



sa military health service
 Department:
 Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 17 March 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 MEDICAL BATTALION CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE TO BE HELD AT MILITARY HEALTH TRAINING FORMATION, THABA TSHWANE ON 24 MARCH 2017

On Friday, 24 March 2017 the outgoing Officer Commanding (OC), Colonel Siphiwo Ngqukuvana of 7 Medical Battalion Group will hand over the reigns to the incoming OC, Colonel Mcebisi Zukile Mdutywa during a Change of Command parade which be held at Military Health training Formation, Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria at 09: 30.

A change of command is a military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility of a unit from one commanding officer to another. It is to ensure official leadership, continuation of trust and also signifies an allegiance of soldiers to their commander.

Colonel Mdutywa was appointed and promoted to the rank of a Colonel. He is the first black medical doctor and a qualified special force operator in the SANDF since 1994 as an Officer Commanding of 7 Medical Battalion Group. He is a thirty nine (39) year old male, one of the youngest, enthusiastic and an expert in the Operations environment and has been with 7 Medical Battalion Group since 2005.

7 Medical Battalion Group is the specialist Airborne Medical Unit of the South African Military Health Service. The Unit's main task is to render medical support to the South African Special and Airborne Forces. Amongst other things, 7 Medical Battalion conducts Combat Search and Rescue, Defensive Chemical Biological warfare (CBRNE) ranging from detection, verification and decontamination, Diving and Aviation Medicine and numerous skills associated with supporting Special Forces.

7 Medical Battalion also renders support to the South African Police Service Special Task Force, the South African Air Force's Search and Rescue and the Presidential Protection Unit. The unit is on a general six-hour standby and is ready to deploy nationally and internationally, most recently in advisory and support roles during natural disasters. The outgoing Officer Commanding, Col Siphiwo Ngqukuvana will be taking the office of the Chemical and Biological Defence Advisor at SAMHS Headquarters.

Col Mcebisi Zukile Mdutywa's Curriculum Vitae is attached for your information.

Ends

Issued by: South African Military Health Service Corporate Communication
 Enquiries: Lieutenant Siphokazi Dlakamela
 Tel: 012 484 2726 or 073 3845 635
 Email: sdlakamela@outlook.com

