

CONSTITUTION OF 61 MECHANISED BATTALION GROUP VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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# ***CONSTITUTION OF 61 MECHANISED BATTALION GROUP VETERANS ASSOCIATION***

Appendix A: Preamble to the Constitution of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group Veterans Association

Appendix B: Structural layout of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group Veterans Association

## **PREAMBLE**

1. The preamble shall be read after an Annual General Meeting has been declared open. See Appendix A

## **DEFINITIONS**

2. 61 Mechanised Association Veterans (61MVA). A military veterans organisation established to accommodate ex-members of Combat Group Juliet, 61 Mechanised Battalion Group and who took part in operations or exercise with 61 Mech, regardless of gender, race or creed, who have served over the period 1978 to 31 December 2005.
3. Patrons. Appointed by ExCom as member of the ExCom, an ex – commander as Patron who oversees the activities of the association and advise, provide guidance, participate and represent the Association on operational, heritage, ceremonial and related matters/occasions.
4. Executive Committee (ExCom). A body elected and appointed to formulate and interpret policy, to implement policy; and to provide strategic guidance from national level and to administer the Association.
5. Management Committee (ManCom). A Management Committee shall be appointed by the ExCom to run the day-to-day matters of the Association.
6. Annual General Meeting (AGM). An assembly of delegates and members of the Association for joint counselling, decisions on operational, strategic, policy matters and election of office bearers.
7. Region. A geographic area of the Association established within a province of the RSA within the official provincial borders. Regions must be identified distinctively by the name of the city/town in which it is located; and must be approved by the ManCom..
8. Combat Team. In regions where eight or more members socialise (skouerskuur) regularly, a Combat Team is created. In the event where a Combat Team is created it must be approved by the ManCom.
9. Member. Any person who, in accordance with this Constitution, applies for membership by joining on the Web or manual application of the Association and who is accepted within the guidelines of the Constitution. Members need not reside in the Republic of South Africa.

## **NAME**

- 10 The name of the Association shall be 61 Mechanised Veterans Association (61MVA), 61 (Meganiseerde Veterane Vereniging 61 MVV) here-in-after referred to as the Association.

## **AREA OF OPERATIONS**

- 11 The Association functions within the borders of the Republic of South Africa and any other country that may be approved by the ExCom.

## **HEAD OFFICE**

- 12 The Offices of the Association shall be located at a *domicilium*, as recommended by the ExCom and endorsed by the AGM.

## **VISION**

- 13 To treasure, safeguard and promote the exceptional military heritage of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group to the benefit of the former members of the unit, the military history and for the community in general.

## **MISSION**

- 14 To provide a voluntary haven for its members, as well as interested persons and parties in order to promote and renew comradeship, to strengthen bonds amongst veterans, the safeguarding of their heritage and traditions and the rendering of national support amongst the members.

## **MORAL PHILOSOPHY (ETHICS)**

- 15 The moral philosophy will be based on the following:
- 15.1 Autonomy. The Association asserts its autonomy at all times and will not allow itself to become involved in any project which is disadvantageous to itself, nor will it become subservient to any other institution.
- 15.2 Grassroots Organisation. The start point with respect to organising is at grassroots level and the first priority is therefore to establish Combat Teams in the RSA from where the creation of regions will follow.
- 15.3 Managerial Incentive. The incentive behind managerial actions is to provide a service to, and satisfy the needs of members, within the ambit of the Constitution. Managerial efforts must be directed at persistent attempts to ensure that the needs and views of all members are satisfied and clarified.
- 15.4 Champion of Rights. The Association is the Champion of those matters as stated in the

Constitution, and must be comprehensively communicated to all existing and potential members.

- 15.5 Identification with Aspirations. The Association is aware that its strength lies in the unity of the combined aspirations of all its members.
- 15.6 Former Foes. All formers foes that were encountered on the battle field are invited to be involved and contribute to the Association with their experience and heritage.
- 15.6 Credibility. Through its efficient management the Association must establish credibility amongst its members.
- 15.7 Communication. Association members must be kept informed of all management decisions. Efforts must be directed to inform members of events related to all military veterans' organisations, association events, news items, and other information that members require to keep up to date with veteran related information.
- 15.8 Social Responsibility. The Association is bound by its social responsibility to its mental and physical handicapped members, as well as widows and next-of-kin.
- 15.9 Financial. The Association asserts its financial independence, even if it means that funding its essential objectives must come from own sources.
- 15.10 Freedom of Association. The Association supports the principle of freedom of association. No limitation is therefore placed on any applicant to also be a member of any other organisation of his preference.

