



President appoints CHOD

(26 April) Major General Daniel Zmeko is to be promoted Lieutenant General and appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic (Chief of Defence) with effect from 7 May 2018. President of the Slovak Republic Andrej Kiska, the Commander-in-Chief of the SVK Armed Forces, has today (26 April 2018) announced the appointment of Major General Daniel Zmeko to the SVK Armed Forces' most senior post in succession to General Milan Maxim, whose tenure as Chief of Defence is over. SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "I trust that Major General Zmeko will, in the SVK Armed Forces' most senior role, commit all his professional abilities and expertise of all chain of command levels to maintaining the SVK Armed Forces' credibility as one of Slovakia's most trustworthy institutions and readiness to guarantee the defence of the Slovak Republic and its citizens." At the same time, he thanked General Maxim for his long-standing cooperation. On this occasion, General Maxim thanked all servicemen and women for their lifelong cooperation. Recently, Major General Zmeko has performed tasks in the field of modernisation and armaments as National Armaments Director. Over the duration of his more than 30-year-long military career in the SVK Armed Forces, he held several command appointments with mechanised units from platoon to brigade levels before taking post as Chief of the Operations Branch and Chief of Staff in the SVK Land Forces HQ. His next posting was to the General Staff where he served in a variety of command and staff positions, including Commander of the Operations Control Centre. He also assumed the appointment of Deputy Commander of the SVK Land Forces. Operational tours of duty, including UNFICYP in Cyprus, Afghanistan, and Iraq where he was in command of the SVK Contingent, allowed him to gain rich experience from international crisis management missions and operations.

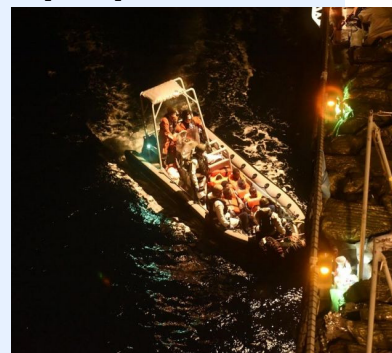


Promotions

(26 April) President Andrej Kiska promoted Colonel Juraj Štefanka to the most junior general officer rank, whilst at the same time promoting Brigadier Jozef Pokorný, Brigadier Vladimír Šimko and Lieutenant General Ján Balcár one rank higher. President Andrej Kiska congratulated the promoted generals, especially the newly appointed CHOD, Major General Daniel Zmeko. He reminded that the SVK Armed Forces have enjoyed the highest public confidence levels for long, which calls for a strong sense of responsibility. Speaking on behalf of the promoted generals, Maj Gen Zmeko said: "I want to assure you that, in all humbleness, we are aware that, along with the trust you place in us, we also take on a commitment that comes along with the new appointments and ranks, one that obliges us to perform and fulfil the mission of the Armed Forces."

Operational success in EUNAVFOR MED Op Sophia II

(23 April) The SVK Military Police personnel deployed as part of the 2nd rotation on EUNAVFOR MED Op Sophia II were involved in rescue efforts to save over 400 migrants. The 11-hour rescue mission occurred at open sea north of Libya in the international waters of the Mediterranean in the early morning hours on Monday (23 April). The incident was reported worldwide by international media earlier this week. All 403 people made it on board the ship without sustaining any injuries. Of them, 41 were women, including 3 pregnant women, and 9 children, of whom 3 were younger than 3 years old. The migrants come from 14 countries, mainly from Sudan, Mali, and Chad. The rescued migrants were handed over to Italian security forces who closely cooperate with members of EUNAVFOR MED Op SOPHIA. Early this morning, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš phoned the Commander of the SVK Boarding Team, MSgt Marián Valach, to thank all SVK MP teammates for the job well done. "Our military policemen have proved once again to be a fully fledged component of the elite team under German command. And my thanks go out to Frigate Captain Christian Schultze, the shipmaster, for the system he has put in place for managing the international team," stated Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš.



- SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš along with 2nd DCHOD/COS Maj Gen Miroslav Kocian welcomed the soldiers returning from **Operation EUFOR ALTHEA** in Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNTSO in the Middle East during a homecoming ceremony on 27 Apr at Training and Mobilisation Replenishment Base Martin.

- To mark Victory over Nazism Day, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš awarded the SVK Minister of Defence Commemorative Medal (in Gold) to Brig Ján Ilanovský, **a soldier of the WWII national struggle for freedom**, a member of the Czechoslovak Army Corps and a partisan, who lived to see his 96th birthday on 21 Apr. On behalf of the Minister, the medal was handed over to him by Col Radoslav Ivančík, Director of the Human Resources Department (MOD) at the Janko Kráľ Museum in Liptovský Mikuláš.

