



Multimedia section of Military History Institute opened

(26 February) The ceremonial opening of the multimedia section in the premises of the Central Exhibition of the Military History Institute in Piešťany was graced with the presence of SVK Minister of Defence Martin Giváč. The information and technical support aimed at enhancing the quality of the research conducted by the Military History Institute was co-financed by the European Union resources.

"The Military History Institute is one of the four entities entitled to draw on EU funds within the Department of Defence. This exhibition stands as a testimony to the fact that it is possible to obtain the necessary finance, which will be used to bring the military history, to include the military equipment, closer to people. The costs of the project, amounting nearly to EUR 3 million, were covered by the EU Research and Development funding programme.

"We have introduced a 3D movie on military history, we have built touch sensitive panels in Slovak – English mutation and the visitors may borrow audio-stations enabling them to find out about the history of the individual exhibits either in Slovak or in English," informed Director of the Military History Institute Col Miroslav Čaplovič.

Part of the project is also a virtual study room, e-study room and a network attached storage. The documentary film Steel Silence dealing with the military history of Slovakia, with a focus being on the 20th century, was released for the first time as part of the opening ceremony.



Anniversary of Military Police

(23 February) On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Military Police, the ceremonial gathering was held in the premises of the Trenčín Garrison Club. Among those extending their congratulations to the military police officers were Peter Pellegrini, Chairman of the SVK National Council; Jaroslav Baška, Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee at the SVK National Council; Miloš Koterec, the State Secretary at the SVK MOD; Gen Milan Maxim, Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces; the representatives of the military diplomatic corps accredited in the Slovak Republic; Mons. František Rábek, Ordinary of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps of the Slovak Republic; the former chiefs and directors of Military Police and other invited guests. They reminded the milestones of the 25-year-long journey that SVK Military Police has made, and highlighted the emerging challenges that Slovakia will have to face in the years to come. On this occasion, Director of Military Police Col Milan Hamar expressed his appreciation to all the members and employees, currently serving or serving in the past in the ranks of MP, and to all who have contributed to its development. Gen Maxim introduced the two new publications: Military Police and The Brief Pragmatic History of Gendarmerie until 1918. Part of the ceremony was the award of the Commemorative Medal of the Minister of Defence, Military Medal for Allegiance to the Armed Forces, Medal of the Military Office of the President of the Slovak Republic and Medal of Military Police. Among those awarded were the following military police officers: Col Ivan Viselka, Maj Štefan Masaryk, Maj Jozef Kaščák, Maj Ivan Mokrohájský, Capt Jozef Boleček, Capt Juraj Antol, Capt Olga Šrámeková, MSgt Marek Adamciak, MSgt Maroš Štefan, Sgt 1st Class Peter Vašš, Sgt 1st Class Atilla Kováč, Sgt 1st Class Peter Toscano and SSgt Lenka Lukačovičová. At the end of the ceremony, the participants watched the new documentary film on Military Police.

- On Friday, 19 February, the **Staff NCO course** was completed by a passing out ceremony in the Hall of Honour and Fame at the Training Battalion in Martin. Having spent the five weeks of demanding training, all of the twelve course participants from the ranks of the SVK Armed Forces successfully completed the course. SSgt Karol Tarbaj from the helicopter wing Prešov was awarded as the best graduate of the course and as such he was presented with the symbolic itinerant award of the best course participant in the NCO Academy. The passing out ceremony was graced with the presence of Sergeant Major Richard Fabricius, Commander of the NCO Academy, and Sergeant Major Miroslav Ferenc, Commanding NCO of the Land Forces.

- On 18 February, the members of the Headquarters of the **Base of Mobile Communications and Information Systems** Ružomberok underwent advanced training at the training area Ivachnová. The focus of the tactical preparation was on marching in a rugged terrain. Within the topographic preparation, they rehearsed orientation and marching in the terrain utilizing their map-reading skills. The shooting preparation was aimed at mastering the technique of throwing a hand-grenade while moving and weapon-handling with submachine gun Sa vz. 58. The final part of training was medical preparation and training with a focus on ability of a professional soldier to provide the first aid. All the tasks and objectives of the preparation have been met.

- On 22 February, the members of the 13th mechanized battalion underwent a **close combat drill, with a focus on methodology and instructional strategies**, under guidance of Cpl Martin Bílý and Pte Lukáš Kučerák. Invitation to attend was accepted also by Master Tomáš Bilšich (5th Dan in Aikido). The drill was aimed at mastering the basic techniques of a close quarters combat, at teaching the instructors and trainers the new defence techniques using a weapon (assault rifle Sa vz. 58V with a muzzle) for the purposes of defence in a close encounter with an enemy, e.g. in case of a combat in a built-up area. The drill also included mastering the ground fight techniques.

- On 17 – 19 February, the Canine Section of the Training and Cynology Division in Vikanová – Hronek in cooperation with the members of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard, Financial Administration, Police and Military Police organized the **methodology workshop aimed at the target group of training instructors in the field of service cynology**. Its participants shared and exchanged information on specialized courses as well as information about training and about system of testing a level of preparedness of service dogs and dog handlers.

