



Citizens of Nové Mesto nad Váhom familiarized themselves with voluntary military training

(6 February) During the weekend, citizens of Nové Mesto nad Váhom familiarized themselves with the military voluntary training project at an event called *Show What is in You!* organized on the grounds of the M. R. Štefánik Secondary Grammar School. The event under the auspices of the SVK MOD was already the second in a series of events to support the concept of voluntary military training. The capacity of this year's pilot project is 150 participants.

"The voluntary military preparation has been designed for those who would like to undergo a military training and obtain basic knowledge and skills necessary to perform tasks of the armed forces and the crisis management. By organizing a series of presentation events, we want to give people an opportunity to directly ask soldiers about anything in connection with the training they would like to know, as well as to test their physical fitness level," briefed SVK Minister of Defence Martin Glváč.

The visitors observed static displays of wheeled vehicles, basic infantry and artillery weapons, tried out a climbing wall, assembly and disassembly of arms, and obtained a lot of interesting information. So far, approximately 400 citizens have expressed their interest in undergoing the voluntary military training, whereas the official selective procedure will be commenced during the following weeks. The graduates will finish the preparation as 2nd Degree Privates and will swell the ranks of the SVK Armed Forces reserves or active reserves. The event *Show What is in You!* will also be organized in other Slovak towns.



- On the occasion of his leaving the Office of Vicar General of the Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic, **Col. Mons. František Počurek** met with Col. Ján Marek, Commander of the Bratislava Garrison Headquarters (BGH). Col. Marek thanked him for his support in providing for a pastoral care room and a chapel in the premises of the Vajnory barracks in Bratislava. He wished him every personal and professional success in the future and awarded him with the Commemorative Badge of the Commander of the BGH.

- On 2nd February, Commander of the Logistic Support Office of the SVK Armed Forces Col. Ján Zarnovický congratulated **Lt Col Tibor Meliš** on the occasion of his jubilee, expressed his thanks and acknowledgement for his long-time work in the Armed Forces and presented him with the Commemorative Letter and Commemorative Cross of the Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed 3rd Grade, awarded to him by SVK CHOD Gen Milan Maxim.

- The main planning conference on the exercise **Tobruq Arrows 2016** was held on 25 – 28 January in Hradište, under the direction of the Army of the Czech Republic. This international exercise, involving the combat firing from the portable anti-aircraft missile systems, will be held on 30 May – 3 June 2016 in the Czech training area Hradište, with the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Lithuania taking part in the exercise. It will focus on combat firing from RBS-70, 9K38 IGLA, FIM-92 STINGER and self-propelled complex 9K35 STRELA 10M.

- On Friday, 29 January, the formation's ceremonial muster took place in the premises of the Dukla barracks on the occasion of **Lt Col Branislav Vavrínek** leaving the post of Chief of Staff of the Guard of Honour of the President of the Slovak Republic, after his assignment had come to an end. As of 1 February, he was assigned to the position of Chief of Section – Deputy Chief of the Office at the Organization Section of the Office of the SVK General Staff and promoted to the military rank of Colonel.

- In the period from 11 January to 19 February, **training of the mechanized and reconnaissance specializations** has been organized in the combat training company. 106 soldiers from different formations and facilities of the SVK Armed Forces have started training. They will undergo activities aimed at theoretical preparation, which they will build on during the practical activities in a terrain. Training will be completed by small arms firing and a final exercise in the garrison training area Sučany.

- On 4 – 5 February, 22nd mechanized battalion underwent training aimed at **railway transportation**. The theoretical preparation was followed by the practical part organized in the premises of the railway station in Michalovce. The soldiers' training focused on preparation of railway carriages and on loading the equipment, on force and assets protection at the railway station, on securing the equipment in the wagons and on guiding the vehicles. Equally, the soldiers built a UNOR loading platform.

Career and welfare

(3 February) The international workshop was held at the Ministry of Defence, dealing with the personnel issues of the officer career management and veterans welfare. The experts from Great Britain, from SVK MoD and defence specialists from Romania, Croatia and the Czech Republic took the floor. The workshop was a continuation of successful cooperation between the Institute of Security and Defence Studies of the AFA and the military department of the Embassy of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Bratislava.

