



Friendly visit

(14 March) During their visit to the Slovak Republic, Gen Frederick B. Hodges (USAREUR) and Gen Courtney P. Carr (TAG INDNG), based on Gen Maxim's invitation, visited the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces. On 14 March, the both Generals attended the discussion organized by non-governmental organization Slovak Atlantic Commission. After the event, they were received, in the premises of the SVK General Staff, by Chief of the General Staff, 2nd Deputy Chief of the General Staff and MOD State Secretary Miloš Koterec. The US Generals emphasized the above-standard relations in the field of training activities, pointing out training of the CBRN specialists of the National Guard in MTC Zemianske Kostolany.

On 14 March, in the premises of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces, Senior Enlisted Leader of the Indiana National Guard, Command Sergeant Major James R. Gordon and Senior NCO of the SVK Armed Forces Command Sergeant Major Vladimír Beluš met on a meeting which was held on the margin of Gen Frederick B. Hodges and Gen Courtney P. Carr's meeting with SVK CHOD. The main focus of the meeting was on negotiating details of further cooperation in the field of training the NCO corps in this and the upcoming training years. The meeting was held in the presence of Command Sergeant Major Peter Kuka, commanding NCO of the SVK Air Force. Among the issues raised in the discussion was preparation and training of the non-commissioned officers, cooperation with respect to joint exercises and possibilities of sending out members of the SVK Armed Forces to exercises organized in the US. The partners inquired as to preparation of the course for the NCOs in the field of operational planning. The course will be led by the Indiana National Guard instructors at the NCO Academy in Martin in autumn this year. The partners also discussed the issue of preparation and training of the aviation support personnel with respect to the newly purchased aviation equipment to become the latest acquisition to the inventory of the SVK Armed Forces.

On cooperation in Trenčín

(17 March) In the premises of the Trenčín Garrison Club, Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces Gen Milan Maxim, accompanied by Senior NCO of the SVK Armed Forces Command Sergeant Major Vladimír Beluš, met with the representatives of the civic associations and non-governmental organizations related to the SVK Armed Forces. He reviewed cooperation so far and expressed his belief that the same will continue in the future. He appreciated the joint declaration of the civic associations that met on 21 January in Trenčín (Slovak Soldiers Association, Slovak Generals Club, Slovak Aviation Association of Gen M. R. Štefánik, Slovak Club of Military Paratroopers, Association of Women in the SVK Armed Forces, War Veterans Union and UN- Veteran Slovakia). The representatives of the above organizations were introduced to the current state of the armed forces and tasks they performed in the past training year, as well as with the tasks they will be faced with this year. In discussion, they appreciated assistance and support from the SVK Armed Forces in fostering their activities.



- On 16 March, Col Miroslav Lorinc, Deputy Commander of the SVK AF; and CSM Peter Kuka, Commanding NCO of the SVK AF, came to the departure lounge of Šliach Airport to exchange fond farewells with 50 members of the SVK Armed Forces flying to Cyprus to perform military tasks of the UNFICYP mission.

- Engineer Support and EOD Specialists Training** directed at members of commands and staffs of the SVK Land Forces brigades and battalions took place at Sereď-based Engineer Battalion on 16 March. The participants familiarized themselves with the engineer support to operations, engineer support to mechanized brigade's defence, and other topical themes. They also drilled the steps an engineer platoon has to take when setting up an anti-tank minefield both manually and mechanically.

- On 16 March, members and employees of the Maj Gen Alexander Korda Self-Propelled Artillery Unit based in Michalovce commemorated the memory of their former colleague **Tomáš Kardoš**. The ceremony took place in presence of Brig Martin Stoklasa, 2nd Mechanized Brigade Commander; His Beatitude Juraj, Archbishop of Michalovce-Košice Orthodox Eparchy; István Lévi, Mayor of Hejce Municipality; as well as parents of the soldier who passed away ten years ago in the crash of a military charter aircraft. The Unit Commander, Lt Col Pavol Barančík unveiled a memorial dedicated to the memory of Tomáš Kardoš.

- Cooperation with humanitarian organizations is one of the tasks regularly drilled during training activities of the SVK Armed Forces. Therefore, the **complex staff rehearsal of the SVK General Staff**, connected with a series of exercises Slovak Shield, was participated by Marián Záhorec, representative of the Slovak branch of the Red Cross and Crisis Management Coordinator. As part of the rehearsal, there was a presentation of all three organizations of the Red Cross operating in Slovakia.

- During the ceremonial muster taking place at UNFICYP HQ, Force Commander **Maj Gen Kristin Lund** awarded the best operation members of the last rotation period with Memorial Plaques, among them SFC Jozef Kmet, member of the SVK Military Police. During 12 months of service in the UNFICYP mission, he worked as a police shift commander; and during the last 6 months, he occupied a position of an independent logistics NCO of the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU). Maj Gen Lund appreciated his experience, professionalism, and communication skills, which he used while cooperating with all components of the UNFICYP mission.

