



Minister visits military units

(14 May) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' along with State Secretary Marian Majer today visited several military units based in Trenčín to see for themselves what the Service conditions for soldiers and the status of equipment and infrastructure really are and to find out how to improve them.

"The people who look after the security and defence of the State must have adequate working condition. That is why during my visits to military units I was particularly interested in the real state of affairs and the possibilities how to help soldiers," said Minister Nad'. "The economic situation in Slovakia is becoming complicated due to the ongoing pandemic, which will have an impact on the budget. Nevertheless, our aim is to invest every euro with maximum efficiency and exactly where it is most needed so as to purposefully support the most critical areas," he emphasised.

While still in Trenčín, the Defence Minister visited the Military Police Headquarters, Army Headquarters, Special Operations Forces Command, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Centre of Excellence. He was informed of the tasks underway in response to COVID-19. He was also interested to learn about the future goals of developing the capabilities of individual Services and about the deployments of soldiers on international crisis management missions and operations.

Minister Nad' also met with Chairman of the Trenčín Self-Government Region Jaroslav Baška and Mayor of Trenčín Richard Rybníček. Apart from ways to forge cooperation, they also addressed the ongoing refurbishment of the former Army House. The Minister also spoke of advancing cooperation with representatives of Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN), a state-owned joint stock company, and Virtual Reality Media, a joint stock company.

We support defence industry

(15 May) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad', joined by State Secretary Marian Majer and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko, met with representatives of the state-run DMD Group armaments producers in the Považie region. In Dubnica nad Váhom, they visited state-run joint stock companies ZTS Špeciál, ZVS Holding and Konštrukta-Defence. They were interested to find out about the current situation of the companies, the ongoing development of technologies, the modernisation of military equipment and munitions, the future plans and the effects of the ongoing pandemic on the companies.

Minister Nad' said: "The SVK defence industry has a longstanding tradition and our companies are comparable in quality with the international ones. From the perspectives of securing deliveries for the SVK Armed Forces, the economy and employment, they have significant potential and are in the strategic interest of the State. But to fully unlock this potential, we need long-term solutions for its development." He emphasised that local manufacturers can rely on the support of the Department for their future development, cooperation and assistance in profiling themselves on the world market.

On his visit to Dubnica nad Váhom, the head of the MOD was updated on the ongoing production of 25 pieces of the upgraded Zuzana 2 Self-Propelled Gun Howitzers under a SVK MOD contract. On the modernisation programme, Mr Nad' said: "I insist on my objections to the way the Zuzana 2 Self-Propelled Gun Howitzers were procured. Nevertheless, they are in the process of being manufactured and our task is to use them most effectively in order to serve the SVK Armed Forces and to strengthen their capabilities." During his away day, the Defence Minister also visited the Electro-Technical Research and Project Institute in Nová Dubnica and the SVK State Material Reserves Administration Branch in Čachtice.

Defence Minister J. Nad' recognises work of military and civilian staff

(13 May) To mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and Victory over Nazism Day, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' along with Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko awarded commemorative medals and decorations to 207 service members and civilian employees in Defence for personal and service accomplishments. In doing so, they acknowledged the work they are undertaking – not just in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Nad' said: "Every day our Armed Forces prove that they are proud bearers of all traditions of our military history and principles for which a great many people laid down their lives. So, the legacy of 8 May 1945 goes on in their work."

According to the Minister, our servicemen and women are demonstrating just the same as this strenuous situation persists. "For the purposes of defence and security, they remain continuously available to our citizens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and indeed they are doing an excellent job. I am all the more sorry that the ongoing epidemiological measures in place do not allow me to shake hands with all of them and thank them in person for their commitment," he added.



■ At his meeting with Transport Minister Andrej Doležal and representatives of the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region led by its Chair Ján Lunter, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' expressed his determination that following resurfacing works, **Sliac Airport** will handle civilian flights once again in the summer of 2030.

■ The **Active Duty Soldiers State Service Amendment Bill 2020** was approved by Parliament on 12 May 2020. It will make selection processes more effective and dismissals for those who seriously breach discipline easier. Also enacted were the State Service Bill and the Financial Administration Bill.

■ **EU Defence Ministers** met over a video conference call on 12 May 2020. Central to their discussions were the strategic implications of COVID-19 on defence capabilities, military exercises, crisis management, EU missions and operations, as well as its relevance to hybrid threats. State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Marian Majer participated in the discussions on behalf of Slovakia.

