2017 Chief of the SA Army Combat Rifle Championship in Bloemfontein
To Everything There’s a Season

From the Editor’s Desk

“To everything there’s a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”, says Ecclesiastes. We borrow those words of solace to help us through this difficult period. The mood in this issue of the SANDF Reserve Force is rather sombre as we mourn the passing of Colonel Andries Shuping “Cappy” Motswadira, SSO Reserve Promotions (Chief Coordinator of The Reserve Force Volunteer Magazine) who passed on in August. Col “Cappy” was a stickler for efficiency and had an exemplary work ethic as a key member of this publication’s editorial team. A God-fearing and committed family man known for his dapper dress sense. It is a great loss for the South African National Defence Force. With each passing day and a falling night, we will always remember his good deeds. A mighty soldier has fallen.

In this edition, we look into the contribution of the SANDF to the 9-Point Plan of Government, including the National Development Plan, the retirement function in honour of Colonel Roy Edwin Ward Gowar, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans’ appointment of the new Reserve Force Council, the Gold Cup and White Horse Trophy Shoot 2017, the official opening of the restored Buffalo Volunteer Rifles HQ Complex East London and the Centenary of the Battle of Square Hill September 2018. The Chief of Logistics, Lt Gen J.S. Mbuli and Maj Gen Roy Andersen, have more than a thing or two to say as gunners.


It is a great pleasure to be part of yet another edition of your favourite publication. Until next time, keep well. Remember to pass this magazine on to a friend when you are done…

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In Memoriam
Contrary to the popular belief that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Reserve members are not optimally utilized and that they sit idling on the streets after the termination of their two years’ Military Skills Development System (MSDS) and Voluntary Military Skills (VMS) contracts, the Logistics Division has made a commitment with its Formations under command, namely the Department of Defence Logistics Support Formation and Defence Works Formation to ensure the retention of vital skills of the Reserve Force members within the Logistics environment.

Logistics within the DOD/SANDF remains a vibrant and essential cog in the delivery of support to force preparation and force employment. Logistics plays this vital role for the SANDF to be able to carry out its Constitutional mandate and continue to deliver as directed by government priorities. The outputs of the Logistics Division collectively consist of the provision of appropriate, ready and sustained materiel, facilities, logistic movement and services as well as quality logistics strategic direction as the logistic functional authority in the DOD/SANDF. To ensure such mandate and execution of expected
tasks, the Logistics Division needs capable bodies from the Reserve Force to fulfil these tasks and expectations.

The Logistics Division has been in support and has supplied Project THUSANO with drivers and administration personnel from the Reserves. Logistics Division Corporate Communication is mandated to enhance the image of the Division and its corporate branding and the tasks assigned are of scarce skills that need understanding, qualifications, knowledge and experience which cannot be switched around. 78% of trained Defence Works Formation Artisans are Reserves, and are able to construct, refurbish and maintain military facilities. DOD Logistics Support Formation has been regarded as the centre of events for SANDF, Services and Divisions. The preparation of Marquee tents, stages and stands are done by a fatigue team and mainly these tasks are executed by the Reserve Force members.

Yet another affirmation of the importance of the Reserve Force to the overall South African Military machine has come from the Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Honourable Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa. She states, unequivocally: “The SANDF Reserves will be the force to be reckoned with as their role is very critical”. The concept of something being impossible is foreign to Reserve members – the word simply does not exist in their vocabulary. They intend to remain a step ahead of the rest in terms of discipline and commitment to proudly serve the SANDF despite the inevitable budget constraints that continue to impact negatively on the DOD/SANDF.

The utilization of Reserves includes responsibility for augmenting the Regular Force in on-going operations, providing the expansion capability of the Defence Force for major combat operations and crisis response as well as providing specialist and scarce skills for the Department of Defence. The Reserves also play a vital role in enhancing the relationship between the defence force and the public and private sectors. In terms of the Defence Review, the Reserve Force are to provide cost-effective mechanism for capacitating the Defence Force for operational surges. In addition the Reserves are suppliers of vital professional supportive expertise and certain skills that do not normally exist in the fulltime structure of the SA National Defence Force.

During my interaction with Former Chief Logistics, Lt Gen Morris Moadira, he emphasized and reiterated that: “unavailability of approved structures within the Logistics Division and the SA National Defence Force has a bad impact on us, thus we have to utilize the Reserve Force as mandated and instructed by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, however we aim to fight and protect the idea of utilizing the Reserves though budget cuts affect our Human Resources Plan.

The SA National Defence Force, in particular the Logistics Division while awaiting the approval of structures will continue to utilise the Reserve Force to fulfil its mandate to ensure optimal logistic support to enable the Defence mandate, while complying with the regulatory framework and government priorities.
The first half of 2017 has been eventful for the Reserve Force. The companies deployed in Ops Corona on the borders have achieved many successes. The Logistics Division and the Chaplaincy have continued to make significant use of Reserves and SAMHS called up Reserves to assist with the backlog in the state pathology laboratories and mortuaries.

The budgetary pressures continue to limit Reserve call ups with only some 15 000 of the nearly 23 000 Reserves being called up each year, for an average period of 183 days. The Military Command Council is however making every effort to limit the impact on the Reserves imposed by the budget cuts in November 2016.

An important development was the publication in the Government Gazette on 2 June 2017 of the new Regulations for the Reserves. These Regulations provide more certainty for both members and the SANDF and contain a new Contract of Service and specimen call up instructions. They can be found on www.rfdiv.mil.za.

The Military Command Council has approved the recommendations of the SA Army for changes to the names of certain Reserve Force units. These changes will be made public by the Chief of the SA Army after approval by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

The standard of shooting in the Reserve Force, as evidenced by the results of the SA Army Combat Shooting Competition, remains high. The achievements by the Reserve Shooting and Military Skills teams when competing internationally are pleasing.

The next edition of the Reserve Force Volunteer will include a tribute to the late Col “Cappy” Motswadira. He is greatly missed by the Reserve Division.

This edition contains a wide variety of articles which reflect the high levels of Reserve activity in all the Services and Divisions, despite the budget pressures. I trust that you the reader, will find them interesting. Please also look at the Reserve Force website (www.rfdiv.mil.za) for regular updates.

Before closing, I would like to recognise Cols Alan Nelson and Roy Gowar who have retired after more than 50 and 40 years’ service, respectively, in the Reserves. Their contribution to the SANDF and the Reserves in particular has been immense.

Best wishes for the rest of 2017!
The Chief of the South African National Defence Force (C SANDF), General Solly Shoke bestowed fifty, forty and thirty-year service medals on recipients who distinguished themselves in various capacities while heeding the clarion call of swelling the ranks of the SANDF in defence of the territorial integrity of South Africa. A majestic Medal Parade was held on Friday 02 June 2017 at the Armscor Sport Grounds in Erasmuskloof, Pretoria.

"It takes discipline and resilience to serve an institution like the Defence Force for a period of over 30 years because without discipline and loyalty you fall off. The officers on the parade have distinguished themselves in serving the country and its people and that is why we honour them in public” said General Shoke in his address to the long-service award recipients.

“We have the responsibility to ensure the safety of 55 million people irrespective of their political belief, religion, colour, race or gender and that’s why I always say we need to rise above petty party politics. We serve everybody in this country; we abide by the constitution of the Republic of South Africa and that’s what is expected of us, to be loyal to this country and its people” he added.

Chief Defence Reserves, Major General Roy Andersen received the highest honour as he was the only recipient who received a 50 year uninterrupted service clasp. General Andersen has built remarkable parallel careers in the corporate and military worlds. In the military, Gen Andersen served with the Transvaal Horse Artillery after his initial national service and became its commanding officer at the age of 27. He swiftly moved up the ranks to major general, and now serves as head of the SANDF Reserve Force.

In an interview, Maj Gen Andersen said “Reaching the milestone of fifty years of service and receiving this recognition is a great honor. In accepting this clasp I am however mindful of the fact that medal parades are as much for the audience as they are for the recipients. They are an opportunity to encourage loyalty, service and commitment”.
Asked about his secret for longevity in the SANDF, Maj Gen Andersen said: “The secret to longevity in the SANDF is passion, focus and commitment. It is essential that you enjoy what you doing. I have also been fortunate to have the support of my wife, Wendy, as well as my three children.”

“Fellow officers, I would like to thank you for work well done and also thank your families for having given you support to be where you are today because without their support you would not have endured the hardships of the military organization,” General Shoke concluded.

Senior military members were also in attendance.

Maj Gen Roy Andersen and WO2 Harmzen were the two Reserve Force members who received their awards.

Gen Shoke addressing members on parade.
Armed Forces Day was held in Durban on 21 February 2017, a date of special significance. One hundred years earlier, the SS Mendi sank in just 25 minutes after being accidentally rammed by the SS Darro off the Isle of Wight. The loss of life was terrible: 33 crew members, 2 officers, 7 non-commissioned officers and 618 black troops from the 5th Battalion SA Native Labour Corps.

In October 2016, Maj Gen Andersen advised Col Acutt that one of the many official functions that the SANDF was expected to orchestrate, would be a wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the Centenary of the loss of the SS Mendi. As Durban did not have a memorial to this WW1 tragedy, various options were suggested, including a plaque at Lord’s Ground, the City Cenotaph or the Botanic Gardens, but none was found suitable. In November 2016, Maj Mark Levin (OC 15 Maintenance Unit) proposed to Sinothi Thabethe, the Director of the Durban Local History Museum, that a memorial be erected near the water’s edge at Durban’s Maritime Museum. This idea was enthusiastically embraced by Sinothi and a small group of stakeholders. Rather than the usual generic memorials, a large rock was decided upon, as a symbol of the earth as those who had drowned were “the sons of Africa.” A large boulder was procured, faced, polished and engraved with appropriate wording. The city paid all the costs involved.

During January 2017, Col Acutt was formally advised that Defence Reserve Provincial Office KZN was responsible to ensure that the SS Mendi memorial would be ready for the Centenary Commemoration of the SS Mendi tragedy. Under Col Acutt’s determined leadership (along with his office staff), he undertook this tasking with vigour. The last weeks included double (and triple-checking) of the wording on the stone at the engravers, as well as the numerous small details needed for such a big occasion. Eventually the stone was ready, and with city officials and Col Acutt ensuring it was in the exact position, the stone was winched into place.

The whole area was cleaned and spruced up, ready for the ceremony – and all on time. On President Jacob Zuma’s arrival, and after he had been officially greeted, Col Acutt presented the President with the Centennial Delville Wood/SS Mendi commemorative coin.

Then, at 09:00 on the grey and chilly morning of 21 February 2017, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF,
President Jacob Zuma, unveiled Durban’s newest memorial. After the Last Post had sounded and a Two Minute Silence had been observed, the President laid a wreath at the base of the Stone of Remembrance.

Present were the Minister and Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Chief of the SANDF, the Service Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air force, Military Health Service, Defence Reserves and the Premier of Kwa-Zulu-Natal. Other guests included descendants of some of the men who had been on the stricken SS Mendi.

The ceremony was simple but sombre, in keeping with the significance of the event. The sacrifices of these men, who gave their lives in service of their country in time of war, are woven into the fabric of South Africa’s history. And Durban, with its Stone of Remembrance, now also remembers them.

The contribution made by Col Acutt the KZN Reserves Office, together with Maj M. Levin of 15 Maintenance Unit, who all worked closely with the City of Durban, ensured the successful conclusion of this project.
The original Regulations, promulgated in July 2009, became outdated in the light of the extended call-ups and did not provide certainty to the Department of Defence (DOD) or the South African National Defence Force Reserve Force members.

The following key issues were not addressed in the 2009 Regulations:

- A description of the Contract of Service.
- Provision of guidance on call up orders for continuous and non-continuous utilisation.
- Clear definitions.
- A fair mechanism to cancel the call up and/or membership of misbehaving and/or ill-disciplined members.

The Defence Reserve Board, the Reserve Force Council, Defence Legal Services and the HR Division were consulted on an ongoing basis prior to the approval of the Regulations for the Reserves (2017) by the Military Command Council and thereafter the Plenary Defence Staff Council and the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

The updated Regulations for the Reserves were promulgated in May 2017 and Gazetted on 02 June 2017.

The main changes in the Regulations for the Reserves (2017) are as follows:

**ADDITIONS**

- General format of the Contract of Service for members of the Reserve Force.
- Conditions of Service and Service Benefits.
- Call up order: Non-continuous.
- Call up order: Continuous.

The above-mentioned additions are based on the current policy.

**REVISED DEFINITIONS**

- Non-continuous utilisation.
- Continuous utilisation.
- Utilisation

New definitions provide clarity on call ups and on the consequent benefits and obligations.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership, as opposed to service in the Reserves, may be terminated provided the member is given reasons.

The Regulations also provide for a full exit of misbehaving members.

The Regulations for the Reserves can be found on the Reserve Force website, www.rfdiv.mil.za.
The Chief of the South African National Defence Force (C SANDF) hosted the fourth 2016, 40 and 30 year long Service Medal Parade at Armscor Sports Ground (ASG) in Erasmuskloof. The parade was held on Thursday 15 December 2016. The aim of the parade was to honour and appreciate members of SANDF who sacrificed their own interests and desires to serve our country South Africa with loyalty, discipline, and commitment for a period of 30 or 40 years respectively. Exclusive medals, decorations and citations were awarded to the honour recipients by Gen Solly Shoke. It was a great gesture to show appreciation to the recipients who served our country in harsh conditions, often being away from home and their loved ones. To celebrate such a remarkable event invited guests, dignitaries and Defence Reserves members were present to cheer on their heroes and heroines.

The Reserves were represented by a total of seven recipients on that day, two Reserve Force members received 40 year medals, two members received 40 year Bar and three members received 30 year medals. As the expansion capability of SANDF, the Defence Reserve Division was delighted to take part in the parade and have members who were recipients on that day. The late Col Shuping Motswadira, Senior Staff Officer Corporate Communication Defence Reserves Division (SSO Promotions Def Res Div) who served for 35 years in the SANDF, was also honoured with a 30 year service medal.

