FIFA 2010 Visitors at the Castle thrilled by the Defence Reserves Youth Programme

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For several weeks in June-July this year, the strong walls of the oldest surviving colonial building in South Africa, the Castle of Good Hope, constructed between 1666 and 1679, reverberated to the rattle-and-thump of drums, the stirring harmonies of brass bands, and the synchronised tramp of marching boots.

Photo 1: FIFA Fan Fest on the Grand Parade, as seen from the Castle.

An exciting program of crowd-pleasing performances by various youth groups had been scheduled for the duration of the 2010 FIFA World Cup from 11 June to 11 July 2010. This coincided with the activities that were staged on and around the FIFA Fan Fest, which was held on the Grand Parade in the City Centre.

The program of activities at the Castle was an ideal opportunity to **promote** not just the Castle and the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010, which will take place here from 03 to 06 November 2010, but also the military in general and, more specifically, the Defence Reserves.

Photo 2: The Castle Guard Halberdiers stand in front of the elaborate Kat balcony during the daily Changing of the Guard Ceremony.

As the Defence Reserves Provincial Office Western Cape (DRPOWC) together with the organisers of the CT Mil Tattoo has accepted responsibility for **youth development** in Cape Town, the month-long program at the Castle during the FIFA WC was a perfect opportunity to showcase the military's active involvement with regard to

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skills development initiatives for the youth, by giving five talented youth groups from disadvantaged areas an opportunity to perform in the grounds of the magnificent old Castle. Each group was given a guided tour of the Castle after their performances, courtesy of the Castle Office. Sgt J. Jacobs of 3 Medical Battalion Group also addressed each youth group on the volunteer military system and the Reserves, and distributed pamphlets and Reserve Force Volunteer magazines among them.

Photo 3: The neatly dressed members of the Eerste River Youth Brigade march in step.

The **Eerste River Youth Brigade** is a community service organisation. The Youth Brigade has been in existence for about 28 years, and their marching bands have proved to be one of the most successful mechanisms of fostering a sense of self-worth, achievement, pride, teamwork, and discipline among the youth. The boys and girls in the band are between 7 and 25 years old, and the organisation consists of about 65 boys and 90 girls. In November 2008, they performed at the CT Mil Tattoo, which was hosted at the Castle of Good Hope.

The **Malibu Drum** Majorettes from Malibu High School in Blue Downs, Cape Town, consists of 30 members. Established in 1998, they have won several national competitions. They have been the winners of the President's Cup for the past 3 years and will defend their title in September 2010 during the National Championships in Cape Town.

The **South African Sea Cadets** are a registered 21 Section Company. It is recognised by the South African National Defence Force, and the South African Navy assists in the training of the Cadets. The first training Unit, referred to as a Training Ship, was established on Woodstock Beach in Cape Town as far back as 8 June 1905. It offers character development and maritime skills training to the boys and girls, who have an average age of

Photo 4: The Malibu Drum Majorettes pose for a photo in front of the Kat balcony at the Castle.

Photo 5: The youngsters of the South African Sea Cadets in their black and white uniforms perform a gun drill.

15 years. They attend school most of the day and only have Saturdays to devote to their training. This does not only consist of basic discipline and drill, but also includes Seamanship, Navigation, Engineering, Communication, Catering and Leadership to equip them to meet the challenges of life. The group that performed during the World Cup was specially selected to participate in the CT Mil Tattoo 2010.

The **Limited Edition Drum Corps** originated from the Nurul Mubeen Children Brigade, which was established in 1988. The seven young drummers of the drum corps all come from Manenberg on the Cape Flats. All of them are volunteers, and they rehearse in their own time after school, 2 to 3 times a week. The youngest and smallest of the group, affectionately known as Smiley, 15 years of age, has written all the pieces they perform. Smiley is also a drummer in the Cape Town Highlanders Drums and Pipes, and, together with some of the other members, he has already participated in the Basel Tattoo, Switzerland. They have also recently performed at the Cape Town Fashion Show, held at the CTICC, and they took to the stage at Kirstenbosch, where they performed with Prime Circle, a South African rock band. Throughout the four weeks of the FIFA World Cup, they played at the Fan Park and on the Fan Walks.

