



## Gen Štefánik's legacy

(4 May) Gen Štefánik's personal motto "To Believe – To Love – To Work" and legacy of his life and achievements remain universal and inspirational even 102 years on since his tragic death, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said in the presence of Prime Minister Eduard Heger during a remembrance ceremony at the Tomb of M. R. Štefánik in Ivanka pri Dunaji. Mr Naď said: "Despite his early tragic death, Gen Štefánik left behind his remarkable and changeless message on the unceasing struggle for freedom, democracy and denial of totalitarian regimes. Our mission is to keep his legacy alive." He went over Štefánik's major contributions. Among them, the emergence of Czechoslovakia as a common state of Czechs and Slovaks stands out.



## DDM Majer on Bradlo Hill

(3 May) To mark tomorrow's 102nd anniversary of Gen M. R. Štefánik's death, a remembrance ceremony dedicated to one of the greats of Slovak contemporary history was held at the Tomb of Gen M. R. Štefánik on Bradlo Hill in Brezová pod Bradlom. The remembrance event was attended by Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer. He underlined that, as the Chairman of the Czechoslovak National Council in Paris, the first and only Czechoslovak Minister of War played a major role in standing up and building the independent Czechoslovak Legion in Russia, Italy and France. The legacy of this remarkable personality of Slovak history is maintained by the M. R. Štefánik Permanent Exhibition in Košariská, which is organised by the Slovak National Museum and the Institute of Military History Bratislava. Mr Majer saw a presentation of the new Information Point within a walking distance from the Tomb of General M. R. Štefánik on Bradlo Hill.

## EU Ministers in Brussels

(6 May) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď along with other EU Defence Ministers took part in a number of meetings on current defence and security issues in Brussels. They met for discussions at the Foreign Affairs Council, the European Defence Agency's Ministerial Steering Board, and the EU Satellite Centre (SatCen). Ministers devoted their attention to the current security developments in Ukraine, across the Sahel region, in Mozambique and to the progress achieved in Op IRINI, which enforces an arms embargo on Libya. They also spoke about the ongoing work on the preparation of the EU's Strategic Compass, namely about crisis management. They discussed the EDA's further way ahead after the 2020 Coordinated Annual Review of Defence (CARD) Report. EU Defence Ministers underlined the importance of the EU Satellite Centre (SatCen) in the context of developing the security landscape and the growing significance of the space dimension, as acknowledged by Ministers in the Conclusions of the SatCen Ministerial Board Meeting.



## Soldiers receive medals from President for combating COVID-19

(4 May) At the Grassalkovich Palace, eight SVK Armed Forces members received formal recognition and medals for their outstanding service during the coronavirus crisis from President and C-in-C of



the SVK Armed Forces Zuzana Čaputová. The medal award ceremony was attended by Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, Health Minister Vladimír Lengvarský, and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko. Minister Naď said: "Today's award of medals comes as a symbol of thank you and respect to all servicemen and women who have performed a variety of tasks on a day-to-day basis since the outbreak of the pandemic, facilitating the work of not only the Police Corps, but also that of hard-pressed medical personnel and others whose role in this fight was and is crucial. At the same time, this is testament that soldiers are here for our citizens uninterruptedly, ready to help on crisis management operations wherever needed." The medals went to Sgt Marek Sovský, Pte 1C Juraj Černota, Pte 1C Patrícia Kuchárová, SSGT Ivana Kováčová, Sgt 1C Pavol Janešík, Brig Ladislav Dohun, Sgt Peter Pápež, and a member of the SVK Special Operations Forces.

- The SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office has announced the Defence-wide **PhotoAttack** and **MIL Gallery** Competitive Displays for service personnel, civilian employees in Defence, family members and veterans. The deadline for entries is 13 Oct. The results will be announced during a ceremony at the Trenčín Garrison Club on 10 Nov. More information is available on the MOD website.

- Commander Slovak Special Operations Forces Command (COM SOCOM) announced **Special Forces Assessment and Selection** (SFAS) for candidates from the SVK Armed Forces. More information is available on the SVK Armed Forces website.

- On 4 May, **Slovak UNFICYP** soldiers commemorated the 102nd anniversary of Gen M. R. Štefánik's tragic death at HQ Sector 4 in Famagusta, Cyprus. Lt Col Ján Hríc laid a wreath at the Gen Štefánik Memorial Plaque, which was officially unveiled in 2016.

- On 4 May, service personnel of the **Office of Logistics Support** returned to the Turecký Vrch Training Area to resume training. Their improvement training focused on firing small arms and practising combat skills.

