

Chapter 9

The SA Army: mandate, activities, main equipment and key personalities



The SA Army was established just after midnight on the morning of April 27, 1994 as the senior Service of the new SA National Defence Force. Its seniority derives not as much from history but from the Defence Act, 42 of 2004, which in Section 12(1) lists the SA Army first, followed by the SA Air Force, SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service, thereby setting an order of precedence.



For reasons of history and geography what is now the SA Army has always been the largest Service – and will remain that way. The geo-economics of the continent has always suggested to the Navy that South Africa has an island economy, with most of its trade with partners across the sea. As a result, they have always advocated the need for a strong navy. Understandable, of course – even though the Germans and Japanese excepted (the first during both world wars, the latter during the last) – there has never been a significant threat to that trade.

For South Africa, the threat has always been on land – for successive colonial/white governments the “black peril”, for the present incumbents, the peril instability poses for development.

What is the mandate of the SA Army?

The mandate of the SA Army is

- to provide combat-ready land forces for –
 - the pursuance of national defence and the prevention of war, failing which, to jointly and preferably multi-nationally, swiftly and decisively achieve national security goals; and
 - collaboratively promoting peace and stability internally and externally in concurrence with international obligations; and
- to contribute to the development and upliftment of South Africa, its people, and the African continent.

Vision

The SA Army, a professional and dynamic force.

Mission

To prepare, provide and sustain land forces for employment by C SANDF.

How is the SA Army currently macro-organised?

SA Army headquarters consists of the Army Office and a number of “Type” and support formations (See Table 9.1). The Army Office, along Dequar Street, Pretoria, is home to the Chief of the SA Army, his Warrant Officer, a number of chief directorates and the Inspector General of the SA Army (See Table 9.2).

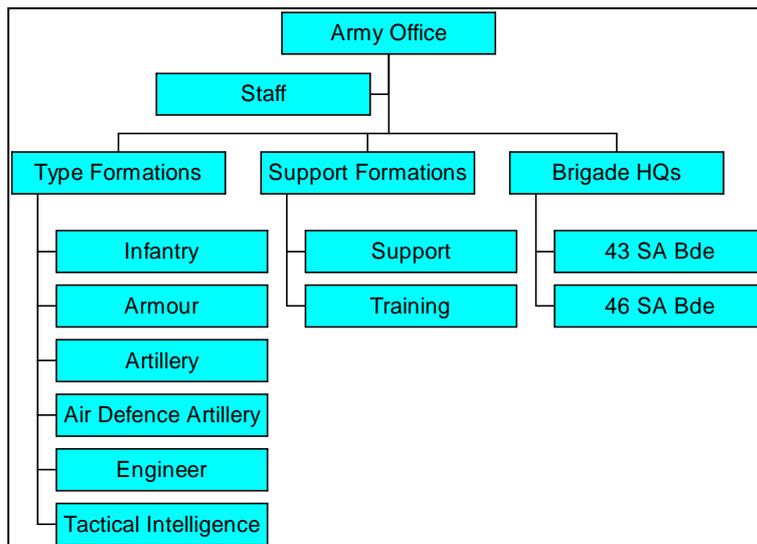


Table 9.1: The Army Office, Type and Support Formations

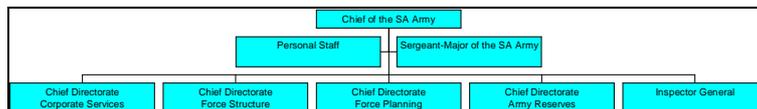


Table 9.2: The Army Office

Lieutenant General Solly Zacharia Shoke, MMS

Lieutenant General Solly Zacharia Shoke was born on 15 August 1956 in Alexandra, Johannesburg. He completed his school career at Orlando High School. Shoke has since obtained a Diploma in Human Resources Management from Damelin, a Certificate in Defence Management from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Certificate in Personnel Management from IPM.

He has held several command positions, starting as a unit commissar and later a commander in the Transvaal Urban Machinery of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK). During “Operation Vula” in the 1990s he became part of the national underground leadership of MK. Shoke was MK National Coordinator for the Peace Process during the negotiations and was also part of the work groups that facilitated the creation of the SANDF.

Shoke received general training in Angola and did a brigade commander’s course in the then Soviet Union. He completed a Zimbabwean intermediate staff course during 1993/4. In 1995/6 he passed the Senior Command and Staff Course at the SA Army College and graduated from the Joint Staff Course in 1998.

In April 1994 he was appointed as the Director Personnel Planning of the SA Army. In January 1997 he was appointed as the Director Integration. He was the Director Personnel Acquisition from January 1999 to October 2000 when he was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed Chief Director SANDF Human Resources Support. In June 2004 Shoke was promoted Lieutenant General and appointed the Chief of the SA Army.

One of the highlights of his career was when he became the Mission Commander for the SADC Forces in Lesotho in 1998 to 1999.

Major General Shoke is married to Charlotte and has four children. He speaks nine languages and he is fond of golf and soccer.

Table 9.3: C Army's biography

WO1 Mothusi Victor Kgaladi began his military career with uMkhonto we Size (MK) in Angola in 1976. In 1978 he underwent advanced training in the then-East Germany. On his return to Africa, he served in various posts in Angola and Zambia. He was integrated into the SA Army in 1994 and appointed a Warrant Officer at Group 33 the next year. By April 2001 he was a Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1) and appointed Warrant Officer to the Inspector General of the SA Army and in February 2005 he was appointed Centre Warrant Officer at the SA Army Combat Training Centre, Lohatlha. In March 2007 he was appointed Warrant Officer of the SA Army, taking over from WO1 Joseph Duduza Tshabalala.

WO1 Tshabalala was born in Alexandra township, Johannesburg. He attended primary school in Bankagile township and graduated from Orlando West High School in 1969. In 1970 he joined Unilever as a sales representative and later became a marketing officer at the multinational.

In 1972 his political activities drew the attention of the Security Police and he had to go underground until 1975 when he escaped into exile and joined the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania's military wing. Tshabalala received his military training in Tanzania, Libya and the People's Republic of China as a member of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, Apla. On his return to Tanzania he was camp commander at Bagaonyo before being posted to Apla's Western Front (based in Botswana and conducting operations in the western Transvaal).

While in exile Tshabalala also studied with the Association of Accounting Technicians in London, obtaining a certificate.

Tshabalala joined the SANDF in 1994 and after bridging training at Oudtshoorn joined Group 18 at Doornkop, Johannesburg. He was then posted to 1 Signals Regiment and promoted Regimental Sergeant Major of Wonderboom Joint Support Base. In June 2003 he was appointed Formation Warrant Officer of the Human Resources Support Centre. Tshabalala took charge of the Army's enlisted ranks at a change of office parade on November 25, 2005.

Tshabalala is married to Lapa Abigail Tshabalala and they have three sons. He is the first Sergeant-Major of the Army to be appointed from the former non-statutory forces. He handed over to WO1 Mothusi Victor Kgaladi on March 30, 2007.

His immediate predecessor, WO1 Eddie W Sykes was the first black Sergeant-Major of the Army and the first to be appointed from the ranks of the South African Cape Corps. He grew up in Johannesburg and started his military career as a private at 1 SACC Training Unit in August 1963. He received training until 1965 including the Basic Instructors course, Battle Physical Training and Infantry Promotion and development courses. After his training he became a section leader and then platoon sergeant at 1 SACC Training Unit where he served in several posts until 1980 when he became the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of 1 SACC Bn. WO1 Sykes was promoted and appointed as Group Sergeant Major of Group 4 in Oudtshoorn. Later he was appointed as the Brigade Sergeant Major of the Wallmansthal Training Division where he was involved with bridging training during the historic integration of the various armed forces into the SANDF. He was later appointed as the Command Sergeant Major of the North-Western Command in Potchefstroom and four years later as the Sergeant

Major of the Inspector General of the Department of Defence, a post he occupied for 3 years before being appointed as the Sergeant Major of the SA Army on June 1, 2001.

Table 9.4: The WO of the SA Army's biography.

SA National Defence Force (1994 – present)	
<i>Chief of the SA Army</i>	
• LTG Solly Zacharia Shoke	June 1, 2004 – present
• LTG Gilbert Lebeko Ramano	- May 31, 2004
• LTG Reginald Otto	January 1, 1995 –
• LTG Hattingh J Pretorius	November 1, 1993 – December 31, 1994
SA Defence Force (1957-1994)	
<i>Chief of the SA Army</i>	
• LTG Georg Lodewyk Meiring	March 1, 1990 – October 31, 1993
• LTG Andreas J “Kat” Liebenberg	November 1, 1985 - February 28, 1990
• LTG Johannes J “Jannie” Geldenhuys	October 7, 1980 – October 30, 1985
• LTG Constand L Viljoen	September 1, 1976 – October 6, 1980
• LTG Magnus Andre de M Malan	July 1, 1973 – August 31, 1976
• LTG Willem P Louw	December 1, 1967 – June 30, 1973
• LTG Charles A “Pop” Fraser	October 1, 1966 – November 30, 1967
<i>SA Army Chief of Staff</i>	
• Combat General ¹ Petrus J Jacobs	March 4, 1963 – December 31, 1965
• Combat General Sybrand A Engelbrecht	November 1, 1959 – March 3, 1963
• Brig J Nicolaas “Nick” Bierman	September 25, 1958 – October 31, 1959
Union Defence Force (1912-1957)	
<i>SA Army Chief of Staff</i>	
• Brig Pieter H Grobbelaar	May 1, 1953 – September 24, 1958
• Brig Hendrik B Klopper	March 16, 1950 – April 30, 1953
<i>Director General SA Land Forces</i>	
• Brig Christiaan L de W du Toit	November 10, 1948 – March 15, 1950
<i>Director General Training and Operations</i>	
• Brig P de Waal	August 9, 1948 – November 9, 1948
<i>Deputy Chief of the SA General Staff</i>	
• MG WH Evered Poole	March 2, 1946 – August 8, 1948
<i>Deputy Chief of Staff and Director General Operations and Training</i>	
• COL HS Cilliers	August 1, 1945 – March 1, 1946
• Brig HS Wakefield	February 9, 1944 – July 31, 1945
• Brig P de Waal	September 1, 1940 – February 8, 1944
<i>Deputy Chief of the SA General Staff</i>	
• BG George E Brink	September 11, 1939 – August 30, 1940
<i>Director Military Procedures and Planning</i>	
• COL P de Waal	May 1, 1934 – September 10, 1939
• LTC FH Theron	May 1, 1933 – April 30, 1934

Table 9.5: Previous Chiefs of the SA Army

SA National Defence Force (1994 – present)

SA Defence Force (1957-1994)

¹ “Veggeneraal”, a Boer-style rank

Union Defence Force (1912-1957)

Table 9.6: Previous Warrant Officers of the SA Army

Expand on the role of the Army Office

The Army Office is the result of the April 1, 2000 restructuring of the SANDF. LTG Shoke and his staff are tasked with ensuring the SA Army contributes to the achievement of the Department of Defence's outputs through the provision of landward defence capabilities. The SA Army provides land forces that contribute to

- 'Defence Against Aggression',
- 'Regional Security' and
- 'Support to the People'.

In this Shoke is supported by:

Chief Directorate Corporate Services

Despite the bland name, this chief directorate may be one of the more important.

The

Chief Directorate Corporate Services (CDCS) is tasked with the strategic direction of the SA Army, inclusive of planning, budgeting and control; staff renewal and human resources support; corporate communications (public relations); occupational health and safety; military security; ceremonial; legal- and Chaplain services; occupational health and safety; and, liaising with the Command Management Information Service (CMIS). The CDCS also has oversight of the Army Reserve and the Army's budget management.

MG Les Rudman was appointed to his current post on June 1, 2006, the same day he pinned on his second star. He succeeded MG Johan Jooste, who retired. Rudman was previously Director Military Strategy and Acting Chief Director Military Strategy & Planning and was involved in establishing framework for SADC ASF brigade (SADCBRIG). Rudman is a former GOC Special Forces Brigade and commanded a 32Bn company during Operation Protea in 1980. He was an advisor to Unita in 1985.

Table 9.7: CD Corp Service's biography

BG EM Mashoala

Table 9.8: Deputy CD Corp Service's biography

Chief Directorate Force Structure

As the name suggests, the Chief Directorate Force Structure (CDFS) is responsible for the Army's structure. It is also accountable for logistics (including the provision of clothing, vehicles, facilities, ammunition, etc.) and overseeing the

Army's prime mission equipment (such as tanks, artillery, armoured personnel carriers, etc.).

MG Lungile (Luwi) Mpilo Dlulane, MMM, joined the Transkei Defence Force (TDF) in February 1978 as one of its first recruits. He was born in the Eastern Cape on December 29, 1956 and completed high school at the end of 1973, after which he joined the Transkei Government Service as a clerk.

Dlulane was selected for officers' training and commissioned in the infantry where he was appointed a platoon leader and later a company commander. In 1984 he was promoted major and posted to TDF headquarters as chief paymaster. By 1993 he was a brigadier and Chief of Personnel, having previously served as Chief of Finance and Chief of Logistics. Also in 1993, Dlulane represented the TDF in the Joint Military Coordinating Committee, which was planning the integration of various forces into the SANDF. After integration, in 1994, he served in the Personnel Division. In 2000 he was promoted major general and appointed Chief of Army Force Preparation and in 2003 he was appointed Chief of Army Force Structure. He is a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies in London and involves himself with community projects in his spare time.

As chairman of the Mpeko Rural Area Development Projects Dlulane has overseen the construction of a community hall and a clinic as well as the installation of potable water on tap and electricity. The general is married with four children (three boys and a girl) ranging in age from 17 to 25. He is a keen rugby fan and supports the Blue Bulls.

Table 9.9: CD Force Structure's biography

BG Pieter H Vosloo

Table 9.10: Deputy Force Structure's biography

Chief Directorate Force Preparation

The tasks of the Chief Directorate Force Preparation (CDFP) is also self-evident. Based on guidance from Joint Operations, they annually prepare the SA Army's force preparation schedule and "commission" forces accordingly. The CDFP is also responsible for scheduling and holding exercises and for assuring the combat readiness of the Service. Less obviously, the CDFP is also responsible for doctrine and policy.



Major General Derek M Mgwebi was born on December 28, 1956. He joined the Transkei Defence Force in 1978 and was commissioned later that year. By 1987 he had risen to command the Special Forces Regiment, a post he retained until 1989. He was then promoted TDF Director Operations and Training, a task he discharged until his integration into the SANDF. His first post in the new military was as Military Secretary to Defence Minister Joe Modise. In 1997 he was appointed General Officer Commanding Mpumalanga Command. On April 1, 1999, he became the founding General Officer Commanding Infantry Formation. He was appointed General Officer Commanding Joint Operational Headquarters on April 1, 2003, and has since June 1, 2004, served as Force Commander United Nations Operations in Burundi (ONUB). On September 1, 2006 he was appointed CD Force Preparation, replacing MG MP Ramahlo. Mgwebi is very highly regarded inside and outside the SANDF.

Mgwebi's education includes a Diploma in Defence Management at the University of the Witwatersrand, a Certificate in Inter-business Communications at Unisa and a degree in Public Administration (also from Unisa). Mgwebi has successfully completed the SA Army Senior Command and staff Course and Joint Staff Course.

Hobbies include reading, playing soccer and physical fitness.

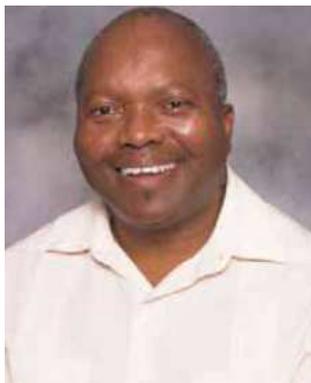
Table 9.11: CD Force Preparation's biography

BG JD Malan, one of the Army's few real thinkers

Table 9.12: Deputy Force Preparation's biography

Chief Directorate Army Reserves

The Chief Directorate Army Reserves exists to provide leadership to the Army's Reservists, to advise the Army's leadership on matters affecting Reservists and to act in the general interest of the Service's citizen-soldiers.



MG Keith Mokoape is chairman of CyberSim

Table 9.13: CD Army Reserves' biography

Inspector General, SA Army

The History of the Inspector General

The modern Inspector General was introduced by the Royal French Army. Louis XIV, the Sun King, created an inspector general of infantry and an inspector general of cavalry with the principal duties of reviewing the troops and reporting to the king. Louis later expanded the system to include geographical inspectors. "They examined everything within their sphere of influence. Soon, military inspection became an essential aspect of all modern armies," the US Army's Inspector General's website explains.

The US Army Inspector General System was born during the Revolutionary War. The Continental Army, when formed in 1775, was a disorganized array of militia from different states, with no uniformity in battlefield front organizations, procedures, drills, appearance, or equipment. The Continental Army's leadership was not comparable to the good, solid officer leadership of the British Army, and General George Washington was not satisfied with the training and readiness of his diversified forces. At the same time, the Continental Congress recognized the need for an inspector general to provide it with information concerning a significant public investment. Therefore, the

Congress understandably wanted an agent in the Army to help in accountability for the military investments. It also wanted assurances the military would remain subordinate to its authority.

This parallel IG requirement created tension between the military and the civilian authorities. General Washington's preference for an IG answerable only to the Army chain of command prevailed, and subsequently inspectors general were ordered to report to the Commander-in-Chief. However, the tension created by a dual requirement for information continues even today.

On 13 December 1777, Congress created the Inspector General of the Army. The Congressional resolution directed that the Inspector General would:

- review the troops;
- see that officers and soldiers are instructed in exercise manoeuvres established by the Board of War;
- ensure that discipline be strictly observed; and
- ensure that officers command properly and treat soldiers with justice.

The first effective US Army Inspector General was Baron Frederick William Augustus von Steuben. Von Steuben was a former captain in the Prussian Army. He was recruited for the American Army in Paris by Benjamin Franklin in 1777. Franklin recognized that quality of von Steuben but was concerned that Congress wouldn't accept only a captain for such a position of responsibility. So Franklin "doctored" von Steuben's resume in order to present him as a former lieutenant general, a grade he knew would be acceptable to Congress. Von Steuben was accepted as the Inspector General of the Army on a trial basis by General Washington. He reported to duty at Valley Forge in February 1778. He spoke no English but learned quickly and impressed everyone with his hard work to improve the training, drills, discipline, and organization of the Continental Army. In May 1778, he was officially appointed Inspector General of the Army with the rank and pay of major general.

Many of the Continental Army's regimental colonels resented bitterly the efforts of the inspector general, whose duties as outlined by Congress included "to report all abuses, neglect and deficiencies to the Commander in Chief." It was von Steuben's character, tact and genius that overcame a great deal of this resistance and as such, set the precedent for the manner and behaviour for future IGs. MG von Steuben is recognized as the "Father of the Inspector General System," and significantly influenced the US Army's ability to fight and win.

Purpose of the IG

The purpose of an IG differs from military to military. In the US, the Inspector General of the Marine Corps is expected to promote Marine Corps combat readiness, integrity, efficiency, effectiveness, and credibility through impartial and independent inspections, assessments, inquiries, and investigations. The task of the Inspector General's Office of the US Army Garrison in Stuttgart, Germany, is to inquire into and report on matters which pertain to the performance of the mission and the state of economy, efficiency, discipline, morale, readiness and esprit de corps of the command.

In recent years, the US Army's IG has inspected or reviewed soldier readiness programs, risk management programs, anti-terrorism and force protection, extremist group activities, homosexual conduct policy implementation, and alleged war crimes near the village of No Gun Ri during the Korean War.

Table 9.14: The origins and purpose of the Inspector General explained. Sources: US Army Inspector General's Office, wwwpublic.ignet.army.mil/History_of_the_IG.htm, accessed, October 20, 2005; IGMC Homepage, www.hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/ig, US Army Garrison, Stuttgart, www.stuttgart.army.mil/sites/installation/ig.asp and Craig A. Meredith, The inspector general system, Army Lawyer, July-August, 2003, www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m6052/is_2003_July-August/ai_111027997, all accessed December 17, 2005.