In his speech CSANDF, Gen Solly Shoke remarked “to serve in the military for 30 years and above requires a lot of discipline as the military is a place where you live by command and do what the seniors are telling you to do, therefore it is not everyone who can make it in the military. We are doing this in public so that all South Africans can know that we have people who are prepared to die for the safety and security of this country, because our economy can only thrive in a safe environment and we, “in uniform” contribute to that safety. We are also involved in peace keeping operations on the continent to ensure that there is peace and stability in our region. To you the recipients I would like to say to you, keep it up, you must lead by example and let the young stars learn the best from you. In his closure, Gen Solly Shoke urged members of (SANDF) to maintain good working ethics and discipline as outsiders are often focused on the negative issues.
Introduction and Background

The Government is committed to constructing a "democratic developmental state" capable of addressing all challenges ranging from economic growth, unemployment, inequality and safety and security to education and poverty alleviation. The SANDF is particularly well placed to assist in the achievement of these aims without negatively impacting on its core functions as it is able to use its inherent collateral utility to contribute to Government’s developmental agenda. It is with this in mind that the C SANDF instructed C Army to investigate the potential contribution that can be made by the SANDF.

Initial Progress

The pilot phase of the project in the North West Province has gained momentum. Useful lessons have been learned which are now being used to extend the project to other provinces. Project Koba-tlala, as named by General Solly Shoke, will involve all the services of the SANDF and not only the SA Army.

Contribution to the Nine-point Plan of Government as Guided by the National Development Plan

In terms of the overarching National Development Plan, Government’s initial goal is to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. It hopes to achieve this by drawing on the energies of its people, growing an inclusive economy and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society. The aim of Project Koba-tlala is to contribute to the achievement of these goals by enhancing the capacity of the state in a number of innovative ways.

Figure 1: Planned Project Outcomes.
The following two graphics provide greater detail with Figures 1 and 2 explaining the macro overview. Accordingly, it can be seen that the focus of the SANDF is limited to those aspects of the Nine-point Plan where, utilising its collateral value, it can make a difference.

Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6 show in detail which aspects are addressed.

**Significant SANDF success stories**

**Recent Achievements as Indicated in the 2015/16 Department of Defence Annual Report**

Recent successes highlighting the current contribution of the SANDF as reported in the 2015/16 Department of Defence Annual Report are as follows:

- **Border Safeguarding**: The safeguarding of the borders of the Republic of South Africa remains a key function of the SANDF. This responsibility encompasses three environments, namely the land, air and maritime environments.
- **Search and Rescue**: South African Navy (SAN) frigates are frequently deployed in search and rescue operations while other operations include, for example, the support of Mozambique in combating piracy. The South African Air Force is also deployed during floods to mount rescue operations as well as fighting fires.
- **Disaster Aid and Relief**: This includes the building of pedestrian bridges in the Eastern Cape as well as support to the Department of Agriculture in combating foot-and-mouth disease in KZN.
  - The Minister of Defence & Military Veterans, Hon Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, referred to a number of successes in her recent budget speech where the SANDF is directly involved in peacetime activities which impact positively on the daily lives of South Africans.
SA Army short-term objectives achieved

Project Koba-thala has achieved the following:

- A steering committee has been set up between the SA Army, as the main executor of the pilot project in the SANDF and the Department of Rural Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) of the North West Government. This committee is co-chaired by a project officer from the SA Army and a Chief Director from the North West Province. This committee has met five times since the pilot project commenced in August 2015.
- In conjunction with the North West Province, various projects have been identified in terms of the total spectrum of rural development, for example the linking up of agri parks in the province with decentralised procurement initiatives as well as positive negotiations with organised agriculture (Agri-NW) to enhance co-operation between commercial and small-scale or emerging farmers.
- The North West University (NWU) has agreed to play a supporting role through research into agriculture, monitoring and evaluating project progress, assisting in the drawing up of business plans as well as providing assistance in terms of education, training, development and empowerment at different levels.
- The establishment of a co-operative in the NW Province by Reserve Force members with a focus on reskilling Reserve Force members and finding employment for them where and when possible.
- Identifying projects in NW Province where Reserve Force members can be involved in supporting this initiative.
- The North West Co-operative (NWK) in Lichtenburg has agreed to support the initiative by providing technical support on all aspects of farm management as well as livestock.
- Water Purification Course. The SA Army engaged the Department of Water and Sanitation and identified this requirement. A basic Water Purification Course was presented to 30 Reserve Force members in Potchefstroom in November 2016. This was to create an additional capacity to be utilised by the provincial government when these Reserve Force members are not called up for military duty. SANDF equipment was utilised to train the members. Similar equipment

Figure 3: Aspect one of 9-Point Plan.
can, however, be purchased by the provincial government for their own use. A service-level agreement will be negotiated to give effect to this venture.

- **Community Development and Liaison Course.** The idea is to train Reserve Force members to be utilised in conjunction with provincial governments when not called up. They can assist other departments and municipalities to facilitate rural and other development initiatives in communities. A total of 67 Reserve Force members have been trained at seven units in five provinces.

- **Youth Entrepreneurship Service Camps in the North West Province.** A total of 13 camps for 200 learners each (2,600 learners) in the NW have been presented based on the same SLA from March 2016 to November 2016. The SA Army provided the facilities and general support for these camps whilst the NW provincial government was responsible for the contents presented to the learners.

- **Commercialising military messes to give effect to local procurement.** A process was started on 1 April 2017 to commercialise military messes in the North West Province (and other provinces) to give effect to local procurement. This will support the Government-led market initiative that was implemented by the North West Provincial Government. The basis of commercialisation is the decentralisation of the purchasing and control of rations to the end user (mess/club). This will be implemented aggressively over the medium term to be aligned with what was stated in SONA 2017: “Through such regulations and programmes government will be able to use the state buying power to empower small enterprises, rural and township enterprises, designated groups and to promote local industrial development.”

**C SANDF Instruction**

- C SANDF instructed that the project must be expanded to other provinces over the medium term.
- As part of this project, the concept of (military) agri villages will be investigated, as well as how to best link up with agri villages. This concept resides in an integrated military co-operative system with a focus on social responsibility, economic sustainability, education, and training and development. In this concept, a village will be created and coupled to a commercial “hub” where military veterans can also be accommodated.
Personal engagement of the C SANDF

Gen Solly Shoke, C SANDF, personally engaged organised agriculture (AGRI SA) at two meetings in 2016 to seek their co-operation for this project. There was a positive response from AGRI SA and individual farmers and follow-up meetings with the SA Army project team have already taken place.

Brig General Gerhard Kamffer (Director Army Reserves) is the project leader of this initiative.
Botoka Comprehensive School in Potchefstroom in the North West Province invited the Defence Reserves Provincial Office North West to be part of their indoor Career Exhibition on 24 February 2017.

The Grade 12 Learners from Botoka Comprehensive School were the target group who attended this Career Exhibition.

Lt Col J.D. Hartzenberg, Cpl D.G. Williams as well as Pte B.P. Seiphetlho attended this Career Exhibition where the promotion and marketing of the SANDF as well as the Reserve Force Service System took place.

The Grade 12 learners showed great interest and asked questions concerning how to become part of the SANDF/ Reserve Force.

A video of the Armed Forces Day, held in Potchefstroom on 21 February 2015 was showed. The Reserve Force Volunteer magazines were also available for members who were interested in joining the force.
The South African Police Service initiated the “Take a Girl Child to Work” campaign and invited the Defence Reserves PONW office to take part in the career exhibition.

The concept was to give the girls an opportunity to experience what their parents are doing at work and also to give the children a background and opportunities to communicate with members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) as well as the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

The target group for this project was Grade 10 and Grade 12 learners from various High Schools in Potchefstroom.

The theme was “Dream, Believe and Achieve”. Capt K. Kheswa of the SAPS inspired the learners to do their best at school and reminded them that if they have a dream and believe in themselves they would be able to achieve their goal.

Sgt van Reenen of the recruitment office in Potchefstroom gave a background on how to become part of the SANDF and thereafter Lt Col Hartzenberg informed the learners about the benefits of the Reserve Force.

After the presentation, members attended a demonstration at SAASIC covering Dog Handling, Equestrian Capability as well as motorcycle jumps.
The Provincial office KwaZulu-Natal hosted the Defence Reserves Division Implementation Guidelines for Planning and Budgeting Work Session for the MTEF FY 2018/19 at the Sica’s guest house in Durban over the period 17 to 22 February 2017.

The work session was officially opened by Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen S.D. Molefe. In her opening remarks she presented the main purpose of the work session as discussing the implementation of the annual planning guidelines for the Provincial Offices and to ensure a common understanding of the planning and budgeting requirements, processes and timelines.

Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Andersen, presented the state of the Reserves in the SANDF as well as the Command Brief/Appreciation. The General went on to list all the achievements of the Division, but also mentioned some of the challenges that affect the South African National Defence Force Reserves.

The work session covered two days, over the period 18 and 19 Feb 2017. On the 20th it was followed by the Defence Provincial Liaison Council (DPLC) workshop followed by the Armed Forces’ Day Celebration on the 21st February 2017. The rest of the period was utilised for presentations on the strategy, objectives, performance measures, targets and budget motivations, cash flow plans as well as the support plan guidelines.

The expected outcome of the work session was to ensure an understanding between the Government and the DOD’s strategic priorities translated into the DOD Strategic Plan, the impact thereof and opportunities created for the Defence Reserves. It contributed to the competency of the Defence Reserves Division HQ in the environment of planning, budgeting and reporting through a consciously developed seamless set of auditable performance information inputs that respond to the DOD’s mandate as well as the Government Outcomes serviced by the DOD.
Nasrec took the centre stage once again as thousands of families from various parts of South Africa migrated to the City of Gold to experience the unlimited carousing. The first day of the annual Rand Show delivered ‘ten tons of fun’ for the show-goers, shoppers and fun-lovers to set the tone for the remainder of the show.

The Rand Show got underway on Friday 14 April 2017. This year’s theme was “Not just another Hero”. The SANDF’s participation comprised internal and external exhibitions, an arena programme and a joint SANDF elements capability demonstration.

Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Makhudu Gulube, was the main functionary who officially opened the Show on behalf of Defence and Military Veterans’ Minister, Hon Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

“This year, the SANDF participates here in the Rand show under the theme: “Not just another hero,” a theme that seeks to celebrate the selfless service that our men and women in uniform render to their country even at the risk of their lives. We say “not just another hero” because the sons and daughters of South Africa who responded to the call to become soldiers are not ordinary heroes,” said Dr Ngulube during the official opening ceremony.

The SANDF’s four Arms of Service and the Divisions were well represented and provided the public and aspiring soldiers with important information about the Defence Force through their exhibition stalls.

The SANDF Reserve Force utilised this platform to:
- Enhance and promote the image of the SANDF Reserve Force,
- Market the SANDF Reserves to the public and create awareness of the necessity of the Reserve Force Service System amongst captains of industry and the public.

The Show presented the Defence Reserves with the opportunity to interact personally with the people in and around Gauteng, the South African Youth as well as international guests that visited the Reserve Force exhibition stall. Such interaction gave the broader public as well as learners the opportunity to better understand the role and function of the Defence Reserves.

SANDF Reserves handed out Reserve promotional material, such as magazines, forms, pamphlets, and brochures.

Reserve Force Units/Regiments that participated in the 2017 Rand Show

1. Regiment Oos Rand exhibiting together with 21 SA Infantry Battalion (Regular Force Unit).

Lance Corporal Jan Donald Maswili, explaining the application of the 40mm Multiple Grenade Launcher.
Witwatersrand Rifles exhibiting together with 1 SA Mechanised Infantry Battalion

Lieutenant Siyabonga Khukhaphi, Warrant Officer Gerald Partridge, Staff Sergeant Ismail Johnson and Corporal Michael Makgoka ready to receive the visitors.

SA Army Signal Formation Exhibition deployed: 11 Field Postal Unit and 7 Signal Unit

Members of 11 Field Postal Unit manning their stand.

Thaba Tswane Regiment showcases an Electronic Live Aiming Corrector System (ELAC System)

The ELAC System is an electronic weapon that is laser guided. This weapon training system is cost effective, easy to transport and to operate. It can be used indoors and outdoors without having to go to the actual shooting range.

Rifleman Danie Liebenberg, Sergeant Cecilia Marx, Lance Corporal Allan Groenewald.

Sergeant Marx, coaching a visitor on how to aim and fire the ELAC System.
The show drew to a close with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) participants’ appreciation ceremony on Friday 21 April 2017. The Department of Defence Head of Communication, Mr Simphiwe Dlamini, officiated and addressed the members in attendance. In his remarks Mr Dlamini said “because of you, our people are beginning to realise that when we speak about the members of the Defence Force, we are not just talking about people who carry guns waiting to kill. You make it easy through exhibitions and capability demonstrations to better the understanding of what the Defence Force is all about”. At the end of his address, Mr Dlamini asked each member who participated in this year’s event to give themselves a pat on the back for a job well done.

On Sunday 23 April 2017, Senior Staff Officer Defence Reserves Provincial Office Gauteng, Colonel Sipho Majombozi, visited the Reserve Force stalls to express his message of appreciation for the level of professionalism rendered by all Reserve Force Units’ and Regiments’ communicators during the period of the show.

The show ended on a high note and to say the Force “stole” the show would be an understatement; credit must be given to Chief Defence Reserves, Major General Roy Andersen, for his support during the show; Col Sipho Majombozi, Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Provincial Office Gauteng, for his outstanding contribution and moral support; Chief Defence Reserves staff, SANDF Reserve Force Services (SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and South African Military Health Service); Regiment Oos Rand, Witwatersrand Rifles, Thaba Tswane Regiment, 11 Field Postal Unit and 7 Signal Unit for their outstanding support. All these initiatives flew the Reserve flag as high as possible. The 2017 Rand Show was a resounding success by all accounts.
The Opening Ceremony

Secretary for Defence, Dr Ngulube, during his address at the ceremonial opening of the 2017 Rand Show.