■ **Return transport flights** were conducted from Malacky to Larnaka by a C-27J Spartan airlifter on 6, 8 and 10 May 2020. It transported military clothing, computers, protective equipment and disinfectants for soldiers serving with UNFICYP in Cyprus and brought back tents and the luggage of soldiers returning home. Airmen from the Transport Wing Kuchyňa also transported material to our soldiers deployed to Latvia.

■ For the needs of the Nové Zámky Town Council, the **Logistics Battalion Hlohovec** has set aside construction and accommodation material: two military tents, a field washing room, and 10 field beds. Hlohovec-based soldiers brought home accommodation, police and air material from Cyprus. Additionally, the Field Services Company transported an ISO 1C shipping container to Šiatorská Bukovina in Lučenec County for the needs of the SVK Police Corps.

■ Members of the **Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade Nitra** have been carrying out assistance tasks in support of the SVK Police Corps to halt the spread of COVID-19.

■ Live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, **Regina Radio's Full Field Kit** will air a report on new servicemen in the role of medics joining the SVK Military Medical Service. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and opinions. Please, write to us at plnapolna@mod.gov.sk.

■ Drivers are advised by the SVK MOD to drive carefully as the **SVK Army convoys** will transport fuel from Kuchyňa to Zemianske Kostofany and from Zemianske Kostofany to Prešov between 18 and 24 May 2020.

CHODS meet via video conference

(14 May) Because of the persisting lockdown restrictions, Chairman of the EU Military Committee (CEUMC) General Claudio Graziano decided to have the date of the planned EUMC meeting delayed until July, though the video conference of the EU's 27 highest military leaders went ahead as scheduled on 13 May. The main topic of discussions was the impact the pandemic is having on European armed forces and current developments in EU military operations. On Wednesday 13 May, Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko joined in with other EU highest military leaders for discussions via a video conference call. The main topic of discussions was the impact the pandemic is having on European armed forces and current developments in EU military operations. Gen Daniel Zmeko assured his colleagues of Slovakia's support for ongoing EU missions and operations, with the participation of the SVK Armed Forces. In a video conference on 14 May, Gen Zmeko participated in the meeting of the NATO Military Committee (NMC). Historically, the North Macedonian Chief of the Defence Staff participated in the NMC for the first time. NATO CHODS discussed the situation in NATO missions and operations and the effects of the pandemic on the sustainability of forces and their pre-deployment training.



Army medics course

(12 May) Under the difficult COVID-19 circumstances, the Liptovský Mikuláš-based Training, Education and Specialist Preparation Section, Office of SVK Armed Forces Surgeon General, organised a specialist military medicine course in an abridged, intense form. The course for (OR-2) soldiers evacuating the wounded and injured from the battlefield to the CCP went on uninterrupted, including on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, for 12 hours a day. The standard teaching lesson was shortened from 45min to 30min, with breaks long enough to ensure the disinfection of spaces. The participants familiarised themselves with the basic functioning of the MMS. Combat medic training, i.e. the delivery of first aid to the wounded or injured in combat, has been incorporated into the course. The CSEL of the SVK Military Medical Service and Chief Medic of the Slovak Armed Forces, Sergeant Major (OR-9) Viliam Machara too expressed his satisfaction with the results of the specialist training which was adjusted according to the guidelines of the Chief of Defence.

New specialist crisis management equipment gifted to MOD

(13 May) New specialist equipment for combating coronavirus has been gifted to the MOD by the National Union of Employers. This includes a thermal camera for body temperature screening, which is now to be used in the quarantined zone of Žehra village in the coming days, as well as five inhalation devices to be distributed to hospitals in Bratislava, Martin, Ružomberok and Košice. This announcement was made by Prime Minister Igor Matovič, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad', and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko at a press conference at the MOD today.

Further details on the gifted camera system were provided by Miroslav Kiralvarga, President of the National Union of Employers, and Jozef Buday, member of the Presidium



of the Union of Employers. Prime Minister Igor Matovič appreciated the cutting edge technology as a gesture of goodwill. "I highly appreciate that the National Union of Employers has come forward with an offer in the form of this gift at this time of coronavirus crisis in the fight against which the MOD has been so intensely engaged," said the Minister. Member of the Presidium

of the Union of Employers Jozef Buday explained that the "gifted thermal camera is capable of screening up to 100 passers-by per minute for elevated body temperature. As part of the gift, five inhalation devices will be used for treating respiratory diseases." Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko too expressed his thanks for the donated thermal camera.