



Soldiers in tribute of SNP heroes

(14 August) The 75th Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Anniversary Military Parade on 29 Aug will be no show of force. This statement was made by Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš in Banská Bystrica in response to the information on the SNP commemorations released by some media.

Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš emphasised: "In this way, too, servicemen and women want to pay tribute to the memory of the heroes who fought for the principles and ideas that today form the pillars of Slovak military traditions – the struggle for peace, democracy, equality and especially against fascism." According to him, the SNP, as a significant milestone of our history, deserves a spectacular programme. This year's commemorations at the SNP Memorial will start one hour earlier at 10:00 compared to last year. The three highest constitutional representatives will be in attendance.

He continued: "Over 1,500 servicemen and women, divided into more than 35 marching groups, and over 200 military assets, including 15 aircraft, will be involved in the SNP Military Parade. There will be a wide line-up of vehicles in service with the SVK Army, Air Force, Special Operations Forces, Military Police, etc. The Cabinet has allocated €106,000 to support the military parade." He further noted that SVK citizens will see the progress achieved in modernising the Slovak Armed Forces and that there is a lot to be proud of. The last time a similar military parade was held was more than 10 years ago.

"When it comes to additional funding, our MOD and Armed Forces regularly allocate funds for servicing combat equipment as part of defence planning. In this respect, we are stepping up our efforts, and also through our companies which can service equipment, we are increasing the capability of combat equipment, its combat capability, and the readiness of the Slovak Armed Forces to deliver the defence and security of SVK citizens," said Minister Gajdoš.

A Military Police hotline (0904 786 159) will be set up for those who want to report any incidental damage caused by the military. The hotline will be in operation from 18:00 on 27 Aug until 12:00 on 30 Aug.

Nation-wide Slovak National Uprising Commemorations Programme in Banská Bystrica revealed

(14 August) The 75th SNP Anniversary Commemorations will begin with the Cycle Company Ride from Zvolen to Banská Bystrica on 28 Aug. The riding contingent, dressed in historic uniforms, will form up at 12:00 in SNP Square in Zvolen and set out on the ride. Accompanied by historic vehicles, they will pedal through local villages to their finish point at the SNP Memorial in Banská Bystrica. Also exactly at midday, sale of the SNP Museum O Euro Souvenir Banknote, 3rd limited edition, will be launched. At 17:00, the remains of an unknown SNP soldier will be ceremonially entombed in the SNP Museum's Remembrance Hall. Starting at 18:00, the evening before the 75th SNP anniversary will conclude with a ceremonial concert by the Banská Bystrica State Opera, where the SNP Museum Awards will be presented to the personalities who actively support the Museum.

The main event organisers, i.e. the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of

SVK soldiers on military walking pilgrimage to Częstochowa

(14 August) The last two legs of the 10-day 28th Military Walking Pilgrimage from Warsaw to Częstochowa were joined in by the Ordinary of the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps, Mons František Rábek. The approx. 330km-long pilgrimage route was undertaken by 500 servicemen and women on 5-14 Aug 2019. Ordinary of the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps Mons František Rábek said: "This pilgrimage does not finish on Częstochowa's Jasna Góra [Luminous Mount], but it should continue inside us amidst our close ones at home and at our work places, so that we can fulfil its mission by demonstrating love and service to others." He added that soldiers had managed to step out of their comfort zone and found time to reflect on their lives and faith. He appreciated the fact that Slovak pilgrims had made it to the destination despite walking in high temperatures and heavy rain.



This year, Poland's most important walking pilgrimage attracted over 500 servicemen and women. Of them, approx. 80 were from Germany, the USA, Lithuania and Slovakia. They were joined in by Croatian soldiers for the final Holy Mass, which was celebrated before the last leg of the pilgrimage at the Sanctuary of Przepełnia Górká by Bishop Józef Guzdek (POL), Bishop František Rábek, and Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services William James Muhm (USA). Also in attendance at the Holy Mass were State Secretary of the Polish Ministry of National Defence Wojciech Skurkiewicz and Deputy Chief of Defence Div Gen Jan Śliwka (POL F).

- Commander of the SVK Air Force Maj Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, WWII veteran **Army General Emil Boček** (CZE F), and Director of HOREZZA, a.s., Tatranské Zruby Miriam Straková attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the SNP Heroes and Airmen Memorial in the municipality of Tatranské Zruby on 9 Aug 2019, to pay tribute to the 24 Soviet airmen and Czechoslovak paratroopers whose Lisunov Li-2 transport aircraft, flying in to support the SNP operations, crashed into a side peak of Mount Gerlach, known as 'Rear Gerlach', on 9 Oct 1944.