The Surgeon General of the South African Military Health Service, Lieutenant General A.P. Sedibe; CEO of the Johannesburg Expo Centre, Mr G. Newman and the Department of Defence Head of Communication, Mr S. Dlamini, formed part of this event.

The Exhibition Stall

The delighted Dr Ngulube, with SANDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General V.R. Masando; Chief SA Navy, Vice Admiral M.S. Hlongwane and Director Defence Corporate Communication, Brigadier General M. Mgobozi, appreciating the level of service he received during his visit to the Reserves Stall.

Chief Defence Reserves, Major General Roy Andersen, on arrival at the Defence Reserves stall greeting the communicators who were manning the stall.

The Capability Demonstration

Colonel William Dixon, exercise coordinator initiating the simulated attack.

Members from 6 Medical Battalion Group (a Reserve Force Unit) executing hot extraction of an injured pilot.
It was with mixed feelings when Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Roy Andersen, presented a befitting farewell to Colonel Roy Edwin Ward Gowar, Senior Staff Officer Provincial Office Eastern Cape after forty six years of military service.

This prestigious function was hosted under the auspices of Lt Col V.P. Mbali, Officer commanding Regiment Piet Retief on Friday 26 May 2017. In his absentia due to unavoidable conflicting SANDF duty, Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Andersen congratulated Col Gowar on a dedicated and highly successful military career.

Col Gowar did his basic military training at 1 SSB in Bloemfontein in January 1970. He started his part-time military career as a Sergeant in Midlands Commando and later in 1993 was appointed as Officer Commanding. He successfully rose in the ranks. He was part of the establishment of the Defence Reserve Division until he was appointed as SSO POEC in 2003 a post he held until he retired in December 2016. Col Gowar was also involved in a family business called Gowar Enterprises that he started with his father in 1973. Col Gowar is married to Adeline Gowar and has been blessed with three children (two daughters and a son).

Farewell messages from colleagues, friends and family members poured in for Col Gowar as he starts his new life as a retired soldier. Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen Debbie Molefe extended words of gratitude to Col Gowar for his positive contribution in serving the nation, saying goodbye to someone with sound institutional memory on Reserve Force related matters, leaving a void that is already evident.
Seated are Mrs Adeline and Col Roy Gowar, as they listen to Lt Col Mbali, OC Regt Piet Retief paying tribute to Col Gower referring to him as a warrior, a businessman and a true military leader.

Looking back at his 46 years of service to the SANDF, Col Gowar stated that throughout his career he experienced moments that will continue to live in his mind forever. Having experienced good times and difficult times he chooses to remember only the great times. He also extended his words of gratitude to Maj Gen Andersen and Brig Gen Molefe for the commitment and support that they showed while serving under them.

As one of the very first and valuable Defence Reserves staff members, the Force will surely miss his amazing qualities in uniform.
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.

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.rfdv.mil.za.

Enquiries please call SSO Projects Col M.E. Van Wyk on 012 355 5107
The names of certain of the SA Army Reserve Force units will be changed shortly in order to ensure that they represent a balanced view of South Africa’s rich military heritage.

In this, the first of two articles, the establishment dates of the SA Army, SAAF and SAMHS Reserve Force units is recorded.

This list has been prepared by Col Lionel Crook (Ret) with further input from Brig Gen G Kamffer and Col A Bridgens. Any inputs or corrections would be welcomed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve Force unit</th>
<th>Date of establishment</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>S A ARMY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1855 Natal Carbineers</td>
<td>15.01.1855</td>
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<td>1855 Cape Town Rifles (Dukes)</td>
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<td>1864 Umvoti Mounted Rifles</td>
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<td>1873 Durban Light Infantry</td>
<td>02.04.1873</td>
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<td>1875 First City</td>
<td>07.10.1875</td>
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<td>1876 Kimberley Regiment</td>
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<td>1877 Prince Alfred’s Guard</td>
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<td>1883 The Buffalo Volunteer Rifles</td>
<td>20.12.1883</td>
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<td>1885 Cape Town Highlanders</td>
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<td>1903 Witwatersrand Rifles</td>
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<td>1904 Transvaal Horse Artillery</td>
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<td>1913 Pretoria Regiment</td>
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<td>1926 3 Field Engineer Regiment</td>
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<td>1926 Vrystaat Artillerie Regiment</td>
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<td>1934 Regiment Botha</td>
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<td>1934 Regiment Louw Wepener</td>
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<td>1934 Regiment President Steyn</td>
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<td>1934 Regiment Westelike Provincie</td>
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<td>1939 South African Irish Regiment</td>
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<td>1946 Regiment Christiaan Beyers</td>
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<td>1946 54 Signal Unit</td>
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<td>1946 Regiment Potchefstroomse</td>
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<td>1946 71 Signal Unit</td>
<td>01.05.1946</td>
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<td>1946 15 Maintenance Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952 Regiment Oranjerivier</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1954 Regiment Piet Retief</td>
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<td>1954 Regiment President Kruger</td>
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<td>1960 Regiment Oos Rand</td>
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<td>1960 Regiment Vaalrivier</td>
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<td>1960 Johannesburg Regiment</td>
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<td>1960 Durban Regiment</td>
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<td>1961 31 Field Workshop</td>
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<td>1961 32 Field Workshop</td>
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<td>1964 Regiment Oos Transvaal</td>
<td>01.10.1964</td>
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<td>1964 11 Field Postal Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965 6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965 71 Field Workshop</td>
<td>01.04.1965</td>
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<td>1967 37 Field Workshop</td>
<td>01.06.1967</td>
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<td>1968 Tshwane Regiment</td>
<td>26.09.1968</td>
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<td>1970 19 Field Engineer Regiment</td>
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<td>1971 2 Parachute Battalion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971 6 Signal Regiment</td>
<td>01.09.1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975 18 Light Regiment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975 3 Parachute Battalion</td>
<td>01.08.1975</td>
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<td>1975 7 Signal Group</td>
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<td>1975 84 Signal Unit</td>
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<td>1975 19 Transit Maintenance Unit</td>
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<td>1973 104 Air Force Reserve Squadron</td>
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<td>1963 105 Air Force Reserve Squadron</td>
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<td>1963 107 Air Force Reserve Squadron</td>
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<td>1963 110 Air Force Reserve Squadron</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980 92 Tactical Airfield Unit</td>
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<td>1980 97 Tactical Airfield Unit</td>
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### S A MILITARY HEALTH SERVICE

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1889 3 Medical Battalion Group</td>
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<td>1903 6 Medical Battalion Group</td>
<td>01.03.1903</td>
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<td>1913 1 Medical Battalion Group</td>
<td>01.07.1913</td>
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A follow-up article will be published in a future edition of The Reserve Force Volunteer to reflect the new unit names once they are promulgated, and if needs be, to correct the dates of establishment.
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans (MOD&MV), Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, announced the appointment of the new RFC with effect from 25 November 2016, replacing the previous Council which had completed its five-year term.

The RFC is a statutory body that was created in terms of Section 48 of the Defence Act 42 – 2002 as a consultative and advisory body representing the Reserve Force in order to promote and maintain the Reserve Force as an integral part of the Defence Force. It came about on the initiative of the old Citizen Force units prior to the establishment of the South African National Defence Force, (SANDF), and through discussions with the leadership of MK it contributed directly to the new Defence Force including a part-time component. This was enshrined in the new Constitution of the RSA, the 1996 South African White Paper on Defence and the 1998 Defence Review.

The RFC represents Reserve Regiments and Units, while individuals can join the RFC Association. The Council must be consulted on any legislation, policy or administrative measures affecting the Reserves.

The RFC provides independent views and insights on Reserve matters at ministerial level. It has available professional expertise and experience and maintains international contact with equivalent organisations in other countries. This enables the Council to offer national and international opportunities for our young military leaders to enhance their training and exposure. The Council also promotes the development of Reserve support structures involving community and business to assist in the development and implementation of the Reserve Force Service System.

The Council is made up of up to eighteen Councillors appointed by the MOD&MV. Dr John Job, the outgoing RFC Chairman, was instructed on 30th July 2015, to arrange for the nomination of new members of the Council.

Letters were circulated and road shows undertaken to create awareness of the RFC and to identify candidates from serving and retired reservists who conformed to the laid down criteria. Nominations were sent in by regiments, organisations and individuals. This was followed by a voting process and final selection of possible Councillors whose names and profiles were forwarded to the minister for her consideration.

In turn, the minister appointed the following Councillors to the RFC effective from 24 November 2016 for a 5-year term:

a. Representing the Regiments
   i. Maj Gen K.M. Mokoape* as Chairperson.
   ii. Brig Gen J.A. Del Monte* as Deputy Chairperson.
   iii. Brig Gen E.G.M Alexander*.
   iv. Col G.R. Hide.
   v. Capt (SANR) T.A. Morom*.
   vi. Col J. Sexwale.
   vii. Lt Col J.A.G. Dyer*.
   viii. Lt Col J.U. van der Westhuizen.
   ix. 2Lt N.M. Gwala.
   x. WO1 J.D. Tshabalala*.

b. Representing the RFC Association
   i. Brig Gen P. Tembe*.
   ii. Lt Col G. J. Giles*.
   iii. Lt Col A. Thulare.
   iv. Lt Col E. van Niekerk*.
c. Members appointed by the MOD&MV of her own choosing.
   i. Maj Gen R.F.P. Mdluli-Sedibe*.
   iii. Col M.C.G. Müller*.
   iv. Maj M. Fryer*.
   *Retired (Ret)

The RFC held a handing over meeting on 19th January 2017 where the outgoing Chairman, Dr John Job handed over to the new Chairman, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape (Ret). Dr Job had been involved from the beginnings of the RFC and served for 19 years in the chair. Dr Job was awarded the title of Honorary Life President of the RFC for his long and dedicated service.


New RFC gets Down to Business

The inaugural meeting of the new RFC Councillors was held on 3 February 2017 at the RFC Headquarters in Johannesburg with the new Chairman, Maj Gen Mokoape (Ret) at the helm. This meeting enabled all new Councillors to become acquainted with the background and functioning of the RFC, and also allowed them to get to know one another as well as to learn of the expertise available amongst the group.

The RFC held its first Lekgotla on 9 and 10 March 2017 at the SA Air Force College, Thaba Tshwane. Here a presentation was given by Maj Gen MJ. Ledwaba, GOC Defence Works Formation. This resonated with some of the concepts the RFC has been working on for the past few years.

Gen Mokoape highlighted Milestone 1 of the 2015 Defence Review, on the Arresting the Decline in the SANDF. He noted that with budget cuts, a feeder system in the Reserves may be at risk. The RFC would therefore assist the SANDF with an appropriate transition strategy to free resources for renovation of the entire human resource component.

Others who addressed the RFC at the Lekgotla were Brig Gen John Gibbs, member of the Defence Review Implementation Project Team, (DRIPT), Professor Edna Van Harte, chairperson of the Defence Force Service Commission, (DFSC) and Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief Defence Reserves, with members of his team. Dr Sam Gulube, Secretary for Defence, (SecDef) addressed the Councillors and signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defence, (DoD) and the RFC.
RFC Interacts with Defence Works Formation

On 27 March 2017 a meeting was held at the Regional Works Unit Gauteng Headquarters which exposed Councillors to the work that is being done by the Works Unit. The meeting focused on current RFC projects, structure and representation at various levels, as well as the allocation of various portfolios. A special workgroup is now examining how the Defence Works Formation’s achievements can assist in addressing other issues faced by the Reserves, especially when they are not deployed and employed.

Remembering the Fallen

Representatives from the RFC have attended several commemoration and memorial services throughout South Africa. The RFC continues to support all future Reserve commemoration services.

Sustaining Shooting through the SA Army Combat Shooting Competition

The RFC assists in facilitating the very successful SA Army Combat Shooting Competition in Bloemfontein, held this year from 20 to 23 April. The highlight was to see how well development teams are doing, ensuring new shottists are brought on board each year. RFC Chair, Maj Gen Mokoape (Ret), addressed shottists on the RFC’s activities. This joint venture with the SA Army and RFC ensures that Reserves are continuously involved in honing of shooting as a core skill of soldiering.

Strengthening Relations with International Reserve Forces

Councillors met at the RFC Headquarters in Johannesburg on 24 April 2017, when the RFC MoUs with Reserves of the United Kingdom, Italy and the Nordic Countries were discussed. The intention for the future is to focus on SADC Reserves in the short-term.

Nurturing upcoming young Reserve members at home and abroad

The RFC Junior Officers’ Association (RFCJOA), held their annual Young Reserve Officers Workshop (YROW) national selection from 26 to 28 May 2017. Leadership training was given by an experienced retired officers, culminating in the selection of four JOA members. They attended the InterAllied Confederation of Reserve Officers’ (Confédération Interalliée des Officers de Réserve CIOR) Summer Congress in Prague, Czech Republic from 30 July to 4 August 2017. They formed part of an RFC Delegation which also included a Military Skills Competition (MilComp) team, a representative to the Civil Military Exercise (CIMEX) and Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Committee and a representative to the Interallied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers (Confédération Interalliée des Officers Médicaux de Réserve, CIOMR). More detail on their activities is to follow in subsequent articles.

The present RFC takes cognisance of the great work done by its predecessor, and can only build upon that firm foundation. As it charts its path ahead the new incumbents take heed of the words of former RFC Chairperson Dr John Job, that “Much has been achieved, however much remains to be done.” The RFC will strive with that in mind to be an indispensable representative of the Reserves.
The Junior Officers’ Association of the Reserve Force Council successfully concluded its Young Reserve Officers’ Workshop National Selection 2017 during the week of 24 – 28 May 2017 at a venue in Midrand, Gauteng. Prior JOA Regional selection processes conducted in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape led to prospective candidates moving through to the National level where a number of days of scheduled activities for eleven candidates were held. Most, though not all, JOA members participating in the YROW National Selection process hail from the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP). Members participating in the selection vie to participate in the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) Young Reserve Officers’ Workshop (YROW) held at its Summer Congress in Prague, Czech Republic in August.

