



Congrats to WWII veteran

(20 November) Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš visited the village of Selce near Banská Bystrica, to congratulate Mrs Elena Kotočová, participant of the WW2 national struggle for liberation and veteran, on her 100th birthday, which she celebrated last month. On this occasion, Minister Gajdoš awarded and presented her the 75th SNP Anniversary and End of WW2 Commemorative Medal.

Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "There are not so many precious moments like this. That's why I treasure them all the more. Because in this way, too, we can show respect and honour our veterans for their courage and determination to stand up against the evil they fought against during the Second World War, and many of them lost their lives in that fight." Minister Gajdoš further said that Mrs Elena Kotočová served as a nurse, treating sick, injured and wounded soldiers and partisans in WW2. This attests to the fact that acts of humanity, too, found their place in WW2.

Mrs Elena Kotočová thanked for the visit and congratulations. She also made an appeal that the horrors of WW2 should never be allowed to reoccur.

Throughout the Slovak National Uprising in WW2, Mrs Elena Kotočová served as a nurse with the Military Reserve Hospital Banská Bystrica, which operated under the 1st Czechoslovak Army's Military Medical Administration Authority in Slovakia. Later on, she stayed with her parents in the village of Streliniky, where she willingly continued to treat sick, injured and wounded soldiers and partisans.



What 1989 has to teach us

(18 November) SVK MOD civilian and military staff gathered in front of MOD Main Building to commemorate Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day as well as the legacy of 17 Nov 1989. On this occasion, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš highlighted the values of peace, freedom and tolerance and pointed to their significance today. Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "Following the Gentle Revolution, each and every political event of whatever significance was confronted with whether that was the long-expected and dreamed-of result of the change. That is why today it is often dreadful to see that some interpret freedom of speech not as an instrument of truth, but as an opportunity to influence and manipulate the public opinion or spread hatred. Even 30 years on, the legacy of 17 Nov 1989 has a lot to teach us." On this occasion, Head of the MOD recognised the work of servicemen and women and thanked them for maintaining high standards of performance.

EU Military Committee meets at the level of CHODs in Brussels

(21 November) A regular EU Military Committee (EUMC) meeting at the level of CHODs took place in Brussels on 20-21 Nov 2019. EU CHODs discussed the use of EU battlegroups as strategic reserve forces for EU missions and operations. Director General of the EU Military Staff (EUMS) Lt Gen Esa Pulkkinen and EDA Chief Executive Jorge Domecq examined developments in the coherence of EU initiatives for defence capabilities building – Coordinated Annual Defence Review (CARD), Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), and European Defence Fund (EDF). EU-NATO cooperation was addressed by Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach and Deputy Secretary General of the EEAS Pedro Serrano. The role of Op ALTHEA in delivering stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovakia's support for continuity of its executive mandate was highlighted by Gen Zmeko. EU CHODs were briefed on the ongoing EU Training Missions (EUTM). Gen Zmeko informed of the Slovak Armed Forces' intent to contribute to the EUTM in Mali and the EUTM in the Central African Republic. Chairman of the EUMC Gen Claudio Graziano welcomed Ukrainian CHOD Lt Gen Ruslan Khomchak to the meeting. Gen Khomchak presented current security developments in Ukraine. Gen Zmeko pointed to Slovakia's active approach to supporting the development of EU-Ukraine defence cooperation, especially on EU missions and operations. The next EUMC meeting at the level of CHODs will take place in Brussels on 13 May 2020.



- State Secretary of the SVK MOD Marián Saloň and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko led a SVK MOD delegation to the Act of Commemoration marking the 75 anniversary of the **burning down of Tokajik**, a village in eastern Slovakia, by Nazis in WW2. They laid wreaths at the Tokajik Tragedy Memorial, in the presence of state administration authorities, local government representatives, and other guests.

- On 21 Nov 2019, **Slovak Air Force Headquarters (SVK AF HQ) staffers**, led by Maj Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, attended a ceremony dedicated to the November 1989 Revolution. The ceremony was followed by a Military Council meeting. At the end of the meeting, Maj Gen Svoboda presented 75th SNP anniversary commemorative medals and letters to SVK AF leaders.

- On 19 Nov 2019, the Garrison Club of the Tactical Wing Sliach hosted a **working meeting of SVK CSELs**. The newly appointed CSEL of the Slovak Armed Forces, SMG Marcel Kaniak presented his vision for NCOs and Other Ranks. The aims and goals of the NCO Corps in the SVK Army were presented by SMG Milan Pavlík. The tasks, activities and modernization of the SVK Air Force were briefed on by SMG Peter Kuka. The recently established Special Operations Forces (SOF) were introduced by SMG Martin Boháčik.

- The Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Battalion Rožňava hosted the practical module of the **internship programme for cadets** of the General Milan Rastislav Štefánik Armed Forces Academy between 18 and 22 Nov 2019. As part of the practical module, 4th-year cadets of the G20 speciality performed the tasks of Platoon Commanders.