## **APPROACH OF THE ASSOCIATION**

16. 61 MVA does not endeavour or plan to:

16.1 be in competition with any other organisation; or

16.2 to take over (be a threat to) any other organisation; or

16.3 to interfere with the culture, traditions or objectives of any existing organisations.

17. 61 MVA categorically states that it will act within the bounds of the Constitution of the RSA.

## **STRUCTURE**

- 18 Hierarchical Approach. The Association is structured on a hierarchy with two levels, i.e. national (ExCom), regional (Combat Teams). See Appendix B. Combat Teams function at an independent level in regions.
- 19 Patron. The Patron is appointed by the Executive Committee preferably an ex – commander or ex – senior leaders. .
- 20 Convener and Directors. The AGM elects a Convener and any number of Directors, which shall not exceed six, who must be members of the Association, to serve for a period

of two years. The Convener and the Directors are eligible to be re-elected to again serve for additional two year periods, should they be available for re-election. These members form the Executive Committee

- 21 Executive Committee (ExCom). Is responsible for:
  - 21.1 Strategic goals, Policy, procedures and rules governing the affairs of the Association, which include formulation, compilation and distribution.
  - 21.2 Managing the Association through established communication channels, and controlling the approval of structures
  - 21.3 The ExCom comprises a minimum of seven members elected at an AGM. The Convener is elected by the AGM from the elected and appointed ExCom members.
  - 21.4 The ExCom is, inter alia, responsible for the following disciplines:
    - 21.4.1 Administration including legal aspects.
    - 21.4.2 Marketing, liaison (internal and external), website services and recruiting.
    - 21.4.3 Heritage, Ceremonial matters.
    - 21.4.4 Finances.
    - 21.4.5 Public relations.
    - 21.4.6 Communication/ Combat Teams (skouerskuur)
    - 21.4.7 Special tasks (Tours, Book, Care and compassion)i.
  - 21.5 The ExCom appoints its own secretary.,
  - 21.6 The ExCom retains the right to co-opt any voluntary member and utilise such member where the need demands.
- 22. Management Committee. The management committee will administer the day-to-day functions and organisation of the association. The responsibility is as follows:
  - 22.1 Support the Museum Council and heritage matters.
  - 22.2 Daily administration
  - 22.3 Web services
  - 22.4 Daily financial matter with Fin Dir
  - 22.5 Public relations, Marketing and Combat Team operations.
- 23. Combat Team Management (CTM). CTM with 8 or more members (IFV crew) must at least elect and appoint a chairman/facilitator and secretary/assistant facilitator. They will organise and manage the Combat Team. 23 Employment. Personnel may be employed

and remunerated for performing specific tasks on a full-time or part-time basis. The ExCom must approve the appointment of remunerated personnel since office bearers serve on a voluntary basis.

24 Terms of Office

24.1 All office bearers are elected for a period of two years and may be re-elected, if available, for a final period of two years.

24.2 Any vacancies occurring between two elections or appointments may be filled by co-opted members to hold office until the next AGM.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

25 Categories of Membership. For the purpose of this Constitution, membership is open to all members who served with Combat Group Juliet, 61 Mechanised Battalion Group and who took part in operations or exercise with 61 Mech, regardless of gender, race or creed, who have served over the period 1978 to 31 December 2005.

25.1 Full Time Forces:

25.1.1 Permanent Force Members

25.1.2 Civilians

25.1.3 Auxiliary Forces

25.1.4 Voluntary Service.

25.2 Part Time Forces:

25.2.1 Reserve Force Members (RF)

25.2.2 Commandos

25.2.3 NSM who were, for one or other reason, not allocated to the RF or Commandos

25.2.4 Voluntary service.

26 Classes of Membership. There will be four classes of membership within the Association:

26.1 Full membership

26.2 Supporter of the Association.

26.3 Corporate membership.

26.4 Honorary membership.

## **FULL MEMBERSHIP**

- 27 Any person who served in 61 Mechanised Battalion Group may become a full member of the Association, provided that he/she subscribes to the objectives of the Association and that he/she pays the prescribed annual membership fee. Full membership also applies to persons not residing in the country.
- 28 A person applies for full membership on the prescribed manual application form or electronically on the web; [www.61mech.org.za](http://www.61mech.org.za). Combat Teams levels must refer all manual applications to the ExCom for final approval.
- 29 The ExCom keeps a national membership database up to date, which also denotes the Region and Combat Teams must keep the ExCom informed of any changes of addresses and other contact particulars.
- 30 A full member has the right to vote for the election of office bearers at national and lower echelon levels. He/she has the right to attend all parades and functions of the Association.
- 31 Full membership is terminated on the death or written resignation of a member, or due to suspension as a result of scandalous or reprehensible behaviour, or as the result of neglecting to pay annual membership fees. No suspension may take place before the Association has investigated the matter and the member involved has been given the opportunity to state his case. The decision of the ExCom is final.