The candidates from the respective provinces were: Gauteng - 2Lts Vukile Ngema, Transvaal Horse Artillery; Zacharia Tamele, Logistic Support Formation HQ Unit; Moses Skosana, DOD Defence Works Formation; Seiso Makintane, Transvaalse Staat-sartillerie; Nqobile Khoza, 2 Signal Regiment and Capt Jacques de Vries, SA Army Reserve Force Pool of Specialists. Members from Western Cape were - 2Lts David Osterloh, Cape Garrison Artillery; Thamsanqa Mpolweni, Cape Garrison Artillery; and Mulalo Nethononda, 35 Field Engineer Support Regiment, while KwaZulu-Natal furnished Capt Jabu Mngadi, Umvoti Mounted Rifles and 2Lt Mdumiseni Madlala, Natal Carbineers.

**YROW at a Glance**

The RFC JOA annually sends selected JOA officers to events of the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers, commonly referred to by its French acronym CIOR. This organisation represents in the region of one million reservist military personnel spanning some 36 participating nations from Europe, North America and beyond. The CIOR’s reach makes it one of the world’s largest military reserve officer organizations. Meetings are held bi-annually at Summer and Winter congresses whereby partners who contribute personnel cooperate through committees that busy themselves with the challenges and obstacles found by reserve forces around the world. Topics of great interest to the CIOR are - the contribution of reserve forces to international operations, the re-integration of reservists within their respective communities following deployment abroad, the law of armed conflict, the impact of regional groups’ expansion on the reserves, and employer support to reservists.

The Young Reserve Officers’ Workshop offered at the CIOR’s annual Summer Congress, is a week-long professional development programme that serves as a junior reserve officer’s entry into a multinational environment to which over sixty international participants up to the rank of Captain (Army and Air Force) and Lieutenant (Navy) are drawn. Being part of the YROW gives individuals the opportunity to work together and debate, as well as to bring their unique country and personal contributions to their international partners. In this respect, they may see perspectives beyond their own horizons, which affords the possibility for perceptions to change. Learning from the ways in which other nations utilize their reserves, employment of TTPs (Tactics, Techniques and Procedures) and doctrines in the international environment is thus of immense value.

**National Selection Programme: Workshops, Presentations and Interviews**

The process started on Tuesday 23 May 2017 with candidates coming in by road and air from Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, proceeding on Wednesday 24 May 2017 with preparations for the coming days’ syndicated activities. As part of regional selection, candidates
had written staff papers on one of four topics, from which candidates had chosen in partial fulfilment of their regional selection process. The topics for YROW selection were: - Discuss the role of Reserves in development of Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC): Policy and Implementation; What can African defence structures learn from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in terms of Collective Security for implementation in the African Standby Force (ASF); In light of the military deployment during the 2017 State of the Nation event, discuss risks and benefits of using the military in internal police operations; Discuss potential for and consequences of General Yam’s proposal of a new “Africanised Reserve System” within the SANDF as mentioned in the Reserve Force Volunteer 2016 Winter Edition; and - Discuss the Reserve Force Council and its role in the development of Junior Leadership in the SANDF Reserve. Accepted on the veracity of these staff papers, candidates made presentations on Wednesday to their gathered colleagues and selection Directing Staff (DS) so as to refine their presenting skills and streamline their presentations. Thursday 25 May saw workshops on presentation skills and a seminar conducted by paramedic Mr Andrew Sheahan on advanced first aid techniques, which was much appreciated by all who attended due to the informative and practical nature of instruction and demonstration.

Friday 25 May 2017 saw the arrival at the selection venue of Reserve Force Council members participating in the selection process, among them Major General Jackie Sedibe (Ret) and Brigadier General McGill Alexander (Ret). Brig Gen Alexander workshoped a discussion entitled “Thoughts on Leadership” with the young officers, emphasising in leaders the precepts of physically fitness, showing subordinates what to do – not telling them what to do, setting an example and avoiding bragging, exuding enthusiasm and energy, showing that a leader can make mistakes and taking corrective ownership of them, and striving for perfection, even though knowing it can never be achieved. Discussions around these points prompted spontaneous, gratifying and reasoned responses.

A wreath laying service was conducted thereafter by candidates, members of the RFC and the Directing Staff at the Rand Regiments War Memorial in Saxonwold, Johannesburg, followed by a guided tour given at the adjacent South African National Museum of Military History by Mr Hamish Paterson. The Museum graciously opened the Lt Gen AML Masondo Library to members, where further polishing of presentations was conducted. A cocktail function was held for selection candidates at “The View” in Johannesburg - a magnificent Victorian mansion which is home to the Transvaal Scottish Museum and Regimental Association.
Saturday 26 May saw candidates gather together with Directing Staff and RFC selection panellists at the garrison of the Light Horse Regiment at Mount Collins in Johannesburg. From there individual presentations on their chosen staff paper were delivered all day until evening, when candidates and invited guests attended the 2017 RFC JOA YROW National Selection Formal Dinner at the Indaba Hotel and Conference Center in Fourways. This annual event serves as an opportunity for the RFC JOA to showcase its aspiring young talent in the eyes of guests. Seventy three guests attended, ranging from members of the RFC, JOA, SANDF, SAPS and the public and private sectors. Mr and Mrs Marcel Coutriers represented the Speaker of the Johannesburg Metropolitan City Council, while Rear Admiral (JG) (Director Naval Logistics) and Mrs F.A. Hans represented Rear Admiral A.E. Kubu, Chief of Naval Staff and Mrs Kubu. Mr Charles Drewe, General Manager of the Indaba Hotel, whose support to the occasion was outstanding, was also among the invited guests. The guest speaker for the evening was Colonel Edward Carton-Barber. As part of the evening’s proceedings, candidates were called upon to share their thoughts and perspectives as members of the JOA, with heartening sentiments elucidated on to the guests.

The following morning and afternoon of 27 May 2017 entailed final personal candidate interviews conducted by a panel of the RFC, with four individuals ultimately being selected to attend the Young Reserve Officers Workshop at the 2017 CIOR Prague Summer Congress from among the eleven candidates. The four were 2Lts Ngema, Khoza, Osterloh and Skosana. Capt de Vries was selected to attend the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) workshops and Civil Military Cooperation Exercise (CIMEX) at the Summer Congress. A number of individuals had also been earmarked by the RFC for possible participation in future projects or events.

All candidates acquitted themselves well during the selection process and in an initiative pioneered this year by the National Executive of the JOA to foster reading among its members in the area of military history and military science. Each selection participant was awarded a book award as a token of appreciation. The book contained a certificate signed by the Chairperson of the RFC Maj Gen Keith Mokoape (Ret) and JOA Project Officer, Stanley Russell as well as by the National and Vice Chairpersons of the JOA, Lts Damian Adsetts and Luvuyo Nowalaza. In light of the on-going centenary commemorations of the First World War in which members of the JOA have participated in South Africa, France and England, the book ‘The World’s War’, written by David Olusoga was selected for the author’s valuable exploration of the experience and sacrifices in that conflict of four million non-white people, among whom the black servicemen of the South African Native Labour Corps (SANLC) fall and whose contributions remain obscure even to this day. Following a short but heartfelt book award ceremony by Maj Gen Mokoape (Ret) and the Directing Staff, participants headed home in high spirits. The RFCJOA continues to strengthen its base as a developmental forum for Junior Officers in the Reserve Forces of the SANDF. To that end, the association it has formed will continue to participate in and contribute to the development of leadership skills in preparing junior officers for future senior leadership roles in the Reserve Forces.
Reserve Force Units and Regiments compete annually for the highly sought after Gold Cup trophy, which forms part of the Chief of the South African Army Combat Shooting Competition held this year from 20 to 22 April 2017. This is in turn a combined venture between the Reserve Force Council (RFC), represented by the South African Army Shooting Association (SAARSA) and the SA Army as well as Defence Reserves. Whereas the Army Reserve Force Regiments and units vie for the Gold Cup trophy, the White Horse trophy winner is determined by overall Unit, team competition between the Reserve Force and Regulars.

Mr JB Robinson of Robinson Gold Mine, Randfontein, donated this gold cup, in 1902, which stands 43cm high and the lid bears the figure of a rifleman. The cup itself is embellished with floral repoussé work, as well as corded and fluted designs.

The central shield at the front of the cup is engraved with the original title of this trophy at inception, “The Robinson Challenge Cup presented by Mr J.B Robinson 1902”, above which has been added “Central Mine Rifle Association”. Further above, near the upper rim of the cup is engraved “Coast Garrison and Active Citizen Force Shooting Trophy” and within the smaller shield there is engraved “Loaned by the Trustees Transvaal Rifle Association”. The large shield at the reverse of the trophy is engraved to depict the headgear and outbuildings of a mine. The black enamelled base is 22cm high and has 11 gold winners’ shields attached and the added lower section has 6 gold winners’ plates attached.

The Gold Cup trophy was originally donated to encourage service rifle shooting amongst the volunteer units and rifle clubs. Thus, having this trophy as the premier Reserve shooting trophy has carried on that intent. In addition to the Gold Cup and White Horse trophies, the Rembrandt trophy; 7 Div trophy; Lourens Botha trophy; SA Army Foundation trophy; Anderson trophy; Regiment Botha trophy and the Abe Bailey trophy were also up for contention.
The trophy table consistently looks impressive and ensures that most of the participants will be recognised for their efforts. The RFC donates the majority of the medals that are handed out, and ensures that the RFC has a representative at the Chief of the SA Army Combat Shooting Competition.

The competition this year was very tight as can be seen by the following results listed below

**GOLD CUP TROPHY - BEST RESERVE UNIT TEAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing</th>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Natal Carbineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Durban Regiment</td>
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**WHITE HORSE TROPHY - BEST OVERALL REGULAR/RESERVE UNIT TEAM**

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### Rembrandt Trophy - Top Individual Shottist

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<th>Initials &amp; Surname</th>
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<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Lt Col H.H-P.J. Stark</td>
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<td>Ssgt H.J. Grobler</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lt Murray</td>
<td>Cape Town Highlanders</td>
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Maj Gen Mokoape (Ret) with the champion shot of the Army, Lt Col Stark.

### 7 Div Trophy - Best Overall Unit Team (Development)

<table>
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<th>Standing</th>
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<td>Regiment Piet Retief (dev)</td>
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<td>Regiment De La Rey (dev)</td>
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Maj Gen Mokoape (Ret) with the Development Team winners, Regt Mooirivier.

### Lourens Botha Trophy - Best Development Shottist

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<td>2Lt S.T. Podile</td>
<td>Regiment Mooirivier (dev)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tpr H.F. Nophetjhe</td>
<td>Regiment Mooirivier (dev)</td>
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<td>Pte M.M. Lephoi</td>
<td>Kimberley Regiment (dev)</td>
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<td>Cpl T.V. Vinger</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tpr H.G. Neethling</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Cpl Z.G. Nziweni</td>
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<td>Tpr T.J. Maqase</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Gnr P. Maqayi</td>
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Maj Gen Mokoape (Ret) with Tpr Ramatla of Regiment President Steyn, Top Development shottist.
SA ARMY FOUNDATION TROPHY - BEST FEMALE SHOTTIST

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<tr>
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<th>Initials &amp; Surname</th>
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<th>Score</th>
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<td>Tpr E.L. Verwey</td>
<td>Regiment President Steyn</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Bdr D.M. Rossouw</td>
<td>Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment</td>
<td>376</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Cpl T.Viti</td>
<td>Cape Town Rifles</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Gnr M.V. Ntsoeu</td>
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<td>Cpl A. de Bruin</td>
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<td>Sgt I. Swart</td>
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<td>Lcpl U. Ramkusen</td>
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ANDERSON TROPHY - BEST RUN DOWN UNIT TEAM

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<td>Witwatersrand Rifles</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Durban Regiment</td>
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REGIMENT BOTHA TROPHY - BEST UNIT TEAM (Table 2 SCORE)

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Natal Carbineers</td>
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<td>Regiment President Steyn</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Cape Town Rifles</td>
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<td>Durban Regiment</td>
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### ABE BAILEY TROPHY - MOST IMPROVED SCORES 2016-2017

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<tr>
<th>Standing</th>
<th>Reserve Force Units</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>+/- % 2016/17</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Score</td>
<td>% Score</td>
<td>Score</td>
<td>% Score</td>
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<td>4000 Ave</td>
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<td>39.43</td>
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**Brig Gen Kamffer with the most improved team, Witwatersrand Rifles.**

### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS BY RANK Maj to Lt Col

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing</th>
<th>Initials &amp; Surname</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lt Col H.H-P.J. Stark</td>
<td>Regiment Mooirivier</td>
<td>425</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lt Col L.A. Korff</td>
<td>Regiment President Steyn</td>
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<td>Lt Col M.J. Rowe</td>
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<td>Maj E.J. Pascoe</td>
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### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS BY RANK WO1

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### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS BY RANK Sgt to WO2

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<td>Natal Carbineers</td>
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<td>Regiment Pres Steyn</td>
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<td>WO2 L.J. Mosololi</td>
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### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS BY RANK Rfn to Cpl

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<td>397</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tpr P.J. Geldenhuys</td>
<td>Regiment President Steyn</td>
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The 430 Reserves who participated in the Chief of the SA Army Combat Shooting Competition came from across the country, constituting one of the biggest gatherings of Reserves on the calendar each year. It was pleasing to see the close results of the top teams for the Gold Cup. Once again it was great to see the Reserves walking away with the White Horse Trophy in the hands of the Natal Carbineers. However, the highlight was to see how the development teams are doing so well in ensuring new shottists are brought on board each year. Some of the original development shottists are now in the top ten in the country.

The RFC Chairperson, Maj Gen Mokoape (Ret), was given the opportunity alongside Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, to address the Reserves present and give them a short update on the RFC’s involvement in the event. This took roots in early 2000 when the Gold Cup Shooting competition was aligned more closely with the Chief Director Force Preparation at Army HQ, leading to the establishment of the Army Reserve Shooting Association (ARSA). This later became the SA Army Reserve Shooting Association (SAARSA) that also saw the establishment of the Chief of the SA Army Combat Rifle Championship. This joint venture with the SA Army and RFC (SAARSA) is great success story that ensures Reserves are continuously involved in honing one of their core skills, namely shooting.

