



### Working together responsibly

Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' announces that the first round of country-wide testing for COVID-19 will take place between 31 Oct and 1 Nov 2020 on a voluntary basis in Slovakia and will be open to all people aged 10 years and over.

- On 28 Oct, the MOD works to bring in more medical staff. Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' calls on medical professionals to support the country-wide testing. Medical professionals are asked to help in their regions and contact regional commands.
- On 29 Oct, in his statement to the media, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' encourages medical professionals to sign up for the nation-wide testing. Military personnel, police officers, firefighters, financial administration authority workers, and, in most cases, also local government staff stand ready to support the country-wide operation.

The biggest challenge is to ensure there are enough medical professionals to take swab samples and enough evaluators to evaluate the tests. Minister Nad' declares that the Slovak Armed Forces and self-governing authorities, supported by other organisers, are ready logistically and materially for testing people in Slovakia. The MOD closely cooperates with state-run and private hospitals and supplies them with antigen tests and official COVID-19 test certificates to enable them to test their staff.

- On 30 Oct, Op Shared Responsibility is in its final phase of preparations. 5,314 testing sites are declared ready in terms of logistics, material, personnel, however, not all medical positions are fully staffed. Members of the SVK Armed Forces make sure that all personnel receive instructions and are tested for coronavirus and try to provide more medical staff. The Minister provides an update on the latest developments to the Cabinet members.

- On 31 Oct, Day 1 of the country-wide testing is underway across Slovakia. As at 14:00 on Saturday, of the total number of 4,950 testing sites across Slovakia, 99.2% are operational. Almost 15,000 medical professionals are at designated places, which means almost all medical positions are fully staffed.

Over 40,000 people, including health workers, are involved in across-the-board testing for COVID-19. This figure includes 6,000 military personnel, around 5,000 police officers along with 250 members of the Financial Administration Authority, 113 firefighters, 50 members of the Mountain Rescue Service, around 10,000 administrative aids, nearly 4,000 volunteers, 33 Austrian Army members and 200 medical professionals from Hungary. Prime Minister Igor Matovič, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad', Interior Minister Roman Mikulec give a press conference on Op Shared Responsibility in the village of Hrubá Borša. Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' said that the SVK Armed Forces have committed 1,856 vehicles and set up 5,000 communications points as part of Op Shared Responsibility. Statistically, a total of 2,581,113 people are tested on Day 1, of which 25,850 are positive (1%).



### SVK Government satisfied with results of country-wide testing

(27 November) Op Shared Responsibility met the objective of its Phase II following the pilot testing. A total of 3,625,332 people were tested in the first round of the country-wide testing for coronavirus, with 38,359 positive cases. The highest turnout rates were reported in Žilina (111,155) and the lowest turnout rates in Medzilaborce (6,980). Defence Minister Nad' said: "Not only did we accomplish the set task with honour as part of the first round of the country-wide testing, but we can also say that it was a real success." Prime Minister Igor Matovič said: "I want to thank all those who have been involved in this unprecedented project. I think the results speak for themselves," said Prime Minister Igor Matovič. Among the districts with high positivity rates were Čadca, Stará Ľubovňa and Púchov, while lowest positivity rates were reported in Revúca, Banská Štiavnica and Rožňava. During the weekend, over 40,000 soldiers, police officers, firefighters, rescuers, health workers, members of the Financial Administration Authority, self-governing authorities and volunteers were on the ground to support the operation. The SVK Armed Forces covered nearly 600,000km. These are set to increase, as the logistical operation is still underway. Over 2,000 lorries and vehicles were used to transport almost 5,000 tonnes of material.



- Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' and Defence State Secretary Marian Majer commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the establishment of the **Czechoslovak Republic** at the Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk Memorial in front of the Slovak National Museum on 28 Oct.

- To mark **All Souls Day** at the Reconciliation Memorial (SVK MOD) during this past weekend, Defence Minister J. Nad', Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko and other representatives of the MOD and the Armed Forces paused to remember all SVK military and civilian personnel who died in the line of duty.

