



CMH modernised with CT

(5 February) Patients stand to benefit from even higher quality health services provided by the SNP Central Military Hospital - Faculty Hospital Ružomberok, as Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, Director of the Central Military Hospital Brig Vladimír Lengvarský MD MPH, and Director General of General Health Insurance Company Richard Strapko officially launched a most advanced 4D CT Angiography scanner and workstation in Central Europe at a launch ceremony at the hospital's radiology clinic. The new imaging equipment, which helps doctors assess the condition of blood vessels, check the blood flow through blood vessels and detect potential disorders, will enable patients to have a CT angiogram at the Central Military Hospital again after five years.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Thanks to the new CT scanner, the state-of-the-art health services at our Central Military Hospital are being taken to a still higher level. This is good news especially for the patients whom this new device will serve. I trust it will help many people and simplify diagnostics and subsequent treatment. People's health and lives come always first." He added the new CT system is capable of performing from 100 to 140 diagnostic and interventional procedures a month.

Director of the Central Military Hospital Brig Vladimír Lengvarský MD MPH said: "The new CT scanner combines an interventional laboratory and a complete CT imaging system into one universal clinical solution. Thanks to the ability to see, diagnose, plan, treat and verify within a single setting, the system helps especially with complex interventional procedures," before adding that he is pleased "it will make workflow more efficient and deliver better patient care at this workplace."

Director General of General Health Insurance Company Richard Strapko said: "General Health Insurance Company supports most advanced treatment procedures and technologies. This workplace brings a marked improvement in patient care by increasing comfort for patients during a diagnostic CT examination, shortening the time needed to diagnose a patient, and simplifying the work of medical personnel. The opening of this workplace is great news for our healthcare and patients." General Health Insurance Company is the first health insurer to cover and reimburse the costs related to this health service at the new facility.

The advanced system with its ceiling-mounted C-arm allows for perfect access to the patient. Its flexibility enables doctors to perform a procedure without the need to move the patient, which makes the examination fast and simple. What's more, it is not necessary to transfer the patient between wards, as it is possible to see, diagnose, plan, treat and verify within a single setting. The new equipment can be utilised in a wide spectrum of clinical applications, ranging from oncology, cardiology, neurology to traumatology.



Sanitary Workers Course delivered second time this year

(5 February) During the ongoing state of emergency the Garrison Accommodation Facility Martin-Podháň hosted the Sanitary Workers Course on 2-5 Feb for the second time this year. It was organised by the Office of the SVK Armed Forces Surgeon General Ružomberok and delivered its Specialist Training Group Liptovský Mikuláš. Four such courses with 167 regular soldiers in attendance took place last year. According to Chief Senior Medic and Course Leader MSgt Jozef Filický, all precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are observed during courses in line with guidance from the Director of the Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology. For this reason, the latest course was held in Martin rather than in Liptovský Mikuláš and the course participants were tested for COVID-19 before the course opened and finished. They also used personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the course. At the graduation ceremony, Deputy Surgeon General Col Jozef Ragan MD presented the Certificates of Attendance to 49 soldiers and NCOs. The trained sanitary workers are now ready to be deployed to frontline COVID-19 hospital wards.



- Members of the 11th Mechanised Battalion Martin hosted a farewell ceremony for Deputy Battalion Commander Maj Rudolf Jančí and other servicemen who had taken up other appointments with effect from 1 Feb 2021. Battalion Commander Lt Col Rudolf Ďurník presented the Chief of Defence Badge in Silver, 2nd Grade, and a Letter of Thank You from Commander 1st Mechanised Brigade Brig Ivan Balog to Maj Jančí. Maj Marián Golis has been appointed as Battalion Deputy Commander and Capt Jozef Varchol as Battalion Chief of Staff.

- Commander of the SVK Armed Forces Logistics Support Office Col Jozef Ševčík presented the SVK **Minister of Interior Honorary Badge** to selected personnel for their major contribution to combating COVID-19 during a ceremony held on 3 Feb at the Supply Base II Martin.

- Maj Marián Osvald, 1st Chief of Staff 23rd Motorised Battalion Trebišov, one of the founders of the Battalion, left the SVK Armed Forces after 26 years of service with effect from 31 Jan. Earlier on 29 Jan, members of the Battalion hosted a farewell ceremony for him, where Battalion Commander Col Jozef Molčan presented him a memorial plaque and a golden 23rd Motorised Battalion Memorial Coin.