This shooting competition continues to be very well organised and smoothly run by all concerned. The RFC is proud to see that musketry and skill at arms is still taken to vigorously by the Reserves, and looks forward to continuing its role in facilitating possibilities for members of the Reserves to participate in Military Skills and Combat Shooting competitions at home and abroad. 🎯
The 26th of February 2017 saw the culmination of a lengthy period of South Africa commemorating the men of the South African Native Labour Corps (SANLC) who lost their lives when the troopship SS Mendi sank on 21 February 1917. The First World War truly spanned the globe, and the commemoration of these seminal experiences of South African valour and sacrifice was no different when remembering the loss of the 616 South Africans, 607 of them black, who died with the loss of the SS Mendi. The memorial services in South Africa and the United Kingdom for the casualties of that fateful day saw civil and military representatives from far and wide pay their respects. Paying homage among them - members of the Reserve Force Council Junior Officers’ Association (RFCJOA).

Members of the RFCJOA have been active over the last three years in the commemoration of South Africa’s participation and sacrifice in the First World War. To this end they attended the annual SS Mendi memorial service in Cape Town held on the University of Cape Town (UCT) lower campus, and in the form of the Reserve Force Council’s 1916-2016 Delville Wood Centenary Memorial Guides Project. Four members of the RFCJOA were selected to travel to France in July of 2016 to assist the Delville Wood Commemorative Museum Trust in their capacity as battlefield guides at Delville Wood. This was one of many South African tributes to the part of the battle fought there by the 1st South African Infantry Brigade. Second Lieutenants Sam Ntlombe, Thamsanqa Mpolweni (both of Cape Garrison Artillery), Mulalo Nethononda (35 Engineer Support Regiment), and Captain Jacques de Vries (SA Army Reserve Force Pool of Specialists) not only participated in the centenary commemoration at Delville Wood on 12 July 2016, but were also present at the July 8th memorial service at Arques-La-Bataille’s Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery near Dieppe on the French Channel coastline. The service commemorated the 259 members of the SANLC among 270 South Africans interred there.

There are a few RFCJOA members with a connection to the history of the SANLC and the SS Mendi. In 2015, 2Lt Ntlombe was in the United Kingdom (UK) along with fellow RFCJOA and University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) Second Lieutenants Thembekile Tsatsa (Regiment President Steyn) and Lerato Sepotokele (Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment), to interact with the UK Reserve Forces Association. This sought to build relations between

Former SANDF Military Attaché to Brussels - Colonel Maryna Fondse with 2Lts Sam Ntlombe, Lerato Sepotokele and Thembekile Tsatsa laying a wreath at the Menin Gate in the Belgian town of Ypres. (Photo credit to Col Maryna Fondse).
the two countries, paving the way for mutual visits in the future. While on this trip, an excursion was facilitated by the Brussels based South African Military Attaché, Colonel Maryna Fondse and Defence Office Assistant Ms Judith Nthere, to sites of the First World War Western Front where South Africans served, fought and are buried. One such location was the CWGC cemetery at Arques-La-Bataille, where Lt Ntlombe was able to discover the grave of his great-grandfather who had served in the 14th Battalion of the SANLC; Private Seventeen Tuse (9063), who died on 17 August 1917. He was able to return to his family member’s grave in July 2016 to once more pay his respects. The aforementioned three RFCJOA members were also able to take part in and lay wreaths at the Last Post Ceremony at the Belgian town of Ypres’ famed First World War memorial known as the Menin Gate. At the behest of Col Fondse, Lt Ntlombe was the first junior officer to read the famed Exhortation of poet Laurence Binyon’s ‘For the Fallen’ known to many as the ‘Ode of Remembrance, a task which usually falls to the highest ranked member of a military delegation present at this event. This remembrance rite is followed every day at 20:00 with a Call to Attention, the invocation of prayer, a bugler playing the Last Post, one minute’s silence followed by the pipers’ Lament. Wreaths are laid, Reveille is played and a delegation’s National anthem sung. On this day, ‘Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrika’ reverberated through the Menin Gate’s vaulted ceilings.

**Delville Wood and the SS Mendi**

During the deployment to France during July and August 2016 as part of the RFC’s 1916-2016 Memorial Guides Project, RFCJOA members welcomed the visiting public to the battlefield of Delville Wood over a period of four weeks. They conducted tours through the forested ground once torn apart by bullets, bombs, shrapnel and gas where so many South African men still lie entombed in the ground where they fell. While emphasising the importance of commemorating South Africa’s sacrifice in this epic struggle in the trenches of Western Europe, the history of the black soldiers of the SANLC and SS Mendi who laboured in Europe, and coloured troops of the Cape Corps fighting in East Africa and Palestine was not neglected. To that end, the commemoration of contributions made by white, black and coloured South Africans at the Battle of Delville Wood, on the SS Mendi, and at the Battle of Square Hill respectively is of great importance to the RFCJOA. Members are mindful of the multifaceted contribution that was made by South African society. The Delville Wood Commemorative Museum unveiled a new wing which is devoted exclusively to the tragedy of the troopship SS Mendi, filled with historical material and artefacts salvaged from the vessel’s resting place. In addition, a new Memorial Wall of Remembrance was inaugurated on the centenary of the Battle of Delville Wood that honours all South African soldiers who died in the First and Second World War. While the period from 1994 onwards has afforded the space in which to tell the story of the SS Mendi and the massive contribution of the SANLC to the war effort, it has taken some time to bring the narrative of men denied the opportunity to bear arms for King and country out.
of obscurity and onto the stage of remembrance. Remembrance has been dominated until the end of segregation and apartheid by commemoration of the white South African face of the war.

**SS Mendi Commemorations in the United Kingdom**

RFCJOA member, Capt Jacques de Vries, was afforded the unique opportunity in February 2017 to attend the SS Mendi Centenary commemorations in the UK in his personal capacity as the great-grandson of a non-commissioned officer of the 5th Battalion C Company SANLC - Colour Sergeant Fitzclarence Jarvis Fitzpatrick (246), who survived the disaster at sea one hundred years ago. He attended the commemorations along with nine other South Africans with family connections to the SS Mendi’s sinking, selected by the Department of Defence and Military Veterans (DODMV). Wreath laying services were conducted by the South African High Commission in the UK in conjunction with its British national and regional counterparts, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Services took place at the Milton Cemetery in Portsmouth, where nine SANLC casualties of the SS Mendi are buried, as well as at Hollybrook CWGC Memorial and Cemetery in Southampton where the names of those SANLC casualties of the SS Mendi with no known grave are engraved. The vast majority of the officers and men on board the SS Mendi who died remain until this day unaccounted for.

Unknown until recently, RFCJOA member from 2 Tactical Intelligence Regiment - 2Lt Selogile Leleshage is thought to have family that perished on the SS Mendi - Private William Leshage (10947) of the 4th Battalion B Company SANLC. His family member is understood to be commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial. All events received prominent and sterling support from members of the SANDF participating in the commemorative proceedings. The South African Navy Valour class Frigate SAS Amatola conveyed family members as part of the civil and military attend-
ees from Portsmouth to the site of the wreck of the SS Mendi some seventeen kilometres off the Isle of Wight’s St Catherine’s Point in the English Channel. The Amatola was escorted by the Royal Navy Daring class destroyer HMS Dragon. Wreaths were committed to the ocean, with the Dragon holding station with the Amatola during the memorial service.

2Lt Nethononda in conversation with a visitor on the implications of the famous words attributed to Reverend Isaac Dyobha on the day of the SS Mendi’s sinking.

SS Mendi services in South Africa

Armed Forces Day - held annually on 21 February proceeded this year in Durban, and did immense justice to the loss of the men on the SS Mendi. There, the President of the Republic of South Africa unveiled a SS Mendi Stone of Remembrance at the Port Natal Maritime Museum. While memorials to the SS Mendi stand at numerous locations across the country, principal commemorations took place at the Avalon Cemetery SS Mendi Memorial in Soweto on 25 February, the Gamothakga Resort SS Mendi Memorial in Atteridgeville and the University of Cape Town (UCT) lower campus SS Mendi Memorial on 26 February respectively. RFCJOA officers from both the Western Cape and National level attended the proceedings hosted at the UCT lower campus SS Mendi Memorial by the Gunners’ Association Western Cape. This event took place with military support from the officers and other ranks of the Cape Town Highlanders. The memorial is built upon the site of the old Rosebank Showgrounds, where the SANLC ancestors of certain of the RFCJOA members present encamped and trained before departing for Europe. The RFCJOA contingent at the memorial service consisted of the full complement of those selected for the planning, preparation and execution phase members of the 1916-2016 Memorial Guides Project - 2Lts Sam Ntlombe, Mulalo Nethononda, Thamsanqa Mpolweni, Capt de Vries and 2Lt Nizaam Peck (4 Maintenance Unit). Most heartening, the speech by UCT’s Acting Vice Chancellor - Professor Francis Petersen pointed out that the men of the SANLC set out from that location with “the values of courage, national pride, and putting the needs of society above one’s own needs, even sacrificing one’s life for a greater cause, as the men on the SS Mendi did 100 years ago.” He also extolled the role of UCT during the First World War and the ultimate price paid by many of its students in that conflict, likening their answering of the call to arms to the students of UCT and other South African tertiary institutions participating in the SANDF’s University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) from which so many members of the RFCJOA are drawn.

2Lt Ntlombe, himself a product of the URTP system, laid a wreath on behalf of the Western Cape region of the RFCJOA as well as in his capacity as a descendant of his SANLC great-grandfather Private Tuse. Capt de Vries and his father Patrick laid a wreath as great-grandson and grandson of Colour Sergeant Fitzpatrick. Following the laying of wreaths, those attending laid stones that had been gathered from the beaches around Cape Town on the memorial, with each stone intended to represent a man lost on the SS Mendi whose memory has been shaped and rounded in the surf by the passage of time and tied to the person laying it, in an act of remembrance. Sea water that had been gathered from the SS Mendi’s English Channel wreck site on 21 February 2017 by members of the SAS Amatola’s crew which was brought back to South Africa was in turn poured out in blessing onto the memorial and stones by Navy Chaplain Jerry Gelant. The first stone to be laid at the re-dedication of the memorial in 2014...
was by SANDF Chaplain General (Rev) Monwabisi Andrew Jamangile, whose grandfather Private Jim Jamangile (8892) was a SS *Mendi* casualty, and likewise departed from that place to his fateful date with destiny in the English Channel.

The Junior Officers’ Association of the Reserve Force Council continues to participate in remembrance commemorating the one hundred year anniversary of the outbreak and duration of the First World War and South Africa’s diverse role and sacrifice within it. The citizen volunteers of the RFCJOA stand united in their pursuit to live and strive for freedom in South Africa, as the National Anthem and Code of Conduct for uniformed members of the SANDF extoll. While segregated along racial grounds during their service during that conflict, the contribution of especially black South Africans is remembered today with deference, to the leadership qualities found in the words of Reverend Isaac Dyobha purportedly spoken on the *SS Mendi* as it sank. He said - "Be quiet and calm, my countrymen, for what is taking place is exactly what you came to do. You are going to die, but that is what you came to do. Brothers, we are drilling the death drill. I, a Xhosa, say you are my brothers. Zulus, Swazis, Pondos, Basothos and all others, let us die like warriors. We are the sons of Africa." With that message in mind, one might be called to merge the sentiment in the Khoisan words on the South African coat of arms - "!ke e:\lxarra llke" - "diverse people unite" with that of the South African Army - "we train as we fight". The men of the *SS Mendi*, black and white, have shown the people of South Africa that diverse people can unite as they do in the SANDF to train as they fight. In this, members of the RFCJOA wholeheartedly agree.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

For more information on the JOA via Facebook, see @RFCJuniorOfficersAssociation
O
nce again South Africa can be very proud of its Reserve Military Skills Team. The team represented the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) recently during the Military Competition (MilComp) in Prague, Czech Republic. This was part of the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (Confédération Interalliée des Officiers de Réserve [CIOR]) Summer Congress.

The MilComp Team formed part of the overall South African delegation under the oversight of the Reserve Force Council (RFC), which interacted with the CIOR Council and assisted with Technical Jury duties. In addition, the delegation included a Young Reserve Officers’ Workshop group, and representation for the CIOR’s Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Exercise and CIMIC Committee.

MilComp participants engaged in scenarios which included the negotiation of land and water obstacle courses, precision and rapid fire in rifle and pistol marksmanship, grenade throwing, a land navigation map reading military speed march, administering of combat first aid, including a test in the field of Law of Armed Conflict. South Africa’s three-man MilComp team and one member as a reserve, comprised Maj David Labuschagne (3 Parachute Battalion), 2Lt Ramon Purchase (Regiment Mooirivier), Capt Douglas le Roux (team coach: 3 Parachute Battalion), Cpl Sthembiso Hlope (Umvoti Mounted Rifles), and Rfn Brian Mdlalose (3 Parachute Battalion). Capt Douglas le Roux from 3 Parachute Battalion accompanied them as the team coach.

The MilComp Team was split during the competition, with Maj Labuschagne, Cpl Hlope and Rfn Mdlalose in the primary team and 2Lt Purchase as part of a MilComp International Team 4 with one German and one Swedish team-mate.
South Africa’s notable achievements during the competition were in the category Best Individual Shooting trophy, with first place individual combined pistol and rifle shottist going to Rfn Mdlalose. He secured an outstanding 100% score in the rifle category. (Competitors used the 9mm Parabellum CZ 75 pistol and 7.62x39mm VZ. 58 assault rifle.) The Czech rifle superficially resembles the Soviet made AK-47, but is based on a completely different internal short stroke gas piston design.

Maj Labuschagne, Cpl Hlope and Rfn Mdlalose took first place as a team in the Law of Armed Conflict examination as part of military skills, while 2Lt Purchase’s MilComp International Team obtained the special category MilComp trophy which is only awarded by the CIOR Council under special circumstances to individuals or teams that display perseverance, courage and determination against all odds to complete the competition. MilComp International Team 4 completed its participation in the diverse MilComp categories despite one member sustaining serious injury. Cpl Hlope secured a Certificate of Competence in the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Qualification evaluation that took place as part of the Military Orienteering Speed March.

