



Tasks of NCOs

(3 March) In the presence of Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko, the SVK MOD Club in Bratislava hosted a meeting of SVK NCOs chaired by Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) of the Slovak Armed Forces Sgt Maj Marcel Kaniak. In his speech, he assessed the Training Year 2019 (TY19) results of the NCO Corps and Other Ranks and set out the priorities that lie ahead this year.

Speaking in front of the audience, CSEL of the Slovak Armed Forces Sgt Maj Marcel Kaniak said: "Our aim is not to resolve all the problems that we have within the NCO Corps at once, but to widen the horizons of NCOs to put at least some of the knowledge they have gained into real-life practice. And to learn to seek solutions to problems within their capacities and not to wait for someone else to offer solutions to their problems in the unit."

In his remarks, Gen Zmeko emphasised: "The NCO Corps forms not only the backbone of the armed forces, but also their hands and legs, because it carries the burden of the armed forces' activity. Whether carrying out tasks at home or serving on missions and operations abroad. Personally speaking, I perceive the TY19 to be a success story and credit for this can, in large part, be attributed to NCOs. Take the 75th SNP Anniversary Parade in Banská Bystrica or Ex Slovak Shield, for example. This year, too, they will undertake a range of challenging tasks, whereas training will culminate with Ex Slovak Shield in November 2020."

As part of the meeting's programme, the Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin's senior enlisted leader Sgt Maj Miroslav Dulaj, the first NCO from the Eastern Bloc to have served as the CSEL of the NATO School in Oberammergau (NSO) last year, delivered a presentation on modern education and the possibilities of implementing it within the armed forces. Our current representative at the NATO School, Sgt Maj Jozef Antolík, introduced the courses and educational opportunities on offer for SVK NCOs. And Deputy Commandant of the NCO Academy Martin Sgt Maj Ján Čmelík briefed on the OR-5 and OR-6 NCO courses. In the follow-up discussion, they focused on the efficiency of basic military training (BMT) and the said career courses.



A letter from Chief of the Defence Staff General Daniel Zmeko

(6 March) In an electronic letter on the spread of COVID-19 of 6 March 2020, Chief of the Defence Staff General Daniel Zmeko addressed members of the Slovak Armed Forces, in which he appealed on common sense, called for commensurate action and pointed to the role of the Armed Forces. "At a time of non-military threats, we, along with you, are a guarantee of restoring the State's collapsing vital functions to a state of stability and sustainability. At a time when the functionalities of internal security and those of the medical and rescue systems are under real threat, it is us, soldiers with the assets entrusted to us, who are expected to be the last brake, the last rescue net. We belong to the security system of this country and have our own medical facilities. I am regularly updated on the medical condition of the military and civilian populations by the Chief of Military Medical Services –

Live in action! Trebišov-based motorised foxes once again at Lešť

(5 March) At the Training Centre Lešť late in February, members of the 1st Motorised Troop from the 1st Motorised Squadron (23rd Motorised Battalion Trebišov) conducted engineer training on blast and mine-laying operations under the specialist supervision of Cpt Ladislav Hlava. The training was primarily centred on destruction of wooden, concrete and iron obstacles with the use of live explosives. After weeks of theoretical instruction and drills, soldiers with no such practical experience tried out working with detonators and explosive charges. The exercising troops performed calculations and recalculations on the length of time fuse and the weight of explosives and how to properly place them on the surface of individual items to be destroyed according to SOPs. As a result, soldiers were given a real chance to find out what a serious threat a bad calculation or a wrongly planted explosive may pose and what consequences this may have in the theatre of operations. Of great benefit to the training were the comments and expertise of the training range administrator, Sgt 1st Class Jozef Berger.



■ Members of the 1st Brigade, Command Support Company and Logistics Battalion Topoľčany undertook **training in rail movements** on 2-3 Mar 2020, with emphasis on familiarisation of service personnel with the safety measures for organising military rail movements; the duties of rail movement officers; how to secure equipment on railway goods wagons; how to construct a universal steel loading/unloading ramp; force protection during the on-load/off-load and transport of military equipment.

