

71 SIGNAL UNIT – CONVENTIONAL SIGNAL RESERVE UNIT IN THE WESTERN CAPE

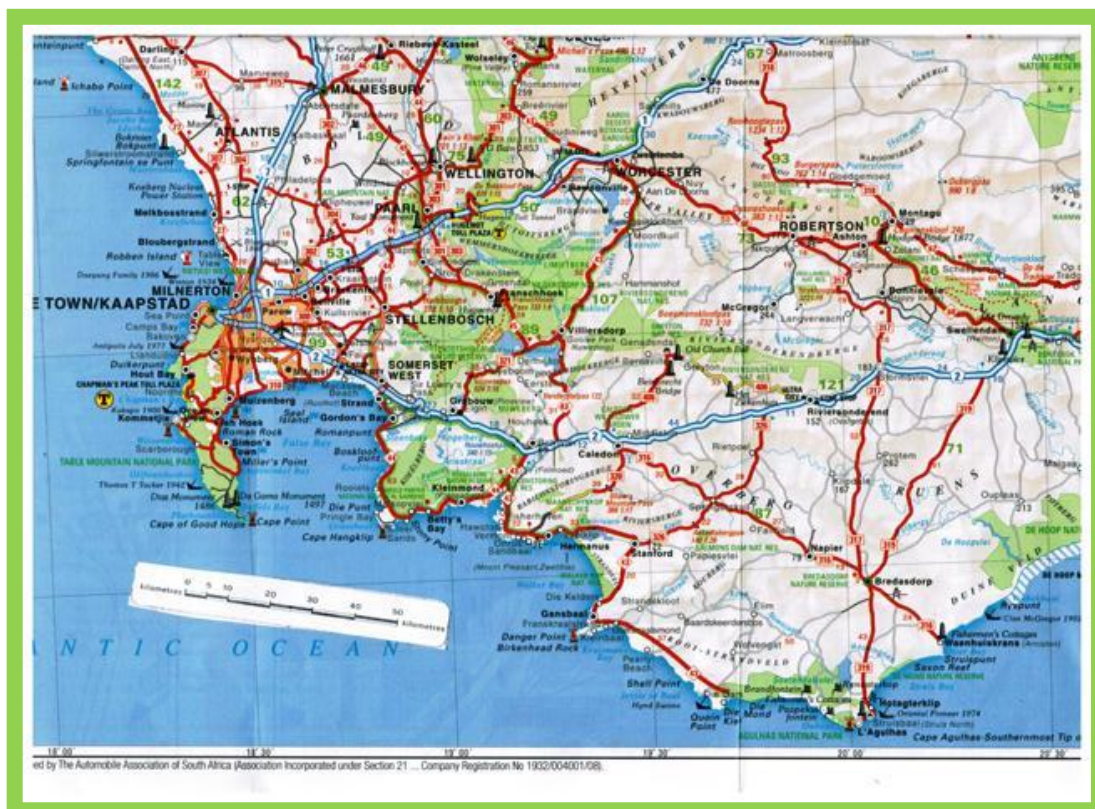
Article by Capt Corne Grundlingh, Defence Reserves

71 Signal Unit is one of the three conventional Signal Reserve Force units within the SA Army Signal Formation. The unit is situated within Fort iKapa Reserve Military Base in Goodwood.

The task of 71 Signal Unit is to provide conventional signal support to the conventional Reserve Forces which include Infantry, Armour, Artillery, Air Defence Artillery etc.

TRAINING EXERCISES

71 Signal Unit Reserve Force soldiers undergo frequent training. One of these training exercises was Exercise “Oor-die-Berg”. The exercise took place in the Overberg region. It was a simulated sea-landed motorised infantry operation to neutralise opposition forces that were moving from the East towards Cape Town on and alongside the N2 Highway. HF communication as well as VHF communication (including re-broadcasting stations) was established over a wide area of the Overberg.



Map utilised for Exercise “Oor-die-Berg.”



Signallers participating in Exercise “Oor-die-Berg”

EXTERNAL OPERATIONS

71 Signal Unit also supports external operations. In 2012 five signallers were deployed as part of Operation Cordite. Currently five signallers of 71 Signal Unit are part of Operation Corona on the border.

UNIVERSITY RESERVE TRAINING PROGRAMME

71 Signal Unit will also receive 12 University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) students out of the 102 URTP students that have recently completed Basic Military Training in the Western Cape. These students will commence Formative Training in June/July 2013.

BASIC MILITARY TRAINING

The Signal Formation received an allocation of 120 places on the Basic Military Training Course that took place at Infantry School in Oudtshoorn from January to May 2013. 71 Signal Unit was allowed to fill 34 of the 120 places. 22 Male and 12 female Reserve Force soldiers from 71 Signal Unit attended the Basic Military Training.



Basic Military Training soldiers working hard during training



Basic Military Training soldiers from 71 Signal Unit

After Basic Military Training the soldiers will undergo Platoon Weapons Training until June 2013 which will be followed by Individual Training until July 2013.

Signal Corps Training will then commence for these soldiers at the School of Signals until November 2103.



71 Signal Unit is an active Reserve Force unit ensuring that their members are well trained and prepared for any situation that may arise.