

## **MINISTER MAKES REFERENCE TO RESERVES IN BUDGET SPEECH**

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Honourable Lindiwe Sisulu, included the following in her Budget Vote Speech on 17 May 2012:

We are progressing in transforming and revitalising the Reserve Force. At the end of the previous financial year, the total Reserve Force strength was 26 851 of which 15 316 were called-up during the year. This call-up constitutes a record since 1994. In the previous year (FY 10/11) only 12 300 Reserve Force members were utilised. Continued utilisation of Reserves in both external and internal operations is increasing and the Reserves are being called-up for Peace Support Operations (PSO), Border Protection, training camps as well as staff duties.

The University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) is currently being implemented by the Services at various tertiary institutions. The main purpose of the URTP is to select and train quality students with leadership potential with the objective of enhancing the professional skills of junior leaders in the SANDF for both the Reserves and the Regulars. The first group of 56 URTP students trained by the SA Army completed their Basic Military (BMT) in the Free State in January and proceeded to do Officers' Formative Training in April 2012. All the Services have successfully recruited students from the universities of Witwatersrand, Pretoria, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Western Cape and Cape Peninsula of Technology. These students will commence with basic military training next year.