



Resistance fighters deserve more

(16 August) Participants of the WWII National Resistance Movement (NRM) and their surviving spouses will obtain higher monthly allowance payments. The SVK Government has approved the proposition put forward by Anton Hrnko, Jaroslav Paška and Tibor Bernáták, MPs for the Slovak National Party (SNS), and Dušan Čaplovič, MP for Smer-SD, to provide the NRM participants and their surviving spouses with higher allowance payments. The bill still needs to be approved by the SVK Parliament.

The aim of the MPs' proposition is to amend the Act on Provision of Allowance Payments to Participants of the National Resistance Movement and their Surviving Spouses. The increase in the allowance will be in two phases. The first phase will come into effect on 1 November 2017, with the allowance payable to the direct NRM participants rising to 40 EUR/month. The second phase will take effect on 1 January 2019, with the allowance reaching 70 EUR/month. Similarly, the allowance payable to the surviving spouses of the NRM participants is expected to increase to 20 EUR/month in the first phase and to 35 EUR/month in the second phase.

"That we live in a free country today can be credited to the people to whom the increase applies. Therefore, I consider it highly important to never forget their acts of heroism and to pay back the debt we have towards them at least in this way," said Minister of Defence Peter Gajdos.

The increase in the allowance applies to all those who, directly – with weapons in their hands or indirectly – by helping partisans, participated in the battles of WWII across the territory of the former Czechoslovak Republic and abroad, as well as to their surviving spouses.

SVK Air Force at Slovak International Air Fest SIAF 2017

(18 August) The last weekend of August is traditionally reserved for the biggest and most awaited airshow of the year – Slovak International Air Fest SIAF 2017. It is an excellent opportunity for all performers to show off their flying skills and the beauty of their aircraft on the ground. Representatives of the SVK AF consider this year's SIAF, held from 26 to 27 August 2017 at Sliač Airport, a great opportunity to present their mission via a line-up of static displays and flying demonstrations. This means visitors to the event can look forward to seeing miscellaneous types of aircraft and vehicles. Right at the opening ceremony, aviation enthusiasts will be able to enjoy a unique presentation of SVK aviation demonstrating the synchronicity, mastery and cooperation of pilots working together. The domestic highlight on the flying display programme will be Lt Col Martin Kuterka's solo display appearance and art of flying with his MiG-29 Fulcrum. Alongside the SVK AF, other SVK Armed Force components will showcase their capabilities as well. For more information on the SIAF 2017 programme, visit www.siaf.sk.



- On 16 Aug, the SVK Land Forces HQ hosted – in the presence of DCOM SVK Land Forces Gen Karol Navrátil, COS SVK Land Forces HQ Col Ivan Balog, and CSEL SVK Land Forces HQ CSM Rastislav Bodnár – a meeting with members of the **Pensioners' Union in Slovakia**, who visited Trenčín City on the occasion of the 20th Slovakia-wide Sports Games and Hikers' Get-Together for Elderly People. The guests familiarised themselves with the SVK Land Forces' history and current developments, and vehicle and armaments modernisation initiatives.
- From 4 to 14 Aug, a group of 12 Slovak soldiers led by Military Chaplain of 21st Mech Bn Trebišov Lt Slavomír Krajňák, alongside hundreds of fellow colleagues from Poland and other countries, embarked on a pilgrimage from Warsaw to Czestochowa. During the **26th International Military Pilgrimage** they walked a distance of over 300 km. On Day 8 they were joined by Ordinary of the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps Mons František Rábek for the final climb up to Czestochowa's Jasna Gora (Mountain of Light).

On Saturday, 12 Aug, the 12th annual commemoration event entitled **Meeting of Generations** was held in the village of Kalište, which had been burned down by the Nazis during WWII. At the Victims' Memorial in Kalište, Bratislava Garrison Command ceremonial unit laid wreaths in a ceremony to pay homage to WWII victims, with the participation of Deputy Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini, DCHOD Lt Gen Pavel Macko, Slovak MPs, central and local government dignitaries, members of the Slovak Anti-Nazi Fighters' Union, and other guests.

Held under the auspices of the Institute of Military History (IMH) in Bratislava, an event entitled **Südwind 2017** took place in the village of Pohronský Ruskov on 13 Aug. The event was organised by the Museum of Military History Pohronský Ruskov in cooperation with military history clubs. On this occasion, IMH put its exhibits from the collections of the Museum of Military History Piešťany on display. During a battle reenactment the battlefield was dominated by the SD-100 Self-Propelled Gun and the T-34/85 Tank. The RetroSkyTeam, from the Aero Club Košice, flew in to enliven the programme with a spectacular display.

