retief, the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Armour Formation, thanked the Council and citizens of Pietermaritzburg for the honour bestowed upon the Umvoti Mounted Rifles on its 150-year birthday celebrations and for granting the freedom of entry into the area of its jurisdiction. He added that the tradition and close mutual working relationship with the city and the community would carry on. 



*Councillor Chris Ndlela, the Mayor of Msunduzi Local Municipality, inspecting the parade led by the aides de camp, Capt Jabu Mngadi (left), and Capt Jim Gregory, accompanied by the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Armour Formation, Brig Gen André Retief (back, left), and the Officer Commanding of the Umvoti Mounted Rifles, Lt Col Pat Titlestad.*



# SA Army Support Formation Reserve Force Symposium

*By: Col Ngeleza and Steve Maleka, SA Army Support Formation Reserve*

**T**he SA Army support Formation Symposium was held over period 18-19 June 2014 at Reserve Airborne Nodal Point, Old NCG base in ThabaTshane.

The aim of the symposium was to discuss the way forward and the future of the Reserve Force in the SA Army Support Formation as part of the future Strategy and Project Phoenix.

The delegates expressed their delight with the content and the facilitation of the two day symposium. A number of challenges hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of processes were identified and analysed. These were listed for action and implementation within a stipulated timeframe.

The symposium was attended by the Reserve Units' Officers Commanding, Regimental Sergeant Majors and HR Personnel Officers.



*Capt L.D. Matsabu passionately expresses his opinion on OC's challenges.*

## **The following units were represented:**

- 44 Maintenance Unit
- 31 Field Workshop
- 32 Field Workshop
- 71 Field Workshop
- 11 Maintenance Unit
- 4 Maintenance Unit
- 19 Maintenance Unit
- 15 Maintenance Unit
- 30 Field Workshop

The SSO of SA Army Support Formation Reserves, Col Ngeleza, welcomed the delegates and Cpln Mokobake opened the symposium with scripture reading and prayer.

The symposium was characterised by various presentations by staff officers, senior officers, officers and warrant officers.

The presentations covered a variety of topics; dress code, URTP, the importance of Reserve Force regulations and compliance there with HR Planning and Budgets, Reserve Force Pay Administration, Force Preparation, Boards of Enquiry as well as a robust discussion session by a team of OCs with regards to common challenges hampering smooth operations that are being experienced at unit level. ⚙️



*Lt Col B. Ntshakisang presenting the HR Budget plan.*



# Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) Commemorated Youth Day

*Article and photograph by: Capt John Manning and Mrs Regine Lord*



*Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) presented a large donation of toys and educational games to the Friends of the Children's Hospital Association at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital on 18 June 2014 to celebrate Youth Day. L to r: Capt John Dorington, WO2 Mike Cairns, Janine Heuvel, David Stephens, Lt Col Francois Marais, RSM Daantjie Prins.*

Hospital Association (FOCHA), and his assistant Janine Heuvel. Donated by members and friends of the Regiment and the SA Legion, they will be used in the hos-

pital for therapeutic and educational purposes and gifted to needy children and parents.

The presentation was followed by a tour of one of the children's specialist wards, during which the members of the unit took the opportunity to personally present toys to some of the children and to meet members of the dedicated nursing staff.

The Friends of the Children's Hospital Association plays a critical role in supporting the social needs of patients and parents at several medical care and convalescence facilities in the Greater Cape Town Municipal area. The items donated by CTR will contribute significantly to their mission. Lt Col Francois Marais, Officer Commanding Cape Town Rifles, reiterated the commitment by the Regiment to ongoing involvement with the hospital. The Regiment currently participates in the annual Remembrance Day Service organised by the Hospital Trust and will be extending its outreach activities in the future, including a soup kitchen on Mandela Day. ⚙️



Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) commemorated Youth Day by handing over five large boxes of toys and other useful items to the Friends of the Children's Hospital Association at a small ceremony at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, Cape Town on Wednesday 18 June 2014. The initiative is part of the Regiment's ongoing social responsibility programme with the hospital. The hospital was opened in 1956 through public subscription as a memorial to the soldiers who lost their lives during World War II. Members of the Regiment were among these original donors. The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital is South Africa's only dedicated child health institution and offers a comprehensive range of specialist paediatric services to children.

