

KEY MISSIONS IN 2017

1. Strengthen and develop capabilities and comprehensive readiness to meet mandatory duties in the territory of the Czech Republic and collective defence missions.
2. Provide and deploy assigned forces and assets for operations, foreign missions and standby readiness forces according to the authorised mandate.
3. Ensure defence of the Czech Republic's airspace and critical defence infrastructure as part of NATINAMDS and the national air defence system.
4. Develop the capabilities of the Active Reserve Component and start building new reserve units in the Czech Armed Forces, Military Police and the Castle Guard.
5. Pursuant to authorised recruitment target, enlist and train 2,000 new military professionals in active duty service and 300 new soldiers in the active reserve component.
6. Continue modernisation of the Land Forces and Air Force and development of the Special Forces.



CZECH ARMED FORCES



IN 2016

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A SALUTE

Dear citizens, soldiers and airmen, defence civilians, the following pages offer a traditional review of how the Czech Armed Forces developed and performed its missions in 2016.

First, concerning the security environment in 2016, the best word to describe it is unstable – in reference to persistent crises in the region of Middle East and North Africa, development of situation in the east of Europe, terrorist attacks on soft targets occurring in neighbouring countries, the current migration crisis and indeed the threats arising in the cyber space.

Such general instability naturally increases the demands for the provision of adequate security of the Czech Republic. Thanks to the solid coalition ties in NATO and the EU, we are not alone to face this global instability. We adopt specific measures in the context of steps taken by our Allies and in line with the conclusions we have jointly reached at the Warsaw Summit last year.

But it is not acceptable only to rely on others and not lend a helping hand ourselves.

The strengthening of the Czech Armed Forces' capabilities is therefore more than topical, including in the context of Article 3 of the Washington Treaty, which provides that all states should be responsible for their own security individually.

An immediate response by the Czech Republic to the current security situation is the active presence of the Czech Armed Forces' units in multinational operations. In 2016, we have continued operations in Afghanistan, Mali, Sinai and the Balkans and in other hotspots on the globe plus we have successfully completed the third deployment of air task force to provide air policing coverage for Iceland. Czech Special Forces newly deployed into the UN mission in Mali. The Czech Armed Forces Air Advisory Team started performing its operational assignment in Iraq in the second half of the year and the Field Surgical Team has done so from December on.

I would like to commend the Czech Armed Forces' ability to quickly respond shoulder to shoulder with our coalition partners. I would also like to point out the breadth of tasks we have performed – from mentoring and training assistance, deployment of military medics and other specialists through combat units that are actively involved in security operations in their areas of deployment.

No less important than deployed operations are standby readiness forces. In 2016, we have joined the NRF and EU Battle Groups, in the first half with the V4 countries and in the second semester we assigned forces into the Battle Group led by Germany.

Likewise, forces and assets of the Czech Armed Forces were assigned for the Police of the Czech Republic and the Integrated Emergency System for potential emergencies and to provide elevated security measures in the territory of the Czech Republic. In this context, I should also mention the fact that the military, based on the decision by the Government, operates the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service in the South Bohemian region from 1 January 2017, in addition to the Pilsen and Karlovy Vary regions it has already covered.

The year 2016 was the first year the Czech Armed Forces Development Concept was realised, and at the same time it saw an increase of defence appropriations by CZK 4 billion to CZK 47.8 billion year-to-year. Consequently, our job was to prepare and realise a variety of acquisition processes. The progress we have achieved in individual domains is described on the following pages. I would specifically like to highlight additional



Material and equipment handled in the Czech Armed Forces in 2016

Material class	Code	Quantity [ea]	Weight [t]	Items
Food	1.0	1,287	25.81	194
Personal use materiel	2.1	2,303,776	47.89	2,763
Weapons and weapon systems	2.2	7,179	503.69	4,019
Military transport and support equipment	2.3	276,879	1,559.47	8,572
Electronics and optics	2.4	23,599	115.80	9,591
Medical and veterinary materiel	2.5	38,975	26.25	1,617
POL, operating substances and gasses	3.0	74,277	76.59	149
General use materiel	4.1	672,275	991.16	9,381
Construction and fortification materiel	4.2	15,951	952.39	5,472
Ammunition of all kinds	5.0	82,749,293	681.11	277
Software	6.2	8,180	0.00	8,180
Total handled		86,171,671	4,980.16	50,215

