



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 28 July 2017

EMBARGO: None

**SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE (SANDF)
MEMBERS INVOLVED IN A FATAL BUS ACCIDENT ON THE N12
HIGHWAY**

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) sadly announces the death of one (1) soldier as a result of a military bus overturning on Friday, 28 July 2017 at approximately 10h00 in the morning on the N12 highway from Kimberley enroute to Saldanha. Four members suffered critical injuries. The bus was 20 kilometres to Victoria West. Emergency medical personnel attended to the scene and stabilised the injured. The name of the deceased member will be announced as soon as the next-of-kin have been informed.

Three (3) critically injured members were taken by road (ambulance) to a hospital in De Aar and subsequently airlifted to 3 Military hospital in Bloemfontein and one (1) highly critical member was airlifted from the scene of the accident to a hospital in George for further emergency medical treatment.

The fifty five (55) seater bus was ferrying a total of forty three (43) members from various Units in Kimberley to a soccer tournament when the accident occurred.

The other thirty eight (38) members suffered various minor injuries and were taken by road to a hospital in De Aar for medical attention. Details on the circumstances that led to the bus overturning will form part of an investigation into the bus accident.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Honourable Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube and the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke express their condolences to the family members, friends and colleagues of the deceased member and have also wished the injured members a speedy and healthy recovery in hospital.

ENDS.

Issued by: South African National Defence Force
(Defence Headquarters)

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