



Republic of South Africa

South African Government

www.gov.za


Together we move South Africa forward

[HOME](#)
[ABOUT](#)
[NEWSROOM](#)
[SERVICES](#)
[DOCUMENTS](#)


Home » About SA

Police, defence and intelligence

[Department of Police](#) | [Departments of Defence and Military Veterans](#) |

[Department of State Security](#) |

Department of Police

The task of maintaining the safety and security of society is critical to the success of all government's programmes.

Law-enforcement services in South Africa fall under the Department of Police, which is responsible for policy determination, direction and overall execution of the department's mandate in relation to relevant legislation.

The National Police Commissioner answers directly to the Minister of Police.

Entities reporting to the Minister of Police are the:



- [Civilian Secretariat for Police](#)
- [Independent Police Investigative Directorate \(IPID\)](#)
- [South African Police Service \(SAPS\)](#)
- [Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority](#).

South African Police Service

The [South African Police Service \(SAPS\)](#) is South Africa's principal law enforcement body and its policing objectives in accordance with the provisions of Section 205 of the Constitution are:

- preventing, combating and investigating crime
- maintaining public order
- protecting and securing the inhabitants of South Africa and their property
- upholding and enforcing the law.

The vision of the SAPS is to create a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa.

The mission of the SAPS is to:

- prevent and combat anything that may threaten the safety and security of any community
- investigate any crimes that threaten the safety and security of any community
- ensure offenders are brought to justice
- participate in efforts to address the root causes of crime.

The National Commissioner heads the SAPS. Deputy national commissioners (under whom the divisions and components of the SAPS fall) and provincial commissioners (under whom the police stations fall) report to the National Commissioner.

The SAPS' personnel complement stood at 197 946 by December 2013. The allocation for entry-level appointments was 2 000 for [Police Service Act](#) personnel.

Operational training in 2012/13 focused on:

- the development of station management
- victims, women and children
- tactical and response development

- detective training
- crime intelligence development
- adult education and training
- K53 driver education.

To increase access to communities by building, upgrading and improving police stations, three police projects were completed in 2012/13. These included new police stations in Amalia, North West and Weenen in KwaZulu-Natal and a new 10111 Centre in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape. In October 2013, National Police Commissioner General Riah Phiyega announced the introduction of an anti-corruption unit to deal with rogue police officers.

Strategic outcome-oriented goals

Ensuring that all South Africans are and feel safe (**Outcome 3**) is the broad outcome for the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster, and also underpins the work of the SAPS.

To deliver on this outcome, the department's 2010 – 2014 Strategic Plan focuses on providing police services that will ensure safer communities by:

- reducing all serious, contact and trio crimes
- increasing activities to prevent and combat border crime
- increasing the detection rate, the court-ready case docket rate and the conviction rate for all serious, contact and trio crimes and crimes against women and children
- addressing organised crime
- ensuring adequate availability of and access to police service points by bringing them closer to communities in rural areas.

Mandate

The SAPS derives its powers and functions from section 205 of the Constitution and from the **SAPS Act, 1995 (Act 68 of 1995)**.

This legislation regulates the police service in terms of its core function, which is to prevent, investigate and combat crime.

Budget

To support the achievement of strategic objectives, the spending focus was on increasing personnel numbers and physical resources such as basic equipment, capital infrastructure, skills development and technological enhancements in the information and telecommunications environments.

The budget for the Department of Police for 2012/13 was R63,3 billion.

Visible policing

Visible policing is regarded as a line-function division of the SAPS, specifically responsible for:

- combating crime through crime operations
- providing for the activities at police stations
- combating crimes in the railway environment
- dealing with crimes affecting the social fabric of society, including crimes against women and children and community-based crime prevention
- providing a rapid-response service in respect of crimes in progress
- eradicating the proliferation of illegal firearms available for use in crime and violence
- ensuring effective compliance and enforcement of liquor control and second-hand goods legislation to address serious crime in South Africa.

Crime prevention

The SAPS conducted 34 428 policing actions in 2012/13, focusing on a number of priority areas to address the incidence of serious crime.

These actions included:

- 46 079 roadblocks and 2 902 917 stop-and-search operations
- 1 682 763 arrests for all crime during policing actions
- 67 020 vehicles stolen and robbed in 2012/13
- 51 730 vehicles recovered.

Vehicle identification

There are 51 vehicle identification sections countrywide.

Their functions include:

- identifying and investigating vehicles
- issuing South African Police vehicle identification numbers
- controlling all SAPS vehicle clearance offices
- controlling all unique marking of vehicles
- activities relating to the registration of vehicle manufacturers, importers and builders
- concluding investigations into vehicles forfeited to the State
- and assisting local detective units with Interpol vehicle enquiries.

Drug eradication

The SAPS makes an effective contribution to the implementation of the [National Drug Master Plan](#) through its activities for supply and demand.

It serves as the country's blueprint for preventing and reducing alcohol and substance abuse and its associated social and economic consequences for South African society, and builds on the foundation laid down by government's programme of action on Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

In 2012/13 the SAPS made 168 468 arrests for drug-related crimes, confiscating 196 181 207 kg of cannabis, 108 752 Mandrax tablets, 145 560 kg of cocaine, 347 860 kg of crystal methamphetamine (tik) 46 223 kg of whoonga and 46 827 kg of nyaope.

The SAPS's Cannabis Eradication Programme destroyed 148 ha of cannabis fields.

In 2012/13, the [Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation \(DPCI\)](#) launched intensive intelligence and court directed undercover operations to identify, profile, infiltrate, investigate and neutralise drug groups, syndicates, and high-flyers by means of various projects.

Investigations led to the confiscation of:

- 2 077 997 kg of cannabis
- 9 103 176 kg of heroin
- 114 613 kg of methcathinone (CAT)
- 25 487 kg of cocaine
- 2 545 400 mandrax tablets
- 5 331 ecstasy tablets
- 69 626 kg of crystal methamphetamine (Tik)

- 0,079 kg of nyaope
- 20 007 kg of LSD.
- 41 clandestine drug laboratories with an estimated value of R300 000 for each laboratory were dismantled
- organised crime units made 334 arrests for narcotics-related crimes.

Firearms, Liquor Control and Second-hand Goods

The initiative addresses the abundance of firearms used in crime and violence in South Africa.

It also ensures compliance with and effective enforcement of legalisation concerning firearms, liquor and second-hand goods control.

From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, the SAPS received 229 463 new applications for firearms and finalised 292 290 including 86 142 applications received prior to 2012/13.

The accreditation of businesses, associations and organisations is integral to the implementation of firearms control legislation in South Africa.

During 2012/13, 89 institutions were accredited.

In 2012/13, more than 10 000 arrests were made for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition during law-enforcement operations. During 2012/13, 4 936 legal firearms and 84 051 legal rounds of ammunition were voluntarily surrendered to the SAPS.