Brigadier General JG Nkabinde was promoted into the post and appointed IG with effect from July 1,

2006. He replaced BG JC Beukes.

Table 9.15: IG SA Army's biography

Expand on the “Type” and “Support Formations”

Type and support formations are “intermediate structures” and “subsystems managers”. These formations are tasked with directing, orchestrating and controlling unit structures in order to provide combat-ready forces for employment. They also direct, orchestrate and control the formation strategic management process, business plan, act as “centres of excellence” for their “subsystems” and are “supporters, resource providers, and obstacle removers to subordinate units.”²

While the Army Office is situated on Department of Defence Level 3, the Type Formations are at Level 4. The SA Army lists six Type and two Support Formations –

Type Formations:

- Infantry
- Armour
- Artillery
- Air Defence Artillery
- Engineer
- Tactical Intelligence

Support Formations:

- Support
- Training

In addition, the SA Army includes two brigade headquarters –

- 43 SA Brigade
- 46 SA Brigade

Infantry Formation

The Infantry Formation is home to the parachute, mechanised, motorised and light infantry as well as the Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. The Infantry is organised as follows:

² SA Army media briefing, Army Headquarters, Pretoria, November 12, 1998.

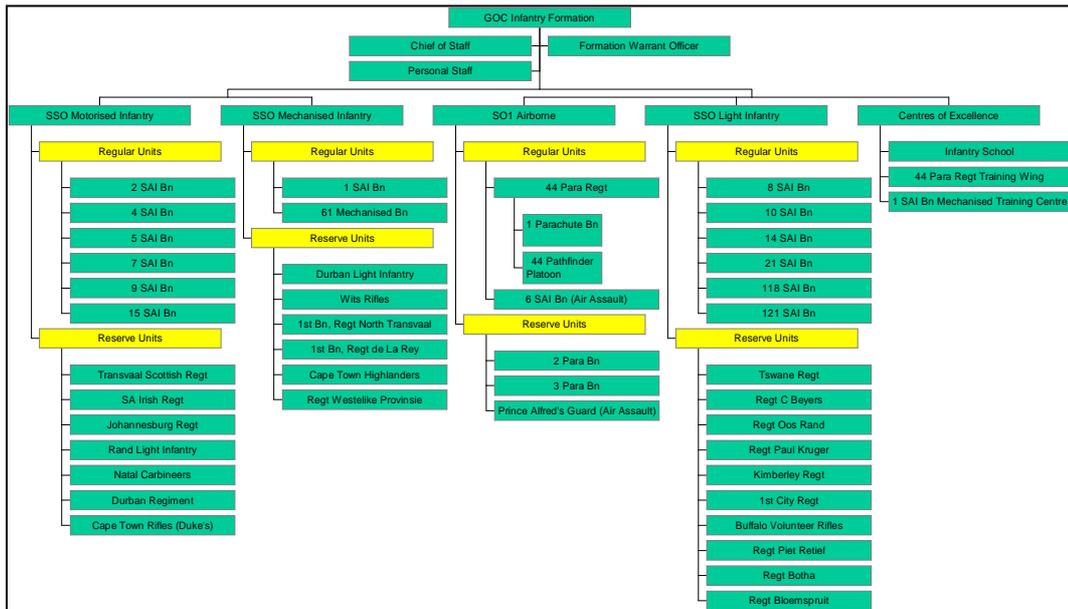


Table 9.16: The Infantry Formation. Only major units are mentioned. Note that the 44 Para Regt Training Wing and 1 SAI Mechanised Training Centre are part of their parent units and not independent entities. They are merely depicted so to indicate their status as “centres of excellence.”



Table 9.17: Pencil sketches: Key Infantry Formation Staff

Armour

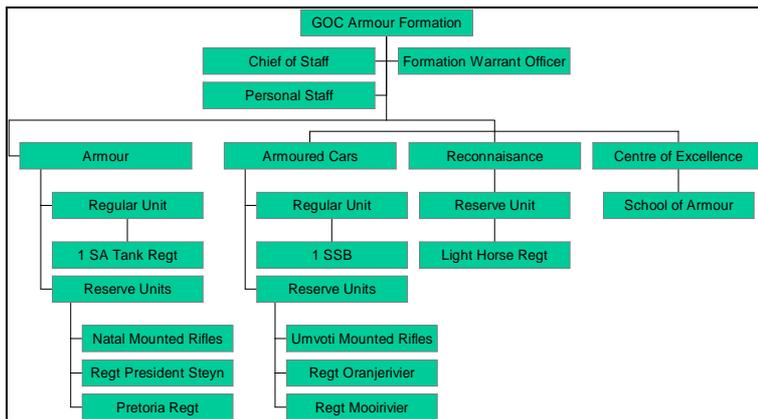


Table 9.18: The Armour Formation

GOC: BG Chris Gildenhuis
 CoS: Col George Ingram.
 Formation WO: WO1 Floors Venter.

Table 9.19: Pencil sketches: Key Armour Formation Staff

Artillery

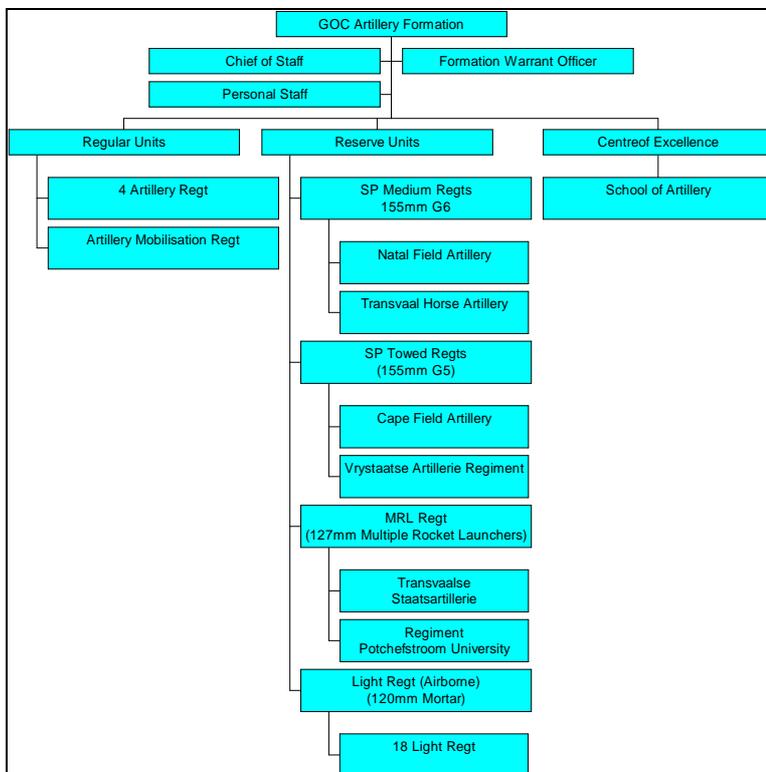


Table 9.20: The Artillery Formation



GOC, CoS, WO

Table 9.21: Pencil sketches: Key Artillery Formation Staff

Air Defence Artillery

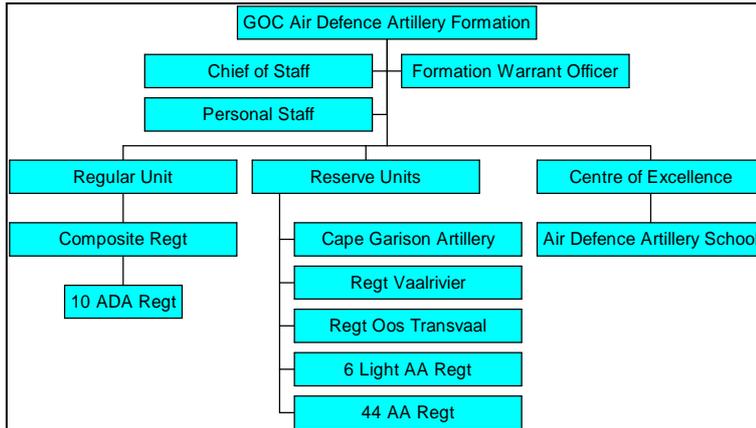


Table 9.22: The Air Defence Artillery Formation

GOC, CoS, WO

Table 9.23: Pencil sketches: Key ADA Formation Staff

Engineer

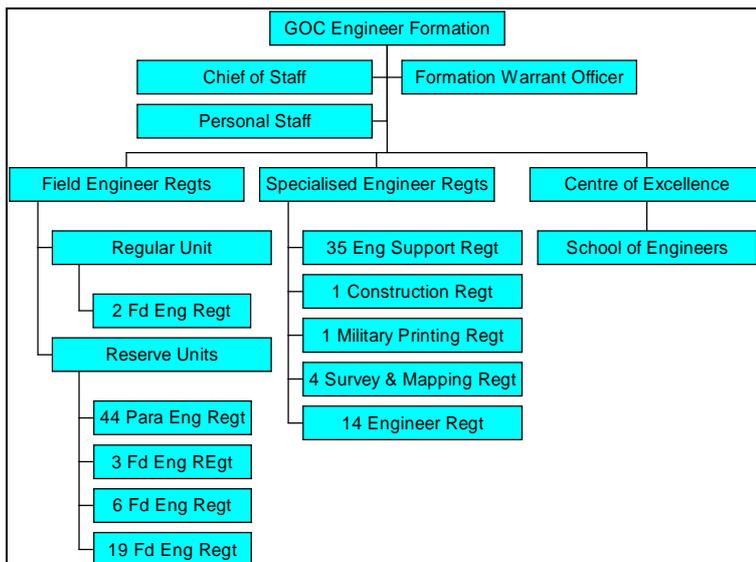


Table 9.24: The Engineer Formation

GOC, CoS, WO

Table 9.25: Pencil sketches: Key Engineer Formation Staff

Tactical Intelligence

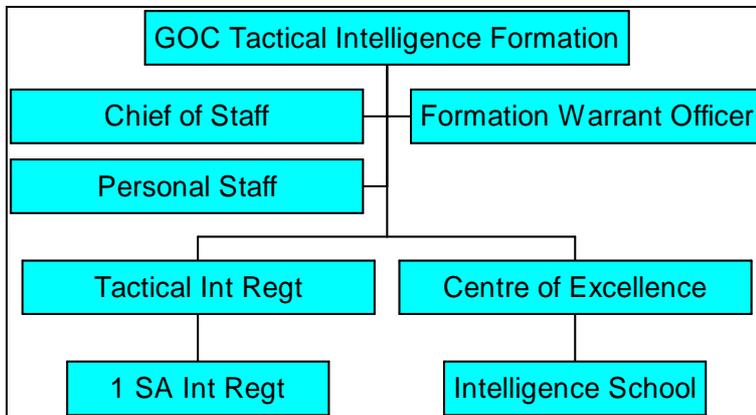


Table 9.26: The Tactical Intelligence Formation

GOC, CoS, WO

Table 9.27: Pencil sketches: Key Tactical Intelligence Formation Staff

Support

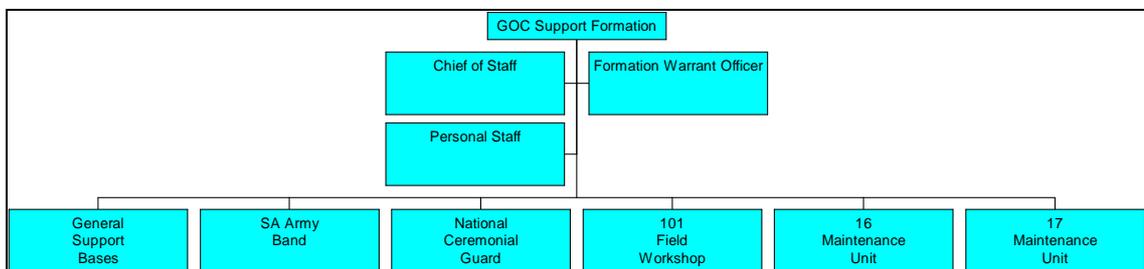


Table 9.xx: The SA Army Training Formation

CoS: BG Louise Rossouw became the first woman CoS of an SA Army formation on June 1, 2006, when she was promoted from colonel and appointed in the place of BG A Fredericks, who was appointed Director Army Structure.

GOC, CoS, WO

Table 9.28: Pencil sketches: Key Support Formation Staff

Training

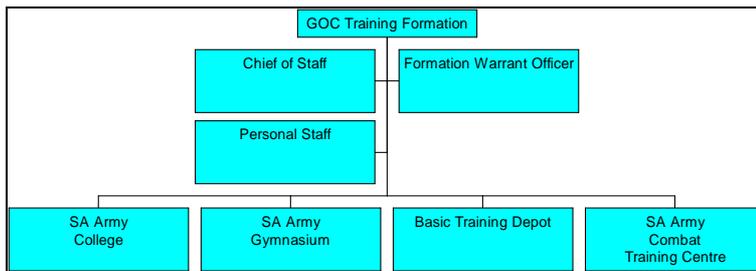


Table 9.29: The SA Army Training Formation

GOC, CoS, WO

Table 9.30: Pencil sketches: Key Training Formation Staff

3 SA Infantry Battalion became the basic training depot for the SA Army in 1999³. It currently presents Basic Military Training and various other courses, such as NCO Formative and Operational Duty Courses.

January 2005 saw the biggest Military Skills Development (MSD) System intake since the end of the conscription era in the early nineties. Altogether 1830 recruits arrived in buses from all over South Africa on January 17.

In addition, the SA Army includes two brigade headquarters⁴ –

43 SA Brigade

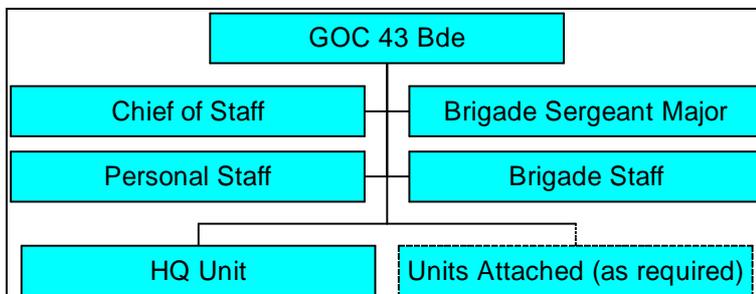


Table 9.31: 43 SA Bde

GOC: BG DD Mduyana
 CoS: Col LR Smith
 GOC, CoS, WO, SSOs

Table 9.32: Pencil sketches: Key 43 Bde Staff

³ Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, Capt Sanet Strydom, Quality Military Training, SA Soldier, September 2005.

⁴ They are likely to be replaced by a new, permanently organised, heavy (mechanised infantry), medium (motorised infantry) and a light (airborne) brigade.

OC:		
• COL Robbie Hartslief	January 1, 1997 – April 1, 1999	
GOC:		
• BG VL Sindane	April 1, 1999 – December 1, 2000	
• BG SS Kobe	December 1, 2000 – January 1, 2002	
• BG DD Mdutyana	January 1, 2002 – present	

• WO1 DT Lennie	January 1, 1997 – January 14, 1999
• WO1 JJ Kemp	January 14, 1999 - present

Vision: “We exploit opportunities to develop our capacity to command and control rapid deployment forces.”

Mission: “43 SA Brigade is to be combat ready from April 2000 to command rapid deployment joint and task forces on conventional and peace support operations.

46 SA Brigade

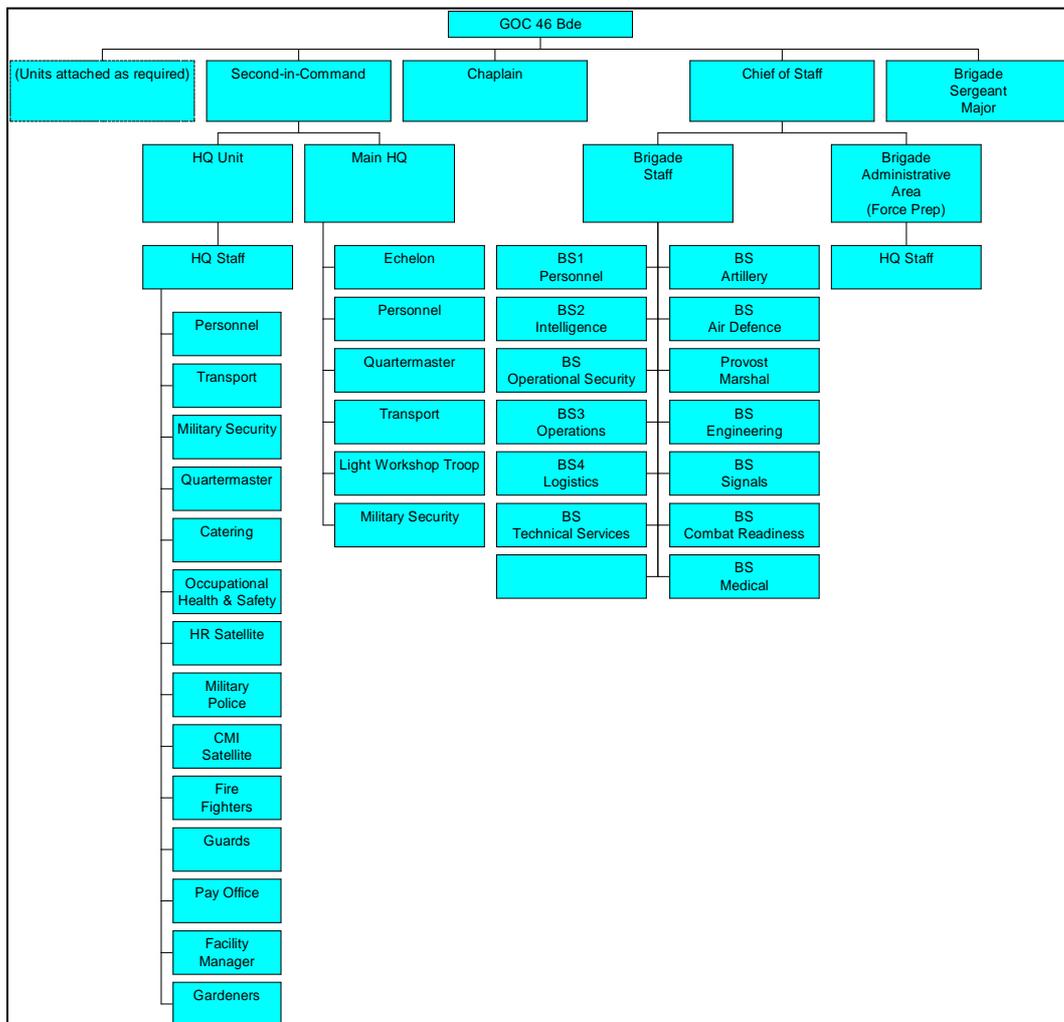


Table 9.33: 46 SA Bde (Organogram based on that displayed at Ex Young Eagle, De Brug, November 17, 2006.)

GOC: BG AM (Sipho) Msi, w.e.f 1 June 2006, replacing BG Roets.
 GOC, CoS, WO, SSOs

Table 9.34: Pencil sketches: Key 46 Bde Staff

Vision: “To be a centre of excellence (conventional/peace missions) in providing an effective command and control ability to the SANDF.”

Mission: “Headquarters 46 Brigade is a command and control user ready system under command of Chief Army, responsible for own combat readiness and mission readiness of units under command. When commissioned we will develop into a joint combat ready higher order user system for employment by Chief SANDF under operational command of Chief Joint Operations, thereby fulfilling our mission as the Shield of the Nation.

Does this structure reflect the “boots on the ground”?

According to a briefing to Parliament on June 4, 2004, the SA Army could in 2004 field one regular brigade. At the time it planned to have a reserve motorised brigade operational within three to five years and a mechanised brigade five to eight years later: not much for a force then with a nominal strength of 16 regular and 25 reserve infantry battalions, 1 regular tank and three reserve tank regiments, 1 regular armoured car and three reserve armoured car regiments, as well as a reserve armoured reconnaissance regiment, one regular and seven reserve artillery regiments, one regular and five reserve air defence artillery regiments and one regular and four reserve field engineer regiments.