## **SUPPORTERS OF 61 MECHANISED VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

32. The ExCom or Combat Teams may offer Supporters of 61 MVA membership to any person who was not a a member of 61 MVA, regardless of state or country that identifies him/her with and subscribes to the aims and objectives of the Association.
33. Combat Team of the Association wishing to confer such membership on any person is to submit full detail, i.e. full names, date of birth, nationality, normal place of residence and employment (e.g. SWAPO member, CEO Pick-n-Pay, etc) together with a short motivation as to why such person should be offered such membership, to the next higher echelon level. Only the ExCom approves this membership category.
34. A “Supporter of 61 MVA membership” certificate is issued by the ExCom.
35. A nominal roll of all Supporters of 61 MVA is to be kept by the ExCom and the Combat Team. This nominal roll is to show the member’s home country and full postal address.
- 36 Supporters of the Association are entitled to the following privileges:
  - 36.1 Attend all Association parades, functions, and annual general meetings but do not have any rights to vote.
  - 36.2 Access to the 61 Mech website and retain their membership on returning to their home country.
  - 36.3 Receive Association correspondence through the web.

- 37 Membership as a Supporter of the 61 MVA is terminated when such member does not abide by the rules.

## **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP**

- 38 Corporate membership may be offered to such civilian organisations that wish to be associated with the Association and will be revised on an annual basis by the ExCom.
- 39 Combat Teams may recruit corporate members but only the ExCom will approve and issue the appropriate membership certificate. Membership fees are determined by the ExCom and are paid annually.. These organisations are entitled to attend all functions, ceremonies and meetings but will have no voting rights.

## **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

- 40 Honorary membership may be offered to any person who has in any way contributed to the efficiency and wellbeing of the Association, or who supported the Association beyond normal expectations.
- 41 Such membership shall be ratified by the ExCom
- 42 Honorary Members will be presented with an Honorary Membership Certificate, issued by the ExCom.
- 43 Honorary members are:
- 43.1 To be advised of their membership, or withdrawal thereof, in writing.
- 43.2 To be invited to all Association functions. They are also to be invited to functions held by Combat Teams in whose area they reside. Combat Teams may invite honorary members.
- 43.3 A list of Honorary Members is to be maintained by the ExCom and a copy is to be distributed to each Combat Teams.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- 44 A person applying for membership of the Association must submit the entry fee, as well as the applicable annual membership fees in advance along with his application and, thereafter, pay the annual membership fees when these become due.
- 45 At the end of each financial year, the ExCom shall review the annual membership fees payable in the various categories of membership and recommend any adjustments to be made, if any, to the AGM for final decision.
46. Honorary members are exempted from any membership fees.



## DRESS CODE

- 47 61 Mech veterans who have paid their annual membership fees will be entitled to purchase the approved 61 Mech Veterans Association blazer and other approved merchandise

## FINANCES

- 48 Members Remuneration. No member of either the ExCom or any one of the Combat Teams shall receive any remuneration from the Association. However, the ExCom may, at its discretion, approve in advance the payment of annual honoraria as well as reasonable travel, board and lodging expenses that have been incurred by a member during the execution of the affairs of the Association, where these are deemed to have been necessary.
- 49 The Association is a voluntary Association that receives membership fees on an annual basis.
- 50 The Association retains the right to obtain authorisation in accordance with the stipulations of Act No 71 of 2008 to collect funds for specific objectives.
- 51 The funds of the Association shall be administered by the ExCom to the benefit of the Association, subject to the approval and passing of resolutions by the National AGM.
- 52 All the funds of the Association which are not gainfully invested shall be deposited into an account, or accounts, drawn on a registered commercial bank. Withdrawals made from such an account, or accounts, shall be under the signatures of at least two members of the ExCom who have signing powers. Similar withdrawal limitations are placed on lower echelons.
- 53 All expenditure, including donations made by the Association but excluding monies set aside annually to cover administrative costs, shall only be entered into with the prior approval of the ExCom.
- 54 The financial year of the Association shall run from 01 March of any year until 28 February of the following year.
- 55 The account of the Association at National level shall be professionally audited annually.  
56 The audited financial statements shall be tabled at AGMs.
- 56 The funds of the Association will be managed by the ExCom at National level.,
- 57 Salaried officials of the Association may attend any assembled meeting at any level in an advisory capacity, but they will not have any voting rights.
- 58 No member of the Association shall have any direct interest in or derive any advantage from any contract that the Association may enter into with any other party.
- 59 Whenever the services of a fund-raiser are used to collect contributions, the costs (including fees and commission) of such services shall not exceed 20% of the total proceeds collected.