South African support makes success of Orienteering Speed March.

South Africa played a crucial part in making MilComp’s Military Orienteering Speed March a success when organisational equipment challenges saw MilComp team coach, Capt Le Roux, step in as an event assistant with technical gear that was used to capture all data related to the march. Without this timeous intervention, this event would not have taken place.

Lt Col Uys van der Westhuizen plays an active role as South Africa’s representative in the CIOR’s Technical Jury, especially on the pistol and rifle ranges. Close coordination and cooperation ensured that the various events were a success and that the evaluations made were fair to every individual from the countries participating. The tenacity of our South African MilComp participants showed that Reserves are flexible, highly motivated and qualified individuals who at the CIOR Summer Congress in Prague contributed to the pride and prestige of the SANDF.

Well done!
On a cold but gloriously sunny Saturday 10 June 2017, the SANDF once again was involved in the Ladysmith Battlefields Festival. This has been an annual event, since inception in 2010, where both Reserve and Regular Units which had previously been granted the ‘Right of Entry’ into Ladysmith, were once again invited to exercise their right to ‘march through the streets with their Colours unfolded and their guns with bayonets affixed’.

The Mayor of the Alfred Duma Local Municipality (formally Emnambithi), Councillor MV Madlala, extended an invitation to Chief SANDF to once again participate at the Battlefields Festival. The SA Army was appointed as the Chief coordinator, with the Infantry Formation the executor. 5 SAI Bn were the hosts as they are based in Ladysmith and already have the Right of Entry bestowed upon them. They provided the Parade leader element, Army companies and support elements.

The Freedom of Entry parade started precisely at 10:00, as planned, with the SA Army Band KZN leading on the Colour Party platoon and Ceremonial Company made up from the SA Army, SA Navy and SA Military Health Service. The Parade was inspected by Mayor Madlala and Maj Gen R. Maphwanya (GOC SA Army Infantry Formation).

There were six colour parties of the 18 units that already have the privilege bestowed upon them that participated this year, they being Light Horse Regiment (2 September 1959), 5 SAI Bn (28 April 1965), 121 SAI Bn (2 July 2011), Durban Light Infantry (2 July 2011), Natal Mounted Rifles (2 July 2011) and Umvoti Mounted Rifles (2 July 2011).

This year, the Council of the Alfred Duma Municipality awarded the Freedom of Entry to The Rifles. This newly formed Regiment, which was formed in 2007 in terms of the British Future Army Structure 2020 Plan, comprised the inclusion of the Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry, the Light Infantry, the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry, and lastly, the Royal Green Jackets. The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry Regiments were involved in the second Anglo Boer War of 1899 - 1902 and the siege of Ladysmith, hence the honour being bestowed upon them. The Mayor of Alfred Duma Municipality, Councillor Madlala presented the scroll of Right of Entry to The Rifles Regimental Secretary, Lt Col (Ret) John Pool-Warren.

At the conclusion of the parade, the participants marched in columns through the town of Ladysmith, after which followed a Mayoral function with gifts being exchanged.
The 24th June, 2017 was a red letter day in the annals of the history of the 142 year old Regiment, the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles. The main functionary, Major General R. Maphwanya SM, MM, MMM, MMB, OMM, performed the honour of officially opening the restored 131 year old Regimental HQ complex. It was a very proud moment for the Officer Commanding, Lt Col F.R. Shweni, as well as the men and women of the Regiment to be able to move back into their historical HQ.

The proceedings started off with a company of troops led by the SA Army Military Band (KZN) very smartly marching onto the parade ground. After the reading of the Code of Conduct, Cpln P. Diniso attended to the devotional aspect and prayed for the Regiment and those who serve in it. Maj Gen Maphwanya and the inspection party inspected the formed up troops. He gave a very impressive address and mentioned that the regimental museum would be renamed in honour of the Xhosa King Rharahbe.

After the parade Maj Gen Maphwanya unveiled the rededication plaque and cut the tape in the colours of the regiment. All the dignitaries then followed for a conducted tour of the two museum rooms by the museum curator Maj A.J. Step (Ret). During the tour of the museum it was mentioned that phase one re-display of memorabilia was almost complete and phase two would start soon to recognise the important part in our history contributed by the Xhosa kings, chiefs and the indigenous people of the region, who played a significant role of resistance during the struggle against land dispossession.

While a walk around by all guests to admire the professional restoration of the HQ complex was on going, the Silent Drill platoon performed their precision drill skills.

In the evening a semi-formal dinner was held at the Drill Hall with the main functionary Maj Gen Maphwanya, GOC SA Army Inf Formation, giving the address. Other distinguished invited guests were representatives of: Director Army Reserve, Brig Gen (Dr) G. Kamffer SM, MMM, DWD. Reserve Force Council, Director Force Prep SA Army Inf Form, SSO Director Army Reserves, SSO Mot South SA Army Inf Fmn, Fmn Sergeant Major, BCMM Hon Exec Mayor representative as well as a Rharabe Kingdom representative.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all with three former regimental OCs as well as groups of past and serving members. The dinner was well supported by a contingent of MOTH ex-servicemen.

Maj Step (Ret), the curator of the newly refurbished museum explains the background and significance of the museum exhibits.
The South African Irish Regiment commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Sidi Rezegh by means of a Drum Head Parade and service on the sports field of 46 SA Brigade’s HQ in Cumberland Rd, Kensington, Johannesburg on Sunday 20 November 2016. Thereafter the marching column, led by the Regimental Pipes and Drums, escorted by two MAMBA APC’s and marshaled by the JPMD, marched through the streets of Kensington back to the Regimental HQ at “The Garrison”, Langerman Drive.

The parade functionary was OC SAIR, Lt Col W.W. Kinghorn MMM DWD, assisted by: Parade Chaplain: Cpln D.S. Kgonothi, Parade Commander, Capt G.W Knott, Parade Sergeant Major, S/Sgt C.S. Ntshudisane. The marching column was led by the SA Irish Regimental Pipes and Drums proudly commanded by Pipe Maj Craig Herwill and A/Drum Major Tim Ballantyne. The band’s performance was complimented by the well executed drum head service, trained by the Master Warrant Officer G.S. Moseki.

Dignitaries and wreath layers:
The Regiment was graced with the attendance of the following Civic, Foreign, SANDF and Ex Service Organisations who attended the parade and also laid wreaths.

Arrival of the Dignitaries.
Cllr Vasco Da Gama, Speaker of the Johannesburg City Council, Cllr N. Pietersen, Ward 118 councilor, Kensington, His Excellency Liam MacGabhann, Ambassador of The Republic of Ireland, Commander s.g. K. Brand, Defence Advisor of The Federal Republic of Germany, Brig Gen M.A. Mapheto EMST, GOC 46 SA Brigade, Lt Col W.W. Kinghorn MMM DWD, OC SAIR, Capt I.N. Maluleke, Acting OC Transvaal Scottish, Drum Major M.E. Buttle, SAIR Pipe Band and SAIR Regimental Association, Mr Trevor Wright HC MMM JCD, Chairman Transvaal Scottish Regimental Association, Lt Col Godfrey Giles(Ret), National Chairman SA Legion, and Mr B. Green, MOTH’s.

The parade through the streets of Kensington was well received and was cheered on by the numerous business owners and residents of the suburb and surrounding areas. These spectators were joined by many learners from the surrounding schools as they also watched and supported the column. The Regiment has decided to continue with this street parade in future to continue with highlighting the Res Force roll this Regiment plays in supporting the local community in which we are based.

After the Parade a function was held in the hall of 46 SA Bde, to host the Dignitaries, VIP’s, Regimental and Association members and guests during which the Pipes and Drums entertained all with a selection of tunes, finishing with the playing of the Regimental March “Killaloe”. Thereafter the OC concluded the events with the following speech and made presentations to the dignitaries and friends.

**OC’s Speech courtesy of Lt Col. W.W. Kinghorn & Lt D.W. Chambers**

“Honoured guests, Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs and members of the Regiment and the Regimental Family; I wish to welcome you to the annual drumhead service in remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Sidi Rezegh. I would like to extend a special welcome to the German military representative here today, Commander Kai Brand. At the battle we were foes; today we are comrades, remembering the valour and sacrifice of the soldiers of our nations on that day.”

Cllr Vasco Da Gama, Speaker of the Johannesburg City Council.
I would like to reference a speech given previously at this parade, but which encapsulates the reason we commemorate this day, a day of defeat, rather than another day when the SA Irish were victorious.

The last Sunday of November is the last Sunday of the Ecclesiastical year, called officially in England the ‘Sunday next before Advent’ in Germany it is known as Totensonntag, the ‘Sunday of the Dead’, a kind of Lutheran All Souls’ Day. In 1941, the 23rd of November was the last Sunday of November; and the battle on that day became known in the Panzergruppe by this name as a result of the bloody fighting and the heavy casual ties taken by the German forces so engaged at Sidi Rezegh.

I would just like to quote briefly from ‘The Sidi Rezegh Battles 1941’ by J.A.I. Agar-Hamilton, which is regarded as a definitive history of the battle.

“General Freyberg of the New Zealand Division recorded in his diary under the date 23 November, ‘a beautiful day and a full one’, and so it was:- a day full of endeavour, courage and ultimately tragedy for the South African 5th Brigade.

Heavy fighting had been underway around the airfield at Sidi Rezegh for most of the day, when at about 1515, approx 200 enemy vehicles headed by tanks made an attack from the southwest of the 5th SA Brigade’s defences making for the centre of the SA Irish position. Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA) guns engaged them continuously over open sights, swinging more and more to the left until they were outflanked by the tanks. Behind the charging panzers came the German infantry, tightly packed in thin-skinned vehicles and forming an admirable target: they suffered severely.
Heavy fighting broke out immediately, with a terrific fire front of well over 100 guns concentrated on the two attacking panzer regiments and the two rifle regiments following close behind in their vehicles. A concentration of antitank weapons unusual in this theatre of war, and cleverly hidden among vehicles which had been knocked out during the morning, inflicted heavy losses on the two German rifle regiments, aided by the sustained fire of the SA Irish. Many German battalion and company commanders were killed leading their troops; a factor that initially stalled their attacks with the sudden loss of leaders. However, despite the deadly resistance of the SA Brigade, once the guns of the THA ran out of ammunition the inevitable could only occur. German tanks penetrated the defensive lines of the Brigade, supported by their remaining infantry, and began to wear down the infantry fighting positions of the South African battalions. Unprotected infantry are no match for armour, and despite ferocious resistance by the South African infantry, by dusk the battle was over, the 5th SA Brigade smashed and the South African Irish together with 3 Transvaal Scottish, 2 Regiment Botha and the THA were destroyed."

Now, 75 years later, we celebrate this day as a day of commemoration; not only in remembrance of those men that day, but also of all of those who have served and those who have given their lives for their country whilst serving in this Regiment. Indeed, this year, is the first year that we have no surviving participants of the battle present at this parade – the last of those men having answered the final call earlier this year.

But we in the SA Irish will not forget. For the real reason we remember these men is the manner of their service and dedication to duty.

Yes they fought for their country, but as any soldier will tell you; they fought first for their comrades, then for their Regiment, and then for their country.

These men, fighting from their slit trenches knowing they could not win against armour set us an example that continues to this day in the Regiment. Our traditions are in fact not our hackles and shamrocks, but rather the fidelity of service and sacrifice which provides the ethos of our service today.

With apologies to Bernard of Chartres, I would like to end with a quote: "if I serve better, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" These giants have set us an example of service to which this Regiment resolves to be true.

I thank you".

SA Pipes and Drums leading the marching column through the streets of Kensington.
On Saturday 27 May 2017, during a Change of Office Ceremony held at the Cape Field Artillery Gun Park, Fort Ikapa, Major General Roy Cecil Andersen as outgoing General of the Gunners (GoG) handed over the tokens of office to his successor, Major General (now Lt General) Jabulani Sydney Mbuli.

Attending the event were Brigadier General Khaya Makina, GOC SA Army Artillery Formation, Brigadier General Sandile Hlongwa, GOC Air Defence Artillery Formation, Major General Nontobeko Mpaxa, Chief Director Force Preparation, on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army, Gnr Dominic Hoole, chairman of the Gunners’ Association, and Mr Carl Kies, CEO of Reutech Radar Systems.

The commanding officers of Cape Garrison Artillery (Lieutenant Colonel J.J. Visser) and Cape Field Artillery (Major J. Nel) and Lieutenant Colonel Johan Conradie of the Defence Reserve Provincial Office of the Western Cape were joined by veterans, senior members of the Gunners’ Association, officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers.

Several powerful guns and support vehicles were on display. They included an Oerlikon 35mm twin-barrelled anti-aircraft gun, deployed with its camouflage netting in a static role, and a Vickers-Armstrong 3.7” Mk3 anti-aircraft gun, dating back to World War II, and reconditioned in 1989. Next to them stood a Russian 23mm twin-barrelled anti-aircraft gun, captured in Angola during the Bush War and refurbished by Armscor for use in the then SADF. It was still in its Eastern Bloc (Warsaw Pact) colours (green with a red star). Support vehicles included a SAMIL 100 6x6 gun tractor, several smaller gun tractors, a command post on the back of a SAMIL 100, an electricity generator and a SAMHS ambulance.

The entrance to the hangar, where the function was going to take place, was flanked by four 25-pounder GV1 guns. These are regularly fired by the Cape Field Artillery Saluting Troop at military tattoos and parades, Remembrance Day services, the Opening of Parliament and other important ceremonial events. Inside the hangar, tables, chairs and a buffet had been set up for a delicious lunch after the ceremony.

