

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE & MILITARY VETERANS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**3257. Mr S J F Marais (DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

Whether, with regard to the dilapidated situation of 35 Squadron at Ysterplaat, the 35 Squadron will be scaled down or closed down by 2020; if not, (a) what are the plans and timelines to replace the 80 year old C-47TP aircraft and (b) how will this impact on the ability and capacity of the reserve force squadron stationed at Ysterplaat and their services to the protection of our sovereignty, our ocean borders and our ocean economy; if so, (i) how will this impact on the 600 staff members and their families, (ii) how will this impact on the ability and obligation of the SA Air Force to do ocean patrols, sea search and rescue missions and (iii) how will this impact on the existing international treaties and obligations to patrol and protect southern sea islands? NW3589E

**REPLY:**

(a) internal discussions around the plans for the acquisition of a suitable maritime aircraft is currently taking place within the SANDF.

(b) The Reserve Force Squadron and 35 Squadron roles do differ.

(i) There are no plans to close down 35 Squadron as yet.

 (ii& iii) The SAAF is an integral part of the SANDF Maritime Security from an Air Power point of view addressing the full spectrum of the SANDF mandate and obligations.