

A MEMORABLE DAY FOR THE UNIVERSITY RESERVE TRAINING PROGRAMME (URTP)

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The 20th of January 2012 marked a memorable day on the calendar of the URTP when the recruits of the first pilot intake of the SA Army completed their Basic Military Training (BMT) course in Bloemfontein.

A passing-out parade was presented by the Officer Commanding Regiment President Steyn (RPS) at the School of Armour. The functionary at the parade was Brig Gen B.C. Gildenhuis, GOC of the SA Army Armour Formation. The parade was well attended by senior officers, who included Maj Gen Roy Andersen (Chief Defence Reserves), Brig Gen Gerhard Kamffer (Director SA Army Reserves) and Brig Gen J.D. Malan (Director SA Army Doctrine and Policy). Members of the URTP STEERING Committee and several Regimental Sergeant Major's also attended the event.

The many family members of the recruits that were present at the parade shared in the proud moments when the following awards were made:

- Best academic achievement – Rct N.B. Mogorosi.
- Best student in practical subjects – Rct O.G. Melokwe.
- Fittest male student – Rct K.J. Sesotlo.
- Fittest female student – Rct T. Ntabenjane.
- Best marksman – Rct M. du Toit.
- Best over-all student – Rct C.J. Shlebusch.

The audience were moved when during the ceremony “The Tanker’s Prayer” and the cheerful but pledging “Armoured Song” were sung. The enthusiastic way in which the recruits sang these traditional songs, their parade ground skills, neat appearance and general military bearing were a clear indication to the spectators that their induction in the military environment was successful.

In his address to the recruits and guests, Brig Gen Gildenhuis inter alia explained the reasons for the implementation of the URTP in the SANDF, the objectives of the URTP and the importance of sound leadership in particular in the SANDF Reserves, the SANDF and in the country in general.

Sixty selected students from Tertiary Institutions in Bloemfontein were originally selected for training. Of these, fifty six completed the course and will now continue with their junior leader training. The recruits are all volunteers and the training is presented on a part-time basis during university vacations and week-ends.

On completion of their studies these members will either follow a civilian career and serve in the part-time component of the SANDF or if they so wish, and are successfully selected, join the Regular Force of the SANDF.

“PART-TIME SOLDIER – FULL-TIME LEADER”



Recruits of the URTP BMT course singing the “Armour Song” during their passing-out parade



Brig Gen Geldenhuys functionary at the Passing-out parade with the accompanying party



Brig Gen Geldenhuys congratulates Rct N.B. Mogorosi who was awarded for the best academic achievements



Maj Gen Roy Andersen (Chief Defence Reserves) congratulates Rct K.J. Sesotlo – who received an award for the fittest male student



Brig Gen J.D. Malan (Director SA Army Doctrine and Policy) congratulates Rct C.J. Schlebusch on his award as the best over-all student on the course



The recipients of special awards with the GOC SA Army Armour Formation Brig Gen B.C. Geldenhuys. ALSO READ THE ADDRESS OF BRIG GEN GILDENHUYS PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE