

# **SA ARMY UNIVERSITY RESERVE TRAINING PROGRAMME (URTP) PASSING OUT PARADE AT FORT IKAPA 19 JANUARY 2013**

*Article by Captain Corne Grundlingh (Defence Reserves) and photo's by Lance Corporal L. Wessels (Defence Reserves) and Recruit N. Peck (URTP Student)*

The core purpose of the URTP is the enhancement of the professional and intellectual capacity of the SANDF Reserves. It provides a system for selection, enlistment and training with a view to commissioning and appointment as junior officers of qualified members of exceptional leadership potential with academic or technical qualifications.

All training conforms to standard SANDF policy and consists of the following stages:

## **Basic Military Training (Stage 1)**

The purpose of Basic Military Training (BMT) is to introduce the recruit to the military environment. Members that successfully complete the BMT are disciplined soldiers with the necessary basic skills to operate in the military environment.

## **Officer Formative Training (Stage 2)**

This stage, which follows BMT, is aimed at equipping members with skills, knowledge and attributes of leadership, management, officership and conduct. Junior officers are required to provide leadership to subordinates, often in complex situations.

## **Functional and Junior Leader (JL) Training (Stage 3)**

Functional training (where applicable) will be conducted within the specific Service, in this instance, the SA Army and will equip recruits to operate successfully within their respective functional corps. The different corps in which these members may serve are for example, the Infantry, Armour, Engineers, Air Defence Artillery, Artillery, Signals etc.

On Saturday 19 January 2013 a passing out parade was held to celebrate the successful completion of BMT.

The training was presented to 94 students from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), University of Cape Town (UCT) and Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) by Cape Garrison Artillery under the auspices of the South African Air Defence Artillery Formation.

Training was presented in 8 Modules during June 2012, August 2012, November 2012 and January 2013 at Fort iKapa, Touws Rivier Training Area and Simonstown. The methodology used to train and qualify the students was developed in accordance with the unique requirements of

members of the Reserve Force who volunteer for part-time training and service. The training comprised of:

- Drill
- Musketry Training
- Field Craft
- Buddy Aid
- Hand to Hand Combat Training
- Water Orientation
- Mess Etiquette
- Guards and Sentries
- Military Law
- Labour Relations

Students underwent fitness training and fitness tests. Fortunately one of the students will be a qualified medical doctor in the next few years and the buddy aid training was second nature to him. Simamkele Ntlombe, is a student at CPUT where he is studying Biomedical Technology and he is planning to study Medicine either at University of Stellenbosch or UCT in 2014. This 22 year old student grew up in Butterworth in the Eastern Cape and attended Bethel College High School. When asked why he joined the URTP he responded by saying that he loves the military, the order and discipline and the fact that he will become a leader. He believes that his field of medicine and research can be of value to the SANDF and the SA Military Health Service.

The parade was presented at Fort iKapa Military Base in Goodwood, Cape Town. The main functionary was Brigadier General J.S. Mbuli, the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Air Defence Artillery Formation.

A well presented parade under the command of Captain M.A. Goetham ended the Basic Military Training phase for the first intake of URTP students in the Western Cape and the second group of the SA Army.

The following awards were presented

Best Academic Student	- Recruit K. Gwaza (UCT)
Best shot - male	- Recruit P. Siyo (CPUT)
Best shot – female	- Recruit S.S. Mnqandi (CPUT)
Fittest student – male	- Recruit B. Ndaba (CPUT)
Fittest student – female	- Recruit S.C. Mlambo (UWC)
OC Award	- Recruit G.Z. Pollman (CPUT)

Brigadier General J.S. Mbuli, General Officer Commanding SA Army Air Defence Artillery Formation, during his speech said, “I stood before you in July 2012 and in my welcoming speech to you I told you to prepare yourself for an experience totally out of your comfort zone. I am sure you will agree with me that it was very difficult at times. You however accepted the challenge and I am very proud of you. I also told you that soldiers are special people, and today I am proud to say that you now also fall into this category. Hereafter you will undergo formative training to equip you to be appointed as officers. It is training that focuses on teaching you managerial and leadership skills. Our country needs focussed and dedicated young people to serve and protect the interests of our nation. By looking at you it seems that we will have a bright future.”

Chief Defence Reserves, Major General Roy Andersen wishes all these graduates well in their future careers and encourages them to continue with the next Formative stage to prepare them as young officers and to contribute to the development of the SA Reserves.



Students during musketry training inspecting their targets.



Students undergoing drill training



Discipline is the backbone of military culture.



Students in action during musketry training



Recipients of awards

From L to R: Rct S.C. Mlambo, Rct S.S. Mngandi, Rct G.Z. Pollman, Rct K. Gwaza, Rct P. Siyo, Rct B. Ndaba



Instructors from the SA Army Air Defence Artillery Formation



Brigadier General J.S. Mbuli, General Officer Commanding SA Army Air Defence Artillery and Lt Col Bob Visser, Officer Commanding Cape Garrison Artillery



The parade commander, Captain M.A. Goetham, leading the parade



Senior officers attending the parade



Guests enjoying the parade