Program Director Colonel P.S. Mokgosi welcomed all the assembled guests and read the Code of Conduct for uniformed members, while everyone stood at attention. Chaplain M. Smit conducted the scripture reading and prayer. Next at the microphone were Brig Gen Sandile Hlongwa – GOC Air Defence Artillery Formation, and Maj Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa – Chief Director, Force Preparation, who was attending the event on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army.
RESERVE FORCE, THE SANDF’S EXPANSION CAPABILITY

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The honorary title of General of the Gunners (GoG) has been in use for more than 30 years. Originally known as ‘Master Gunner’ (1982 to 1990), and briefly as ‘General of the Artillery’ (1990 to 1993), the title was changed to ‘General of the Gunners’ in July 1993. Not only was Maj Gen Andersen the first Reserve Force officer to be appointed as GoG, but he has also been the longest serving one, holding the title from 1 December 2005 until 12 May 2015 (and unofficially for two more years).

The GoG’s duties are primarily ceremonial in nature: he looks after the interests of both former and current gunners in the SA Army, attends memorial parades, medal parades, changes of command, and similar events, and promotes the traditions of SA Army Gunners (which include both Field Gunners and Air Defence Artillery).

Maj Gen Andersen as outgoing GoG handed back the tokens of office to Maj Gen Mpaxa, who then handed them formally to his successor, Maj Gen Mbuli.

Maj Gen Andersen spoke of his close involvement with the Gunners with considerable pride, affirming that he had very much enjoyed attending these events and the opportunity to engage and speak with the gunners themselves. He declared, “I may be handing over as General of the Gunners, but I’ll always be a Gunner.”

Maj Gen R.C. Andersen has served in the armed forces for more than 50 years (he received his 50-year clasp on a parade on Friday 02 July 2017 in Pretoria), having started his national service at 4 Field Regiment in 1966. He steadily rose up through the officer ranks, and saw active service in the SWA/Angola Border War with the Transvaal Horse Artillery (which he commanded) and 72 Bde. He became Senior Staff Officer Artillery and then Senior Staff Officer Operations of 7 Infantry Division in 1984. He was promoted to his current rank of Major General on 1 October 2003, in the post of Chief Defence Reserves at Defence Headquarters, a position he still holds.

In addition to his illustrious military career, Maj Gen Andersen has also had a significant civilian career in business, since becoming a Chartered Accountant in 1972, holding high-ranking positions and directorships in companies like Ernst & Young, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Liberty Life, SA Breweries, Standard Bank, Aspen Pharmacare, Nampak, Sanlam, Murray and Roberts, Sasfin and Virgin Active South Africa.

His successor, Maj Gen J.S. Mbuli had been inducted as GoG after his appointment by Chief of the SA Army on 10 February 2017, although the official ceremony only took place on Saturday 27 May 2017.

Maj Gen Mbuli began his military career by joining Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1981, soon specialising in anti-aircraft missiles and anti-aircraft guns. He saw extensive active service in Angola, particularly along the Eastern front, fighting against UNITA under Jonas Savimbi. After receiving Special Force Training, he was deployed as an operative in several Southern African countries, including South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland and Botswana, conducting military operations as instructed by Special Operations Machinery. In mid-1991, he was recalled back to Lusaka, Zambia, where he furthered his academic studies, completing certificates and diplomas in accounts and...
business studies, data processing management, and computer programming.

On his return to South Africa in mid-1995, he integrated into the SANDF, being appointed to the rank of Captain. He steadily rose up through the ranks, completing numerous courses along the way. In January 2015, he was promoted to the rank of Major General as Chief Director Defence Acquisition Management in the Defence Material Division under the Secretary for Defence. In 2017, he has subsequently been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General as Chief of Logistics of the SANDF, with effect from 1 July 2017.

As Maj Gen Mbuli accepted the tokens of office, he acknowledged that he was aware of the responsibility bestowed upon him, and declared that he too felt strongly about keeping alive the traditions and the image of Gunners. He referred to the presence of veterans and ex-service members and asserted that they were a great source of knowledge and experience.

After the official handover, Maj Gen Andersen and Maj Gen Mbuli each fired one round with one of the GV1 guns, set up outside.

The Cape Garrison Artillery Pipes and Drums under Pipe Major Tony Reis provided a fitting musical backdrop for the official handover, with pipes humming, snare drums rattling and bass drum thundering. The CGA Pipes and Drums have grown in recent years – not only in the number of band members, but also in their repertoire of pieces and their marching skills.

In January 2015, a number of young learners, aged 12 to 19 years, joined the Band. They come from the townships, such as Crossroads and Khayelitsha, which poses some logistical challenges, in terms of transport to and from band practice and performances. In addition, the youngsters cannot take their uniforms or instruments home with them, for security reasons. Instruments, uniforms and kit are all expensive items; the Band is entirely self-supported and does not receive any funding from the South African National Defence Force, and thus relies heavily on donations.

Despite the challenges, however, these youngsters have matured into well-integrated band members and committed musicians. Being part of the Band has improved their discipline and self-confidence, and they have learned to work with each other as a team, to support and motivate each other, and to find strength in the group. Being surrounded by positive male role models is also having a significant impact on them.

The Band has excelled in various competitions: it came second at the first ever Champion of Champions competition at the South Coast Gathering in Amazimtoti, KZN in April 2016 – with eight new learners playing and competing with the band for the first time, and seven of them wearing their new uniforms for the first time. At the Pretoria Boys Gathering in 2016, they came third; at the Benoni Boys Gathering, also in 2016, they came second, and at the Wynberg Boys Celtic Festival Competition in September, they came first, beating the more experienced Cape Town Highlanders and Cape Field Artillery pipe bands.

Although Maj Gen Mbuli has now taken over as the new General of the Gunners, Maj Gen Andersen, as Chief Defence Reserves and true to his character and long-standing connections forged with the Gunners, will no doubt remain closely involved with them and an active supporter of their functions and events. As he declared in his farewell address: “Once a Gunner, always a Gunner!”
On Friday 9 December 2016, the Cape Field Artillery Ceremonial Gun Crew fired a 19 Gun Salute at the Castle of Good Hope for the 350 years commemoration.

The crew left Fort iKapa with four 25 pounder GV1 ceremonial guns and although it was pouring with rain and everybody was soaked to the bone, still in true CFA spirit, the members fulfilled their task.

The governor of the Cape Colony, Zacharia Wagenaar, laid the foundation stone of the Castle of Good Hope in August 1666, with the intention to build a solid defence against enemies. Originally located on the coastline of Table Bay, following land reclamation, the fort is now located inland. In 1936 the Castle was declared a historical monument (now a provincial heritage site).

Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula received the General Salute.
Brigadier General B. Gqoboka, Chief of Staff South African Army Infantry Formation descended on the Military base at Lords Ground on Old Fort Road (now known as Dr K.E. Masinga Road) in Durban on the 15th of November 2016. He was welcomed by a Durban Regiment guard of honour at the gate before being ushered by the Adjutant of the unit to Lt Colonel A.S.B. Linda’s office.

Lt Colonel Linda, the Officer Commanding of Durban Regiment, welcomed the General and held a brief informal discussion with him before they joined the unit staff and the General’s own staff in the conference room. A brief “meet and greet” session commenced between the two parties before the OC presented the Unit’s history as well as a number of strategic challenges faced by the Unit, including the command and control problems prevalent at Lord’s Ground military base which houses five different units under command of five SA Army Formations.

The General sat attentively through the presentation and once the Colonel was done, addressed some of the challenges immediately and required a walkabout in the unit lines to get a first-hand look into some of them which he and the Colonel agreed to schedule for the following day.

Brigadier General Gqoboka and his team were in Durban for planning and the establishment of an Ops Room for the annual Armed Forces Day parade which was to take place in Durban from the 13th February 2017 till the 25th February 2017 and Durban Regiment had been identified as the suitable base to control the Showcase from.

The General introduced himself and mentioned various other posts he has held in the SA Army (including Commandant of the Combat Training Centre) before he articulated the main reason for his presence in Durban to the Durban Regiment Staff and later to the rest of the unit members in the drill hall. The General motivated the unit members to stay steadfast and positive amidst the current economic turbulence South Africa is experiencing and which is adversely affecting the defence budget; the effect then trickles all the way down to unit level. “This economic crisis is worsened by the Fees Must Fall movement which adds pressure on National Treasury to reprioritise Government spending” added the General and he went on to say that this situation would linger on for some time to come. The Unit’s routine then returned to normal while the General and his staff took over the conference room and commenced their work.

On the 16th of November 2016 at 09:00 sharp, the General arrived and was again welcomed by the OC and the walkabout commenced as
scheduled with the Unit’s HR section being the General’s starting point where he met the HR staff and was presented with challenges faced and successes achieved by the section. The next section visited was the Unit’s Quarter Master/Log section which faces mainly storage challenges which the General committed himself to make his priority and follow up on. The mess was next and the facilities are too small to accommodate all the staff members of the 5 units at Lord’s Ground Military Base; the General mentioned the possibility of erecting a temporary messing structure as a solution and stressed the ideal that the other units are equally obligated to provide manpower in the form of chefs and cooks for food preparation and stop being mere consumers and over-burden Durban Regiment. The LWT and Transport sections were visited and are both a shining example of how things should be done in all SA Army Infantry Formation units. The Durban Regiment LWT section prides itself on sourcing written off and BR(beyond repair) vehicles from surrounding units, fixing mechanical components and repairing and re-spraying the rusted bodies which results in good-as-new, serviceable vehicles for the unit, at a fraction of the cost of outsourcing such services. The General commended this excellent initiative and wants all other units to practice this cost reduction measure, congratulated the staff and encouraged them to keep up the sterling work they are doing. The next stop was the unit’s weapons safe before the walkabout culminated in a debriefing session in the unit conference room.

The OC thanked the Chief of Staff for visiting his unit albeit by default and expressed gratitude for him setting aside time to listen to Durban Regiment’s problems and victories, before handing over a parting gift to him. Everyone then enjoyed a finger lunch and informal conversation before the unit routine returned to normality.

The General’s words of encouragement were: “Stars shine brighter when it is dark”. 🌟
The Cape Field Artillery Ceremonial Gun Troop fired the 21 gun salute at the 2017 Opening of Parliament. The Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums lead the National Colours onto the parade.

A 21-gun salute is the most commonly recognized of the customary gun salutes that are performed by the firing of cannons or guns as a military honour. The gun salute was originally a maritime practice demanding that a defeated enemy expend its ammunition and render itself helpless until reloaded, a time-consuming operation. The gun salute had been established as a naval tradition by the late sixteenth century. A ship which visited a foreign port would discharge all its guns to show that they were empty. Since the ship would not have enough time to reload before it was within range of the shore batteries, it was clearly demonstrating its friendly intentions by going in with empty guns.

Salute by gunfire is an ancient ceremony. International practice compelled “gun for gun” on the principle of equality of nations. In the earliest days, seven guns was the recognized national salute because seven was the standard number of weapons on a vessel. In that day, gunpowder made from sodium nitrate was easier to keep on dry land than at sea. Thus those early regulations stated that although a ship would fire only seven guns, the forts ashore would fire three rounds to each one shot afloat, hence the number 21.
**Regiment Christiaan Buyers Granted the Freedom of Entry to Polokwane City**

**Article and photograph by: Cpl N.S. Ntsoane**

Regiment Christiaan Buyers (RCB), a Motorised Infantry Battalion, received the right of Freedom of Entry to the City Polokwane on 16 November 2013. The members of RCB Infantry Bn formed up in Shoprite Park and marched through the town, where they received the honour henceforth to march armed, both on foot and mechanised column’s through Polokwane with drums beating and colours flying. This honour is bestowed on a Unit in acknowledgement of the contribution of the unit to the town and community.

The unit was established in 1939 as second Battalion of the Regiment Botha. In 1946 the name of the unit changed to 59 Reserved Motor Service Company.

Since its establishment the members of RCB have distinguished themselves in border control operations on various SA borders. Regiment Christiaan Buyers is under the command of the undefinable, the unshakable Officer Commanding, Lt Col T.S. Mpthohoni.

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**University Reserve Training Programme Roll Out of Individual and Platoon Weapon Training**

**By: 2Lt T. Motshwane**

From December 2016 to January 2017, members of the SA Army Reserves recruited via the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) took a break from their professional lives to join their comrades in arms for a few weeks of Military Training.

33 of these members (18 male, 15 female) reported for a Platoon Weapon Course presented from 10-23 December 2016 and 42 (33 male, 9 female) reported for Individual Training that was presented from 3-21 January 2017. Despite significant administrative and logistical challenges, these members displayed commitment, perseverance and persistence in their Military development in service of South Africa. All members have been found competent on both courses.

During the Platoon Weapons phase of training, members were trained in weapons such as: RPG 7, LMG, 60mm Mortar, 20mm MGL etc and also experienced practical firing of these weapons. During the Individual training phase, members engaged in navigation exercises, were orientated to Phases of War and polished up on their Field Craft amongst other things. These courses were thoroughly enjoyed as some of these members had last been in uniform in 2011. The programme will now concentrate on corps functional training to ensure that these committed part time soldiers are fully qualified to deploy as junior officers.

This young group of Officers is a special credit to the country as with their unique mix of academia, economic participation and dedication to military service, they are able to give a broader perspective of further development and opportunities for Professionalisation of the Force. Recruited to enhance leadership, professional skills and intellectual ability of the SANDF, these members also highlighted the need to create much needed relationships with corporate South Africa.

As they are released back into the concrete jungle, South Africans can sleep easy with the knowledge that this programme will ensure the SA Army Reserves are led by Officers of exceptional quality into future.
Col Zoleka Niyabo, Chief Defence Reserves Senior Staff Officer Human Resource Support, is a girl from the dusty street of New Brighton in Port Elizabeth who integrated into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in 1998. She has been nominated as the first South African National Defence Force (SANDF) female member to attend the Masters in National Security and Strategic Studies, SANDF Security and Defence Strategic Programme (SDSP) equivalent course at Maxwell Air University in Montgomery, Alabama, United States of America (USA).

The Defence Reserves Division is proud and honoured by her nomination and believes that she will make the SANDF proud.

