



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 13 February 2014

EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE TO CELEBRATE ARMED FORCES DAY 21 FEBRUARY 2014: AIRFOCE BASE BLOEMSPRUIT: BLOEMFONTEIN

On Friday 21 February 2014 the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) will celebrate the Armed Forces Day at Air Force Base Bloemspruit, Bloemfontein. The event is aimed at honouring men and women in uniform who serve the nation. The President will be the main officiating functionary during a military parade and will pay a special tribute to those soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty whilst serving their country. Bravery medals will also be conferred to those who have demonstrated heroism during the battle in the Central African Republic (CAR).

Members of the public and dignitaries in attendance will be treated to a military parade by different Services and a flypast by the SA Air Force. Once the formal military parade has been completed, the SANDF mechanised column will drive through to various communities around Bloemfontein to showcase the country's state-of-the-art armaments as well as to thank the communities for their continued support.

The day will end with soldiers and their families celebrating the Armed Forces Day with various entertainment and sports activities which will be held at a Fan Park in Air Force Base Bloemspruit, Bloemfontein. All military units throughout the country have been authorised to celebrate the day in various ways to remind the nation of the services they render to defend the country's sovereignty.

The 2014 Armed Forces Day coincides with the country's celebration of the 20 Years of Freedom. This day will also mark 20 Years of Defence for the SANDF since its establishment in 1994. Armed Forces Day allows the nation to pay tribute to the selfless service of our men and women in uniform at home and abroad.

Armed Forces Day was implemented to achieve several objectives:

- to unite all South Africans behind our military,
- to allow the SANDF to interact with communities,
- to expand public understanding of the military and its purpose to society,
- to showcase the latest equipment and technologies that protect the public,
- to demonstrate that the military is ready for any threat or challenge,

More details with regard to routes of the SANDF mechanised column drive past, will be communicated closer to the time.

ENDS

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