

THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE

The South African Air Force is mainly responsible for protecting South African citizens by securing and protecting our air space. The arrival of recently acquired state-of-the-art aircraft and weapon systems have boosted confidence in the SA Air Force's capability to safeguard our nation and provide humanitarian support. In order to effectively carry out its mandate, the SA Air Force relies heavily on the skills and dedication of all serving personnel.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SA AIR FORCE

MILITARY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM (MSDS) PROGRAMME

The MSDS programme is a two-year voluntary service system. Recruits are required to sign up for a period of two years, during which they will receive *military training* and further *functional training*. Further functional training include a wide variety of options varying from specialized musterings such as Engineering to general support musterings such as Material Support Clerks.

The MSDS system allows the member to adapt to the military way of life. Towards the end of the second year, (unless otherwise indicated) the member will be given the opportunity to indicate whether he or she would like to extend the contract or leave the Air Force. An extension of the contract will mainly depend on the member's performance over the two years and the availability of posts in the relevant functional field.

Members who do not extend their two year service contract, will serve in the Reserve Force (part-time) after completion of the initial two-year period.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Be a South African Citizen and relinquish any other Citizenship he/she may have

Age between 18 and 22

Currently in Grade 12 or completed Grade 12/equivalent

Must be single when applying and remain single for the duration of training

Not area bound

Must not have a criminal record

Comply with medical fitness requirements for appointment in the SANDF

Comply with all the prescribed requirements for appointment in the SANDF

Must be willing to relocate and to participate in deployments both in South Africa and aboard if required to do so

Apart from these general requirements, additional requirements might have to be met, depending on the specific training demands of some of the more specialized occupations.

The following occupational directions are available :

DIVERSE SUPPORT

Air and Ground Load Master: Responsible for loading of freight onboard aircraft and on the ground. Grade 12 Mathematics and flight medical fitness is essential.

Catering: Preparation and serving of daily meals at Air Force messes and assist with the control over food supplies and the planning of functions and menus. Must be prepared to work long irregular hours.

Fire Fighter: Render professional crash and structural fire fighting services at all Air Force bases. Grade 12 Mathematics is a prerequisite. Should not suffer from a fear of heights, claustrophobia or colour blindness.

Language Practitioners: Deliver a language support service in respect of documentation and publications in any one of the eleven official languages. A 3 year recognised tertiary qualification is essential, although post graduate studies will be preferred.

Material Support Clerk (Supply): Concerns the acquisition, storing, issuing, withdrawal and disposal of all equipment (supplies) used by the Air Force. Computer experience and a love for figures are essential.

Material Support Clerk (Admin): Involves the management and coordination of all road transport needs, reports and administration of all vehicle accidents and maintenance of trip books, service cards and work journals.

Musicians: Responsible for providing music at military parades, functions and military funerals. Grade III Theory (Unisa) and Grade VI Practical are minimum requirements.

Nature Conservation: Perform nature conservation-related tasks at Air Force bases. A recognised 3 year National diploma or degree is essential.

Protection Services: The protection of Air Force bases, units and personnel. Sub-divisions include dog handling, VIP protection, task force, dog handling, entry control and X-ray operation, regimental instruction and sentry duty

Personnel: Attend to all personnel matters, eg recruitment, career advancement, transfer of members and other personnel matters. Computer literacy and good communication and interpersonal skills are essential.

Sport Officers: Planning and management of general fitness, sport activities, sport facilities and budgets at Air Force bases. A recognised 3 year Degree or Diploma in Human Movement or Sport Management is essential.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

Airspace Controller: The day-to-day execution of all airspace control activities are managed by Air Traffic Controllers (ATC's) and Mission Controllers. ATC's are responsible for expediting and maintaining a safe and orderly flow of air traffic, where Mc's execute in-flight command and control over military operational missions.

Ground Command and Control Management (GCCM): Ground Command and Control operational role is to serve the SA Air Force and Joint Operations for tasking, allocating and controlling all air operations, except for in-flight Command and Control. Consists of Command Post Officers and Command Post Assistants whose primary role is to provide the necessary information for the allocation of own forces to the various theaters and provides the relevant own force information, necessary for the general planning to conduct air operations.