Decommissioned property as per commodities and purpose

Sale – transfer

Property	Items	Weight [t]	Note
Hand weapons	2	21.03	Iraq (total 3,002 pcs)
Land equipment	191	712.44	
Exhibit items, collections	25	68.91	Military History Institute
Medicaments	92	0.61	Military hospitals
POL sediment separated	33	60.36	Sale
Military working dogs and birds of prey	27+2	0.81	
ICT	3,690	50.29	
Construction, housing	2,003	95.26	
Recyclables	23	589.90	Outside log centre
Ammunition of all kinds	179	484.00	79,574,457 ea
Miscellaneous	19,303	2,134.95	
Total sold	25,570	4,218.56	

Decommissioned property reused as training aids

Property	Items	Note
Ballistic protection	527	Load vest, training helmet
Equipment	69	Shooting target, 3D aid
Total reused	596	

Disposal – divestiture

Property	Items	Weight [t]	Note
Software products	6,381	00.01	
Chemical material	5,712	56.40	
CIS materiel	1,817	2.07	
Medical and veterinary materiel	847	11.82	
POL – oil waste	15	2.41	
Munitions and ammunition material	30	0.81	
Construction and housing material	2,838	206.40	
Other materiel	7,005	481.69	
Total sold	24,645	761.61	

DIVESTITURE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT, MATERIEL AND STOCKS – VOLUME OF HANDLED PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

In 2016, the volume increased of the sold surplus and redundant government property the Ministry of Defence is authorised to manage. In total, sales and transfers free of charge involved 5,908 tons of surplus property, which represents 21,557,511 units of measure¹ in 64,746 items of materiel and equipment. In addition to the property handled in 2016, that quantity also includes property decommissioned from the Czech Armed Forces in previous years.

The sales and free transfers mostly involved ammunition, personal and general use materiel, electronics, optics and military transport and support equipment. The total quantity of completed sales and transfers free of charge was higher than in 2015, but it is still below the average in the long run.

To the effect of sale, transfer or disposal, the Czech Armed Forces handled a total of 4,980 tons of surplus property in aggregate quantity of 86,171,671 units of measure in 2016. The quantity and variety of the handled property was largely influenced by the adjustment of the reserve stockpiles and the Czech Armed Forces replacement program to introduce new advanced personal weapons. Donations of weapons and ammunition to the forces fighting Daesh also partially shaped the overall figures. Ammunition, personal use materiel, and military and transport support equipment traditionally represented the largest proportion in the volume of handled units. The tables below offer a basic overview.

Newly used as training and exercise load aids, assets that lost use value in terms of service life, ballistic resistance or other causes account accounts as an important item in the defence property management. The volume of transferred materiel is indicated in the table entitled sale – transfer.

¹⁾ Unit = a collective expression involving pieces, litres, kg, m³, kits, sets, pairs, dozens.

Equipment – sale 2016

Materiel class	Code	Quantity [ea]	Weight [t]	Items
Food	1.0	0	0.00	0
Personal use materiel	2.1	0	0.00	0
Weapons and weapon systems	2.2	28	283.96	28
Military transport and support equipment	2.3	219	919.43	219
Electronics and optics	2.4	8	74.30	8
Medical and veterinary materiel	2.5	0	0.00	0
POL, operating substances and gasses	3.0	0	0.00	0
General use materiel	4.1	20	56.32	20
Construction and fortification materiel	4.2	51	16.38	51
Ammunition of all kinds	5.0	0	0.00	0
Total equipment sold		326	1,350.39	326

