

## The 2012 KZN Military Tattoo

*By: R.D. Khashane- Defence Reserves  
Photographs by: SA Soldier*

KZN Reserves Units hosted the KZN Military Tattoo at the Natal Mounted Rifles parade ground from 11 to 13 July 2012.



Brigadier General Susan Debbie Molefe was one of the general's who received the salute designated to give permission for show to commence.

121 SAI Zulu Dancers, SA Army Band; Kroonstad, SA Airforce Choir, SA Army Band Polokwane, Umvoti Mounted Rifles Equestrian Team, SAMHS Combined Pipes and Drums, Air Defence Artillery Gun Run, SA Military Health Services band, SA Navy Precision Drill Squad, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Demonstration, Royal Hospital School Band (United Kingdom), Massed Bands, Lone Piper kept the spectators entertained in the three-day event.

About 5000 guests made their way to the Tattoo which proved to be a hit among Durbanites of all ages. The performers did not disappoint as they gave brilliant performances, day-in day-out, ranging from musical to military demonstrations.

***Brigadier General Susan Debbie Molefe, Director Defence Reserves acknowledged the general salute on Thursday show of the 2012 KZN Military Tattoo.***

As the Tattoo was hosted in the Zulu Kingdom, the Tattoo opened with outstanding 121 Battalion Zulu Impi performances, then was followed by the SA Army Band Kroonstad with their vibrant performance which included some exciting Silly ballet, twist and patha, phata dance moves.



***121 Battalion Zulu Impi in action***



**SA Army Band Kroonstad**



**SA Army Band Kroonstad performing Silly ballet dance**

The SAAF choir belted out few numbers of their own and it must be said that they are not lacking in fine quality vocal talents.



**The SAAF choir**

The SA Army Band Polokwane performed for the first time as a solo act and also performed their own version of Phata Phata which they call "Phata Phata Africa".



**The SA Army Band Polokwane**



Umvoti Mounted Rifles Equestrian team appeared on horses which took us back to when armies used to have mounted soldiers or cavalry on horsebacks and they too did not disappoint.



***Umvoti Mounted Rifles Equestrian team***



***KZN Reserve Force units pipes and drums performance***

What would a Tattoo be without pipes and drums? KZN Reserve Force units: 1 Medical Battallion, the Natal Carbineers, the Natal Mounted Rifles, the Umvoti Mounted Rifles and Durban Regiment gave a traditional pipes and drums performance.



***SAMHS Pipes and Drums playing together with SAMHS Band***

The SA Military Health Services pipes and drums played together with the SAMHS Band under the baton of Lt Col Seekola who presented an excellent act.

In honour of those gunners and horses who physically dragged big guns to the front over hills and valleys, the Air Defence Artillery teams from Kimberley did their best at competitive gun running which has become a norm at military tattoos all over the world.



***Air Defence Artillery teams from Kimberley***



***The SA Navy Precision Drill Squad***

The SA Navy Precision Drill Squad from Salisbury Island also appeared for the first time at the KZN Military Tattoo and they gave an excellent performance towards the end of the proceedings.





***Bomb disposal demonstrations by 2 Field Engineer Regiment in Bethlehem***

An eye-catching improvised explosive device demonstration by 2 Field Engineer Regiment also took place, showing creative ways of defusing a bomb, something which many ordinary South Africans only see in movies.

The Royal Hospital School band from the United Kingdom gave an excellent performance on Thursday night.



***The Royal Hospital School Band from the United Kingdom***



To wrap up each day's show, a Massed Bands with a total of 120 musicians, supplemented by the SAPS Band, played together in good harmony. There after these were various loud bangs of gun firing and shooting of fireworks to the magnificent background of the famous Moses Mabida stadium which was a great a marvel to watch for the audience.



All in all, it was a great show and all the credit must go to the 12 KZN Defence Reserves units: Natal Field Artillery, Natal Mounted Rifles, Umvoti Mounted Rifles, Durban Light Infantry, Natal Carbineers, Durban Regiment, 3 Parachute Battalion, 15 Maintenance Unit, 19 Field Engineer Regiment, 84 Signal Unit, 1 Medical Battalion Group, 105 Squadron and different sponsors for hosting such great three-day event. A tattoo exposes military culture and music at their best and this year's edition of annual KZN Military Tattoo did just that and was exceptionally well done if I may add. We just cannot wait for another hit-show next year.