During the same period the SAPS destroyed 56 051 firearms and 138 766 rounds of ammunition.

The SAPS confiscated 1 824 865,821 l of liquor (including 57 061,967 l of home-brewed beer) in 2012/13.

During the same period 74 547 identified illegal liquor premises were closed down and 394 379 inspections conducted to ensure compliance with liquor legislation.

Since the implementation of the [Second-Hand Goods Act, 2009 \(Act 6 of 2009\)](#), 11 355 applications for the registration of second-hand goods dealers and recyclers were finalised and 42 037 compliance inspections were conducted.

Victims, women and children

The main responsibility of the SAPS towards empowering victims is to render a victim-friendly service to all victims of crime. It includes:

- developing, monitoring and implementing policies, directives and instructions aimed at improving services to victims of crime
- sensitising and training SAPS members to render a professional, victim-friendly service
- ensuring that SAPS facilities are victim-friendly.

By November 2013, 906 victim-friendly rooms (VFRs) had been established across the country to assist victims of crimes, especially crimes against women, children and the elderly.

To support victims, 14 679 SAPS members were trained in interventions of domestic violence, the [Child Justice Act, 2008 \(Act 75 of 2008\)](#), human rights, children and youth at risk, and sexual offences.

The SAPS conducted various public education and awareness events at provinces and stations, particularly in support of Child Protection Week, Youth Month, Women's Month,

16 Days of Activism, and ministerial izimbizo. Since the signing of the Protocol on Crime and Violence at Schools by the ministers for Basic Education and the SAPS in 2011, 16 810 schools, with functional Safe School Committees, have been linked to police stations.

Community partnership programmes

Community Policing Forums (CPFs) at police stations serve as the instrument for ensuring that the SAPS engages and cooperates with communities.

By the end of March 2013, 1 131 functioning CPFs had been established at police stations.

The SAPS and Business Against Crime South Africa initiated a partnership aimed at transferring skills to develop and implement CPF projects and improve services to victims.

The [South African Banking Risk Information Centre](#) and the SAPS initiated a project focused on educating the community about the latest developments concerning fraud and corruption activities, robberies and ATM-related fraud.

Edcon and Independent Newspapers donated 24 trailers for the SAPS to establish mobile contact points to enhance the visibility of the police.

The crime reporting boards project is a collaborative effort between the SAPS and businesses.

Information on criminal activities is gathered at local level through a post box.

By October 2013, there were 336 crime-reporting boards countrywide.

Reservists

Reservists support the SAPS as a force multiplier, and as part of the police and community's cooperation in combating crime.

The [South African Reserve Police Service Policy Framework and Guidelines](#) was implemented in 2013/14, including a structured, reservist recruitment drive.

At the end of March 2013, there were 19 359 active reservists.

Emergency response services

In 2012/13, the [SAPS](#) responded to 9 122 688 calls to the 10111 call centres.

By October 2013, there were 471 police stations linked to 10111 call centres.

The SAPS has 29 Flying Squad units to serve as a force multiplier to respond to serious and violent crimes in progress that require immediate police action and response.

In 2012/13, the Inland Water Policing arm, responsible for diving-related support, attended to 2 979 diving operations/call-outs.

The SAPS' Mounted Service with its 25 mounted units spent 170 143 hours on horseback in 2012/13.

The 101 K9 units conducted 365 192 searches with its working dogs.

Railway Police

The Railway Police cover about 33 000 km of rail lines and serve an estimated 538 791 702 million passengers annually.

A total of 3 333 members are deployed in the railway environment.

The functions of the Railway Police include:

- providing a visible policing service to address the safety of commuters on trains
- conducting crime prevention and combating crime operations within the rail environment
- providing a rapid rail-policing service.

Railway Police are operational in the Western Cape (Cape Town, Retreat, Philippi and Bellville), Gauteng (Pretoria, Belle Ombre, Mabopane, Saulsville, Denneboom, Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, New Canada, Stretfort, Germiston, Springs and Kempton Park), Eastern Cape (East London, Mount Ruth and Swartzkop) and KwaZulu-Natal (Durban, Kwa-Mashu, Cavendish, Re-Union and Escombe).

The SAPS provides a reactive policing service at all Gautrain rail stations and carriages. Five National Mobile Train units are strategically placed in Gauteng, the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

These units are actively involved in policing long-distance passenger and freight rail across the country.

They are also involved in cross-border operations, disruptive operations and provide a rapid response service to the rail environment.

During 2012/13, Railway Police arrested 47 541 within and outside the rail environment during daily deployments and operations.

Operational Response Services

Operational response services provide for specialised interventions and policing South Africa's borders.

This division is specifically responsible for:

- maintaining public order
- conducting medium-to-high and high-risk operations
- stabilising volatile situations, and preventing cross-border crimes.

The responsibility to respond to and stabilise medium-to-high-risk incidents falls within the broader tactical environment. This tactical capability comprises:

- The Special Task Force, deals with hostage situations; interventions to combat

urban and rural terror; organised crime; serious and violent crime incidents and crimes against women and children; protection and VIP assistance; and search-and-rescue operations. In 2012/13, the task force intervened in 203 extreme situations.

- National Intervention units deal with serious and violent crime incidents; escort dangerous criminals; safeguard VIPs and big events; and provide specialised operational support to stations and other government departments. In 2012/13 these units conducted 3 160 interventions.
- Public Order Police deal primarily with public order through crowd management. There are 28 Public Order Policing units countrywide. In 2012/13, violence erupted in 1 882 unrest-related incidents such as labour disputes and dissatisfaction with service delivery, leading to 3 680 arrests, and 10 517 peaceful incidents such as assemblies, gatherings and meetings were also policed. In view of continued violent protest action the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster was tasked to put measures in place at both national and provincial level to deal with such incidents effectively. The National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (Natjoints), as the operational arm of the JCPS cluster, was tasked to coordinate and monitor the management and investigation of these incidents countrywide 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in an effort to expedite the processing of these perpetrators through the Criminal Justice System.
- The tracking teams apprehend wanted suspects positively linked to crimes not detected by investigating officers. Six new tracking teams have been established in Limpopo, the Eastern Cape, the Free State, North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. During 2012/13, 940 suspects, wanted for serious and violent crimes, were traced and arrested.
- Tactical response teams (TRTs) provide immediate tactical response capacity, to such things as trio crimes; farm attacks; ATM bombings; cash-in-transit heists; taxi violence and serious gang-related crimes; planned operations or specific requests; providing assistance in crowd management; and escorting dangerous prisoners and valuable and or dangerous cargo. There are 40 TRT units countrywide. In 2012/13, TRT units provided protection to 423 cargos, escorted 276 dangerous prisoners, and assisted during 326 crowd management-related incidents, resulting in 3 332 arrests.

