



NATIONAL JOINT OPERATIONAL AND INTELLIGENCE STRUCTURE

**Joint presentation by the SANDF and the SAPS on the
state of preparedness for the planned deployment,
announced during the 2026 State of the Nation
Address (SONA)**



27 March 2026



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INTRODUCTION



- ❑ South Africa continues to face complex organised-crime threats characterised by:
 - Illicit mining networks prevailing across the country.
 - Persistent gang-related murders, extortion, and firearm proliferation in Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Gauteng.
 - Links between organised crime, illegal migration, illicit firearms, corruption, and infrastructure damage.
- ❑ These dynamics require extraordinary, integrated state intervention combining policing, intelligence, prosecution, and military support to restore stability and uphold constitutional governance.
- ❑ The SANDF is therefore deployed in cooperation with the SAPS together with other JCPS role-players.



BACKGROUND



- ❑ South Africa faces converging crime threats that undermine national security, economic stability and public confidence across the Country.
- ❑ The scale and persistence of these threats endangers National Security and necessitates a coordinated national stabilisation response as part of the whole of government effort.
- ❑ This operation also serves to create space for the execution of the national multi-dimensional and inter-departmental organised crime combating initiative of the JCPS Cluster.
- ❑ The constitutionally authorised deployment of the South African National Defence Force in cooperation with the South African Police Service therefore constitutes a strategic intervention to enable force multiplication, territorial stabilisation and sustained disruption of criminal networks, aimed at restoring the rule of law, reducing serious and violent crime, protecting national resources and enabling long-term security and socio-economic resilience.



PURPOSE



The purpose of this presentation is to **brief the responsible Parliamentary Committees** on the **state of preparedness** for the planned **deployment** of the **SANDF in cooperation with the SAPS** pursuant to the announcement made by the President in the 2026 State of the National Address (SONA).



DESIRED OUTCOMES



- ❑ The deployment **seeks measurable outcomes** including:
 - **Significant reduction in serious and violent crime** across targeted areas.
 - **Neutralisation of illicit mining and gang violence.**
 - Improved community safety perception (“freedom from fear”) through visible enforcement.
 - Stabilised infrastructure, mining areas, and urban communities.
 - **Strengthened inter-departmental and multi-agency coordination.**



COMPLIANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MANDATE



- ❑ **Periodic operational and legal compliance reports** shall be submitted through the chain of command to the National Commissioner of the SAPS and Chief of the SANDF.
- ❑ Members shall **respect and protect the rights to dignity, life, and freedom and security of the person**
 - No member shall engage in-
 - (a) Torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment
 - (b) Arbitrary arrest or detention
 - (c) Unfair Discriminatory conduct
- ❑ Arrests, where authorised, shall be effected strictly in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Act, Act 51 of 1977, as amended and if **the arrest is effected by a SANDF member, the suspect arrested must be handed over to SAPS without delay.**(When employed, a member of the SANDF who arrests or detains any person or seizes any article or object must as soon as possible hand that person, article or object over to a police official or any other appropriate functionary designated by a relevant law.) The member who effects an arrest is legally expected to depose an arrest statement.
- ❑ **Section 19 (3)(c) (ii), of the Defence Act 2002 (Act no. 42 of 2002)**, provides for strategic guidelines for the deployment. This document was drafted and **co-signed by both the National Commissioner of the SAPS and the Chief of the SANDF on the 15th March 2026.**



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE OPERATION



- ❑ SANDF Mission specific **Code of Conduct** for Operation Prosper Deployment **signed by the Minister of Defence.**

- ❑ **Strategic Guidelines** for the deployment of the South African National Defence Force in cooperation with the South African Police Service for period 01 March 2026 to 31 March 2027 in terms of Section 19(3)(c)(ii) of the Defence Act 2002, (Act no 42 of 2002) **Co-signed by CSANDF and National Commissioner.**

