

Chapter 3

Mission statement, objectives and constitutional arrangements

Gert Minnaar

- Appendix 3A: 61 MVA constitution**
- Appendix 3B: Official Cipro documentation**
- Appendix 3C: Official Section 21 documentation**
- Appendix 3D: Official Certificate of incorporation**
- Appendix 3E: Official 61 MVA badge**
- Appendix 3F: Official banner design**
- Appendix 3G: Official 61 MVA letterhead**

Mission statement and objectives

The following mission was formulated at the establishment on 30 August 2008 as the primary guide for the immediate future.

We, the past commanders – officers, warrant-officers, non-commissioned officers and riflemen, undertake to cherish the unit’s particular military legacy, and promote it for the benefit of past members, military history and the general public.

Consequently we set the following goals / objectives:

- To involve all past members, from all arms of the Defence Force, and once more make them part of the unique camaraderie which characterised the unit.
- To let the ethos of 61 Mech continue as regards the professional actions, respect and trust, singular friendships, good discipline and proud actions which characterised the unit. We had been interdependent in the hour of conflict, and we wanted to maintain this esprit de corps in times of peace as well.
- There would be no political connotation attached to our activities. Any action we took must give a positive effect on nation-building, peace and reconciliation in general.
- To see that the unit’s military legacy was properly documented – both human experiences and the great contribution made to the development of mobile-warfare doctrine.
- We accept that some past members still seek closure, and we accept a responsibility to help them with this.

Having established a secure base from which to operate, the association began to structure itself and launch a variety of actions. An application for formal recognition was submitted to the SANDF; under Gert Minnaar’s leadership a website was established to facilitate communications and begin harvesting past members’ recollections for inclusion in the planned regimental history – the “software”, as it were, which would add substance to the

“hardware” – as well as formal archival material, which would result in a book which was both factual and readable.

Critical constitutional matters

Appendix A, supplies the constitution of the 61 MVA as adopted.