Mobile operations

Mobile operations safeguard valuable and/ or dangerous government cargo, including

material of monetary value or with considerable importance or quality such as cash currency printing material, and potentially dangerous cargo such as explosives and ammunition, nuclear material, firearms and drugs.

During 2012/13, 169 cargos were safely delivered without security breaches.

SAPS Air Wing

The SAPS has 49 aircraft, which include 37 helicopters and 12 fixed-wing aeroplanes.

By the end of March 2013, the SAPS had 51 pilots including 31 helicopter pilots, six fixed-wing pilots, and 11 pilots flying both helicopters and fixed-wings and three student pilots.

The pilots flew 6 564,3 hours in 2012/13.

International assistance

The SAPS renders other specialised policing services to the [Southern African Development Community \(SADC\)](#) region and continent.

This, among other things, included deploying 57 members in Sudan, Darfur, and 15 to South Sudan on peace missions in 2013.

Border security

The unit provides policing and security at ports of entry.

Based on screening hits generated by the Movement Control System at the 72 ports the SAPS reacted to 3 435 wanted persons and 3 331 circulated stolen or robbed vehicles.

Between April 2012 and March 2013, 3 880 planned crime prevention and combating actions were conducted to enhance national security and territorial integrity.

Additionally, 3 578 roadblocks, 68 633 vehicle patrols, 285 air patrols, 109 454 foot patrols, 910 borderline patrols, 2 620 vessel patrols and 12 487 perimeter inspections were also conducted.

Detective services

Detective Services investigates crimes and gathers all related evidence required by the prosecuting authority to redress crime.

By 2012/13, the SAPS had 25 844 detectives. As a means to evaluate the performance of the SAPS in solving crime, three criteria are used, namely:

- detection rate (the ability to solve cases)
- the court-ready docket rate
- conviction rate.

In 2012/13, 1 145 978 charges for serious crime 317 were investigated, 369 204 case dockets were court-ready and convictions for 352 513 charges were achieved.

Some 151 115 charges reported for crimes against women above 18 years were investigated and 43 443 case dockets were court-ready, while 42 822 reported charges for crimes against children under 18 years were investigated, and 21 400 case dockets were court-ready.

Convictions were secured for 32 457 crimes against women and 9 814 for crimes against children.

The detective service centres (DSCs) are an important interface in the frontline service delivery chain providing a 24-hour, seven days' a week service.

By October 2013, 338 DSCs had been implemented.

The main function of the 142 detective court case officers at High courts, Regional courts and Magistrates courts is to screen new court cases for completeness, to ensure that court dockets are brought to court at least two days before the court date, and to ensure that investigating officers comply with the instructions of public prosecutors in time.

Bilateral stock theft operations were held in 2012/13 with Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

The [Bureau for Missing Persons](#) provides support in tracing missing/wanted/unidentified persons. In 2012/13, the Bureau circulated the details of 971 missing/unidentified persons, placed the information of 313 missing and 59 wanted persons on the Internet and facilitated the broadcasting of information about 1 397 and 65 wanted persons in the printed media.

By October 2013, there were 176 Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) units, with a workforce of 2 238 members. To give further impetus to

the investigation of crimes of this nature, 72 forensic social workers were appointed to assist in cases of child sexual abuse by conducting forensic assessments, compiling court reports and providing expert evidence in court.

Crime Stop and Primedia Crime Line

Crime Stop is a call centre (08600 10111) responsible for collecting anonymous information/intelligence on criminal activity from the public.

Between April 2012 and March 2013, the call centre received 151 505 calls and 1 459 web tips. These led to 182 positive cases.

As a result, 240 arrests were made and goods to the value of R3 387 947 seized.

Crime Line provides members of the community with a platform to blow the whistle on crime by reporting it anonymously via SMS to the number 32211 or by reporting it on the website www.crimeline.co.za.

Between April 2012 and March 2013, 2 101 SMS tips and 1 285 web tips were received, and led to 150 positive cases with 241 arrests made and goods to the value of R3 782 887 seized.

Crime Line won two media awards at the 34th Crime Stoppers International Conference in Barbados in October 2013.

Specialised investigations

The **DPCI**, known as the Hawks, investigates cases relating to:

- organised crime
- serious and violent crime
- commercial crime
- fraud and corruption.

Serious commercial crime

This refers to:

- serious and priority fraud
- serious commerce-related theft (including theft of trust funds by persons who are obliged by law to keep a trust account)

- complex commercial crimes where the services of a chartered accountant or forensic auditor is required during investigation
- contraventions of commerce-related statutes such as statutes relating to companies, close corporations, cooperatives, trusts, financial advisory and intermediary services
- insurance
- counterfeiting of currency
- counterfeiting of goods and intellectual property rights crimes
- banking-related crime
- exchange control
- estate agents
- deceased and insolvent estates
- serious corruption
- computer-related/cybercrime.

In 2012/13, 65 307 new charges of serious crime related to commerce were reported.

A total of 63 094 charges were referred to court of which 2 287 were withdrawn and 546 were closed as unfounded.

Government-related fraud and corruption at local government level was an ongoing focus area of the DPCI.

During Operation Clean Audit, 45 public officials were arrested and 14 found guilty on charges including fraud, corruption and money laundering; 209 suspects were arrested and charged with crimes relating to counterfeit card fraud, card skimming and the possession of skimming devices, and 134 persons were found guilty on 851 counts relating to counterfeit card fraud.

The DPCI dealt organised card fraud syndicates a heavy blow with the arrest of 26 syndicate members. Various hand-held and ATM-mounted skimming devices were seized.

Serious organised crime

The organised crime investigation units within the DPCI are responsible for:

- prevention of a cross-sector of organised crime-related activities including illegal drugs

- plundering precious metals and diamonds
- smuggling firearms and weapons
- human trafficking
- money laundering
- specific violent crime
- smuggling or stealing non-ferrous metals
- vehicle-related crime
- endangered species
- crimes against the State.

These units arrested 198 individuals for the illegal purchase, theft and possession of uncut diamonds and unwrought precious metals and secured 71 convictions.

The theft of copper cable (electricity and rail cable) and related crime is viewed as sabotage of the national infrastructure.

Investigations have resulted in 130 arrests and 40 individuals were convicted.

During 2012/13, 104 persons were arrested and 49 convicted for poaching abalone and rhino. The DPCI arrested 28 people associated with human trafficking; 56 arrests were made and 25 convictions secured for crime including foreign military assistance, high treason and terrorism, contravention of the National Conventional Arms Control Act, 2002 (Act 41 of 2002), possession of firearms and ammunition, dealing in and possession of radioactive materials, and Protection of the Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist Related Activities.

