

**AGRI SA CRIME CONFERENCE  
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**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE**

**THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE RURAL SAFETY STRATEGY,  
SUPPORTED BY SECTOR POLICING AND  
RESERVES, AS WELL AS THE  
RESPONSIBILITY OF STATION COMMANDERS**



# [ SCOPE OF PRESENTATION ]

- Introduction
- Rural Safety Strategy
- Focus Areas
- Aim of the Strategy
- Objectives
- Vision
- Mission
- Strategy Pillars
- Practical Implementation
- Reporting and Record Keeping
- Implementation and Roll Out
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Review
- Conclusion



# INTRODUCTION

- Government views the safety and security of the rural community in South Africa as a priority.
- The seriousness of continued acts of violence against the rural community, required from the South African Police Service to formulate a comprehensive and holistic strategy.
- The strategy aims to address rural safety as part and parcel of an integrated and holistic day to day crime prevention approach, based on the principles of sector policing which addresses the needs of the entire rural community, including the farming community.
- The approach will be supported by a pro and re active policing capacity, as well as service delivery through the utilization of reservists to supplement rural safety.

# INTRODUCTION (cont)

- Rural safety on the South African borderline will further be strengthened in terms of integrating and coordinating of local deployment along borderline operations to combat illegal cross border movement of people, goods and contraband.
- The above approach aims to sustain and integrate the Rural Safety Strategy by providing a properly trained and resourced capacity (Quality not quantity) to implement rural safety measures, as well as improve command and control at station level.
- The strategy further aims to promote effective and dedicated participation, partnership and involvement of internal and external stakeholders in an integrated, joint and coordinated manner.
- A Rural Safety Toolkit and Communication Strategy will be rolled out to support implementation at provincial and station level.

# [ RURAL SAFETY STRATEGY ]

- **The Rural Safety Strategy will enable the South African Police Services to:**
  - Enhanced service delivery
  - increase police visibility in rural areas
  - improve police response times
  - enhance intelligence driven reaction
  - create effective and efficient policing in rural areas
  - protect the vulnerable (women, children, elderly, disabled, against abuse and exploitation
  - enhance safety awareness
  - support rural development
  - enhance cooperation and establishment of partnerships
  - enhance communication
  - support improved investigation and convictions

# FOCUS AREAS OF STRATEGY

- Farming Community
- Broader Rural Community

# AIM OF THE RURAL SAFETY STRATEGY

- Respond to the safety and security needs of the farming community
- Respond to need of the broader rural community
- Encourage all stakeholders in rural safety to work together in a coordinated and integrated manner
- Engage in joint planning, implementation and monitoring, to combat crime in the rural areas
- Enhance response, as well as command and control at local level

# OBJECTIVES OF THE RURAL SAFETY STRATEGY

- Improve safety and security within the entire rural environment
- Improve/enhance relationships between the police, farming community, stakeholders and extended rural communities
- Foster and establish partnerships within the rural community that relate to safety and security
- Establish/improve systems to address crime within the rural areas
- Improve/enhance service delivery within rural communities

# OBJECTIVES (cont)

- Foster and establish enhanced communication within the rural community amongst all role players
- To educate the rural community on safety and security matters
- To support rural development, rural growth and upliftment of the rural community
- Support the implementation of sector policing in the rural environment
- To support the development of a vibrant, sustainable and equitable rural community by creating a safe rural environment

# VISION

- “To create a safe & secure rural environment where all inhabitants can prosper & live without fear”

# MISSION

- **Rural Safety will be achieved through a collective, coordinated rural safety strategy which seeks to achieve the following main objectives:**
  - To adopt and ensure a responsive integrated proactive and reactive policing approach
  - To enhance cooperation and coordination amongst all role players and stakeholders
  - To ensure a sustainable policing approach through the utilization of sector policing as policing method
  - To ensure the implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy by engaging with all relevant role players
  - To develop, implement and maintain integrated rural safety plans at operational levels

# MISSION (cont)

- To establish effective communication mechanisms to support communication amongst all role players and stakeholders
- To ensure effective analysis and communication of crime affecting the rural environment
- To develop and implement appropriate measures and strategies to effectively address rural safety
- To promote rural development amongst all role players and Government Departments
- To utilize reservists as a capacity force multiplier in support of the South African Police Service
- To ensure effective investigation

