



## Slovakia at IDET

(29 May) SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš and State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Marián Saloň participated in the 15th International Defence and Security Technology Fair in Brno on 29 May 2019. On this occasion, they appreciated the state-of-the-art Slovak defence products showcased at this year's IDET 2019.

Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "In the field of defence industry, we have products to offer and we do our best to promote them. This fair is an opportunity to showcase our products and approach potential customers." He went on to say that visitors to IDET 2019 will see a line-up of the SVK Army's assets, including the Vydra 8x8 Infantry Fighting Vehicle, the upgraded BVP-M Infantry Fighting Vehicle, the ISTAR - BPs-VI Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle, and the EVA Gun Howitzer.

IDET 2019 is a significant presentation of security technologies in Central Europe, with a strong presence of international exhibitors and specialists. The PYROS International Firefighting Equipment and Services Fair and the ISET International Security Technology and Services Fair are held concurrently with IDET 2019.

## UN Peacekeepers Day

(29 May) SVK MOD civilian and military staff commemorated the International Day of UN Peacekeepers at the Reconciliation Memorial, SVK MOD. On this occasion, they paid respects to the memory of 6 SVK personnel who died in the line of duty as UN Blue Berets. Slovak service personnel have been part of UN operations for 26 years. In his statement, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "The Slovak Republic has contributed to keeping peace and security in the world under the UN flag since its establishment. Ever since then, more than 10,000 SVK personnel have rotated in and out of 17 UN missions." 243 SVK personnel, of whom 22 are servicewomen, are currently deployed to UNFICYP in Cyprus and to UNTSO in the Middle East under the blue UN flag.

## SVK GOV approves changes

(29 May) The Security Council and the Government gave a green light to the SVK Service Personnel Management Concept, which the SVK MOD had finalised to improve the Service conditions of active duty soldiers. The MOD's ambition is to increase the attractiveness ratings of the military profession on the job market.

Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "Focus of the SVK Service Personnel Management Concept is on a range of strategic areas, such as active duty service, the manning process in the SVK Armed Forces, the creation of reserves, education, and especially the motivation of current and future service personnel." As he further explained, the concept outlines the steps how to set a quality remuneration system, one which will be just and competitive on the job market. "At the same time, this is about a range of changes which aim to improve not only the overall life quality of service personnel, but also to capitalise on the investments we have made in military management."

The MOD wants to improve the remuneration system in stages. Stage 1 will see the Service Personnel State Service Amendment Act coming into force. Stage 2 envisages a complex transformation of the remuneration system.

## Daniel Zmeko earns promotion to most senior general rank

(28 May) During a promotion ceremony at the Presidential Palace on 28 May 2019, Chief of Defence Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko was promoted to General, the Slovak Armed Forces' most senior general rank, based on the Defence Minister's recommendations approved by the SVK Government. Brig Gen Miroslav Lorinc was promoted to the rank of Major General and Col Róbert Kleštinec and Col Peter Babiar to Brigadier General. Speaking on behalf of the promoted generals, Brig Gen Peter Babiar said: "Our appointments and promotions are what we perceive as a recognition of work by all those who have accompanied us over the course of our military careers." The President also promoted 1st Vice-President of the SVK Police Corps Jana Maškarová and Vice-President of the Police Corps Róbert Bozalka to the rank of General.



- Lt Col Tatiana Nagyová was ushered in as the new **Commander of the Supply Base I (SB I) Nemšová** by Commander of the SVK Armed Forces Logistics Office Col Jozef Ševčík during a staff meeting at SB I Nemšová.

- The Training and Mobilization Manning Base Martin held a graduation ceremony for graduates of the **OR-8 NCO Course**. Sergeant 1st Class Michal Rodák, member of the Strategic Crisis Management Centre Bratislava, was named Best Graduate of the OR-8 NCO Course. The OR-6 NCO Course was completed by 50 soldiers. Sgt Martin Snop, member of the SVK Presidential GOH Bratislava, was named as Best Graduate of the OR-6 NCO Course.

- To mark International Day of UN Peacekeepers, the Engineer Battalion Sereď hosted the **7th Marksmanship Competition** on 25 May 2019, with 16 teams competing for victory. The team of the Military Paratroopers Club Banská Bystrica (MPC BB) had the best shot, and Cpl Lukáš Marcinkech, of the Engineer Battalion Sereď, and Eva Dolníková, of MPC BB, came out as Best Marksman and Best Markswoman.

- On 30 May 2019, the **Museum of Military History Piešťany** was visited by a delegation of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic as part of the bilateral meeting between the Strategic Planning Staff (SVK GS) and the CZE MOD. The guests were welcomed by Director of the Museum of Military History Milan Kubizniak. He briefly introduced the Slovak Institute of Military History and the museum.