- With the **Graduation Parade and the Oath of Allegiance**, 208 soldier trainees, of whom 29 were female soldier trainees, completed their Basic Military Training (BMT) at the Training and Mobilization Manning Base Martin. Private (OR-1) Andrea Krišandová was named as Best BMT Graduate. The CSEL of the Slovak Armed Forces presented a commemorative plaque to MSgt Martin Minka as Best BMT Instructor.

- The **Surplus Property Base Nemecká** announces that due to regular stock taking, equipment and material declared surplus to Defence will not be available for viewing throughout Nov and Dec 2019.

- The **Museum of Military History (VHM) Piešťany** was visited by the UK Ambassador to Slovakia, HE Mr Andy John Garth, and the UK Defence Attaché, Col David Catmur. Director of the Museum Lt Col Milan Kubizniak briefed them on the past, present and future of the Museum.

- At the invitation of Commander of the Transport Wing Kuchyňa Col Peter Prokop, ex- and serving leaders of the Slovak and Czech Air Force, colleagues, and family relatives gathered on 20 Nov 2019 at the Záhorie Military District, to pay their respects to **Lt Col František Max** on the 50th anniversary of his tragic death.

- On 18 Nov 2019, members of the **Maj Gen Otto Smik Tactical Wing Sliach** attended a ceremony in tribute to Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day.

- Senior Chief Medic MSgt (OR-8) Ján Dojčár and Operator/Specialist Cpl Tomáš Schenk were named **Best NCO and Other Ranks Soldier** in the Transport Wing Kuchyňa.

- Drivers are advised by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be 21 **Allied road movements** from 25 Nov to 1 Dec 2019 in Slovakia. They will mostly involve CZE and POL troops. SVK Army convoys ferrying oversized cargo will complete round trips: Nitra – Trenčín and Sereď – TC Lešť. There will also be a SVK Army rail movement from Sása-Pliešovce to Hlohovec.

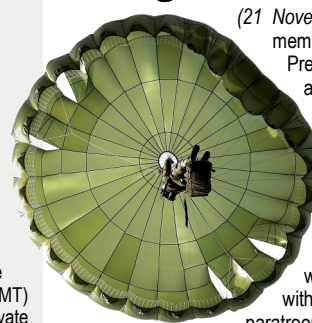
Winners of Defence-wide displays

(18 November) Results of the Defence-wide PhotoAttack and Gallery MIL 2019 Competitive Displays were announced at a ceremony at the Trenčín Garrison Club on 14 Nov 2019. 86 contestants from across units and facilities of the Slovak Armed Forces took part with 254 entries this year.

In PhotoAttack 2019, Sgt 1st Class Jozef Filický was the first prize winner in the Armed Forces through Camera Lens category, Lt Col Peter Sobek came first in the Military History category, and first prize in the Open category went to Jaroslav Matejček.

Gallery MIL 2019's Painting & Sculpture category saw Tibor Hladký as its winner, Oľga Horňáková triumphed in the Applied Arts category, and 11-year-old Darina Repová took first place in the Children's Works category. The Slovak Armed Forces Personnel Office Director's Prize and the Cultural and Educational Activities Section Chief's Prize went to 1Lt Dana Nováková, Tactical Wing Sliach, and Sgt 1st Class Miroslav Katuščák, Helicopter Wing Prešov, respectively.

Training of ISTAR Bn paras



(21 November) Parachute training for members of the ISTAR Battalion Prešov culminated at Prešov airfield. The aim was to support the parachuting capability and troops and material on permanent stand-by to deploy by air in order to undertake combat missions in a designated area. All day and night jumps were conducted exclusively with combat loads to be used by paratroopers to accomplish their tasks.

This included rations for at least 3 days and primary and secondary weapons. PJs of the Battalion were retrained and jumped from Black Hawk UH-60M helicopters.

Sending a troop rotation to Kabul

(19 November) Working in cooperation with NSPA, members of the National Military Movements Centre Bratislava participated in coordinating the flight of the regular troop rotation to support RSM operations. A Boeing 737-800 airliner flew the troops to Kabul. The flight was preceded by a delivery of supplies, i.e. materiel, weapons and munitions, from the Supply Base Nemšová to Leipzig/Halle Airport and on to Afghanistan.

Exhibition in Svidník

(22 November) The central exhibition premises of the Museum of Military History – Museum Section Svidník hosted a preview for "Fighting and Suffering – Polish Citizens in World War Two", an exhibition prepared by the Second World War Museum Gdansk to mark the 80th anniversary of the WW2 outbreak. The exhibition is being staged in Slovakia thanks to the Polish Embassy and Institute in Bratislava. It will be open to the public until the end of January 2020.

Full Field Kit this week

Who from among the contemporary Slovak Armed Forces veterans is to join the Hall of Fame on Tue 26 Nov 2019 will be aired on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat on Regina Radio's Full Field Kit. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and opinions. Please, write to us at plnapolna@mod.gov.sk.