

SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY SHOOTING TEAM ACQUITS ITSELF WELL IN THE NETHERLANDS

Article and Photographs by: Captain Jacques de Vries and Colonel Ray van Zanten
Reserve Force Council / SA Army Reserve Force



During October 2017, the SANDF Army Reserves once again participated in the 25th annual Netherlands International Shooting Competition for Reserves (NISC). The competition was hosted by the Reservists Shooting Committee (Reservisten Schiet Commissie - RSC) of the Netherlands Armed Forces Federation of Reserves (Nederlandse Reservisten Federatie Krijgsmacht - NRFK). The event was held at the Harskamp Army infantry shooting ranges (Infanterie Schietkamp Harskamp) from 6 to 8 October.

NISC this year attracted over 150 participants from around the world, with countries contributing shooters that compete in teams of three. South Africa joined participants hailing from Albania, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Teams enter three separate categories with different weapons. These are the pistol class, using the 9x19mm Parabellum chambered Glock-17 and Walther P99, and rifle classes with the 5.56mm chambered (M-16 based) Diemaco/Colt Canada C7 and (M-4 based) Diemaco/Colt Canada C8.

As with previous years, the South African team attending the NISC event was drawn from the top performing shooters who competed at the Chief of the SA Army Combat Shooting Competition, held in Bloemfontein from 20 to 22 April 2017. The three top-scoring shooters from each of the open, development and ladies' categories were selected out of approximately four hundred participants.

The Reserve Force Council and SA Army collaborate in sending Reserve Force shooters to the annual NISC event, with the RFC making annual budgetary provision for the cost of airfares, overseas allowances, entry fees, accommodation and meals. The SA Army makes wages, training equipment and ammunition available to members preparing in South Africa for the overseas competition.

While some of South Africa's participants had been to NISC events in the past, it was also a time of discovery for others, for whom it was their first long haul international flight and travel abroad. Those selected were -

Colonel Ray van Zanten	SA Army Infantry Formation
Second Lieutenant S.T. Podile	Regiment Moorivier
Master Warrant Officer Pedro Dias Lobo	Fort iKapa
Corporal A. de Bruin	Cape Town Rifles [female]
Corporal T. Viti	Cape Town Rifles [female]
Trooper E.L. Verwey	Regiment President Steyn [female]
Trooper T.M. Ramatla	Regiment President Steyn
Bombardier D.M. Rossouw	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
Bombardier W.J. de Wet	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
Gunner M.V. Ntsoeu	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment [female]
Trooper H.S. Nophetjhe	Regiment Moorivier
Private R.E. Fortmann	Natal Carbineers



From left to right: 2Lt Podile, Tpr Verwey, Col van Zanten, Bdr de Wet, Tpr Nophetjhe, Cpl Viti, Bdr Rossouw, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape (Ret), Pvt Fortmann, Gnr Ntsoeu, Tpr Ramatla, Cpl de Bruin, MWO Dias Lobo.

The Glock-17 and Walther P99 exercises commenced with sighting practices of 5 rounds standing in 60 seconds followed by Practice 1 with 10 rounds fired from the standing position in 30 seconds on an Olympic Target. Practice 2 entailed 10 rounds fired while kneeling in 40 seconds on an Olympic Target. Targets were set at a distance of 40 meters.

The Diemaco/Colt Canada rifle C-8 exercise starts with a sighting practice of 6 rounds in 30 seconds at distances of 100, 200 and 300 meters. Practice 1 sees 10 rounds fired in 35 seconds at one target at 100 meters while Practice 2 sees 2 x 4 rounds fired in 35 seconds from the sitting position at one target 100 meters distant. In Practice 3, shottists fire 2 x 4 rounds in 8 sequential 3 second exposures at 1 target at 200 meters. Practice 4 is in prone position with 2 x 4 rounds fired in 8 sequential 3 seconds at 1 target 300 meters away.