- Over 50 SVK UNFICYP soldiers and UNPOL policemen from Camp Štefánik in Famagusta organised a **blood donation** drive to help local medical facilities.

- The Ordinariate of the SVK Armed Forces will organise the 15th **National Pilgrimage to Rome and the Vatican** on 19-25 Sept. The pilgrimage is primarily intended for the SVK Armed Forces members who have been deployed on the frontline in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. For more information, visit the Ordinariate website.

- The latest edition of **Azimuth 24/7** offers an insight into the Czech Commando Course through the eyes of our colleagues. Historically, it is modelled on the British Assault Course, which was attended by Jozef Gabčík, Jan Kubiš and others in WW2.

- The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as 37 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 10-16 May 2021, and so are SVK military road movements from/to: Zemianske Kostolany – Levice, Nitra – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Zemianske Kostolany – CV Lešť and back, Sliac – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Trenčín – Ruskov, Zemianske Kostolany – Hlohovec, Nováky – VTSÚ Záhorie, Mokrad – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Trenčín – VTSÚ Záhorie, CV Lešť – Moldava nad Bodvou and back, Sereď – Trenčín and back, Martin – Hlohovec, and CV Lešť – Aleksince.

**The FULL FIELD KIT radio programme**  
on **• RÁDIO REGINA**, live on **Fri**  
at **21.05** with a rebroadcast at **00.30** on **Sat**,  
will present the latest news on **CBRN**  
specialists from **Zemianske Kostolany**.

## SVK service personnel to practise cooperation with Allied troops

(3 May) Monday marked the launch of Ex Black Swan 2021, a multinational exercise with the participation of SVK military personnel in Hungary. This joint Allied training activity is

aimed at strengthening cooperation and coordination in the field of training and operational readiness. The exercise is scheduled to run until 14 May 2021. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Joint training activities form an inseparable element in building international cooperation in the field of security and defence. At the same time, they afford a unique opportunity for aligning the standard operating procedures of our armed forces and exchanging experience and lessons learned." As Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko explained, Ex Black Swan 2021 is primarily

## Victory in Europe Day



(8 May) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď commemorated the 76th anniversary of the end of the Second World War – Victory in Europe (VE) Day at the Slavín War Memorial in Bratislava. He paid tribute to all those who lost

their lives fighting for a free and democratic future. In his remarks, he condemned all forms of extremism that still exist today and recognised the importance of debate on this topic. He remarked that among those joining the battles against Nazi Germany ever since the first days of the war were Slovak citizens and members of other nationalities living in Slovakia. They served not only with the 1st Czechoslovak Army in Slovakia, the domestic partisan groups, and the Czechoslovak Army units formed abroad, but also with the anti-Nazi Coalition Armies and the resistance groups operating in Nazi-occupied countries.

## SNP Museum to fall under MOD's remit

(5 May) Culture Minister Natália Milanová and Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď signed a memorandum on the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum Banská Bystrica being taken out of the remit of the Culture Ministry and integrated into the Institute of Military History under the remit of the Ministry of Defence. Following the signing of the memorandum, an interministerial group made up of subject matter experts from the MOD and the MOC is to convene in order to prepare and to implement the merger. As part of this process, the SNP Museum Property Inventory and Legal Audit Reports will be issued.

## Gen Brieger visits Slovakia

(5 May) At the invitation of SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko, Austrian Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Robert Brieger arrived on a two-day visit to Slovakia. As part of his conversations with Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Chief of Defence Gen Zmeko, particular attention was paid to current security and defence issues as well as to building EU security and defence collaboration. Minister Naď thanked Gen Brieger for last year's 33-member Austrian Army deployment in support of Slovakia's nation-wide mass testing for COVID-19 as part of Op Shared Responsibility and praised the joint activities being undertaken under the Central European Defence Cooperation (CEDC). During his visit to Slovakia, Austrian Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Robert Brieger met with Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security Juraj Krúpa. Day 2 of his visit will be dedicated to a series of meetings and a tour of TC Lešť.

## BLACK SWAN



geared towards the integration and interoperability of Allied troops on the basis of a regional scenario generating situations which the SVK Armed Forces can face in the non-conventional and hybrid environment. Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko said: "The exercise allows several dozens of our soldiers who are participating in the exercises to practise cooperating on multinational teams in the field of command, control and conduct of operations with the view to strengthening stability and security especially in Central Europe."

The Institute of Military History – Military History Museum Piešťany has unveiled a new permanent gallery titled "Slovaks in Uniforms 1848-2020" in the new exhibition premises of the H-1 Historical Hangar at MHM Piešťany.