At the time it could be said the Army was a hollow force as too many enlisted billets in regular units and leadership billets in the reserve forces were filled with over-aged, unfit, unhealthy, unenthusiastic timeservers. At the time, units could deploy just a fraction of the number they could parade. The SA Engineer Corps (SAEC), for example, could not make a field troop available for deployment to Darfur (Sudan) because it did not have any to spare, despite, on paper, mustering four field regiments who, among them, should have no trouble fielding 36 (nine per regiment).

The reserve component was no better. Most reserve infantry regiments made much of the ability to parade a platoon. Whether that platoon could be fielded was debatable.

Type	No of units	Total members	%
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			A/C/I
Infantry Formation: Mechanised Regts	6	2148	76,0
Infantry Formation: Motorised Regts	8	1966	72,0
Infantry Formation: Light Regts	13	1882	75,4
Artillery Formation	7	660	36,1
Armour Formation	7	1437	45,3
Engineer Formation	4	624	60,4
Air Defence Artillery Formation	5	385	65,9
2 & 3 Para Bn	2	249	24,0
Total	52	9351	64,6

Table 9.35: Army Conventional Reserve Strength: 2005. Source: Parliamentary briefing on the rejuvenation of the Reserve Forces Division, September 13, 2005, available on www.pmg.org.za, accessed September 17, 2005. It is not clear why some of the numbers in this table does not correspond with numbers given elsewhere in this chapter. For example, the Infantry Formation acknowledges 10 light infantry battalions, not 13; and five mechanised regiments, not six.

Much has changed in the interim, as is explained in Chapter 16 Human Capital. The inflow of Military Skills Development System recruits has flooded the Army with eager, young soldiers and some are already in the process of migrating to the Reserves. The African Armed Forces Journal reported in September 2006 that a composite squadron of 203 sappers were about to be deployed to the Democratic Republic of Congo for six months⁵. Among their number were 17 reservists from 19 Field Engineer Regiment – not bad considering that the 2004 planning foresaw only a deployable field troop (approximately 30 to 40 strong) in FY2006/7.

Improvements can also be seen in the reserve component. Already mentioned is the deployment of the field engineers. Although the first reserve engineers to be deployed for peace support, a composite infantry company (representing several regiments)⁶ was deployed in 2005 and a complete company, from Regiment de la Rey was deployed to the DRC in 2006. At the time the company was trained as motorised infantry. It is scheduled to be “upskilled” to mechanised status.

Expand on the SA Army’s corps

⁵ Sappers prepare for deployment, African Armed Forces Journal, September 2006.

⁶ The Cape Town Highlanders, Durban Regiment, Natal Carbineers, SA Irish Regiment, Transvaal Scottish, Johannesburg Regiment and the Witwatersrand Rifles.

In the SA Army, a “corps” is, in the words of a wikipedia writer, “an administrative grouping of troops within an army with a common function (such as artillery or signals).” It also performs a ceremonial function and has its own dress, insignia and traditions, much like the Regiments of the British Army. In the SA Army, officers are commissioned into a particular corps, in which they specialise until rising to general rank, by which time through experience and training, they will be generalists.

The SA Army’s corps divides into fighting and support corps. The fighting corps are the:

- SA Infantry Corps
- SA Artillery
- SA Air Defence Artillery
- SA Armoured Corps

The support corps are the:

- SA Engineer Corps
- SA Signal Corps (currently part of the SANDF’s Command Management Information [CMI] Formation)
- SA Army Tactical Intelligence Corps
- Personnel Services Corps
- Ordnance Services Corps
- Technical Services Corps
- Catering Corps
- Corps of Musicians
- SA Ammunition Corps

Specialised corps are the

- Staff Corps
- Corps of Professional Officers

- SA Infantry Corps (SAIC)
 - Mission: To close with, and destroy the enemy; to hold or defend ground.
 - Mission (Infantry Formation):
 - Origin: The infantry is the oldest of the branches and can be said to date back to that time and place in prehistory where the first group of people took up stick, stone and spear to defend against or attack their enemy, to seize land or defend their own. Author James F Dunnigan⁷ points out that the infantry, by definition, takes the brunt of the fighting. “It’s always been that way ... and this won’t change.” A SA Army recruitment poster notes that the infantry is the nucleus of any army and as a result it is the largest fighting corps in the SA Army. “The infantry is expected to attack the enemy under any conditions; this requires courage, fitness and initiative. In

⁷ James F Dunnigan, How to Make War, A Comprehensive Guide to Modern Warfare in the 21st Century, 4th Edition, Quill, New York, 2003.

order to attack the enemy with confidence, weapon training and field craft is the most important part of training.”

- Brief history in SA: Despite this, and the presence of infantry in South Africa from the earliest times, the infantry only gained a permanent home in the SAIC as recently as January 1954. Prior to that responsibility for the branch was passed from pillar to post.
- Corps colours: Green and black
- Beret colour: Green (motorised, mechanised and light infantry); maroon (parachute infantry)
- Collar badge: Springbok head
- Motto: *Gladium Practamus* (Wielders of the Sword)

- SA Artillery (SAA)
 - Mission: It is the role of the artillery to destroy the enemy, preferably prior to contact with own Infantry and Armour, by means of firepower.
 - Indirect fire support – with the aim of obtaining the desired effect at the right time and place with the correct type and quantity of ammunition. “It may be accepted that the operational functions of the SAA in specific circumstances could include:
 - The deep attack and destruction, disruption or degradation of:
 - Enemy command and control,
 - Battlefield operating systems such as intelligence, air defence, firepower, etc.,
 - Enemy ability to sustain battle;
 - Isolation of the battlefield by interdiction to prevent reinforcement by fire or manoeuvre of reserves;
 - Shaping of the battlefield to own forces advantage by battlefield interdiction, deep attack, canalisation or denial; and,
 - Precision strikes on high value targets across the width and depth of the battlefield.⁸”“The primary tactical role of the SAA, irrespective of the type of warfare, is to destroy the enemy, preferably prior to contact with own manoeuvre forces. The functions related to the primary role are:
 - Artillery strikes with counter-bombardment as a high priority, (and)
 - Battlefield interdiction.The secondary tactical role of the SAA is the execution of engagements not classified as artillery strikes or interdiction. Functions related to the secondary role are:
 - Fire support, (and)
 - Engagements aimed at creating special technical, tactical or psychological effects on the enemy.”
 - Origin: One of the more recent branches, the *ultima ratio regum* (last argument of kings), wears the same colours as the engineers, from which their branch derives. Modern artillery was made possible by the invention of gunpowder in the 12th Century. Early cannon were used by medieval engineers as siege weapons, replacing Roman-era catapults and other

⁸ SA Artillery Formation response to an enquiry by the author, November 9, 2005.

mechanically powered implements. It would be another three centuries before guns became light enough to accompany troops in the open field. Dunnigan, a former artilleryman, calls this branch “the killer”. “Artillery causes the most casualties and is the most unpredictable danger on the battlefield. ... From the user’s point of view, artillery is an ideal weapon. It does enormous destruction without exposing the user to much risk. Better still; the users rarely suffer the dismay of seeing their mangled victims. However, artillery is a rich man’s weapon. A less wealthy army can be just as destructive, but at greater human cost to itself.”

- Brief history in SA: The Cape Field Artillery (CFA), founded in 1857, is the fourth oldest Reserve unit in the SANDF, but is regarded as the senior regiment (as a corps, the artillery is senior to the infantry). The regiment is also the only unit still in existence that acted in defence of a direct attack on South African soil – defending Upington on January 24, 1915, against a German force that included rebel Manie Maritz and Boer prophet “Siener” van Rensburg. The SAA was, however, only established as a corps, on February 1, 1922, when a new Defence Act came into effect. The SA Artillery Formation was founded on January 1, 1999.
- Corps colours: Guardsman Red (BCC49) and Oxford Blue (BSI105). The significance of the colours are no longer known. The earliest mention of their use dates to 1662. In 1699, gunners in Flanders wore crimson coats faced with blue.
- Beret colour: Oxford Blue
- Collar badge: Bursting grenade with seven flames
- Artillery flash: Most artillery unit shields contain a “zigzag” device symbolising thunder and lightning – linked by some to the noise of the discharge and the muzzle flash. Others link it to the patron saint of the artillery, Saint Barbara, whose father was struck dead by lightning after executing her for having converted to Christianity. In the early gunpowder age her name was often invoked for aid against accidents resulting from explosions--since some of the earlier artillery pieces often blew up instead of firing their projectile.⁹
- Motto: *Ubique* (Everywhere); *Primus incidere exire ultimus* (First in and last out)
- Miscellaneous: The regiments of the SAA, as with the Royal Artillery, have no colours (banners) and are not granted battle honours. Where other regiments in other corps are granted colours in observation of the tradition of rallying to the flag on the battlefield, artillerymen always rally to their guns. In effect, their guns substitute as colours and are saluted on parade – hence the disgrace that befalls a unit that loses a gun on the battlefield and the reluctance of gunners through the ages to abandon these cumbersome devices even in the face of overwhelming odds. In the Royal Artillery, many Regular Army batteries bear an honour title (in parentheses) commemorating an exceptional act of service, for example Q Battery of the 5th Regiment, RA, bears the name "Sanna's Post" in honour of its defence of that water point, just outside Bloemfontein, against Boer general Christian de Wet one morning in 1900.

⁹ The legend of Saint Barbara, US Army Field Artillery Association, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, <http://sill-www.army.mil/pao/pabarbar.htm>, accessed November 11, 2005.

- SA Air Defence Artillery (SAADA)
 - Mission: To defend combat formations against low-level air attacks in close conjunction with the SA Air Force.
 - Origin: During World War One (WW1, 1914-1918), the threat posed by enemy aircraft forced all belligerents to allocate to some artillery and machine gun units to the anti-aircraft (AA) function.
 - Brief history in SA: The Union Defence Force established its first air defence artillery (ADA) unit in April 1939, when the 1st AA Battery was created as part of the then-Coast Artillery Brigade. In 1944, AA units became part of the SA Air Force, only to be handed back to the SA Army in 1949. Two years later, the traditionally close links between the AA and the Coast Artillery, both were merged into the short-lived first Corps of Marines. The coast artillery was stood down in 1955, and the Marines disbanded. The ADA returned to the Army. The present ADA school and 10 ADA Regt was established in February 1968. The SAADA was established as a separate corps in 1984. The SA Artillery Formation was founded on January 1, 1999.
 - Corps colours: Light Blue and Purple
 - Beret colour: Light Blue
 - Collar badge: Bursting grenade with seven flames
 - Motto: *Alta Pete* (Aim High)

- SA Armoured Corps (SAAC)

- Mission: The Armour provides the Army with “battle winning shock action and firepower.”¹⁰ “To provide combat-ready armour forces to CSANDF.”¹¹



- Origin: The tank was invented, more or less simultaneously, in Britain and France in 1915, to support the infantry in crossing the machine gun-beaten “no man’s land” of World War One’s Western Front in Flanders and Northern France. Armed with cannon and machine guns and acting as mobile armoured pillboxes, they were meant to

escort the infantry through enemy barbed wire and past machine gun nests.

- Brief history in SA: South Africa employed armoured cars as early as 1915 during its invasion of the then-German South West Africa (now Namibia). After the end of the First World War a single Whippet light tank was purchased for the UDF and was operationally employed during the 1922 Rand revolt. The tank in question is now on display at the Army College at Thaba Tshwane. The formation of an armoured corps was proposed in 1924.¹² An armoured car section was formed the next year when two Vickers machine gun-armed Crosleys and two

¹⁰ Charles Heyman, *The British Army, A Pocket Guide, 2000-2001*, Leo Cooper, 2000.

¹¹ BG Chris Gildenhuis, personal correspondence, December 2006.

¹² Siegfried Stander, *Like the Wind, The Story of the SA Army*, Saayman & Weber, Cape Town, 1985.

medium tanks were imported from Britain. The corps' first engagement "was less than triumphant", Stander recalls. In 1932, an armoured car was deployed to South West Africa to deal with a minor tribal rising in Ovamboland. "It as buzzkrieg rather than blitzkrieg. A swarm of bees forced the crew of the armoured car to make a strategic and very rapid withdrawal from the field."¹³

- Corps colours: Orange and blue
- Beret colour: Black
- Collar badge: see above
- Motto: *Pectore Sicut Ferro* (With a chest of steel)

The support corps are the:

- SA Engineer Corps (SAEC)
 - Mission: "To enhance mobility and survivability of own forces." The SAEC's primary role is to provide "engineer solutions on the battlefield", while its vision is to be a "combat ready integrated military system supporting the landward defence strategy." The corps mandate is "to prepare and provide engineer capabilities fully supported to the 1st and 2nd lines and uniquely to the 4th line, to be integrated into the landward defence capability for the defence and protection of the Republic of South Africa." Engineers have two primary tasks: enhancing own forces mobility while disrupting that of the enemy. In addition to these, engineers provide troops in the field shelter and amenities and commanders critical geospatial information in the form of maps. A SA Army recruiting pamphlet noted that engineers help "the Army to move, to fight and to survive. The SA Army Engineer Corps system consists of the Combat Engineer, Engineer Intelligence (which includes terrain intelligence, surveying, cartography and printing), operational construction as well as engineer logistics components. The corps is responsible for engineer support to all types of forces during all types of operations and under all circumstances."
 - Origin: The engineers are an ancient branch, the name deriving from the operators of the engines used during siege warfare, and later, the title of the master of military works and his staff. The engineers were often the first users of a new technology that later became the basis of a new branch, for example the cannon. The civilian fire brigade was also born from this corps.
 - Brief history in SA: The SAEC came into being on February 1, 1922, although it can trace its roots to the Cape Volunteer Engineers, founded in 1859. The SAEC's original insignia, the bursting grenade with seven flames, was taken from the Royal Engineers. In 1946 the number of flames was increased to nine in a Royal Charter, signed by George VI, in recognition for their service during World War Two.
 - Corps Colours: Guardsman Red (BCC49) and Oxford Blue (BSI105).
 - Beret colour: Oxford blue
 - Collar badge: Bursting grenade with nine flames

¹³ ditto

- Motto: *Ubique* (Everywhere); *Primus incidere exire ultimus* (First in and last out)
- SA Army Tactical Intelligence Corps (SAATIC)
 - Mission: To provide verified information and analysis about enemy intentions, plans and capabilities to commanders and deny the opponent the same through pro-active counterintelligence measures and, in cooperation with the military police, security.
 - Origin: Commanders have always had a need for intelligence and security, but, like many other functions described in this section, this was provided in an *ad hoc* fashion by amateurs until quite recently. Perhaps as a result of their experiences in the Anglo South African Boer War, proposals were made in 1905 for the British to establish such a corps. The corps was only established in 1914 and was disbanded in 1929. It was reformed in 1940.
 - Brief history in SA:
 - Corps Colours: Red Silver Green
 - Beret colour: Black
 - Collar badge: Jackal head (White backing: formation HQ, Red backing:
 - Motto: *Exploratio* (To explore)
- Personnel Services Corps (PSC)
 - Mission: According to an SA Army recruiting pamphlet, the PSC is “primarily concerned with all aspects relating to personnel administration and support.”
 - Origin:
 - Brief history in SA:
 - Corps Colours:
 - Beret colour:
 - Collar badge:
 - Motto:
- Ordnance Services Corps
 - Mission: To keep the fighting soldier supplied. According to an SA Army recruiting pamphlet the primary role of the OSC “is the effective acquisition, receipt, storing, safekeeping, preservation, maintenance, accounting, distribution and disposal of clothing, accommodation, ammunition, vehicles, fuel and spares within the SA Army. The OSC also delivers specialised services to the SA Army, which includes computer services, Air Supply and Nature Conservation. The OSC keeps the forces moving!”
 - Origin: Until recently – but allowing for the Romans - armies normally lived “off the land”, meaning they looted townsman and peasant, stripping the countryside bare as they went along. In pre-industrial times there was usually little surplus agricultural production, and what there was could not be easily moved. This limited the size of armies and the time of year they could fight. From there the term “campaigning season” – in Europe, this was August and September: just before or after harvest time. While soldiers did forage, much of the logistics function was left to “camp followers”, the large crowd of men and women that followed field armies around, providing the troops any manner of domestic and related services. Industrialisation – and Napoleon’s insistence that a better way be found, led to the invention of margarine and

tinned food – and the establishment of a more regular establishment to purchase, store, carry and distribute these supplies.

- **Brief history in SA:** The reforms of February 1922 established an Ordnance Corps within the Union Defence Force. In 1939, the corps was split into a quartermaster and technical service. In 1949 the quartermaster corps was split further. Another round of reorganisation followed in the 1970s. The Finance Services Corps was established in 1973 and the Personnel Services Corps in 1975. Other corps established at that time were the SA Corps of Musicians and the SA Caterers Corps.
- **Corps Colours:** Blue, silver
- Beret colour: Blue
- **Collar badge:**
- Motto: *Fons sine qua non* (The indispensable fountain)
- Technical Services Corps (TSC)
 - Mission: To keep operationally fit equipment in the hands of the troops¹⁴ through first, second and third line support.¹⁵ TSC artificers¹⁶ examine, modify, repair and recover all vehicles and other mechanical, electrical and electronic equipment of the Army beyond the capacity of unit non-technical personnel.
 - Origin: Ours is a technical age, requiring increasing numbers of technicians to keep in-service ever-more complex technology. The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, from whose insignia that of the TSC derive, was only established in 1942. Prior to that, the responsibility to keep equipment operationally fit was widely diffused.
 - **Brief history in SA:**
 - **Corps Colours:**
 - Beret colour: Black
 - **Collar badge:** Horse superimposed on a lightning bolt
 - **Motto:**
- SA Catering Corps (SA Cat C)
 - **Mission:** The SA Cat C is there to assist the SANDF operationally regarding hospitality services, a recruiting pamphlet explains. “They are also responsible to improve the management and control of hospitality functions in the SA Army. A high standard in the preparation of food is set, with the emphasis on nutrition.”
 - **Origin:**
 - **Brief history in SA:**
 - **Corps Colours:**
 - **Beret colour:**
 - **Collar badge:**
 - **Motto:**

¹⁴ This is the aim of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), from whose heraldry the TSC’s own symbols derive. Charles Heyman, *The British Army, A Pocket Guide*, 2000-2001, Leo Cooper, 2000.

¹⁵ First line support: unit level, second line: formation level, third line: depot level, fourth line: factory level.

¹⁶ From there the nickname “tiffy” for TSC personnel.

- Corps of Musicians

- Mission:
- Origin:
- Brief history in SA:
- Corps Colours:
- Beret colour:
- Collar badge:
- Motto:

- SA Ammunition Corps

- Mission: “The role and function of the SA Ammu C is to ensure that only safe and effective ammunition is supplied to the DOD and other users,” a SA Army recruiting pamphlet says. “Their functions include participation in research and development, quality assurance, unit inspection, maintenance and disposal of ammunition.
- Origin:
- Brief history in SA:
- Corps Colours:
- Beret colour:
- Collar badge:
- Motto:

Specialised corps are the

- Staff corps

- Mission:
- Origin:
- Brief history in SA:
- Corps Colours:
- Beret colour:
- Collar badge:
- Motto:

- Corps of Professional Officers

- Mission:
- Origin:
- Brief history in SA:
- Corps Colours:
- Beret colour:
- Collar badge:
- Motto:

What is the issue with rear-area defence?

In short, the Army Territorial Reserve (ATR), part of which is known as the “commandos”, for reasons of history, are being phased out and are not being replaced – by the SA Army, at least. (The ATR consists of the commandos and a number of

light infantry battalions. The latter will be re-roled.) President Thabo Mbeki, in his annual State of the Nation Address, on February 14, 2003, announced that the commandos would make way for a “new system whose composition and ethos accord with the requirements of all rural communities” (See Table 9.xx). Subsequent announcements were that the commandos would be history by the end of March 2009 and that it would be replaced by a system employing police reservists.

