



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The 2016 Armed Forces Parade Celebration

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All roads led to Port Elizabeth for the men and women in uniform as they travelled in their numbers to support the fifth annual South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Armed Forces Day Parade. This prestigious edutainment event was held on Sunday 21 February 2016 at Kings Beach, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province.

In 2012, the President of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) proclaimed that 21 February will be observed and commemorated as Armed Forces Day. He declared this to be a day on which the South African population honours men and women of the South African National Defence Force by affirming their support and gratitude to them for upholding the Constitution of the Republic and defending the territorial integrity of the Republic and protecting its people.

It is for this reason that the Armed Forces Day coincides with the commemoration of the sinking of the SS Mendi on 21 February 1917, which resulted in the deaths of 616 South Africans and 31 crew who died when the SS Mendi was struck by the SS Darro in the English Channel, near the Isle of Wight. Till today, this tragedy is still regarded as the worst South African maritime tragedy in history. Prior to the parade, the President laid a wreath at the SS Mendi Memorial in New Brighton.

Chief of South African Navy was the main executor and coordinator of this successful event. Since the proclamation, the Armed Forces Day has been celebrated in three provinces, namely Gauteng, the Free State and the North West Province.

The President of the Republic, President Jacob Zuma in his capacity as the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF officiated in this 5th celebration of Armed Forces Day and as the main functionary, he took the salute from the South African National Defence Force during the military parade. He also conferred Mandela Gold medals on deserving SANDF members, both men and women, for their role in taking care of our statesman during the period when he was ill, his funeral, mourning period arrangements, the lying –in-state at

the Union Buildings and the contribution to the successful execution of the state funeral in Qunu.

In his speech, the Commander-in-Chief said “Our soldiers must be skilled, healthy, fit and highly disciplined military professionals, they must possess a high level of morale and sense of duty. That is the character of a soldier we are building in the SANDF”.

The Armed Forces Day was implemented to achieve several objectives which are as follows:

- To unite all South Africans behind our military.
- To allow the SANDF to interact with communities.
- To expand public understanding of the military’s role and its purpose to society.
- To showcase the latest military equipment and technologies used to protect the public.
- To demonstrate the military combat readiness against threats and as well as to support government during peace time.

After the parade, the guests and over ten thousand members of the community who attended the event witnessed a fine selection of capability demonstrations by all four Arms of Services which, included a live demonstration of anti-piracy operations by the SA Navy, beach landing by the SA Army, the release of hostages by SA Special Forces and the extraction of injured personnel by the SA Air Force and the SA Military Health Service which was a marvel to watch for kids, senior citizens and all the inhabitants of the surrounding community. Nothing is more reassuring to ordinary citizens on matters of national security than capability demonstrations done by their very own National Defence Force and such was the feeling many guests and members of the community around the Bay when they saw the SANDF “in action”.

Approximately one thousand SANDF members and over hundred vehicles and aircraft participated in the march and fly-past.

The SANDF Reserve Force formed part of the crew which supported and delivered great performances throughout the event.

Two Security companies were supplied by:

Buffalo Volunteer Rifles – East London
Regiment Piet Retief– Port Elizabeth

Parade Reserve Platoons were supplied by:

First City – Grahamstown
Prince Alfred’s Guard – Port Elizabeth
Regiment Piet Retief– Port Elizabeth

Colour Party was formed by:

1st City - Grahamstown
Prince Alfred's Guard – Port Elizabeth
Regiment Piet Retief– Port Elizabeth
Buffalo Volunteer Rifles – East London
19 Field Engineer Regiment– Durban
Regiment MooiRivier– Potchefstroom
84 Signal Regiment – Durban

Gun salute

A battery of the Cape Field Artillery fired twenty one and seventeen round gun salutes.

The SA Army Reserves also supported with the personnel who assisted with preparations of the marching column. Col Ray van Zanten from SA Infantry Formation did the SABC TV commentary of the capability demonstration. This prestigious event on the calendar of the Department of Defence was, once again, executed in a professional manner as it left the community of Port Elizabeth astonished and begging for more.



Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, and Chief South African National Defence Force General Solly Shoke on the podium.



Gen S.Z. Shoke C SANDF handing over the Flag of Command to Lt Gen L. Yam Chief of the SA Army indicating that the SA Army has been tasked to present the Armed Forces Week in 2017.



The SAMHS Band accompanying the Procession of Flag Bearers.



Col E. Visagie Commander of the Mechanised column in a Ratel Command vehicle.



Geckos of the Airborne Artillery transporting their 120mm mortars.



Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma during his address.



Flag bearers of the different Services.



The Colour Parties.



The National Ceremonial Guard.



Mandela Medal Gold recipients.



Members of 4 Special Forces Regiment fast roping onto a "Pirate ship".



Members of 4 Special Forces Regiment being brought ashore for reconnaissance.



Members of 4 Special Forces Regiment being withdrawn by helicopter from the "Pirate ship".



Members of 500 Squadron rappelling onto a roof.



Members of 6 SAI Bn about to fast rope onto the beach from the two Oryx helicopters.



A slung Gecko vehicle is brought to the beach. It would contain the ammunition for the 2 x 81mm mortars carried in the second helicopter.



Members of the community observing members of 9 SAI Bn being brought ashore in Lima craft.



Grippon jets assisted with the pre bombardment of the beach.



Grippon jets after having dropped their bombs (simulated).



Simulated explosions on the beach. This was achieved by using detonating cord and flammable liquid.



Surgeon General of South African Military Health Services; Lt Gen A.P. Sedibe, Chief SA Air Force; Lt Gen F.Z. Msimang, Chief SA Army; Lt Gen L. Yam and C JOps; Lt Gen D.D. Mduyana excited about the parade.



Maj Gen S.B. Mmono, Acting Chief Defence Legal Services, R Adm W.H.O. Teuteberg, Deputy Chief Navy and Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen R.C. Andersen having a discussion about the anticipated parade prior to the event.