Information Communication Technology Management (ICTM): Telecommunication relate to most of the operational capabilities of the SAAF and can, therefore be regarded as the single most important tool required by the SAAF to fulfil its mission. Based on this, the primary objective is to have a secure and reliable telecommunication infrastructure, which can provide a wide range of Information Communication Technology (ICT) services necessary for efficient command and control of the weapon systems and support of other functions of the SAAF, in order to create and provide an integrated situational awareness medium. The following are provided and managed by the Information Communication Technology Management section:

- Static Microwave Networks

- Information Technology capability of the SAAF

- Tactical/Static ICT capability

- Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange (EPABX) capability (Telephone Services)

- Cable Infrastructure in support of all voice and data services

(Applicants for Command and Control must have passed Mathematics standard grade C, higher grade D or equivalent qualification)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Construction Machine Operator: The handling of all construction machinery and vehicles used during base and runway maintenance. Must be prepared to travel and work irregular hours.

Bowser Driver Operator: Drive heavy bowser vehicles, handle refuelling apparatus during the refuelling of aircraft. Grade 12 with at least Grade 10 Mathematics and a sense of responsibility with regard to safety aspects are essential.

Material Support Clerk (Technical): Monitor the servicing of aircraft according to laid down methods at the right time and that a complete service record is kept. Administrative abilities, a technical feeling, computer literacy and Grade 12 Mathematics are essential skills.

ENGINEERING

The maintenance and development of sophisticated Air Force equipment is an ongoing process that demands uncompromising dedication and professionalism.

Selected Air Force candidates for engineering studies join the SANDF on a contract basis. This necessitates the successful completion of military courses during the first year of the contract, followed by studies at selected universities and continued service in the SANDF for the remainder of the contract period.

After successful completion of Basic Military Training, Officer Formative Training (which focuses primarily on leadership development) and university pre-study during the first year, the initial two-year MSDS contract is extended to 9 years. Members then commence their studies at one of the following Universities: The University of Pretoria, the University of Witwatersrand, the University of Stellenbosch or the University of Cape Town in one of the following directions:

- Mechanical Engineering

- Electronic Engineering

- Industrial Engineering

- Aeronautical Engineering

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGINEERING INCLUDE

Completed Grade 12 with full matriculation exemption, with Mathematics and Physical Science minimum HG C symbols or equivalent. On completion of their academic studies, these members will be given the opportunity to apply their skills in the Engineering environment for the remainder of their contract.

Qualified Engineering may direct enquiries to any of the Recruiting Officer.

APPRENTICE TRAINING

Following the completion of Basic Military Training (13 weeks), members will receive Basic Technical Training,