Commander in Bratislava



(3 February) Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus Maj Gen Kristin Lund arrived in Slovakia for a three-day visit to inspect the progression of preparations of the March rotation and to take part in the final tactical exercise of the contingent at the training area Koliňanský vrch in the vicinity of Nitra. Maj Gen was received by SVK CHOD Gen Milan Maxim and the SVK MOD State Secretary Miloš Koterec. The Force Commander made a visit to the anti-aircraft missile brigade in Nitra, where the Slovak contingent members undergo training. SVK Land Forces Commander Brig Gen Miroslav Korba and Brigade Commander Col Miroslav Lorinc introduced her to the tasks and objectives of the anti-aircraft missile brigade, to the progression of national preparation of the professional soldiers for UNFICYP operation, and to the progression of preparation of the engineering and mechanical team specialists, which preparation is carried out in the premises of the tactical wing Sliac. The next day, Maj Gen Lund took part in the final exercise of the members of the SVK Armed Forces who will be deployed to UNFICYP operation in the upcoming rotation in March. At the end of her visit, Maj Gen expressed satisfaction with the progression of the national preparation and emphasized the role of the SVK engineering platoon as a significant contribution of the Slovak Republic to the peacekeeping mission.

(5 February) The representatives of the SVK MOD, the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters and the village Staré Hory commemorated the guerrilla fight known as the Sharp Assault in the Green Valley. On 2 February 1945, the Morozov guerrilla group with five sub-groups mopped up a 40 – strong patrol in Staré Hory, in the Green Valley. 25 Germans were killed, the others were taken captives. The members of the commemorative meeting met in the place where the assault was launched and later laid wreaths at the memorial in the village. "Just as the central or supra-regional events commemorating the anti-fascist resistance, the commemorations at a local level are of profound significance because they bring back memories of the people who demonstrated courage, who did not hesitate to take a risk and fight, and even today they are still a source of inspiration for us and for the young generation," said Richard Zimányi from the Section of the War Veterans and Retired Soldiers Welfare at the MOD's Human Resources Department.

In honour of victorious fight

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Specialists in Nováky



(6 February) At the National EOD Centre Nováky, an improvement training directed at specific EOD capabilities of the V4 EU BG took place during the first week of February. The detached component is comprised of two EOD teams operating under one platoon. The officer commanding the training was SFC Michal Nierez, senior pyrotechnician of the National EOD Centre. The participants revised operational procedures, and together with members of Trenčín-based International EOD COE drilled manipulation with homemade and improvised explosive devices. They familiarized themselves with the production as well as disposal of such devices.

Investment in Snina

(7 February) After the visit to ZVS Holding Joint Stock Company, Snina, made by Prime Minister Róbert Fico and Minister of Defence Martin Glváč, the company's management announced its plans to increase an employment rate in Zemľan region, return to traditional production and invest 1.3 mil EUR in the eastern part of Slovakia. During the summer, the 30-strong company intends to create 50 new positions, and the number of employees shall rise to 100 in 2017. When the construction works on a development centre are finished, there shall emerge hundreds of new positions in Snina in the following years.

The investment to be put in the armaments plant headquartered in Snina is in concert with the strategy aimed at boosting the Slovak defence industry, an essential part of which was the fact that a partner joined military repair and maintenance companies in Nováky and Trenčín in 2013 – 2014. In connection with the decreased dependence on state contracts, increased employment rate and higher salaries, Minister Glváč said: "During my business trips to other countries, I will do my very best to contribute to the reactivation of the Slovak defence industry."

Rožňava paramedics claim victory at international competition

(4 February) On 28 – 30 January, the 4th edition of an international competition for rescue teams dubbed *Terrorism and Migration – Lešt 2016* took place at Lešť Training Centre. Among 40 competing teams was also Gemer-Malohont CBRN Battalion Rožňava.

Before the competition started, a specialized international conference was conducted in Pliešovce. The participants received information about the SVK Armed Forces tasks in dealing with migration and terrorism, about medical risks, experience gained at Wien-based refugee camp, the course of constructing a tent camp on the territory of Slovakia, responses to a terrorist attack, and about concrete occasions during which mass and emergency situations occurred. A part of the conference was a ceremony during which SSgt A. Adamko was awarded the "Andrej Faglic, MD Plaque" for rescuing injured personnel from a helicopter that crashed in Kabul.

The initial night stage of the competition tested orientation skills of the participants and cooperation between medical incident commanders, the shelter for injured persons, the evacuation



coordinator, and the triage commander operating after an explosion in an asylum house. During the day stage, the rescue teams built a shelter for injured persons, performed a computer simulation of a train-bus crash, and remotely directed the triage using a radio station. In different scenario environments, they dealt with a bus-car crash, a suicidal blast in the subway, a train derailment, as well as an explosion in a public transport.

The simulated tasks tested cooperation between various teams of the SVK Armed Forces, the Firefighting and Rescue Corps, the Red Cross, and the Rapid Medical Aid Service. In the SVK Armed Forces category, victory was claimed by SSgt Andrej Adamko and SSgt Jiří Pouř. The rescue team of the CBRN Battalion Rožňava – Sgt Andrea Ševčovičová and Cpl Dušan Lacko – finished second, and the third place was taken by the SVK AF team.

The CBRN Battalion provided the event with heated decontamination tents for the competition's crisis staff and prepared meals in the field kitchen.