- 60 The management may invest all financial assets that accrue to or are obtained by the Association, or it may trade them and open and run deposit accounts at registered financial institutions, as defined in Section 1 of the Financial Institution Act, 1984.

## **COMBAT TEAM STRUCTURES**

- 61 The following serve as guidelines for Combat Team structures:
- 62.1 Combat Teams. Combat Teams may be established when more than 8 members of the Association who live in close proximity of each other decide to do so, and according to the needs of the members in an area.
- 62.3 Regions. Regions are established and therefore the maximum number of Regions in the Association has no limit. Each Region can comprise any number of Combat Team as independent, and should be established when the total members exceeds 8(Eight).

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

- 63 Constituting an AGM
64. An AGM consists of the Patron, ExCom, Museum Council, members, as well as delegates from all the Combat Teams. Delegates will be represented on the following basis
- 64.1. Combat Teams with between 8 and 20 members: 2 delegates
- 64.2 Combat Teams with more than 20 members: 3 delegates
- 64.3 Combat Teams with more than 40 members: 4 delegates
- 65 Nominations. Combat Teams must supply the ExCom with the names of the delegates and secundus, to the national AGM. Delegates nominating any office bearer, who is not present at the AGM, must submit a proxy to the ExCom before voting commences.
- 65.1 Non-delegate members of the Association, who wish to attend an AGM, may do so and shall be regarded as full participating members of the meeting, but shall not be allowed to vote.
- 66 Special AGM. A special AGM may be convened in the event where 30% or more of the members of the Associations-calls for such a meeting, or when circumstances demand any immediate decisions that have direct bearing on the status of the Association.
- 67 Voting
- 67.1 Every Combat Teams of the Association has the same number of votes as the number of delegates to which it is entitled. Every delegate or his or her authorised secundus has one vote per subject of discussion.
- 67.2 Members of the ExCom who have been elected by an AGM have one vote per point of discussion.

- 67.3 If an AGM-elected member of the ExCom is also a Combat Team office bearer, or delegate, such a member must appoint a delegate from the Combat Team in which he/she belongs to, to cast a vote.
- 67.4 When an equal vote has been recorded, the convener has the casting vote, over and above the normal vote he/she is entitled to.
- 68 Quorum. A quorum for each AGM, irrespective of the echelon level in the Association, consists of the convener or any executive member and all members attending. All members present must constitute the meeting as a quorum.
69. Activities of the Management Committee
- 69.1 Meetings must be held when required and shall be minutes.
- 69.2. Report decisions to the ExCom for approval.
- 70 Activities of the National AGM
- 70.1 The minutes of the previous AGM are dealt with.
- 70.2 The Patron delivers his report relating to matters that received attention of the ExCom, and the progress made by the Association since the previous AGM. The Patron must submit the Patron's Report in writing to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes of the AGM.
- 70.3 Copies of the audited financial statements, and of any fund raising projects, are tabled for discussion and approval.
- 70.4 All the points for discussion, with regard to which the ExCom gave written notification, by means of the agenda, are tabled.
- 70.5 All points for discussion are included into the agenda subject to the fourteen day written notification.
- 70.6 Additional points for discussion are not allowed at an AGM, either at National level or Combat Team.
- 70.7 The election of the office bearers, subject to the provision defined elsewhere in this Constitution.

## **INDEMNIFICATION**

- 71 Every member and functionary of the Association shall be compensated by the Association and the Association shall be bound to compensate, from the funds of the Association, all costs a member or functionary may have incurred as a result of a legal agreement he/she may have come to, or legal deeds he/she may have accomplished in his capacity as a member or functionary of the Association and in the execution of his duties, provided that such acts were committed in good faith.

