



Nováky tragedy remembered

(1 March) State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Róbert Ondrejcsák visited Nováky to attend a ceremony in memory of 8 employees who perished in an explosion at Military Repair Company Nováky (VOP Nováky) 12 years ago. In his speech, Secretary Róbert Ondrejcsák said: "Sadly, all of us have experienced unpleasant realities and loss of close ones. The explosion which seriously damaged the operation of VOP Nováky 12 years ago hit many families hard. Let me join you in paying our profound respects to and keeping the memory of all victims alive."

The tragedy occurred at VOP Nováky on 2 Mar 2007, when a huge blast ripped through the munitions decommissioning facility, killing 8 company employees and injuring dozens. Immediately after the tragic incident the then MOD leadership introduced substantial measures to minimise work-related hazards and prevent any malpractice. In 2012, VOP Nováky was leased to a strategic partner for 20 years.

SVK AF reviews results

(27 February) Commander of the Slovak Air Force Maj Gen Ľubomír Svoboda reviewed the Training Year (TY) 2018 results, in the presence of key leaders of the SVK Air Force's HQ AIRCOM Zvolen, commanders of subordinate units, and invited guests.

CHOD Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko was also in attendance, as were CSEL of the SVK Armed Forces Sgt Maj Vladimír Beluš, Director of the Military Aviation State Administration Authority Ľubomír Žák, and Chief of the SVK AF Support Branch Col Adolf Uličný (SVK GS).

The SVK AF Commemorative Medal and the SVK AF Best Airman Badge were awarded to selected Service members. The SVK AF Commander then presented the 2018 SVK AF Best NCO Plaque to Sgt 1st Class Andrej Brzula, of TW Sliač.

Vihová's double win

(3 March) Petra Vihová, member of the Slovak National Team and the Military Sports Centre Dukla Banská Bystrica triumphed in the giant slalom and slalom events last Saturday and Sunday at this year's FIS European Cup and so earned a double win at the Jasná Ski Centre (SVK). The bronze slalom medallist of the recent FIS Alpine Skiing World Championships in Sweden's Åre placed 2nd in the first round and 6th in the second round of the giant slalom, which was enough for her to seal an overall triumph. Over the last weekend, Vihová competed at Jasná in front of hundreds of fans as part of her preparation for the upcoming FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup in Spindlerův Mlýn (CZE) on 8-9 Mar 2019.



SVK Military Police team assigned to V4 EU BG undergoes training

(1 March) The training of a 16-strong SVK Military Police (MP) team assigned to the MP Company, V4 EU BG 2019-2, has been underway in the first half of 2019. The team's stand-by period will start on 1 July.

While national training took place in 2018, the first half of 2019 is dedicated to international training before culminating in the team's international certification during Ex Common Challenge (POL), scheduled for May 2019. As part of the international training package held on Wędrzyn Training Area (POL), MP Coy has already undertaken specialist training, to include a presentation of national contributions by contributing countries, an alignment of planning procedures and SOPs for different types of incidents, a live-fire exercise, and last but not least, there was time for MP Coy members to get to know each other.

The training culminated in a final exercise, where the international MP unit planned and executed Op Search and Rescue.



■ Col Ferdinand Muriň assumed the appointment of Chief of Staff for Operations Support, SVK GS, with effect from 1 Mar 2019.

■ The Repair Battalion Martin hosted a commanders' meeting, chaired by Commander of the Battalion Lt Col Rastislav Bodík on 25 Feb 2019. At the meeting, Lt Col Bodík highlighted the strong and weak points of the Battalion recorded throughout 2018 and outlined the measures to improve productivity in the fields of repair and manufacturing in order to deliver on the priorities put forward by the SVK CHOD. At the end of the meeting, best-performing Service personnel were recognised with Letters of Commendation.

■ The Commander of the CSS Battalion convened a meeting of subordinate commanders at the CSS and CIS Company premises on 26 Feb 2019. Battalion Commander Lt Col Ján Farkaš gave an assessment of the Training Year (TY) 2018 priority tasks. He concluded that all TY 2018 tasks had been accomplished and thanked all members of the Battalion for their dedication and commitment.

■ On 25 Feb 2019, members of the Supply Base (SB) II and the Office of SVK Armed Forces Logistics Support, both based in Martin, gathered for a ceremony marking the transfer to the reserve of Chief of Staff SB II Martin Lt Col Štefan Bukovan and Commander of the Munitions Depot Sklené Maj Ján Bartoš. At the same time, they welcomed new members to the Base, including Lt Col Štefan Oravkin as new Chief of Staff SB II and Maj Marián Jaško as NCO Log. Afterwards, the employees with over 25 years of employment in the SVK Armed Forces were awarded decorations for their service.