Madame Speaker

Over the past three years, our security agencies have been hard at work implementing the National Crime Combating Strategy targeted at priority crimes and policing areas with the highest incidence of serious crimes. We can say with confidence that definite progress is being made in this regard. We will continue to improve the capacity of the Police Service to discharge its crime prevention and combating responsibilities in these priority areas...

Before we identify the challenges for the coming year, we take this opportunity to thank all the security agencies for the sterling work that they did during the course of last year in securing both the launch of the African Union and arguably the biggest international conference ever held, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and now the ICC Cricket World Cup. I am pleased to convey to the Ministers and Deputy Ministers responsible as well as the leaders and members of these agencies the congratulations of many leaders across the globe for the excellent work they have done to guarantee the security of important visitors to our country...

Measures will be taken to ensure that the structures meant to support the security agencies, such as the SANDF commandos and police reservists are properly regulated to do what they were set up for. In this regard, in order to ensure security for all in the rural areas including the farmers, government will start in the near future to phase out SANDF commandos, at the same time as we create in their place, a new system whose composition and ethos accord with the requirements of all rural communities.

Table 9.36: Extract from the State of the Nation Address, 2003: President Thabo Mbeki’s announcement on February 14, 2003, announcing the phase-out of the commandos or Army Territorial Reserve. Source: www.info.gov.za/speeches/2003/03021412521001.htm, accessed on October 20, 2005.

Mbeki appeared to reverse himself on the issue some months later¹⁷. Speaking to farmers in the Lichtenburg, North West, area, he “acknowledged that the government’s decision about the future of (the) commandos, which he announced during his State of the Nation address on February 14 and which has led to widespread anxiety about rural safety, could have been misconstrued.” News24 reported that Mbeki had referred to safety on farms and had emphasised that it was not just a question of safety or agriculture. “We are going to re-arrange the commando system and not phase it out. We will not leave a vacuum, because that will not help at all to counter crime in rural areas. The hands of the police are strengthened by co-operation from the communities and the public’s assistance is welcomed”, Mbeki said. However, the dismantling of the commandos and their supporting structure has since become a near-irreversible tide. Seventeen units were demobilised in FY2004/5, 54 in 2005/6 and 63 in 2006/7. Forty-nine were marked for closure in 2007/8 and the last 11 would meet their end in FY2008/9.¹⁸

¹⁷ Jan Jan Joubert, Mbeki: Commandos here to stay, News24, www.news24.com, April 25, 2003, accessed October 20, 2005.

¹⁸ Freedom Front Plus Press Release, Meeste Kommando eenhede sluit vanjaar – Leemte in beveiliging groter, July 4, 2006.

At their peak, 186 of these units, ranging in size from a company to a battalion, existed. There were three kinds: Rural commandos, optimised for rural counterinsurgency; urban commandos focussed on unrest control, and industrial commandos, designed to protect National Key Points. Personnel for the latter were generally drawn from the workforce of the facility itself. Of the 51,000 commando members on the SANDF's books, as many as 27,000 derived their sole income from their part-time service.

For administrative and operational convenience, commandos, by the mid-1980s had been organised into "Groups", structured similar to brigades, with a small headquarters staff and supporting establishment (numbering between 200 and 1000)¹⁹, and usually commanded by a regular colonel. About 40 of these groups existed at one time. These groups, in turn, reported to the local territorial Army "command". For example, De Mist Commando in Uitenhage, in the present Eastern Cape, answered to Group 6 in Port Elizabeth, who in turn, was a component of Eastern Province (EP) Command. EP Command took its orders from Army headquarters in Pretoria. After the restructuring of the SANDF in 1999, commandos and groups fell into the uncomfortable position of having two masters: administratively they answered to the Infantry Formation but operationally they took their orders from the Joint Operations Division, initially through five Regional Joint Task Forces and later via nine Joint Tactical Headquarters (JTH). As the commandos go, groups are also being consolidated and disbanded, ready to go into "that gentle night" with the JTHs in 2009.

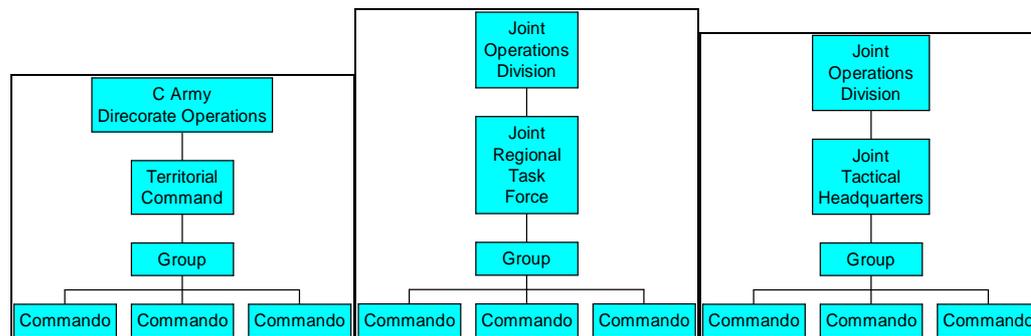


Table 9.37: The ATR chain of command before 1999, after August 1999 and after February 2003.

The decision to disband the commandos was – and remains – controversial. The farming lobby and urbanites feared the police would be unable to cope when the commando crutch was removed, while land reform activists and farmworker supporters welcomed the decision that was preceded by much reporting in certain media about abuses involving alleged commando members. African Eye News Service (AENS) reported that farm labourers in Mpumalanga's "deep south" rejoiced at the announcement, saying they had "finally won a hard-fought battle for the abolishment of army commandos".²⁰ The labourers, resident on farms around the rural towns of Wakkerstroom, Piet Retief, Volksrust and Amersfoort apparently had been complaining to national and provincial authorities for four years about a "reign of terror" by the Wakkerstroom Commando. AENS said they claimed that commandos

¹⁹ Anonymous, New unit to replace commandos, News24, www.news24.com, February 17, 2003, accessed October 20, 2005.

²⁰ Sizwe samaYende, AENS, Commandos: Farmworkers rejoice, News24, www.news24.com, February 18, 2003, accessed October 20, 2005.

were being used by farmers to force them off the land. Andile Mngxitama, a National Land Committee (NLC) official and anti-commando lobbyist, was quoted as saying the step was closing a chapter of collusion between white farmers, commandos and justice officials against vulnerable labourers. "This is a real victory for farm dwellers that the government has finally recognised that commandos serve the interests of the landlords and they're vicious," Mngxitama said. Defence minister Mosiuoa Lekota was briefed on the claims in 2000. It was said that the workers were possibly confusing soldiers with security guards who wore camouflage uniforms. Lekota then obtained a High Court interdict prohibiting security companies from issuing staff with camouflage uniforms.

Safety and Security Minister Nqakula told reporters the commando system was established during a specific period of South Africa's history as the first line of defence for rural communities against the "infiltration of guerrillas into the country. Because of this, commandos have never been as accepted as they ought to be by people." The phasing out of the system, however, did not mean that commando members would be without jobs. He suggested they could be taken up in the new system, but did not elaborate.²¹ He acknowledged that the new police division would require a lot of resources. On fears that rural security would be compromised, he said farm security was part and parcel of South Africa's crime prevention strategy. A rural safety plan was in place and he was awaiting a final report into the matter, following an investigation into farms attacks in South Africa. Farm attacks were not only against white farmers, but also their black colleagues, Nqakula said.

Farmers' union Agri SA president Japie Grobler disagreed, saying the scheme amounted to "the old story of hundreds of plans being hatched while crime continues unabated." In his commentary, Institute for Security Studies director Jakkie Cilliers cautioned against any plan to abolish commandos before an effective alternative was in place. "Commandos have traditionally been functioning as a blanket of support in rural safety," he said. Cilliers said the fight against crime in general might also suffer if commandos should disappear. "The government is struggling to recruit enough reservists, which means that military support for the police remains vital." Commandos operating in rural areas to curb lawlessness enabled the police to deploy more staff for the battle against crime in urban areas. Perceptions that misconduct was rife among members of commandos were not accurate. "There were only isolated incidents of this nature," Cilliers said.

As early as March 2003, alternatives to the commandos were being proposed but as late as 2006²² none was fully functional. In 2003, the then-New National Party argued the SA Police Service's plan to replace the ATR with its sector policing strategy would not work. For that reason, experts consulted by the party proposed a gendarmerie or constabulary that would remain part of the defence department. It was further argued that as a reserve force, it would not be very expensive and that existing commando structures could easily be used as a basis for the new force. None of these ideas seemed to impress government, who believed a new Protection and Security Services Division would best suited to patrol the nation's borders and safeguard

²¹ Anonymous, New unit to replace commandos, News24, www.news24.com, February 17, 2003, accessed October 20, 2005.

²² Freedom Front Plus Press Release, Meeste Kommando eenhede sluit vanjaar – Leemte in beveiliging groter, July 4, 2006.

national key points as well as VIPs. So the police persevered in their plan, causing Freedom Front Plus spokesman Pieter Groenewald to lament that “the police simply lacks the manpower and equipment to take over from the commandos. Crime intelligence is extremely patchy ... and it was exactly on this terrain that commando’s played a leading role.”²³ Groenewald noted that perceptions of escalating crime and an ebbing of public confidence in the police in mid-2006 made the decision to continue with phasing out the units irrational.

EDITORIAL OPINION

On commandos

MANY will welcome President Thabo Mbeki's statement, confirmed by security minister Charles Nqakula that the commandos are to be phased out.

Any government born of a liberation movement is going to be uneasy about a large militia, armed and trained for combat, roaming around the countryside. The commandos, like it or not, played a security role under the previous regime and they have plenty of members of their own to blame for the blemishes on their image.

Apart from any right-wingers nestling in commando ranks, and isolated cases of gross abuse -- making a man eat faeces, painting another -- the commandos have not always been scrupulously humane in their treatment of rural people. In pursuit of stock thieves, some have behaved like "terrorists" themselves. Hence the president's sentence that they will be replaced by a force "... whose composition and ethos accords with the requirements of all rural communities".

The extent of the commandos -- 51,000 people under arms -- can be seen both as the reason for the government's unease, and the main reason not to dissolve the commandos.

The "elite police unit" due to replace them will be far smaller and very thinly spread guarding borders and ports of entry -- including border posts and international airports -- as well as rural communities. DA rural safety spokesman Andries Botha says as the SA Defence Force was transformed into the SANDF, it is possible to transform the commandos. They have transformed many times since they were established around 1715 because the Dutch East India Company refused to fund community safety.

This "unique indigenous system" earned itself great fame during the Anglo-Boer South African War by giving the British Empire a bloody nose several times, Botha said. So impressed was Winston Churchill, who was captured by them, he named the elite forces of the British Army after them. The name spread to almost all special forces.

Agri SA's Kiewiet Ferreira said losing the commandos would mean rural communities had to rely mainly on themselves for protection. The police were already overburdened.

NNP defence spokesman Adriaan Blaas said the White Paper on Defence and the Defence Review recommended commando units be retained to ensure rear defence capabilities in case of conventional threats to SA.

Surprised reaction to Mbeki's announcement suggests the decision was made without much consultation²⁴ -- with the military, established and emergent farmers and even rural communities. There seems to be no agreement on the role actually being played by the commandos and the best alternatives.

If the government was to dissolve every institution which has miscreant members we would be left without a defence force, police, traffic departments, doctors, lawyers, a public service and, finally, a government.

The rural areas are under pressure from poverty, illness, drought and crime. Rather than scrapping the commandos, they need to adapt into whatever force is supposed to take their place. Training a credible alternative is going to take a long time.

Table 9.38: Why they “have” to go: The Daily Dispatch explains. Daily Dispatch, dispatch online, www.dispatch.co.za, February 20, 2003, accessed October 20, 2005. The system is not as unique as some would claim. The Dutch West Indies Company and later British settlers established a similar system in the US, known today as the National Guard, to protect against enemies both indigenous and

²³ Freedom Front Plus Press Release, Meeste Kommando eenhede sluit vanjaar – Leemte in beveiliging groter, July 4, 2006.

²⁴ This became a hallmark of the Mbeki administration.

foreign – in their case Native Americans and French. Author Willem Steenkamp says the commandos were formally founded in 1658 (six years after Jan van Riebeeck landed at the Cape). The word was first used in 1676.

There is a legitimate expectation on the part of the public that government will provide them rear-area, or since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United states, “homeland” security. It was argued by the DoD in Chapter 5 that defence capabilities could not be turned on and off like a tap. This is also the case here. No amount of talk here about democracies not garrisoning themselves, past abuses or the superfluousness of the requirement will assist South Africa the day the capability is needed – and is lacking. Our politicians are accepting a risk here. Let us hope it is a good gamble.

In the meantime, the National Guard is playing its part in homeland defence in the US, and the Gendarmerie in France...

What is the rank, racial and gender breakdown of the SA Army?

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Table 9.39: The rank, racial and gender breakdown of the SA Army.

What are the SA Army’s activities on any given day?

The daily routine of the average SA Army unit may vary, as result of the type of unit concerned. The routine of a training unit will be different from an operational unit, while external and internal deployments may also have unique routines.

The SA Army provided the following schedule as a basic daily routine:²⁵

- Daily routine
 - 05:00 to 06:00 Reveille (awake, personal routine)
 - 06:00 to 06:30 Inspection (of rooms, dress, equipment)
 - 06:30 to 07:15 Breakfast
 - 07:30 to 08:00 Roll call
 - 08:00 to 10:00 Activities (normally training)
 - 10:10 to 10:30 Tea break
 - 10:30 to 12:45 Activities (normally training)
 - 12:45 to 13:30 Lunch
 - 13:30 to 15:00 Activities (normally training)
 - 15:00 to 15:45 Physical training
 - 15:45 to 16:10 Roll call
 - 17:00 to 18:00 Supper
 - 18:00 onwards Own activities (leisure)

²⁵ Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Defence, June 4, 2004. Routine based on that of 1 SA Infantry Battalion, Bloemfontein.

- Weekly routine
 - Wednesdays
 - Battalion parade
 - Officer commanding's communication period
 - Chaplain's period
 - Sport
 - Saturday and Sunday
 - Own activities, except for duty personnel

Unit routine in the field²⁶:

- Weekdays
 - 0500 Reveille
 - 0530-0700 Shower
 - 0600-0700 Tea
 - 0730 Working day starts
 - 1100-1200 Brunch
 - 1630-2000 Bar open
 - 1700-1800 Supper
 - 1800 No movement out of base
 - 1930 Officer Commanding's coordinating conference
 - 2200 Lights out
- Saturday
 - 0645 Reveille
 - 0600-0800 Shower
 - 0700-0800 Tea
 - 0800 Roll call
 - 1100-1200 Brunch
 - 1630-2000 Bar open
 - 1700-1800 Supper
 - 1930 Officer Commanding's coordinating conference
 - 2200 Lights out

Deployment schedule²⁷

- External Operations
 - Health assessment - 1 Month
 - Preparation training and military skills retraining - 3 Months
 - Mission Readiness training and final preparation for deployment - 4 Weeks
 - External deployment - 6 Months
 - Leave (Accumulated for Period of Deployment) - 2 Months
- Internal Operations

²⁶ The routine followed by 43 SA Brigade in the field during Exercise Seboka, October 2006.

²⁷ Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Defence, June 4, 2004. Routine based on that of 1 SA Infantry Battalion, Bloemfontein.

- Military skills retraining in Mil Skills Required - 1 Month
- Internal Deployment (includes mission readiness training) - 3 Months
- Operational leave - 2 Weeks
- Annual vacation leave - 4 Weeks
- Retraining, advanced training, training exercises and individual development courses - Rest of Year

Explain the SA Army’s educational and training system

The SA Army provides recruits initial military training, which is followed up with continuous through-career training at various Service and defence institutions. Initial training is offered at the Basic Training Depot in Kimberley and specialised training at the various corps schools, countrywide. Leadership training is presented at the SA Army Gymnasium at Heidelberg, advanced training at the corps schools as well as the and at the SA Army College at Thaba Tshwane. Senior Army leaders receive training at the War and Defence Colleges. Force training is conducted at the SA Army Combat Training Centre at Lohattha in the Northern Cape.

Recruit training

From 2005, all recruit training takes place at the Basic Training Depot in Kimberley. In 2006 it cost R48,000 per person plus R12,000 in salary to provide a recruit with six months-worth of training.

Basic training, in the SA Army, takes place during 600 40-minute instructional periods over 10 weeks. In the broadest terms, these are allocated as follows:

Category	% of training time
• Motivation:	8%
• Knowledge:	9%
• Fitness:	16%
• Drill:	10%
• Combat skills:	57%
○ Musketry	17%
○ Shooting Exercises	14%
○ Fieldcraft	23%
○ Map Reading	15%
○ Field Exercises	31%

This breaks down as follows:

Subject	Periods allocated
• Command Information	
○ Political Science	11
○ SANDF & SA Army organisation	8
○ “Know your Enemy”	5
• Military Security	3
• Chaplain’s periods	11

• Regimental duties	
○ Military aspects	2
○ Personal aspects	7
○ Standing Orders	5
○ Loss control	8
○ Guards and sentries	10
• Military law	8
• Hygiene	4
• Buddy Aid	15
• Fitness	
○ Conditioning training and combat PT	48
○ Recreational PT	48
• Parade drill	53
• Compliments and saluting	7
• Musketry	
○ Weapons drill	57
○ Shooting exercises	48
• Fieldcraft	
○ Practical lessons	80
○ Field exercises and route marches	106
○ Map reading and navigation	50
• Basic mine awareness	6

Field craft includes an emphasis on navigation (including maintaining direction in the bush) and map reading. Also focussed on is using a compass, orientating by using the sun and stars; camouflage and concealment – both of the individual and of fighting positions and bivouacs; stalking; observation and judging distance: all of this by day and night.

Musketry training includes work on the shooting range and along the “bush lane”, but is preceded by many hours mastering the maintenance and cleaning of the R4 service rifle – a skill put to good use during basic training. By the end of basic training, a recruit is expected to be able to shoot a 200mm group at 100m in prone and kneeling positions and, in the standing position, from 50m. The “bush lane” simulates conditions in the African bushveld. A recruit is expected to walk up a specially laid-out path and identify and engage a variety of targets concealed along the way – using lessons drawn from fieldcraft. Instructors may also add tripwires, etc. to add to the realism and exercise knowledge acquired during the mine awareness lessons.

Fitness is a basic requirement for soldiering, which despite the advent of motorised transport and aviation still requires much use of the “Mark 1 Foot”. In addition to conditioning training and combat PT, usually conducted in uniform and boots, with an R4, recruits are also exposed to ever-longer route marches. By the end of basic training, the recruit should be able to complete a 25km route march, bearing a rifle and 25kg pack, in four-and-a-half hours. They will also be able to do 50 push-ups in two minutes, 60 sit-ups and 10 pull-ups, sequentially, within the same time-frame. After this they should be able to run 2.4km, with rifle and “battle jacket” within 12 minutes – easy meat for a fit person in their late teens or early 20s.

Buddy aid concentrates on teaching each recruit the skills needed to render immediate first aid to a wounded or injured comrade. Problems covered include identifying and dealing with cardiac arrest, impeded breathing, snakebite, bleeding, burns, heat exhaustion, fractures and open wounds.

Specialised troop training

After graduating from the training depot, the new soldier undergoes “corps” or mustering training at the appropriate “centre of excellence”.

For the infantry, this training commences with two weeks familiarisation training on the weapons found in a platoon other than the R4. This includes training on pyrotechnics and flares, shrapnel mines, hand and rifle grenades, the 60mm patrol mortar, the RPG7 or LRAC 89mm recoilless rocket launcher, the general purpose machine gun (FN MAG or Denel SS77) and the multiple 40mm grenade launcher. This phase may also include familiarisation with night vision equipment.

Once mastered, the rifleman is next schooled on conventional operations, with an emphasis on section battle drills and trench routine. This entails spending many a night digging and occupying trench lines and posting sentries. Full defensive fire plans, including all platoon weapons, will also be executed.