Criminal records and forensic sciences

The function of the Criminal Record Centre is to identify and confirm any previous convictions of suspects in crimes being investigated by the SAPS.

The Forensic Services Division has a new turnaround strategy, which focuses on the:

- increased capacity to enable the appointment of forensic analysts
- crime scene examiners
- development and enhancement of skills and competencies in the core business of the division
- optimal use of resources and procurement of physical and technological resources, including optimised business processes.

In 2013, the division had a staff complement of 7 450.

In their goal of bringing forensic services closer to communities, forensic services have further decentralised the forensic biology capacity to the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal based forensic science laboratories.

To modernise the business systems, the SAPS is deploying advanced technology in key areas to ensure improved turnaround times.

In July 2012, a state-of-the-art laboratory opened in Platteklouf as part of this improvement and capacity drive.

The modern design and technologies deployed are contributing to the improved turnaround times of cases, particularly those handled in the Western Cape laboratory.

In 2012/13, 2 087 574 fingerprint searches were performed to identify individuals involved in crime, and to determine whether an individual has a criminal record.

Of these, 1 215 069 (58%) were criminal searches of which 658 030 (54,16%) resulted in previous convictions being identified and verified, and 872 505 (42%) were non-criminal searches such as applications for firearm licenses, professional driver's permits and pre-employment.

The Criminal Record and Crime Scene Management (CR and CSM) arm expanded its front-line service delivery capacity to make it more accessible to local investigating officers, and to improve response times in attending to crime scenes.

To this extent one additional CR and CSM laboratory at Mitchell's Plain in the Western Cape and an additional eight Local Criminal Law Record Centre service points were established.

In 2012/13, Forensic science laboratories received 382 737 case exhibits/entries for forensic analysis.

A Drug Analysis laboratory, focusing on the analysis of methamphetamine cases, was set up in Belhar in the Western Cape.

Rapid analysis using Raman- and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy was employed in Methamphetamine cases in the Western Cape.

Crime intelligence

This division is responsible for centralised intelligence and for managing, coordinating and analysing information gathering.

It also provides technical intelligence support to the operational components of crime intelligence and, where necessary, to other operational divisions of the SAPS.

Through its various national and provincial components, Crime Intelligence has established coverage throughout the country, extending to station level.

Cooperation with foreign law-enforcement agencies uses platforms such as [Interpol](#) and the [South African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation](#), extending the range of crime intelligence beyond the national borders.

Network operations refer to planned and purposeful processes of obtaining, assembling and organising information through exploitation of all types of source on a target (organisation, group or individual) for further intelligence processing and/or use as evidence.

Crime Intelligence conducted 37 188 network operations in 2012/13, which led to the arrest of 10 607 individuals and the recovery of goods valued at R633 885 198.

Protection and security services and Presidential Protection Services

VIP protection services delivered by Protection and Security Services and Presidential Protection Services provide protection for the President, the Deputy President, former presidents, former deputy presidents, heads of State, their spouses and other identified VIPs while in transit.

In 2012/13, VIP Protection Services provided protection to 218 presidential, national and provincial dignitaries and to 232 foreign dignitaries, including heads of State, visiting South Africa.

Protection was also provided during 177 presidential visits outside the borders of South Africa and at 294 national and provincial major/ special events, including the Diaspora Forum, African Cup of Nations and the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Summit.

Static Protection at the Protection and Security Services protected 40 installations/government buildings and 97 identified VIP residences.

To manage security for all national key points by means of the National Key Points Act

of 1980, directive and regulations, 175 out of 182 national key points were evaluated.

In addition, 127 out of 248 strategic installations were audited in terms of the Minimum Physical Security Standard guidelines at national and provincial government departments to manage security for all authorities in government, parastatals, national key points and other government installations by means of a relevant regulatory framework.

Departments of Defence and Military Veterans

The primary role of the [South African National Defence Force \(SANDF\)](#) is to defend South Africa against external military aggression.

In this regard deployment in an internal policing capacity is limited to exceptional circumstances and subject to parliamentary approval and safeguards.

Defence objectives as outlined by the Department's Strategic Plan include the defence mandate as per section 200 (2) of the Constitution, that of protecting South Africa, its sovereignty, its territorial integrity, its interests and its people in accordance with the Constitution and principles of international law.

The SANDF's main objectives are:

- the defence and protection of South Africa, its people and important national interests
- the safeguarding of South Africa and its people through aspects such as border safeguarding, supporting the SAPS and fulfilling South Africa's treaty obligations
- the defence contribution to South Africa's international agenda and the promotion of regional and continental peace and stability
- supporting civil authority in times of crisis, need or turmoil, and the defence contribution to South Africa's developmental priorities
- the civil control over defence and the accountable use of defence resources.

The SANDF has a defensive orientation and a non-threatening posture in accordance with the White Paper on National Defence of the Republic of South Africa.

Legislation and policies

The [Department of Defence](#) derives its mandate primarily from Section 200(2) of the Constitution.

- The mandate is given substance by the [Defence Act, 2002 \(Act 42 of 2002\)](#), as amended; the General Regulations; the [White Paper on Defence \(1996\)](#), the [Defence Review \(1998\)](#) and delegated legislation.
- The National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC) was established by the [National Conventional Arms Control Act of 2002](#) to ensure compliance with government policies in respect of arms control and to provide guidelines and criteria to be used when assessing applications for permits.
- The [Military Veterans Affairs Act, 1999 \(Act 17 of 1999\)](#), came into effect in February 2001. The Minister appointed a chairperson and members of the Advisory Board on Military Veterans' Affairs from nominations received from recognised military veterans' organisations. The President is designated as the Patron-in-Chief of all military veterans in terms of the Act.
- The [Military Veterans Act, 2011 \(Act 18 of 2011\)](#), enjoins the Department of Military Veterans as part of its legislative mandate, restores the dignity and memorialises those who sacrificed their lives for the benefit of democracy and freedom in South Africa.

Defence strategy

The landward defence function has the mandate to protect South Africa and its territory by, among other things, providing an infantry capability for external deployment and a reaction force for internal safety and security, including border safeguarding.

It is also charged with providing signal capability for external deployment and internal signal support, and exercising a composite signal capability per year.

The SANDF's core mandate is the protection of the country, its territorial integrity and its people.

The numerous illegal immigrants who succeed in crossing South Africa's borders are testament to the enormity of this task.

Without the provision of adequate resources the SANDF is finding it challenging to deal decisively with the problem of suspected poachers from neighbouring countries such as Mozambique entering South Africa and its National Parks illegally.

Military strategy

The Military Strategy of South Africa is derived from the Constitution, the [White Paper on Defence](#) (1996), the [Defence Review](#) (1998) and the National Security Strategy.

The purpose of military strategic objectives is to defend South Africa in accordance with the UN Charter, which allows for any country to defend itself.

