



Commemoration and symbol

(8 May) SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš and President/CinC of the SVK Armed Forces Andrej Kiska commemorated the 73rd anniversary of the end of WWII in the village of Makov.

SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "The village of Makov belongs to a group of the last three villages to be liberated from Nazi occupation, where Nazi suppression lasted a little bit longer. That is why I am very glad that we came together here to remember the end of the most horrifying event in history. The Partisan Memorial, built by local residents, will stand as a testament for many generations, reminding them of what terrible consequences Nazism and any extremist way of thinking may have for mankind."

Minister Gajdoš remarked that the village of Makov is a border village which lies close to the border with the Czech Republic. Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia, the venue for this commemorative event was chosen symbolically to highlight the common history of Czechs and Slovaks.

The villages of Makov, Klokočov and Korňa, located in the district of Čadca, were the last to be liberated in Slovakia. They were liberated from Nazi occupation on 3 May 1945 by units of 18th Soviet Army, 4th Ukrainian Front, only 5 days before the surrender of Nazi Germany.

Victory in Europe Day at MOD

(9 May) SVK MOD military and civilian personnel gathered on the occasion of Victory in Europe Day at the MOD Club, to pay tribute to the victims of WWII and to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the end of the bloodiest conflict in the history of mankind.



In his remarks, SVK Minister of Defence praised the achievements of all heroes who had defied the threat of Nazism in WWII and reminded the audience that 60 million people had died in this bloodiest conflict of our history. "Unfortunately, evil has its new form. Consequently, people die not on the fronts or in trenches but because of terrorists perpetrating acts of terror, religious conflicts, and extremists, for whom democracy is an empty concept," he said.

In his remarks, SVK Chief of Defence Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko said: "All fallen and surviving soldiers deserve our sincere gratitude and respect for our freedom and our everyday life."

Paying tribute to WWII victims

(9 May) Representing the MOD at the 73rd anniversary commemoration of the end of WWII at the Slavin Memorial was State Secretary of the MOD Marián Saloň.

Among those who came to pay tribute to the victims of the most devastating conflict in the history of mankind were Parliamentary Chairman Andrej Danko, Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini, and MOD representatives.

Slovakia will have an armoured IFV of its own production

(13 May) If the 8x8 vehicle development programme is successfully complete along with successful military trials, Slovakia will have an armoured infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) of its own production. "It will be manufactured by Slovak companies, we will be competitive, and we will be able to sell it. If we succeed in doing it, I will be a proud Slovakian, because after 25 years we will finally have our own vehicle," said SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš speaking "In Politics", a political debate on the TA3 TV news channel. Head of the MOD rejects any considerations about the non-transparency of this process. "Anyone who has such information should come forward and inform law enforcement agencies, but we absolutely reject it," emphasised Minister Gajdoš. On the supersonic aircraft modernisation programme, Head of the MOD reminded that opposition MP Ľubomír Galko had done nothing about it during his tenure as MiOD. "We approach all projects systematically and systematically in line with the Long-Term Defence Development Programme. Dealing with a problem based on how you wake up in the morning – that's not the way we do things. Right from the beginning, we analysed the previous negotiations, which had failed in the end, and based on a mandate from the SVK Government, we are now preparing a new proposed solution," said Minister Gajdoš. In the debate, Minister Gajdoš said that the personnel issues in the SVK Armed Forces are dealt with in a comprehensive manner and he rejects the populist solutions of Ľubomír Galko MP, who proposes a dual system of social welfare for soldiers – one for newly recruited soldiers and another one for those who have served for years. "We are preparing a comprehensive solution, one which is not only about pay but also about motivation for career progression. We are not going to come up with numbers at random to suit our purpose, we are looking for the best solution for soldiers," he said.



- A commemorative event was held at the Captain Ľubovský Memorial, located at J. M. Hurban Park in Nové Mesto nad Váhom on 7 May, to mark the **73rd anniversary of victory over Nazism**, with the participation of local government representatives, an MP, and other guests. Members of the Stationary CIS Base Trenčín helped ensure the solemnity of the ceremony.

- Members and civilian employees of **HQ 1st Brigade** and Command Support Company gathered for a ceremony on 7 May, to commemorate the end of WWII. At the ceremony, the Order of the President of the Slovak Republic on the Award of Honorary Title of "General Ján Golian" to 1st Mechanised Brigade (with effect from 2 May) was read out in front of the gathered audience. At the end of the ceremony, DCOM 1st Bde Col Ján Bujňák presented soldiers and civilian employees with military accolades from the MiOD and the CHOD.

- The **Logistics Support Office** held a ceremony on 7 May in Trenčín, to mark the 73rd anniversary of victory over Nazism. At the ceremony, the Order of the Chief of Defence on the Award of Military Medals and Decorations to 5 members of the Office was read out in the presence of the Office personnel. In his remarks, Col Jozef Ševčík, Chief of the Logistics Support Office, underscored the significance of the sacrifice made by WWII victims and warned against the emerging signs of contemporary Fascism.

