

Armed Forces Week/Day 2018

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Armed Forces festivities kicked off with the official opening of the fan park at A.R. Arabas Stadium, Kimberley, Northern Cape on the 15th February. The opening was officiated over by the Chief of Staff South African National Defence Force, Lieutenant General V.R. Masondo who was delighted with the turnout of the crowd to witness the capabilities that the Defence Force has to offer.

Lt Gen V.R. Masondo expressed his delight and thanks to the Chief of the South African Air Force (SAAF), Lt Gen F.Z. Msimanga, for doing such a wonderful job of the organising and the splendid execution of the 2018 Armed Forces week event.

On the 17th February, the SANDF held a music concert at Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre, as a remembrance of the centenary of the sinking of the SS Mendi and celebrating the life and legacy of the SANDF's first Commander in Chief and the first black president of the Republic of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. The music concert consisted of the SAAF choir and bands from all the Arms of Services performing the country's greatest hits. With a very special surprise from one of the country's musical geniuses Jonas Gwangwa who put on a tantalising show, pleasing the house at large. He was then presented with a token of appreciation by the Chief of the SANDF General S.Z. Shoke.

The following day on the 18th February, the SANDF Chaplain Service held an Interfaith church service at the same venue, which benefited from the presence of a very special guest who turned out to be the fifth Commander in Chief and President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, who was highly honoured by the reception he received from the SANDF members and the Community of Kimberley.

Armed Forces Week afforded the community of Kimberley, specifically the youth who were afforded an opportunity to interact with the men and women in camouflage, and to be introduced to the career opportunities in the DOD/SANDF. The youngsters were delighted to touch and feel some of the SANDF's hardware.

The highlight of 2018 Armed Forces Week will be on the 21st February (Armed Forces Day) with a presentation of the year's biggest integrated mechanised march/drive-past parade.



Chiefs of Services attending the official opening of the SANDF Armed Forces Week (2018)



SANDF Chief of Staff Lt Gen V.R. Masondo acknowledges the general salute.



Chief SANDF, Gen SZ Shoke, presenting a token of appreciation to the musical legend Mr Jonas Gwangwa.



Minister of Defence and Military Veterans introducing the President of RSA Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.



Fifth Commander in Chief (President of RSA) Mr Cyril Ramaphosa addressing his troops for the first time.



President of RSA Mr Cyril Ramaphosa bidding farewell.



C SANDF and Chiefs of Services visiting Defence Reserves exhibition at the Fan Park.



Members of Defence Reserves exhibition stand ready to receive guests and to promote & market the Reserve Force Service System.



DOD/SANDF Celebrating the Centenary of the birth of former President of the RSA Mr Nelson Mandela.