



## We stand behind our pledges

(4 December) Slovakia stands behind its commitments from the previous summits, which is why it continues with its efforts to gradually increase its expenditure up to 2% of GDP on defence by 2024. This statement was made by Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš after the NATO Leaders Meeting in London.

Allies appreciated Slovakia doubling its spending on the modernization of armed forces. "Collective defence depends not only on solidarity and unity, but also on the readiness of each and every member for individual defence. That is why I am pleased that in the case of Slovakia we can boast of real results in building a modern, prepared and action-ready armed forces," said Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš.

Another important topic discussed was the support of NATO partners in building a stable security environment, especially with emphasis on Afghanistan where 51 SVK service personnel are currently deployed in support of the Resolute Support Mission. Leaders also agreed that NATO was a suitable platform for leading discussions on new technologies, especially when it comes to the 5G telecommunications networks.

During the meeting, NATO Heads of State and Government along with Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers discussed adapting the Alliance to new threats and challenges in a changing security environment. They confirmed that space was an operational domain, while emphasising that NATO had no interest in militarising it.

The NATO Leaders Meeting in London marked the 70th anniversary of NATO and was, for the first time, attended by North Macedonia.

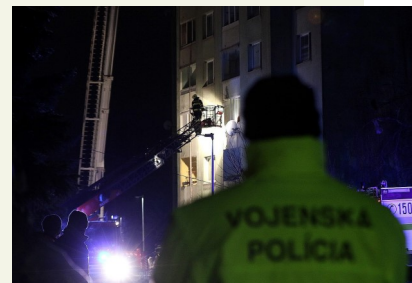


## MOD pays 14th salary

(4 December) The SVK Ministry of Defence paid the 14th salary to civilian employees and service personnel in the amount of more than 50 per cent of their monthly salary/Service pay for performing to high standards and working even after official working hours. The 14th salary was paid to approx. 20,000 civilian employees and service personnel, with the total payment amounting to approx. 14 million euros. The same conditions for payment of the 14th salary apply to all central and local government bodies and business entities. The MOD has used the opportunity to pay the 13th and 14th salaries since coming into force of the respective legislation. This means the 13th month payment was made in 2018 as well in 2019. This is also true of the 14th month salary payment.

## Soldiers helped at the site of the tower block gas explosion in Prešov

(6 December) Soldiers and policemen assisted at the site of the tower block gas explosion in Prešov. Currently, members of the 2nd Mechanised Brigade Prešov were earmarked for patrolling the area, and military psychologists and chaplains were on the site too. The Slovak military earmarked 6 UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters and 1 SAR helicopter from the Helicopter Wing Prešov to support the rescue efforts. Soldiers provided accommodation for 55 people in a military accommodation facility and 80 field beds in a gymnasium. Military policemen were involved in regulating local traffic on the site, while the Military Hospital in Ružomberok was ready to accept the injured. Also available were military vehicles to transport people or material. All requests from the crisis staff are handled promptly and operationally. Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "Let me express my sincere condolences to the surviving next of kin and wish those injured a quick recovery. We are here on the site to deal with the requests made by the crisis staff and ensure coordination with other security services." Minister Gajdoš and Deputy Chief of the Crisis Staff Ján Holko participated in a meeting of the crisis staff in Prešov. Soldiers were also ready to assist firefighters in clearing debris from the site.



- Service personnel from the Deployable CIS Base Ružomberok underwent **coordination training** along with members of the Regional Police Corps Directorate Žilina. The main task of the training was to improve the performance of assistance tasks by Armed Forces personnel in support of the SVK Police Corps.

- The Crisis Management, Training and K9 Branch of the Military Police Department hosted the **Combat Shooting Course – Level III**, aimed at training selected service personnel for execution of tasks related to crisis management operations where human lives are in imminent danger.

- Members of the CBRN Battalion Rožňava have received 1 golden, 1 silver and 4 bronze plaques for their **free blood donations**. The plaques are presented annually by the Slovak Red Cross Branch in Rožňava.

