



We must improve infrastructure

(19 June) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď today visited the military units based in Michalovce and Trebišov. He was interested in the real status of their infrastructure which had, in the long term, been markedly neglected by former senior leaders of the Ministry of Defence. On his fact-finding trip, the Minister was joined by State Secretary of the SVK MOD Marian Majer, Deputy Chief of Defence Lt Gen Josef Pokorný, Milan Potocký MP and Rastislav Jilek MP.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď stated: "No investments have been made in military infrastructure for years, the result of which is that buildings and facilities are in a poor state of repair. It is unthinkable that the infrastructure can be neglected any longer. Simply put, this is an important area to which we will pay close attention," before adding that "We want to take on every challenge and do the absolute maximum we can for SVK servicemen and women. Because it is important that the working environment where they spend most of their time should kept at an adequate level and meet the safety regulations." During his visit to the Self-propelled Artillery Battalion Michalovce, Minister Naď said: "The Artillery Battalion will be reinforced by 25 ZUZANA 2 Self-propelled Gun Howitzers. I believe that the modern equipment will meet their expectations, because this is a cutting edge product of our domestic defence industry."

On the occasion of his visit to Michalovce Garrison's White Mountain Training Ground, Minister Naď appreciated that soldiers have started repairing the neglected buildings and facilities on their own by carrying out minor repairs and maintenance. As part of his away day, Minister Naď also visited the military facility at the Zemplínska šírava Reservoir which the former MOD leadership planned to redesign as a retirement home for SVK veterans. "It has turned out to be a political utopia because what they promised, not only to soldiers, has seen no follow-up action. No projects and no thought-out business plan were processed, nor was any funding set aside," he said.

The Minister also visited, among others, 21st Mechanised Battalion, 23rd Motorised Battalion and Tank Battalion in Trebišov, which are based in one barracks. On this occasion, he thanked service personnel for holding themselves to high standards of professionalism and was interested in how to improve their Service conditions and the infrastructure of their units.

EU faces defence challenges

(16 June) EU Defence Ministers discussed pressing issues pertaining to the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in a video conference call. Above all, they paid close attention to strengthening cooperation in the politico-military area, including addressing common security challenges faced by Europe. On this occasion, State Secretary of the SVK MOD Marian Majer reaffirmed the readiness of the SVK Armed Forces, if required and consistent with the SVK Government-approved mandate, to do their part in taking on the challenges as part of international crisis management. Another part of the discussion was devoted to the progress being made in the implementation of EU defence initiatives and their funding from the EU budget.

President Čaputová appoints new Brigadier Generals

(16 June) Based on a SVK Government-approved proposal, President of the Slovak Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Slovak Armed Forces Zuzana Čaputová promoted Col Štefan Kovács, Col Ferdinand Muriň and Col Tibor Králik to Brigadier General, the most junior General rank of the Slovak Armed Forces, during a promotion ceremony held at the Grasalkovich Palace, Bratislava. Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Our active duty soldiers regularly demonstrate that, to them, the performance of Service duties is not just daily routine and work, but a mission above all else. I am very pleased that we have a lot of soldiers like that in the ranks of the Armed Forces. Recognition of their work does not come only in the form of thank you, and different plaques and medals. Indeed, it is by promoting them to the General ranks that we acknowledge their life-long contribution to the Armed Forces." The Minister thanked the newly promoted servicemen for holding themselves to the highest standards of responsibility in ensuring the security of SVK citizens and expressed his conviction that they will continue to take on challenges as so far. Unlike the previous Ministry of Defence leadership, the head of the MOD pointed out that the acting MOD leaders seek to adopt a fair and systematic approach to promotion of service personnel to the General ranks.



■ Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď held talks with the **Hungarian Ambassador** to Slovakia, HE Mr Tibor Pető, and subsequently with the **Ambassador of the Republic of Poland** to Slovakia, HE Mr Krzysztof Strzałka, who both came to introduce themselves in their capacity as Ambassadors. A large focus of the initial meetings was on current themes of bilateral defence and military cooperation. To the Ambassadors, the head of the MOD presented the SVK Government's priorities and goals in the field of defence and he was interested in possible ways to advance cooperation on domestic defence industry.

