



## Paying tribute to veterans

(9 November) With International Veterans Day and the WW1 Armistice Centenary approaching, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš along with General Secretary of the MOD Service Office Ján Holko and Chief of Defence Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko, and in the presence of the British Ambassador to Slovakia, HE Mr Andrew Garth, remembered the heroism of all veterans and paid homage to them during a commemoration ceremony in Bratislava's Šafárik Square. Traditionally, the ceremony takes place at the Western Resistance Members Memorial.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "This day gives us an opportunity to pay homage publicly to those whose destinies have been affected by war in a very cruel and painful way. I would also like to say thank you so much to contemporary veterans who have played a significant role in maintaining peace and security in the world." He further noted that 18,500 SVK personnel have rotated in and out of missions and operations abroad and that as of today the MOD registers over 7,500 contemporary veterans.

The WW1 Armistice Centenary was also marked on 9 Nov by MOD and SVK Armed Forces military and civilian staff. The day before at the State Opera House in Banská Bystrica, President and Commander-in-Chief of the SVK Armed Forces Andrej Kiska and Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš awarded veterans with medals during the 2nd Military Bands Concert in observance of the WW1 Armistice Centenary.



## WW1 cemetery restored

(11 November) To mark the WW1 Armistice Centenary, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš along with Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security Anton Hrnko, State Secretary of the Slovak Ministry of Defence Marián Saloň, and General Secretary of the MOD Service Office Ján Holko honoured the victims of World War One at the Kubrá WW1 Cemetery, which had recently been reconstructed by the Slovak Generals Club. As of today, the duty of care for this place of remembrance has passed on to the MOD. A total of 771 fallen soldiers are buried in the Kubrá WW1 Cemetery in Trenčín, including Slovaks and Czechs (338), Italians (24), Hungarian (112), Austrians (11), Poles (54), Romanians (122), Germans (4), Russians (86), Turks (17), and unknown soldiers (3).

## Record-breaking 5th Run in Honour of War Veterans

(11 November) Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš opened and participated in the SVK MOD-sponsored 5th Run in Honour of War Veterans. The race took place in the vicinity of the War Cemetery in Petržalka-Kopčany after the WW1 Armistice Centenary commemoration attended by Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security Anton Hrnko and General Secretary of the MOD Service Office Ján Holko. The track was more than 5km long and over 250 runners turned up to support the event. This is the highest turnout so far. The run started symbolically at 11:11am, bringing together servicemen and women, cadets of the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy, representatives of the Military Sports Club Dukla Banská Bystrica led by Olympian Matej Tóth, and dozens of civilian sportspeople. "10 million victims of the Great War are deserving of our respect. We support this event along with other commemorative events in honour of veterans," emphasised the Minister, appreciating the presence of secondary school goers and families with children. As of today, the MOD registers over 7,686 war veterans, of whom 127 are WW2 veterans and 7,559 are contemporary veterans.



- The Slovak Ministry of Defence will buy **cheaper fuels**. This follows on from the results of a tender the MOD has organised via an electronic auction. Compared to the prices for other large consumers, the petrol and diesel prices for the MOD will be lower by 5% per litre on average and the price of aviation fuel will be lower by 8% per litre.

- As from 7 Nov, the WW1 Memorial Plaque unveiled in the village of Hájske by Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš will memorialise the **destinies of 49 local soldiers** who perished on the WW1 front.

- On National Unity Day and Italian Armed Forces Day, Trieste hosted an **end of WW1 commemoration**, with the participation of President of the Italian Republic S. Mattarella and other guests, including SVK DCHOD Brig Gen Miroslav Lorinc. Also in attendance were members of the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour.

- Members of the Pipeline Transport Centre, Supply Base III Zemianske Kostolány, carried out **specialist tactical training**, focused on solutions to emergencies occurring when aviation fuel is supplied to Air Force units.

- Cpl Lukáš Vnučko, BVP-2 (IFV) gunner/operator and Sgt Martin Szúdor, Section S-in-C, were named **Best Soldier and Best NCO** of 1st Mech Bde Topoľčany for 2018. Likewise, Cpl Jaroslav Fitzek and Sgt 1st Class Andrej Brzuľa were named Best Soldier and Best NCO of Tac Wg Sliac, and so were Cpl Martin Snopka and Sgt 1st Class Juraj Kolesár of CSS Bde Trenčín.

