



## CWD cooperation

(12 February) The Slovak Republic and the United States of America will cooperate on the safe destruction of excess conventional weapons and munitions and on the elimination of safety and security risks posed by such stockpiles, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and US Ambassador to Slovakia Bridget A. Brink confirmed by signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the US Department of State and the SVK Ministry of Defence regarding Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) Assistance.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Strengthening and developing cooperation with NATO partners is one of the basic preconditions for tightening and enhancing our mutual relations – not least it helps to deliver our set tasks and goals. The high costs associated with the safe destruction of conventional weapons, coupled with the difficulty of disposing of them by our own efforts in an environment-friendly manner, represent a real challenge for our country." He used the occasion to thank the NATO partner for its CWD assistance to Slovakia. In exchange for the Slovak side destroying some of its stockpiles of aging man-portable air defence missiles, anti-tank guided missiles and munitions, the United States will provide up to US\$1 million in aid towards the destruction of the M26 artillery cluster munitions. Having acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Slovakia is committed to disposing of them by the end of 2023.

## Gift for primary schools

(12 February) On behalf of the US Embassy Bratislava, members of the Martin-based US Army Civil Affairs Team (CAT) presented a gift to all primary schools in Martin. There, 245 ozone generators, worth US\$75,000, are expected to make a very real contribution to slowing and stopping the spread of COVID-19. Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer attended the handover ceremony at Aurel Stodola Primary School in Záturcie, Martin. Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer said: "I would like to say a sincere Thank You to representatives of the US Embassy for their assistance in the form of a gift to protect the health of our pupils. My thanks also go out to our members of the Slovak Armed Forces who are going to distribute this gift to all schools in Martin." On this occasion, he also praised the bilateral political and defence relationship between Slovakia and the United States. "The US is our key Ally with whom we have enjoyed a high level of long-standing and continued cooperation, as we can see even today," he added. The ozone generators have been supplied by a Slovak company. Making the best of ozone's disinfecting effects, these disinfectors kill bacteria, viruses and microorganisms which may be in the air or on different surfaces. They will be delivered to all primary schools across Martin, with a view to enhancing the safety of all children and young people as part of efforts to keep school classrooms and spaces safe and clean. In line with the SVK Parliament-approved mandate, the US Army CAT has supported the activities of the Civil-Military Cooperation and Psychological Operations Centre (CMCPOC) Martin, which falls under the command of the SVK Special Operations Forces (SOF).



## Slovak humanitarian aid for Bosnia and Herzegovina

(11 February) A delegation from the Slovak Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, joined by members of the Slovak EUFOR Althea Contingent, handed over humanitarian aid to those who were most in need. Camp Hadžići for families with children received several pallets of clothes, shoes and hygiene packages on 6 Feb. On the same day, a humanitarian lorry full of SVK aid made it to Mostar, where the local Health House had requested FFP2 masks and disinfectors. The very next day SVK humanitarian aid also reached the Red Cross in Foča, where SVK military personnel are based as part of EUFOR Althea. This SVK humanitarian aid was organised by the SVK MOD, Head Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps, Interior Ministry, the SVK Embassy in BiH, and Deputy Commander SVK EUFOR Althea Contingent Maj Radovan Štefančin. Among the donors of children's clothes were also members of the Engineer Battalion Sereď, Self-propelled Artillery Battalion Michalovce and SVK Army HQ Trenčín.



- As part of the vaccine delivery programme, vaccinators of the Central Military Hospital – Faculty Hospital Ružomberok began to administer the second vaccine dose against COVID-19 on 8 Feb.

- Col (Rtd) Vojtech Kúkol, one of the co-founder of the Czechoslovak Army TV Broadcasting Service in Slovakia, passed away aged 93 on 8 Feb 2021. For long years, he worked as Chief of the Czechoslovak TV's Army, Security and Military Themed Activities Branch. Among the Army TV programmes at his time were Beacon, Compass and Azimuth.

- During a ceremony on 9 Feb, Deputy Commander 11th Mechanised Battalion Martin Maj Marián Golis presented the SVK Minister of Interior Honorary Badge to members of the Battalion for their excellent cooperation with policemen of the Interior Ministry.

- Commander National Military Movement Coordination Centre Col Roland Sabolčik presented the SVK Minister of Interior Honorary Badge to five members of the Centre. The sixth Honorary Badge is to go to a servicewoman of the Centre who is currently serving with UNFICYP in Cyprus.

