

A SAFE LANDING FOR THE SAAF'S "MAIDEN FLIGHT" OF THE UNIVERSITY RESERVE TRAINING PROGRAMME (URTP)

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Photo's by Sgt Nico Milatji

09 to 13 July 2012 marked a special event in the history of the SA Air Force when 25 engineering students selected from applicants from the Universities of Pretoria, Johannesburg, South Africa and the Tshwane University of Technology reported to the SA Air Force College for commencement with their Basic Military Training (BMT).

This was the first phase of the BMT with the objective to orientate the recruits with the SAAF. The next phases of the BMT will be presented over weekends and during certain university vacations.

The training will be presented by the Regular Force training personnel of the SAAF College. Additional to undergoing BMT the opportunity will also be offered to the students to undergo technical training under the supervision of experienced SAAF engineers.

The staff of the SAAF College and the SAAF (Reserves) URTP Project Team were not only impressed with the standard of the recruits but also with the initiative displayed by the students. The course spontaneously composed a "course song" and designed a course emblem.

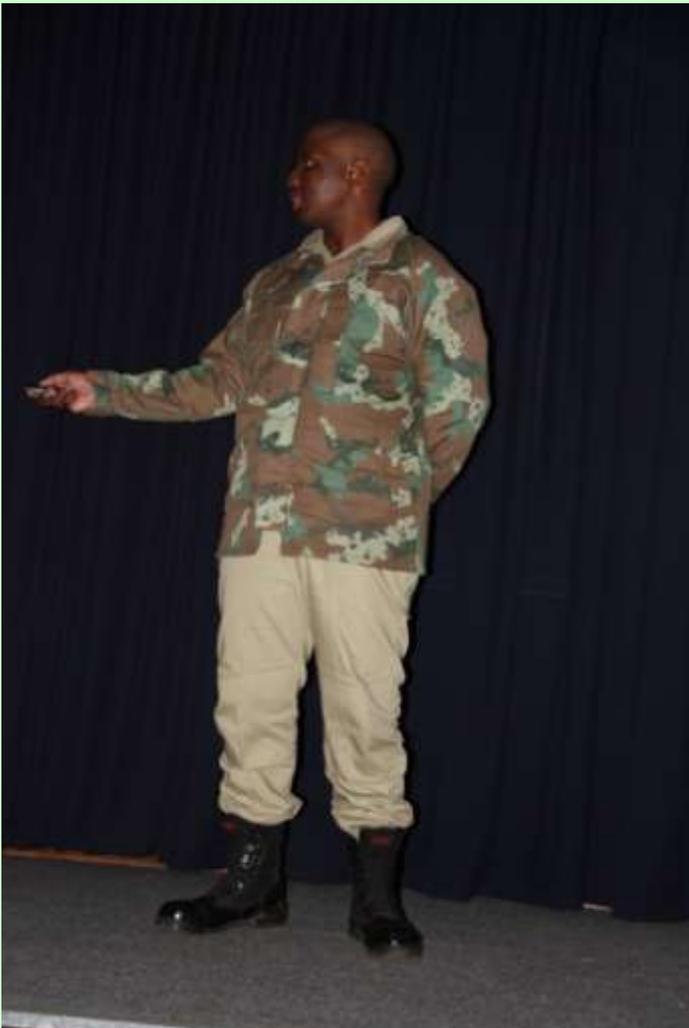
At its monthly meeting in July the URTP Steering Committee took note of the positive approach of the SAAF leadership towards the programme, the enthusiasm of the Officer Commanding and staff of the SAAF College and the dedication of the students who have now voluntarily enrolled in the SAAF Reserves. On successful completion of the BMT selected members will continue with their Officer Formative Training.



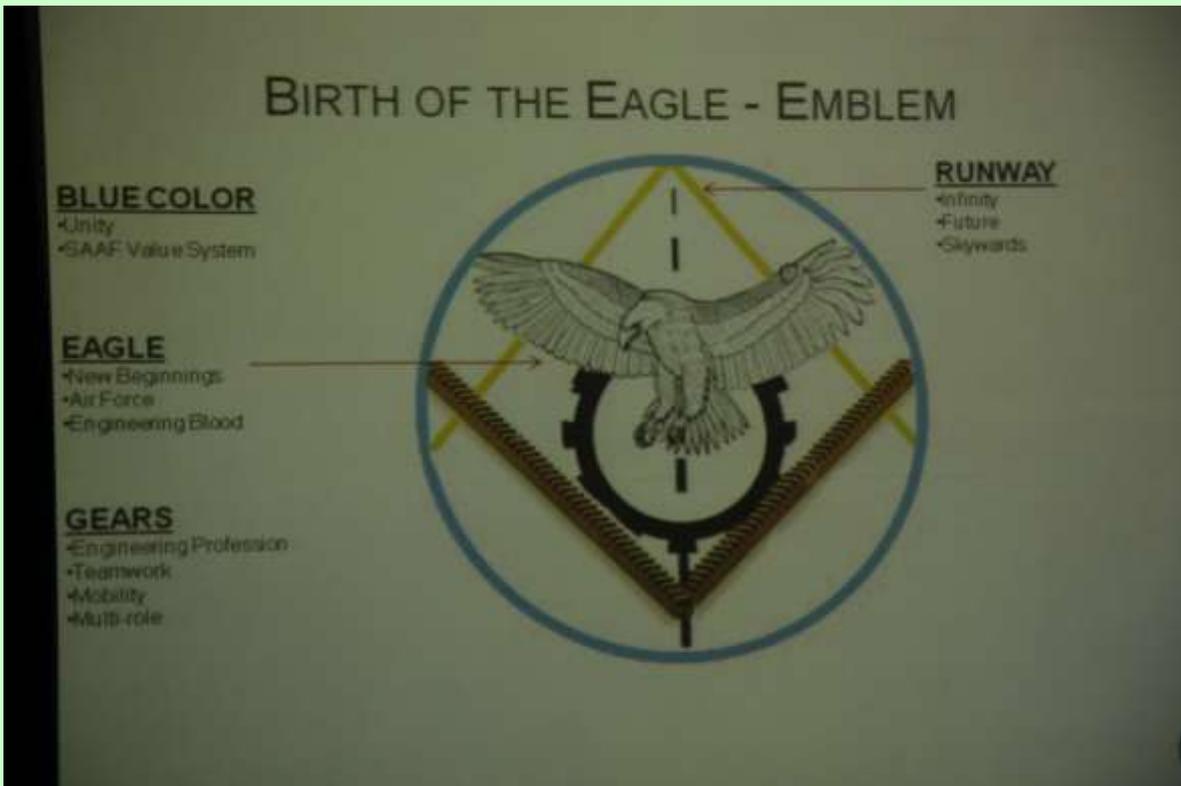
Brig Gen S.S. Mtimkulu (Dir SAAF Reserves), Brig Gen P. Burger (Dir SAAF HR Dev) and Col J.W. Jansen van Rensburg (OC SAAF Col) look on while the URTP BMT course displays their skills.



The URTP in the SAAF is implemented in close liaison with inter alia the University of Pretoria (UP). Mr R. Kgomanyane (Chairperson EBIT Faculty House, Engineering Department of UP) with members of the URTP Project Team.



Airman L.P. Ntshangase the elected student leader of the course makes a presentation.



The SAAF URTP course emblem designed by the course members.



Members of the SAAF URTP course perform their course song.



On the parade ground



Debriefing



Members of the SAAF URTP BMT with the Command and Training staff of the SAAF College and the Dir SAAF Reserves and staff.



Unity in Diversity