



100 years of Martin Declaration

(30 October) Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš participated in the nation-wide celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Martin Declaration and the foundation of Czechoslovakia in Martin. On this occasion, there was a presentation of the SVK Armed Forces in SNP Square, gunners conducted a ceremonial gun salute, and visitors to the National Event enjoyed a flypast of SVK and CZE Air Force aircraft.

On State and Nation building, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "The Martin Declaration spoke of not only the right of the Slovak nation to self-determination and independence. Equally important, it condemned war and the creators of the Declaration called on the Slovak people to support national unity and concord. I am convinced we should commemorate such values with respect and appropriate emphasis not just during significant round-number anniversaries but also every year," adding that "Only history makes us remember that the principles of a democratic State and life in peace are not a matter of course."

The Declaration of the Slovak Nation was proclaimed by the newly established Slovak National Council on 30 October 1918 in Martin. Through the Declaration, the signatories asserted the right of the Slovak Nation to self-determination, declaring the Slovak National Council to be the only institution authorised to act on behalf of the Slovak Nation.

As part of a static display for members of the public in Martin, the MOD showcased military assets in service with the SVK Armed Forces, including the Vydra 8x8 IFV whose production will mean giving jobs to Slovak citizens and a significant boost to the SVK defence industry.

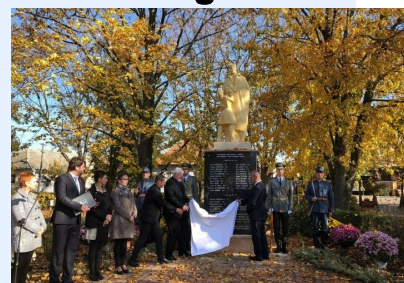


All Souls Day observed

(31 October) MOD and SVK Armed Forces military and civilian staff paid their respects to the memory of all their departed colleagues and service personnel ahead of All Souls Day. Traditionally, the act of remembrance takes place at the MOD Appeasement Memorial. Minister Gajdoš said: "I regard paying respects to our departed colleagues and service personnel to be literally our duty not only on All Souls Day but throughout the entire year, because it is a demonstration of our commitment to keeping their memory alive." On this occasion, the MOD leaders visited the Hall of Fame at MOD Main Building where they paid their respects to the departed servicemen and women who have lost their lives on international crisis management operations.

Peace and freedom have never been taken for granted

(4 November) Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš unveiled a Memorial Plaque dedicated to WW1 and WW2 victims in the village of Veľké Kozmálovce. As the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 approaches, he also paid tribute to the memory of all those who laid down their lives in the fight for liberation and peace. At this time of reflection, Minister Gajdoš said: "The horrors WW1 brought with itself act as a reminder also for us that peace and freedom are values that have never been, nor are they today, taken for granted. Many paid the ultimate price for them. Therefore, I welcome every act of remembrance as a proof that we never forget the devastating consequences of both world wars and that we are not careless about their victims." As of today, the Memorial Plaque forms part of the WW2 Victims Memorial in the village of Veľké Kozmálovce, which was unveiled in a Slovak National Uprising anniversary ceremony in 1965. Commemorative events marking the WW1 Armistice Centenary also took place at the Memorial in J. M. Hurban Park in Nové Mesto nad Váhom and at the SVK Air Force's HQ AIRCOM Zvolen. A memorial to WW1 victims was also unveiled in the village of Malé Lednice. Out of its nearly 500 residents, 63 men were mobilised and transferred to the front. Of them, 12 were killed in action.



Cooperation with UK



(31 October) Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš met with the British Ambassador to Slovakia, HE Mr Andrew John Garth, for talks on bilateral cooperation in the field of security and defence as well as the U K's planned

contribution to the NATO Force Integration Unit Slovakia (NFIU SVK).

On the SVK-UK defence relationship, Minister Gajdoš said: "The cooperation between our countries has been excellent in the long term. Yet there is always room to accelerate it, be it in the fields of education, training and exercises, and exchange of expertise. So that we can be prepared even better and more effectively to respond to current security challenges." Among the examples of cooperation so far, he highlighted the regular courses delivered annually by the British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT) at the Military Academy Vyškov and by the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) in Slovakia.

CZE-SVK centenary in Kabul

(30 October) SVK and CZE RS personnel, based at HKIA in Afghanistan's Kabul, marked 100 years of Czechoslovakia by organising a sports competitions and staging a Czechoslovak history exhibition documenting the common past and the present of both independent States. In attendance at the official ceremony was HKIA Commander Brig Gen Hasan Kanbur and representatives of the military contingents based at HKIA. A Holy Mass in memory of all fallen soldiers was celebrated by a CZE military chaplain in the evening.

