



Values and cooperation

(11 June) "The shared values-based foreign policy orientation of the Slovak and Czech Republics is visible also in their stances on tackling current issues and challenges in the field of defence and security, which predetermines both countries to even closer and deeper cooperation," said Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď during his meeting with CZE Defence Minister Lubomír Metnar on the occasion of his first official visit to the Czech Republic.

During the meeting, they consulted closely on projects and possible areas of cooperation in support of the SVK and CZE defence industries. Mr Naď said: "After the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic measures, I am very pleased to have met in person, for the first time today, my counterpart and learnt more about the goals and visions of the CZE Ministry of Defence. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss ways of further developing mutual ties, especially in the politico-military area." At the same time, he thanked Minister Metnar for the efficient and effective collaboration on repatriating hundreds of SVK citizens during the pandemic. "A significant milestone of the bilateral relations between Slovakia and Czechia was also the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in Mutual Protection of Airspace," added Minister Naď.

On the Visegrad Group, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď affirmed his appreciation for the very high level of the V4 defence cooperation and the dynamics of the Czech V4 Presidency. On the CZE V4 Presidency, he appreciated the initiative to review the strategic document "Long Term Vision of the Visegrad Countries on Deepening their Defence Cooperation". "The Czech Presidency has built on the previous SVK one in many ways. I am pleased that this cooperation can advance continually," he added. He continued: "Over the past months we have witnessed how necessary it is for us to approach current challenges, not only those in the field of defence and security, in a complex manner and find effective solutions together."

As part of the two-day trip to the Czech Republic, Minister Naď also held meetings with CZE Foreign Affairs Minister Tomáš Petříček, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Security of the CZE Parliament Pavel Fischer. He also appeared in a debate organised on the occasion of his visit to Prague by the European Values Centre for Security Policy, and visited Aero Vodochody.

Effectiveness and transparency

(10 June) State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Marian Majer held talks with representatives of the Value for Money Unit, SVK Ministry of Finance, led by Štefan Kišš. According to M. Majer, more effective defence spending is a priority, on which we all can clearly agree. "On behalf of our MOD, I can confirm that we will share information on projects and policies so as to manage resources not only sustainably, but also effectively. Partly due to this, our expert teams will meet regularly and have open discussions. So, there is a huge task towards greater transparency ahead of us, but we are moving forward," said M. Majer.



Area security system and new scanner for military policemen

(8 June) The Crisis Management, Training and K9 Branch, Military Police Department Vlkavová – Hronek, hosted a three-day practical workshop where 20 members of the SVK Military Police received training on how to operate an integrated security system. Maj Jozef Šoltýs, Section Chief, MP Dept Vlkavová – Hronek, who served as a SVK representative to the NATO Military Police Centre of Excellence (MP COE) in Poland's Bydgoszcz for three years, appreciates the capabilities the deployable area security system offers to military policemen, especially in detecting intruders trespassing on protected sites. The MP personnel were also trained on how to operate a deployable vehicle chassis scanner. Instructor Cpt Juraj Masár highlighted the pluses of the scanner. For example, it can be activated within 5 minutes from arrival at the control point and it features a Wi-Fi transmitter, a system for automatic reading of vehicle registration numbers which is integrated into the body of the scanner, and wireless transmission of signal from the scanner to the portable ruggedized notebook without the need to use any cables.



■ Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď met with Chairman of the Office for Public Procurement Miroslav Hlivák on 10 June. Unlike his predecessors, the Minister emphasised he will see to it that all projects being prepared by the MOD will be fully in line with legislation, transparency, and the MOD's needs. "I appreciate the interest of Mr Chairman with whom I have agreed on a system of consultations to prevent potential misunderstandings. On behalf of the MOD, I can say that we will cooperate closely to the maximum extent possible," emphasised J. Naď.

■ Members of HQ Bratislava Garrison held a farewell ceremony for their outgoing Deputy Commander Lt Col Roman Grnák on the parade grounds at Vajnory Barracks on 11 June. Lt Col Grnák assumed an appointment at the Military Office of the President of the Slovak Republic with effect from 15 June.

■ The latest issue of **Defence**, a monthly magazine published by the MOD, brings an interview with State Secretary of the SVK MOD Marian Majer and presents the COVID-19 operations by the SVK military and EU and NATO activities during the pandemic. For more information, go to <https://www.mosr.sk/obrana-62020/>.