- At a ceremony of **HQ and CS 2nd Mechanised Brigade Prešov** held on 7 May, DCOS for Operations Lt Col Róbert Funtal read out the Order of the President of the Slovak Republic marking the 73rd anniversary of victory over Nazism and expressed the unit's pride over their allegiance to the SVK Armed Forces, which contribute to maintaining peace. Elsewhere, Lt Col Róbert Funtal and Lt Col Pavel Kľučerovský, DCOS Helicopter Wing Prešov, represented the SVK Armed Forces at a commemorative ceremony at the Red Army Memorial in Prešov.

- Airmen of the Commanders Corps, Air Traffic Control (ATC) professionals and SVK AF pilots attended a **military air affairs and organisational meeting** on 10 May. Lt Col Adolf Daubner, Chief of the Air Training Section (SVK AF HQ AIRCOM), introduced the SVK AF Assets Plan for Airshows in 2018. Participants also familiarised themselves with the Order of Commander SVK Air Force concerning public air displays throughout the Training Year (TY) 2018. The Deputy Head of the Aircraft Maintenance Service (SVK AF HQ AIRCOM) gave an update on the status of airworthy aircraft, and the Flight Safety Inspector of HW Prešov presented his lessons learned from the USA. The meeting concluded with a briefing on the progress of construction work on the Medical Centre for SVK Air Force personnel as part of the MOD outpatient clinic at Sliac and the meeting wrapped up with a final discussion.

- The SVK MOD wants to alert the drivers in Slovakia to take caution as there will be **55 Allied military movements** across Slovakia over the period between 14 and 20 May 2018. They will mainly involve CZE and POL troops, and SVK Armed Forces convoys along the routes: Rožňava – Lešť and Zvolen – Koliňanský vrch. There will also be movements of SVK military convoys transporting oversize cargo of equipment along the routes: Hlohovec – Koliňanský vrch; Hlohovec – Nemecká; Prešov – Trebišov; and within the city of Prešov.

SVK military celebrates VE Day

(9 May) The SVK Land Forces HQ commemorated the 73rd anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on 9 May. On this occasion, Land Forces Commander Maj Gen Jindřich Joch presented MiOD and CHOD accolades to service personnel and civilians. Two days earlier on 7 May, HQ LF staff gathered for a ceremony to remember Victory Day. Commander SVK Air Force Maj Gen Ľubomír Svoboda decorated Lt Col Ján Bálint with the Chief of Defence Commemorative Cross for his achievements. He also praised the work of another 8 service personnel and employees and awarded them the SVK Air Force Commemorative Medal. Traditionally, on this day Maj Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, Col Pavol Tököly and Lt Col Rastislav Kučera laid wreaths and bouquets of flowers at the Red Army Memorial in SNP Square and at the military cemeteries in Zvolen.

CHOD in touch with missions



(10 May) The new Chief of Defence, Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko, held a conference call with SVK commanders and soldiers deployed on crisis management missions and operations abroad. He received situational updates and information on the current condition

of SVK soldiers on the ground. According to Lt Gen Zmeko, it is important to sustain our engagement under different flags, which contributes to the acceptance of Slovakia as an active member, rather than being a passive consumer of collective defence. Currently, 254 service personnel, of whom 12 are servicewomen, are deployed on 8 missions and operations abroad.

Fine Art Display Contests 2018

(9 May) Working in close cooperation with the Editorial Office of Defence Magazine, the SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office is launching fine art display contests for service personnel, civilian employees, veterans, and their family members. In 2018, the 3 categories of the PhotoAttack Contest are: 25 Years of SVK Armed Forces through the Camera Lens; Weapons, Equipment and Clothing; and Freestyle Photography. The Gallery MIL Contest has 3 categories: Painting and Sculpture; Utility Arts; and Children's Works. The closing date for entries is 19 October 2018. The results and winners of both Defence-wide contests will be announced on 8 November 2018 at the Trenčín Garrison Club. More information and application forms are available from the SVK Armed Forces' website on <http://www.mil.sk/69855/?pg=1>.

An unconventional exercise for CIMIC and PSYOPS professionals

(7 May) At the beginning of May, members of the CIMIC and PSYOPS Centre, operating under the SVK Land Forces HQ, participated in intense personnel recovery training. The initiator of the activity and Officer in Command of the exercise was the CSEL of the Centre, MSgt Martin Brodniansky. Working in close cooperation with members of the Training Centre Lešť, 11th Mechanised Battalion Martin, and PSO Training Unit (Training and Mobilisation Replenishment Base Martin), he prepared an extremely demanding training activity at a high



level. A total of 4 four-member teams from the Centre underwent training for surviving an interment at a POW camp and resisting the enemy's interrogation techniques. Similar training will be incorporated into the preparation of the Centre members regularly. The CIMIC and PSYOPS Centre is a combat support unit in the SVK Armed Forces, entrusted with the task of supporting a commander in the field of civil-military cooperation and psychological operations during offensive, defensive and stabilisation missions.