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Department:
Defence
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HERE'S TO DECADES OF DISCIPLINE, LOYALTY AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE: CHIEF DEFENCE RESERVES, MAJOR GENERAL ROY ANDERSEN RECEIVES THE HIGHEST HONOUR

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The Chief of the South African National Defence Force (C SANDF), General Solly Shoke bestowed fifty, forty and thirty-year service medals on the 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 medal. 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 medal is a great honor. In accepting this medal 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 to 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.



National Ceremonial Guard Band ready for action.



Senior military members were also in attendance.



Podium group marching during parade inspection.



Salute while National Ceremonial Guard marches past.



Gen Shoke presenting the 50 years' service medal to Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief Defence Reserves.



Gen Shoke addressing members on parade.



WO2 J. Harmzen, a Reserve Force officer from Regiment Oos Transvaal, receiving his "Medaljie vir Troue Diens" a 40 years medal.



Maj Gen Andersen interviewed by lots of journalists after the parade.



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