The soft toys, stimulating board and card games, colourful puzzles and learning games, pretty dolls, and helpful items of clothing collected by the Regiment were handed over to David Stephens, the Executive Director of the Friends of the Children's



Speech by the Executive Deputy Mayor of Cape Town,  
Alderman Ian Neilson, at the

## Gunners' Memorial Service, Company Gardens, Cape Town

16 March 2014

I am delighted to be afforded the opportunity to address you again this morning at this year's Gunners' Memorial Service.

Each year, we gather to remember and honour those that believed in, and were willing to fight for, the free and democratic space we are privileged to live in today. That struggle has spanned many continents and many generations.

And that is why it is important to take a brief moment, as we stand with one another today, to remember and reflect.

Each year we move further away from the reality of the Second World War, after which the Gunners' Association was founded.

Each year it becomes easier to forget.

And yet, each year it becomes increasingly important to remember.

Not just for the sake of acknowledgement and the debt we owe, but because there remain fundamental lessons that emerged from that terrible time that are as valid today as they were ever before.

Perhaps the most important lesson of all is that freedom should never be taken for granted and that we must be constantly vigilant if we are to protect our hard-won liberties.

The Gunners' Association is part of the proverbial glue that binds those that have tales from those days of war – tales of great sadness and sacrifice but also tales of bravery, honour and victory.

The City of Cape Town is lucky to be the host city of an organisation that stands for such values and ideals.

The Gunners' Association and bodies like it are a good reflection of where we are going as a city administration.

We have recently changed our corporate identity and decided to build on our successes as the "City that works for you" and project a new chapter of government, citizens, and the private sector working together to improve the lives of all citizens, that is, we have moved away from a passive government – citizen relationship to one of partnership and shared responsibility.

We want to make progress possible together.

And that is why it is so pleasing that we can support an organisation such as this one.

The Western Province Branch proactively raises funds through golf days, theatre, annual subscriptions and donations. It also monitors the over 400-member base in the Western Province to determine which members are most in need.





*L to r: Gnr D. Hoole, National Chairman Gunners' Association; Col L.A. Puckree, SSO Force Preparation, SA Army ADA Fmn; Brig Gen G. Hohzhausen, GOC Artillery Formation; Gnr K. Ashton, Chairman Western Cape Branch-Gunners' Association; Alderman Ian Neilson, Executive Deputy Mayor of Cape Town; Lt Gen (Rtd) P. du Preez, National President Gunners' Association; Maj Gen R.C. Andersen, General of the Gunners; Col (Rtd) L. Crook, National Deputy President, Gunners' Association.*

It is certainly in keeping with our vision of a shared responsibility for mutual success when the Association offers, amongst other things, bursaries to gunners and their families to further study and when it cares for the city's veterans.


Rapid urbanisation, the legacies of racial inequality and the subsequently stretched resources mean that we need to prioritise our redress projects and make this a city that delivers to all who live here.

This means that we don't always have the necessary resources to spend on all the projects we would like.

That is why the good work the Gunners' Association does is critical for us to realise the Cape Town we all want to live in – a city that works based on our five strategic pillars of being an opportunity city, a safe city, an inclusive city, a well-run city and a caring city.

While we recall the past and honour those who served we also look to the future.

Thank you for the part you play in making our great city even greater.

Thank you very much. 



Speech by the Executive Deputy Mayor,  
Alderman Ian Neilson, on the occasion of the

## Cape Town Highlanders Exercising their Freedom of Entry into the City of Cape Town

1 March 2014

**T**he regiment we honour today – the Cape Town Highlanders – has come a long way since its formation one hundred and twenty-nine years ago.

In that time, the world has changed considerably, and not always for the better.

But the values and ideals that were in place amongst your founding officers and other ranks in 1885 appear to have remained intact and, indeed, perhaps strengthened since those far-off days.

Certainly, your regiment has been tested to the full through the many campaigns and wars in which you have been called to action.

The battle honours borne so proudly on the colours you carry through the city's streets today are testimony to the fortitude and bravery of those who have gone before you in the service of their city and country.

This year marks the centenary of the start of World War 1 – that European 'war to end all wars'. Men of the Cape Town Highlanders bravely answered the call and – as the predominant component of 4<sup>th</sup> South African infantry – fought with distinction through the horrors of many bat-

tles. Many of your comrades died there, but we will never forget their heroic deeds.