This self-defence aims at protecting the country and its territorial integrity.

The SANDF uses a mission-based approach to achieve the military strategic objectives of the [Departments of Defence](#) and of [Military Veterans](#).

This approach allows for wartime and peacetime missions to direct the Peacetime Strategy for Force Preparation, and to guide joint, interdepartmental, inter-agency and multinational force preparation as well as force employment during times of conflict.

The military strategic concepts describe the procedures to be followed to meet military strategic objectives, namely:

- providing mission essential training
- establishing a mission-trained force
- selective engagement where possible
- strategic positioning.

The SANDF's capabilities constitute the means of the strategy and consist of:

- command and control, communications, computers, information, intelligence, infras- tructure, reconnaissance and surveillance capabilities
- light mobile capability
- conventional warfare capability
- effective and appropriate support capabilities.

Force preparation

The chiefs of the South African Army (SA Army), South African Air Force (SAAF), South African Navy (SAN) and the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) are responsible for providing combat-ready defence capabilities in accordance with the military strategic objectives and operational requirements.

Each division must structure, position and maintain itself to provide forces able to participate successfully, as part of a joint, interdepartmental and multinational

grouping, in the execution of all missions.

Some examples of group system/formations established by the different services are:

- [South African Army \(SA Army\)](#) – infantry, artillery or armour formations
- [South African Air Force \(SAAF\)](#) – air capabilities within the Air Command
- [South African Navy \(SAN\)](#) – fleet command
- [South African Military Health Service \(SAMHS\)](#) – military-health formations.

A group system or formation's specific geographical location depends on where its combat and support units are concentrated.

Training forms a key part of bolstering South Africa's defence capabilities, as the country continues to carry out its commitment to building peace and security on the continent.

Equipping the SANDF is a priority for maintaining the country's own security and for helping fellow African countries.

To this end, South Africa was expected to develop capable leaders within its defence ranks, leaders with a high level of discipline and sense of duty.

The defence force is actively recruiting young people through the [Military Skills Development System](#) and [University Reserve Training Programme](#).

Budget and funding

The defence budget for the 2013/14 financial year amounted to R40,243 billion, or 1,1% of gross domestic product and 3,8% of total government expenditure.

The SANDF continues to give attention to government's commitment to improve the lives of military veterans.

An amount of R300 million was set aside for socio-economic benefits for 2013/14, in creating the systems required to effectively roll out the socio-economic benefits for veterans.

As part of Cabinet-approved budget reductions of R485 million in expenditure on contractors across five programmes was reduced: Force Employment, Landward Defence, Air Defence, Military Health Support and General Support.

Funds were reprioritised from contractors in the same programmes towards the financing of peacekeeping commitments in the Central African Republic, on which R200 million was spent in 2013/14, and R215 million in 2014/15.

The reduced spending on contractors was absorbed by the department using its own capacity to implement repair and maintenance projects rather than using contractors through the [Department of Public Works](#).

Over the next three years, the department aims to refurbish 66 military bases, units and office complexes.

Over the medium term, R355 million has been allocated for infrastructure.

The department also continued with 29 refurbishment projects, for which R2,5 million was allocated over the medium term.

Rebuilding the runway at Waterkloof Air Force Base was the department's only mega project. It was completed in 2012/13 at an estimated cost of R1,1 billion.

The department continued with 28 refurbishment projects, including 2 Military Hospital in Cape Town, 4 SA Infantry Battalion in Middelburg, 6 SA Infantry Battalion in Grahamstown, 7 SA Infantry Battalion in Phalaborwa, 8 SA Infantry Battalion in Upington, 10 SA Infantry Battalion in Mafikeng, 21 SA Infantry Battalion in Doornkop, Air Defence Artillery School in Kimberley, the SA Army Combat Centre in Lohatla, the SA Navy Training Unit in Saldanha and the School of Engineers in Kroonstad.

Over the medium term, the programme was extended to include 57 small projects, including dealing with flood damage at Air Force Base Hoedspruit.

The department also funds 46 capital works building projects, which include the upgrade and construction of health and training facilities, security in infrastructure, and living and office accommodation.

Also included are improvements to accommodate members with disabilities.

Functions

Peace support operations

South Africa has been active in the formation of the [SADC Brigade](#) as part of the overall African Standby Force whose mandate is to provide the African Union (AU) with

a rapid reaction capability consisting of five regionally based brigades.

The manner in which South Africa's has undertaken peace-keeping missions in the past is in line with the country's defence policy.

In Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa generally followed a negotiated strategy in which it has functioned as a mediator, followed by a military commitment during the implementation phase.

In this case, the SANDF was used to broker peace agreements on extremely volatile circumstances.

Over the next three years the spending focus will be on conducting foreign peace missions, border safeguarding operations, other contingency-based deployments and anti-piracy operations, mainly reflected in the Regional Security and Support to the People subprogrammes.

Expenditure in the Support to the People subprogramme is expected to grow significantly across the seven-year period.

The projected increase in expenditure in the Regional Security subprogramme over the medium term is owing to the allocation of an additional R80 million in 2013/14 and R90 million in 2014/15 for increased peace support operations in the CAR, assistance to the Mozambican defence force in the fight against piracy in the Mozambique Channel, and for increased deployments in foreign countries.

Border safeguarding

The spending focus over the next three years will be on border safeguarding and anti-piracy measures, which accounts for the increased expenditure of the Landward Defence, Maritime Defence and Force Employment programmes.

Effective border management is part of the government's crime-prevention strategy, which deals with cross-border crimes and poaching.

The SANDF works closely with the SAPS and other government departments on this.

As part of the SANDF troop deployment, operations were conducted to combat cross-border crime, stock theft and illegal grazing and rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park.

By 2013/14, 14 SANDF companies were deployed on the South African borders.

Organisational structure

The Department of Defence adheres to the principles of civil control and oversight through the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, various parliamentary committees such as the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and the Defence Secretariat.

While the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans is responsible for providing political direction to the department, the Joint Standing Committee on Defence ensures that the Executive Authority (the Minister) remains accountable to Parliament.

However, for day-to-day administration and the coordination of strategic processes, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans relies on the Defence Secretariat, which is the civilian component of the department.

Secretary for Defence

The **Secretary for Defence** manages the Defence Secretariat and is the accounting officer of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans.

As head of the department, the Secretary for Defence is responsible for advising the Minister regarding defence policy by:

- Enhancing civil control through briefings to the parliamentary committees having oversight over the department and the Minister over the department.
- Providing the Chief of the Defence Force with comprehensive instructions.
- Monitoring compliance with policies and directions issued by the Minister to the Chief of the Defence Force.
- Disciplining of, administrative control over and managing employees, including their effective use and training.

Chief of the SANDF

The Chief of the SANDF is appointed by the President of South Africa.