■ A graduation ceremony marked the completion of studies for **six SVK Armed Forces cadets** from the Aviation Faculty of the Technical University in Košice, with five of them passing with distinction. The ranks of the Officer Corps have thus been extended by new military pilots and aviation specialists who have found employment with SVK Air Force units.

■ Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Deputy Chief of Defence Lt Gen Josef Pokorný presented prizes to the winners of the **19th MOD Drawing and Painting Contest**, titled *Soldiers Through the Eyes of Children*, at the MOD on 15 June.

■ Prepared by the SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica in close cooperation with the Institute of Military History in Bratislava, the Slovak National Museum, situated on the Vajanský Embankment in Bratislava, hosted an opening ceremony for the **Army in 1944 Slovak National Uprising Exhibition** on 17 June.

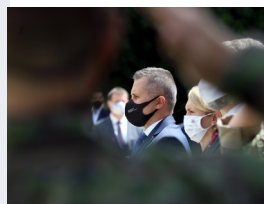
■ Live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, Regina Radio's next **Full Field Kit**, covering security and defence issues, will focus on the restart of military training for SVK military personnel.

■ On 15 June, members of **22nd Mechanised Battalion Michalovce** underwent training designed around the theme of "Forced Separation From One's Own Unit" on Michalovce Garrison's White Mountain Training Ground.

■ 66 soldiers of the Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade Nitra participated in a **community blood donation** drive on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) on 16 June.

■ Drivers are advised by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be **two road movements** of US troops in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve across Slovakia from 22 to 28 June. Both movements have been approved in line with the SVK Public Health Authority guidance. Over the same period, there will be several SVK Army round trip convoys ferrying oversized cargo on the following routes: Zvolen – Prešov, Martin – Zvolen, Prešov – Martin, Michalovce – Dubnica nad Váhom, Hlohovec – Moldava nad Bodvou, Zemianske Kostoľany – Nemecká, Martin – PC Sučany, Martin – Trenčín, and Nitra – PC Koliňanský vrch.

Respect for US and UK SNP heroes



(15 June) State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Marian Majer along with US Ambassador Bridget Brink, UK Deputy Head of Mission Andrew Wells, and representatives of the SVK Armed Forces and the Diplomatic Corps paid

their respects and homage to the victims of the United States of America and the United Kingdom who lost their lives in liberating Slovakia during WW2. He expressed his conviction that the dedication of the SNP heroes to the fight for a better future can be an encouragement in relation to the current deployment of Armed Forces personnel on missions and operations abroad, all working towards one common objective – to maintain peace and order in the world.

Ministers hold talks online

(17 June) Current issues in the field of defence and security, the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and of other challenges such as NATO resilience, the continuation of NATO missions, the Alliance's response to the Russian missile systems development, which the North Atlantic Alliance must face today, were the central themes of today's online discussion of NATO Defence Ministers. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, too, participated in the video conference. During the video conference, the heads of the MODs spoke about the Secretary General's vision for NATO 2030. In this context, they underlined the necessity of NATO countries' global approach to addressing common challenges, including through non-military, diplomatic and economic means.

MOD Yearbook 2019



(15 June) The Defence Press Section, Communications Office, prepared and published the Ministry of Defence Yearbook 2019. The publication with texts, charts, graphs and illustrations on 162 pages captures last year's events across Defence and the Slovak Armed Forces and contains all issues of the Ministry of Defence Bulletin in 2019. The yearbook is electronically available at: www.mosr.sk

Training of SVK service personnel to be posted to NATO and EU



The training of the SVK service personnel to be posted to NATO and the EU took place at the beginning of this summer. Every year the Peace Support Operations (PSO) Training Unit, Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin, delivers the training for the personnel selected to serve within NATO and EU structures. The latest training was greatly aided by the participation of Lt Col Ladislav Kisel, member of the NATO Multinational Corps Northeast Szczecin, Poland, who focused on the training system across NATO Commands and the training plan for the upcoming years, thus sharing expertise from his time working within NATO structures. At the end of the training, the participants demonstrated their knowledge during a day-long exercise and received the Certificates of Attendance issued by Maj Štefan Rybár, Chief of the Special Preparation Section, Peace Support Operations (PSO) Training Unit, Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin.