



SA NAVY UNIVERSITY RESERVE TRAINING PROGRAMME (URTP)

The SA Navy has initiated its first University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) that will be presented over two years commencing in April 2012 and will be completed in December 2013. The learners are all engineering students from second year level at the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch in the Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical disciplines. Unfortunately the University of the Western Cape does not have an Engineering faculty and no engineers could be obtained from this institution. The students are from Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and the North West.

It is envisaged that future URTP's would be extended to other universities and universities of technologies that would include all academic disciplines. It was decided that the pilot URTP would enable 20 learners to follow the URTP and that it would be conducted at Naval College Gordon's Bay; close to the main Naval Base in Simon's Town where there are adequate training establishments, facilities, equipment and resources are all in the Western Cape area. The Navy URTP course differs from the SA Army course in that provision is made only for engineers and not for other academic disciplines. The uniqueness in the SA Navy's URTP, is that special provision must be made for students to do their required vacation engineering phases during their URTP training programme. The URTP can only be presented during the recess periods of the universities and this necessitated that a unique course consisting of military training as well as engineering vacation work for engineers as prescribed by the universities be incorporated.

After a series of consultations with the Engineering faculties and the Naval Engineering Section of the SA Navy, it was decided to appoint a full-time Engineering officer to oversee the vacation engineering training that will be done at the facilities of the False Bay College at their West Lake campus. The learners will be treated as full-time students with very intensive technical programmes and they will also be accommodated on the premises. Any private student who is not part of the URTP, can apply to False Bay College and follow the same course. Interested students must contact Dr. Chris Merts. This engineering vacation course has been fully accredited by both universities and students will be exempted to do their practical workshop training at the universities. Although all the learners will follow the same military training, the engineering vacation training will vary according to the academic year of the individual student for example second year students will do their engineering maintenance training, third years' the full project management phase and fourth and fifth years' will do their required script. In this respect, the SA Navy and the respective universities have reached an agreement that the SA Navy will be able to submit topics for the scripts that would directly relate to maritime matters and the SA Navy engineers will act as tutors for the students.

The URTP will be conducted in two major courses which is the Basic Military Course (BMT) in 2012 and the Military Training for Officers Part 1 (MTO 1) in 2013. The BMT course is structured as follows:

- 31 March – 5 April. 1 x week military training at Naval College.
- 2 - 20 Jul. Three weeks engineering vacation training from at False Bay College. (Depending on academic year).

- 3 – 7 Sep (US) and 10 - 14 Sep (UCT). One week engineering vacation training. False Bay College. (Depending on academic year). The vacation periods of US and UCT do not correspond. This phase will be presented separately to US and UCT.
- 19 November to 7 December. Three weeks military training at Naval College.

In brief terms, the engineering vacation training will consist of the following: (very brief synopsis)

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS		
Period	Duration	Activity
Jun-Jul	3 weeks	Project: Stripping and re-assembling of an engine including maintenance, repair, fault finding.
Aug-Sep	1 week	Basic Hand tools and workshop skills
THIRD YEAR STUDENTS		
Period	Duration	Activity
Jun –Jul Aug -Sep	4 weeks	Project: Full cycle of project management including manufacturing of a small scale bread oven.
Jun-Jul	0,5 week	Organisational structure and processes in an engineering institution
	1,5 week	*Welding: Make a bread oven
	1 week	*Fitting and turning: Make a hammer
Aug-Sep	1 week	Electrical: Building of circuits and fault finding.

A detailed analyses of the comprehensive training, is available on request. See contact details below.

During the Basic Military Training (BMT) Course (2012), all learners will have the rank of Seaman. On successful completion of the BMT, they will be appointed to the rank of Midshipman for the duration of MTO1.

The envisaged URTP Military Training Course for Officer’s (MTO 1) course for 2013, will be similar to the 2012 course, except that an additional phase will be added in Jan / Feb of three weeks. On successful completion of MTO 1 course, learners will receive their commissioned rank as officers whereafter they can be utilized in a Reserve capacity as and when needed according to the SA Navy’s requirements.

During the URTP training, learners will be remunerated according to their rank, receive naval uniforms, entitled to medical during and other benefits as for Reserve members.

Since the development of the SA Navy URTP, very strong relationships between the SA Navy and the Universities have been fostered. On 30 January the academics from both universities, their lecturers and administrative staff, were briefed and entertained in Simon’s Town. On 13 February, all the prospective URTP students had the same opportunity to view and get more information on their future part-time career. A few photographs taken on the day, are appended hereunder:

Adm. (JG.) Jameson briefing the visitors on board the SAS AMATOLA



Visitors listening attentively to the intricacies of Naval warfare



Cdr Peterson briefing the visitors on the procedures followed by the Reaction Force.



Prof. Chris Redelinghuys, Head of Mechanical Faculty at UCT, in discussion with R Adm. (JG.) Penzhorn



Visitors go on board the SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE



Capt De Wet explains the dynamics of submarines



OC SA AMATOLA – Capt Girschner welcomes the guests on board



Interested students at UCT, Stellenbosch or any tertiary institution who would like to obtain more information on the URTP or the engineering vocational phase of the URTP, are requested to contact **Capt (SAN) Michal Grobbelaar** at 082-783-7469 or mjgrobbelaar@yebo.co.za for more details.