- Following the notification of Poprad City Council, the Supply Base I Nemšová – Supplies Centre Poprad has changed its address to Kukučínova 5272, 058 01 Poprad.

- The Surplus Equipment Disposal Services Base Nemecká has issued a notice that it has suspended all viewings of surplus military equipment for sale from Jan to April due to the current pandemic situation until such time as restrictions allow and a notice on resumption of viewings is published on the SVK MOD website following a decision of the Central Crisis Management Staff.

- According to agreement between the Health Ministry and the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok, Trebišov Barracks has set up a mobile testing site to deliver a COVID-19 testing programme for the public with antigen tests. It is open from Mon to Sat from 09:00 to 18:00 with a lunch break from 13:00 to 14:00. Those interested can book a test via [www.korona.gov.sk](http://www.korona.gov.sk), starting from Monday 15 February.

- The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as four Allied road movements by US and ITA troops are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 15 to 21 February 2021. The MOD stresses that the Allied transits have been approved in line with the SVK Public Health Authority-issued guidelines. Over the same period, the SVK Armed Forces will conduct round-trip road movements from/to: Zemianske Kostoľany – Topoľčany, Prešov – Zemianske Kostoľany, Hlohovec – Zemianske Kostoľany, and Nováky – Nemšová.

## Studying at AOS offers unique opportunities, advantages and assurances

(8 February) Gen Milan Rastislav Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) in Liptovský Mikuláš offers secondary school graduates unique study programmes, welfare benefits, and assurances of employment across Defence. Thanks to AOS's cooperation with its academic partners – the Technical University in Košice, the University of Defence in Brno and the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Hradec Králové, they can choose from a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programmes in technical sciences, humanities, natural sciences and medical sciences.

In the Academic Year 2021/2022, AOS plans to open gates to 195 officer cadets. The deadline for applications is 28 February 2021. Applicants must participate in a selection procedure for Active Duty Soldiers State Service and pass entrance tests, depending on the preferred field of study.

On the advantages of full-time studies at AOS, Defence

## European themes regionally



(10 February) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď met with Head of the European Commission's Representation to Slovakia Ladislav Miko to discuss ways to intensify the presentation of European themes in the shared public

space. "Being part of the European grouping, which addresses defence and security discussions, we must and want to look for common areas of interest and visions and offer them to the wide public. We want to clearly name those areas on which we must work more at the national and international level and openly discuss the threats that have an impact on the entire community," said the Minister.

## On Military Archives



(12 February) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď spoke with Mayor of Trnava Peter Bročka and Chief of Trnava City Council's Territorial Development and Concepts Branch via a video link on 11 Feb. They discussed the Trnava-based Military

Archives, the building of which is a national heritage site and needs to be reconstructed. On the very next day, the Minister spoke with Chairman of the Trnava Self-Governing Region Jozef Viskupič and Chairman of the SVK Parliamentary Committee for European Affairs Tomáš Valášek to consult on the future of the Military Archives.

## Training for IFV drivers



(9 February) Nitra Garrison's training grounds at Sučany hosted the Tracked Infantry Fighting Vehicle and OT-90 Drivers Course from 18 Jan to 9 Feb. The course was aimed at members of the Mechanised Brigade

Topoľčany and drivers from the Martin-, Nitra- and Levice-based battalions. Supported by the Combat Training Company, Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin, the course was attended by 14 servicemen and one servicewoman. After the theory phase and simulator-based training, the field phase was focused on practising procedures on the starting line before driving on cross-country tracks. At Sučany, the drivers successfully dealt with all weather pitfalls such as fog, snow, ice and rain.



Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "On entering our Armed Forces Academy, the candidates become service members – officer cadets whose main job duty is to study. Over this period, they are eligible for Service pay and, while being subject to the provisions of the Soldiers' Social Security Act, they enjoy the benefits arising from the Act at the same time."

Officer cadets of the Armed Forces Academy are entitled to free education, accommodation, catering, course books, study materials and aids. Also available to them for free are sports facilities, including indoor gyms, fitness gyms, a swimming pool, and outside sporting grounds. They can also join the Erasmus Programme. On graduating from AOS, officer cadets are awarded an academic degree and are promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

For more information on the study opportunities at AOS and the application and selection process, go to [www.aos.sk](http://www.aos.sk). Those interested are welcome to contact any of the SVK Army recruitment centres or visit [www.regutacia.sk](http://www.regutacia.sk).