Next, the rifleman is introduced to the art of patrolling and laying ambushes – skills equally useful on the conventional battlefield as during counterinsurgency campaigns and for peace support. Also practiced to perfection are vehicle movement, countermine and defile drills and procedures for occupying covert temporary bases.

Section leader training

Concurrent with specialised training, those willing, and fitting the profile, are selected and trained as section leaders. Those passing the six-week course are appointed lance corporals. Most will be promoted to substantive corporals after a successful trial period. Junior NCOs are not trained, or employed as instructors. Section leaders can be promoted to sergeant after passing a platoon sergeant’s course.

From 2005, the training concludes with a combined warfare exercise at the SA Army Combat Training Centre at Lohatlha.

Junior Leader selection and training

The SANDF’s Human Resources Strategy 2010 (HR2010) provides for regular and Reserve military service. Regular service comes in short, medium and long-term iterations. HR2010 provides for all new entrants to join the Military Skills Development System (MSDS), a two-year short-term service system. Medium-term service personnel are chosen from MSDS Junior Leader candidates and senior leaders are selected from the medium-term group.

Junior leader (JL) candidates are selected from the MSDS intake at an early stage. Through profiling the candidates are categorised as potential platoon leaders or platoon sergeants. The officer cadets will later be commissioned as second

lieutenants, and promote to substantive lieutenants after a successful trial period. The platoon sergeant candidates are later appointed corporals and promoted sergeant after their trial period. Not unlike the national servicemen of old, MSDS JLs spend their first year in training and their second in junior instructor, leadership and staff posts. Those not asked to join medium-term service are posted to the Reserves, where they have a further service obligation.

JL training for officer cadets and platoon sergeant candidates are roughly the same...

NCO

Initial training:

Corps-specific training for NCOs

In the early careers, NCOs have to pass a number of specialised corps-specific courses, as well as a number of regimental courses, notably that for transport NCO.

Infantry Corps. Courses on offer are those related to serving in the support platoons, namely the mortar, anti-tank, assault pioneer, reconnaissance and machine gun platoons. A basic course will introduce the young NCO to the weapon as well as the skills required to serve in a mortar fire group. They will later attend an advanced course to serve as platoon NCOs.

Armoured Corps. A tank troop sergeant has to pass four courses before being assigned to a troop. They are: basic armour training, tank driving and maintenance, tank gunnery and crew commander and command.

Intermediate training:

Senior leaders:

Officer

Initial training: All officers selected for medium-term service have to complete a three-month “Officer Formative” course. One of the many modules studied deals with the art of war. “This module is devoted almost exclusively to the principles and dimensions of conventional warfare, given that this is still considered the primary role of the SANDF. Of interest is the shift in recent years in subject content away from revolutionary warfare (associated with the threat perception of the former SADF) to PSOs (future missions).”²⁸

²⁸ Lindy Heineken, Preparing for operations other than war: How equipped is the SANDF to deal with “soft missions”, Strategic Review for Southern Africa, Institute for Strategic Studies, University of Pretoria, Vol XXIV, No. 1, June 2002.

Certificate in Military Studies (Military Academy):

Corps-specific training for officers

In the early careers, officers have to pass a number of specialised corps-specific courses, as well as a number of regimental courses, notably that for transport officer.

Infantry Corps. Courses on offer are those related to serving in the support platoons, namely the mortar, anti-tank, assault pioneer, reconnaissance and machine gun platoons. A basic course will introduce the young officer to the weapon as well as the skills required to command a mortar fire group. Fire group commanders will later attend an advanced course to serve as platoon commanders or deputies.

Armoured Corps. A tank troop commander has to pass four courses before taking command. They are: basic armour training, tank driving and maintenance, tank gunnery and crew troop and command.

Intermediate level training: The next career education requirement is the 14-week all arms battle handling course, designed to equip the officer with the knowledge, attitude and skills to act as subunit commander or SO2 in mobile warfare. “Essentially, this course is at the tactical level and is aimed at conventional operations...”²⁹ During this stage of their career; officers will undergo corps-specific weapons training to qualify in the use and supervision of all corps arms. For the infantry this means mastering battalion weapons such as mortars, anti-armour ordnance and machine guns as well as commanding the assault pioneer platoon. For the armour, tanks, armoured cars and anti-tank missiles must be understood and for the artillery there are G5 and G6 gun-howitzers and Bateleur multiple rocket launchers and 120mm mortars.

Majors are required to attend the six-month Junior Command and Staff Duties course at the SA Army College to qualify for promotion to lieutenant colonel. The course serves to qualify its graduates as operational all arms unit commanders and SO1s. “The course is divided into three main modules, the unit commanders’ module covering mobile operations (conventional operations) with an approximate instructional time of 56%, area defence operations (11%) and PSOs (7%). The staff officer module (13%) includes formation operations theory and decision-making (problem-solving techniques) and the last section of the course, the general module (13%), covers aspects such as civic education, equal opportunities, the law of armed conflict, military law and labour relations.

²⁹ ditto

Area defence covers a range of internal conflict operations, such as civil war, revolution, insurgency, guerrilla war, terrorism, rebellion, insurrection, riots and unrest. Also taught is border protection – with an emphasis on border control, operations along a border, and operations in the interior and inter-departmental cooperation. There is also a focus on community safety, counter infiltration, intelligence, maintaining law and order in cooperation with the civil police and rendering collateral services. The PSO module pays detailed attention to the role and function of the UN in peacekeeping, the legislative framework (international, regional and national conventions and regulations) within which such operations take place, and various facets of PSOs.³⁰ The modules are presented by qualified military and civilian instructors and includes practical exercises. Around 2000, the area defence exercise required students to stabilise an unrest situation characterised by high levels of taxi violence – a prevalent problem at the time, with minibus taxi operators using murder and drive-by shootings to gain access to lucrative routes – or deny the same to other operators – as well as petrol bombings and gangsterism. The scenario also involved political violence – also prevalent at the time, especially in KwaZulu-Natal. The PSO exercises required the students to supply a refugee camp situated between two belligerents and entailed establishing a buffer zone to enable supplies to reach the unfortunates, “giving due recognition to available resources and terrain and the legal context in which they have to operate.”³¹

Training for senior leaders: Selected lieutenant colonels and naval commanders attend the War College to undergo the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP, previously the Senior Command and Staff Duties course), which consists of some general and some service-specific modules.

Many of these relate to both conventional operations and operations other than war (OOTW).³² The Military Studies module (21% of the course time) includes lectures on the role of the military and the media, the law of armed conflict, geopolitical studies, political science, history, economics and civic education. The module on Problem Solving (14%) and another dedicated to joint and combined planning, both applied equally to conventional operations and OOTW. A further 14% of the SCSD course is devoted to the theory of war, covering all aspects of the subject. In addition, a further 7% is devoted to area defence as well as secondary and collateral SANDF tasks and a further 4% is dedicated to PSOs. As with the JCSD, there are practical exercises where theoretical knowledge is tested.

The most senior course in the SANDF – and public service – is the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP), known as the Joint Staff Course pre-2000. Emphasis is on training “national security practitioners” within the framework of “human security.” The aim of the six-month course is to provide students, generally colonels or brigadier-generals (or their naval and civilian equivalents from the DoD, Armscor, Denel, the defence industry and broader

³⁰ ditto

³¹ ditto

³² ditto

public service), a broad overview of the strategic environment in which the SANDF has to function and therefore “covers a broad range of national security issues that impact on the strategic level.”³³ The National security module includes discussions on the theory of national security, strategy and conflict, of which the latter includes presentations on international law inclusive of the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law – and conflict resolution. This is followed by the Republic of South Africa and its Domestic Affairs module, exploring issues related to the functioning of the state; human capital factors (demographics, health & culture) that impact on national security; perspectives on the role of the economy; infrastructure; the potential for domestic conflict; as well as the causes and effects of, and tools available to, conflict management. The Strategic Neighbourhood module evaluates the national security concerns of other countries in the southern African region. This includes an assessment of the region’s economy and infrastructure; of collective and regional security; as well as of the nature of regional and African conflict. The final area of study, the Global Trends module, investigates aspects influencing the security of the region and Africa³⁴.

Force training

The SA Army normally holds a large (by its standards) capstone force training exercise in October and November of every year. Other than demonstrating SA Army capabilities to assembled guests on selected days, the exercise seeks to consolidate the training of new MSDS recruits, as well as that of Army and War College students.

The 2005 edition of Exercise Indlovu saw about 7500 soldiers, airmen, sailors and medics deployed in and off the Northern Cape and Free State for what was billed the largest military exercise in South Africa since 1986. A maritime task force of six ships exercised off Port Nolloth from October 9 to 18. From October 21 to 27 troops partook in the main annual conventional landward force preparation exercise at Lohatla. Then, from November 9 to 11, land and air forces conducted an airborne exercise at De Brug, near Bloemfontein. At the time the military described the aim of the exercise as ensuring the continued readiness of the SANDF to perform its primary role of defending the sovereignty of the country. "A mission-ready National Defence Force is key if the Department of Defence is to succeed in fulfilling its constitutional role to defend the country as well as supporting government diplomatic initiatives to help eradicate conflicts in the region...," the SANDF said in a media statement.

Unit or formation?

The terms are sometimes carelessly used interchangeably. Strictly speaking, the term “unit” and its derivatives apply to battalions and less and the term “formation” to brigades and above. The usefulness of the nomenclature lies in their use as a collective noun for similar-sized but differently named organisations, such as an infantry company, armoured squadron and artillery battery.

³³ ditto

³⁴ ditto

Units and formations are normally quadrangular, though it is customary to describe them as triangular. This derives from the old custom of keeping a third of a force in reserve. For this reason, and to this day, units and formations therefore have three subordinate combat “building blocks”. The fourth constituency is generally a support element. For this reason, an armoured troop consists of three section tanks and a troop headquarters tank, an infantry company of three rifle platoons and a support platoon or section, an artillery regiment of three cannon or rocket batteries and a support battery – although variations exist between corps and nations.

Dunnigan observes that infantry battalions, on average have one vehicle for every eight to ten men, meaning over a 100 vehicles per unit. Of this number, a substantial number (20 to 60) will be supply trucks of various sizes and specialisations³⁵. The strength of a brigade is usually 150-200 percent the infantry strength. “A brigade with three 700-man infantry battalions will often have a total manpower of 4200 troops.

Generic	Approximate Size	Infantry	Armour	Artillery	Engineers
Formation	250,000-750,000	Army Group	Army Group	Army Group	Army Group
Formation	100,000-240,000	Numbered Army	Numbered Army	Numbered Army	Numbered Army
Formation	60,000	Corps	Corps	Corps	Corps
Formation	10,000-15,000	Division	Division	Division	Division
Formation	1500-5000	Brigade	Brigade	Brigade	Brigade
Unit	300-1000	Battalion	Regiment	Regiment	Regiment
Subunit	100-200	Company	Squadron	Battery	Squadron
Sub-subunit	30-40	Platoon	Troop	Troop	Troop
Sub-sub-subunit	8-14	Section	Section	Section	Section

Table 9.40: Units and formations

Provide examples of the SA Army’s tables of organisation and equipment (TOE)

Infantry

Parachute Regiment

³⁵ James F Dunnigan, How to Make War, A Comprehensive Guide to Modern Warfare in the 21st Century, 4th Edition, Quill, New York, 2003.

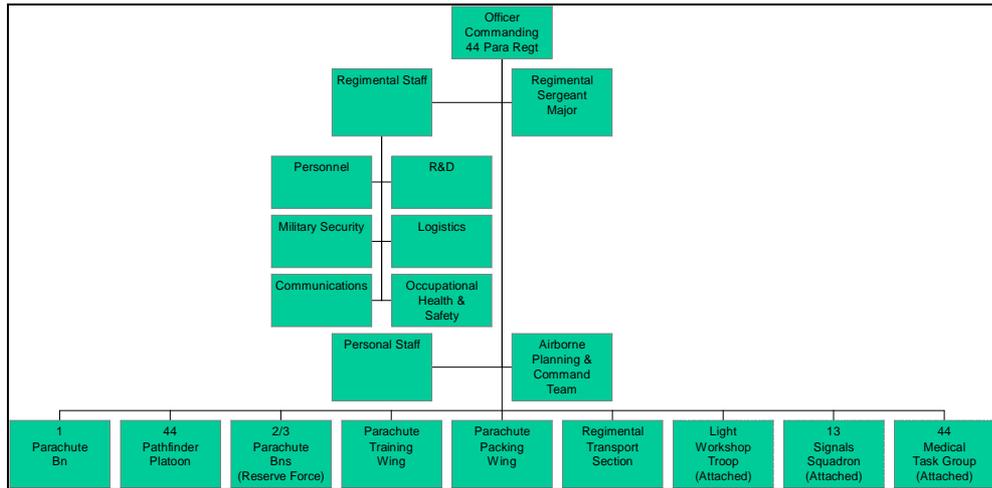


Table 9.41: 44 Parachute Regiment

Parachute Battalion

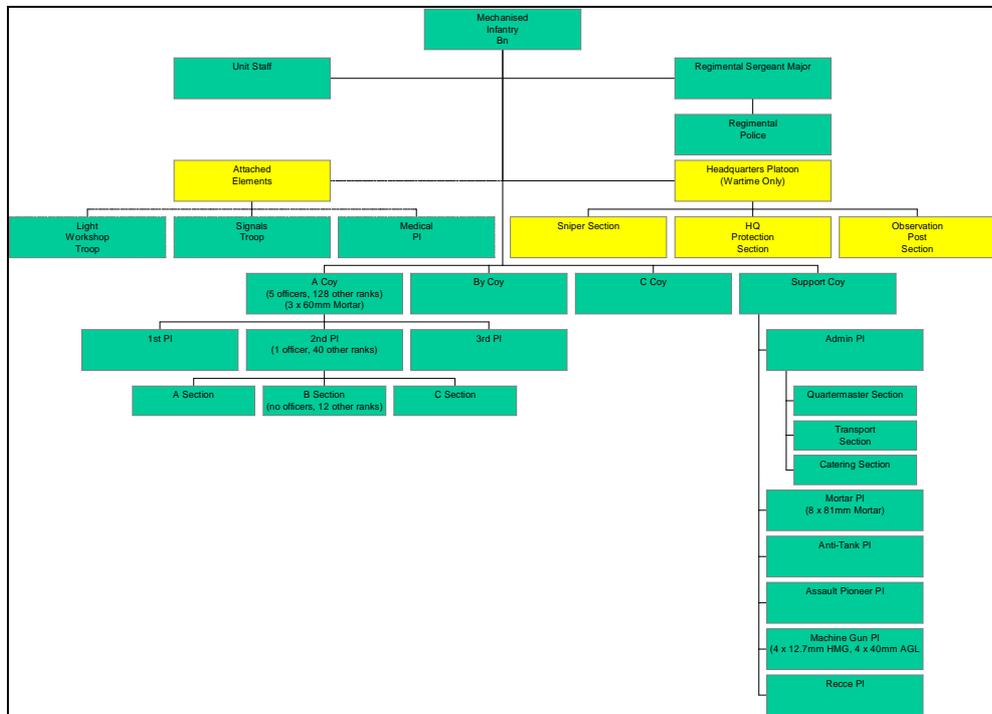


Table 9.42: Parachute Bn (40 officers, 824 ORs). This unit could have up to 143 vehicles, 60 GPMG, 16 RPGs, 6 ATGM, 6 106mm recoilless rifles, 4 HMG, 4 AGL, 8 81mm mortars, 7 sniper rifles, 6 flame throwers and 12 60mm mortars.

Mechanised Infantry Battalion

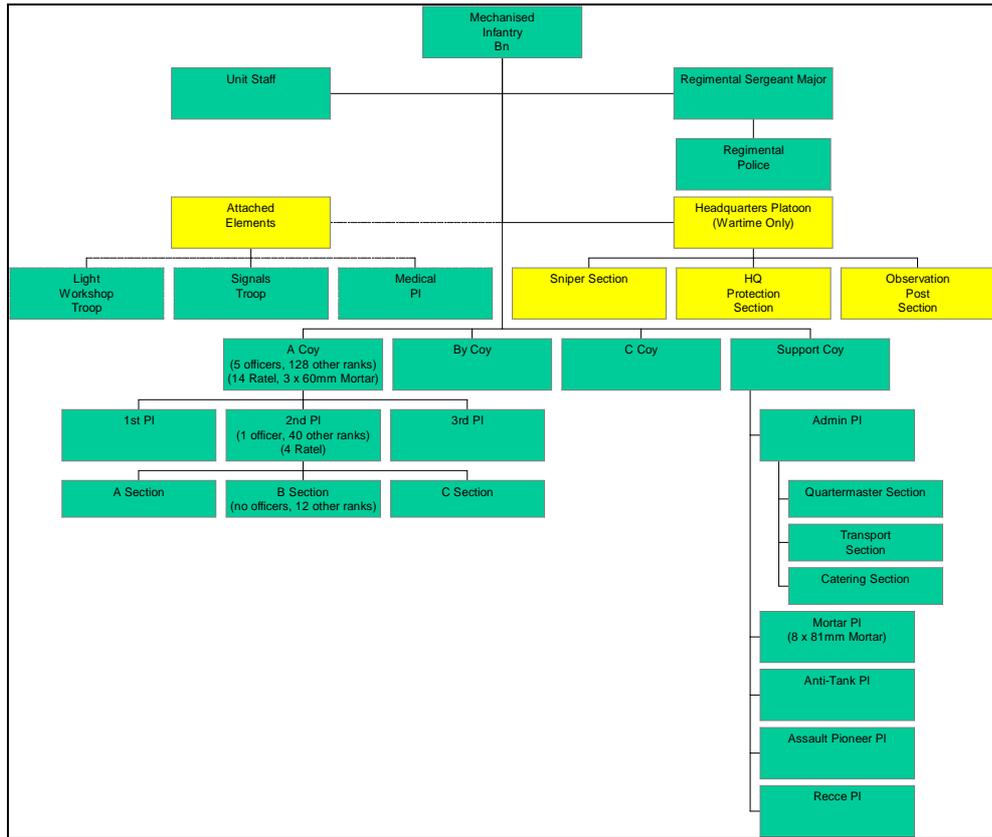


Table 9.43: A Mechanised Infantry Bn (34 officers, 776 ORs). Note the absence of a machine gun platoon (ICVs are cannon armed and a MG platoon was adjudged superfluous.) This unit could have up to 46 Ratel ICV, 7 Ratel Comd, 42 GPMG, 18 RPGs, 6 Ratel ATGM, 6 Ratel 90, 12 81mm mortars, 7 sniper rifles, 6 flame throwers and 9 60mm mortars.

Motorised Infantry Battalion

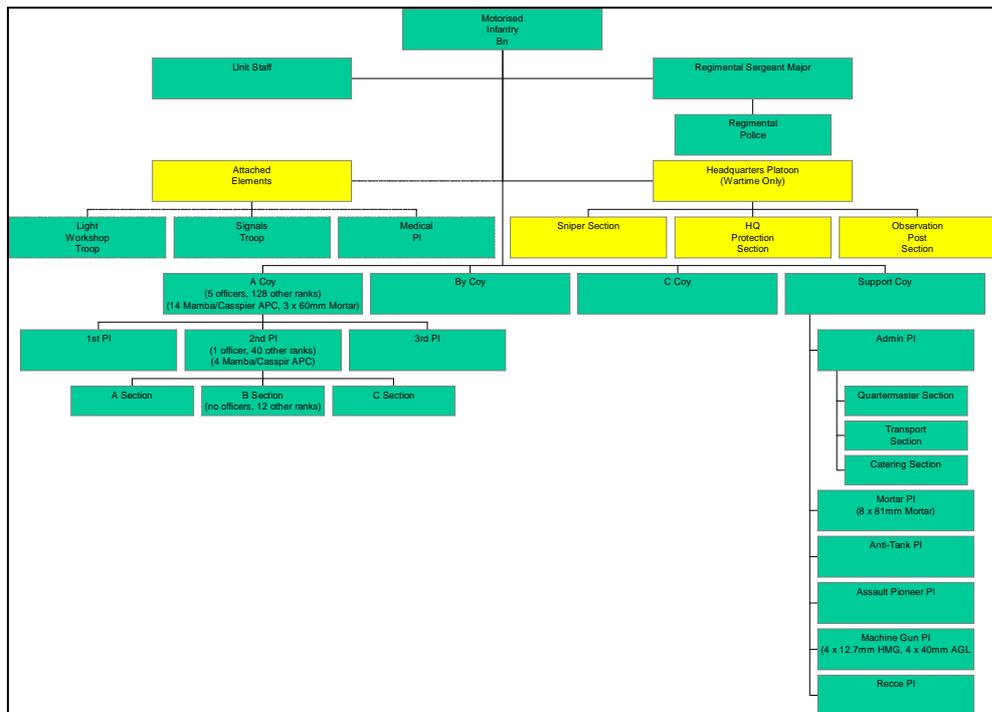


Table 9.44: A Motorised Infantry Bn (37 officers, 730 ORs). This unit could have up to 141 vehicles, 53 GPMG, 16 RPGs, 6 ATGM, 6 106mm recoilless rifles, 4 HMG, 4 AGL, 8 81mm mortars, 12 sniper rifles, 6 flame throwers and 9 60mm mortars.