Materiel – sale 2016

Materiel class	Code	Quantity [ea]	Weight [t]	Items
Food	1.0	34,014	96.14	2,157
Personal use materiel	2.1	534,060	214.33	8,617
Weapons and weapon systems	2.2	7,759	89.11	7,014
Military transport and support equipment	2.3	84,677	285.17	3,647
Electronics and optics	2.4	97,635	339.44	24,173
Medical and veterinary materiel	2.5	6,786	23.30	718
POL, operating substances and gasses	3.0	47,672	62.05	171
General use materiel	4.1	167,275	997.81	12,594
Construction and fortification materiel	4.2	25,743	1 986.27	5,125
Ammunition of all kinds	5.0	20,551,564	463.49	204
Software	6.2	0	0.00	0
Total materiel sold		21,557,185	4,557.13	64,420
Total sold		21,557,511	5,907.51	64,746

deliveries of advanced handguns and materiel meant directly for soldiers and airmen, progress preparations for radar technology replacement and development in the domain of electronic warfare and reconnaissance. A number of other major acquisition projects have also made headway; their current status only does not have such visibility and attractiveness for the media which however makes it all the more challenging for subject matter experts to judge and evaluate specific options.

Perhaps even more important than replacement of equipment in the inventory is achieving full manning levels in our military. In 2016, a total of 2,148 citizens were newly enlisted. Besides filling vacant posts, we have commenced progressive transition to objective organisational structures already in 2015. I regard this step as extremely important.

From a “standby mode”, we have transitioned to a progressive development of forces and that cannot do without adequate increase of the number of commanding officers. In that regard, it gives me a great pleasure to see the strengthening of capabilities of the Land Forces and Air Force component commands.

The year 2016 was also successful as concerns the development of the reserve component. We managed to implement the amended defence legislation and the interest has grown by citizens in serving with the active reserve component. Reserve force training has also seen major quality improvements. Besides the comprehensive exercise Hradba 2016 and participation of reservists in the multinational exercise Ample Strike, I should also mention the completely new concept of the tasks in this domain as well as return to progressive practising of mobilisation duties. I also highly appreciate the pilot runs of so-called voluntary military exercises successfully launched in autumn.

Therefore, I would like to thank very much all armed forces service personnel for a responsible performance of missions in 2016 and wish them many achievements.

What are we up to in 2017? Yet another piece of challenging and thorough work. At home, that will involve training, preparation and recruitment for active-duty and reserve forces, in evaluation of impacts of legislation changes, in the domain of development and fulfilment of concepts and in acquisition processes. Abroad, that again involves challenging missions on operations, in readiness forces or in international staffs and the Czech representations in NATO and the EU. No way can we expect that the world will be more peaceful and that is why we must be stronger and more ready to defend our values and our homeland.


Chief of General Staff, Czech Armed Forces
General Josef Bečvář



PERSONNEL

In 2016, a total of 1,785 new military professionals enlisted through recruitment in 2016 and 363 students enrolled at the Defence University and the Military Department of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports of the Charles University. The recruitment target of 2,000 personnel was exceeded by 148 newly enlisted soldiers.

At the same time, service contract expired for 842 military professionals and 544 defence civilians ended their employment. Seventy-three civil servants left the Czech Armed Forces.

After a long stagnation, the year 2016 saw a significant strengthening from the initial number of 1,259 personnel assigned to the active reserve in January 2016 to 1,466 active reserve component members registered at December 2016.

Actual numbers of MoD personnel in 2006–2017

At	Military professionals	Defence civilians	Civil servants	Total number
1 Jan 2006	23,092	15,992		39,084
1 Jan 2007	24,245	14,400		38,645
1 Jan 2008	24,355	11,773		36,128
1 Jan 2009	24,103	10,575		34,678
1 Jan 2010	23,136	9,017		32,153
1 Jan 2011	22,264	8,310		30,574
1 Jan 2012	21,751	8,248		29,999
1 Jan 2013	21,742	8,286		30,028
1 Jan 2014	21,011	7,530		28,541
1 Jan 2015	20,864	7,487		28,351
1 Jan 2016	21,970	6,411	1,131	29,512
1 Jan 2017	23,184	6,515	1,148	30,847

Performance on recruitment target in 2016

	Recruitment target	Applicants	Enlisted	%
DU and MD PTSD CU	350	1,248	363	103.7
Recruitment	1,650	7,133	1,785	108.2

Active reserve component in 2016

	January	December	Increment	%
Active reserve	1,259	1,466	207	+ 16.4



REORGANISATION

The year 2016 again saw the Czech Armed Forces perform the missions according to the directive authorised by the Government of the Czech Republic:

The Czech Armed Forces Development Concept, Czech Armed Forces structure and personnel strength of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, which set forth the scope and manner of achieving capabilities, organisational structure of the armed forces and the minimum total number of military professionals to meet the current and future assignments of the military, and realised the tasks for the creation of active reserve component based on amended defence legislation. In the conclusion of 2016, components of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces underwent organisational redesign based on the Czech Government Resolution No. 859 on systemisation of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces.