The Diemaco/Colt Canada C-7 rifle exercise likewise started with a sighting practice, this time of 10 rounds in 30 seconds at targets set at 100, 200 and 300 meters. This was followed by Practice 1 which entailed firing 2x5 rounds from the prone position in 30 seconds on 1 target at 300 meters. Practice 2 required firing 2x5 rounds from the kneeling position in ten 2 second exposures on 1 target at 200 meters. Finally, Practice 3 saw 2x5 round volleys sent down range in 25 seconds from the standing position at 1 target 100 meters distant.



Some of the South African team together with an officer of the Netherlands Reservists Shooting Committee – Colonel G. Lettinga

Competition at the 2017 event was fierce, with South Africa acquitting itself well. The following results mark the Reserve team’s overall performance out of the some 150 participants.

Individual Pistol Category: Glock 17		
Ranking	Initials and Surname	Regiment
15	Tpr E.L. Verwey	Regiment President Steyn
22	Bdr W.J. de Wet	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
29	Col R. van Zanten	SA Army Infantry Formation
42	2Lt S.T. Podile	Regiment Mooirivier
43	Pte R.E. Fortmann	Natal Carbineers
62	Bdr D.M. Rossouw	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
83	Cpl T. Viti	Cape Town Rifles
90	Tpr T.M. Ramatla	Regiment President Steyn
93	MWO P.M. Dias Lobo	Fort iKapa
94	Tpr H.S. Nophetjhe	Regiment Mooirivier
95	Gnr M.V. Ntsoeu	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
142	Cpl A. de Bruin	Cape Town Rifles

Individual Pistol Category: Walther P99

Ranking	Initials and Surname	Regiment
11	Bdr W.J. de Wet	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
17	Col R. van Zanten	SA Army Infantry Formation
25	2Lt S.T. Podile	Regiment Mooirivier
36	Tpr E.L. Verwey	Regiment President Steyn
46	Pte R.E. Fortmann	Natal Carbineers
69	Bdr D.M. Rossouw	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
73	MWO P.M. Dias Lobo	Fort iKapa
91	Cpl T. Viti	Cape Town Rifles
92	Tpr T.M. Ramatla	Regiment President Steyn
98	Tpr H.S. Nophetjhe	Regiment Mooirivier
133	Gnr M.V. Ntsoeu	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
152	Cpl A. de Bruin	Cape Town Rifles

Individual Rifle Category: Diemaco/Colt Canada: C7

Ranking	Initials and Surname	Regiment
13	MWO P.M. Dias Lobo	Fort iKapa
16	Cpl A. de Bruin	Cape Town Rifles
23	Bdr W.J. de Wet	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
30	Tpr T.M. Ramatla	Regiment President Steyn
32	Bdr D.M. Rossouw	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
36	Cpl T. Viti	Cape Town Rifles
49	Gnr M.V. Ntsoeu	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
63	Tpr E.L. Verwey	Regiment President Steyn
76	Pte R.E. Fortmann	Natal Carbineers
85	2Lt S.T. Podile	Regiment Mooirivier
87	Col R. van Zanten	SA Army Infantry Formation
109	Tpr H.S. Nophetjhe	Regiment Mooirivier

Individual Rifle Category: Diemaco/Colt Canada: C8

Ranking	Initials and Surname	Regiment
5	MWO P.M. Dias Lobo	Fort iKapa
7	Cpl A. de Bruin	Cape Town Rifles
11	Cpl T. Viti	Cape Town Rifles
25	Tpr H.S. Nophetjhe	Regiment Mooirivier
26	Bdr W.J. de Wet	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
46	Pte R.E. Fortmann	Natal Carbineers
50	Col R. van Zanten	SA Army Infantry Formation
78	Tpr E.L. Verwey	Regiment President Steyn
87	2Lt S.T. Podile	Regiment Mooirivier
112	Bdr D.M. Rossouw	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
130	Tpr T.M. Ramatla	Regiment President Steyn
140	Gnr M.V. Ntsoeu	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment

Individual Category: Weapons, Rifles and Pistol

Ranking	Initials and Surname	Regiment
07	Bdr W.J. de Wet	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
21	MWO P.M. Dias Lobo	Fort iKapa
30	Col R. van Zanten	SA Army Infantry Formation
37	Tpr E.L. Verwey	Regiment President Steyn
39	Pte R.E. Fortmann	Natal Carbineers
43	Cpl T. Viti	Cape Town Rifles
50	2Lt S.T. Podile	Regiment Mooirivier
60	Bdr D.M. Rossouw	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment
86	Tpr H.S. Nophetjhe	Regiment Mooirivier
99	Cpl A. de Bruin	Cape Town Rifles
101	Tpr T.M. Ramatla	Regiment President Steyn
123	Gnr M.V. Ntsoeu	Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment

Pistol Team Category: Glock 17

Ranking	Team Name	Team Number	Hits	Points
13	SA Army Reserve A	23	49	261
19	SA Army Reserve B	24	46	281
21	SA Army Reserve C	25	42	239
33	SA Army Reserve D	26	37	283

Pistol Team Category: Walther P99

Ranking	Team Name	Team Number	Hits	Points
09	SA Army Reserve A	23	49	281
22	SA Army Reserve B	24	37	218
29	SA Army Reserve D	26	33	182
32	SA Army Reserve C	25	25	153

Rifle Team Category: Diemaco/Colt Canada C7

Ranking	Team Name	Team Number	Hits	Points
07	SA Army Reserve A	23	52	339
10	SA Army Reserve D	26	49	310
12	SA Army Reserve B	24	48	302
30	SA Army Reserve C	25	35	254

Rifle Team Category: Diemaco/Colt Canada C8

Ranking	Team Name	Team Number	Hits	Points
01	SA Army Reserve A	23	58	392
07	SA Army Reserve D	26	48	319
26	SA Army Reserve B	24	38	257
35	SA Army Reserve C	25	34	245

Combined Team Category: Weapons, Rifles, and Pistol

Ranking	Team Name	Team Number	Glock	P99	C7	C8	Total	Glock	P99	C7	C8	Total
5	SA Army Reserve A	23	49	49	52	58	208	0	261	281	339	392
16	SA Army Reserve B	24	46	37	48	38	169	0	281	218	302	257
17	SA Army Reserve A	26	37	33	49	48	167	0	283	182	310	196
16	SA Army Reserve A	25	42	32	35	34	143	0	239	153	254	245



On the range wearing equipment issued by the hosts for the competition.

While the event has marksmanship and skill at arms as the order of the day, there was plenty of time for competitors to socialise with their fellows while transiting between the respective ranges. This camaraderie would culminate in the gala evening hosted on Saturday 7 October by the organisers to give credit to participants, range officers and facilitating staff. The Gala's dinner and prize giving provided a platform upon which just reward could be placed upon the best that reserve forces from Europe and around the world had to put forward. SA Army Reserve Team A came first in the Rifle Team Category: Diemaco/Colt Canada C8, while MWO P.M. Dias Lobo placed in the top five in the Individual Rifle Category: Diemaco/Colt Canada: C8.



Participants were afforded the opportunity to socialise at the Gala event.

Team members were afforded the opportunity to visit the Netherlands' National Military Museum situated at Amersfoort on the former air base at Soesterberg. The museum's holdings and displays are constituted from the combined collections of the former Military Aviation Museum in Soesterberg and the Army Museum in Delft. Members were able to visit and appreciate the numerous armoured vehicles, rotary and fixed wing aircraft, weapons and military equipment.



Members posing with a Leopard 1 Main Battle Tank of the Royal Netherlands Army on display at the National Military Museum.

As had been the case in previous years, the team paid a visit to South Africa's diplomatic mission to the Netherlands in Amsterdam to have lunch with the Republic's Ambassador, His Excellency, Mr Bruce Koloane. Members were most conscious of the notion that they are representatives of South Africa during their time abroad just as their diplomatic counterparts are. The visit marked the conclusion of the team's time in the Netherlands before their return to South Africa. The experiences and insights gained on the journey will without a doubt be of great value to both the old hands and the newcomers.



The team in Amsterdam with SA's Ambassador to the Netherlands (far right) - His Excellency Mr Bruce Koloane with his wife Ntokozi.

The team expresses its sincere thanks for the support rendered by the Reserve Force Council and the SA Army so as to make attendance at the 2017 NISC possible.