Light Infantry Unit

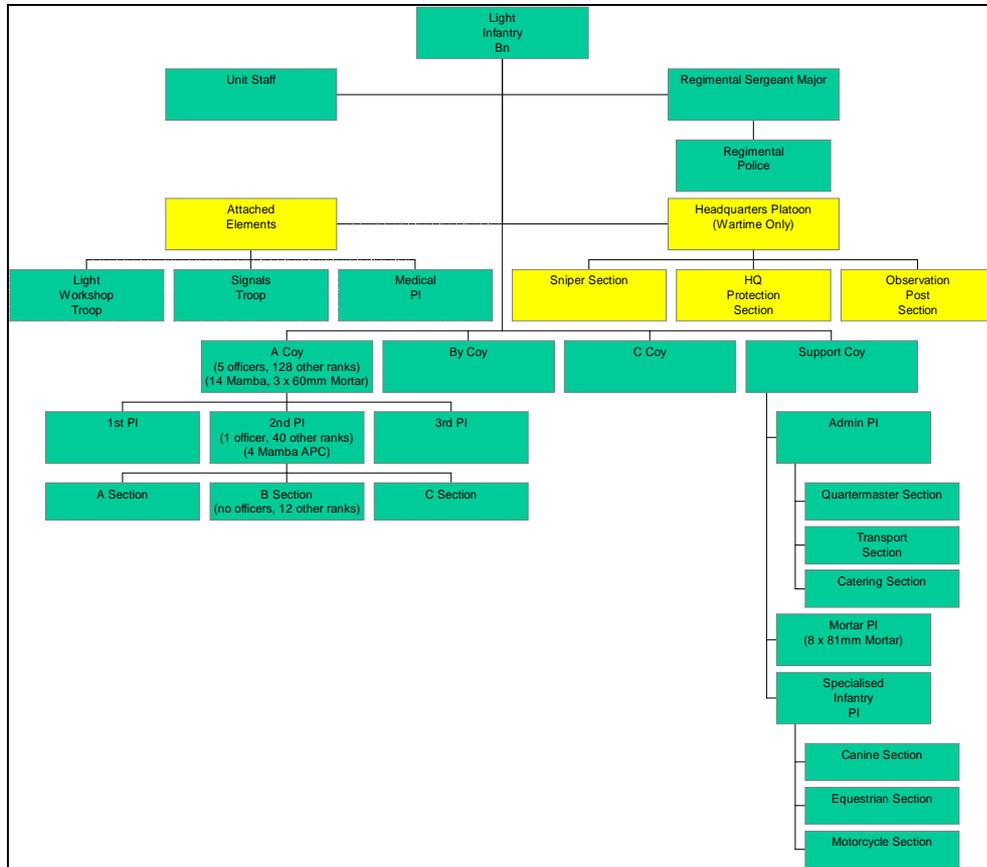


Table 9.45: A Light Infantry Bn (about 31 officers, 583 ORs). This unit could have up to 107 vehicles, 7 motorcycles, 43 GPMG, 5 RPGs, 6 81mm mortars, 6 sniper rifles, 25 shotguns, 11 gas pistols and 9 60mm mortars.

Commando Unit

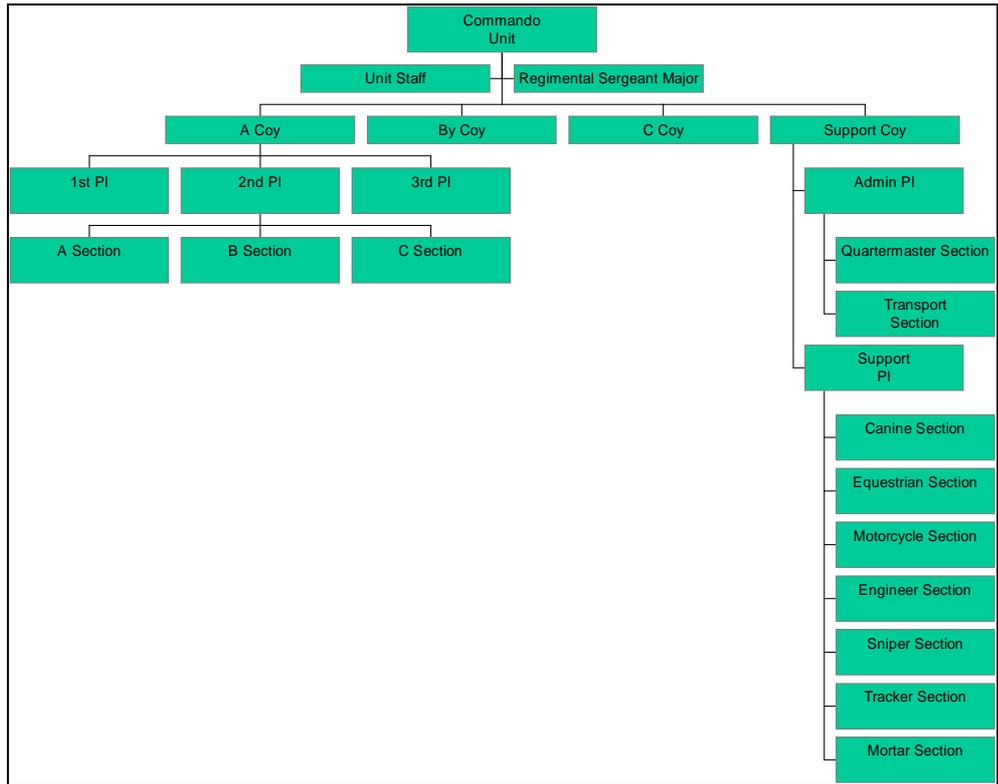


Table 9.46: A commando (about 28 officers and 460 ORs). This unit is entitled to 7 sniper rifles, one RPG, 3 60mm mortars and 3 37mm riot control pistols.

Armour

Tank Regiment

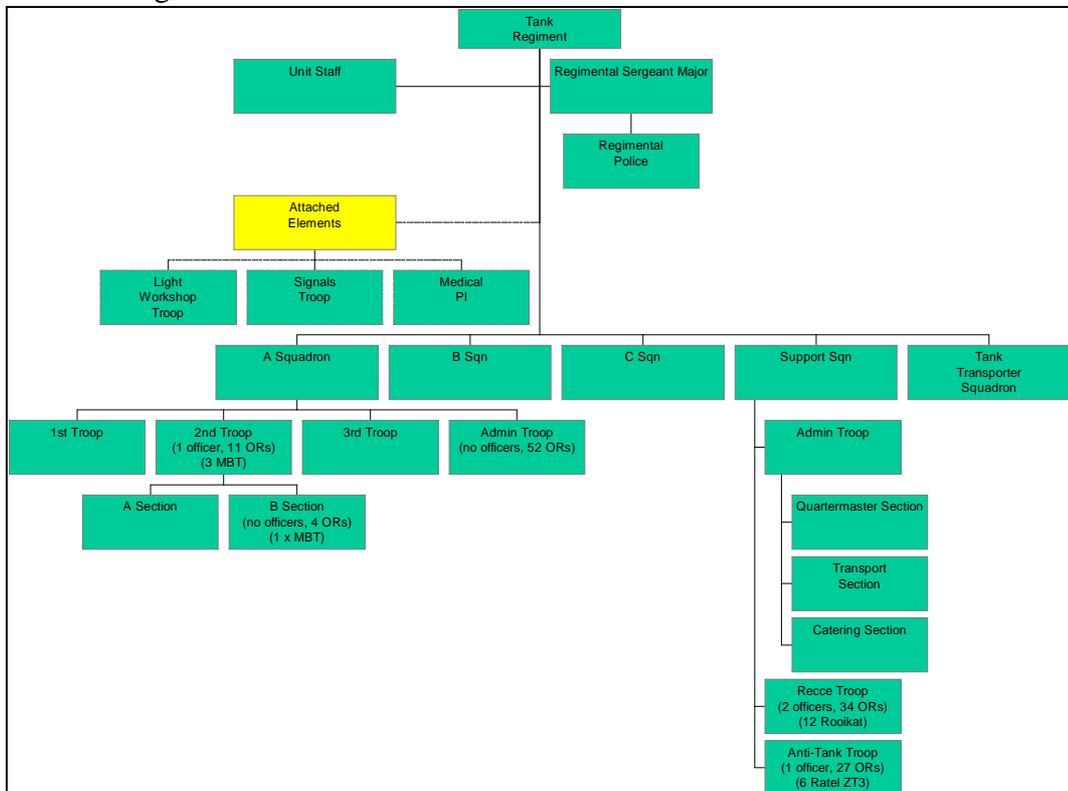


Table 9.47: A “Type 38” Tank Regiment (724 all ranks). This unit has 38 MBT, and could include a further 17 Rooikat armoured cars, 6 Ratel ZT3, 4 armoured command vehicles, 7 Ratel ICV, 3 armoured recovery vehicles and 4 armoured ambulances. The unit is also entitled

to 16 RPG launchers. A tank troop has three MBT, a squadron 12 and the Regimental HQ has 2 MBT.

Armoured Car Regiment

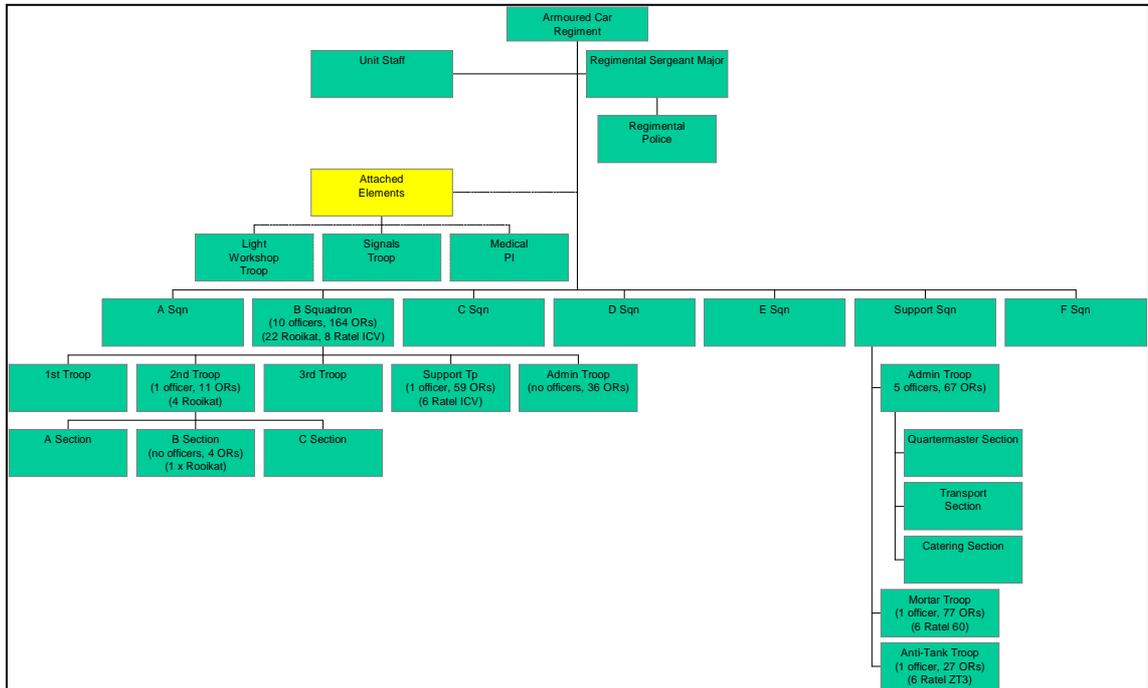


Table 9.48: This unit could have up to 75 armoured cars of various types, 6 Ratel ZT3, 8 armoured command vehicles, 21 Ratel ICV, 3 armoured recovery vehicles and 5 armoured ambulances (Total vehicle complement: 270).

Artillery

Composite Regiment

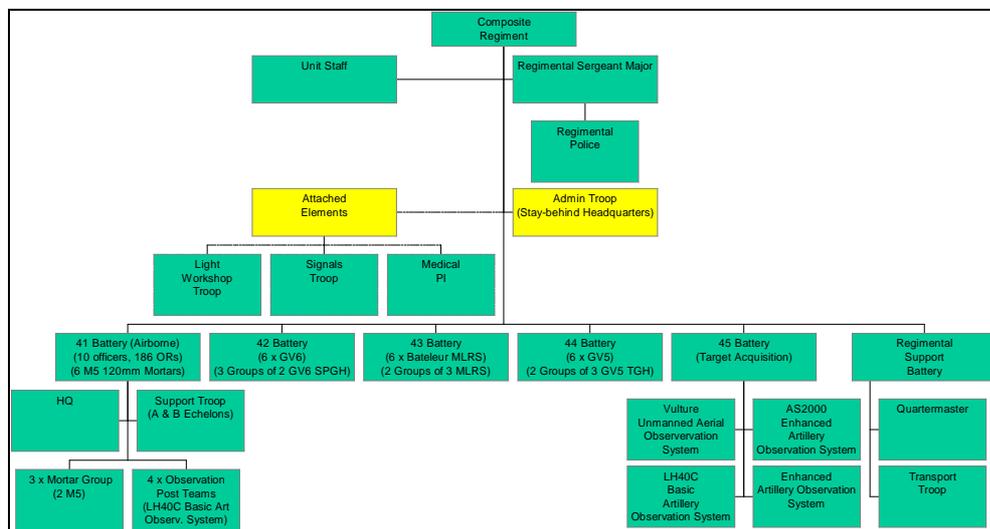


Table 9.49: 4 Art Regt (?? Officers, ?? ORs, about 1120 all ranks). As the sole regular artillery regiment, 4 Art Regt has 8 G5 towed gun-howitzers, 8 G6 self-propelled gun-howitzers, 8 MLRS and 8 M5 120mm mortars under command. The M5 battery is parachute qualified. (Source: Artillery Formation)

Medium Towed Regiment

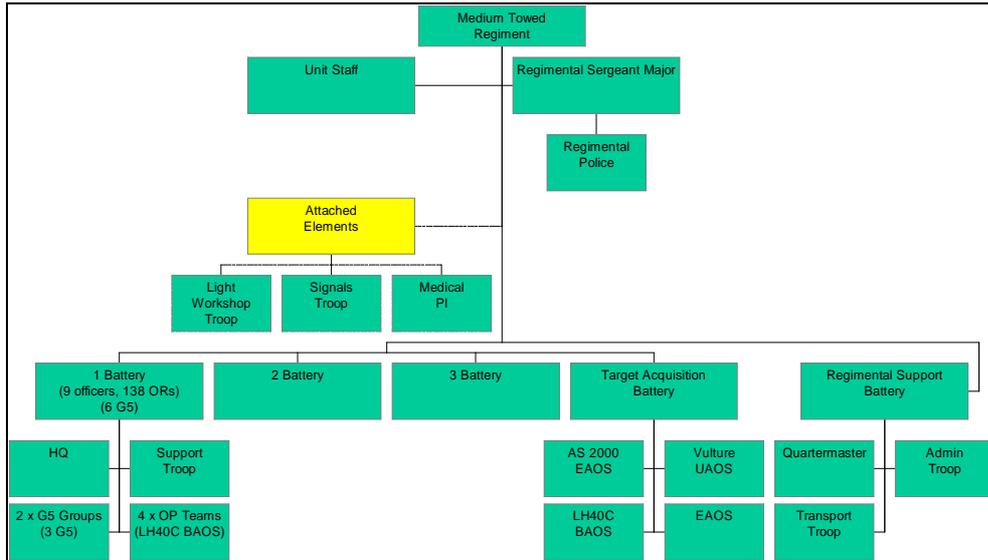


Table 9.50: A Medium Towed Regiment (49 officers, 607 ORs) This unit has 18 G5 155mm towed gun-howitzers and gun tractors, 6 M1 60mm mortars, 17 Ratel ICV, 164 other vehicles, 6 RPG, 7 12.7mm Browning HMG and 64 GPMG. (Source: Artillery Formation)

Medium SP Regiment

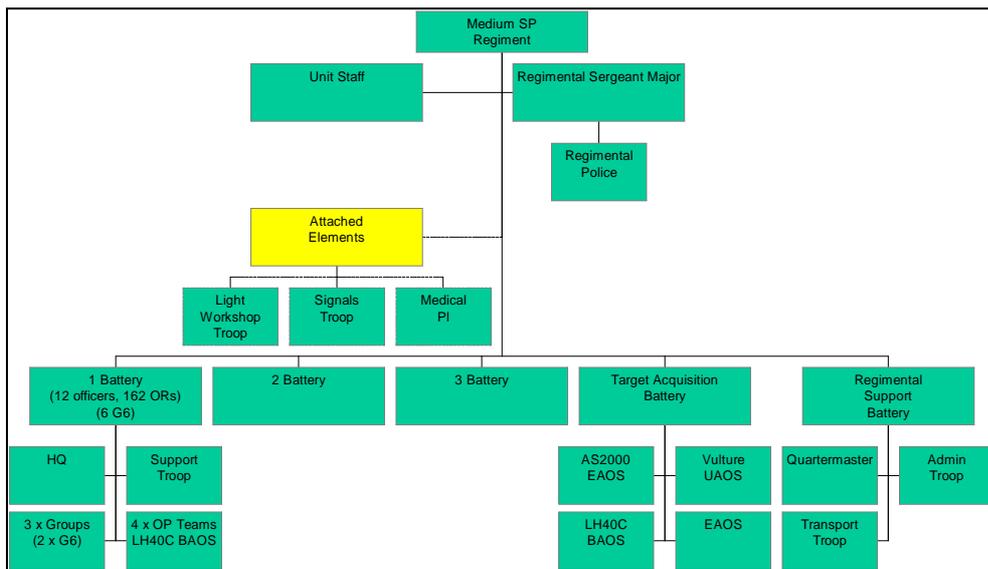


Table 9.51: A Medium SP Regiment (49 officers, 607 ORs) This unit has 18 G6 155mm SP gun-howitzers, 6 M1 60mm mortars, 17 Ratel ICV, 164 other vehicles, 6 RPG, 7 12.7mm Browning HMG and 64 GPMG. (Source: Artillery Formation)