- As part of a public procurement process, the SVK MOD has selected a **contractor for supplying radio systems with accessories** to the Military Unit Nemšová. The contract covers the delivery of the radio systems, which consist of the managing radio stations, portable radio terminals, and accessories essential to supporting the operation of the radio devices. The tender was implemented in accordance with the Public Procurement Act.

- As with the whole Slovak Armed Forces, members of the **Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade Nitra** are getting ready for the military parade to be held as part of the 75th Slovak National Uprising Anniversary Commemorations in Banská Bystrica on 29 Aug 2019. Air defenders inspected their vehicles and equipment before conducting rehearsals for the parade at Lešť and Sliach.

- Drivers are advised by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be 11 **Allied road movements** between 19-25 Aug 2019. They will mostly involve U.S., HRV and HUN troops. Over the week, SVK Army convoys will also ferry oversized cargo on the Nitra-Sliach route and the Hlohovec-Sliach-Hlohovec-VTSÚ Záhorie-Hlohovec route. And a SVK Army convoy will move from Martin to TC Lešť.

What's on Full Field Kit Show

Live on Regina Radio's Full Field Kit Show, aimed not only at soldiers but also at all those who care about the security and defence of our homeland, you will learn about preparations for the SNP Military Parade, two MWD handlers, and an educational trail walk at 21:05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat. Join us! Write to us at plnapolna@mod.gov.sk. Thank you for your ideas, comments and opinions.

Culture working in collaboration with the SNP Museum, have prepared a rich cultural programme for 29 Aug. It will be divided into two parts: the day programme, dedicated to the National Act of Commemoration, and the evening gala programme, which will culminate with a fireworks display and a video mapping projection onto the SNP Memorial. In the morning of 29 Aug, the programme will start with a flypast of SVK Air Force aircraft at 10:00. A WW2 Camp will be set up and period military vehicles and equipment will be on display in the grounds of the SNP Memorial. There will also be demonstrations of remote-controlled models of historic military vehicles. And a military parade will be held from 15:00 to 16:30. The gala programme will start at 20:30. Slovak musicians Kristína, Miro Žbirka, Desmond as well as Lúčna and SĽUK Folk Dance Ensembles will put on musical and dancing performances. The organisers will be aided by secondary school students from the Future for Youth Civil Association. A mobile post office will sell the 75th SNP

Pre-deployment ceremony in Martin

(12 August) Soldiers deploying to Op EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina passed the Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM) inspection and held a pre-deployment ceremony and a ceremonial march at the Training and Mobilization Manning Base in Martin on 9 Aug 2019. The ceremony was attended by DCHOD/COS Maj Gen Miroslav Lorinc, DCOM Crisis Management Strategic Centre Col Ladislav Dovhun, DCOS HQ SVK ARMY Col Ján Dreveňák, and other guests.



Policemen train as abseilers

(13 August) Members of the Special Police Units and personnel of the SVK Military Police made the best of the favourable summer weather and undertook improvement training in abseiling in the air, over the water, and to the ground. Working in cooperation with the Helicopter Detachment of the Air Unit (Ministry of Interior) and the River Ops Section of the Riot Police Branch (Presidium of the SVK Police Corps), supported by firefighters and instructors, abseilers elevated their skills in abseiling from an Mi-171 helicopter in a variety of terrain and over the water.

IPAL Course for leaders

(14 August) Lt Adam Bardy, member of the SVK Presidential Guard of Honour, took part in the International Professional Advanced Leadership (IPAL) Course in Pensacola, Florida, USA. The IPAL Course, which was attended by soldiers from Kosovo, Grenada, Mexico, Slovenia, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Slovakia, is designed to enhance the management skills of squad leaders and platoon commanders in the field of leadership, effective communication, decision making, team building, rule of law and military regulations. Students attending IPAL worked on their physical fitness and leadership skills via the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), which is part of IPAL. Taught by instructors and guests, they received a knowledgeable insight into team leadership, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide prevention, and stress management.

Anniversary postage stamp. There will be a number of traffic restrictions because of the military parade and the security measures in place. Some public transport service schedules will be adjusted from the evening of 27 Aug to the early morning of 28 Aug. On 29 Aug, the public transport service will operate in the form of shuttle service. Suburban buses and coaches will run according to adjusted timetables. Railway Company Slovakia, the national carrier and official transport company of the SNP Commemorations, will provide a 50% discount on train tickets. Visitors from any place in Slovakia will pay the price of a single ticket to Banská Bystrica and the return ticket will be for free. The tickets must, however, be stamped at the ticket office of the SNP Museum or Banská Bystrica City Railway Station. For more information on the programme, arrangements, and novelties of the 75th SNP Anniversary Commemorations, please go to www.muzeumsnp.sk.