- On 23 – 24 February, the **cardio-pulmonary resuscitation course** (CPR course) for the medical personnel serving in the armed forces was held at the Section of training, education and specialized preparation of the Division of specialized medical and veterinary activities at the Surgeon General Office Ružomberok, workplace Litpovský Mikuláš.

- On 25 February, the members of the SVK Land Forces HQs underwent their first **recurrent preparation and training** this year. It was aimed at the basic combat skills: firing from the firearms, i.e. the sub-machine gun Sa vz. 58 and the pistol Pi vz. 82, shooting at disappearing, moving and stationary targets, safe weapon handling, signals preparations, topographic and medical preparation.

Military Police cooperation

(22 February) In Trenčín, on 22 February, Chief of Military Police of the Czech Republic Col Pavel Kříž and Director of Military Police of the Slovak Republic Lt Col Milan Hamar signed the Technical Agreement between Military Police of the Czech Republic and Military Police of the Slovak Republic. We place hopes in the TA to further develop cooperation, namely in the field of joint exercises and training, as well as preparation of instructors. The Agreement shall allow an easier usage of assets, materiel and training equipment during the joint exercises," pointed out Col Hamar. According to the both heads of military police, by signing the Technical Agreement were created favourable conditions for a potential joint deployment in the international crisis management operations, for control over the capabilities of individual units, groups and members of Military Police. The joint preparation of exercises and instructors of training will be based on the harmonized annual plans, with a prospect of next two years. The ceremony of signing the Technical Agreement was graced with the presence of the national representatives of the MP educational and training facilities, Col Libor Daněk, Chief of the Military Police Academy in Vyškov, the Czech Republic, and Lt Col Marián Turanský, Director of the Training and Cynology Division Vikanová – Hronek. The both facilities closely cooperate in the field of specialized education and training of the military police officers.



Valuable acknowledgement

(18 February) Gen Werner Freers, Chief of Staff at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, awarded the members of the Strategic Operations Command with certificates of merit for outstanding service. Among those awarded for their "professionalism, extraordinary knowledge and determination to perform tasks" was Maj Tomáš Pjenteč, Senior Lead Officer – Specialist at the Crisis Management Centre, SOC. The prestigious award was handed over by COS Gen Freers to the 12 members of the Strategic Command at SHAPE, where many professional soldiers and civilian employees from various NATO member countries serve.

Annual Evaluation in the SVK Land Forces



(24 February) The Land Forces Commander assembly was held on 23 – 24 February on the premises of the Martin – based Training Battalion and on the garrison training area Sučany. In the presence of Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces General Milan Maxim and Senior NCO Command Sergeant Major Vladimír Beluš, SVK Land Forces Commander Brig Gen Ondřej Novosad made a review of the past training year 2015. He expressed his thanks and acknowledgement for the job well done and concluded

that, despite the deteriorating security situation, extensive reorganization changes and abundance of unscheduled tasks to meet, the SVK Land Forces contributed to the successful accomplishment of goals and objectives as defined by the SVK Armed Forces for 2015. He accentuated that, despite the considerably narrow resources, achievement of priorities and accomplishment of the aggregate tasks as stipulated for 2016 will remain vital in the light of supporting the activities of Chief of the General Staff. Gen Maxim presented the best NCOs of the SVK Land Forces with Badges of the Chief of the General Staff and keepsakes. The next day was devoted to the practical demonstrations and clarification of questions in support of performance of tasks of the training year, mainly in the field of preparation of the national objectives and declared forces. Displays and presentations were prepared at the garrison training area Sučany, aimed at promoting the main command post of the mechanized battalion, communication support for the main command post of the mechanized brigade and DELOSYS system.

Air Force Commander evaluates training year

(25 February) On the premises of the Air Forces HQs, the Air Force Commander assembly took place in the presence of the top officials, subordinated units and invited guests. On this occasion, Brig Gen Miroslav Korba made a review of the performance of tasks of the SVK Air Force in the training year 2015. At the opening of the meeting, the Air Force Commander handed over a keepsake to MSgt Rastislav Skubeň from the wing of command, control and reconnaissance Zvolen, who was awarded as the best NCO of the Land Forces in the training year 2015. Equally, he presented Cpl Miroslav Šendula from the anti-aircraft missile brigade Nitra with the Badge of the Best Enlisted Member of the Air Force in the training year 2015. Making the review, Brig Gen Korba emphasized the fundamental role of the Air Force in the domestic crisis management, namely with respect to humanitarian assistance. In this respect, the burden of responsibility in 2015 lay mainly on the helicopter wing. The Air Force, being the main guarantor of the international crisis management military operation UNFICYP, prepared the two rotations of personnel in 2015. The Air Force mastered pre-deployment preparation and training of the unit in an excellent manner, to include both the organizational aspects and the personnel and material support. Training was conducted under close-to-real-life conditions in the area of deployment. After the official part, the meeting continued with the presentations of the specialized military issues.