At 1 July 2016

- Based on the amendment to the Act No. 585/2004 Coll., on the Liability to Conscription and its Ensuring (the Defence Act), amendment to the Act No. 219/1999 Coll., on the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, and the Act No. 45/2016 Coll., on the Service of Reserve Soldiers, measures were realised to the effect of establishing active reserve components in the organisational structures of the Regional Military Headquarters (service authorities according to the Act No. 234/2014 Coll., on Government Service).
- In connection with the policy documents endorsed by the Government of the Czech Republic – the Czech Armed Forces Development Concept and the Czech Armed Forces structure and personnel strength of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic – the following components were reorganised: the Personnel Agency, Garrison Command Prague, Czech Armed Forces Central Band, Military Band Olomouc, Logistics Agency, CIS Agency and Military Medical Agency, Military Geographical and Hydro-meteorological Agency, 601st Special Forces Group, Land Forces Command, HQ 4th Rapid Deployment Brigade, HQ 7th Mechanised Brigade, 13th Artillery Regiment, 14th Logistic Support Regiment, 15th Engineer Regiment, 31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Regiment, 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment, 103rd CIMIC/PSYOPS Centre, 26th Command, Control and Surveillance Regiment.
- The Special Forces Support Centre was formed with the primary mission to provide close combat support as part of Special Operations Task Forces and support information and psychological operations.

At 3 July 2016

- Based on the Act No. 585/2004 Coll., on Liability to Conscription and its Ensuring (the Defence Act), amendment to the Act No. 219/1999 Coll., on the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, and the Act No. 45/2016 Coll., on the Service of Reserve Soldiers, active reserve components were established in organisational structures of the Garrison Command Prague, CIS Agency and Military Medical Agency, 601st Special Forces Group and Special Forces Support Centre, MP Command Olomouc, organisational components of the 4th Rapid Deployment Brigade and the 7th Mechanised Brigade, 13th Artillery Regiment, 14th Logistic Support Regiment, 15th Engineer Regiment, 31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Regiment, 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment, 21st Tactical Air Force Base, 22nd Helicopter Air Force Base, 24th Transport Air Force Base, 25th Air Defence Missile Regiment, 26th Command, Control and Surveillance Regiment, Pardubice Airfield Administration and the Training Command – Military Academy.

At 1 January 2017

- By the virtue of its Resolution No. 859 dated 21 September 2016, the Government endorsed the post systemisation of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces in accordance with the Section § 7 Article 5 of the Act No. 219/1999 Coll., on the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, as subsequently amended.
- By the virtue of Resolution No. 829 dated 21 September 2016 the Government of the Czech Republic endorsed the proposed systemisation of service and working positions of service authorities in the Ministry of Defence, based on which reorganisation was performed of the Regional Military Headquarters.

MoD basing and stationing at 31 December 2016



Electronic warfare and reconnaissance – several acquisition and development projects have been successfully completed such as the mobile electronic warfare system (MKEB II), modernisation of the RUP – FM – M electronic warfare system to deliver direct electronic support and protection of the Czech Armed Forces as part of task forces in the area of deployment.

In the reconnaissance domain, the project of C4ISTAR architecture systems acquisition continued to achieve ISR capabilities, the PS RECCE portable sets were procured for reconnaissance teams of the 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion. The ISWM research project was successfully completed as one of the key software integration solutions for the integration of ISR sensors with Czech Armed Forces manoeuvre units.

Tactical air units – preparations have been successfully underway for the JAS-39 Gripen aircraft to obtain an air-to-ground capability. The United States Government also approved an export of the LINK-16 technology and the datalink will be integrated into all Gripen aircraft in the Czech Republic. A contract was signed for the conversion of three single-seat L-159s to double-seat version and military tests for the L-159 ALCA aircraft were successfully completed.