# STRATEGY PILLARS

- **Pillar 1:** Pro - and Re Active responsive, operational approach
- **Pillar 2:** Enhanced cooperation and coordination
- **Pillar 3:** Community Safety Awareness
- **Pillar 4:** Rural Development
- **Pillar 5:** Effective Communication
- **Pillar 6:** Effective investigation and Prosecution

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION PILLAR 1

- Based on Concept of Sector Policing
- Utilization of Reservists
- Sector Activation/response
  - Rural Safety Plans and Contingency Planning
- Intelligence driven
- Enhanced command and control
- Tactical Response Capacity

# SECTOR POLICING

- Sector Policing is seen as the enabling mechanism which organizes and mobilizes individuals within communities to establish the driving force in providing a more effective and person-centred service to the community.
- Sector Policing is thus seen as a method of dividing a police station area in smaller, manageable sectors. Its main principles can be summarised as follows:
  - Utilizing it as a crime prevention technique which entails an understanding of the causes of crime and the enabling factors
  - Joining the capabilities of the police and the community, and in partnership, launch projects to:
    - identify and address causes of crime, as well as enabling factors

# SECTOR POLICING

- Identify hot spots and vulnerable communities
- Address community needs
- Making the most effective use of all available resources at a police station and within the community to address crime
- Adopting a community oriented problem solving approach
- Working in close cooperation with the local community
- Encouraging community involvement, enhanced visibility and patrolling of sectors
- Delivering quality service provided by officers, enjoying the support and approval of the community and active participation by the community in respect of its own safety and security.

# SECTOR POLICING

- In practice a four pronged approach is adopted, namely
  - The station precinct is divided into sectors
  - A sector commander is appointed
  - A Community Police Sub Forum is established within each sector to assist the police with operationalisation of functional policing
  - Dedicated teams are designated to the sectors in accordance with operational policing needs

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 1 – SECTOR POLICING

- It will thus entail that the specific rural community is divided up into smaller, more manageable sectors comprising of a number of farms, villages, and/or households.
- Sectors are in contact and communicate via telephone or radio with the police station. In the event of the telephone lines being out of order the radio network can serve as a backup communication system between the police station and/or community. This is a vital element within the safety plan of the specific sectors.
- Sector commanders/rural safety coordinators are appointed within the rural sector/s.
- Further to this, the community identify and elect a community representative as contact within the community. This will ensure quick reaction capability from the sector reservist capacity and police station in the event of an attack.

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 1 – SECTOR POLICING

- Contact particulars of rural safety coordinator/sector commander and the community within the sector are compiled, shared and made available in case of an emergency to support rapid reaction and response from the Service.
- Community members within the rural sector should also be able to rely on their own protection as well as support from neighbours and other members within the rural sector to ensure immediate response in times of trouble, awaiting the deployment of the police station. This will necessitate effective communication and contingency planning.
- The most important aspect of the above-mentioned system is the cooperation, participation and active involvement of each and every community member of the rural sector.
- Interaction with community is ensured at the Community Police Sub Forum

# RESERVISTS

- The essence of the revised reservist system is that of a voluntary system.
- The defined role for reservists is predominantly to support crime prevention and/or reduction operations and initiatives at police station level by enhancing police visibility through patrols, as well as strengthening the South African Police Service capacity during high crime periods, special operations and policing in rural areas.
- Reservists are recruited from the community where they reside and are utilized within their own community to support the South African Police Service in policing their own area to create a safe and secure environment for all to live in.
- This includes policing functions, as well as ensuring the general safeguarding and protection of the community, more commonly referred to as area safety and protection.

# RESERVISTS (cont)

- The area protection system encompasses the whole community and therefore even the community member who is not a reservist will enjoy the protection that the system offers.
- Reservists will primarily be responsible for the sector area where they reside as part of the sector team, as well as for the safety and security of their own community, they can, however, be utilized within the whole police station area, if a need to address crime exists.
- The main focus of reservists within the rural environment will be of a pro active policing approach through increased visibility and creating awareness amongst the community to reduce the opportunity for crime to be committed.
- A reactive policing function will also be performed in respect of prevailing emergency situations as first responders to the potential scene of the crime, awaiting the arrival of the local police station.