These duties include:

- Advising the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans on any military, operational and administrative matters.
- Complying with directions issued by the Minister.
- Formulating and issuing policies and doctrines.

- Exercising command by issuing orders, directives and instructions.
- Directing, managing and administrating.
- Executing approved programmes of the defence budget.
- Employing the armed forces in accordance with legislation.
- Training the armed forces.

- Maintaining defence capabilities.
- Planning contingencies.
- Managing the defence force as a disciplined military force.

Various divisions within the SANDF have specific responsibilities and capabilities including:

- The **Joint Operations Division**, which provides and employs defence capabilities, including an operational capability to conduct all operations, as well as joint, interdepartmental and multinational military exercises.
- The **SA Army** provides prepared and supported landward defence capabilities.
- The **SA Air Force** provides prepared and supported air defence capabilities.
- The **SA Navy** provides prepared and supported maritime defence capabilities.
- The **SAMHS** provides prepared and supported health capabilities and services.
- The Defence Intelligence Division provides a defence intelligence and counter-intelligence capability.
- Joint Logistic Services, a subprogramme of the General Support Programme, provides logistic services.
- The Command and Management Information Systems Division is a subprogramme of the General Support Programme and provides command and management information and related services.
- The Military Police Division is a subprogramme of General Support that provides military policing capabilities and services.
- The Military Skills Development System will, through professional education and training, result in all young officers being in possession of a bachelor's degree by the time they are promoted to the rank and level of major by 2020. Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme graduates will attain a postgraduate diploma or honours degree that paves the way for Executive National Security Programme graduates to obtain master's degrees. These degrees will be awarded through institutions of higher education accredited by the Council of Higher Education.
- The **National Youth Service (NYS)** is intended to play a key role in dealing with the

consequences of youth unemployment and to the national goal of poverty alleviation. The service does not offer training for military engagement, but will draw on the potential of military training to promote discipline, self-esteem, confidence and a sense of belonging to the national community.

Defence Reserve Force

In terms of the South African Defence Strategy 2010 to 2030 and the SANDF Military Strategy 2007, the role of the **reserve forces** is to be in a state of predetermined readiness and provide the following capabilities:

- Augmenting the regular forces as key elements within the core force.
- Providing the bulk of the growth force and contributing to the ongoing operations conducted by the SANDF.
- Supplementing peace-support operations.
- Providing certain specialist skills.

National Youth Service

The NYS is a strategic priority of the department. The SANDF recruits young people into the various arms of the SANDF and in doing so is teaching them discipline, fitness and honour and fostering patriotism.

In November 2013, South Africa and Namibia signed a Memorandum of Cooperation that will see the NYS playing a much stronger role in youth development in the two countries.

In South Africa, approximately 138 000 young South Africans are enrolled in the NYS.

Since 2011, almost six million youths have received some form of assistance from State entities, including loans and vouchers for youth entrepreneurs, bursaries and scholarships for young learners, career guidance, vocational training and skills development.

Through the MoC young Namibians and South Africans would work together to fight poverty, inequality and underdevelopment.

The National Youth Development Agency and Namibia's NYS immediately implemented the Youth Service Exchange Programme, where Namibian and South African youth will engage in community development work from February 2014 to February 2015.

Maritime safety and security

The substantial increase in acts of piracy along Africa's coastline threatens the peace, security and stability of the continent.

Although the piracy hot-spots are off the east and west coasts of Africa, for instance the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Guinea, pirates have extended their activities to over 1 100 km offshore and have moved into Seychelles and Tanzanian waters, even reaching the Indian coast.

Somali pirates have operated as far south as the Mozambique Channel and as far as 72° east towards the Maldives.

As a direct consequence of piracy along the east coast of Africa, a growing number of shipping companies have had to route their ships via the Cape Sea Route instead of using the Suez Canal.

Because of these dynamics together with requests from foreign governments and multilateral organisations, the SA Navy has been compelled to provide a response to such security threats. It is therefore critical that the SANDF play a key role in helping to combat piracy, especially because there have been incidents along the SADC coastline recently.

South Africa has an exclusive economic zone of 1 553 000 km² of which the areas around the Marion and Prince Edward Islands comprise 474 400 km². The Atlantic Ocean borders the west coast, the Indian Ocean borders the east and south coast and the southern ocean surrounds the Marion and Prince Edward Islands. South Africa has tabled its claim to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea for the extension of the continental shelf. This means that South Africa will have to exercise control and enforce state authority over 4 340 000 km² of maritime territory.

Other defence commitments

The department's other commitments include:

- achieving a reasonable level of military diplomacy by:
 - placing and managing defence attachés
 - establishing and maintaining bilateral and multilateral agreements
 - participating in the activities of the defence structures of multinational organisations such as the UN, the AU and SADC (especially in the Interstate

Defence and Security Committee)

- meeting the international obligations of the Department of Defence in line with international agreements, which may include search-and-rescue and hydrography
- providing healthcare for the President and Deputy President.

As a member of the AU, South Africa rejects any attempt to seize power by force, and therefore supports sanctions and other measures against the perpetrators of any unconstitutional change of government and their total isolation.

In March 2013, 13 South African soldiers were killed during clashes with the rebel alliance known as Seleka in the CAR.

Military veterans

The establishment of the Department of Military Veterans forms part of government's commitment to support and recognise military veterans for their contribution to bring about the realisation of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

The budget of the [Department of Military Veterans](#) was increased by R1,3 billion to pay benefits to military veterans.

Government budgeted R300 million for 504 houses, access to free medical service and education for military veterans and their dependants in 2013.

In August 2013, two military veterans who fought in World War II were given keys to fully furnished houses, making them the first beneficiaries of a national housing programme for military veterans across the country.

The programme's target was 38 houses per province and an additional 200 in the Eastern Cape as part of government's recognition of the efforts of military veterans who fought to protect and preserve the country.

The Department of Military Veterans is also rolling out a programme that will give veterans free access to public transport, free healthcare and counselling, which will also be extend to family members.

From March 2013, the Department of Military Veterans undertook a process of updating the national veterans' register.

The department also resumed verifying military veterans who were not part of the

integration process during the formation of the SANDF in 1994.

The registration and focused mostly on the former non-statutory forces (NSF) members. These comprise members of the Azanian National Liberation Army Military Veterans Association, Umkhonto we Sizwe Military Veterans Association and the Azanian People's Liberation Army Military Veterans Association.

By March 2013, the department had a database of about 56 000 people and was also in the process of cleaning up that data in collaboration with Statistics South Africa.

From March 2013, the Department of Military Veterans embarked on a programme of issuing healthcare cards to military veterans so that they could have easy and free access to the country's military hospitals. Healthcare cards were issued to military veterans that had updated their files with the department.

