

# 4 Maintenance Unit



4 MAINTENANCE UNIT was originally established and designated 12 Supply and Transport Company with effect from 22 August 1961. The unit came into existence with Major C. Longley-Taylor as Commanding Officer.

Major Longley-Taylor who had Commanded 12 S&T since its formation handed over command to Major John Ross Currie on 19 July 1971, shortly before the Unit attended a training camp at Lenz.

It was during this camp that the unit converted to the new organization and became known as 4 Maintenance Unit on 1 September 1971. The unit did various training camps from 1972 - 1976.

Near the end of 1976 they served on the Border and again in 1977 as an entire unit; operating over an area with a 500km base line and with individual vehicles logging up to 1000km per week. They are very proud of the fact that they never had a single accident during this period.

Major Currie who was by then promoted to Commandant was a paternalistic, much loved and efficient commander and the Unit, nicknamed "Currie's Heroes" had an extremely good reputation. As one ex-member has said "We were just darn good at the job we were doing, we never lost a man or a vehicle". Their motto is "We will Supply, shine or mud" and it was emblazoned at their headquarters for all to see.

Composite platoons were sent to the Border in 1978. In the years that followed training was conducted at the then Army Battle School.

The Unit earned an enviable reputation during the years 1976 - 1982 and was considered to be the best Citizen Force Combat Zone Maintenance Unit at the time. From 1982 - 1995 the Unit took part in various operations

In the ensuing years the Unit was present during Operation Hooper and in the latter half of 1988 was part of a deterrent force under HQ 71 Motorised Brigade during Operation Prone.

In 1992 71 Mot Brigade's name was changed to 9 Division until 1997. In 1997 9 Division's name was changed again and became 75 Mot Brigade from 1997 to 1999.

In 1999 the Brigade closed and 4 Maintenance Unit was transferred to Department of Defence Chief of Logistics and due to lack of funds, was dormant and basically had no function from 2000 to 2008.

In July 2008 the Unit was transferred from DOD C Log to the SA Army Support Formation.

In following years (2008 to 2011) the Unit attended various exercises at Touws River; chefs helping out at ASB WC, attending available course offered by DOD Log School and various other tasks eg. Computer Courses, Guard duty at Fort iKapa and assisting with yearly opening of Parliament and Tattoos.

The Unit is currently stationed at Fort iKapa in Cape Town and is housed in the Main HQ Building.

Restoration of Hangars 621 and 622 will take place and when completed will house the Unit and become the HQ and Stores hangars of 4 Maintenance Unit.