

CHIEF OF THE SA ARMY MAKES REFERENCE TO THE RESERVES AND THE URTP DURING HIS MEDIA BRIEFING

When briefing the media in Pretoria the Chief of the SA Army, made reference to the Reserves and the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP).

Lt Gen Masondo said: *“As you may know, many of these MSDS members will at the end of their two year contracts be transferred to the Reserves. This will greatly support current plans to rejuvenate the Reserves who are being utilised extensively for operational deployments. During previous press releases as well as radio interviews, the SA Army has made public the process we have embarked on that will see name changes of certain Reserve units and regiments. I can assure you that there is nothing sinister to this and that it is a voluntary process supported within the reserve environment. The aim is to acquire a level of synergy amongst all role players, with unit names and regimentals reflecting cohesiveness and regimental pride amongst all reserves. The process being followed allows for acknowledging military heroes of the past, makes provision for South African military history currently not reflected in this environment, and also accommodates regional uniqueness. Once the process is completed, the results will be communicated to the general public.*

A few years ago we started with the role-out of the University Reserve Training Programme. I am pleased to say that this has been highly successful. A total of 54 students completed basic military training in Bloemfontein and have been commissioned as 2Lts within the SA Armour Formation. A further 80 students completed their basic training at Fort Ikapa as was presented by the SA Air Defence Artillery Formation. A further 80 students have been selected from tertiary institutions in Gauteng and the NW Province and will commence with training in Potchefstroom during July this year. To the SA Army the rejuvenation of the Reserves is of great importance. During the previous financial year, 10 784 Reserves were called up. Through this we succeeded in supplementing the Regulars and were able to deploy 12 Infantry companies in both internal and external operations.”



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