Ground Based Air Defence – by making a prototype in modular set-up completed the defence research project of developing the prototype interface for expanding interoperability capabilities with elements of the ground based air defence forces automated command and fire control system. Its goal is to ensure the flow of directives, orders, commands, reports, messages and air picture for the performance of NATO missions outside the territory of the Czech Republic.

Signal Corps – a contract was signed for the delivery of 4 units of airfield surveillance radars with deliveries scheduled to start in the first half of 2017. The contractor was selected for 8 units of the 3D Mobile Air Defence Radar (MADR) with the contract signature scheduled in the first half of 2017. Efforts are underway for infrastructure renovation and preparations at the radar sites.

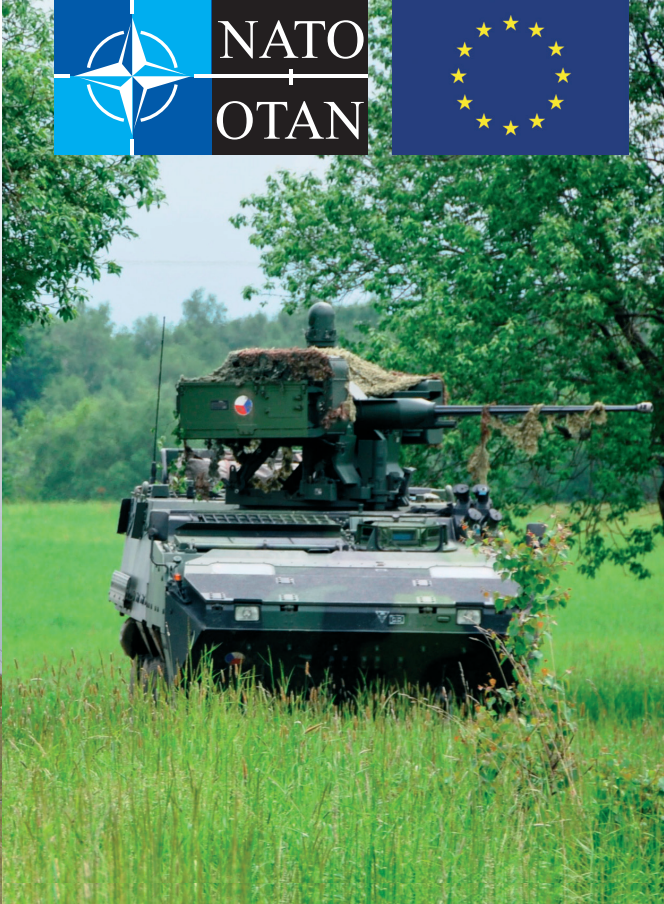
CZECH SERVICE PERSONNEL IN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STRUCTURES

In 2016, a total of 213 Czech Armed Forces service personnel were assigned and posted in NATO and EU international military staffs, NATO and EU agencies and national representations in international military staffs in the locations in fifteen NATO nations and in the Ukraine.

Czech Armed Forces General Petr Pavel has served his second year as the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee. Rotation positions of Deputy Chief of Staff Joint Force Command (JFC) in Brunssum, the Netherlands, and the Chief of Staff of the Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC) Bydgoszcz, Poland, were newly filled in August 2016. The Czech Republic also filled the civilian position of the Dean of NATO Defense College (NADEFCOL) Rome, Italy.

Another involvement was realised in the NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU), specifically in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Permanent missions and workplaces in foreign countries	Personnel
Permanent mission in Mons: Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Greece, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom	146
Permanent mission in Brussels: Belgium	60
Permanent mission in Norfolk: USA	7
Total	213



ENGAGEMENT IN READINESS FORCES, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND OBSERVER MISSIONS IN 2016

NATO enhanced Response Force (eNRF)

For eNRF 2016, the Czech Armed Forces assigned 816 personnel from 1 January through 31 December 2016. They formed an SOF task force (100 personnel), Special Operations Air Task Unit (100 personnel), airborne company (220 personnel), CBRN company (240 personnel), HUMINT team (6 personnel) and an engineer company (130 personnel). The forces were augmented with logistic support.



