

Message from the Chief of the South African National Defence Force

Gen Solly Z. Shoke, MMS



I welcome this opportunity to be able to use the Reserve Force Volunteer to communicate with the Reserves who form an important component of the SANDF. My thanks go to all the Reserves who selflessly volunteer to serve their country and particularly for the role they are playing in augmenting the Regulars on our borders.

The Reserves comprise a vital component of the "one force" and provide an efficient and cost effective capability for the SANDF. The current Reserve Force Service System which has stood us in good stead and has delivered good results, is however in need of modification and updating to meet the current budget constraints and our future requirements. We must also ensure that our Reserves are young, fit and combat ready.

My Commander's Brief to the Service and Division Chiefs provides clear direction on the need for the development of a capability to defend and protect the RSA and thus for a new and exciting Reserve Service System which will also provide enhanced flexibility to see us through this period of tight budgets and until such time as the Defence Review – 2015 is implemented.

The message I have been giving to the Regulars of all ranks about the need for high levels of discipline applies equally to the Reserves. I also require of the Reserves to avoid fruitless and wasteful expenditure and to avoid the temptation of falling into a life of crime. Please also focus on cutting down on the number of road accidents and report any perceived irregularities in call-ups.

I would like to thank Major General Andersen for the significant contribution he has made to the SANDF. His passion for the Reserves and his insight on a wide range of subjects is highly appreciated by the Military Command Council.

My best wishes to all Reserves for 2017. 