- The Commander of the 5th Special Forces Regiment invites service personnel to participate in the **Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) for the 5th Special Forces Regiment**. The selection process will take place in the form of concentrated unit-level training for Combat Arms (CA) from 23 September 2019 to 2 October 2019 and for Combat Service Support (CSS) from 23-26 September 2019 at the 5th Special Forces Regiment, Rajecká cesta 18, Žilina.

- Working in cooperation with the Slovak Armed Forces Academy, the SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office organised the **Communication Course for Members of Recruitment Teams** on 28-29 May 2019. The teams undertook theoretical training, practised interviews with candidates, and tested their communication skills in front of the camera.

- In the presence of Director of the SVK Military Police Col Michal Migát, the **Specialist Military Police Initial Entry Course** was concluded with a graduation ceremony at the SNP Museum Banská Bystrica on 24 May 2019. Sgt Ivan Heimschild, Cpl Eva Repáňová and PFC Michal Rozkoš were recognised as Best Graduates of the Course.

- Drivers are asked by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be **26 Allied road movements** from 3-9 June 2019. They will mostly involve POL troops. Over the period, SVK Army convoys will also ferry oversized cargo on the following routes: Martin – Training Centre Lešť, Martin – Hlohovec – Levice – Devičany, Trebišov – Martin, Trenčín – Hlohovec – Training Centre Lešť and Rožňava – Nemecká. And there will also be railway movements on the routes: Sása Pliešovce – Levice, Sása Pliešovce – Prešov, Sása Pliešovce – Trebišov, and Kuchyňa – Zemianske Kostolany.

## 13th salary saves MOD money

(29 May) With disbursement of the 13th salary, the MOD will save 850,000 euros thanks to the exemption on income tax and medical insurance tax. As the summer holidays approach, about 20,000 military and civilian staff will receive the 13th salary in the amount of 50 per cent of Service pay/salary, which will be included in May salary, whereas the minimum 13th salary is 500 euros, provided that the employee has worked over 2 years. Compared to the 'exceptional bonus' payable in the past, service personnel, civil servants and civilian employees will now get 115 euros more than previously paid. The same conditions for payment of the 13th salary apply to all civil servants and civilian employees of the central government and public authorities as well as to employees of business companies.



## Off-roads for 5th SOF Regt

(28 May) Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš handed over 18 new Polaris off-road vehicles to SOF soldiers during a handover ceremony at the 5th Special Forces Regiment Žilina. They are specially designed for SOF operations and domestic and international crisis management operations. Commander of the 5th Special Forces Regiment Col Miroslav Gardlo thanked for the new vehicles and appreciated this decision of the MOD leaders in favour of the elite 5th Special Forces Regiment. "This investment pushes us further ahead on mobility and operational readiness," he said. Under the contract, another nine Can – Am BRP off-road vehicles with trailers for both types of vehicles and spare parts will be supplied and 20 specialists and instructors will be trained to operate the vehicles.

## Joint CBRN training with UKR

(29 May) Joint training on chemical weapons for members of Ukraine's Financial Service and State Border Protection Guard took place on 29-30 May 2019 at the CBRN Training and Testing Centre Zemianske Kostolany under the SVK OSCE Chairmanship, with the participation of OSCE representatives and under the supervision of the Slovak Armed Forces. The training was also attended by active reservists and members of the Customs Office, SVK Ministry of Interior. The goal of the training was to strengthen the skills to detect, identify and handle toxic chemical substances, with the main focus on strengthening the measures to control their cross-border movement.

## Soldiers prepare a day full of experiences for children

(1 June) Service personnel prepared a day full of experiences for children from Spišská Nová Ves and its surroundings as part of the 22nd Children's Day with SVK Armed Forces event today,

staging static and dynamic displays of military equipment. The programme kicked off with a flypast of fighter jets. Paratroopers' jumps, military working dog (MWD) handlers in action, and a whole range of other demonstrations reflecting the diversity of military capabilities and themed activities were not to be missed either.

Kids participated in different contests. Finally, the results of the MOD Drawing and Painting Contest, entitled 'Soldiers through the Eyes of Children', were announced to the public and Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš presented prizes to the winners.



On the occasion of International Children's Day, this year the SVK Armed Forces opened the gates of 14 military units to the public. By organising Open Doors Day, the MOD wants to

highlight the work of servicemen and women and raise the public awareness of homeland defence and patriotism.

Open Doors Day began already on 31 May 2019 at 9 military units – 13th Mechanised Battalion Levice, 21st Combined Mechanised Battalion Trebišov, Command Support Battalion Trenčín, CBRN Defence Battalion Rožňava, Self-propelled Artillery Battalion Michalovce, Tactical Wing Sliac, Deployable CIS Base Ružomberok, Training and

Mobilisation Manning Base Martin, and Engineer Battalion Sereď. The military units in Nitra, Prešov and Žilina will join them on 6 June 2019 and Kuchyňa Air Base on 8 June 2019.