■ On 22 Feb 2019, a year on since his appointment as Commander NFII SVK, Col Štefan Acsai was succeeded by Col Peter Brauner, the outgoing Chief of the Strategic Planning Branch, SVK GS. In the first weeks of March, the outgoing Commander will hand over his agenda to the incoming Commander. This will be followed by a Change of Command (COC) ceremony, in the presence of key military leaders.

■ The State Scientific Library in Košice was the venue of the 2nd International Military History Conference **Slovakia and World War I** on 22 Feb 2019. In their papers, experts from SVK, SVN, CZE, HUN, POL and UKR focused on WWI battles in today's Slovakia and WWI cemeteries. The SVK Institute of Military History (VHÚ) was represented by Jana Zatková, scientist from the Military History Research Branch, who presented her conference paper 71st Infantry Regiment Combat Operations on the Eastern Front in WWI.

■ Drivers are asked by the MOD to be alert and drive with care as there will be **22 Allied road movements** across Slovakia, scheduled from 4 to 10 Mar 2019. They will mostly involve U.S. and SVN troops. SVK Army convoys will also ferry oversized cargo on the routes: Sliač – Bratislava – Kuchyňa, Trebišov – PSJ Poruba, Sereď – Kuchyňa, Hlohovec – Levice, and Martin – Kuchyňa – Sereď.

Logisticians learned to protect convoys at TC Lešť

(25 February) Building on the courses delivered in the previous three years, the Training Centre Lešť hosted a three-week logistics convoy security course, aimed at members of the Transport Company, of the Logistics Battalion Hlohovec, and components of the Combat Service Support (CSS) Brigade Trenčín, including Repair Battalion Martin, Logistics Battalion Topoľčany, and CSS Battalion Prešov.

The main goal was to gain, sustain and develop capabilities for protecting logistics convoys, so that new soldiers could learn more about different incidents and situations they may encounter on operations. They obtained the latest expertise on convoy security arrangements from Sgt 1st Class Peter

Results of SCIS Base reviewed

(27 February) The Trenčín Garrison Club hosted a commanders' meeting, chaired by Col Peter Schvarcbacher, Commander of the Stationary Communications and Information (SCIS) Base, who took stock of the Training Year (TY) 2018 results, in the presence of Chief of Staff for Operations Support Brig Gen Ľubomír Gacko (SVK GS), Chief of Staff for ISP&CIS Col Imrich Petruš (SVK GS), Chief of Combat Training Col Ferdinand Muriň (SVK GS), and chiefs of the SCIS Base branches and sections. Brig Gen Gacko thanked members of the SCIS Base for their cooperation and presented Letters of Commendation to selected Service personnel. At the end of the meeting, Col Schvarcbacher thanked Brig Gen Gacko and wished him every success.

Martiners negotiate challenges



(27 February) At the end of this winter, Martin Garrison's Sučany Training Range hosted training for tracked IFV drivers, of the Mechanised Battalion Martin, under complex terrain conditions by day and at night. Patches of snow and slippery and soaked grounds at specific obstacles, on what is a nearly 4km cross-country trail, made passage more complicated for drivers, particularly when they negotiated a bridge deck, a road blocks course, and a series of narrow sections. But what commanded greatest respect in them was fording. Maj Vladimír Moško, DCOM Mech Bn Martin, noted with satisfaction that the soldiers who had successfully performed their eFP tasks in Latvia in 2018 achieved very good results. Among the three best drivers were Cpl Teodor Petrik, Cpl Martin Priedhorský and Cpl Jozef Halas.

Slovak troops at Torun

(27 February) On 24 February, members of the Self-propelled Field Artillery (FA) Battalion Michalovce, Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Battalion Rožňava, Logistics Battalion Hlohovec, 21st Combined Battalion Trebišov, and Deployable CIS Base Ružomberok began to prepare for Ex Dynamic Front 2019 at the Torun Artillery and Armaments Training Centre (AATC), Poland. Having reconnoitred the area and taken up their positions, they set up battalion and battery fire control posts and established CIS and logistics networks. The Self-propelled Field Artillery (FA) Battalion Michalovce became fully integrated into the international task group, comprised of POL, CZE, U.S. armed forces. During the week, they exercised FA battalion, battery and recce section mission command that would be instrumental to the success of the exercise.

Toscano, instructor of the Training and Cynology Branch, MP Department Vlkánová – Hronsek.



The logisticians performed tasks at Lešť in winter conditions. They operated Tatra 815 - 7 8x8 armoured trucks and Tatra multilift container carriers. The course also contained marksmanship training, geared towards effective firing and safe weapons handling. They practised firing weapons from less traditional positions while carrying

loads and transitioning from firing primary to secondary weapons. The highlight of the course was a convoy ambush. This was the culmination of the entire training preparation, because members of the Trenčín-based CSS Bde units had to apply everything they had learned on the course.