On 10 October 1967, the freedom of the City of Cape Town was formally granted to your regiment, in recognition of the years of selfless dedication to the mother city and your country.

This honour gives the Cape Town Highlanders the right to march through our streets, 'with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating'.

On behalf of the council of the City of Cape Town, I am honoured today to reaffirm your right to exercise your 'freedom of entry to the city', as part of the celebrations of your 129<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I wish your new commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Lott, well in his leadership of your regiment from today onwards.

And to the men and women of the 'CTH', I congratulate you warmly on achieving yet another milestone year and wish you God speed, great fortitude and good fortune in the years ahead.

Thank you very much. 





# Rejuvenation of the SAAF Reserves Enhanced

*By: Lt Col Frans Pale*

*Photographs by: Sgt N. Malatji*



*Lt Col Robert Molefe and SAAF Captain Myeni assisted during the presentations.*

The University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) is providing the impetus for the rejuvenation of the SA Air Force (SAAF) Reserves and there is a growing interest amongst university students to join the programme. This was clearly demonstrated during a recent recruitment presentation at the University of Pretoria, when more than 400 students attended the SAAF's recruitment campaign.

According to Lt Col Robert Molefe, URTP Coordinator (SAAF), the SAAF will now complete a paper selection from the

applications received and the selected candidates will be called up for the final selection process, which will include the psychometric and medical evaluations and personal interview.

The first group of URTP members of the SAAF was recently appointed as candidate officers and will commence with their Officer Formative Training (OFT) during the next university recess period. On completion of their OFT course these members will receive further functional training for their utilization in the SA Air Force.

Commenting on the involvement of students with the URTP, the Director Reserves of the SAAF, Brigadier General Steve Mtimkulu said the SAAF was doing everything possible to achieve the ministerial priority of the Rejuvenation of the Reserves.

"Training and development of the Reserves in the SAAF are primarily aimed at meeting the ministerial priority of the rejuvenation of the Reserves. Reserves are continually being trained to build a Reserve Force that is disciplined, capable and ready for deployment", added Brig Gen Mtimkulu.

Brig Gen Mtimkulu further indicated that although the URTP of the SAAF mainly recruited students from the University of Pretoria, the intention is to eventually offer the same opportunity to students in other regions of the country. He said "in this regard, the SAAF will continue to consolidate its relationship with all universities in the country as this augers well for military-civil relations in South Africa".



*Members of the SAAF URTP BMT Course with Maj Gen S.D. Mashobane (CD SAAF Force Preparation) and senior officers attending their certificate ceremony.*

# Curriculum Vitae of the Newly Appointed Chief of the SA Navy

*Vice Admiral M.S. Hlongwane*

**V**ice Admiral M.S. Hlongwane was born on 06 July 1962 in Frankfort (Orange Free State). He joined the African National Congress (ANC) and its military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK), in 1982, working as an underground operative, and left South Africa in September 1984 to join the ranks of Umkhonto We Sizwe in exile.

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 CaculamaMalange Province (Angola). On completion of the basic course, he was deployed at the Armoury at the base. Later, he was deployed as a security member in the regional headquarters in Luanda (Angola).

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. In November 1991, he successfully completed the Naval Ship Command Course in Navigation.

In 1991, he was appointed as Chief of Logistics in Mgagawa and Kidete Camps in Tanzania. From 1993 to 1994, he participated in the Joint Military Coordinating Committee (JMCC) as a member of the Navy work group.

After the integration of the armed



forces, he attended the Bridging and Orientation courses at the South African Naval College and the Maritime Warfare School (Combat Orientation Course).

On 1 January 1996, he was deployed to SAS UMGENI as a learner on board the vessel. On 1 January 1997, he re mustered to Maritime Intelligence (Counterintelligence 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 SSO Operations Counterintelligence (OPCI).

From 1 March 2005 to 30 March 2008, he was appointed as the South African Defence Attaché to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and The Republic of the Congo.

On 1 April 2008, he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral (JG) and appointed Chief of Fleet Staff.