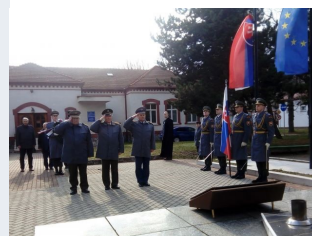
■ **International Women's Day** was celebrated at the Slovak Armed Forces Band Building in Bratislava's Dula Square on Fri 6 Mar 2020. Servicewomen of HQ Bratislava Garrison (HQ Bratislava Garrison) were greeted by Deputy Commander of HQ Bratislava Garrison Lt Col Roman Grnác. A day earlier airwomen of the Slovak Air Force Headquarters were met by SVK Air Force Commander Maj Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, and servicewomen were also recognised across other Slovak Armed Forces units and facilities.

■ The Head Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps offers believers and those interested a chance to sign up to receive **short spiritual reflections** which will be forwarded every Monday, starting from the morning of 30 Mar 2020. Anyone interested in receiving the reflections should email: ueps@mil.sk.

■ On the occasion of the Slovak Libraries Week (2-6 Mar 2020), the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Library was visited by **AOS Commandant Assoc Prof Jozef Puttera PhD**. He came to see the latest publications purchased through a grant from the Slovak Arts Council's Arts Support Fund. The commandant concluded that the new publications and magazines would improve the Library's offer and contribute to the satisfaction of readers and users of the Library's services.

■ Drivers are advised by the Slovak Ministry of Defence to drive carefully and with caution as there will be **14 Allied road movements** across Slovakia from 9 to 15 Mar 2020. They will mostly involve U.S. and POL troops. Slovak Army convoys will also transport oversized cargo and conduct round-trip road moves on the following routes: Prešov – Michalovce – Trenčín, Veľké Zálužie – Koliňanský vrch, Nitra – Koliňanský vrch, Kuchyňa – Nemecká. There will also be Slovak Army rail movements from Zemianske Kostolany to Kuchyňa and from Zemianske Kostolany to Prešov.

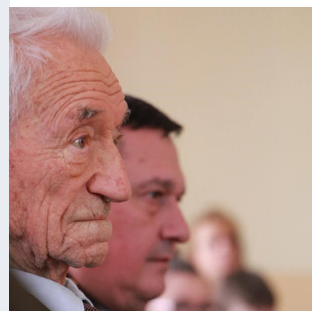
Homage to executed generals



(4 March) A ceremony in remembrance of Augustín Malár, Ján Golan, Štefan Jurech and Rudolf Viest, the four Slovak generals executed at the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp before the end of WW2,

was held at the Reconciliation Memorial at the Slovak Ministry of Defence. Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko, representatives of the SVK Generals Club led by Lt Gen (Rtd) Peter Vojtek, and representatives of the Slovak Anti-Nazi Fighters Association led by its chairman Pavol Sečkář paid homage to the generals by laying wreaths at the Memorial.

Meeting of generations



(5 March) In Stará Turá, Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko met JUDr. Samuel Baran, the last living partisan and WW2 veteran, who participated in a raid on the town school in Stará Turá, the seat of Nazi Garrison. Today the 95-year old former partisan met with children from

the Elementary Arts School which is housed in the former town school, liberated by Samuel Baran and his fellow partisans. "Remembering history and commemorations are of immense significance for our future. That is why I am pleased we have managed to organise this meeting of generations. Mr Baran, thank you for your courage, we are proud of you," said Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko.

Full Field Kit this week

This week our show live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat on Regina Radio will bring information on the training exercise of the Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade Nitra on Koliňanský Vrch Training Area. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and opinions. Please, write to us at glapal@mod.gov.sk.

your family members should reconsider visiting mass events, where the risk of contamination is much higher. Personal hygiene should be a matter of course. Compared to other flu types, information on the coronavirus reveals no significant difference in the spread and stages of the illness and in the number of complications." Dear fellow colleagues, I want to call on you to maintain high levels of professionalism. Let us not succumb to disinformation and false news, let us be responsible role models for our families, acquaintances and the general public. Equally important, we should not overexert ourselves and if we feel we are not in good medical condition, let us restore it under the guidance of medical professionals.

Yours sincerely,
General Daniel Zmeko