



## Soldiers commemorating Ján Golian and Otto Smik

(26 January) Members of the SVL Land Forces HQ, together with the representatives of the Trenčín-based regional committee of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters, commemorated the 110th anniversary of birth of Gen Ján Golian. Brig Gen Juraj Kríštofovič, the Land Forces Deputy Commander, pointed out Gen Golian's contribution to the liberation of Slovakia. At the end of the ceremonial muster, the participants of the commemoration ceremony laid wreaths to the memorial plaque to commemorate the uprising officers who in 1939 - 1944 operated in the building of the present-day Land Forces Headquarters.

On 21 January, members of Sliach Air Base commemorated the 94th anniversary of birth of the most successful Slovak fighter pilot operating during WWII in the Royal Air Force (UK) – Maj Gen Otto Smik. Sliach Air Base was named after Maj Gen Smik on 28 August 2002 and bears his name to-date. The commemoration ceremony held at the Otto Smik Memorial was attended also by the General's nephew Ján Smik; by Chief of Staff of the Tactical Wing Maj Rastislav Kučera and by Chief of the Operations Control Group Maj Tomáš Bajnok.



### To serve both the sportsmen and soldiers

(29 January) For a whole week, the high-performance sportsmen and coaches from the Military Sport Centre Dukla Banská Bystrica shared their experience of physical preparation and training with the elite troops of the 5th Special Forces Regiment Žilina. The presentation of the new diagnostic centre, which was held on Friday, was graced with the presence of SVK Minister of Defence Martin Giváč.

"This week, we have carried out a pilot project of the process we have launched as a part of the concept of the MSC Dukla further development. It is our ambition that the assets we invest in Dukla will be utilized also by the armed forces. We have come up with a sound plan and this has been the first step. The 5th Regiment has used the diagnostic equipment for the whole week and I am sure that in the future it will be possible for the armed forces to make the use of all the facilities of the Military Sport Centre," said SVK Minister of Defence Martin Giváč.

"It is our pleasure to provide our facilities for the training purposes of the Special Forces unit of the SVK Armed Forces. In my view, our Military Sport Centre that falls under the Defence Department should share the lessons learned in the preparation of sportsmen not only with the young talents or the top-level sportsmen representing our country and the Olympics contestants but also with the soldiers," said Director of the MSC Dukla Banská Bystrica Richard Galovič. On this occasion, he pointed out that the troops from the 5th Special Forces Regiment are highly trained.

Throughout the week, five soldiers from the elite 5th Regiment joined the best sportsmen and coaches from the MSC Dukla Banská Bystrica to undergo training and preparation along with them. "I believe they have gained some practical experience there and I have to say that also for us, meeting them was very inspiring. We have learned a variety of techniques that might be used in preparation of the high-performance sportsmen," concluded the Director of the MSC Dukla.

According to one of the members of the 5th Special Forces Regiment, such cooperation is most useful, namely in terms of sharing the experience and getting know-how to improve preparation and training of both the soldiers and the top-level sportsmen. "We received recommendations from the physiotherapists and personal fitness trainers as to what we can do to make the training cycle even more effective," he explained. According to Michal Martikán, it is good for both the Special Forces and the sportsmen to know the recommended limits.

The new diagnostic lab provides, among other things, the blood gas analyzers with stress test ECG, a cycle ergometer with stress test ECG, conveyor belt, myotest to evaluate athlete's muscular performance, fitrodyn to determine power output, electromyograph with telemetry to analyze the biomechanics of movement and Keiser exercise machine to determine the dynamic and maximum power output.

- On 18-22 January, the Training and Canine Military Police Division Vikanová – Hronsek delivered the **Land Rover Defender Driver Course**. The participants familiarized themselves with the vehicle's basic technical specifications, construction design, operation and maintenance details, possible breakdowns and repairs, off- and on-road driving specifics, as well as with its rope winch system. They were required to check the vehicles before and after using them, and underwent practical driving on roads and in off-road terrain at the Training Centre Lešť.

- On 20 January, members of the **Slovak (Liaison and Observation Team) LOT Novo Sarajevo** in EUFOR ALTHEA paid a visit to a winter camp for junior scouts from the "Youth" Association from Ilijaš. In cooperation with a mine safety instructor, the children were briefed on the principles of mine safety. Under the initiative, the Slovak LOT donated generous food packs to the kids, purchased from the proceeds of a donation event.

- On 27 January, **Sector 4 of UNFICYP** in Cyprus was visited by Elizabeth Sellwood, the advisor to Mrs Lisa Buttenheim, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of Mission of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus. At Camp M. R. Štefánik, Famagusta, she was received by the Commander of Sector 4, Lt Col Miroslav Belanský. The advisor was interested to find out more about the Deryneia crossing point on the Green Line between the northern and southern parts of the island, the construction of which has been approved by leaders of both communities in Cyprus.