Vice Admiral Hlongwane holds a diploma in Ship Command Navigation. He has successfully completed all military courses prescribed for senior officers since 1994. As such, he has successfully completed the Joint Senior Command Staff Course and the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP). ⚙️



# The South African Navy Fund

## PURPOSE OF THE NAVY FUND

The purpose of the Navy Fund is to provide benefits to its members and their dependants and to act to the advantage of the SA Navy. (Together we can do more).

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the SA Navy Fund is restricted to the following categories:

- All Naval uniformed members
- Gymnasium recruits
- PSAP serving permanently within the Navy structure
- SA naval reserve members
- Pensioners (uniformed and PSAP) and former members of the SA Navy qualify for limited membership (entitled only to holiday facilities and the Navy News magazine) at a reduced membership fee and the SA Navy Fund Continuation Umbrella policy.

## WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP OF THE NAVY FUND OFFER YOU?

At present, the Navy Fund offers the following benefits to its members:

- Group Life assurance #
- Group Funeral assurance #
- Affordable holiday facilities #
- Gratuity at retirement #
- Grants for tertiary education for members' children#
- Life assurance and short-term insurance scheme #
- Extended family benefit plan #
- Applicable to serving uniformed members, Reserve Force members and PSAP#

## GROUP LIFE ASSURANCE

In the event of a **member's death**, an amount of **R22 500-00** is payable in regards to life assurance.

## GROUP FUNERAL ASSURANCE

There are members of the SA Navy who are under the impression that funeral expenses in respect of their dependants are also paid for by the State.

This is **NOT** the case. The following benefits are offered by the SAFRICAN Group Funeral scheme (**w.e.f. 01 Nov. 2010**):

Member	R20 000-00
Spouse	R20 000-00
Child 14 – 21 yrs	R20 000-00
6 – 13 years	R10 000-00
1 – 5 years	R 5 000-00
0 – 11 months	R 3 000-00
Stillborn	R 3 000-00

**(Stillborn after 26<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy)**

## HOLIDAY FACILITIES

At present, the Navy Fund has timeshare units in the following provinces:

### Limpopo:

- Mabalingwe Nature Reserve (Bela-Bela)

### North West:

- Dikhololo (Brits)
- Magaliespark (Brits)

### Mpumalanga:

- Waterberry Hill (Hazyview)
- Sabie River Sun (Sabie)
- Kruger Park Lodge





## HOLIDAY FACILITIES (cont)

### KwaZulu-Natal:

#### North Coast:

- Chakas Rock
- La Rochelle (St Lucia)
- Cabana Beach

#### South Coast:

- St Michael's Sands & Sun-tide Illovo

#### Central Drakensberg:

- Champagne Sports

### Western Cape:

- Beacon Island Resort (Plettenberg Bay)
- Formosa Bay Villas (Plettenberg Bay)
- Garden Route Chalets (on-the-island) (Sedgefield)
- Knysna Chalets (Knysna)
- Perna-Perna (Mossel Bay)
- Strand Pavilion (Strand)
- Hermanus Beach Club (Hermanus)
- The Wilderness Dunes (Wilderness)
- The Dunes (Plettenberg Bay)

### West Coast:

- Club Mykonos and Port Owen
- Inland: Avalon Springs (Montagu)

### Eastern Cape:

- Sunshine Bay Beach Club (Jeffrey's Bay)
- Brooke's Hill (PE).

## GRANTS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION

The Board of Control of the Navy Fund can make study grants available annually to members whose children are studying at an approved tertiary training institution. Members must have been members of the Navy Fund for more than 5 years to be entitled to the full grant decided upon by the Board annually. A *pro rata* award is given to members with less than 5 years' membership.

## LIFE AND SHORT-TERM INSURANCE SCHEMES

To protect its members from exploitation by insurance agents, the Navy Fund has entered into agreements with the following life assurance companies:

- \* SANLAM
- \* METROPOLITAN
- \* OLD MUTUAL
- \* LIBERTY LIFE

The Navy Fund has also entered into agreements with the following short-term insurance companies to provide members with advantage rates associated with group schemes:

- \* APBCO

## EXTENDED FAMILY BENEFIT PLAN

Safrican Insurance Company has introduced an Extended Family Benefit Plan, which provides for a cash benefit to be paid in settlement of a death claim of an extended family member. Where a principal member wishes to take out this plan for his/her extended family member(s), the extended family member(s) must not be older than 84 years.