- ❑ **Rules of Conduct and Engagement (ROCE).**

- ❑ **SAPS Code of Conduct.**



LEVEL OF COOPERATION AND JOINT PLANNING



- ❑ **As from the pronouncement by the President (12 February 2026), the SAPS and SANDF has been in lockstep in terms of situational assessment, planning, preparation and the issuing of instructions/ops orders to give effect.** This has occurred at National and Provincial level.
- ❑ **On the 18 February 2026, further operational and tactical planning commenced jointly at the level of Provincial Commissioners SAPS and SANDF Joint Tactical HQ Commanders (PROVJOINTS).**
- ❑ **Working groups were established to draft the statutorily required Strategic Guidelines, joint Operational Communication plan and Joint Mission Readiness Training.**
- ❑ **Strategic Guidelines** were co-signed by the **Chief of the SANDF** and the **National Commissioner of the SAPS** as required.
- ❑ **Subsequently, a Joint Media Briefing to the public** was held by **CSANDF** and the **National Commissioner** on the **15 March 2026.**



CLARITY ON COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS



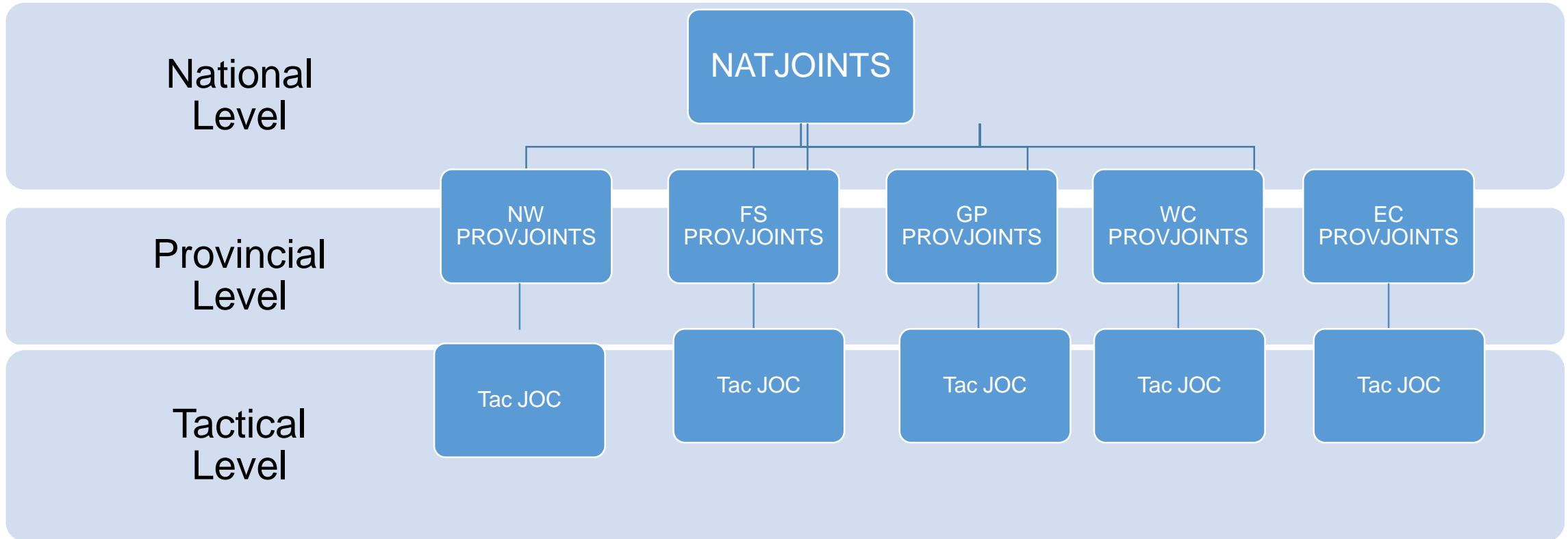
- ❑ **Each entity shall retain its distinct Command Authority** throughout the operation *i.e command over own forces.*
- ❑ **Operational coordination** shall take place through **Joint Operational and Intelligence Structures (JOINTS)** at **National, Provincial, and Local levels**, given effect through a Mission Area Joint Operational Centre (**MAJOC**) and Tactical Joint Operational Centres (**TACJOC**).
- ❑ The operation shall be coordinated and executed by **both designated SAPS and SANDF Commanders** to ensure unity of effort based on joint command training for alignment, coordination and synergised operations.
- ❑ The intent is to **secure full cognisance, uniform interpretation, and strict compliance** across **all deployed elements**, thereby **minimising ambiguity, preventing operational misalignment** and reinforcing coordinated execution **in support of the approved mandate.**



