

INDUSTRY SPONSORS CAPE TOWN SHOTIST

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Photo's by Gilly-Bean Photography



Alan of GI Combat Supplies hands over shooting accessories to a delighted LCpl Thandi Viti..



SWO Pedro Dias Lobo presents LCpl Viti with sponsored equipment on behalf of ECM Technologies.

The achievements of top Cape Town Rifles shotist, LCpl Thandi Viti, were recognised at the recent Western Province Combat Rifle Championships by sponsorships from national suppliers of musketry accessories, GI Combat Supplies and ECM Technologies. Held at the Good Hope Shooting Range over the weekend 19 and 20 April 2013, the championship attracted an impressive 122 entries from six provinces around the country. At a function after the final dinner, Alan of GI Combat Supplies presented LCpl Viti with electronic ear muffs, a sniper gun bag, binoculars and protective eyewear. From Philip at ECM Technologies in Pretoria she received a backpack with a water reservoir (camel pack), shooting gloves and protective eyewear. Officiating at the handover was her musketry coach and top shotist, SWO Pedro Dias Lobo, winner of the 2013 WP Championships.

This sponsorship recognises the singular performance of LCpl Viti in a traditionally male-dominated discipline. Standing a petite 1.5m in her stockings, she makes it clear that technique and dedication are the name of this game, and that success is primarily a matter of attitude and application. Joining the ranks of the Cape Town Rifles in 2005, she was initially no better than an average shotist on the range but stood out in her passion for the discipline of musketry. Her drive and enthusiasm, coupled with hard work and an excellent coach, paid off and in 2008 she distinguished herself by becoming the first Black female soldier to qualify for Western Province Colours (B Class) in the Western Province Combat Rifle Association. Promotion to the A Class (standard R4 with iron sights) followed in 2009.

LCpl Viti is a regular member of the unit team participating in the annual Gold Cup Competition at the De Wet Range in Bloemfontein, and last year she placed 3rd in the Women's Class, standing down only to two highly experienced shotists. She is routinely placed amongst the top A Class shotists in the monthly WP Combat League shoots in Cape Town and the X class (R4 with telescopic sights) beckons, with the possibility of a place on the National Team. She has already proven her capabilities at international level by representing the SANDF at shoots, touring England in 2011 and Netherlands in 2012.

LCpl Viti is a valued member of Cape Town Rifle's Training wing, and as a qualified Musketry Instructor she assists in training other unit members in the skills necessary to achieve in musketry. The Regiment is proud of her personal achievements and of the role that she plays in helping the unit to meet its commitments in the SANDF.

Skill at arms is a primary and critical ability in the Infantry Formation and the sponsorship by GI Combat Supplies and ECM Technologies recognises the role that individuals can play in helping the SANDF achieve its mandate. WO2 J. 'Smiley' Smalberger of Infantry School at the Equipment Branch was instrumental in making this sponsorship possible. A positive attitude, the willingness to work, and the right instruction are necessary to shoot to the top — LCpl Viti is an example of what can be achieved.