

THE UNIVERSITY RESERVE TRAINING PROGRAMME THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY ROLL-OUT THEIR PILOT BASIC MILITARY TRAINING IN THE FREE STATE

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Following the South African Army's announcement in March 2011 that a pilot phase of the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) would commence in June of this year in the Free State, a very successful marketing campaign was launched in April on the campuses of the University of the Free State and the Central University of Technology.

The applicants reported for the prescribed selection process (medical examinations, psychometric testing and selection board) during May and early June. Sixty seven applicants successfully completed the selection process and were called-up for training.



Male University Reserve Training Programme students



Female University Reserve Training Programme students

On the afternoon of 24 June 2011 (the beginning of the university vacation) 60 members reported for the first phase of the Basic Military Training. This phase was scheduled to be completed by 15 July whereafter the members will be called-up periodically over certain weekends and vacations to undergo further training. Basic training is presented on a modularised basis and the curriculum will be completed by March 2012. The methodology used is developed in accordance with the unique requirements of members of the Reserve Force who volunteer for part-time training and service. The training is presented by Regiment President Steyn under the auspices of the South African Armour Formation.

On 30 June 2011, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief Defence Reserves addressed the newly recruited members where they were undergoing training at the Department of Defence's Mobilisation Centre, Oliehoutplaas, De Brug, Bloemfontein. In his address Maj Gen Andersen focussed on the role of the Reserves, the objective of the URTP to enhance the quality of junior leaders in the South African National Defence Force, the challenge of time management to successfully study and attend military training and the advantages the training will bring in their present and future life.



Major General R.C. Andersen addressing the students

To the observers who attended the event on 30 June 2011 it was quite clear that not only were the training staff positive and dedicated to the responsibility entrusted to them, but impressive progress was made with the training in a very short space of time. The instructors attributed this to the quality of the students.



Colonel S.A. Motswidira with 3 students of the URT Programme