EU Battle Group

In support of V4 EUBG, the MoD assigned forces and assets totalling 850 personnel from 1 January through 30 June 2016. The Czech Republic assumed the lead nation role in the domain of medical and logistic support. Further, the Czech Armed Forces assigned a helicopter unit with four Mi-171Sh helicopters, C-295M CASA transport aircraft, EOD specialist team and the National Support Element (NSE). Over sixty Czech military professionals stood ready to serve in the Operation Headquarters in Krakow, Poland, and the Force Headquarters.



For the DEU EUBG, the MoD assigned forces and assets comprising 250 personnel from 1 July through 31 December 2016. That primarily involved an infantry force protection company, CIMIC/PSYOPS team, CBRN defence platoon, EOD team, MP team, additional specialists and the National Support Team (NSE).

FOREIGN OPERATIONS

In 2016, the MoD joined 12 foreign operations in the territory of Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iceland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, United Kingdom, Italy, Mali, Egypt, Iraq and the Golan Heights. In total, more than 860 service personnel were deployed for those operations.

Operation Joint Enterprise (KFOR), Kosovo

The Czech contribution comprised 13 Czech Armed Forces personnel including 3 members of the Deployable Communication Module (DCM), who served tours at HQ KFOR in the Camp Film City in Pristina.



Resolute Support Mission, Afghanistan

The Czech Republic was involved in the Resolute Support mission in the territory of Afghanistan in 2016 in the area of responsibility of two regional Train, Advise and Assist Commands: TAAC-Capital (TAAC-C) and TAAC-East (TAAC-E).



TAAC-C – Kabul: the forces listed below operated at the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA):

- Czech Armed Forces HQ TF RSM comprising 35 personnel charged with the provision of comprehensive support for all Czech units in Afghanistan;
- Air Advisory Team (AAT) of 40 personnel with the mission to support training of flight and ground personnel of Afghan Air Force on Mi-35 and Mi-17 helicopters;
- Field Surgical Team (FST) comprising 15 personnel as part of U.S. medical facility;
- Representations in HQ RSM, HKIA and BAF comprising 17 personnel;
- DCM (Deployable Communication Module) comprising 9 personnel.

TAAC-E: the Czech Armed Forces Bagram Airfield (BAF) Force Protection Company was deployed in the Parwan province as part of TAAC-E. The FPC performed the assignment of providing security in their assigned area with total 169 personnel.

Further, a 20-strong detachment of the 601st Special Forces Group was stationed in Kabul with the mission to provide security to personnel and property of the Czech Embassy in Kabul including the Czech Ambassador's residence.

ASICIPP, Iceland

The Czech Republic was involved in the provision of air policing coverage to Iceland by deploying four JAS-39 Gripen aircraft (plus one backup fighter) and a total of 66 personnel. Including the stand-up and stand-down phase, the Czech task force was deployed at Keflavik airbase from September 25 through November 7, 2016. The operational assignment was performed from October 5-31, 2016.



MODERNISATION

Land Forces – the 2025 Land Forces Development Concept was developed on the basis of the Czech Armed Forces Development Concept. It defines basic requirements for combat forces, combat support and combat support service forces in 2020 and 2025 and lays down individual steps leading to the achievement of the planned capabilities.

Mechanised units – efforts have continued to acquire a new tracked AFV platform and introduce it to the inventory of the 7th Mechanised Brigade. Steps have been taken as part of acquisition project to acquire 62 units of wheeled armoured fighting vehicles in the command and control, and communication variants on the Pandur and Tatra platforms. The MBK modular combat systems and C4ISTAR systems were introduced to the inventory and the process of their introduction in the Czech Armed Forces units continues. A new generation of CZ BREN assault rifle with 11" and 12" barrel was acquired in the quantity of 2,600 pieces and additional advanced handheld weapons. The process of replacement of individual ballistic protection systems has been prepared for realisation.

Artillery – efforts continued on the 152mm Model 77 DANA self-propelled howitzer modernisation project and acquisition of new 155 mm guns. The MKPP replacement project was submitted for launching a public tender and realisation. Research and development projects continue according to the plan.

Engineer service – as part of modernising the capabilities of improvised explosive devices and materials identification and disposal, 100 units of Miniature Mine Detectors (MIMID) were acquired for EOD and combat engineer units.