Farewell Function for Col A. Nelson

On 16th March, all the units in Fort iKapa Military Base attended the farewell function of Col A. Nelson, who was the previous OC of Fort iKapa and a person who did a lot for CFA as well as being a dear friend to the Regiment. We wish Col Nelson all the best for his retirement.
In celebration of Youth Day 2017 the Leadership of UCT’s Groote Schuur Residence & Mansions and local Sea Cadets Unit TS Woltemade put words into action by donating items to the Friends of Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital and cleared the hospital grounds of litter.

Over 160 Sea Cadets and students arrived early on Youth Day and were provided with refuse bags. They were detailed off into teams and allocated areas of the hospital grounds. After 2 hours each had collected between 1 ¼ and 1½ bags of litter, including glass and many cigarette butts.

Thereafter they all formed up (a new experience for the UCT students) and marched to the entrance of the hospital to hand over clothing, toys and foodstuffs to the Friends of Red Cross Children’s Hospital Director, David Stevens.

During the Operation it was noted that 1/5 of the Sea Cadets present had spent at least 1x night in the hospital with David Stevens (Director Friends Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital). The hospital treated has as inpatients around 1/5 of the Sea Cadets who participated in the clean-up of the grounds. The items in the foreground were collected by the Sea Cadets and UCT Groote Schuur Residence & Mansions students.
night in the hospital and that the UCT students represented many of the SADC countries whose children had accessed the hospital’s services.

Some international guests also participated and all received a lunch pack donated by various catering suppliers and prepared by UCT Residence kitchen staff. Many of the staff members’ children had also accessed the hospitals making the initiative a fun “family” event.

Thank you to the young leaders for demonstrating by their actions that it is important to preserve communities, regaining pride and ensure that the “little people” (children) are cared for...while having some fun.

Through the actions of these young leaders it is evident that the true spirit of volunteerism is still alive. It is hoped that each would share these positive lessons with their families, schools and communities.

Bravo Zulu to the Sea Cadets and UCT’s “Elephants” and friends in leading by example.

Should anyone wish to donate to the Friends of the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital please contact David Stevens at admin@focha.co.za / 021-658-5243.

South African Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade and UCT Groote Schuur Residence & Mansions students clear the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s hospital of litter.

South African Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade and UCT Groote Schuur Residence & Mansions students clear the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s hospital of litter.

L to R: Ms Harris, Sea Raldo Harris, Lt Paul Jacobs (Officer Commanding TS Woltemade). Sea Raldo Harris was treated by the hospital for severe burns and was proud to bring his fellow Sea Cadets back to perform a worthwhile task.

“Elephants” from Groote Schuur Residence & Mansions and friends take time out from clearing Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital of litter on Youth Day 2107.
Dr Buhle Khanyile, a Social Psychologist and life coach with a passion for working with young adults, addressed the Sea Cadets on the first evening of the annual camp and challenged them to make use of their youth wisely. This included the friends they chose, experiences they sought out and balancing their responsibilities.

This interactive session set the tone for the camp annually hosted by the SA Navy for Sea Cadets from the various coastal cities and towns from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth. The Units included:

- TS Lanherne (Port Elizabeth)
- TS Kromme (St Francis Bay)
- TS Knysna (Knysna)
- TS Outeniqua (Mossel Bay)
- TS Woltemade (Cape Town)

The camp was hosted by SAS Simonsberg and was a highlight for the young men and women aged 13 to 18, especially those who are interested in a career in the SA Navy.

The 80 Sea Cadets were divided into mess decks and divisions representing the four Valour Class Frigates upon arrival and their daily evolutions resulted in them making new friends and interacting with the Cadets from other Units.

The exposure to Naval life along with the discipline, preparing mess decks, heads and bathrooms for rounds as well as fitness level required of those servicing gave the Sea Cadets a taste of life on a ship.

The qualified SA Navy Instructors provided theoretical and practical training in seamanship, fire fighting, first aid, sailing and local guarding whilst the visit to the SA Naval Museum, “beach party” at Diving School and tug ride in False Bay provided much fun and excitement. The latter was the highlight as the Cadets had an opportunity to see and feel what happens at sea.

The theoretical and practical knowledge gained will be taken...
back to their home units and shared with their shipmates and raise the level of instruction.

The evening program included a lecture on Naval Customs and Traditions and two DVDs depicting the tragedy of the troopship SS Mendi along with intended centenary commemorations in 2017. Added to this were some motivational films which re-inforced the life learnings and teachings. These included:

- **Lean on Me** – persue your dreams with nothing being impossible.
- **Forever Strong** – sometimes sacrifice is required for a greater cause.
- **Master and Commander** – naval life onboard a sailing ship, naval tactics, seamanship and discipline.
- **Facing Giants** – if you believe in yourself you can do anything.
- **Pearl Harbour** – be ready for anything and the human spirit will survive.
- **Men of Honour** – tenacity in adversity.

Bedtime reading was provided by Navy News and SA Soldier.

The highlight of the evening program was a “top secret mystery exercise” where the four divisions / frigates competed against each other. Each team had to collect and arrange a set of prescribed objectives some of which re-inforced their training. It tested their leadership, communication, planning, creativity and execution skills.

All the divisions were rewarded with Coke, popcorn and the DVD of their choice on the final night. Thank you to Coke for sponsoring some product to add to the experience of a real interval.

The Sea Cadets greatly appreciated the certificate which was presented to each one at the end of the camp by Capt J. Rustin-Patrick. These will be treasured for years to come and will be shown to family and friends during the festive season.

Bravo Zulu to the SA Navy, especially SAS Simonsberg instruction staff under direction of Lt Cdr Forbes for their commitment to making the 2016 annual Sea Cadet camp a success. Special thanks to those who worked behind the scenes including Cdr Gerber and WO1 Ganas as well as all the adult Sea Cadet Officers and Instructors from the various Units.
Civil and military attendees gathered on 24 March 2017 to observe the 7 Medical Battalion Group (7 Med Bn Group) Change of Command Parade at Military Health training Formation in Thaba Tshwane, bidding farewell to outgoing Officer Commanding Colonel Siphiwo Kaiser Ngqukuvana and welcoming his successor Colonel Mcebisi Zukile Mdutywa.

The Department of Defence (DOD), South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) took the opportunity to acknowledge the impact made by Col Ngqukuvana on 7 Med Bn Group’s part in delivering on the DOD’s constitutional mandate. He has made an invaluable contribution during his tenure to strengthen and improve the capabilities of this specialist airborne medical unit rendering support to the South African Special Forces and South African Army Airborne (parachute) units since its inception in 1987.

The Lyttleton, Centurion Garrisoned Battalion’s areas of specialisation include Combat Search and Rescue; Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Warfare (CBRNE) Detection, verification and decontamination; as well as Diving and Aviation medicine. It stands in a permanent state of readiness to deploy its personnel within South Africa and abroad, either attached to SANDF units or in an advisory and support capacity in the aftermath of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

7 Medical Bn has both Regular and Reserve Force members. Unit personnel participated in the Defence Force’s successful rescue of all passengers and crew from the cruise ship MTS Oceanos floundering off the Eastern Cape coast on 4 August 1991, and furnished a medical team to Kenya assisting in the immediate aftermath of the 1 August 1998 Nairobi US embassy bombings. In a similar vein, the unit has deployed teams to humanitarian support operations in Mozambique after Cyclone Eline in February 2000, the Northern Algeria earthquake in May 2003 as well as annual deployment to the South African Department of Environmental Affairs bases on Gough Island, Marion Island and Antarctica in support of the environmental research personnel stationed there.

Apart from regular participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations with SANDF troops, 7 Med Bn Group members have served with distinction during the flashpoints during 1998 in Operation Boleas in Lesotho, and more recently in March 2013 during Operation Vimbezela’s...
Battle of Bangui in the Central African Republic. Members were decorated for conspicuous acts of gallantry displayed in both operations.

7 Med Bn Group has satellite units deployed to the following locations, namely 44 Medical Task Group based at 44 Parachute Regiment, Tempe, Bloemfontein, Free State; 4 Special Forces Medical Platoon located at 4 Special Forces Regiment, Langebaan, Western Cape; 5 Special Forces Medical Platoon at 5 Special Forces Regiment, Phalaborwa, Limpopo Province; and the Presidential Medical Unit (PMU) in support of the Presidential protection unit PPU (PPU).

**Young Blood infused into 7 Med Leadership**

Colonel Mcebisi Zukile Mdutywa was born on 30 August 1978 in the small town of Ngqeleni in Transkei, falling today within the Eastern Cape’s O.R. Tambo District Municipality.

He grew up in a small village where he completed junior secondary schooling at the Nyandeni Local Municipality’s Lutsheko Junior Secondary School in 1992 and embarked on his senior secondary schooling career at St. John’s College in Mthatha, matriculating in 1995. He went on to the then Medical University of Southern Africa (MEDUNSA) Ga-Rankuwa campus of the University of Limpopo in 1997 to pursue the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB-ChB), and graduating six years later in 2002. MEDUNSA became the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) in 2014.

He worked as an intern in 2003 at the Port Elizabeth Hospital Complex, which consists of the three governments funded tertiary teaching hospitals in the area - Livingstone Hospital in Korsten, Dora Nginza Hospital in Zwide Township and the Provincial Hospital in the city itself. From there he went to the town of Umzimkulu in KwaZulu-Natal’s Harry Gwala District Municipality to do his community service at the nearby Rietvlei District Hospital.

He joined the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in January 2005 and did his Basic Military Training as a Captain at 5 Special Forces Regiment in Phalaborwa, and in addition qualified as a paratrooper in September 2005, becoming the first black doctor to be a paratrooper. He qualified as a Special Forces Operator in December 2006 and obtained his silver operator’s proficiency badge, where he also became the first black doctor to become a Special Forces Operator.

Since qualifying as an operator, Colonel Mdutywa has been involved in a range of operations in the SANDF both within the country and abroad. He has successfully completed Basic Military Training (BMT); Officer’s Formative; Medical Battle Handling; Junior Command and Staff Duties; Senior Military Management Program; and Junior Senior Command and Staff Program. He is qualified in Disaster Manager and Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP); Aviation Medicine Examiners; Combat Casualty Care; Joint Operations Medical Management; Basic Underwater Medicine; and Operational Underwater Medicine.

He was appointed as the OIC of the SAMHS Health Professionals Wing in January 2009 as a Major and promoted to the rank of Lt Col in December 2012. He became the 2IC of 7 Medical Battalion Group in January 2016.
Lieutenant Colonel Siphiwo Kaizer Ngqukuvana passes the baton to Lieutenant Colonel Mdutywa

Colonel Ngqukuvana was born on 27 April 1968 in Vanderbijlpark’s Bophelong township which fell into the then Vaal Triangle.

He attended school at the Mqiniswa Combined School, Bophelong until Grade 7 and left South Africa in 1985 to join the military wing of the African National Congress - uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK). He traveled from South Africa to Angola where he completed six months basic training followed by a specialization course in tactics. After completing these courses, Colonel Ngqukuvana journeyed to the Republic of Cuba for further training where he successfully completed a commando course.

In 1987 Colonel Ngqukuvana returned to Cuba to further his studies and in 1993 he passed Grade 12 and five years later, obtained a BSc degree in Chemical Engineering from the Faculty of Chemistry - Mechanics at the University of Matanzas “Camilo Cienfuegos” in Cuba.

In 1998 Colonel Ngqukuvana was integrated into the South African National Defence Force as a Major and was seconded to ARMSCOR’s Protechnik Laboratories Defence Science and Technology Institute as a researcher, conducting project work in the field of chemical and biological defence on behalf of the SANDF. In 2002 he was appointed as a Chemical, Biological and Radiation Defence Wing Commander at 7 Medical Battalion Group.

During his military career Col Ngqukuvana successfully completed Officer’s Formative; Medical Platoon Commanders; Junior Command and Staff Course; and the Joint Senior Command and Staff Program. Other than English and Xhosa, Colonel Ngqukuvana speaks Spanish and Portuguese.

Parting Words of Wisdom as Command Changes Hands

Col Ngqukuvana took over command of the Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape on 16 July 2009, and assumed command of 7 Medical Battalion Group in 2013. Colonels Ngqukuvana and Mdutywa were deposed on 4 March by South African Air Force Oryx helicopter near the parade ground and arrived conveyed by Gecko All-Terrain Vehicles to oversee parachute drop displays, march pasts, the reading of the Code of Conduct and scripture and the reading of their curriculum vitae. The outgoing OC took the opportunity in his farewell speech, which he hoped all would consider more a Commander’s Briefing than a speech, that in looking back at the connection with the unit to date it was the beginning of a very special journey. Addressing Col Mdutywa, he took the opportunity to “…once again congratulate you on your appointment as OC 7 Med. You have been part of this family. I have seen you grow within the ranks and together we shared lots of ideas as my 2IC. I have no doubt that you have the abilities and skills to take this unit to the next level. I wish you all the best in your endeavours as OC of 7 Med.” He would go on to express sincere gratitude to all assembled for their unwavering support, efforts and sacrifices for the unit during years passed.
In Memoriam

Chief Defence Reserves, Major General Roy Andersen and staff wish to express our most sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following SANDF fallen heroes and heroines (both Reg F and Res F), who passed away.

**Corporate**

*Col S.A. Motswadira*
of Chief Defence Reserves Division
29 July 2017

Lt Col E.L. Monareng
of Defence Force Service Commission
23 March 2017

**SA Army Reserve**

Col M.N. Mbete
of SA Army Infantry Formation HQ

Lt Col (Ret) L.C. Botha
of Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment

CO R. Hurst
of Transvaal Horse Artillery

Rfn Makhaya
of SAASIC Reserve Unit

*Gunner K.A. Ranjanyana*
of ROT – Was deployed on Operation Corona in Pongola

*Member died while on duty*
To take place over the period

14 to 19 April 2018

at the De Brug Training Area

Bloemfontein

• C Army Championship
  14 to 19 May 2018

• Regulars Shoot
  14 and 15 May 2018

• Reserves Shoot
  17 and 18 May 2018

• International Shoot
  19 May 2018

For further details contact: Col R.D. van Zanten
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