



defence

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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NEW RECRUITS SWELL THE RANKS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE: 2010 MILITARY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM INTAKE

Thousands of the class of 2009 matriculants who answered the call to make the Department of Defence and Military Veterans their employer of choice, are expected to swell the ranks of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) as the January 2010 intake for new recruits, gets underway.

Over four thousand four hundred and sixty three (4463) fit and deserving young South Africans from all nine provinces of the country who were successful in their quest to join the SANDF, have started to report at various SANDF Military Bases to commence with training.

Faced with an aging military and shortage of skills, particularly skilled black personnel in critical musterings in all four services of the SANDF such as engineers, medical practitioners, pilots, submariners, navy combat officers, etc, the department in 2003 introduced the Military Skills Development System (MSDS).

The aim of the MSDS is two-fold, namely; to enhance the SANDF's mission readiness through the systematic rejuvenation of its human resource composition through annual intakes of young and fit members who are fully committed to defend the country. The system also provides the country's youth with opportunities to acquire scarce skills.

After completion of their basic military training, deserving MSDS recruits are afforded an opportunity to select a specific career path which includes training for pilots and navigators, doctors, dentists, nurses, artillery, naval combat officers, divers, etc at state expense.

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