

Reserve Force Indaba Invests in the Future of the SANDF Reserve Component

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The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans (MOD&MV), Hon Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, launched the two-day Reserve Force Indaba, executed by the Defence Reserves Division (Def Res Div) at the South African Army Foundation in Centurion from Friday 13 to Saturday 14 September 2019. The Indaba made constructive progress in empowering the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) on the Reserves as a manpower requirement and asset for Chief SANDF (C SANDF).

Building upon the opening address by the MOD&MV and C SANDF General Solly Shoke, Chief Defence Reserves (C Def Res), Major General Roy Andersen shared in his capacity as the first day's event facilitator that the aim was to have 'a full and open discussion so as to reach consensus on the future positioning and development of the Reserve Force.' Clarity of the positioning of the Reserves within the SANDF in terms of the One Force Concept/Policy, and the strategic vision of the Reserves fell squarely within the scope of the Indaba.

The Indaba focused on the relationship between the Regular Force and its Reserve counterpart, with the first day's programme paying close attention to the constituting and sustaining of the Reserve Force's budget. The rejuvenation of the Reserves, elaboration on Project KOBATLALA, the role and mandate of the Reserve Force Council (RFC) as well as the assistance rendered to members of the Reserves with skills development for employment when not on call-up were prominent topics of discussion.

The dialogue facilitated on day one by C Def Res and on day two by Director Defence Reserves (D Def Res) Brigadier General Debbie Molefe, built upon the Reserve Force Conference held in Pretoria in November 2018 to discuss the implementation of the Updated Reserve Force Service System (URFSS).

The high level engagement between representatives from the offices of the MOD&MV, C SANDF, Secretary for Defence (Sec Def), Chief of Staff (CoS), Service/Divisional Chiefs, Def Res Div, Military Ombud, Defence Force Service Commission (DFSC), RFC, and many more contributed to a review of the URFSS and its implementation within the Department of Defence (DOD) and SANDF.

Presentations and topics for discussion on the final day included Project KOBATLALA, Leader Group Development and the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP), Continuation Training, Establishing of four types of Reserves (Conventional Reserve Function (Surge Capability); the Immediate Deployable Capability (Supplementing the Regular Force); the Mzansi "Home Guard" Function; and the Specialist Capability - eg the Pool of Specialists), the footprint of units, the re-opening of the South African Air Force (SAAF) Air Reserves Squadrons, redeployment of members not called up, elimination of fraud in Reserve call ups, and the Army Reserve unit name change implementation.

The summations from the two-day Reserve Force Indaba will contribute to a follow-on Indaba with wider scope, which will build upon the progress made to date.



C Def Res Maj Gen Roy Andersen addresses the audience on day one of the Reserve Force Indaba



C Def Res Maj Gen Roy Andersen salutes MOD&MV's arrival



Group photo on day one of the Reserve Force Indaba



Chief SAAF Lt Gen Fabian Msimang briefs those attending on the status of the SAAF Reserves



RFC Chairperson, Maj Gen (Ret) Keith Mokoape responds Director Army Reserves Brig Gen Gerhard Kamffer's presentation



Chief of Staff Lt Gen Vusi Masondo delivers the Indaba's closure



Chaplain General, Monwabisi Jamangile concludes with the Indaba's devotion and prayers