



## Anniversary of victory

(8 May) On the occasion of Victory over Fascism Day and the 74th anniversary of the end of WW2, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš paid tribute to the victims of the Second World War at the Central Military Cemetery in Zvolen. In his speech, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš warned against the ideas of growing intolerance and right-wing extremism in society, he said: "Today we are gathered here at the Central Military Cemetery to pay homage to the fallen soldiers who, while pursuing the noble goal of winning over evil and defeating Nazism, lost the most precious that humans can have – their lives. Ultimately, today's commemoration is dedicated to all those who fought against Nazism. We must never forget the atrocities that came with it, nor should we allow it to take root in society again. That is our common task."

Over 17,600 Soviet Red Army soldiers and 10,300 Romanian Royal Army soldiers who died while liberating Slovakia in 1944-1945 rest in peace in the Central Military Cemetery in Zvolen. The cemeteries of the fallen Soviet and Romanian soldiers in WW2 are national heritage sites of the Slovak Republic.

Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš also paid tribute to the memory of the victims of WW2 at the Slavin Memorial in Bratislava on 9 May 2019. The commemoration ceremony marked the 74th anniversary of the end of the worst conflict in the world and Victory over Fascism Day in Slovakia. Almost 7,000 Soviet Army soldiers who were reported dead in action across Slovakia in WW2 are buried in the Slavin Military Cemetery.

Earlier, on 6 May 2019, MOD civilian employees and members of the Slovak Armed Forces gathered at the SVK MOD Club, to pay tribute to all victims who lost their lives during the bloodiest conflict in the history of mankind. At the ceremony, Chief of Defence Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko stated that the defeat of fascism and Nazism was not only a military victory, but, above all else, a victory of hope for a future free and democratic society. He, too, warned against growing extremism in today's society.

## SVK-GRC talks

(7 May) Based on bilateral agreement between the Ministers of Defence of the Slovak and Hellenic Republics, military staff talks were held between leaders of the SVK General Staff (GS) and representatives of the Hellenic Armed Forces on the SVK GS premises in Bratislava. The aim of the military staff talks was to exchange information and experience and evaluate opportunities for developing bilateral military cooperation. Before the talks, SVK DCHOD Maj Gen Josef Pokorný received the delegation of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, led by Director of the International Affairs Branch Commodore Michael Naoum, and expressed his conviction that the military staff talks will help restart and deepen the defence cooperation between the countries.

## MP personnel to provide security at Ice Hockey World Championship

(10 May) Over 100 service personnel and military policemen will be on standby every day in Bratislava and Košice, if required, to deploy on mixed patrols with the Police Corps of the Slovak Republic during the 2019 Ice Hockey World Championship and help maintain security and public order, protect life, health and property, and fight terrorism and organised crime.

Based on the request of the Police Corps of the Slovak Republic and the decision of the SVK Government, 26 SVK Armed Forces personnel will serve on mixed patrols with members of the Police Corps at both venues of the event between 10 to 26 May 2019. Military policemen will undertake traffic control tasks and provide military working dog (MWD) services.

The SVK Armed Forces are ready to reinforce the patrols by additional service personnel and deploy air assets of the Helicopter Wing Prešov and light off-road patrol vehicles for monitoring the areas. Also on standby will be teams of the CBRN Defence Battalion Rožňava and the 5th Special Forces Regiment Žilina.



■ Working in cooperation with the editorial staff of the MOD Defence magazine, the Slovak Armed Forces Personnel Office has announced the **Defence-wide 'PhotoAttack' and 'MIL Gallery' Competitive Displays** for military professionals, civilian employees in Defence, their families, and veterans. The deadline for submitting entries is 16 October 2019. The results of the Defence-wide competitive displays will be announced on 14 November 2019 at the Trenčín Garrison Club.

■ **WW2 veterans and members of the Czechoslovak Legionary Community** Maj Gen (Rtd) Emil Boček, Brig Gen (Rtd) Václav Kuchynka, and Lt Col (Rtd) Tichomír Mirkovič, accompanied by Commander of the SVK Air Force Maj Gen Lubomír Svoboda, visited the Museum of Military History Piešťany on 5 May 2019.

■ Chaplain General of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps Col Marián Bodolló gave a **series of lectures on extremism** at various schools in Slovakia, including at G. Czuczora Primary School, Grammar School in Nové Zámky, and Ján Papánek Grammar School in Bratislava.

■ Pte Martin Foriš, 3rd-year cadet of the SVK Armed Forces Academy, won the **silver medal** in the juniors' under-74kg competition at the European Powerlifting Championships in Pilsen (CZE), with the participation of sportsmen from 17 countries.

■ Cpl Milan Duras, who has been highly dependent on his doctors and family since he was involved in a serious road traffic accident on 23 May 2018, was aided by the SVK MOD through a **voluntary money-raising event** and the Military Support Foundation, when they helped his family to buy a Dynamic Parapodium to expedite his recovery.

■ The key theme of the May edition of the **MOD Defence monthly magazine** is the personality of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik. It also covers training of snipers and test flights of new helicopters, and takes stock of military sportsmen's winter season. For more information, go to [www.mosr.sk/obrana-052019/](http://www.mosr.sk/obrana-052019/).

■ Drivers are asked by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be 31 **Allied road movements** between 13-19 May 2019. They will mostly involve POL and LTU troops in support of Ex COMMON CHALLENGE and Ex IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. Over the period, SVK Army convoys will also ferry cargo on the Martin – CV Lešť and Martin – PC Sučany routes. There will also be a SVK Army road movement from Prešov to Ruská Nova Ves.

## Bouquet of flowers for mother of four soldiers on Mother's Day

(12 May) On Mother's Day, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš honoured Olga Mlynárová – a mother of four servicemen who have been serving in the Slovak Armed Forces for already 34 years altogether.

He thanked and congratulated her in person and presented her the Slovak Minister of Defence Commemorative Plaque as well as a weekend package stay for two persons in an MOD-owned spa resort.

While appreciating Mrs Mlynárová's attitude towards the SVK Armed Forces, Peter Gajdoš said: "Mrs Mlynárová is a remarkable woman and an admirable mother who brought up four sons for our Armed Forces. She must have gone through a difficult time, especially when her beloved sons deployed on missions and operations abroad. I am grateful that she has always supported her sons in their decision to build the security of our state."



As Olga Mlynárová said, she values the surprise the Defence Minister and her sons have prepared for her all the more, because her sons all can meet together only occasionally.

"Indeed, it is a great surprise, it makes me very happy. I am a truly proud mum," she said. While visiting Mrs Mlynárová, Head of the MOD was keen to learn more about her sons' current assignments in the Slovak Armed Forces. All four of them are on active duty. The oldest son, Sgt Andrej, is currently serving with UNFICYP in Cyprus, and in the past he completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan. Cpl Tomáš is

a senior operator/specialist of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Battalion Rožňava, Cpl Michal serves with the Command Support Battalion Trenčín, and Cpl Lukáš serves with a Hlohovec-based unit operating under the Command, Control and Surveillance Wing Zvolen.

## Soldiers preserve history

(9 May) In the first quarter of 2019, another section of the external permanent exhibition display of the Museum of Military History Piešťany was completed to showcase a collection of air assets.

The result of the involved parties' maximum efforts is a most significant change of the section's visual form over the past several years. This was made possible also thanks to specialists of the SVK Air Force. The lion's share of the work was done by members of the Tactical Wing Sliáč, who helped maintain and move large-size exhibits – aircraft. Members of the Transport Wing Kuchyňa, Helicopter Wing Prešov, and Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade Nitra made a substantive contribution, too.

Besides the SVK AF units, among those supporting the initiative were also military units subordinate to the SVK Army HQ, for example, members of the Engineer Battalion Sereď applied special paint coating on three exhibits: T72M1 Medium Tank, 152mm 77 DANA SpGH, and 152mm ONDAVA SpGH.



## CIS courses

(6 May) The Deployable Communications and Information Systems Base Ružomberok hosted several specialist courses in the spring of 2019. The HARRIS Radio Operator Course, delivered by U.S. instructors, trained two dozen military professionals from units and facilities across the SVK Armed Forces. And the Communications Tactical Network Operators Course, focused on data, voice and network services, was designed for selected members of the V4 EU Battlegroup. This task was taken on by Cpt Michal Keller (SVK A) and SSGt Miroslav Nižník (SVK A). A total of 14 soldiers graduated from the course.