- On 14 March, Lt Col **Rüdiger Heinrich (GS)**, Defence Attaché of Germany in Slovakia, paid a visit to the 2nd Mechanized Brigade HQ. He also visited the Garrison Training Ground in Ruská Nová Ves, where the units were undergoing a marksmanship drill using newly introduced CZ 805 BREN A1 rifles and Glock 17 pistols. Lt Col Heinrich confirmed participation of the Bundeswehr specialists in the exercises planned to be organized on the territory of the Slovak Republic in the 2016 training year.

Kristin Lund's acknowledgement to Slovak engineers in Cyprus

(11 March) Within the Slovak contingent deployed to UNFICYP operation in Cyprus, some soldiers perform the tasks in support units, dislocated at the HQs in Nicosia, to include 37 members of the engineering platoon performing the operational tasks like engineering and construction work in the whole buffer zone. Their work is particularly important when it comes to operation in Sector 4, which Sector is under the lead of Slovakia. That was the case at the turn of 2015 and 2016, when work began at the patrolling base CP 10. The engineers had to cope with the task of relocating the already existing container type accommodation units CP10 and replace them by new accommodation and social units, which naturally required the earth-moving works. In the second stage, a concrete platform was laid down as a foundation and the containers were installed, to include the new threefold module container type accommodation unit. In the final stage, the engineers had to provide for water utility and electrical installations and final terrain corrections had to be completed. Being back again to Cyprus, Maj Gen Kristin Lund, Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, carried out inspection of units. She also visited the Slovak engineering platoon and saw a presentation given by Col Pavol Kobik, Chief of the Engineer Service in UNFICYP. The Force Commander expressed her satisfaction with the job done.



Selection process in Žilina

Last week, the 5th Special Forces Regiment Žilina continued with the candidate selection process. Though 71 persons applied, the selection saw only 66 of them. On the first day, one of the applicants resigned due to health problems and twelve candidates did not pass the physical fitness test. The commander of the 5th Special Forces Regiment alleged the next professional soldiers selection process will take place in the form of a concentrated unit training on 16 – 27 May. The conditions and other details of how to be put on the list of candidates can be found at <http://www.mil.sk/60137/?pg=1>

NFIU coordination colloquium

(17 March) At the SVK MOD, a coordination colloquium on the establishment of NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) took place. The main goal of the colloquium was to enable the exchange of experience in the field of establishing NFIU in Lithuania, as well as coordination of the establishment activities with NFIU Hungary. Besides representatives of Lithuania and Hungary, the colloquium was also attended by NFIU coordinators from NATO JFC Brunssum, the deputy legal advisor of the Commander of the Multinational Corps Northeast based in Szczecin (Poland), and representatives of the SVK MOD Defence Planning Department. One of the key topical themes was dealing with legal aspects of signing the Memorandum of Understanding and the basic Document on Providing Assistance. The colloquium was commenced by the 2nd Deputy Chief of the SVK General Staff, Maj Gen Pavel Macko, who emphasized the importance of such working-level meetings and awarded Col Berend Jan Bor de Wolff with the Chief of the SVK General Staff Memorial Cross, 3rd Class, for his assistance in the establishment of NFIU Slovakia.



Specialists in Kostol'any

(15 March) The first joint training of members of the Indiana National Guard and the CBRN Battalion Rožňava took place at the CBRN Training and Testing Centre (CBRN TTC) based in Zemianske Kostolany. The focus of the training was on mastering basic procedures of operating toxic chemical detection equipment, of decontamination, and of using means of personal protection while working with toxic chemical substances. The soldiers tried out both Slovak and U.S. protection devices. The joint training of Slovak and U.S. CBRN specialists saw also Maj Gen Courtney P. Carr, the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard, who was shown round the training ground, familiarized himself with the training tasks, and tried out Slovak personal protective equipment as well. He highly appreciated the training capacities of the CBRN TTC, and expressed his interest in further cooperation in the field of CBRN specialists training.

Military deed of year 2015

The same as in the past, also in 2015 the soldiers and employees of the Defence Department were invariably in the right place at the right time – helping people in need. With the aim to learn the names and faces of those who performed their noble deeds to save lives, to help the others or otherwise committed themselves to the building and strengthening of public relations, the Minister of Defence has announced the 19th annual opinion poll Military Deed of the Year. Your nominations are invited in the categories as follows: Saving lives, Assistance to Public and Friend of Army. Please forward your suggestions, along with a description of the deed that is subject to nomination, to be included into the opinion poll Military Deed of the Year 2015, by e-mail to cinroka@mod.gov.sk

