



INFANTEER 2009

RESERVE BANDS EXCEL

The 2009 Competition season of the Southern Africa Pipe Band Association ended on 25 July 2009 at the Benoni High School. The season consists of a number of "gatherings" (competitions) that take place from April to July with the majority of participants being civilian and school bands. Points accrue from one event to the next with the bands with the most points at the end of the season being declared "Champion of Champions".

The two SA Army bands that competed this season did extremely well with the Transvaal Scottish winning Grade 2 and the SA Irish Regiment winning Grade 3. The SA Irish Regiment Pipes and Drums band also won the Drill, Dress and Discipline Competition at Benoni.

Over the past few years, the utilisation of the Pipes and Drums of the regiments of the SA Army Infantry Formation has expanded dramatically and these bands are in great demand at military parades as well as at national ceremonial events such as the Opening of Parliament and the National Ceremony of Remembrance. They are also in demand internationally as well as locally for public events such as Tattoos.

The Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders are currently participating in the 2009 Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Transvaal Scottish Pipe Band will be leaving on 25 August 2009 for the Libyan International Military Festival that is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the State of Libya. The Pipes and Drums of the SA Irish Regiment participated in the SA Army Engineer Formation Open day at Kroonstad on 8 August 2009 and will participate in the South African Tattoo that will take place at Monte Casino in September 2009. The SA Irish Regiment has been invited to take part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2010, having previously participated there in 2005.

The SA Army Infantry Formation is proud of these achievements and thanked the Pipers and Drummers for their commitment to the maintenance and development of these military traditions. The Officers Commanding of these units are also thanked for the support they give to these bands.

**ISSUED BY THE SA ARMY INFANTRY FORMATION
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