CBRN Defence – for detection, identification and monitoring capabilities, the AL-3 analytical lab was acquired (a U.S. FMF project) plus specific additional special equipment and instruments. Efforts have continued to realise the project of modernising the equipment used by radiological and chemical reconnaissance units to replace the obsolete SICRA vehicles with the S-LOV-CBRN and LOV-CBRN II vehicle system.



MOUNTAIN FLIGHT 2016

Held from May 25 through June 10, 2016, in France, the exercise was designed to train heli crews in flying in mountain terrain including formation flights and practising operation and tactical procedures for foreign deployments. Missions were flown with three Mi-171Sh, an Mi-17 helicopter and two Mi-24/35 rotary wing aircraft of the 22nd Helicopter Air Force Base and 24th Transport Air Force Base with a total of 61 air crews and personnel.

TOBRUQ LEGACY 2016

The TOLY16 joint tactical exercise trained ground based air defence units from Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and the United States took place in the territory of Slovakia from September 17 through October 1, 2016. A Czech Air Force task force comprising 180 personnel represented the Czech Republic. Service personnel of the 25th Air Defence Missile Regiment formed the core of the task force. The exercise objective was to increase interoperability of NATO GBAD forces.

SLOVAK SHIELD 2016

Organised on September 25 – October 16, 2016, this was an annual military training exercise for Visegrad Four countries organised pursuant to the Joint V4 training strategy. U.S. and German forces also joined the exercise. In the years ahead, the exercise will be hosted by V4 countries on rotational basis. The Czech Republic will organise the annual V4 exercise in 2019. In 2016, the Czech Armed Forces contributed into the exercise a 130-strong unit from the order of battle of the 7th Mechanised Brigade.

TOXIC LEAK I–V

An exercise series held in the Chemical, Biologic, Radiological and Nuclear Defence training and test centre in Zemianské Kostolany, Slovakia, to hone the skills of CBRN defence specialists in the presence of live chemical warfare agents, it took five times seven days and saw the participation of 75 Czech Armed Forces service personnel.

Operation EU ALTHEA (EUFOR), Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Czech Republic participated with 2 officers who performed tasks associated with training the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina at operation headquarters at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo.



Operation EU NAVFOR ATALANTA, United Kingdom

The Czech Republic engaged in the operation with 2 officers and one senior non-commissioned officer who served at the Operation Headquarters (OHQ) in Northwood, UK.



Operation EUNAVFOR MED, Italy

The Czech Republic was involved in the operation with 2 officers posted in the Operation Headquarters (OHQ) in Rome, and 1 officer at the Force Headquarters (FHQ) located on an Italian Navy aircraft carrier.



EUTM-M, Mali

The Czech Republic was involved with a Czech Armed Forces EUTM Mali Task Force comprising 41 personnel. Three senior NCOs were assigned to Operation Headquarters in Bamako and 36 persons were assigned to provide protection to the Headquarters EUTM-M in Bamako and convoy security. Four instructors provide assistance on training Malian Armed Forces in the frame of a German Infantry Training Company in the Koulikoro and Sikasso training centres.



Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), Arab Republic of Egypt, Sinai

The Czech Republic was involved in MFO with 3 officers posted at HQ MFO and an air unit with C-295 CASA aircraft comprising 15 personnel. The air unit provided transport of persons and materiel among MFO camps, Cairo and Tel Aviv, transport of governmental and liaison representatives of the parties to the peace treaty, and partially also the Search and Rescue (SAR) and air MEDEVAC. In addition, they performed verification and observer flights.



UNDOF, Golan Heights

The Czech Republic was involved in the mission with 3 officers assigned to the operation headquarters at Camp Ziouani.



MINUSMA, Mali

The Czech Republic engaged in the mission with 1 officer posted at the headquarters in Bamako and by deploying a special operations forces unit comprising 25 personnel that operated from a camp in the Gao region in the north of the country.

Air Advisory Team (AAT), Iraq

At the end of June 2016, Air Advisory Team comprising 35 personnel deployed in the territory of the Republic of Iraq with the mission to provide training and mentoring to the Iraqi Air Force flight and ground personnel on L-159 aircraft. The AAT is stationed at Balad Air Force Base.

