



Paying homage to veterans

(7 November) On the occasion of International Veterans Day and the 101st anniversary of the WW1 Armistice, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš commemorated the heroism of veterans and paid his respects to all those who lost their lives during both World Wars.

Speaking at a ceremony at the Western Front Memorial in Bratislava's Šafárik Square, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "Every single war in our history affected mankind irreversibly. The men on the war fronts believed that what they were experiencing could not be permanent and that they would return to their families one day. However, as we know today, this desire remained an unfulfilled dream for millions of them. And it is them whom we are commemorating today." On this occasion, the Minister awarded commemorative medals to Mrs Ailsa Domanová and Brig Gen Milan Pika posthumously.

Referring to growing intolerance and discrimination in society, Head of the MOD said: "The world of today, 101 years on since the end of WW1, is different. Yet, the fragility of peace can be palpable with every single terrorist attack, senseless murder or local conflict perpetrated under the patronage of extremist organizations." He reminded that we can pay our respects to veterans by wearing a red poppy – a symbol of the blood shed on the battlefields.

Today, Slovakia registers 8,132 veterans, of whom 8,024 are contemporary veterans and 108 WW2 veterans. The SVK MOD will also mark International Veterans Day with the 'Run in Tribute to Veterans' to be held on 11 Nov 2019 at the Petržalka Kopčany War Cemetery in Bratislava.



Meeting of V4 State Secretaries

(5 November) State Secretaries of the V4 MODs met in Prague to attend the first V4 Senior Body meeting during the ongoing Czech V4 Presidency. State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Róbert Ondrejcsák along with his counterparts Radomír Jahoda, István Szabó and Paweł Woźny dedicated the meeting to discussing current cooperation issues on the NATO, EU and V4 agenda. The core of the meeting was formed by the debate on the need to update the V4 strategic documents. State Secretaries also addressed the options for defence cooperation in the extended V4+ format, especially highlighting the prospective engagement with the United Kingdom, which, irrespective of Brexit, remains a significant security and political partner and ally of the V4.

Minister Gajdoš awards Sgt Marcel Barčák for saving life

(5 November) Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš today awarded the Minister of Defence Commemorative Medal, 3rd Grade, to serviceman Sgt Marcel Barčák for saving a life. The serviceman gave first aid to a woman whose identity has not been revealed. Thanks to using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), he saved her life. Expressing his thanks to Sgt Marcel Barčák for his composure and ability to render first aid timely and effectively, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "You have saved a human life and this speaks for itself. You have proved you are a soldier with all your heart and soul and not only while on duty." Sgt Marcel Barčák highly appreciated the medal. "It is a great honour and motivation for the future. Yet, the greatest reward for me was that she walked out of hospital on her own feet," he said, adding that this was not his first time that he assisted in saving a life. Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko praised the medical skills of Sgt Barčák. "I am proud to be in command of servicemen like you," he said, while emphasising that the Armed Forces are always ready, be it in a state of security or in a state of crisis, to assist citizens.



■ Members of the Police Operations Section Topoľčany – Detached Workstation Trenčín carried out **preventive security checks** at SNP Trenčín Barracks on 7 Nov 2019, checking in-coming and out-going vehicles and searching for unauthorised items and material. Military policemen deployed the Kerberos Mobile system to check the vehicle chassis quickly and reliably.

■ Based on the decision of a selection board on 6 Nov 2019, Cpl Vladimír Mada, Senior Guard of the 2nd Company, SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour, and Sergeant 1st Class Marián Motola, Company Sergeant Major of the Command Support Company, General Staff, were named **Best Other Ranks Soldier and NCO** in HQ Bratislava Garrison.

■ On 5-6 Nov 2019, the **Supply Base II and the Munitions Depots** rehearsed putting their soldiers on full alert, performing mobilization tasks, and taking measures to protect forces.

■ As part of the scheme to train citizens for the defence of the State, the Training and Mobilization Manning Base Martin organised a training exercise for 197 students of the **Bilingual Grammar School in Sučany** on 4-5 Nov 2019. The students familiarised themselves with the tasks and structure of the Armed Forces. As well as delivering lectures, experienced instructors introduced small weapons and equipment and staged demonstrations of shooting, signal, tactical, CBRN and medical training.

