

# FIFA 2010 visitors to the Castle thrilled

– *By: Ms Regine Lord*

– *Photographs: Major D. Coetzee, Warrant Officer Class 1 S. Jordaan, Sergeant J. Jacobs, Lance Corporal L. Wessels and Ms R Lord*

**F**or 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.

An exciting programme 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 programme of activities at the Castle was an ideal opportunity to promote not only the Castle

and the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010, to take place here from 03 to 06 November 2010, but also the military in general and, more specifically, the Defence Reserves.

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



*FIFA Fan Fest on the Grand Parade, as seen from the Castle*



*The Castle Guard Halberdiers in front of the elaborate Kat balcony during the daily Changing of the Guard Ceremony*





*The neatly dressed members of the Eerste River Youth Brigade march in step*

performances, courtesy of the Castle Office. Sergeant J. Jacobs of 3 Medical Battalion Group also addressed each youth group on the volunteer military system and the Reserves, and distributed pamphlets and the Reserve Force Volunteer magazines among them.

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 for fostering a sense of self-worth, achievement, pride, teamwork, and discipline among the youth. The



*The Malibu Drum Majorettes in front of the Kat balcony at the Castle*

boys and girls in the band are between seven and twenty five years old, and the organisation consists of about sixty five boys and ninety girls.

The Malibu Drum Majorettes from Malibu High School in Blue Downs, Cape Town, consists of thirty members. Established in 1998, they have won several national competitions. They have been the winners of the President's Cup for the past three years.

The South African Sea Cadets are a registered 21 Section Company. It is recognised by the South African National Defence Force, and the



*The Limited Edition Drum Corps marched into the arena, the rhythmic rat-tat-tatting of their drums creating an air of excitement*



*The South African Sea Cadets in their black and white uniforms performing a gun drill*





*The energetic performance of the Portland High School Field Marching Band was rewarded with much applause from the spectators – and a curious youngster took a closer look!*



*The SA Army Band Cape Town in their chilli red outfits entertained the appreciative spectators*

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 fifteen years. They attend school and have only 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 Cape Town Military 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, two to three times a week. The youngest and smallest of the group, affectionately known as Smiley, fifteen 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, has already participated in the Basel Tattoo, Switzerland. They 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.



*On the first and last night of the FIFA World Cup, the ceremonial gun troop of CFA fired their G1,25-pounder ceremonial guns in front of the Castle*



*CFA Pipe Major Staff Sergeant Andrew Imrie played the hauntingly beautiful strains of 'Nightfall in Camp' at the FIFA Fan Fest*



They made up the new CT Mil Tattoo 2010 Drum Corps, and will thus be performing for the entire duration of the Tattoo.

The Portland High School Field Marching Band was established with the intention of enhancing discipline structures at schools, of fostering leadership abilities, particularly of squad leaders, of giving participants an opportunity to be selected for the school team, of building closer ties with security forces and learners, of opening career avenues within the South African Police Service, Air Force, Navy and Military Health Service, and of performing on a world stage. They were the 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.

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. From 11 June to 11 July, as many as 575,000 visitors came to the Grand Parade Fan Fest.

Defence Reserve Provincial Office Western Cape (DRPOWC) was largely responsible for the organisational aspects, whereas the Castle Office supplied both tour guides and the ceremonial guard. The DRPOWC included the local youth groups in the Cape Town Military Tattoo 2010

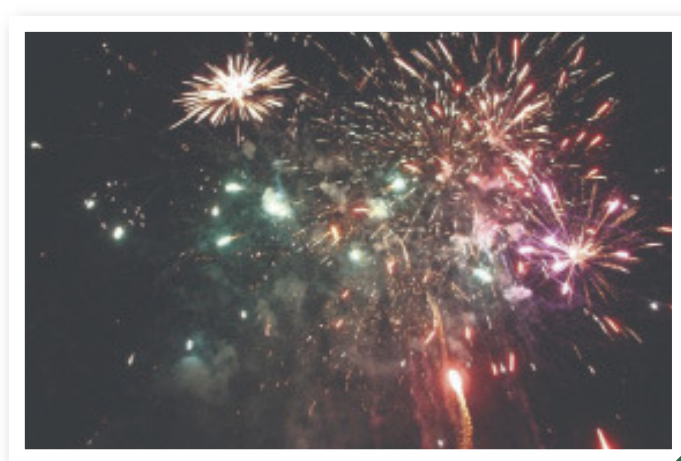
Regiment Westelike Provincie (RWP), 3 Medical Battalion Group (3 Med Bn Gp) and Army Support Base Western Cape (ASBWC) (Hospitality Services at the Castle) gave the necessary support in the form of drivers, communicators and meals.

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 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. On selected days the Ceremonial Gun Troop participated in the establishment of a Cape Town Heritage Moment. On 11 June 2010 they fired 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.

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 programme of activities at the Castle during the FIFA WC was so successful and popular among visitors.



*A breath-taking fireworks display in front of the Castle on the final night of the FIFA World Cup dazzled the spectators*