German students and members of Military Unit 1102 Michalovce came together to do **voluntary work**, organized by IMH and the local branch of the German People's Union for the Care of German War Graves (GPUUGWG), within the grounds of the Dukla Mountain Pass Lookout Tower. The German students together with the Slovak soldiers improved some parts of the grounds on the Dukla battlefield. Michal Bochín, a GPUUGWG representative, appreciated the activity and expressed his wish for continuity of work to be maintained in this field.

The SVK Ministry of Defence announces further **movements of Allied military convoys** across central and eastern Slovakia, which are scheduled from 21 to 27 Aug 2017. They will include 22 road moves and one railway movement. Most of them will be conducted by the U.S. Army returning from two international exercises – Saber Guardian 2017 and Noble Partner 2017.



Mirgorodský is European champion

(20 August) Marko Mirgorodský, of the Military Sports Centre Dukla Banská Bystrica (MSC DBB), proved once again to be in excellent shape by winning the U23 European Champion title in the C1 category in Hohenlimburg, Germany. It was only a month ago that he triumphed in the same category at the U23 World Championships. Junior kayaker Adam Gonšenička, a contracted sportsman of MSC DBB, earned the silver medal in the K1 category at the Junior European Championships. "Thanks to their results, athletes from our Military Sports Centre regularly prove that they belong among the world's top sportsmen and women. No doubt, Marko Mirgorodský is one of the athletes we will be hearing a lot about in the future. On behalf of the entire MOD, I would like to congratulate him on his victory today," said Minister of Defence Peter Gajdos.

Basic training in a different way

(16 August) The training for soldiers under voluntary military training (VMT) and for soldier trainees and officer cadets under basic military training (BMT) has been underway since 2 August at the Training and Mobilization Replenishment Base (TMRB) in Martin. Since besides doing exercises and drills, they are also allowed to enjoy some leisure time, the Base has prepared a rich programme for them. To enliven their first Sunday, they took a tour of the town in which they are serving. They visited the Turiec Gallery, where they were welcomed by its director Alexandra Rybárová and where they received guided tours of three exhibitions by professional art lecturers.

The following weekend featured a musical evening with a performance of the Peter Piatko Band, which is known for their dynamic and progressive approach to folk music. The soldier trainees and officer cadets also made a trip out of the town and had a stopover at the Bukovina Memorial, while the VMT soldiers paid a visit to the Museum of Military History in Piešťany, where they saw a static line-up of tanks, aircraft, infantry fighting vehicles, and helicopters, as well as familiarising themselves with the history of the exhibits on display. The trainees can look forward to yet another musical evening, a knowledge quiz, and visits to military history museums.

Educational Partisan Trail



(19 August) Saturday, 19 August, saw the residents of Skyčov and Zlatno and others celebrating the 29th annual iteration of the Educational Partisan Trail to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising (SNP). Just as every year, this time too the march across the Tribeč Mountain Range began at the SNP Memorial in Skyčov and ended with an act of wreath-laying in Zlatno. Participants of the march paid their respects to the memory of late Lt Gen (Rtd) Ján Husák, the founder of the Educational Partisan Trail, by observing a minute of silence at the beginning of both ceremonies. There, members of the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour and the Military Band Banská Bystrica paid special tribute and gratitude to the partisans and soldiers who had fallen in combat throughout the Slovak National Uprising in WWII.

21 soldiers to leave for Operation EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina



(18 August) A further 21 Slovak soldiers are leaving for Operation EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to contribute to the peacekeeping effort in the country. DCHOD/COS Gen Miroslav Kocian bid farewell to BiH-bound personnel during a pre-deployment ceremony held at the Training and Mobilization Replenishment Base in Martin. 41 members of the SVK Armed Forces are currently serving in support of the operation, but with the outgoing rotation the total deployment will grow to 42. Similarly, with his year-long tour of duty now over, there will be a transfer of authority ceremony for the Commander of the SVK Contingent – Lt Col Luboš Murček will be succeeded by Lt Col Daniel Draganovský. Of the 777 Slovak service personnel who have so far participated in the operation, 26 were women. Thanks to their service in Operation EUFOR ALTHEA, members of the SVK Armed Forces have gained respect not only among the local populations but also among soldiers from other countries. Since its inception in 2004, the military operation EUFOR ALTHEA has played a significant role in ensuring the stabilization of BiH and the observance of the Dayton Peace Agreement. The Slovak Republic joined the operation at its very beginning.