Benefit choices			
Category of cover	Plan A R10 000	Plan B R7 000	Plan C R5 000
Ext. family below 65 #	R35-00 *	R26-50 *	R18-00 *
Ext. family between 66-74 #	R80-00 *	R60-00 *	R40-00 *
Ext. family between 75-84 \$	No benefit	No benefit	R60-00 \$

\* Per family member, with a maximum of 6 members per policy (Only 1 policy per principal member)

# Waiting period = 6 months.

\$ Waiting period = 12 months



## UMBRELLA FUNERAL POLICY

The SA Navy Fund has entered into an agreement with Safrican Insurance Co Ltd to extend the funeral cover to Navy Fund members who have retired (and have not joined the Reserve Force), have exited by means of a package, i.e. MEM, pensioners and naval reserve members who have reached the age of 65.

Benefit choices	A	B	C
Member	R5 000	R10 000	R18 500
Spouse	R5 000	R10 000	R18 500
Children 14 – 21	R5 000	R10 000	R18 500
Children 6 – 13	R2 000	R5 000	R10 000
Children 1 – 5	R1 000	R3 000	R3 000
Children 0 -11 months	R1 000	R1 250	R2 500
Stillborn	R1 000	R1 250	R2 500
<b>Premium per month wef 01 December 2010</b>	<b>R16-90</b>	<b>R31-20</b>	<b>R47-00</b>

To qualify for the benefit, a member will be required to remain a member of the Navy Fund as a former member of the SA Navy, at a rate of R72-00 per year, payable in January of each year in advance or R6-00 per month from February to December. Members will receive six copies of the Navy News magazine annually and will be entitled to make use of timeshare accommodation.

A paid-up certificate will be issued when the principal member passes away before the spouse. No further premiums will be payable and the benefit, as selected on the original application will be paid when the spouse passes away.



## CONTACT NUMBERS

The following telephone numbers are available between 08:00 and 15:00 Mondays to Fridays. For further information, call:

**General Manager:**

**012 - 339 - 4226**

**Secretary:**

**012 - 339 - 4246**

**Facsimile:**

**012 - 339 - 4230**

## INTRANET

Full details of the SA Navy Fund are also available on the INTRANET. The SA Navy's web page is available at

**<http://mil.za:8080/>**

Scroll down to **SA NAVY**, click on **NAVY HOME PAGE** then **NAVY FUND** under **QUICKLINKS**.

## E-MAIL

You can send an e-mail to the Navy Fund using the E-mail address

**[navy.fund@sanavy.co.za](mailto:navy.fund@sanavy.co.za)**

**For more information on the SA Navy Fund, please write to:**

SA NAVY FUND  
PO BOX 6966  
PRETORIA  
0001



# Newly appointed SSO Reserve Force Chaplains

*Article and photograph by: Col (Rev) Masello Mothopeng*

Col (Rev) Tumaka Molaba was born many years ago in QwaQwa in the Free State, where he completed his matric. He moved to study theology at the University of the North and completed his studies in 1986. Later that year, he was ordained as a minister of religion.

Col Molaba then enrolled with the University of the Free State and obtained his BA Hons in Theology in 1994. He was appointed as a chaplain in 1992. He was stationed at the then 151Bn and 1 SAI Bn in Bloemfontein.

He attended and completed all required courses in Chaplaincy and the military. In 2001, he was appointed as SSO Army Chaplain Service and served in the post until 2006. He was then transferred to C J OPS in 2007 still in the post of SSO until the end of 2013, when he was transferred to the Office of Chaplain General. He is now appointed as SSO Reserve Force Chaplains.

He has vast knowledge and experience of the military and has completed the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme as well as the Executive National Security Programme. He is a dedicated person and al-



ways ensures that he delivers up to expectations. We are proud to have him as SSO Reserve Force Chaplains and know that he will always put the interests of the reserve chaplains and the organisation first.

Col Molaba is married to Madrid and blessed with three children, one boy and two girls. We wish him all the best in his new appointment. ⚙️





# Be a Blessing to Others

By: Cpln E. Sekhu, Log Support Formation

**T**he secret to having a successful and fulfilled life is to be a blessing to others. Being self-centred makes us fail to see the need for accommodating others. When this happens, something of great value dies in our inner being. This results in people not being eager to spend time in the company of others, and growing self-centredness that destroys the beauty and strength of our characters.