Field Surgical Team (FST), Iraq

On 5 December 2016, the field surgical team comprising 17 personnel deployed in the territory of the Republic of Iraq to operate in the structure of a U.S. ROLE 2 field medical facility with the mission to provide specialised surgical care, perform specialist activities in the domain of resuscitative surgery, anaesthesiology, peri-op care and medical evacuation.

OBSERVER MISSIONS

In 2016 nine Czech Armed Forces military observers served tours in four UN peace missions.

MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo) – 3 personnel

UNMIK (Kosovo) – 2 personnel

UNAMA (Afghanistan) – 1 personnel

MINUSCA (Republic of Central Africa) – 3 personnel



TRAINING FOCUS AND PRIORITIES IN 2016

The training of Czech Armed Forces focused on meeting the Czech Republic's membership commitments to NATO and EU, commitments in the domain of regional defence co-operation and last but not least on maintaining and developing the existing capabilities of individual components for the spectrum of operations in both symmetric and asymmetric environments. Exercise Hradba 2016 was organised as the largest exercise ever to train the active reserve component.

An integral part of the Czech Armed Forces training were 145 exercises with international partners, of which 94 took place outside the Czech Republic and 51 in the home territory. Those exercises were one of the key tools for the achievement of the necessary readiness of MoD forces and assets for the defence of the Czech Republic and Allies and an essential component of preparation of assigned forces for operations and for NATO, EU and UN standby readiness forces. Exercises with foreign partners also help increase force interoperability, practically verify the achieved level of integration and also offer a benchmark for effectiveness of Czech Armed Forces training and capability development.

Major exercises with international partners in the home territory

CJ CBRN Defence TF Exercise

Conducted on May 23 – June 9, 2016, this was a certification exercise of the Headquarters of the CBRN multinational battalion with the Czech Republic as the lead nation. The battalion was assigned to the NATO Response Force in 2017. The exercise also trained 40 foreign members of the battalion.

SABER STRIKE

Held on May 27–30, 2016, the exercise was designed to increase the capability of individual Czech Armed Forces and Military Police components in planning and supporting transiting convoys of Allied forces (US ARMY 2nd Cavalry Regiment) via the territory of the Czech Republic, practice the capability of the provision of logistic support to Allied forces and perform a joint training and experience sharing between U.S. Army and the Czech Land Forces. The U.S. forces transited the Czech territory to take part in NATO exercise SABER STRIKE 2016 in the Baltics. The efforts to support the movement involved 800 Czech Armed Forces servicemembers.

AMPLE STRIKE 2016

The exercise was organised on August 30 – September 20, 2016, to integrate forward air controllers with tactical fixed and rotary wing aircrews in performance of close air support. The exercise saw the participation of 1,022 Czech Armed Forces service personnel and 292 foreign armed forces personnel.

CLEAN CARE 2016

Held on September 16-23, 2016, the exercise objective was to perform joint training for CBRN defence forces and medical units on consequence management following the use of weapons of mass destruction. The exercise trained 77 Czech Armed Forces servicemembers and 53 foreign trainees.

Major exercises with international partners outside the home territory

EUROPEAN SPIRIT

Taking place on April 18–29, 2016, this was a certification exercise of a European Union Battle Group with standby in the second semester of 2016. It was held in the territory of Germany, which was the lead nation for the EUBG at the same time. Assigned components of the Czech Land Forces, Military Medical Agency and the Military Police comprising 154 personnel took part in the exercise.

BALTIC EYE

On May 9-16, 2016, and on July 11-18, 2016, this exercise trained pilots for NATO Air Policing and harmonised the Czech Air Force and Lithuanian Air Force operations on the provision of defence to an airbase and assigned airspace against the opponent's air assault assets. Organised in Lithuanian airspace, the exercise saw the participation of 60 service personnel of the 21st Tactical Air Force Base with four L-159 ALCA aircraft.

KHAAN QUEST

Conducted on May 15 – June 6, 2016, the exercise in the territory of Mongolia focused on training commanding officers and specialists of reconnaissance units in particular for operational deployments in difficult climatic conditions. The exercise was a part of pre-deployment training the Czech Armed Forces service personnel underwent for operations in EUTM Mali. Fifty service personnel of the 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Battalion and the 7th Mechanised Brigade were assigned to that training event.