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL COMMAND AND CONTROL



Chief of SANDF / National Commissioner of SAPS





ROLL-OUT OF THE DEPLOYMENTS



- ❑ The **first** deployment against illicit mining and criminality in Gauteng commenced on **31 January 2026** and will end on **30 April 2026** in terms of the **President's Minute 72/2026, dd 05 March 2026**.
- ❑ The **Force Elements** for the **second** deployment against gangsterism, illicit mining and criminality **are currently busy with the necessary and required deployment drills which includes Joint Mission Readiness Training at various Forward Mounting Bases.** (Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, North West , Western Cape).
- ❑ This deployment, in terms of the **President's Minute 88/2026, dd 11 March 2026**, is **authorised** to primarily **operate in the key areas** of the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, North West, Western Cape, **as well as across the country where the threat assessment informs an adjustment to the deployment.**



JOINT MISSION READINESS LEARNING CONTENT



- Content of Strategic Guidelines
- Human Rights and Constitution
- Use of Force Continuum inclusive of Section 49 of the Criminal Procedure Act
- Statement Taking
- Roadblocks/VCP in terms of SAPS Protocols
- First Responder Duties at a Crime Scene
- Search and Seizure
- Crime Dimension Specifics in terms of Gangsterism and Illicit Mining
- Media and Social Media Protocols
- RISTA Processes and Procedures
- Cordon and Search procedures
- Targeted operations procedures (Raids etc)
- Helicopter Operations / Air mobile operations
- CASEVAC procedures



STATE OF READINESS REPORT (1/2)



□ J TAC HQ EC

- Unit Deploying: 6 SAI
- Combat Verification Completed on 12 March 2026 to 14 March 2026
- Currently busy with JMRT - 25 March 2026 to 27 March 2026 (Conducted by SAPS)
- Joint final dress rehearsals
- Forward Mounting Base: Grahamstown and Qhebera

□ J TAC HQ FS

- Unit Deploying: 1 SSB
- Combat Verification Completed on 12 March 2026 to 14 March 2026
- Currently busy with JMRT - 25 March 2026 to 27 March 2026 (Conducted by SAPS)
- Joint final dress rehearsals
- Forward Mounting Base: Engineers School –Kroonstad

□ J TAC HQ GP

- Unit Deploying: Solomon Mahlangu and Tshwane Regt, 21 Bn
- Combat Verification Completed on 12 March 2026 to 14 March 2026
- Currently busy with JMRT - 25 March 2026 to 27 March 2026 (Conducted by SAPS)
- Joint final dress rehearsals
- Forward Mounting Base: Doornkop



STATE OF READINESS REPORT (2/2)



❑ J TAC HQ NW

- Unit Deploying: 2 SAI
- Combat Verification Completed on 12 March 2026 to 14 March 2026
- Currently busy with JMRT - 25 March 2026 to 27 March 2026 (Conducted by SAPS)
- Joint final dress rehearsals
- Forward Mounting Base: ASB Potch and Phokeng SAPS

❑ J TAC HQ WC

- Unit Deploying: 8 SAI
- Combat Verification Completed on 12 March 2026 to 14 March 2026
- Currently busy with JMRT - 25 March 2026 to 27 March 2026 (Conducted by SAPS)
- Joint final dress rehearsals
- Forward Mounting Base: 9 SAI, AFB Ysterplaat and Fort IKAPA



MISSION-CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS



- Actionable Intelligence.
- Capability to locate and identify criminals.
- Coordinated deployment of allocated assets.
- Comprehensive service support.
- Availability of adequate resources.
- Rebuilding the social fabric of the communities through outreach initiatives.



MEASURES IN PLACE TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS DURING JOINT OPERATIONS



- Strict compliance with strategic guidelines.
- “Joint Mission Readiness” training.
- Effective Command and control.
- Compliance to Codes of Conduct.



THANK YOU