



TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

"Business Unusual All Hands on Deck to Speed Up Change"

C ARMY MEDIA BRIEFING: 30 MAY 08

Once again it is an **honour and privilege** for me to welcome you all at our customary media breakfast. Be assured that your **attendance is highly appreciated** especially taking into account your busy schedules.

Xenophobia

This media briefing takes place amidst our country experiencing a very sad and shameful event – xenophobia. Needless to say, the SA Army condemns these attacks with the contempt that they deserve. We will do everything possible to support the SAPS in their endeavours to stabilise and normalise the situation as quickly as possible.

HIV/AIDS

This media briefing also takes place in the aftermath of the Pretoria Supreme Court ruling that the Defence Force is unconstitutional by discriminating against people with HIV/AIDS. It is, however, unfortunate that this ruling does not consider the broader picture. The SA Army has a mandate to fulfil, to defend and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of South Africa. To ensure and achieve this, the SA Army requires fit and healthy soldiers.

The SA Army views this whole issue in a very serious light and will definitely also obtain legal advice to ensure that we fulfil our obligation to all parties involved. An army responsible for defending and protecting its country is therefore automatically responsible for deploying in any theatre where it is required, and cannot waive its responsibilities to protect not only itself, but also the community it serves. It should be common knowledge that in order to fulfil our operational requirements, the implication is that soldiers with the right physical and psychological make-up are required. It is an international practice for any company to measure persons against specific job profiles, which in detail stipulate the requirements that individuals have to meet for specific posts. With this said, it needs to be mentioned that we are in close cooperation with Surgeon General who is currently analysing and investigating the matter. The focus was more on HIV/AIDS, which is not correct because we talk of Comprehensive Health Assessment, which implies that we check everything.

Unions

In recent months we have witnessed with grave concern the conduct of unions within the Defence Force, which, when not controlled, might lead to anarchy, eg taking the Defence Force to court for dismissing a soldier who shot and killed his Officer Commanding. While we respect the ruling of the courts to establish mechanisms in which soldiers should raise issues. I am not sure if the decision to establish unions for the military was the correct one; maybe we need to explore other alternatives. Soldiers are not ordinary citizens but the last line of defence for the RSA and, therefore, their discipline and reliability should not be called into question.

Transforming the SA Army

In spite of the aforementioned, I want to confirm that the SA Army's **future strategy (Vision 2020)** is **on track** and is slowly but surely **gaining momentum**. I am convinced that we are **on the right track**, but take note that the implementation of Vision 2020 will imply **paradigm shifts**. **Changes** will be **substantive, add value** and in the long run **add to the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation**.

Therefore, I would **like to share with you** my **future intent** for the SA Army – where are we heading and what do we want to achieve – what is **my vision**?

SA ARMY: COMMANDER'S INTENT

The SA Army provides the Chief of the South African National Defence Force with a combat-ready land force component of a full-spectrum-capable, joint, expeditionary force. This force has a campaign quality and is optimised for fighting in complex environments.

The SA Army fulfils its role as an essential instrument of national power. As such it can be integrated into an intergovernmental, interdepartmental and interagency system, which ensures synergy and focus of effort.

The following factors, which underpin the above, are not negotiable:

People are the SA Army's most valuable asset

The SA Army's future will not be determined by brilliant systems, the latest equipment, the best business processes and the like, but by high-quality, professional, dedicated and loyal people who take pride in their work and who are willing to serve and sacrifice beyond the call of duty. Such people are the result of focused recruitment, rigorous selection and a career-management system that ensures that only the best people are developed and maintained to lead the army of today, tomorrow and after tomorrow.

The SA Army is structured for its mandate

The SA Army is an agile, balanced, flexible and cohesive force with rapidly deployable capabilities, and structured to execute both force preparation and operations at the tactical level of war. Its force design makes it suitable to engage in conventional operations and operations other than war as well as to contribute to socio-economic upliftment and skills development.

The SA Army trains as it fights.

The SA Army has an appropriate and cost-effective army force preparation system based on contemporary doctrine and TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures). Realistic individual and force training enable the

provision of dynamically led, combat-ready land forces capable of conducting successful operations across the full spectrum of conflict.

The SA Army is led by well-trained, educated, and visionary leaders who are capable of dealing successfully with issues that are complex, uncertain and volatile during the execution of their command.

Future doctrine and TTPs direct the modernisation programme of the SA Army.

The SA Army's equipment and technology are optimised for the African battlespace.

The SA Army is a balanced, modern, affordable and appropriate

technologically advanced military force, capable of executing all missions effectively and efficiently. Investments in equipment and technology provide SA Army forces with the ability to outperform their opponents in both human and material systems.

Conclusion

I would like to thank everybody present here. We value your contribution and the role you play. You are the life line between us and society in general. The Army would like to assure you that it is determined to build a formidable force that will benefit all South Africans and our region. We are aware that the transformation of the SA Army will not be easy and without hitches.