Cards were issued in phases starting with Gauteng and the Eastern Cape followed by KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Western Cape, North West, Free State, Mpumalanga and North Cape. Issuing healthcare cards was a significant step in the direction of ensuring that the department roll out the social benefits stipulated in the Military Veterans Act of 2011.

The Act enjoins the department to ensure that military veterans, especially those from the NSF, are treated with dignity, honoured, memorialised and empowered in honour of the many sacrifices they made in bringing about freedom and democracy in South Africa as well as enhancing social cohesion and nation building.

In September 2013, the Department of Military Veterans established an umbrella body to unite all military veterans associations in response to section 7 of the [Military Veterans Act of 2011](#), which directs the department to establish a body for all military veterans nationally to include all NSF members.

Role players

National Conventional Arms Control Committee

The [NCACC](#) is a committee of ministers, of which the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans is a member. The NCACC oversees policy and sets control mechanisms for the South African arms trade.

It also ensures that arms-trade policies conform to internationally accepted practices.

Companies interested in exporting arms have to apply for export permits, whereafter the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans processes the applications. Each application is also sent for scrutiny to the relevant government departments, such as international relations and cooperation or trade and industry.

The application is then referred to the various directors-general for their recommendations, whereafter the NCACC makes the final decision. An independent inspectorate ensures that all levels of the process are subject to independent scrutiny and supervision, and are conducted in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the NCACC.

The inspectorate submits periodic reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Defence.

Defence Force Service Commission

The Defence Force Service Commission was established in terms of the Defence Amendment Act of 2010.

Its functions include making recommendations to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans concerning improvements to salaries and service benefits of members of the SANDF.

South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD)

The AMD's primary objective is to represent the South African industry in matters of mutual interest in pursuit of profitability, sustainability and responsible corporate citizenship.

The association is acknowledged as the only trade association of South Africa's Defence Industry (Sadi), and is mandated by its members to promote and champion the collective interests of the industry.

It comprises a cluster of leading companies in the South African private and public sector that supply defence materiel, products and services. AMD member companies supply products and services to the Department of Defence, government organisations and other contractors, locally and internationally, in the defence and security marketplace.

As Sadi is one of the cornerstones of a stable and growing South African economy, the AMD is responsible for ensuring that a world-class, indigenous defence industry capability is maintained in a sustainable manner.

The AMD's involvement in international marketing includes:

- co-hosting Africa Aerospace and Defence
- co-publishing the Sadi Directory
- negotiating the structuring of export incentives and the sponsorship of international trade show pavilions.

Within an emerging Defence Industry Support Framework, the Department of Defence, in collaboration with the [Armaments Corporation of South Africa \(Armscor\)](#) and the AMD, will continue providing effective support to enable Sadi to exploit export opportunities within the South African political and legal context.

The services range from information sharing on possible opportunities to facilitating the provision of defence personnel, facilities and equipment for use by Sadi in demonstrations for export purposes. The AMD, through its membership, is strategically well positioned and capable of supporting the government in achieving its [African Union](#) and [New Partnership for Africa's Development](#) objectives.

Castle Control Board

According to its Annual Performance Plan, the mission of the Castle Control Board is to be a service-oriented public entity, striving to optimise its tourism potential and accessibility to the public and to preserve and protect its cultural and military heritage. Among its values are the restoration and preservation of the dignity of the military in society, and national unity.

The main objectives of the board are to preserve and protect the military and cultural heritage of the Castle of Good Hope, to optimise its tourism potential and public access to it. The board needs to practise sound corporate governance characterised by such things as accountability and responsibility as espoused by the King III Report on corporate governance.

Armaments Corporation of South Africa

According to its Corporate Plan 2012/13 – 2014/15 [Armscor](#) intends being the premier technology and acquisition agency for the South African Government and governments of the SADC region. It aims to meet the defence materiel, defence technology, research, development, analysis, tests and evaluation requirements of the department or any other organ of state on request or any sovereign state on agreement, effectively, efficiently and economically.

Armcor may, with the approval of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, exploit such commercial opportunities as may arise out of its duty to acquire defence materiel or to manage technology projects. It may also procure commercial materiel on behalf of any organ of state at the request of the organ of State in question.

Denel Group of South Africa

Denel SOC Ltd is a state-owned commercially-driven company and strategic partner for innovative defence, security and related technology solutions. Government wants Denel to grow into a preferred global supplier in the defence industry. To achieve this the state-owned company would have to aggressively invest in research and development to help secure long-term sustainability.

In support of the collaborative initiatives between the departments of public enterprises and defence the SANDF is expected to become the platform for showcasing Denel's capabilities.

Improvements in Denel's performance in 2013/14 included:

- a 10% growth in revenue, driven by a 34% increase in exports
- a 73% improvement in net profit of R71 million marking a third consecutive year of positive financial performance
- a 35% reduction in losses in Denel Aero-structures
- a 4% improvement in debt-to-equity ratio
- improvements in the terms of the Denel Aerostructures' Airbus A400M contract
- the introduction of new capabilities in Denel through the joint venture between Denel Dynamics and Tawazun Holdings
- Denel Land Systems' acquisition of a majority stake in Light Mobility Technologies to the introduction of armoured vehicles
- the accreditation of Denel Aviation as a maintenance, repair and overhaul centre for Russian Helicopters.

Project Horseshoe – the supply of combat vehicles – is one project that will benefit the local arms manufacturing industry.

Increased obligations particularly in foreign operations means the expansion of the SA Army's needs, including acquiring new armoured vehicles.

Denel will be responsible for the integration of various systems for the vehicle,

including several smaller sub-contractors both locally and internationally.

It will also be manufacturing the weapon systems and the cannon barrel.

In September 2013, Armscor awarded a multibillion rand contract to Denel to manufacture over 200 armoured vehicles for the SANDF over a 10-year period.

The full-scale manufacture of the Badger New Generation Infantry Combat System was expected to create direct and indirect jobs.

The infantry combat vehicle provides the SANDF with unrivalled firepower, mobility and maximum armoured protection for the soldiers it transports.

Department of State Security

The mandate of the [State Security Agency \(SSA\)](#) is to provide government with intelligence on domestic, foreign or potential threats to national stability, the constitutional order, and the safety and well-being of its people.

This enables government to implement and improve policies to deal with potential threats and to better understand existing threats.

The SSA comprises:

- The Domestic Branch (formerly the National Intelligence Agency).
- The Foreign Branch (formerly the South African Secret Service).
- The Intelligence Academy (formerly the South African National Academy of Intelligence).
- National Communications, which includes the former National Communications Centre, Office for Interception Centres and Electronic Communications Security (Pty) Ltd.

The SSA focuses on matters of national interest including terrorism, sabotage, subversion, espionage and organised crime.

