

# EXERCISE SEBOKA

... an apt tribute to the members who lost their lives during the exercise.

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**A**asvoëlkop in Lohatla was the venue for an excellent open day on 19 October 2007. The open day was the culmination of EXERCISE SEBOKA that started on 2 August 2007 with the training by the individual units that took part in the exercise. The units were individually assessed taking part in the integrated training and the actual exercise which took place from 13 to 17 October 2007.

The open day started with a minute silence in honour of those soldiers of 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment who died in the training accident on 12 October



**Members of 2 Field Engineer Regiment prepare to demolish a crater.**

2007. The Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC), the Army Council, Reserve Officers Commanding, several Honorary Colonels and learners from the neighbouring schools, such as Prieska, Danielskuil, Postmasburg attended this open day.

The first sound was the Engineers who detonated a crater followed by a section attack by members of 121 SA Infantry Battalion and then followed by demonstrations of all the different weapons. Thereafter an integrated attack with vehicles was demonstrated.

The comments of some of the Reserve Officers Commanding, after a few shots were fired by the Ratels and G5s were that the dust, smell and sound brings back pleasant memories of a very tough time when they underwent training at Lohatla. Some of them became very nostalgic when they heard the Oryx helicopters coming in to land. It reminded them of times when they were in a tough situation in the former Southwest Africa (now Namibia) and the Oryx came to pick them up.

Comments of the children who attended the day included: "magic, super, impressive". The one girl sat the whole day with her hands on her head, but she never moved her eyes off the weapons. Some of the youngsters indicated that they definitely want to join the SA National Defence Force



**The GV6 - 155 mm self-propelled gun howitzer - Renoster in action.**



**A FIRE DEMONSTRATION: 1 Special Service Battalion with Rooikatte (two Rooikatte: front, left) and 8 SAI Bn with Ratels (front, next to Rooikatte).**

(SANDF) after seeing the weapons in action.

A highlight of the day was an attack by two Rooivalk attack helicopters. It was the first time that their prowess were seen by some of the visitors and even old soldiers were

impressed when the two helicopters were hanging very still in the sky while shooting at the target.

### **EXERCISE SEBOKA**


The aim of the exercise was to demonstrate the training of the SA

Army units in operational art, deployment and all aspects of combat discipline. 46 SA Brigade provided the brigade headquarters and units from the Infantry, Armour, Artillery, Intelligence, Air Defence Artillery, Engineers as well as support elements, the SA Air Force and the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS).

Over 5 000 members took part in the exercise of which 23% were female members and more than 1 000 vehicles at the cost of RM25. Money well spent in the training of young soldiers who will be responsible to protect our country.

The exercise also serves as course support as it gives the students the opportunity to plan and execute mobile warfare operations and real time command and control under the supervision of experienced commanders. This was done by students filling shadow posts with real time commanders in their posts.

The day ended with a very moving moment when a Ratel of 8 SA Infantry Battalion drove towards the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, bearing the National Flag. All the other vehicles, Rooivalke and Oryx helicopters followed and saluted the Chief of the SA Army.

Lt Gen Shoke said that the exercise went exceptionally well, despite the tragic incident and complimented the soldiers and commanders on excellent result of their hard work in the rugged terrain of Lohatlha. The excellent display of soldiery by all the participants is an apt tribute to those members who lost their lives. 



**Members of 4 Artillery Regiment demonstrate the firepower of the GV5 - 155 mm gun howitzer - Luiperd.**



**MkII Olifant tanks.**