APPRENTICE TRAINING

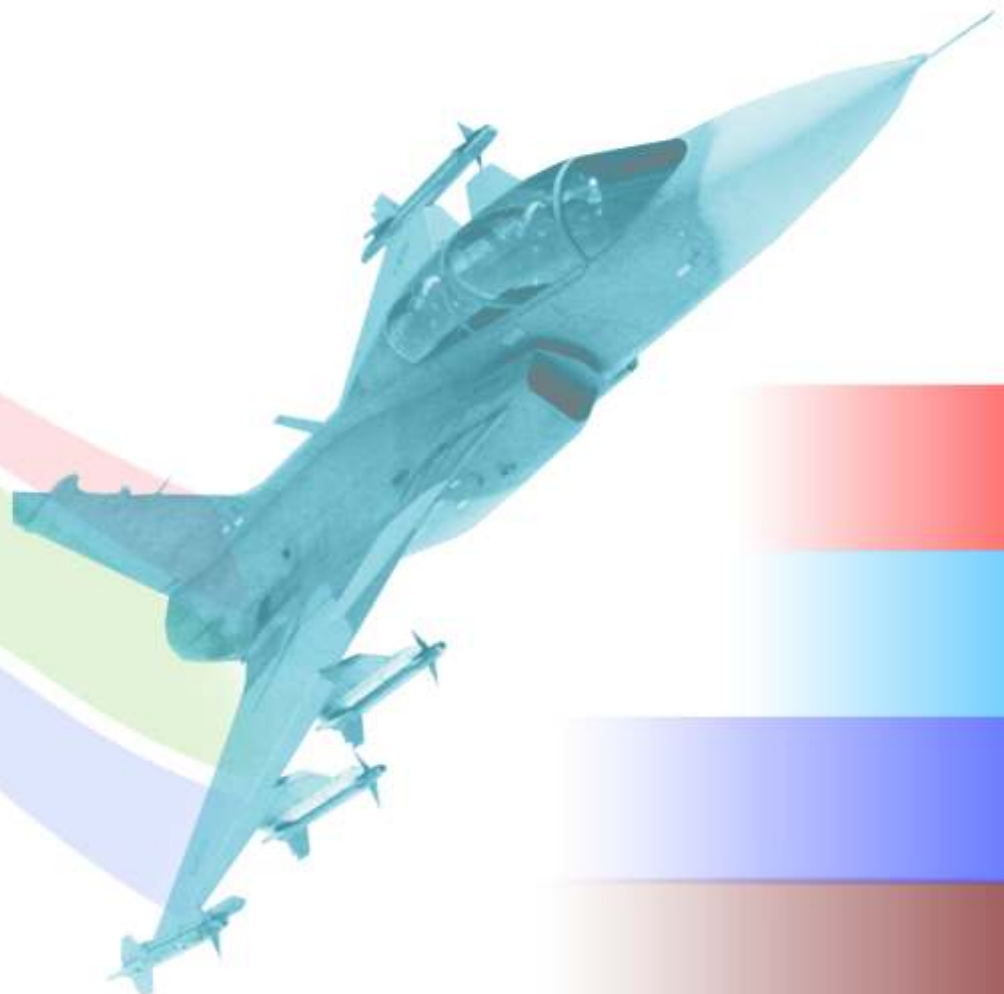
Following the completion of Basic Military Training (13 weeks), members will receive Basic Technical Training, including a School Block (18 weeks) and a Workshop Phase (12 weeks). Trade workers will only then be selected for further Trade Training based on their performance thus far. This will imply an extension of the original 2-year MSD contract. Trade workers who have successfully completed the first year of development and who are not selected for Trade Training will be utilised as Technical Assistants during the second year of their contract.

Trade Training includes Trade Theory, Trade Practicals and exposure to the avionic environment at a depot or a base. Trade Training is offered in a Mechanical, Electronic, Electrical or General Avionic support field. On completion of Trade Training, members will be given the opportunity to apply their skills in the military avionic environment for the remainder of the contract.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPRENTICE TRAINING

Grade 12 with Mathematics and Physical Science as a passed subject or N3 with two languages on Grade 12 level as passed subjects.

- a. Grade 12 Certificate / N3 Certificate
 - i. Two (2) languages ie. English compulsory and language of choice (GGE) 40%
 - ii. Mathematics and Physical Science (GGE) 40%
 - iii. 18-22 Years of age
- b. Tertiary Qualification
 - i. N4-N6 Certificate in a technical field
 - ii. Two (2) languages ie. English compulsory and language of choice (GGE) 40%
 - iii. 18-26 Years of age



ENQUIRIES

All posts are advertised in the main Sunday newspapers
For further enquiries, contact your nearest Recruiting Office:

Pretoria
Cape Town
Bloemfontein
Durban
Kimberley
Port Elizabeth
Potchefstroom
Polokwane
Nelspruit
Special Forces
Recruitment Office

Tel (012) 339 5395
Tel (021) 787 1144
Tel (051) 402 1262
Tel (031) 369 1203
Tel (053) 830 3204
Tel (041) 505 1268
Tel (018) 289 3322
Tel (015) 299 3420
Tel (013) 756 2080
Tel (012) 674 5827/5520

Fax (012) 339 5727
Fax (021) 787 1288
Fax (051) 402 1003
Fax (031) 451 1738
Fax (053) 830 3206
Fax (041) 505 1272/1209/1268
Fax (018) 289 3355
Fax (015) 299 3420
Fax (013) 756 2045
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