# RESERVISTS FUNCTIONS

- Primary responsibilities
- Visible Policing patrols
- Attending to complaints in the sector
- Secondary responsibilities
- Cordon and search
- Visits (Farms, schools, etc)
- Crime Prevention Operations
- Awareness in respect of Home and Hearth
- Collection of information (Eyes & ears)
- Road blocks
- Reaction, if required in support of permanent members
- Disaster Management Support
- Investigation

# OPERATIONAL CONCEPT SECTOR ACTIVATION

## ■ Pro-Active

- Reservists who work within sector teams report on and off duty in the sector at a predetermined assembling point due to vast distances that may have to be travelled to the police station.
- Deployment and other activities are managed and controlled from the predetermined point.

## ■ Reactive

- During an emergency, eg acts of violence against the farming/rural community or Priority A crimes being committed, the sector commander is contacted and he/she activates the reservists within the sector.
- The reservists within the sector immediately react as first responders to contain the situation and the police station/TRT are informed.
- Contingency plans
- Contact lists/directories
- Maps of the total rural environment
- Exercises/simulations

# INFORMATION DRIVEN

- All activities, such as patrols, road blocks and cordon and search operations must be planned and activated, based on the Crime Threat Analysis/Crime Pattern Analysis, or other information provided by the Crime Intelligence Gatherers (CIG)/ Crime Information Official (CIO) at the police station.
- The Crime Prevention Commander is responsible for ensuring that such information is available at the start of each shift and is communicated to the sector commander/team.
- The sector commander is responsible for the deployment of reservists based on the information provided.
- The sector team must be briefed at the beginning of each shift by the sector commander during the parade.
- Information reports must be completed and handed over during change of shifts to station management and Crime Information Centres for verification and dissemination.
- Note of crime indicators must be recorded and communicated.
- Community serve as additional eyes and ears

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 2 – COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

- The success of the Rural Safety Strategy depends on the involvement of all role players in the rural environment
  - Relevant Government Departments take responsibility for the role they play in ensuring a safe rural environment, as well as the development of rural infra structure and upliftment of the rural community and are held accountable for their responsibilities.
  - Non-governmental organisations get involved to assist in the development and education of the rural community to create a growing and sustainable rural environment.
  - Community members take ownership for their own safety within the rural sectors and rely on providing for their own protection as well as support from neighbours and other role players within the rural sectors to ensure immediate response in times of trouble, awaiting the deployment of the South African Police Service police station or reservist sector capacity.

# [ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ]

- The community can get involved by;
  - joining as reservists or volunteers,
  - get involved in Community Police Forum (CPF)/ Community Police Sub Forum structures;
  - communicating available information that can assist and support the South African Police Service to prevent crime or otherwise to detect and arrest criminals known to the Service
  - getting involved in community structures within the rural sector, such as:
    - Watch systems
    - Community patrollers
    - Volunteers
    - Establishment of Partnerships

# COORDINATION STRUCTURES

- Appointment of Rural Safety Coordinators
- Establishment of coordination structures
- Sharing of operational Information
  - National (Weekly/bi-monthly)
  - Provincial
  - Station
- The following structures should be utilized for coordination and operational planning
  - JOINTS structures
  - SAPS structures, such as PCCF, SCCF
  - Community structures, such as CPF, Sub CPF's
  - Local Government structures
  - Disaster management structures
  - Private security structures
  - Traditional Leaders structures
  - Organised agricultural structures

# IDENTIFY ROLEPLAYERS

- South African Police Service
- Organised Agriculture
- Farmers/farm workers unions
- Government
- Local Government
- Non governmental organisations
- Civil society
- Business
- Private Security
- Faith based Organisations
- Traditional Leadership
- Community Based Structures (women's groups, youth groups, senior citizens groups, etc)
- Community

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 3 – COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARENESS

- The community should also take ownership to ensure their own safety in partnership with the South African Police Service by establishing safety networks within their communities.
- A rural community that knows each other and supports each other become less vulnerable and pose a threat to the criminal.
- Establishment of safety networks includes the home and hearth function, communication amongst the rural community and communication with the South African Police Service.
- Home and Hearth refers to those measures implemented by the rural community to protect themselves, as well as the support provided by the South African Police Service in respect of awareness and sharing of safety hints.