- At the gathering of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces members, Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces Gen Milan Maxim bid farewell to the outgoing Chief of Staff for Operations Support, **Brig Gen Daniel Zmeko**, who is to assume the responsibilities of Deputy Commander of the SVK Land Forces. He is to replace the outgoing deputy commander, Brig Gen Lubomir Gacko, who had, as of 1 February, joined the Staff for Operations Support, General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces.

- On 26 January, the barrier shooting range in Sučany saw the marksmanship training of members of the Management Centre, of the **Mobile Communications and Information Systems Base Ružomberok**. They were given the opportunity to hone their shooting skills while firing the vz. (SER) 82 pistol at fixed targets and the vz. (SER) 58 machine gun from standing position at moving and disappearing targets.

- On Wednesday, 27 January, Duklianske Barracks at the SVK MOD hosted the military unit's **assessment of the training year (TY) 2015** in the presence of the Chief of the Military Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, Col Vladimír Šimko, and the Commander of the Residence of the President of the Slovak Republic, Col Norbert Kádek. Following the assessment of the 2015 activities presented by the Commander of the Honour Guard of the President of the Slovak Republic, the Chief of the Military Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, Col Vladimír Šimko, thanked members of the unit for their high quality tasks performance in the TY 2015.

## Working seminar in Prešov

(25 January) The Commander of the 2nd Mechanized Brigade, Brig Gen Martin Stoklasa, opened a two-day working seminar on the preparation and building of the National Goal 2013 (NG13). In his opening speech, he emphasized the main goals of the conference and familiarized the participants with his intention, priorities and the process of getting the declared units ready for operations, with emphasis on the NG13 command and staff. Under its partnership goals, the Slovak Republic has committed itself to forming and preparing a brigade-sized mechanized unit as a NATO deployable unit, to be assigned to the Forces of Lower Readiness (FLR) as of 1 January 2018.



## General Gorenc in visit

(28 January) During his visit to the Slovak Republic, the Commander of the NATO Allied Air Command (AIRCOM), General Frank Gorenc, was received by the 1st Vice Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces, Lt Gen Gajdoš, and the Commander of the SVK Air Force, Brig Gen Miroslav Korba. The generals assessed the potential cooperation options in the Euro-Atlantic region, with emphasis on tackling the current security challenges. General Frank Gorenc also met with the State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence, Mr Miloš Koterec.

## Vicar General bids farewell

(26 January) The Vicar General of the Ordinariate of the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps, Col Mons František Počurek, bid his farewell by celebrating the Holy Mass. Based on the decision of the Church authority, he has been assigned to the Training Battalion Martin upon completion of 10 years of service as the Vicar General. The farewell Holy Mass was attended by Gen Milan Maxim, Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces, Lt Gen Peter Gajdoš, 1st Vice Chief of the General Staff, Maj Gen Pavel Macko, 2nd Vice Chief of the General Staff, Command Sergeant Major Vladimír Beluš, Chief NCO of the SVK Armed Forces, Capt Vladimír Varga, Director of the Ecumenical and Pastoral Service Office, and Service personnel and civil servants from Bratislava Garrison. At the conclusion of the farewell ceremony, Gen Maxim thanked the Vicar General for his service in favour of members of the SVK Armed Forces.

## Pilgrim Tours with Ordinariate of SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps in 2016

**1/ 58th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France**

Date: 18 – 24 May 2016 (departure 18 May, return 24 May)

Registration closing date: 28 February 2016

**2/ 11th National Pilgrimage of the Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic to Rome and the Vatican, Italy**

Date: 18 – 24 September 2016

Registration closing date: 31 May 2016

**3/ St Cyril and St Methodius Meeting of Military Ordinariates of Slovakia and Hungary in Zalavár, Hungary**

Date: 4 June 2016

Registration closing date: 31 May 2016

**4/ 20th National Pilgrimage of the Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic to Levoča**

Date: 2 July – 3 July 2016

Registration closing date: 31 May 2016

**5/ Participation in the 25th International Military Pilgrimage from Warsaw to Czestochowa, Poland**

Date: 4 – 14 August 2016

Registration closing date: 31 May 2016

**6/ Participation of the members of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic in the National Pilgrimage in Šaštín**

Date: 15 September 2016



The interested persons must as soon as possible file their applications with their military chaplains, police chaplains, prison chaplains, firefighter chaplains and customs chaplains. The application form is available at <http://www.ordinariat.sk/zahranicne-aktivity/>. The completed form is to be handed over either to the chaplain or dean or, if not appointed, the form is to be forwarded to the pertinent vicariate, as the case may be. Please note that the application forms shall not be sent to the Ordinariate!

The selected participants will be kept informed in a timely manner.

### Terms and conditions for participation in the pilgrimages:

Members of the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps in an active service or reserves – mandatory dress is uniform; individual travel and medical insurance during the journey and stay as a prerequisite; valid passport or identity card; in the case of participation of dependants at least one of the participants must be in an active service and wearing a uniform; during the tour a participant must take a holiday, compensatory time, etc.; after completion, approval by a commander or a superior and having signed the binding application, the same is to be ASAP forwarded via a chaplain to the vicariate. **The preference will be given to the participants in uniforms of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic.**