



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The 2015 Johannesburg Freedom of Entry parade

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Photographs by: DCC

A successful 8th Johannesburg Freedom of Entry Parade was held in Alexandra, Altrec Stadium Johannesburg on Saturday the 07th of November 2015. This is an annual parade where eleven Regular and Reserve Force Regiments and one South African Air Force Squadron exercised their right to the Freedom of Entry by marching through the City with their Colours flying.

This year, the main functionaries were Madam Speaker of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, Councillor Conny Bapela, accompanied by Chairperson of Governance Committee, Councillor Rosemary Thobejane-Ndoqo, while Major General Lindile Yam, the General Officer Commanding of the South African Army Infantry Formation, represented the Chief of the South African Army.

During her address, Cllr Bapela said “The Reserve Force Regiments have, over the years, played a vital role in support not only of civic functions, but also in support of the citizens of Johannesburg. Most memorable was the deployment of bands and guards of honour during the visit to the city by the late former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela in May 1999 and at the Orlando Hall in Soweto on 14 May 2004, when the late Mr Mandela became a Freeman of the City”.

After her address and parade inspection, Cllr Bapela authorised and granted the colour parties and the platoons of the SA Army and one SAAF Squadron the permission to march from Altrec Stadium right into the heart of Alexandra. The township became colourful, when the Regimental colours marched through the streets and the community responded by lining the roads, cheering and ululating with joyful applause. This showed a clear indication of the appreciation and admiration that the spectators had for the disciplined transformation that has taken place in general in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

The SANDF four Arms of Service and Divisions, including Chief Defence Reserves Division, formed part of the static hardware display and career exhibition, bringing the feel and touch of the SANDF and also marketing career opportunities available to members of the community, who were thrilled to bits while exploring the military world before and after the events. This exhibition also provided an opportunity to enhance the

corporate image of the SANDF and to focus on the social responsibility programmes in support of government developmental outcomes. The Reserve Force Volunteer magazines, brochures and branded promotional items were given to the public who showed much enthusiasm to join the Reserve Force.

The professionalism, discipline and friendliness of the soldiers who attended the parade definitely had a positive impact on the community who expressed a strong desire to see more of the Defence Force.

All in all, it was a great parade and all credit must go to the parade organisers in conjunction with the Freedom Regiments' Association of Johannesburg.



The Colour party.



Military personnel who attended the parade.



L to R: Major General Lindile Yam, the General Officer Commanding of the South African Army Infantry Formation, Madam Speaker of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, Clr Conny Bapela, and Chairperson of Governance Committee, Clr Rosemary Thobejane-Ndoqo, on the podium.



Functionaries marching during the parade inspection.



Speaker of Council, Clr Conny Bapela during her address.



The Colour party followed by marching column.



National Ceremonial Guard Band also formed part of this prestigious parade.