■ Lt Col M. V., a Slovak serviceman serving within NATO structures, has been found dead in the Dutch city of Brunssum on 13 June 2020. The soldier's family has been informed of the incident. On behalf of the SVK Ministry of Defence and the SVK Armed Forces, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko express their sincere condolences to the bereaved family and relatives.

■ Live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, Regina Radio's next **Full Field Kit**, covering security and defence issues, will focus on the history of 11th Mechanised Battalion in Martin, where the first regular soldiers began to serve with the Battalion 25 years ago.

■ Drivers are advised by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be **three Allied road movements** across Slovakia from 15 to 21 June. These will include CZE military movements for the Ex Clear Sign 2020 planning conference and a POL military movement. Over the same period, there will be several SVK Army round trip convoys ferrying oversized cargo on the following routes: Michalovce – VVP Valaškovce – PC Biela Hora, Nitra – Nemecká, Prešov – Michalovce – Trebišov, Hlohovec – Martin, and Hlohovec – Prešov. Also scheduled is a rail movement from Zemianske Kostoľany to Kuchyňa.

Respect for 100-year-old veteran



(9 June) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď visited Bernard Papánek, veteran of the WW2 national struggle for liberation, in the village of Šajdíkove Humence on the occasion of his 100th birthday which he celebrated earlier in January.

The Minister expressed his belated congratulations on his birthday and awarded him with the War Veterans Memorial Cross. Bernard Papánek was born into a Jewish family in Vienna on 19 January 1920. After Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938, he escaped to Brno. Following the occupation of Bohemia and Moravia, he fled to Palestine where, on 19 October 1942, he joined the Czechoslovak Army units that redeployed to Northern Africa. He served with the 11th Company, 200th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, in the Siege of Tobruk. Later on, he was seriously wounded in the Battle of Dunkirk in France. After the operation and two months of medical treatment he was transported back to the United Kingdom.

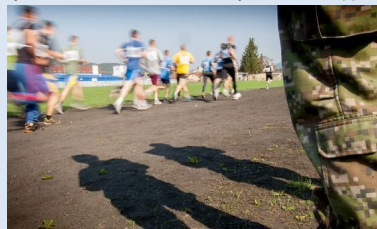
MOD supports NGO projects

(12 June) This year, too, the SVK MOD has supported 14 interesting projects of NGOs, giving out nearly 100,000 euros in grants. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Through education, home defence, cultural, social and sporting activities, our MOD aims to promote projects that contribute to strengthening patriotism, public interest in the defence of the Slovak Republic, and presenting the themes generally associated with the MOD and the Armed Forces." He further noted that those eligible for a grant were the NGOs whose projects catered for the cultural, spiritual and social needs of regular soldiers, reservists, veterans, top and high performance athletes and sporting talents. Grants were awarded to projects such as Renovation of Monuments in Myjava, Protection and Development of Historical and Cultural Heritage with Focus on Military History, Restoration of Death Valley Battlefield – Phase II, Extension of Michal Strenka Military Exhibition Grounds, Legion 100 – Czechoslovak Legion Train in Slovakia 2020, SVK Defence System Capacities Building, and Supporting Children and Young People in 3D Archery and Sport Archery. Those eligible to apply for a grant were civic associations, foundations, special interest associations with legal entity status, non-investment funds and non-profit organisations, which are registered in the Slovak Republic and which provide services generally beneficial to society. As part of the call for proposals, each applicant was allowed to submit one application only.

August SFAS for candidates of 5th Special Forces Regiment

(10 June) Consistent with the SVK Chief of Defence's guidance, the Commander of 5th Special Forces Regiment (5th SOF Regt) Žilina invites active duty soldiers to attend the Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS). SFAS will be conducted in the form of intense unit-level training for the Combat Arms (CA) branches, on 17-26 August 2020, and for the Combat Service Support (CSS) branches (logistics, command support, specialist communications, and first aid station) on 17-21 August 2020 at the 5th SOF Regt base, Rajecká cesta 18, Žilina. The regular soldiers who have the ambition to become members of the Regiment must have a "Class A" medical

condition, be swimmers, and submit required documentation to the Regiment's Personnel Management Group no later than 17 July 2020. The applicants who have applied for the earlier date



of the 2020 selection process that was cancelled due to the measures to halt the spread of COVID-19 will be sent invitations automatically. The Testing Phase includes physical fitness, swimming, specialist and language skills, and psychological tests. The candidates will be tested for physical and psychological resilience, strength, endurance, agility and the ability to

resolve crisis situations across a variety of terrain. This will be followed by personal interviews with the selection committee. For more information, go to <https://www.mil.sk/89944/?pg=1>.