In order to be fulfilled, one must be surrounded by people, those that one can serve and can continue to love. It is only through loving service that one can grow spiritually and intellectually. Jesus emphasised this fact when He said: "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:25) This is a call for us to be a blessing to others. Live to be a blessing to others and you will be amazed at the quality of life you will discover. Be a blessing even to the SANDF and serve the organisation with pride and passion.



In order to have a meaningful and purposeful life, it is essential to lose ourselves in an issue which is greater than us. He said: "You have heard that it was said Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5: 43)

It is on this level of existence that Jesus Christ has revealed himself as the perfect inspiration to people like us. He said, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." (John 15:7) Strengthened by this interaction of power, we are able to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do well to those who hate us and pray for those who bear false witness against us and persecute us. In spite of negative encounters and a difficult life journey, we should remain with the purpose of fulfilling our obligation, which is that of being a blessing to others. In this way, we shall have a productive SANDF, willing to be a blessing to the citizens of the RSA. We shall finally have a peaceful South Africa, where everyone is eager to be a blessing to the other. ✨





# *In Memorium*

**We wish to express our most sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following Reserve Force members who have passed on:**

**Rfn E. Petersen**

Force No. 80587215BV  
of Cape Town Highlanders  
who passed away on  
28 October 2013

**Pte W.C. Aderjansen**

Force No. 85073591  
of Regiment Piet Retief  
who passed away on  
May 2014

**Maj L.J. Tanzawni**

Force No. 94723582BV  
of SA Army Support Formation  
who passed away on  
30 May 2014

**Pte M.C. Monyamane**

Force No. 91098368BV  
of Kimberley Regiment  
who passed away on  
11 May 2014





# What is the Military Skills Competition?

Every year the Reserve Force Council is host to the Military Skills Competition, supported by the Defence Reserves.

The competition is open to all ranks, gender and ages.

We have invited various countries to enter teams for the 2014 competition and are looking forward to observe how their skills have developed over the past few decades.

Unit commanders are urged to enter at least four members to be considered for the team prize.

**Please note:** All entries to be submitted through your unit.

## Disciplines

Rifle Shoot:

200m



Deliberate: Prone position: 10 rounds in 2 min.

Rapid: Prone position: 10 rounds in 1 min.

Wearing of helmet paratrooper is compulsory.

Dress: 4b: Long sleeves (Cammos)

Pistol Shoot:

25m



Deliberate: Standing position: 10 rounds in 2 min.

Rapid: Standing position: 10 rounds in 30 sec.

Wearing of helmet paratrooper is compulsory.

Dress: 4b: Long sleeves (Cammos)

Water Obstacle: 50m



The competitor must cross five obstacles in a lane of a 50m swimming pool as quickly as possible.

Land Obstacle: 500m



The competitor must pass over 20 obstacles on a 500m track as quickly as possible.

Dress: 4b: Long sleeves (Cammos)

Combat Run:

8km



Running the full distance over different types of terrain in as short a time as possible.

Dress: 4b: Long sleeves (Cammos)

Hand Grenade:



Throwing four grenades, ±575g, at each of four targets placed at 15m, 20m, 25m, 30m.

And three attempts to throw the grenades as far as possible. Furthest to count.

## Contacts

Reserve Force Council:

Mrs Fryer

Tel: 011 444 2843

Defence Reserves:

Col Motswadira

Tel: 012 355 6300

SA Army: Force Prep: ETD:

Lt Col Kamana

Tel: 012 355 1516

OIC MILCOMP 2014:

Lt Col J.U. van der Westhuijzen

Cell: 083 321 9356

Email: uys@cornergate.com

**Closing Date for  
Nominations  
30 September 2014**

Fax Nominations to:

Lt Col Kamana: 012 355 1570

E-mail nominations to:

Lt Col Van der Westhuijzen:

uys@cornergate.com

Website: [www.rfdiv.mil.za](http://www.rfdiv.mil.za)



Prove YOU are  
THE Complete Soldier!

MILCOMP 2014  
MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

20 - 25 October Potchefstroom