Longest-serving PFC retires



(31 October) Representatives of the Command Support Battalion Trenčín bid their farewell to the SVK Army's longest-serving Private First Class Zdenko Riečičiar (55). He enlisted into the Army at the end of 2001 and

completed three tours of duty with UNFICYP, Cyprus. Chief of Staff of the Battalion Maj Juraj Vrbovský commended PFC Riečičiar as a superb specialist – both as a driver and an electrician and an active member who had taken part in many sports activities organised by the Battalion.

- Submission of entries for the **14th MOD Literary Competition** – with the theme of 8s in Slovak military history – will close at midnight on Sunday 11 Nov 2018. Competing in the competition's two categories are secondary school and college/university students on a variety of military history topics, including the 1848 Slovak Volunteers Uprising, the 1918 formation of Czechoslovakia and the Czechoslovak Army, and the 1968 occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact troops. For more information, visit <https://www.mosr.sk/sutaz/L.S.2018.propozicie.pdf>.

- The Institute of Military History invites citizens to gift **military memorabilia** to the Museums of Military History in Piešťany and Svidník. Any historic military uniforms, weapons and documents, and visual and aural records will help enrich the museum collections and raise awareness of our history. For more information, go to <http://www.vhu.sk/5082-sk/vyzvanadarovanie-militariu/>.

- Members of the SVK Army's Command Support Battalion Trenčín delivered topography, first aid, communications, CBRN and other topics of **defence-oriented training** to pupils of the primary schools in Beckov and Trenčianska Turá.

- National and International Security 2018** was the title of the 9th international scientific conference which was held under the aegis of Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš and Chief of Defence Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko on 25-26 Oct in Liptovský Ján. "This year we have conference attendees from Poland, Hungary, Czechia and Slovakia. As this coincides with the SVK V4 Presidency from July 2018 to June 2019, so we analysed our priorities in the field of defence and the positions of our partners," said Prof Vojtech Jurčák, Head of the Security and Defence Department, General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy, the organizer of the conference.

- The **1st year of the HQ 2nd Mech Bde Triathlon** saw the disciplines adjusted to the indoor GYM of the Brigade with the use of simulators and heart rate monitors. A rowing simulator, a spinning bicycle, and a treadmill put the 'triathlons' through their paces. 1st Lt Marianna Kenderošová and 1st Lt Jozef Sakara were the best of the best from among all servicemen and women.

- Drivers are asked by the MOD to be alert and drive with care as there will be **34 military road movements** across Slovakia in the period between 5-11 Nov 2018. SVK Army vehicles will convoy from Rožňava via Lučenec to Lešť. In addition, SVK Army convoys will carry oversized cargo on the routes: Nitra – Trnava – Žilina – Martin; Martin – Kremnica – Zvolen – Lešť; Prešov – Žilina – Bratislava – Kuchyňa; Martin – Kremnica – Zvolen – Sliac; Martin – Žilina – Trenčín; and Prešov – Žilina – Trenčín – Bratislava – Kuchyňa.

Military medics, rescuers and firefighters exercise at Lešť

(29 October) The Training Centre Lešť, to be exact, its Firefighting and Rescue Complex of Jakub Village hosted a specialist Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) coordination drill on 22-26 October for military medics, rescue medics, doctors of the Rescue Medical Service Bratislava, and members of the Slovak Firefighting and Rescue Corps.

Commenting on the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) drill, Specialist Guarantor of Medical Trades Lt Col MUDr Jozef Sille, of the Office of the Surgeon General of the SVK Armed Forces, said: "Such training forms an inseparable part of the continual education programme for our medical professionals. This is the third such training event I have participated in as Specialist Guarantor of Medical Trades. At the end of October the training scenario was

made even more difficult by unfavourable weather conditions. There was strong wind and heavy rain. This all put an extra burden on the exercising teams and simulated casualties from the Slovak Medical University Banská Bystrica. In the event of



an emergency, if called on to help, military medics will work alongside other teams of the Integrated Rescue System. For this reason, it made sense for them to meet their partners on the exercise. Training activities of this type help improve the cooperation among specific elements of the Integrated Rescue System."

The teams were exercised in responding to emergencies of different levels of danger, lower and upper body immobilization techniques, triage, evacuation of patients, solutions to priority treatment, and medical treatment of different types of injuries.