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 3 – COMMUNITY SAFETY

### AWARENESS

The basic elements of the home and hearth function thus refer to the implementation of the following:

- **Physical Measures/ Safety Habits**
  - Security Fences
  - Dogs
  - Security lights
  - Communication systems/structures
  - Alert community
- **Creating Awareness and education of the rural community**
  - Distribution of pamphlets that deals with the following:
    - Physical security measures
    - Safety tips
    - Legal implications (Use of Firearms, etc)
    - Farm visits to educate the community
    - Information Sessions to educate the community

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 3 – COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARENESS

- **Information Gatherers**

- Act as eyes and ears for the South African Police Service and immediately report suspicious behaviour
- Identify and immediately report possible indicators of potential danger/attack/suspicious behaviour
- Building of sound relationships amongst all residents within the rural environment.

# **PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION PILLAR 4 – RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Comprehensive Rural Development Plan (CRDP)

# ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)
  - Multi disciplinary approach to deter criminal behaviour through environmental design.
  - Environmental design initiatives should ideally be coordinated by the local authority in collaboration with the South African Police Service.
  - Research has shown that offenders cannot be literally prevented from committing crime by using CPTED as it is dependent upon changes to the physical environment that will cause an offender to make certain behavioural decisions. Thus CPTED is:
    - changing the way communities/environment are designed to make it difficult for criminals to operate; and
    - redesign/upgrade existing designs with the intent to reduce opportunities for crime.

# COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- “The Comprehensive Rural Development Plan (CRDP) is a cross cutting and comprehensive rural development program.
- It entails the development through all sector departments and clusters within the Medium Strategic Framework (MTSF, 2009-2014) and Governments Programme of Action”.  
(Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework Version 1: July 2009)
- The programme consists of three components:
  - Agrarian transformation
  - Rural development
  - Land reform
- The CRDP aims at being an effective response against poverty and food insecurity by making the most of and managing natural resources to create vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities.

# COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- Relevant to the South African Police Service is law enforcement, security and order within the rural communities which will focus on the following:
  - Activate Community Policing Forum and Traditional structures to deal with crime and conflicts
  - Neighbourhood watch systems and unity amongst the community
  - Fostering of a strong sense of Ubuntu
  - Farmers and villagers committed to safety in their homes
  - Dealing with youth offending through the implementation of effective youth programmes, etc
  - Participation of the South African Police Service in the CRDP structures at the different tiers of Government
  - Development of police stations in rural areas and improved accessibility

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 5 - COMMUNICATION

- An effective communication network to ensure the success of this strategy is essential.
  - Radio Communication Networks
  - Availability of telephone lines/cellular telephones
  - Availability and sharing of contact particulars of the sector commanders
  - Availability of contact particulars of contact persons within the rural community
  - Availability of communication networks amongst the community
  - Establishment of a rural sector profile

# PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

## PILLAR 6 – INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

- Proper investigation of all cases reported
- Feedback and communication with complainants on regular and ongoing bases
- Close cooperation with prosecuting authorities
- Enhanced cooperation and participation between crime prevention and investigating officials regarding modus operandi, follow up information and operations, identifying trends, feedback to complainants, etc.

# REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

- Crimes against person or persons on farms and small holdings are reported to the Office of the Provincial Commissioner within 24-hours after a crime has been committed, who in return must report to the National Office.
- Crime to be reported are the following:
  - Direct Acts
    - Murder
    - Attempted Murder
    - Rape
    - Assault GBH
    - Armed robberies, including hi-jackings
  - Indirect Acts
    - Intimidation
    - Arson
    - Malicious Damage to Property

# REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

- The purpose of reporting is to:
  - Monitor incidents at provincial and station level to develop national strategies
  - Update and maintain a national operational data base
  - Analyse, assess and determine national trends and modus operandi to communicate and share such information with all role players and stakeholders in order to implement pro active measures
  - Develop and implement pro-active measures to address crime in the rural environment
  - Collecting empirical evidence to identify causes of crime and the development and implementation of strategies to improve levels of safety in the rural community

# IMPLEMENTATION AND ROLL OUT

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- Road Shows
- Implementation Toolkits
- Information Sessions

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- **Monitoring and Evaluation with take place at three levels:**
  - National level
  - Provincial level
  - Cluster
  - Station level

# REVIEW

- The Strategy will be reviewed every five years, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

# CONCLUSION

- The Rural Safety Strategy aims to respond to the safety and security needs of all people with the rural environment in a joint and coordinated approach.
- The success of the strategy largely depends on the commitment, cooperation and involvement of all role players and stakeholders

# QUESTIONS