They will make up the new CT Mil Tattoo 2010 Drum Corps, and will thus be performing for the entire duration of the Tattoo from 3 to 6 November 2010. It is envisaged that more youngsters will be trained in the coming months, so that the drum corps will be considerably larger (12 to 15 drummers) by the time the Tattoo is staged in November.

Photo 6: The Limited Edition Drum Corps march into the arena, the rhythmic rat-tat-tatting of their drums creating an air of excitement.

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Photo 7: The energetic performance of the Portland High School Field Marching Band is rewarded with much applause from the spectators – and this curious youngster takes a closer look!

The **Portland High School Field Marching Band** was established with the aims and objectives to enhance discipline structures at schools, to foster leadership abilities, particularly of squad leaders, to give participants an opportunity to be selected for the school team, to build closer ties with security forces and learners, to open career avenues within the South African Police Service, Navy, Military and Airforce, and to perform on a world stage. They were champions at the SA Drumline Competition 2009 at the Good Hope Centre in Cape Town; they performed at the Cape Town City Hall in 2009, and they received recognition from the British Metropolitan Police (a medal was awarded to Saeed Ruiters and Inspector Liebenberg for the Marching Project).

The **South African Army Band Cape Town** was responsible for military music and marches on specific days. In addition to performing in their brown army tunics, they also put on their striking chilli red tunics, which led to loud cheers of appreciation among the spectators. The highly professional Army Band with its impressive musical repertoire is always a crowd-pleaser.

These public performances at the Castle, in addition to the daily Changing of the Guard Ceremonies that already take place here, not only enhanced the image of the Castle, but also created awareness of **military culture, heritage and history**, and provided an ideal platform to promote the CT Mil Tattoo 2010 to both local and international visitors and soccer fans. From 11 June to 11 July, as many as 575,000 visitors came to the Grand Parade Fan Fest, and 10,271 visited the Castle.

Photo 8: The SA Army Band Cape Town in their chilli red outfits entertain the appreciative spectators.

DRPOWC was largely responsible for the organisational aspects, whereas the **Castle Office** supplied both tour guides and the ceremonial guard. The DRPOWC is also planning to include local youth groups in the CT Mil Tattoo 2010, which is scheduled for 03 to 06 November 2010.

Photo 9: On the first and last night of the FIFA World Cup, the ceremonial gun troop of Cape Field Artillery fires their 25-pounder ceremonial guns in front of the Castle.

Regiment Westelike Provincie (RWP), 3 Medical Battalion Group (3 Med Bn Gp) and Army Support Base Western Cape (ASBWC) (Hospitality Services at the Castle) gave the necessary support in the form of drivers, communicators and meals. The communicators, Def Res Staff, CFA personnel, personnel from RWP and the SA Army Band CT continuously interacted with the visitors at the Castle during the performances.

The **Ceremonial Gun Troop of Cape Field Artillery** (CFA) and Pipe Major Staff Sergeant Andrew Imrie, the **CFA Piper** for the evening, took part in both the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and on selected days. The Ceremonial Gun Troop participated in the establishment of a Cape Town Heritage Moment on 11 June 2010 by firing a salvo at exactly 18h00. On 11 July 2010, they again fired a salvo at exactly 18h40, as part of the closing ceremony, which was followed by a spectacular and colourful fireworks display in front of the Castle.

Photo 10: CFA Pipe Major Staff Sergeant Andrew Imrie plays the hauntingly beautiful strains of 'Nightfall in Camp' at the FIFA Fan Fest.

The Piper piped **Nightfall in Camp** on specific nights, with his performance viewed on the big screen by thousands of spectators in the FIFA Fan Fest on the Grand Parade. On the final night of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, he played this hauntingly beautiful and melancholy tune at 23h00 on the stage at the Fan Fest, symbolically bringing the event to a close.

It is thanks to the concerted efforts, commitment and generosity of numerous individuals and groups, many of whom volunteered their time and participated at their own cost, that this program of activities at the Castle during the FIFA WC was so successful and popular among visitors.

Photo 11: A breath-taking fireworks display in front of the Castle on the final night of the FIFA World Cup dazzles the spectators.

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