



Military Deed of Year 2015

(7 June) Graced with the presence of Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic Peter Gajdoš, the 19th annual Military Deed of the Year was held and the prizewinners were announced.

In the category of Lifesaving deeds, the award came to SSgt Andrej Adamko, who did not hesitate to provide aid to the injured soldiers after the helicopter crash in the premises of the Resolute Support OHQ in Afghanistan. The prizewinners in the category Aid and Assistance to the Public were the soldiers from CBR battalion Rožňava for their regular assistance and effort devoted to improve the premises of the cloister Drienovec. The elementary school of J.A. Komenský in Turany won the award in the category Friend of the Army. Every year, its students make Christmas wishes and send them to the Slovak troops serving in military missions and operations abroad.

The members of the former military folklore ensemble Jánošík put in an excellent musical performance. The second performer was the band Suche Karki, nominated in the category Friend of the Army.

The incentive to start the Military Deed of the Year came 19 years ago from the editorial staff of the Slovak Radio army broadcast. Its aim is to acknowledge and appreciate those members of the Defence Department who unselfishly helped the others. The nominations were made not only by persons serving in the armed forces but also by the wide public that cooperates with military.

Two exercises held in Poland: Sharp Lynx protecting Anaconda

(7 June) The international exercise of the Multinational Military Police Battalion NATO MNMPBAT, dubbed SHARP LYNX-16, started on 4 June in Masovian Minsk, Poland. This is the first time that the members of the US Military Police have operated within the multinational battalion. The battalion is to provide support to ANAKONDA-16, the largest exercise held in Poland, bringing together 38 thousand troops from 24 countries. On 7 June, as part of preparation for the ANAKONDA exercise, the members of the MNMPBAT and the members of the US MP took part in the firing exercise and trained to master protection of military and other installations and to familiarize themselves with the applicable traffic rules and regulations in Poland. Equally, they shared their experiences in the field of an accurate and flexible response to the immediate dan-



ger of fire. The MNMPBAT is a multinational military unit falling under the NATO command, composed of the national military police units contributing to the exercise by their respective specific and specialized capabilities, in conjunction with their individual competencies and authorities that cannot be provided for by any other NATO forces. The battalion was established in 2007, with Poland being the lead country and Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Croatia being the participating countries. This year, the members of the US Military Police have joined them, too. SHARP LYNX-16 is the international tactical exercise, during which the subordinated units from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and the US focus on protection of lives and health of the participants of the ANAKONDA-16 exercise, as well as on ensuring safety and public order on the premises where the training troops are concentrated.

President Andrej Kiska visits soldiers in Michalovce

(10 June) On Friday, President of the Slovak Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the SVK Armed Forces Andrej Kiska, State Secretary Marián Saloň, Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces Gen Milan Maxim, SVK Land Forces Commander Maj Gen Ondřej Novosad, Chief of the Military Office of the President of the Slovak Republic Brig Gen Vladimír Šimko, Chief NCO of the SVK Armed Forces CSM Vladimír Beluš and Command NCO of the SVK Armed Forces SGM Rastislav Bodnár made a visit to the 22nd mechanized battalion of the 2nd mechanized brigade in Michalovce. They were introduced to the history, role and organization structure of the Michalovce-based military units and their equipment. State Secretary of the Defence Department Marián Saloň highlighted the tasks performed by the mechanized brigade. "The brigade plays a particularly significant role in meeting the domestic crisis management tasks," he said. In the case of emergency, the Michalovce-based units are ready to perform the assistance tasks aimed at provision of aid and assistance to the Slovak Republic's inhabitants. The guest had an opportunity to see the Hall of Traditions and made an entry to the 2nd mechanized battalion and self-propelled artillery division's chronicle. In the end, the ceremonial muster of the individual units' members took place, and the guests had an opportunity to see the static display of the main equipment and materiel in the inventory of the 22nd mechanized battalion, self-propelled artillery division and engineering company/engineering battalion.



- Maj Gen Friedrich Schrötter, Commander EUFOR (COMUEFOR), presented his highest award to **Capt Ján Brezula**, a member of the Slovak Contingent (SLOVCON) in EUFOR ALTHEA, who had performed all the assigned tasks and requirements excellently, thereby contributing to an exemplary representation of the SLOVCON and that of the SVK Armed Forces as a whole abroad. Capt Brezula took up the appointment of Chief of the COMUEFOR Protocol and Visits Section as of 5 September 2015.

- Air displays of L-410 aircraft, a paratroopers' parachute drop, a fly-past by MiG-29 aircraft, dynamic training demonstrations of Military Working Dogs (MWDs), and aircraft modellers' demonstrations could be viewed by visitors to the **Kuchyňa Airfield Open Day** event on 11 June. The activity was supported by the State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence, Ivan Mačovsky. The Free Time Centre Malacky, the Saltatrix Malacky dance group, and the Sagittarius Archery Club made their contributions to the rich programme.

- Members of Headquarters Supply Base II – Martin and its subordinate Munition Storage Depots carried out a **basic combat skills development training** on 1 June 2016 at Sučany – Turany Garrison's training grounds with the aim of exercising the themes of all-arms drills and verifying the level of their proficiency. They focused on checkpoint drills and the principles of conducting combat operations in built-up areas, as well as testing the procedures for detecting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and the principles of orienteering and marching in terrain.

