Careers in the SA Police Service
The South African Police Service (SAPS) falls under the Ministry of Police

THE VISION
to create a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa.

THE MISSION

• to prevent anything that may threaten the safety or security of any community;
• to investigate any crimes that threaten the safety or security of any community;
• to ensure that criminals are brought to justice; and
• to participate in efforts to address the root causes of crime.
CAREERS IN THE SAPS

The SAPS offers careers in various fields. If you join the SAPS, you can become either a police official or a civilian employee. Most functional police officials are directly involved in preventing, combatting or investigating crime.

BECOMING A POLICE OFFICIAL

New police recruits undergo a basic training programme.
**PHASE 1**

**BASIC TRAINING AND TACTICAL POLICING PROGRAMMES**

Basic training and tactical policing programmes are presented at the SAPS training Academies.

**PHASE 2**

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<tr>
<th>Basic Training and Tactical Policing</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<td>• Salary per month.</td>
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**FIELD TRAINING AS STUDENT CONSTABLES IN UNIFORM**

During the next year of training, students undergo field training as student constables in uniform. They work at a police station.

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Most new police officials start working as uniformed police officials at police stations in the Community Service Centre. Some police officials later join specialized units. They undergo additional training to be able to work in the specialized fields that they have chosen.
AFTER BASIC TRAINING

COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE OFFICIAL

A Community Service Centre Official works at a Community Service Centre. He or she carries out various duties such as:

- dealing with general enquiries from the public;
- dealing with complaints lodged by the public and in some cases attending scenes of complaints;
- making arrests and detaining suspects;
- recording information regarding crime on the SAPS computer systems; and
- carrying out patrol duties in a policing sector.

A police official who works in a Community Service Centre gains a broad knowledge of the functions of the SAPS, statutory law and common law.
Here follows just some of the careers that can be followed after trainees have completed their training. Additional, specialized training is required.

Investigators at the **DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION (DPCI)** prevent, combat and investigate national priority offences. Commercial crime investigators focus on investigation of corruption and serious economic offences i.e. internet fraud, card fraud and cheque fraud. Organised crime investigators focus on vehicle-related fraud, precious metal and diamond crime, non-ferrous metals, narcotics, wildlife crimes, stock theft and violent crime.

A **COMMUNICATION INTERCEPTION OFFICIAL** is responsible for the coordination, management and execution of court directed surveillance requests using communication technology. He or she is also responsible for covert interception and monitoring of communication generated information. He or she liaises with telecommunication networks and service provider coordinators during operational activities. Communication Interception Officials are stationed at Crime Intelligence at countrywide offices.
The **CRIME INFORMATION GATHERER** monitors suspects by static observation, vehicle or foot surveillance, video recording and photography to support investigations. Tasks include the planning of surveillance operations, compiling surveillance reports and briefing investigation teams stationed at Crime Intelligence offices nationwide.

The **CLOSE PROTECTOR** provides close protection to identified very important persons (VIPs), e.g. the President and ministers by physically protecting them on foot and when they are travelling. Other functions include planning of operations, communication with VIPs and delegates, maintaining equipment and recording of procedures. They are stationed at the Presidential Protection Unit and VIP Units in the provinces and Head Office.
BOMB TECHNICIANS
render an
effective bomb
disposal service,
utilize computer
systems for
bomb disposal /
explosive control
and render a service
to users and suppliers
of explosives. They also inspect and dispose
of any item or any device which is suspected
of being an explosive. Bomb technicians are
dispatched to all reports of a bomb threat and
are trained to carry out bomb sweeps of places
where such a threat has been received. They
are trained to deal with any incident relating to
the unlawful use of any chemical or biological
agent against any person or place within the
Republic of South Africa.

A GENERAL INVESTIGATOR is responsible for
investigating general crimes and gathering
comprehensive and complete evidence at the
crime scene. He or she also conducts court-
driven investigations; maintains and ensures
the neatness and completeness of case
dockets; and recruits and maintains informers.
He or she also draws up comprehensive
reports on investigated crimes or alleged
crimes; communicates with prosecutors and
magistrates and gives evidence in court.

Police officials must have at least two years'
functional experience, have successfully
completed a Basic Detective Course and
must be willing to undergo polygraph and
psychometric testing and security clearance
vetting whenever required. He or she must
be computer-literate and have a valid driver's
licence 9 (code 08). General investigators are
stationed at detective services nationwide.