■ Drivers are advised by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be 55 **Allied road movements** with MP escorts from 11 to 17 Nov 2019 in Slovakia. They will mostly involve CZE, HUN, and POL troops. As well as ferrying oversized cargo, SVK Army convoys will conduct road moves on the following routes: Prešov – Michalovce, Kuchyňa – Tisovec, TC Lešť – Trenčín, TC Lešť – Sereď and TC Lešť – Hlohovec. There will also be a rail movement on the Martin – Sása Pliešovce line.

Full Field Kit this week

Live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat on Regina Radio's Full Field Kit, listeners will be treated to the last episode of Ex Slovak Shield 2019 and coverage of the Run in Tribute of Veterans on the occasion of International Veterans Day. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and opinions. Please, write to us at plnapolna@mod.gov.sk.

Ex Slovak Shield 2019: Lešť hosts largest military exercise this year

(8 November) Ex Slovak Shield 2019, a two-level Command Post Exercise (CPX) with partial deployment of troops to training areas and supported by simulation technologies, which is this year's most significant and final phase of a series of training activities in the Slovak Armed Forces, is entering its final phase at the Training Centre Lešť and on Nitra Garrison's training ground at Koliňanský vrch. The exercise runs from 4 to 12 Nov 2019 and its theme is: A mechanised brigade on a joint small-scale operation in a multinational environment in defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Slovak Republic in the context of collective defence against an equivalent enemy. Apart from Slovak service members, a Portuguese Infantry Company, a Polish Motorised Platoon, and a Hungarian Motorised Platoon,



embedded in the Martin-Based Mechanised Battalion, are taking part in the exercise as well. Also represented on the exercise are the Indiana National Guard from the USA and the Czech Armed Forces.

Ex Air Shield 2019, another Command Post Exercise (CPX) with partial deployment of troops to training areas, was held concurrently from 4 to 8 Nov 2019 in Slovakia. It was primarily designed to test the C2 system to conduct air operations and demonstrate other capabilities of the Slovak Air Force. The exercise involved nearly 1,000 SVK AF personnel and featured L-39, MiG-29, L-410 and C-27J military aircraft, Mi-17 and UH-60M helicopters, and 2K12 KUB surface to air missile systems and IGLA man-portable air defence systems. Ex Clear Sign 2019, a support exercise, was held concurrently with Ex Slovak Shield and Ex Air Shield.

AOS presented in Brussels

(5 November) The M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš presented its training and education activities at the NATO Partnership Training and Education Centres (PTEC) Marketplace in Brussels. To mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of PTECs, over 33 education institutions from all over the world met at NATO HQ in Brussels. Slovakia's Armed Forces Academy has been a NATO Partnership Training and Education Centre since 2004. The Academy became a NATO-accredited institution in 2018. Thanks to this, it meets all the criteria for military training and education through certified NATO courses and delivers them not only to the Alliance countries but also to the Partnership for Peace (PfP), Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and Global Partnership (GP) countries. Throughout 2018, PTECs organised a total of 715 specialist courses for approx. 50,000 course attendees, half of whom were international participants.

Recognising soldiers at BA GAR



(6 November) Commander of Bratislava Garrison Col Slavomír Milde presented commemorative plaques to members of the Slovak Armed Forces Band on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of HQ Bratislava Garrison. He

also presented commemorative coins to members of the Slovak Armed Forces Band who participated in the SNP Military Parade in Banská Bystrica on 29 August 2019.

On 5-6 November 2019, Col Milde visited the Slovak Armed Forces Guard of Honour at Vajnory Barracks and the Command Support Company of the General Staff at Duklianske Barracks in Bratislava, where he recognised selected soldiers on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of HQ Bratislava Garrison. On behalf of the Chief of Defence, he handed over commemorative coins to those of them who took part in the SNP Military Parade in Banská Bystrica.

CTM Nováky reaccredited

(4 November) The Munitions Testing Centre (CTM) Nováky, a specialised facility of the Logistics Support Office Trenčín/ Supply Base II Martin, was successfully accredited in line with the Accreditation Act to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories). CTM was issued the Certificate of Accreditation for Testing Explosives, Explosive Items, Munitions and Surface Protection by the Slovak National Accreditation Service. This includes taking samples and making statements and interpretations of testing results within the scope of the accreditation valid until 4 December 2024.