Multiple Rocket Launcher System (MLRS) Regiment

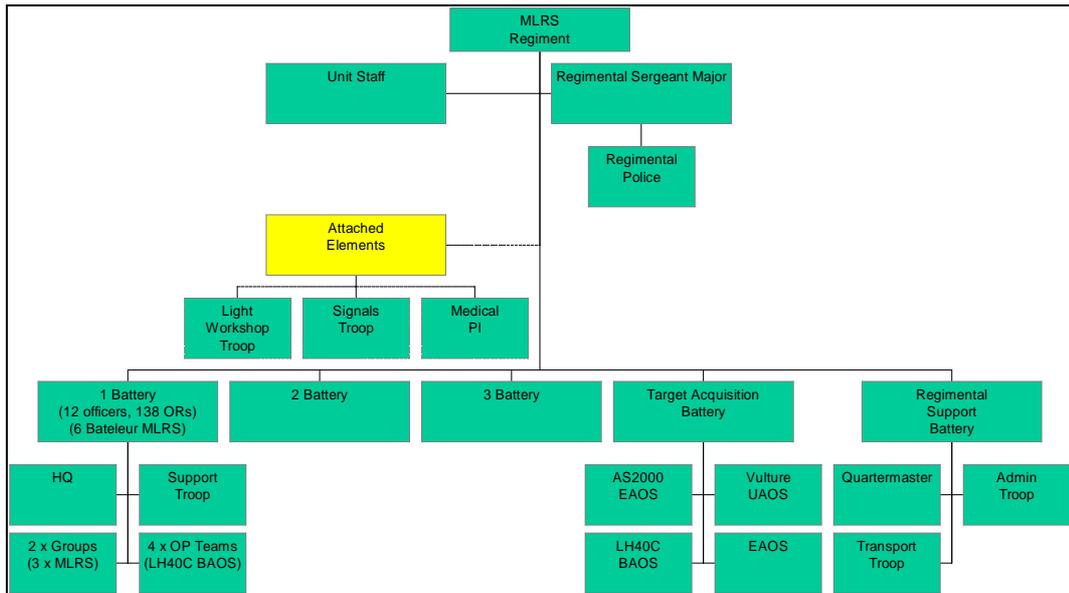


Table 9.52: Provisional MLRS Regiment (49 officers, 607 ORs) This unit has 18 Bateleur 127mm 40-barrel Multiple Rocket Launcher Systems, 6 M1 60mm mortars, 17 Ratel ICV, 164 other vehicles, 6 RPG, 7 12.7mm Browning HMG and 64 GPMG. (Source: Artillery Formation)

Light Regiment

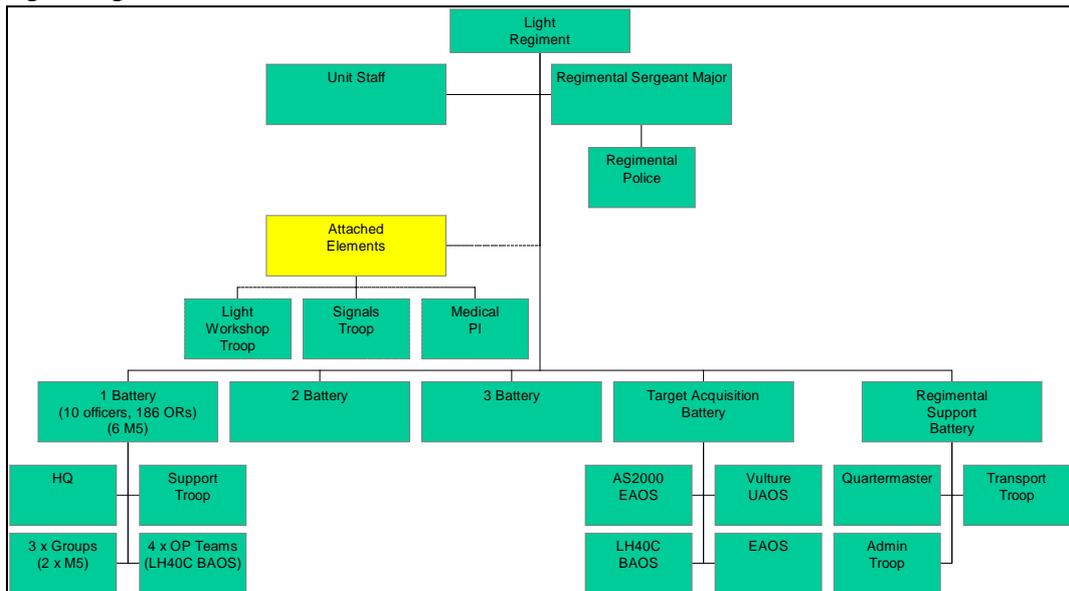


Table 9.53: A Light Regiment (61 officers, 628 ORs). This unit has 18 M5 120mm and 8 M1 60mm mortars, 21 Ratel ICV, 207 other vehicles, 8 RPG, 9 12.7mm Browning HMG and 84 GPMG. (Source: Artillery Formation)

Air Defence Artillery

Composite Regiment

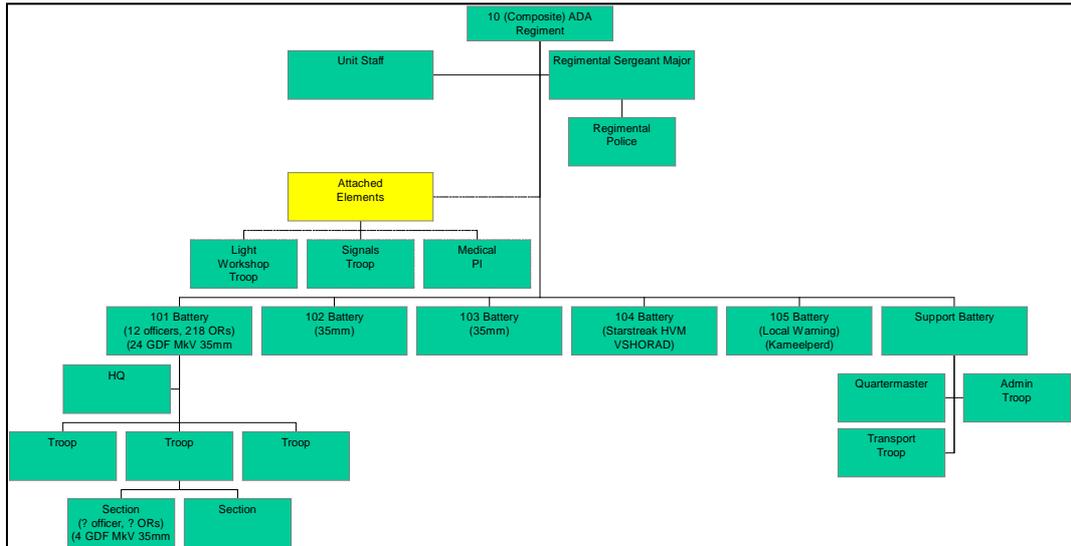


Table 9.54: 10 (Composite) ADA Regiment (?? officers, ??? ORs). This unit has 36? GDF Mk5 twin 35mm anti-aircraft cannon and 12 Starstreak lightweight multiple launchers, ?? Kameelperd Regimental/Battery local warning radar/HQ, ?? other vehicles, ?? RPG, ?? 12.7mm Browning HMG and ?? GPMG.

Starstreak Battery

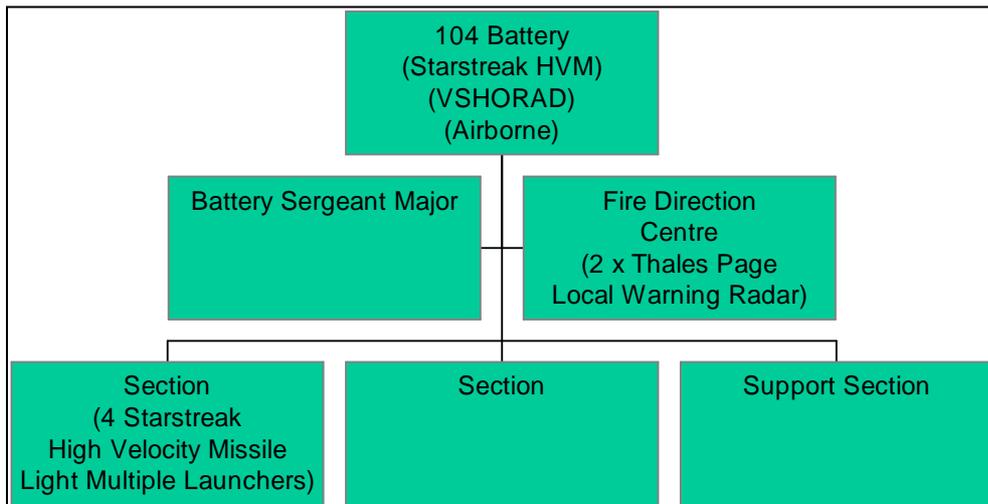


Table 9.55: A Light ADA Battery (Missile). The battery is parachute capable.

Towed Regiment, 35mm

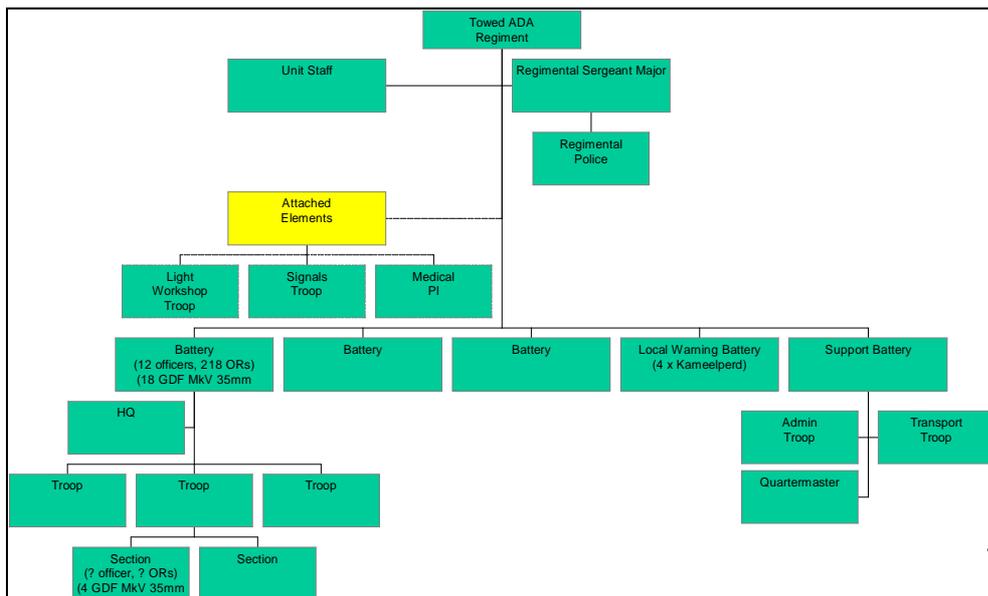


Table 9.56: Towed ADA Regiment (?? officers, ??? ORs). This unit has 54? GDF Mk5 twin 35mm anti-aircraft cannon, ?? Kameelperd Regimental/Battery local warning radar/HQ, ?? other vehicles, ?? RPG, ?? 12.7mm Browning HMG and ?? GPMG.

Engineer

Field Regiment

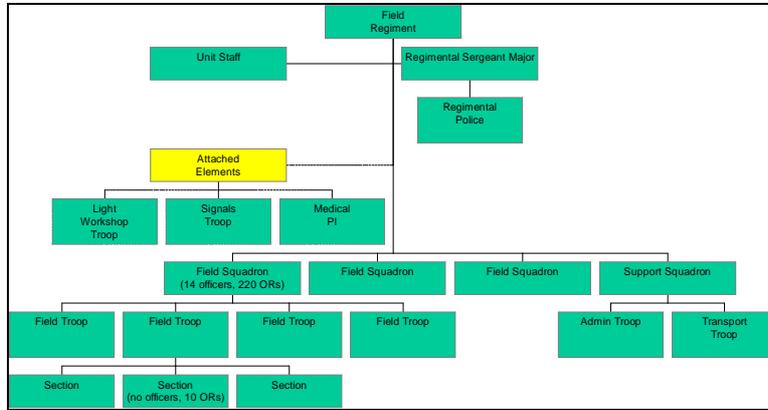


Table 9.57: Engineer Field Regiment (?? officers, ??? ORs). This unit has ?? bulldozers, front-end loaders, scrapers, trucks, ?? other vehicles, ?? RPG, ?? 12.7mm Browning HMG and ?? GPMG.

Engineer Support Regiment

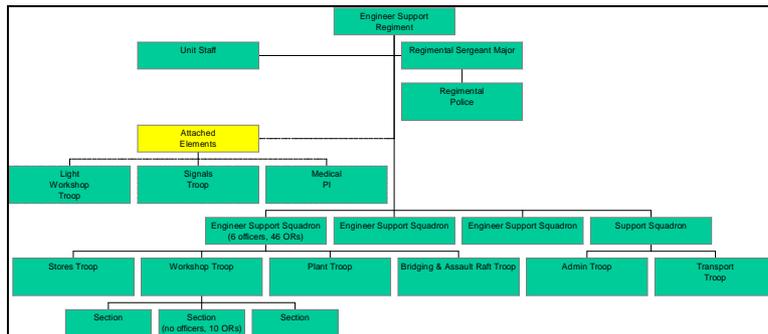


Table 9.58: Engineer Support Regiment (?? officers, ??? ORs). This unit has ?? front end loaders, back hoes, scrapers, trucks, ?? other vehicles, ?? RPG, ?? 12.7mm Browning HMG and ?? GPMG.

Intelligence

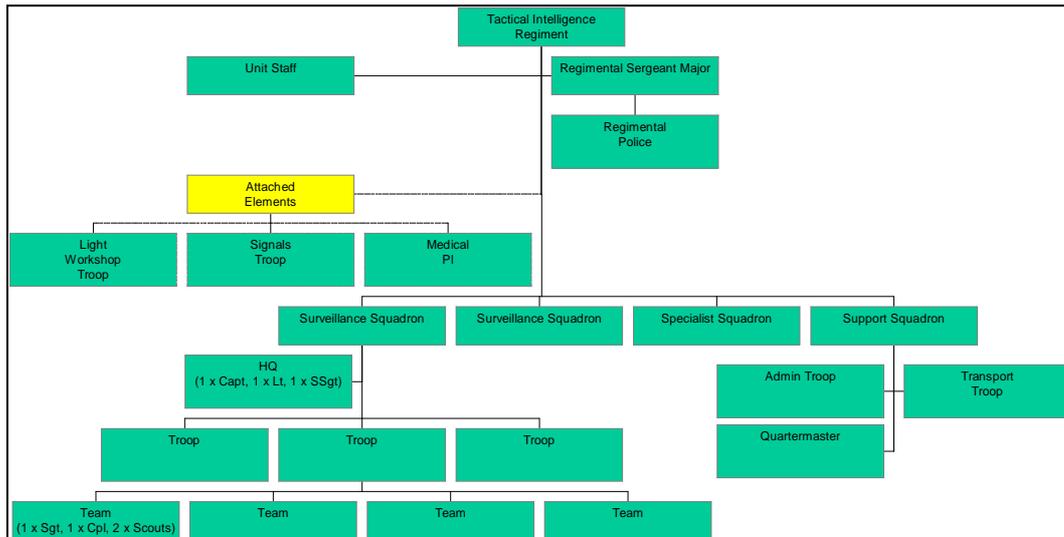
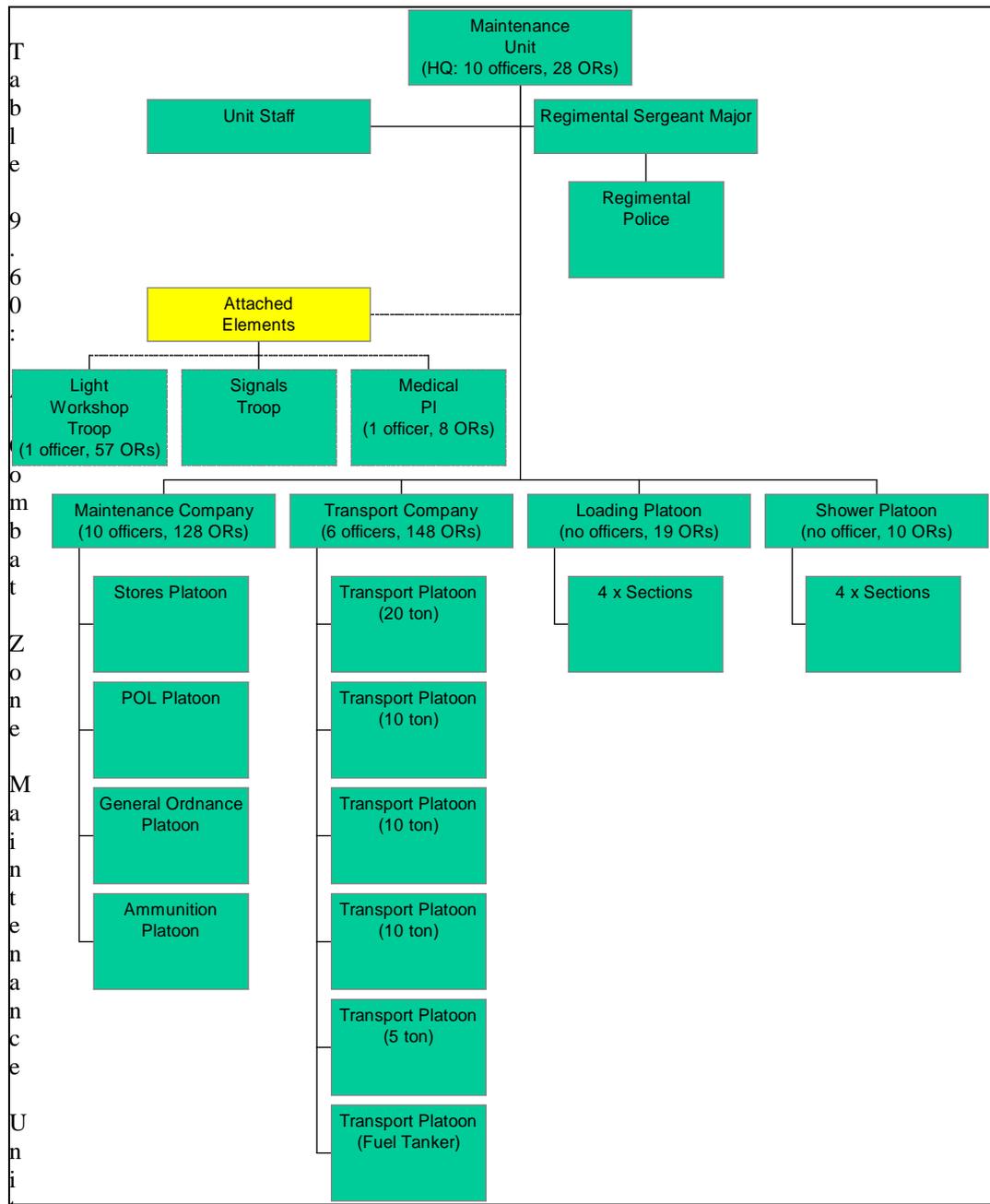


Table 9.58: 1 SA Tactical Intelligence Regt. The Regt is tasked with battlefield surveillance and organised to deploy 24 intelligence teams into no-man's land (between the Forward Line of Own Troops and the Forward Line of Enemy Troops). The teams can be either light or heavy, depending on the mission requirement. Light teams are foot, vehicle or airmobile, while heavy teams are mechanised and deployed from Ratel ICVs. The Specialist Squadron is concerned with tasks as diverse as modelling, questioning, monitoring, interpreting and counter intelligence. It will also, in due course, operate UAVs.

Logistics & Support

Combat Zone Maintenance Unit



(35 officers, 452 ORs). This unit has?? vehicles, ?? RPG, ?? 12.7mm Browning HMG and ?? GPMG.

