



### **New Badge for Voluntary Service in the Reserve Force**

“On 28 October 1985 the Chief of the SA Army instated the Emblem for Voluntary Service by South African Army Order GS1/4. This was an award for Reserve Force members of the Defence Force (then known as the Citizen Force and Commandos), which recognised the exemplary service of the officers and other ranks who had voluntarily served for five additional years at any time after the prescribed compulsory periods. The Emblem for Voluntary Service (EVS) was an acknowledgement of outstanding service by personnel, often at the cost of great sacrifice to themselves and their families and frequently under difficult working conditions and under great pressure from employers.

It was awarded at a point halfway to the completion of service required for the various decorations and medals then available for long service.

The emblem of Voluntary Service served to encourage continuing voluntary service to ensure a Reserve Force, which had a substantial experienced part-time core in the command and operational and administrative structures of divisions, formations and units. Subsequently, for similar reasons, the use of the Emblem for Voluntary Service was approved by the Chief of the SA Navy and the Surgeon General as an award to their Reserve Force members.

When the Emblem for Voluntary Service was introduced, legal compulsion was the main means of recruiting for the Reserve Force and most members were legally required to remain in the service for lengthy periods. Since 1994, however, the Reserve Force has come to rely entirely on volunteers prepared to give up their free time to serve part-time in the SA National Defence Force. With the impetus of the changes and the development of PROJECT PHOENIX, encouraging citizens to volunteer for part-time service in the Reserve Force has become very important.

The Chief of the SA National Defence Force accordingly considers it desirable to continue to give special recognition to uniformed members who complete a period of five years of exemplary voluntary service in the Reserve Force of the SA National Defence Force. Moreover, the desire is to extend recognition for such exemplary voluntary Service Force service to officers and other ranks of the Reserve Force of all four Services of the SA National Defence Force.

In accordance with the need expressed, the Chief of the SA National Defence Force issued an instruction, which instituted and regulated the Chief of the SA National Defence Force's Badge for Voluntary Reserve Force Service.

On 17th August 2004, the “Badge” was instituted to give special recognition to officers, warrant-officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks of the Reserve Force of the SA National Defence Force who had completed a period of five years of exemplary voluntary service in the Reserve Force of the SA National Defence Force.

The “Badge” shall be awarded by the Chief of the SA National Defence Force on the recommendation of the Chiefs of Services. The design is the emblem of the SA National Defence Force in enamel, encircled by a gilt protea wreath.