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This information bulletin is provided to clarify service in the Reserves of the SANDF.

What is Reserve Service?

Voluntary part time military service. The system is not designed to provide full time employment or permanent jobs in the Defence Force. Reserve members are called up when they are needed.

What is the role of the Reserves?

- To augment the Regulars in ongoing operations and activities of the Defence Force.
- To provide the expansion capability of the Defence Force for major combat operations and crisis response.
- To provide certain specialist and scarce skills to the Defence Force.
- To provide the main specialist capabilities for reconstruction and development.
- To enhance the relationship between Defence and the Public and Private sectors.

Where are the Reserves recruited from?

The main source of recruitment is from members who have undergone two years of service in the Military Skills Development System (MSDS). A limited number are recruited from the Regular Force and the University

Reserve Training Programme.

Why are all MSDS members not offered a career in the Regular Force?

The MSDS is designed to feed and rejuvenate both the Regular Force and the Reserves.

Why are there new MSDS intakes each year when members of previous intakes are not offered careers in the Regular Force?

The SANDF continuously needs to rejuvenate itself. There are MSDS intakes each year to address both attrition and rejuvenation. MSDS members who are not offered careers in the Regular Force can serve in the Reserves and will be called up when there is a need.

Why are the majority of Reserves generally only called up for up to 180 days per year?

Reserve service is meant to be part time. The limitation of 180 days for the majority of Reserve members is to provide an opportunity for more Reserves to do service each year. The minority of Reserve members called up for Border safeguarding and certain critical functions are called up for more than 180 days. During wartime it may be necessary to call up the Reserves for a considerable length of time depending on the circumstances and the demand and supply.

Why are all Reserves not called up every year?

Of the nearly 23 000 Reserves, only some 15 000 are called up each year. This is determined by operational and training requirements as well as budget constraints.

Has the Reserve Force wages budget been cut for 2017/18 and if so, why?

Yes, the cut is just over thirty per cent and is a consequence of the cut in the SANDF budget. This situation has a negative effect on the compensation of employees including Reserve salaries. Salaries and allowances of the Regular Force and the Reserves are not necessarily the same because of the full time versus the part time service and conditions.

Are Reserves entitled to medical and funeral cover when not on call up?

This cover is not provided when the member is not called up. Members of the Reserves may however join in the Group Life Insurance Scheme whether on call up or not.

Where can the service conditions for the Reserves be found?

The Regulations for the Reserves can be found on the Reserve Force website, www.rfdiv.mil.za.

Enquiries please call SSO Projects Col M.E. Van Wyk on 012 355 5107