Field Workshop

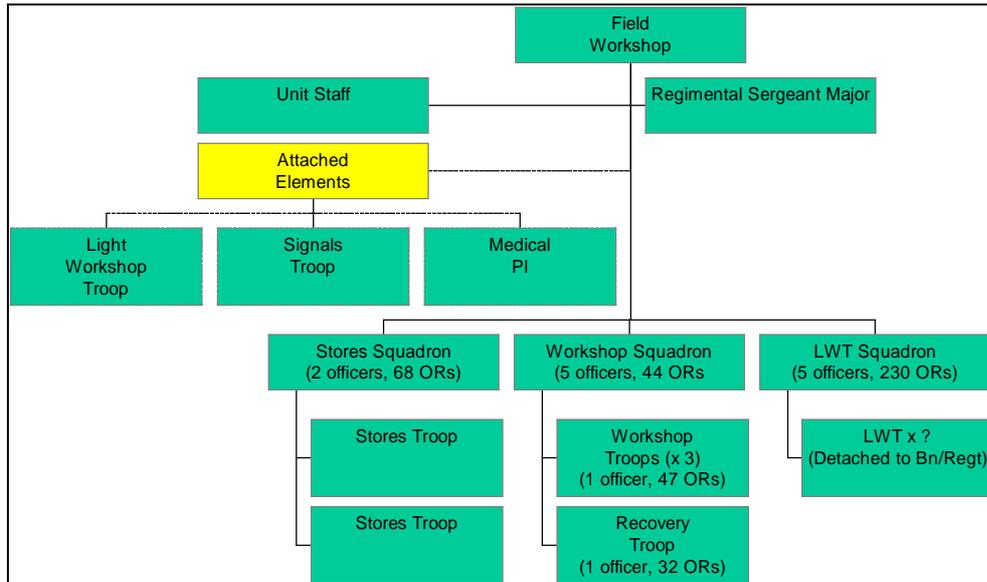


Table 9.61: A Field Workshop (?? officers, ??? ORs). This unit has?? vehicles, ?? RPG, ?? 12.7mm Browning HMG and ?? GPMG.

General Support Base

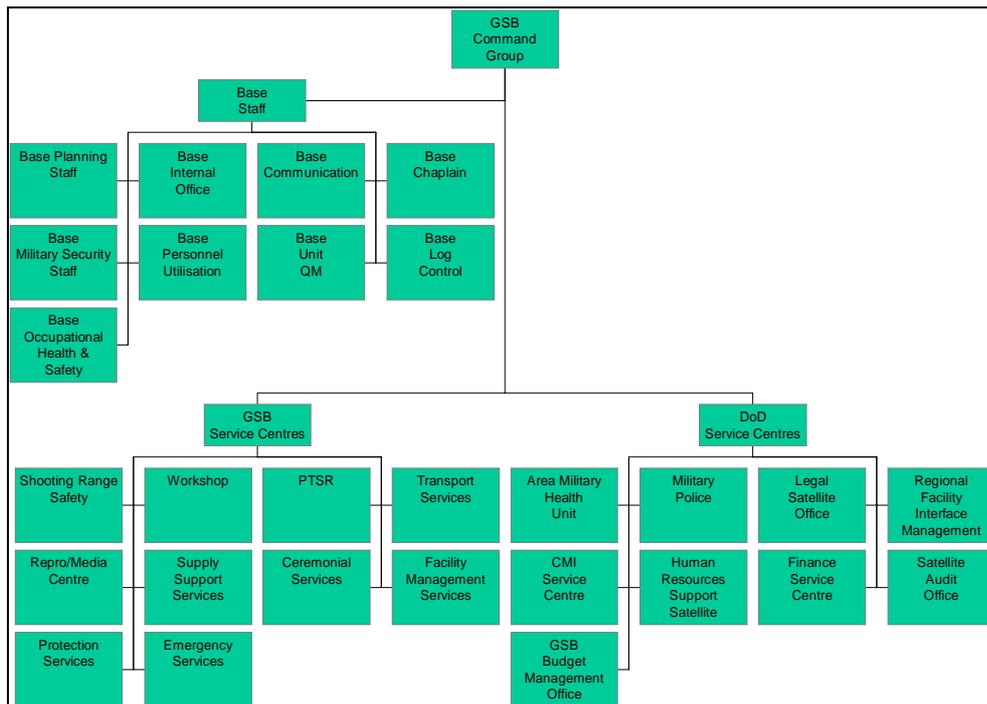


Table 9.62: A GSB(?? officers, ??? ORs). This unit has?? vehicles, etc.

Why is there no “army air corps?”

As a general rule “if it flies, it belongs to the air force, if it walks it belongs to the pongos³⁶.”

³⁶ A derogatory Air Force term for Army personnel.

The Defence Act of 1912 made provision for the establishment of the South African Aviation Corps (SAAC) as part of the Active Citizen Force (ACF, now the Defence Reserves). Members of this corps served with distinction in German South West Africa (now Namibia) and East Africa (now Tanzania). Others served in the United Kingdom, in France and, from 1917 to 1920 with the North Russian Expeditionary Force against Bolshevik forces at Murmansk. In 1920 the SAAC became part of the independent SA Air Force, closing the book on the first “army air corps”.

An Army Air Reconnaissance Squadron was formed in 1955 under Major Peter Thompson, consisting of three flights of six officers (and aircraft) each. “It was a vast improvement on the old system of individual air observation pilots being assigned to various artillery units as whole flights could now be trained simultaneously. Previously aircraft and instructors had often been unavailable when pupil pilots attached to artillery units desired to undergo training. Interestingly enough, the firm control which the artillery exercised over air observation pilots at this time was emphasised when the Chief of the General Staff ruled that the air observation pilots of the new squadron had to be trained as gunners as well, so that when they became too old to fly they could revert to an artillery unit³⁷.” The subunit was based at Potchefstroom and was administered by the then-Western Transvaal Command. The squadron initially flew a mix of Auster AOP (Air Observation Post) aircraft, mustering about five each of the earlier marks and two Mk9s. The squadron also had two Dornier Do27s for a short time.³⁸ In 1962 these were replaced with Cessna 185 light aircraft. The squadron was transferred to the SAAF in 1971.

The squadron was a continuation of 42 AOP Flight formed at Bari, Italy, in January 1945, with SAAF pilots – with special training as artillery spotters – under the command of an artillery officer. The first Army air officers were trained at the Central Flying School (CFS), then at Dunottar, east of Johannesburg, in 1949³⁹. MG Winston Thackwray, SAAF (Retd), remembers that Army pilots initially received their first 80 hours of instruction at the CFS. They then completed their course at Potchefstroom, their SAAF instructors coming along for the purpose. Later, when the Army had its own flight instructors – among which he numbered – all flight training took place at the squadron, which had a training flight for that purpose. Thompson was succeeded by a Maj Fred “Dirty Pottie” Potgieter, a SAAF Korea Mustang pilot who transferred to the Army. From 1967 onwards, several Army pilots also qualified on the Impala lead-in fighter trainer. From January 1963 to about October 1968, 42 Squadron had a “Citizen Force” (meaning Reserve) stable mate in 41 Squadron, based at Grand Central airport, Midrand. It also initially flew Austers and then converted to the Cessna 185. In late 1968 41 Squadron migrated to the SAAF.

The SA Army in 2006 regained access to the air in the form of the Vulture UAV, part of the SA Artillery’s fire control system.

³⁷ Cmdt (Lt Col) CJ Neethling, *Ultima Ratio Regum*, Artillery History of South Africa, Military Information Bureau, SA Defence Force, Pretoria, 1987. The squadron was known as “Thompson’s flying taxi service.”

³⁸ Recollections of MG Winston Thackwray, telephonic interview, November 10, 2005. Thackwray was a gunner pilot with the squadron.

³⁹ Dean Wingrin, Unofficial SAAF Webpage, www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/2789/squadrons.htm, accessed May 28, 1999.

What was the “Mobile Watch” (Mobile Wag)?

The Mobile Watch was intended as a fulltime engineer unit with the dual task of participating in public projects such as dams and irrigation schemes (a variation on “nation building”) and quelling disturbances, as might from time to time arise. No. 1 Mobile Watch established on December 1, 1957 in Potchefstroom and consisted of engineer, infantry and armoured elements. The unit was transferred to Kroonstad at the end of 1961. No. 2 Mobile Watch was established at Tempe, Bloemfontein, on April 24, 1954. Within two years it would become 1 Parachute Battalion. No 3. Mobile Watch was established on October 1, 1960⁴⁰. All three were disbanded less than a year later amid unfavourable media reports. At the time of their establishment none of the current SA Infantry battalions (or much else) existed and the Permanent Force was still seriously depleted after various cost-saving measures introduced after victory in 1945. At the same time, government was concerned that, what British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was in 1960 to call the “wind of change” that was sweeping Africa, might stir up trouble locally.

What happened to the coast defence function and the Marines?

The SA Marine Corps was established in 1951 to replace the SA Coast Artillery that was disbanded in 1949. In 1954 it included eight regular regiments –and a band – as well as seven reserve regiments, a heavy battery, two anti-aircraft regiments and four batteries as well as three radar companies – all reserve. The corps was disbanded in 1955, its air defence assets being transferred back to the Army and the coast defence function abandoned in the face of aging equipment and technological advances. A number of reserve coast artillery units then converted to the air defence role. The SA Coast Artillery was formed in 1913 as the Coast Garrison Force (CGF) and included the Cape, Durban and SA Permanent Garrison Artillery. By 1939, the CGF manned batteries around the Cape Peninsula and Robben Island, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London. The Cape contingent included an armoured train.

Key personalities in a standard South African battalion – The key personalities in a standard South African battalion/regiment remain largely the same regardless of the type of unit.

- **Officer Commanding (OC)** – Responsible for the organisation, training, discipline, effectiveness, administration, stores and tactical use of the unit. Commands the F-Echelon in combat.
- **Second-in-command/deputy commander (2IC)** – In combat, remains informed of the general situation in the unit’s sphere of influence in order to succeed the commander at any time without delay. Also responsible for the training and administration of the unit, field security, the layout and physical security of the headquarters and supervision of the unit staff.

⁴⁰ Neil Orpen with HJ Martin, Salute the Sappers, Part II, SA Forces: World War II Volume 8, Sappers Association, Johannesburg, 1982.

- **Adjutant (ADJ)** – The unit operational staff officer, responsible for generating and distributing all operational orders, instructions and reports. Shares with the 2IC responsibility for the layout and safekeeping of the headquarters. Controls and staffs the command post and its route in combat, assisted by duty officers. Sets the duty roster for these officers, coordinates the V-Echelon strength return, processes all tactical air support requests, coordinates the unit fire-plan, keeps the command post maps up to date and mans the unit rear link radio – as required. Issues the daily situation report (SITREP) to higher headquarters. Also responsible for administration of legal aspects and Boards of Inquiry.
- **Personnel officer** – Responsible for all administration, including personnel administration. Controls all personnel in the headquarters and, in combat, supervises the company clerks in the B-Echelon. Issues and distributes all administrative orders (logistics excluded). Consolidates the daily strength return (one copy to the ADJ). In the absence of a lawyer, handles all legal matters. Also the unit censor and paymaster.
- **Intelligence officer (IO)** – Commands the intelligence staff and coordinates the activities of the company intelligence NCOs. Responsible for the training of all intelligence personnel and the functioning of the unit intelligence cycle. Provides the commander information and intelligence for planning purposes and may compose the “enemy” section of operations orders and SITREPs. Briefs, debriefs, plans and trains unit patrols, observation posts and sniper teams in cooperation with the operations staff. Orders and distributes maps, air photos and other intelligence products. In charge of the questioning of prisoners of war (POW), civil detainees and deserters. Accompanies the commander to all order groups and on reconnaissance and also sets the scene and determines the placing at unit order groups. Receives all visitors to the headquarters and writes the commander’s war diary.
- **Intelligence Sergeant** – Second-in-command of the intelligence section and, in combat, must at all times be ready to succeed the IO. Controls the intelligence office and coordinates its activities. Supervises observation posts. Keeps the commander’s battle map up to date and ensures everyone in the headquarters is familiar with the current enemy situation. Responsible for the guarding, documenting and evacuation of POW and deserters.
- **Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM)** – The commander’s senior enlisted advisor. Responsible for the welfare, morale and discipline of all enlistees. Controls the regimental police, headquarters transport and organises the guards and security of the headquarters under the supervision of the adjutant. In combat, commands the A-Echelon, responsible for ammunition resupply and supervision of the headquarters defence section. Further responsible for security in the absence of a security NCO.
- **Medical officer** – Answers to the formation medical officer for all professional matters, to the unit commander for all other matters. Is responsible for, and the commander’s advisor on matters such as: immunisation, promoting high standards of health, hygiene and first aid, training stretcher bearers and medical orderlies, keeping medical records, medical examinations and treatment, controlling and

ordering medical supplies, setting up and controlling the medical post in combat and ensuring all officers and other ranks are in their appropriate medical categories.

- **Chaplain** – The commander’s senior religious advisor. Responsible for spiritual needs of the unit, funerals and welfare. Helps with documentation in the medical post in combat.
- **Support company commander** – In addition to the tasks inherent in company command, is the unit logistics planning officer and is responsible for all logistics matters. . Issues and distributes all logistics orders and instructions. Assists the unit 2IC in training tasks and is the unit liaison officer. In combat, must remain ready to succeed the 2IC.
- **Support company 2IC** – In combat, commands the B-Echelon. In combat, must be ready to succeed the company commander. Also the battalion headquarters and support company paymaster.
- **Quartermaster (QM)** – Responsible for the requisitioning, receipt, distribution and accounting for all unit combat stores. Expected to liaise closely with the logistics planning officer in the execution of his/her duties and also responsible for the collection of the equipment and personal effects of all casualties and the evacuation thereof to the appropriate registry.
- **Regimental Sergeant Quartermaster (RSQM)** – Prepares requisitions, collects the unit rations and issues the same to the company sergeant quartermasters. Must be ready to replace the QM if required.
- **Transport officer (TO)** – Responsible for the training and supervision of drivers (in cooperation with the company commanders); vehicles; petrol, oil and lubricants; records; traffic discipline; marking vehicle assembly areas; and, liaising with the LWT for the recovery and repair of vehicles according to the commander’s priorities.
- **Attached elements**
 - **Signals Troop** – The Signals Officer answers to the formation signal officer for all signals matters, to the unit commander for all other matters. Commands the signals troop and advises the unit commander on signals matters. Issues and distributes the unit signals orders, call signs, codes and ciphers. Coordinates all signal equipment repairs, vehicle and signal battery loading and supervises the training of signallers and unit signallers. The signals NCO is also COMCEN superintendent. The troop is also responsible for telephone communications within the unit, testing the status of anti-tank missiles and staffing unit rear links.
 - **Light Workshop Troop (LWT)** – The WO-in-charge answers to the formation workshops officer for all technical matters, to the unit commander for all other matters. In charge of the light workshop troop. Responsible for the recovery, technical inspection and repair of vehicles according to the commander’s

priorities in coordination with the TO. Also responsible for the continuity and quality of work, giving the unit commander technical advice and for the technical handling, local defence and mobility of the LWT in the field.

- **Support weapons platoon commanders** (generally only found in the infantry battalion)
 - Responsible to the battalion commander (not support company commander) for the training, administration and tactical employment of their platoons. All are advisors to the unit commander on the employment of their weapons and platoons. All attend unit order groups and serve as duty officers in the command post as required.
 - Mortar platoon – The commander is at liberty to move around but must at all times be in touch with the unit commander and fire direction centre (FDC). Depending on the commander's wishes, he may move with the commander, be at the FDC, the command post or at an observation post (OP). The platoon 2IC runs the FDC, deploys the platoon's eight 81mm mortars and is responsible for planning platoon administration. The platoon sergeant is responsible for training, as directed by the platoon commander, administration and the provision of ammunition.
 - Machine gun platoon – The commander remains in the unit command post unless the eight-weapon platoon is deployed as a single fire unit, in which case he remains with the platoon. The platoon sergeant is responsible for training, as directed by the platoon commander, administration and the provision of ammunition. Must also be ready to succeed the platoon commander.
 - Anti-tank platoon - The commander generally remains in the unit command post where the unit anti-tank plan is coordinated. The platoon 2IC supervises the training and administration of the platoon. Must also be ready to succeed the platoon commander. The platoon sergeant is responsible for training and administration, as directed by the platoon commander, and the provision of ammunition.
 - Assault Pioneers – Can be found at the unit command post when not busy with other tasks. Plans the unit defensive minefields. Liaises with formation engineers. Advises the unit on assault pioneer and engineering matters. The platoon sergeant is responsible for the platoon's training, equipment and ammunition, and the training of other soldiers in the use of assault boats and assault pioneer equipment. Must also be ready to succeed the platoon commander.
 - Reconnaissance platoon – The commander serves in the unit command post unless deployed with the platoon. Coordinates all shallow reconnaissance within the unit area. The platoon sergeant is responsible for training and administration, as directed by the platoon commander, and the provision of ammunition. Must also be ready to succeed the platoon commander.

Key personalities in a standard South African subunit

- **Commander** - Responsible to the unit commander for the organisation, training, discipline, effectiveness, administration, stores and tactical use of the subunit. Part of the unit order group.
- **Second-in-command** – Responsible to the subunit commander for the administration, administrative training and efficiency of the subunit. In combat, must be ready to succeed the commander at any time without delay. Controls the deployment of the company 60mm mortar section (three mortars). Inspects company equipment, rations, kitchen and mess facilities. Informs the QM, through the CSQM of company needs and ensures these are met without delay. Acts as company security officer, paymaster and is further responsible for the layout, organisation and physical security of the subunit headquarters.
- **Company Sergeant-Major (CSM)** – The subunit commander’s senior enlisted advisor. Responsible for the welfare, morale and discipline of all soldiers. Commands the unit A-Echelon. Controls headquarters transport and lays out the headquarters under the supervision of the 2IC. In combat, responsible for ammunition resupply.
- **Company Sergeant Quartermaster (CSQM)** – Responsible for the receipt, safekeeping, maintenance and accounting of all stores issued to the subunit. Arranges the replacement or repair of clothing and equipment as well as the replacing of defective parts and weapons. Receives the subunit’s rations, supervises its preparation and delivers food, water and post to the platoons. Packs and evacuates the equipment and personal effects of casualties.
- **Platoon commanders** – Responsible for the tactical employment, training and administration of the platoon. Also responsible for platoon records, welfare and the serviceability of the platoon’s weapons.
- **Platoon Sergeants** – Responsible for the general administration of the platoon and the distribution of rations, ammunition and equipment to the platoon. Assists the platoon commander with training. Must also be ready to succeed the platoon commander.
- **Section leaders** – Responsible to platoon commander for the employment, administration, discipline and battle readiness of their sections.

Colonel Eduard Frans Drost attained a master’s degree in strategy from the US War College in 2004, the same year he was appointed leader of the project team that subsequently drafted the SA Army’s far-seeing Vision 2020. Drost was born on January 27, 1960. He joined the SA Army in 1978 and was awarded a B Mil degree by the Military Academy in 1983. He served as an infantry platoon leader and company commander in northern Namibia/southern Angola for intermittent periods before being posted to the Infantry School as a company commander in 1985. He was posted to the SA Army Battle School in 1989 as Infantry Branch Commander. The next year he attended a mechanised infantry course in Israel – his second: he had attended another such course in 1980. He remained at the Battle School until 1991. While there he conducted several brigade- and division-level training exercises and was also brigade commander.

Drost was appointed Officer Commanding of 4 SA Mechanised Infantry Battalion in 1993 and held the post until 1997 when he assumed command at 21 SA Infantry Regiment. In 1999 he was posted to the SA Army College as Chief Instructor at the Senior Command and Staff Duties Branch and was promoted deputy commandant of the august institution on March 28, 2002. He retained the post until the end of 2003.

Drost is married to Dorette and they have two children, Nicola and Eduard.

Colonel Adri Kotze is a Member of the Royal College of Defence Studies, where he in 2006 he completed a course in grand strategic defence and international security. Kotze was born in 1961 and commissioned into the SA Air Defence Artillery (ADA) in 1980. He graduated with a B Mil from the Military Academy in 1984 and from then alternated between command and staff posts at his corps school, its associated regiment and the SA Army's field divisions and their associated air defence units. He completed several operational tours in northern Namibia and commanded 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment in 1993.

Kotze completed the Senior Command and Staff Course in 1996 and then served as a member of the Directing Staff until 1998. In 1999 he became the founding Chief of Staff of the ADA. In 2000 he was appointed SSO Armament Planning. He is married to Carina and they have a son. Kotze is an enthusiastic shot and reads military history.