



## **SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE CELEBRATED ARMED FORCES DAY 21 FEBRUARY 2014: AIRFORCE BASE BLOEMSPRUIT: BLOEMFONTEIN**

On Friday 21 February 2014 the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) celebrated the Armed Forces Day at Air Force Base Bloemspruit, Bloemfontein. The event was aimed at honouring men and women in uniform who serve the nation. The President was the main officiating functionary during a military parade and paid a special tribute to those soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty whilst serving their country. Bravery medals were also conferred on those who have demonstrated heroism during the battle of Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR).

Members of the public and dignitaries in attendance were treated to a military parade by different Services and a flypast by the SA Air Force. Once the formal military parade was completed, the SANDF mechanised column drove through to various communities around Bloemfontein to showcase the country's state-of-the-art armaments as well as to thank the communities for their continued support.

The day ended with soldiers and their families celebrating the Armed Forces Day with various entertainment and sports activities which were held at a Fan Park in Air Force Base Bloemspruit, Bloemfontein. All military units throughout the country were authorised to celebrate the day in various ways to remind the nation of the services they render to defend the country's sovereignty.

The 2014 Armed Forces Day coincided with the country's celebration of the 20 Years of Freedom. This day also marked 20 Years of Defence for the SANDF since its establishment in 1994. Armed Forces Day allows the nation to pay tribute to the selfless service of our men and women in uniform at home and abroad.

### **Armed Forces Day was implemented to achieve several objectives:**

- to unite all South Africans behind our military,
- to allow the SANDF to interact with communities,
- to expand public understanding of the military and its purpose to society,
- to showcase the latest equipment and technologies that protect the public,
- to demonstrate that the military is ready for any threat or challenge,

The SSO Provincial Office Free State and Director Promotions in conjunction with the Free State Reserve Force Units supported and participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade.