- A **first aid course** was held at the Liptovský Mikuláš-based detached medical workplace, Training, Education and Specialised Preparation Section, Specialised Medical Activities and Training Department, Office of the SVK Armed Forces Surgeon General Ružomberok, aimed at practical rehearsal of first aid, namely bandaging techniques and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Instructors MSgt Rastislava Debnárová and Jaroslava Hrabovská trained 12 members of the Prison and Justice Guard Corps.

- In Nižná Slaná, Chaplain General of the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps Col Marián Bodolló presided over a service dedicated to the WW1 Armistice and participated in an **unveiling ceremony** for a plaque bearing the names of fallen soldiers from the village.

- Drivers are asked by the MOD to be alert and drive with care as there will be **24 Allied military road movements** across Slovakia between 12 and 18 Nov 2018. SVK Army convoys will also carry oversized cargo on the routes: Martin – Sučany and Nitra – Banská Bystrica – Brezno – Nemecká.

## 5th SOF Regt sportspeople



(7 November) CHOD Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko received 3 members of the 5th Special Forces Regiment Žilina, successful sportspeople with unique sporting results. Over the past years Capt Sylvia

Štebšan has placed well at domestic and international sporting events. She is a 4-time marathon champion of Slovakia. Another two 5th SOF Regt sportsmen – one captain and one sergeant 1st class – have performed very well at domestic and international shooting and military competitions in the long term.

## NATO Panel on CBRN

(11 November) The SVK General Staff and MOD hosted a working session of the NATO Physical Protection Panel (PPP), which was organised by members of the Combat Support Branch, Staff for Strategic Planning, SVK General Staff. Taking part in the event were 27 delegates from 16 countries and the JCBRN Defence COE Vyškov. NATO PPP is one of the 7 working groups – panels in the CBRN Defence specialisation. Through its delegate in the group, Slovakia is the administrator of the Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 2515 – Collective Protection in a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Environment. During the week, work centred on creating new standards, for example, on the individual protection equipment for flying personnel, the isolation box for transferring biologically contaminated persons, and on the review of the existing documents steering the next direction of CBRN capabilities.

## Maj Gen Pokorný visits NFIU



(8 November) DCHOD Maj Gen Josef Pokorný visited the NFIU SVK based at Vajnory Barracks in Bratislava. His first visit to the NFIU SVK focused on the Unit's current tasks and assignments. Commander NFIU SVK

Col Štefan Acsai provided Maj Gen Pokorný with a complex briefing on the NFIU's history, key mission and tasks. The DCHOD awarded selected soldiers with the SVK Armed Forces 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medal.

## Results of PhotoAttack and Gallery MIL 2018 announced

(8 November) The results of the Defence-wide contests PhotoAttack and Gallery MIL 2018 were announced during a ceremony at the Trenčín Garrison Club, with the participation of Chief of Staff for Operations Support (SVK General Staff)

Col Ľubomír Goreľčík, Director of the SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office Col Ivan Sálaši, and other guests.

In his speech, Col Goreľčík noted with satisfaction that the competitive displays have enjoyed a 9-year-long tradition, with 96 contestants and 318 entries participating in them this year. "I am pleased to say the contests have attracted servicemen and women, retired personnel, and civilians in Defence and their families. They represent the Armed Forces as a whole and prove that culture, arts and special interest activities are well-established in our Armed

Forces," emphasised Col Goreľčík. Joined by Col Sálaši, they presented prizes to the authors of the winning entries. As part of the PhotoAttack Contest, Cpl Pavol Delej, of Mechanised Battalion Michalovce, triumphed in the "25 years of



SVK Armed Forces through Camera Lens" category, Lt Col Peter Sobek, of SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour Battalion Bratislava, won the "Military Armaments, Equipment & Clothing" category, and Maj Šimon Rosič, of SVK MOD, placed first in the "Freestyle" category. The Gallery MIL Contest's

"Painting & Sculpture" category saw Stanislav Neštický, of Trenčín Garrison Club, as its winner, 1Lt Branislav Bajús, of Helicopter Wing Prešov, triumphed in the "Applied Arts" category, and Valentina Stoilová, of Žilina, took first place in the "Children's Works" category.