



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



5th ANNUAL BATTLEFIELDS FESTIVAL PARADE 20 JUNE 2015 EMNAMBITHI / LADYSMITH, KWAZULU-NATAL

SANDF REGIMENTS AND UNITS EXERCISE FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE TOWN OF LADYSMITH AND PARADE WITH PRIDE

In a polished display of precision drill, a ceremonial company consisting of elements from 5 SAI BN, SA Navy and SAMHS, together with a platoon from the SA Police Services, recently exercised their right to Freedom of Entry into the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands town of Ladysmith in the Emnambithi district. The Colours of the Natal Field Artillery, Vrystaat Artillerie Regiment, Transvaal Staats Artillerie, 121 Battalion, Durban Light Infantry, Natal Mounted Rifles, Umvoti Mounted Rifles, 15 Maintenance Unit, 1 Medical Battalion Group, 5 SA Infantry Battalion, Natal Carbineers and Light Horse Regiment were invited to be paraded in the town's main square. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, not all Units and Regiments were able to do so, for example, the unavailability of the G6, the prime mission equipment of the NFA. Nevertheless, the spectacle of the magnificent combined Colour Party with their smart escorts stirred the inner pride of the spectators, both military and civilian, but especially the handful of Veterans in the VIP seats.

Maj Gen L. M. Dlulane, A/CCS, together with Brig Gen Andre Retief, GOC Arm Fmn and Brig Gen Dr Abel Maminza, D SAMHS Res, were the main functionaries of this annual event hosted by His Worship the Mayor of Ladysmith, Cllr M.V Madlala and his Town Council. The Salute to the march past was taken by the Mayor and Brig Gen Retief on the podium.

At the post parade Mayoral Banquet, Maj Gen Dlulane delivered a stirring speech wherein he lauded the unity of our armed forces in the service of our country. HW the Mayor, Cllr Madlala, in his reply thanked the SANDF for their continued support of this important event on the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands calendar and more so to the OC's, RSM's and our soldiers and sailors whose presence was greatly appreciated. He thanked them most sincerely for their personal time and effort.

The C Def Res, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, who was unfortunately unable to attend but was represented by the SSO Def Res KwaZulu-Natal, Col Pat Acutt, was thanked for his

supportive efforts in getting the KwaZulu-Natal Reserve Force Regiments to participate in this high profile event. It is high profile occasions such as these on the KwaZulu-Natal military calendar that, together with the extensive public marketing that precedes, effectively showcases our proud Reserve Force to the wider public and especially to the local citizens who would normally not be exposed to the pomp and ceremony of such an event. The Reserves of KwaZulu-Natal wish to thank the people of Ladysmith for making this shop window of our Defence Force such a success.