- 72 No member or executive of the Association, acting on behalf of the Association, shall be held responsible for:
- 72.1 the deeds, receipts, neglects or faults of any other member of the Association;
  - 72.2 Any losses sustained by or costs borne by the Association as a result of:
    - 72.2.1 inadequate or the non-existence of any title of any property acquired in accordance with a decision of the executive; or
    - 72.2.2 inadequate security in which effects of the Association are invested; or
    - 72.2.3 illegal acts by any person with whom the Association does business; or
    - 72.2.4 errors of judgement and mistakes, except when committed as a result of pure neglect, neglect of duty or breaches of faith of such a member of the executive who acts on behalf of the Association.
- 73 The 61 Mechanised Veterans Association shall:
- 73.1 Exist in its own right, separately from its members.
  - 73.2 Continue to exist even when its membership underwent changes and there are different office bearers.
  - 73.3 Be able to own property and other possessions.
  - 73.4 Be able to sue and be sued.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 74 Constitution may only be amended by the National AGM.

## **DISSOLUTION**

- 75 The Association may dissolve if at least two thirds of the members of a Special AGM, convened for that purpose, are in favour of dissolving. The Special AGM must be preceded by a general meeting.. At least twenty-one days notice of such special AGM is to be given and the notice convening the special AGM, must clearly inform members that the question of dissolving the Association and the disposal of its assets is to be discussed.
- 76 On the dissolution of the Association any assets remaining after all debts have been settled and liabilities met, will be granted to another body or institution, having similar aims to the Association and which is authorised in terms of the Fund-raising Act to collect contributions, as decided by the members at the meeting where the decision was made to dissolve the Association.

## **EXECUTION**

- 77 All amendments to the Constitution must be approved by the National AGM.

78 Household Rules. The ExCom is responsible for drawing up and amending Household Rules, which govern the activities, procedures and processes of the Association. Subordinate structures are to observe the Household Rules for their own processes and procedures. The Constitution will be considered the primary authority in the event where any Household Rule is disputed.

## **RIGHTS TO PROPERTY AND POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 79 Subject only to this Constitution and the Household Rules, the objectives and functions of the Association are:
- 79.1 To obtain, administer and utilise funds to the advantage of the Association and its members; and
- 79.2 In general, subject to the Constitution of South Africa, and in compliance with SA Law, to do whatever is legal and necessary in order to fulfil the aims of the Association.
- 80 Members or office bearers of 61 Mechanised Veterans Association do not have rights over things that belong to the 61 Mechanised Veterans Association.
- 81 This Constitution is approved by the ExCom on .11 June 2010 in accordance with a decision taken on the founding of the Association on August 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRON

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONVENER EXCOM

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

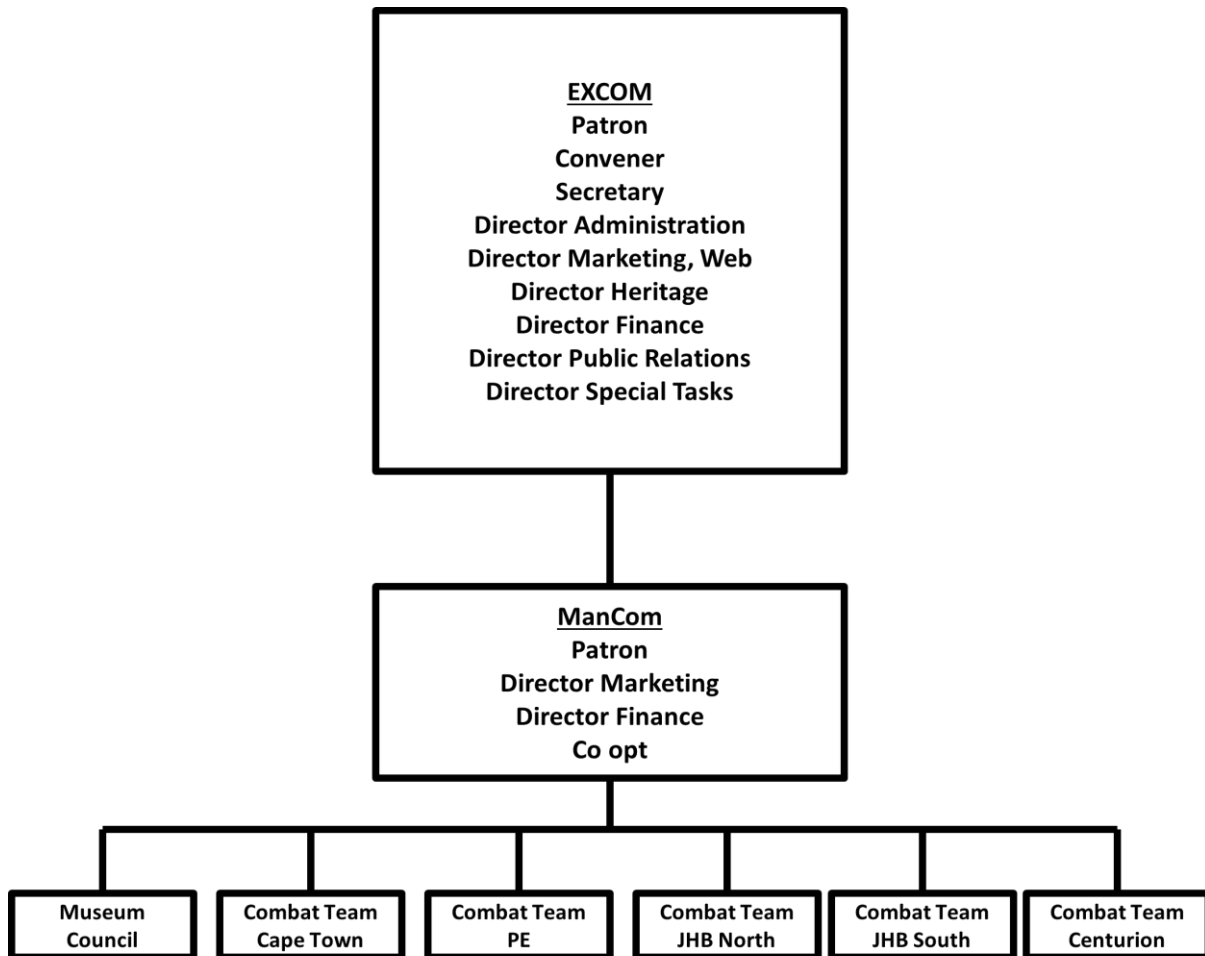
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WITNESS

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX A: PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF 61 MECHANISED BATTALION GROUP VETERANS**

1. 61 Mechanised Veterans Association, hereafter referred to as the 61MVA, was established in the interests of all ex-members of the 61 Mechanised Battalion Group, those in uniform as well as civilians.
2. **Whereas the 61 Mechanised Veterans is a military veterans association, the Association undertakes to:**
  - 2.2 Act in the interests of all its members and to promote the interests of its members within and outside of the association;
  - 2.3 Bestow tangible and visible acknowledgement to its members for services rendered during the existence of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group 1 January 1979 to 31 December 2005;
  - 2.4 Renew and promote the comradeship amongst its members;
  - 2.5 Defend the spiritual and material interests of its members;
  - 2.6 Promote the integration of war veterans and victims of war within their respective communities within the framework of the Act on War Veterans;
  - 2.7 To promote the vision of the association amongst its members and to ensure that all members endorse it with vigour. The vision reads as follows: To treasure, safeguard and promote the exceptional military heritage of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group to the benefit of the former members of the unit, the military history and for the community in general.
  - 2.8 To encourage voluntary membership of all persons in service of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group between 1979 and 31 December 2005, irrespective of race, gender or creed;
  - 2.9 To preserve the memory of the war dead.
3. **Whereas 61 MVA is a registered association and is managed in accordance with an approved constitution, the Association undertakes to:**
  - 3.1 Promote the freedom of association at any other military veteran organisation that endorses the Vision of 61 MVA;
  - 3.2 Act within the stipulations of the aim, principles and methods defined in the constitution, and within the stipulations of the resolutions formulated at annual general meetings of 61 MVA
  - 3.3 Demonstrate its willingness to cooperate with other military veteran organisations and to promote enduring friendship ties with these organisations, and refrain from acting in competition with these organisations;
  - 3.4 Strive after its aim and goals as a non-profit, non-governmental association independent of any government structure, and predominantly maintain its non-political and non-sectarian character;
  - 3.5 Abstain from discriminating on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender or nationality and will not allow its members to do so;
  - 3.6 To acknowledge the freedom of religion.

**APPENDIX B: STRUCTURAL LAYOUT OF 61 MECHANISED VETERANS ASSOCIATION**



A Region can have any number of Combat Teams

Combat Teams may be established by 8 persons