- On 2 Feb, Commander of the SVK Presidential Guard of Honour (GOH) Col Branislav Vavrinec presented the SVK Minister of Interior Honorary Badge to 67 GOH members for their role in containing the 1st wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

- On the last Friday of January, NC EOD and CBRN hosted a **farewell ceremony** for service leavers Maj Martin Laurinec, MSgt Boris Čičman, Sgt 1st Class Jaroslav Včelka and Sgt 1st Class Oliver Špevár. During the ceremony, Commander NC EOD and CBRN Lt Col František Mihalovič thank them for their work in favour of NC EOD and CBRN and the entire Armed Forces.

- A **Change of Command (COC)** ceremony for Commander Logistics Battalion Topoľčany took place at Jaselské Barracks on 1 Feb, with Maj Jozef Hojo handing command over to Maj Marek Krchňany.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as nine Allied road movements by US and POL troops are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 8 to 14 Feb 2021. Over the period, the SVK Armed Forces will conduct round trip road movements from/to: Sliac – Zemianske Kostolany, Zemianske Kostolany – Martin, and Sliac – Trenčín.

Air-to-ground live fire training

(2 February) Members of the Sliac Tactical Wing began air-to-ground live fire training. After pre-flight preparation and take-offs from their home base, pilots of the 1st Tactical Squadron fired their GSh-30 aircraft-mounted cannons at ground targets. At the Kuchyňa firing range, pilots of the 1st and 2nd Tactical Squadrons carried out air-to-ground attacks, capturing imagery of the strikes. A total of 22 training and 15 live air-to-ground attacks were conducted during the training. The results were rated as Excellent. Pilots of both squadrons demonstrated their professionalism and readiness to undertake missions in defence of SVK airspace.

Let's save lives together



(2 February) As part of the country-wide screening for COVID-19 on 18-31 Jan, HQ Bratislava Garrison was assigned as Regional Command (RC) for Bratislava County. HQ BA GAR members were

deployed to local testing sites as coordinators to lead testing efforts and to oversee the epidemiological measures in place at testing sites – schools, cultural centres and city buses. For several weeks, HQ BA GAR supported the public testing site at Dukla Barracks.

New brigade commander announced

(2 February) Commander of the SVK Air Force Brig Róbert Tóth presided over the Change of Command (COC) ceremony for Commander Air Operations Control Brigade Zvolen at SNP Zvolen Barracks, with Col Vladimír Jaklovský handing command over to Col Miroslav Mišovic. Brig Tóth thanked both commanders for the job well done over the last years. He wished Col Jaklovský every success with his new appointment as he takes on the role of Chief of Staff SVK Air Force Headquarters.

ISOC 24 gets underway



(1 February) Gen Milan Rastislav Štefánik Armed Forces Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš opened the 24th International Staff Officers' Course (ISOC). A total of 20 officers, ranked from Captain to Major, joined the course. There were no international students on the course due to the adverse epidemiological situation. The introductory module will be conducted in the form of distance learning.

Initial military training continued in Martin untraditionally

(3 February) Untraditional initial military training (IMT) has been underway since 11 January at 4th Czechoslovak

Brigade Barracks, Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin. It is different from the previous ones in many respects. Commander of the Initial Military Training Company Capt František Kantár said that 168 trainee soldiers and officer cadets joined this IMT. Of them, 167 (128 trainee soldiers and 39 officer cadets, including 36 women) are still in training two weeks before its end. "This IMT training has been shortened down to 5 weeks to mitigate the infection. Trainee soldiers, cadets and instructors are in Building 3, i.e. in military living quarters. They exercise from morning till evening every day, including on Saturdays, follow epidemiological guidelines, and get



tested every week. Training is condensed, but nothing has been left out of the training package. There are 12 training

hours a day, starting from reveille at 05:20hrs to 18:05hrs," said IMT Coy Commander Capt František Kantár. With platoons having been divided into smaller groups, trainee soldiers and officer cadets follow distancing rules even when having meals. Classroom instruction is allowed for 15 people (the instructor included) and a maximum of 30 people are permitted to participate in drills, Skill At Arms (SAA), and tactical training in the outdoor training grounds.

All trainee soldiers and officer cadets who had shown interest in vaccination were vaccinated against COVID-19. The IMT training will be concluded with the military oath-swearing ceremony on 12 Feb 2021.