

# RESERVE FORCE COUNCIL EXPAND MILITARY



## RESERVE FORCE COUNCIL SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UNITED KINGDOM COUNTERPARTS TO START AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR MILITARY SKILLS

The Reserve Force Council (RFC) invited Col Chris Argent, Chairman of the United Kingdom Reserve Force Association (UKRFA), to attend the South African Military Skills competition. The event was presented by the RFC and Defence Reserves and held during October 2011 in Potchefstroom.

Col Argent brought a team of four reserve soldiers that competed in the competition. They did exceptionally well, making a near clean sweep of the medals in the Invitation category. Due to the success of the visit discussions started to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organisations.

This was finalised at the beginning of 2012 and the first official co-operation was for the South African Military Skills Team to train with the team of the United Kingdom for a week before the International competition in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The training was a real eye opener to the South African team, especially the swimming training that started at 18:00 and ended at 21:00 and that after a full day of training in other disciplines as well!

Col Wim Alberts who is responsible for the Military Skills Competition in South Africa and who led the exchange programme is very excited about the successes achieved. The UKRFA is awaiting approval to send a team to South Africa again this year to take part in the SA Military Skills Competition from 21 to 27 October in Potchefstroom.

**“The Reserve Force Council plays an integral role in the developing the Military Skills Competition in South Africa and internationally.” Dr. John Job**



COL WIM ALBERTS EXCHANGING PLAQUES WITH CAPT STEVE EDMONDS



IT IS ALL ABOUT TEAM WORK

# COMPETITION COPENHAGEN DENMARK

## Competing against the best.



LT. MURRAY DURING THE TACTICAL CASUALTY COMBAT CARE COMPETITION

For the 8 SANDF Reserve members who competed in the 2012 CIOR (Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers) Military Skills competition in Copenhagen, Denmark, the rigorous training and hard fought battle during the competition against other nations will forever remain lodged in their memories. The team, comprising Col Alberts (Military Skills Delegation Leader), Defence Reserves, Capt le Roux (assistant coach), 3 Parachute Battalion, Maj Labuschagne, 3 Parachute Battalion, Lt Murray, Cape Town Highlanders, Lt Ditshego, Air Force HQ, Sgt Daniels, Transvaal Scottish, L/Cpl McLean, Transvaal Scottish, AB Muchlanga, Navy, Tpr Hlophe, Umvoti Mounted Rifles, Tpr Ntamane, Umvoti Mounted Rifles, competed hard in every event and at the end of the day not only walked away as proud soldiers, but also as proud competitors.

The annual CIOR Military Skills competition is based on skills required of soldiers in combat situations and includes activities such as pistol and rifle shooting, land and water obstacles, map, reading, distance estimation, grenade throwing and orienteering. Although the event takes place in competition format, competitors make use of every opportunity to meet and learn from fellow reserves from countries as far as the USA, Norway and Sweden.

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- Pistol Shooting at 25 meters
- Rifle Shooting at 100 meters
- Land Obstacle 500 meters with 20 different obstacles
- Swimming Obstacle 50 meters with 5 different obstacles
- 8km Cross Country run
- Grenade Throwing

## Preparing for the unforeseen.

Preparation for the international competition starts each year during the National Military Skills Competition held in Potchefstroom. This competition is based on the same activities and basic skills required from competitors during the international competition. The top 20 performing competitors are chosen to form a training group that will attend monthly training camps in Potchefstroom, under the auspices of the Reserve Force Council where they go through a series of exercises designed to enhance their performance in shooting, land and water obstacles and orienteering. In addition the competitors are trained in the discipline of Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Law of Armed Conflict.

The coaching staff bears witness to the transformation competitors go through once they qualify and join the training program. Confidence levels rise, self-respect increases, a sense of teamwork develops and more than anything, individual skills required to be an effective soldier are gained, trained and enhanced.

# The South African Team



Team RSA at the closing dinner. F.l.t.r.: Lt Murray, Tpr Ntamane, Lt Dtshego, L/Cpl McLean, Capt le Roux (Assistant Coach), Sgt Daniels, AB Muchlanga, Tpr Hlophe, Maj Labuschagne.

## The final countdown.

The team left South Africa for London where they had a final preparation training camp with the United Kingdom team in terms of the Reserve Force Council MOU with the United Kingdom Reserve Force Association. Here the team made use of local conditions and international expertise to do their final preparations including activities such as pistol shooting, rifle shooting, water obstacle, land obstacle and orienteering.

With the training exercises rigorous and the training schedule from dusk till dawn, the team was left with very little time for socializing and sightseeing. After 4 days of training the break finally came and the team had one day to explore London and the Olympic buzz, just to relax and take a break before the dream they would finally realize to represent their country.

For many of the team members it was their first opportunity to travel abroad and well deserved it was after the tough year of training and working hard in order to make the team selection. Families back home would soon receive photographs and souvenirs of the Big Ben, the river Thames, Buckingham Palace and Piccadilly Circus to name but a few. Not many South Africans ever get the opportunity to see these sights first hand, but note that it all came at a price!

With the sightseeing done and dusted the team had to make their way to the airport for their final flight to Copenhagen Denmark! There they would be met by a group of administrators from the Danish Defence Force who would escort the team to their final destination, The Garrison of Hovelte – the training school for The Danish Royal Guards.



**L/CPL MCLEAN WITH INTERNATIONAL TEAM MATES  
CAPT BLASCHKE FROM GERMANY AND LT JACKA  
FROM UNITED KINGDOM**

## Transvaal Scottish on the podium

### Competition Copenhagen

If one statement can be made about the competition in Copenhagen it is that the arrangements by the Danish Defence Reserves were of high standard. From arrival to departure the competitors were never in doubt as to what would take place next, and how it would happen. From sleeping quarters to meal arrangements, training facilities to transport, all were well planned and well executed.

Having arrangements in place made it easy for the competitors to focus on the competition. South Africa once again improved on past performances with L/Cpl Mclean receiving a bronze medal for his teams 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the international category. Other highlights were as follows:

#### Rifle Shooting

- Lt Murray 1<sup>st</sup> individual
- RSA1 8<sup>th</sup> team overall

#### Pistol Shooting

- RSA2 13<sup>th</sup> team overall

#### Combined Shooting

- Lt Murray 4<sup>th</sup> individual
- RSA2 14<sup>th</sup> team overall

#### Obstacles

- RSA1 15<sup>th</sup> team overall
- RSA2 18<sup>th</sup> team overall

#### Distance estimation

- RSA1 6<sup>th</sup> team overall

#### Grenade throwing

- RSA1 5<sup>th</sup> team overall



**AB MUCHLANGA SHOWING HOW THE NAVY DOES IT**



**TEAM SA BLINDFOLDED DURING THE  
ORIENTEERING RACE**