- Medical professionals of the Austrian Armed Forces** who had come to support Op Shared Responsibility in Slovakia responded promptly when a 26-year-old man fainted and suffered a head injury as he fell to the ground at a testing site in Bratislava's Petržalka. They gave him first aid, brought the unconscious man around and called an ambulance.

- The General Milan Rastislav Štefánik Slovak Armed Forces Academy (AOS) hosted the 11th edition of the **international conference** titled "National and International Security 2020". The conference is organised by the Security and Defence Department. 40 specialists from Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia signed up for the conference. The conference was divided into two blocks oriented towards current security developments and security theory. Col Aurel Sabó, AOS Deputy Commandant for Education, addressed the conference participants.

- St Joan of Arc Military Parish Chapel** at the SVK Armed Forces Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš has a new sculpture of its patron saint. The sculpture, designed by Vít Pacalaj of Bratislava, is on display in the Chapel's entrance hall.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as three Allied road movements by US, Belgian and Polish troops are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 2 to 8 Nov 2020. The MOD stresses that the military transits have been approved in line with SVK Public Health Authority-issued guidelines. Over the same period, the SVK Armed Forces will conduct convoy movements from/to: Sered – Prešov, Prešov – Michalovce and back, Trebišov – Prešov, Prešov – Dubnica nad Váhom and back, Prešov – Ruská Nová Ves, Ruská Nová Ves – Trebišov, and Dubnica nad Váhom – Sered.

### New Surgeon General appointed



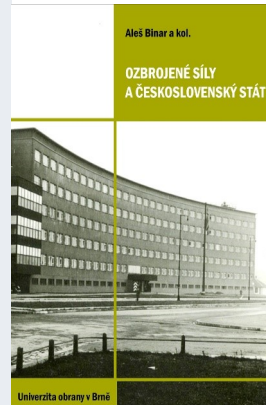
(28 October) CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko appointed Col Roman Jantoš MD as the new Surgeon General of the SVK Armed Forces. Also in attendance at the ceremony was Director of the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok Brig Gen Vladimír Lengvarský MD MPH, the former Surgeon General. CHOD Gen Zmeko thanked the newly appointed head of the Defence Medical Services (DMS) and wished him every success in his new mission to develop military medicine.

### Štefánik Exhibition recognised



(26 October) The Editorial Boards of the Monuments and Museums Magazine and the Cultural Heritage Magazine, published by the Slovak National Museum and the SVK National Heritage Office, presented the Best Exhibition Award to Col Milošlav Čaplovič, Branislav Panis, Radoslav Ragač, Jozef Hobodász from the Institute of Military History and the Slovak National Museum for their exhibition titled "Milan Rastislav Štefánik, General – Liberator". The exhibition was open to the public at Bratislava Castle from the end of Oct 2019 to early May 2020 and was installed in Prague's New Building of the National Museum for this summer period.

### CZE-SVK scholarly monograph



(26 October) The University of Defence in Brno published a scholarly monograph "Armed Forces and Czechoslovak State", written by 31 historians from Czechia and Slovakia. At over 400 pages, the book presents the latest on the 1st and 2nd Czechoslovak resistance movements, military intelligence and the building of the Czechoslovak Army. Among the contributors to the book were historians of the SVK Institute of Military History. The monograph is available to the public on the University's website.

### Regional Command Zvolen established as part of Op Shared Responsibility

(27 October) To support the country-wide testing of the Slovak population for COVID-19, Regional Command (RC) Zvolen was set up on the premises of SVK Air Force Headquarters Zvolen as part of Op Shared Responsibility. The mission of RC Zvolen is to run the operation in its area of responsibility in 10 out of 13 districts located in the Banská Bystrica region. RC Zvolen staff identify and survey testing sites, provide logistical support, and commit personnel where



needed. They are engaged in intense communications with representatives of the central and local governments in the areas under their remit. When testing is underway, they provide situational updates, coordinate movements from garrisons to testing sites, and take calls and assist in resolving unplanned issues. Nearly 600 testing sites will be under the remit of RC Zvolen. Col Adolf Uličný, DCOS SVK AF HQ, is in command of RC Zvolen.