- The Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces, **Gen Milan Maxim**, paid a visit to Headquarters Supply Base II (HQ SB II) in Martin on 3 June 2016. There, Gen Milan Maxim received a briefing on Supply Base II's tasks and current status by Lt Col Pavel Sojak, Commander of Supply Base II, and the HQ SB II main officials. Gen Maxim was interested to learn more about the repair works done by the Repairs Management Centre at the base.

- The first weekend in June saw members of the **Military Band Banská Bystrica** participating in an international brass music festival in the municipality of Valaská near Brezno. The festival was opened with a colonnade parade, titled "Prague – Zagreb". The viewers rewarded the performance of the Military Band Banská Bystrica, led by the conductor Capt Ján Goliaš, with an applause.

- Maj Gen Kristin Lund, **UNFICYP Force Commander**, carried out an inspection of the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) on 31 May. This was her first visit since the end of the recent rotations and the arrival of a new FMPU Commander earlier in April. The Force Commander appreciated a practical demonstration of securing fingerprints at a crime scene, where also SLOVCON military policemen demonstrated their readiness. A total of six Slovak MP members are serving with the multinational FMPU.

- On 1 June, at the premises of the Helicopter Wing Prešov base, Col Róbert Tóth, Commander of the Lt Gen Ján Ambušík Helicopter Wing, welcomed the **members of the Military Diplomatic Corps** accredited to the Slovak Republic. He familiarised them with the unit's history, mission, key tasks and the air assets in service with the Helicopter Wing. The guests viewed the work of technicians being done on an Mi-17 SAR helicopter and a contracted training of Hungarian Air Force personnel on the Mi-17 MODER simulator.

- Lt Col Vladimír Kotrus, **Commander of the Multifunctional Supply Base – West Nemšová**, handed over command to his acting Deputy Commander, Maj Alojz Hrubisko, on 31 May. In their speeches at the command handover ceremony, Col Ján Žarnovický (GS), Commander of the Logistics Support Office, and Mr František Bagin, the mayor of Nemšová, underscored the excellent level of cooperation with the outgoing commander, and wished him much success in his new job as well as in his personal life.

Minister inspects NFIU

(9 June) Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš made an inspection of the premises in Vajnory barracks with the aim to find out about the progress of reconstruction of the building and the related infrastructure for the NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU). "The works are going ahead as scheduled," he said and reminded that the financial resources to cover preparation of the infrastructure were provided from the joint allied funds. The Slovak Republic will only cover the costs related to the routine operation and maintenance of the infrastructure. The NFIU will supervise preparation and coordination of the process of reception of the NATO coalition forces in the case of their deployment. It will also take up a role of coordinator between the SVK Armed Forces and NATO, when it comes up to the exercises. The NFIU will achieve the initial operational capability as from 1 January 2017 and the full operational capability as from 1 June 2017.

CHODs hold talks in CZ REP



(8 June) At Valeč Castle in the Czech Republic on Wednesday, a regular two-day meeting of the V4 Chiefs of Defence got underway, with the Slovak delegation being led by Gen Milan Maxim. The CHODs discussed a deployment of the V4 training units to the Baltic countries, capacity development, defence planning harmonisation, and cooperation of the V4 Operations Centres. On Thursday, the Chief of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, too, joined the talks. At the conclusion of the meeting, Gen Maxim together with the other CHODs signed a communiqué and set out the priorities of cooperation to be advanced next year, this time under the Polish leadership.

President confers honorary title

(8 June) President of the Slovak Republic Andrej Kiska temporarily conferred the honorary title of "Kragujevac Heros Combat Support Brigade" to the Combat Support Brigade Trenčín. To mark this occasion and to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the Kragujevac Mutiny, an honorary title award ceremony saw the attendance of the HQ CS BDE staffers. The Combat Support Brigade received this honorary title for its excellent results in performing its combat preparation, training, education and upbringing tasks. Members of the Combat Support Brigade Trenčín proudly proclaim their links to significant historical events, including the Kragujevac Mutiny by members of the 71st Foot Regiment, of the Austro-Hungarian Army, stationed at Trenčín Garrison.

Garrison Commanders Conference



(3 June) In Vienna, a Capital Commanders Conference, an international conference bringing together the Central European capital garrison commanders associated in the Capital Commanders Club, was held on 30 May through 3 June. It hosted the garrison commanders from Berlin, Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, with representatives of Kyiv having been invited as observers. Headquarters Bratislava Garrison was represented at the conference by Col Ján Marek, Commander of Headquarters Bratislava Garrison. The primary topic of discussion were the domestic crisis management tasks of Garrison HQs. At the conclusion of the conference, the Commander of Headquarters Budapest Garrison invited all the conference participants to Budapest, where the 23rd Capital Commanders Conference will be held next year.

MOD-wide competitive displays

The Personnel Office of the SVK Armed Forces announced the 2016 MOD-wide competitive displays. The first competitive display is **GALLERY MIL** with the following categories: **Painting and Sculpture, Utility Art and Children's Works**. The second one, titled **PHOTO ATTACK**, features the following categories: **Soldier and Uniform, SVK Armed Forces through the Lens, and Freestyle Photography**. The competitive displays are aimed at SVK Armed Forces servicemen and women, civilian employees of the SVK Ministry of Defence, their next-of-kin, as well as military pensioners. The deadline for submission of entries is 14 October 2016. The results of the 2016 MOD-wide competitive displays will be released on 9 November 2016. The instructions and application forms for the competitions are available at www.osveta.mil.sk.