- A selection process for the 2019 **Best NCO of the Year in the SVK Military Police** took place in Trenčín. The title went to MSgt Miroslav Martinak, member of the Military Police (MP) Operations Section Bratislava, MP Operations Branch Trenčín, Group Topoľčany.

- The village of Selec, located near Trenčín, hosted an Act of Commemoration in tribute to the **43 local victims taken to WW2 concentration camps**. The ceremony was supported by the Trenčín Garrison Protocol Unit and the SVK Armed Forces Band.

- The MOD advises drivers in Slovakia to stay alert as there will be **17 Allied road movements** from 9-15 December 2019. SVK Army convoys will also ferry oversized cargo on the following routes: Nitra – Koliňanský vrch, Martin – Sučany, Sliac – Martin, Michalovce – Hlohovec, Hlohovec – Prešov, and Sereď – Prešov.

## Full Field Kit this week

During the next edition of Regína Radio's Full Field Kit, which is aimed not only at service members but also at all those who care about the security and defence of our homeland, we will introduce the winners of the MOD Literary Competition, mark the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Military History, and enjoy an interview with SVK MP Director Col Michal Migáť live on Regína Radio at 21.05hrs on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30hrs on Sat. Write to us at [plnapolna@mod.gov.sk](mailto:plnapolna@mod.gov.sk), we will be thankful for your ideas, comments and opinions.

## MSgt Andrej Brzula of Tactical Wing Sliac selected as 2019 Best NCO of the Year

(3 December) A selection process for the 2019 Best Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year in the Slovak Armed Forces was completed at the 5th Special Forces Regiment Žilina on 3 December 2019.

The commission, led by CSEL of the Slovak Armed Forces Sergeant Major Marcel Kaniak, selected MSgt Andrej Brzula, Senior Technician Specialist/Simulator Crew Group Instructor of 2nd Tactical Squadron, Tactical Wing Sliac, as Best Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Reflecting on the selection process, CSEL of the Slovak Armed Forces Sergeant Major Marcel Kaniak said: "This was the first



## Planning documentation

(6 December) At a meeting of the Military Council, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko approved the planning documentation for the operational commands and the units subordinate to them for Training Year (TY) 2020, with an outlook to 2021-26. The approved documents will guide the activity of armed forces next year, so that the armed forces' readiness to respond timely and adequately to security threats rests on a more balanced development of four pillars: well-educated and capable personnel; advanced weaponry; rigorous training; and will, morale and discipline. "Our ambition is to achieve higher readiness of military units for operational use," said CHOD Gen Zmeko, adding that "In today's dynamically changing environment, which is abundant in a variety of threats, the time factor means that the situation may worsen very quickly, leaving the military with minimal time to respond adequately."

## Conference for specialists

(2 December) The Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) and Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) Centre Martin, operating under the Slovak Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM), organised a four-day international conference for specialists of civil-military cooperation, psychological operations, information operations and strategic communication, combined with an implementation workshop, in Liptovský Mikuláš. The conference participants from half a dozen countries were greeted by State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Róbert Ondrejčák.



## Slovak winners in Cyprus

(6 December) Slovak soldiers of Sector 4 emerged as winners of the traditional UNFICYP Military Skills Competition in Cyprus. Six 8-member teams participated in the competition. The results were announced during a ceremony presided by Force Commander Maj Gen Cheryl Pearce.

time I was in the position of chief of the selection commission. I was pleasantly surprised at the high quality of the Armed Forces nominees who were introduced to us by individual Command Sergeant Majors. That the nominees were high quality was evidenced by the fact that our decision-making process took far longer than originally anticipated. We had a long debate on who would be the Best NCO of the Year. MSgt Brzula stood out across all the areas judged thanks to his complexity. After consulting with other CSMs, we came to a conclusion that he was the right person for the title."