



INFANTEER 2009

INFANTEERS CONTRIBUTED TO 10 YEARS OF PEACEKEEPING CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 16 October 2009, the DOD celebrated a decade of peacekeeping with parades in Bloemfontein. The celebrations started with a parade at AFB Bloemspruit where President Zuma, the Commander in Chief, saluted the SANDF soldiers.

At the parade UN Dag Hammerskjoeld medals were presented to the Chiefs of the Services in honour of the SANDF soldiers who had lost their lives during peacekeeping missions. The President also laid a wreath in honour of the members who lost their lives.

The brigade in review parade and combined band consisted of members of all the Services and Divisions and the SA Army was represented by 1 Parachute Battalion and a platoon of Regiment Bloemspruit. Most of the SA Army Inf Fmn units were represented in the colour company.

The parade then moved to the Bloemfontein city centre with a march past in front of the City Hall where the President again received the salute.

The families of deceased members then had the opportunity to lay wreaths at the Peace Support Memorial Wall at the DOD Mobilisation Centre, De Brug.

The reaction/protection force consisted of members of 1 Parachute Battalion and Regiment Bloemspruit.

President Zuma congratulated the members of the SANDF on being excellent ambassadors of our country in the quest for peace. He also said that South Africa is now regarded by the international community as an honest and reliable peace broker.

President Zuma said "the people of Burundi and the DRC are each governed by democratically elected governments after decades of instability. This achievement is due in part to the sterling contribution of our military to the peace processes in those countries."

He also said that the SANDF is the spear and shield of our nation and the ultimate arsenal when it comes to the security of this country, its people and its borders, and our democracy.

Congratulations to all the Infanteers who contributed to the success of these celebrations. As always we could rely on you to be there when you were needed.

**ISSUED BY THE SA ARMY INFANTRY FORMATION
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