- The SVK MOD hosted a specialist **Registry Management and Archiving Course**, led by the Administrator of the SVK MOD Registry, Maj Iveta Korytková, on 23-27 Apr. The course members were briefed on basic legal documents in the field of registry management and unified application of procedures in practice.

- Liptovský Mikuláš-based SVK Armed Forces Academy's Simulation Centre hosted a staff rehearsal for 68 members of **NATO Multinational Military Police Battalion (MNMPPBAT)**, which incorporates personnel from 4 countries – SVK, CZE, HRV and POL.

- The Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security approved the 2018 War Veterans Amendment Act on 25 Apr. It follows from the legislation that the MOD, acting in line with the SVK Government Manifesto, will be able to refurbish **a building for war veterans to serve as a residential home**.

- The closing date for submission of application forms for the **Voluntary Military Training (VMT)** scheme is approaching – 4 May 2018. The requirements for the selection process remain unaltered.

- Members of HQ and Command Staff 2nd Mech Bde and its Command Support Company conducted **railway operations training** on 19-20 Apr.

- The SVK MOD wants to alert the drivers in Slovakia to take caution as there will be **8 Allied military movements** across Slovakia over the period between 30 Apr and 6 May 2018. Drivers should also pay attention to the movements of SVK Armed Forces convoys transporting oversized cargo of equipment along the routes: Hlohovec – Nemšová; Martin – Nemšová; Levice – Martin; and Nitra – Koliňany; as well as to 1 railway movement of SVK soldiers and equipment along the route Sása Pliešovce – Martin.

Successful military trials

(26 April) A team of military specialists completed the field testing phase of the 8x8 IFV prototype military trials. The prototype is the outcome of a joint Slovak-Finish development project. This phase will be followed by the drafting of technical and organisational measures, an expert analysis of results, and a report to be submitted to the SVK Cabinet. The field tests were carried out uninterruptedly between 19 March and 26 April 2018 by SVK Armed Forces personnel and specialists from the Military Technical and Testing Institute Žahorice.



100th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia

(17 April) To mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia, MOD officials, joined by representatives of the embassies of the countries that markedly contributed to the foundation of the independent state, attended a commemorative event at Chateaux Topoľčianky, the former presidential summer residence, to pay tribute to the historic role of the first Czechoslovak President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, a founder member of Czechoslovakia and a prominent personality of military history. Participants remembered the role of the Czechoslovak Legion and the cooperation between T. G. Masaryk and Gen Milan Rastislav Štefánik in establishing the common republic.

Defence Challenge for students



(27 April) Sports Grammar School Banská Bystrica, Secondary Professional School on Ostrovský Street in Košice and Army General Ludvík Svoboda Grammar School Humenné hosted 3 of the 8 regional rounds of the Defence Challenge series, a

competition built around military training activities, for students to win slots on the 48-hour Military Training Camp. A total of 12 teams battled it out in the Košice region, which had the highest participation levels. A total of 85 secondary school teams have participated in the series to date.

SVK troops hold dress rehearsal before deploying to Latvia

(27 April) The last week of April company-level tactical live fire exercises marked the culmination of the two-week deployment to the Training Centre Leš' of the two rotational units, of

Mechanised Battalion Martin, to be deployed as part of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) to Latvia from the second half of 2018. According to Battalion Commander Lt Col Milan Cvik, the exercises perfectly tested commanders in controlling combat missions as well as their practical skills in commanding troops on operations uninterruptedly and in sustaining coordination with organic and embedded units. As from this summer, the core of the 1st rotational unit is formed of 1st Mech Coy under the command of Jozef Hraško. The Commander of Task Group Štefánik II is Major Vladimír Moško, Battalion Deputy Commander



and Commander of the SVK military's first three-month troop deployment to Latvia last year. "Slovak service personnel will operate under the Canadian-led NATO enhanced Forward

Presence Battle Group on Latvia's Ādaži Training Area. We will thereby join the Allies and the deterrence concept adopted at the NATO Warsaw Summit in July 2016. Its aim is to demonstrate Allied solidarity, resolve and readiness to respond to whatever potential aggression may occur. Thanks to this move, we will reaffirm that we are an active NATO member," said Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš. The Security Council and the Cabinet approved the deployment of Slovak soldiers to the Baltics on NATO's eFP role on 25 April. Once the deployment is approved by Parliament, Slovakia will commit 152 SVK personnel to Latvia in the second half of 2018.