

THE 2012 SANDF RESERVE FORCE STRATEGIC WORK

By: R.D. Khashane- Defence Reserves

Photographs by: Sgt N. Malatji

The highly anticipated SANDF Reserve Force Strategic Work Session took place from 16 - 18 February 2012 at St. George Hotel in Pretoria. 'Building a future SANDF Reserve component for 2030' was the theme and top military strategists put their heads together on ways to enhance and revitalize the SANDF Reserve Force.

Attendance by SANDF Senior Officers from all Services both Regular and Reserve and business stakeholders was of a high quality. Chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral J. Mudimu presented the opening address during the first day of the work session. "The application of the diverse skills that are vested with the Reserves makes a significant contribution 'to a better life for all' in South Africa" said Vice-Admiral J. Mudimu in his opening address.

After Vice-Admiral J. Mudimu's official opening address it was time to get down to business. Chief Defence Reserves, Maj General Roy Andersen addressed the delegates. "The aim of the workshop is to develop a sustainable plan to accelerate the Revitalisation of the SANDF Reserve Force and to enhance the contribution of this component to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Defence (DOD). "The Military Command Council has approved the Reserve Force Revitalisation Plan, but this approval was granted by the Chief of the South African National Defence Force subject to the availability of funds." noted Gen Andersen.

The following were identified as key roles of the Reserve Force:

- Augment the Regulars (peace support operations, border safeguarding, support to the people including developmental agenda and post conflict reconstruction)
- Provide a component of core defence capability
- Provide expansion capability for major combat operations
- Contribute to deterrence capability
- Provide certain specialist and scarce skills to DOD
- Enhance relationship between DOD and the public and private sectors

"Whilst a change in approach to the management of the Reserves can take place and have some benefit by implementing the 17 elements of the Concept, due to the less than optimal funding regime, the required outcomes will not be properly achieved and Revitalisation will not fully occur. The Ministerial Priority will not be fully achieved without additional funding. However, we must use the existing Budget more effectively," stated Maj Gen Andersen.

The conference highlighted the achievements of the Reserves, including the deployment of 25 companies (3 400 soldiers) on Peace Support Operations (PSOs), notably in Burundi, DRC and Sudan; in safeguarding the borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe; and in supporting internal operations, such as during the 2010 Soccer World Cup and xenophobic riots.

Some of the current challenges which are facing the Defence Reserve Force are; planning and resource allocation, Reserve personnel feeder systems, HR administration to mention a few. However, a seventeen (17) element Concept was designed to counter these challenges. Up-skilling members with skills development programmes, Leadership development (junior to senior), Nation building and citizenship, Citizen participation in Defence, Youth development, discipline and patriotism, Part-time job creation in DOD and permanent job placement in the private sector are direct contributions or outcomes that are brought about by necessary investment in Defence Reserves.

Transformation and revitalization of the Reserves is a ministerial priority and was confirmed in the Defence Budget Vote debate during March 2011. As her Ministerial Priority 6; Defence Minister, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu alluded that “The Reserves must be transformed and revitalised so that they can fulfil their primary role of providing the majority of the conventional landward capability of the SANDF, whilst at the same time supplementing the peace support missions conducted by the Regulars. The Reserve strategy must be finalised and fully implemented”.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans in support of the Reserves joined the meeting on the 17th (Friday) and after all discussions and presentations the Minister promised to allocate more money to the Reserves. “I pledge...as we restructure the budget, I will give you more money,” Sisulu told Reserve Force leaders. Reservist salaries have already increased by 22% to bring them up to par with Regular service members. SANDF salaries went up by 65% in July 2010.

Representatives from Tanzania, USA and the UK brought different dimensions to the session as they presented their case studies.

“We’re happy to provide any information and assistance we can to our partners in the South African National Reserve Forces,” said Major General Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of the New York National Guard. “Through State Partnership Programme, the New York National Guard has had a vital and energetic relationship with the South African military since 2005 that is beneficial to both our countries.”

The work session was a successful one and was officially declared closed on the 18th of February 2011 by the Deputy Chief of Corporate Staff, Maj Gen L.M. Dlulane.



Vice-Admiral J. Mudimu (Chief SA Navy) officially opening the 2012 SANDF Reserve Force Strategic Work Session



Breaking the ice... Maj General Andersen (Chief Def Res) giving his overview of the SANDF Reserves on the first day of the 2012 SANDF Reserve Force Strategic Work Session.



Delegates who attended the 2012 SANDF Reserve Force Strategic Work Session



Giving a valuable presentation about the UK Reserves, Commodore R.J. Mansergh (Head of Reserve Force and Cadets-UK Ministry of Defence)



Good news to the Reserves: “I pledge...as we restructure the budget, I will give you more money,” Said Hon Minister Lindiwe Sisulu.



Left to Right: Col (Dr) J.L. Job (Chairperson Reserve Force Council); Hon Minister Lindiwe Sisulu (Minister of Defence and Military Veterans) and Maj General Andersen (Chief Def Res) as the Hon Minister was addressing the delegates during the 2012 SANDF Reserve Force Strategic Work Session at the St George Hotel, Pretoria .



Left to right: Col S.A. Motswadira (Des Res Promotions); Maj S. Williams (USA Embassy); Brig Gen S. Molefe (Director Def Res); Brig Gen J.J. Gibbs (Deputy Chief Director Def Res); Brig Gen T.T. Nqapayi (Vice Chair : RFC); Brig Gen R.L. Payne, (USA- Director, Joint Staff, New York Joint Force Headquarters); Major General Patrick Murphy (USA-the adjutant general of New York); Maj Gen R.C. Andersen, (Chief Des Ref) ; Commodore R.J. Mansergh (Head of Reserve Force and Cadets-UK Ministry of Defence); Col D.E. Hopkins (Deputy Chief Defence Staff Personnel and Training-UK Ministry of Defence); Col A.Y. Amasi (Director of Reserve Force Component-Tanzania People’s Defence); Maj Gen L.M. Dlulane (SANDF-Deputy Chief Corporate Staff); Maj A.R. Gumbo (Personal Assistant(PA) of Chief of Reserve Forces-Tanzania People’s Defence); Maj R.M. Ford(USA-State Partnership Programme Director)



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Left to right: Col A.Y. Amasi (Director of Reserve Force Component-Tanzania People's Defence) ;Major General Patrick Murphy (USA- the adjutant general of New York); Vice-Admiral J. Mudimu (Chief SA Navy) ; Maj Gen R.C. Andersen, (Chief Des Ref)



Officially declaring the closure of the 2012 SANDF Reserve Force Strategic Work Session: Deputy Chief of Corporate Staff Maj Gen L.M. Dlulani.