Legislation and policies

The SSA is governed by the following legislation and policies:

- [Constitution of South Africa, 1996](#)
- Proclamation: Government Gazette 32566

- Intelligence Services Act, 2002 (Act 65 of 2002)
- Ministerial Notices No 32576
- Government Gazette No 25592: Intelligence Services Regulations 2003
- National Strategic Intelligence Act, 1994 (Act 39 of 1994)
- Intelligence Services Oversight Act, 1994 (Act 40 of 1994)
- Intelligence Services Act, 2002 (Act 65 of 2002)
- White Paper on Intelligence (1994)
- Protection of State Information Bill, November 2011
- Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, 2001 (Act 37 of 2001)
- Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act, 1998 (Act 15 of 1998)
- Defence Act, 2002 (Act 42 of 2002)
- South African Police Service Act, 1995
- Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 2001 (Act 38 of 2001)
- Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-related Information Act, 2002 (RICA) (Act 70 of 2002)
- Auditor-General Act, 1995 (Act 12 of 1995).

Functions

Domestic branch

The [National Strategic Intelligence Act, 1994 \(Act 39 of 1994\)](#), defined the primary functions of the [Domestic Branch](#) as gathering, correlating, evaluating and analysing domestic intelligence to:

- identify any threat or potential threat to the security of South Africa or its people
- supply intelligence regarding any such threat to the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee (NICOC)
- gather departmental intelligence at the request of any interested national department and without delay to transmit such intelligence that constitutes departmental intelligence to the relevant department
- fulfil the national counter-intelligence responsibility and for this purpose to conduct and coordinate counter-intelligence to gather, correlate, evaluate, analyse and interpret information regarding counter-intelligence to identify any threat or potential threat to the security of South Africa or its people
- inform the President of any such threat
- supply (where necessary) intelligence relating to any such threat to the SAPS for the purposes of investigating any offence or alleged offence.

In view of these functions, the Domestic Branch's responsibilities include:

- fulfilling a proactive, anticipatory or early warning role of scanning and assessing the total (economic, social, political and environmental) domestic security situation to identify and report to the policy maker or executive departments any signs or warning signals of threats or potential threats to the constitutional order and the safety of the people
- performing a reactive monitoring role in tracking events when a threat/crime has been identified or a crisis has already arisen, without duplicating the role of the other executive departments; the purpose of this monitoring role is mainly to enhance investigation and prosecution by providing tactical information and intelligence to enforcement and prosecution institutions and to decide the extent and the implications of threats or potential threats to national security and safety
- providing an integrated multi-analytical strategic projective assessment of patterns, trends and of security relevant issues, to provide strategic early warning and to enhance the Domestic Branch's support and involvement in policy formulation.

Foreign Branch

The **Foreign Branch** is a national intelligence structure.

The **National Strategic Intelligence Act, 1994 (Act 39 of 1994)**, defines the functions of the Foreign Branch as:

- gathering, correlating, evaluating and analysing foreign intelligence, excluding foreign military intelligence, to identify any threat or potential threat to the security of South Africa or its people and to supply intelligence relating to any such threat to the NICOC
- instituting counter-intelligence measures within the service and, in consultation with the service, counter-intelligence measures outside South Africa
- gathering departmental intelligence at the request of any interested national department, and without delay to evaluate and transmit such intelligence and any other intelligence at the disposal of the service and which constitutes departmental intelligence to the department concerned and to the NICOC.

In view of these functions, the Foreign Branch is responsible for:

- fulfilling a proactive, anticipatory or early warning role of scanning and assessing the total (economic, social, political and environmental) foreign environment to identify and report to the policy maker any signs or warning signals of threats or potential threats to the constitutional order and the safety of the people
- providing the Executive with developments in the foreign environment that are likely to have an effect on the image, territorial integrity as well as the security of South Africa and its citizens
- advising on the opportunities that exist in the external environment that should be exploited to enhance South Africa's national interest, be it in the political, economic, social or international relations sphere
- advising on security threats against personnel, interests, strategic installations and assets of South Africa abroad
- conducting security screening investigations into its personnel as well as those of other departments identified for posting abroad.

Intelligence Academy

The [Intelligence Academy](#) under the SSA has a mandate to provide quality intelligence training to members of the Intelligence Community.

National Communications

The [National Communications Branch](#) of the SSA comprises Electronic Communications Security (Pty) Ltd (Comsec), the National Communications Centre and the Office for Interception Centre (OIC). Comsec and the OIC are externally focused as they render services to the organs of State.

COMSEC

Comsec was established in 2002 as a private company – Civilian Intelligence Community – with the primary purpose of ensuring that critical electronic communications of the state are secure and protected. Through presidential proclamation in 2009, Comsec was pronounced a government component, effectively transferring its ICT functions to the SSA. Its functions include:

- protecting and securing electronic communications of national importance against security threats
- conducting periodic analysis of the state of ICT security and advising the Minister

of such analysis

- identifying and providing security to the critical electronic communications infrastructure of organs of state.

Comsec offers the following ICT security services:

- managed security services
- secure communications
- risk management and assurance services

Office for Interception Centre

The OIC was established in terms of the [Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-related Act, 2002 \(Act 70 of 2002\)](#).

The OIC provides a centralised interception service to law enforcement agencies involved in combating threats to national security.

Interception was previously conducted independently by the Law Enforcement Agency, which may have resulted in duplication of work and resources.

The formation of the OIC centralises interception activities and paves the way for better management of interception in an effort to increase efficiency, minimise duplication of resources and costs, and regulate and control the interception environment.

Vetting

Part of the SSA's objective is to be able to conduct vetting for all government departments in a user-friendly and speedy manner, in line with its counter-intelligence mandate that ensures that the department creates conditions of security, which enable government and key state entities to do their work.

Source: [SA Yearbook 2013/14](#)



ABOUT SA

[South Africa at a glance](#)

[Public holidays](#)

[School calendar](#)

[National Symbols](#)

[Geography and climate](#)

[South Africa's people](#)

[Provinces](#)

[History](#)

[Communications](#)

[Transport](#)

[Agriculture](#)

[Arts & culture](#)

[Economy](#)

[Education](#)

[Energy](#)

[Environment](#)

[Finance](#)

[Fisheries](#)

[Forestry](#)

[Health](#)

[Housing](#)

[International relations](#)

[Minerals](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Safety, security & defence](#)

[Social development](#)

[Science & technology](#)

[Sport & recreation](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Water affairs](#)

EXPLORE GOV.ZA

[Statements](#)

[Documents](#)

[Events](#)

[Key issues](#)

[Government opinion pieces](#)

[About government](#)

[About South Africa](#)

[Contact your government](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Services for residents](#)

[Services for organisations](#)

[Services for foreign nationals](#)

[FAQs](#)

Terms and conditions

Copyright 2015 Government of South Africa. All Rights Reserved