

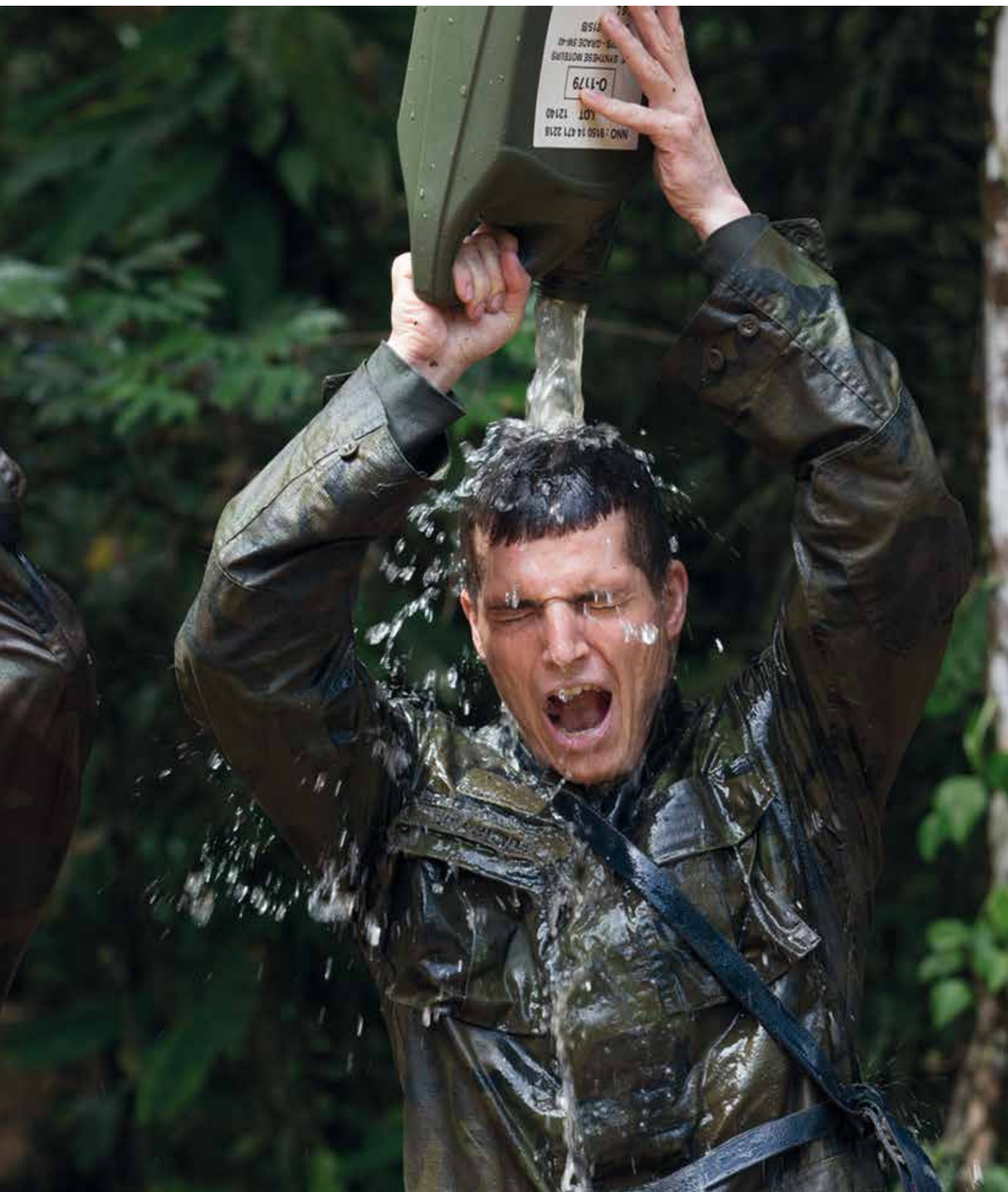
A review

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Hundreds of soldiers, one hundred and twenty vehicles and plenty of support trucks: that was how the Americans returned from the Baltic States into their home station in Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany. The transit stirred emotions and tested our allegiance with democratic and free Europe, particularly with a view to our membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The transit of U.S. service members through the Czech Republic was endorsed by the Government on 16 March 2015 and both Chambers of the Parliament of the Czech Republic were informed. It was a challenging operation in logistic terms. It was essential to provide accommodation, escort and especially to arrange for demonstration of vehicles and public access to all points where stops had been planned, particularly into barracks. On the move through the Czech territory from March 29 till April 1, 2015, the convoy was divided into three directions, Harrachov-Liberec, Náchod-Pardubice and Bohumín-Vyškov. At the end of their journey, all soldiers stayed overnight at the Prague Ruzyně barracks. The most attractive piece of equipment were undoubtedly the Stryker Infantry Fighting Vehicles and Humvees. Besides armoured vehicles and numerous trucks with trailers, several dozens of support vehicles such as tankers and vans also transited our territory.

Proud of being NATO

U.S. personnel praised the welcome they received in the Czech Republic. The convoy

commander, Colonel Tim Payment, said it was a pleasant surprise. "We enjoyed incredible support anywhere we stopped," he said. Reactions that citizens showed surprised most of the soldiers. Smiles, flowers, joint photos and mainly the wave of solidarity and togetherness are the way for us to show clearly who is our Ally and where we belong.

"I am pleased it has been understood and supported by a majority of our citizens. While security balance in Europe and its vicinity is hampered through the activities by the Islamic State on one hand and unpredictable actions by the Putin administration in Russia on the other hand, the importance of a reliably ensured national security grows dramatically. In case our state is immediately threatened, we may not and will not be left alone the way we were in 1938," said Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. Defence Minister Martin Stropnický considered meeting with U.S. Army soldiers a satisfaction. "Massive propaganda on social networks and elsewhere worked counterproductively: it made many people angry and spurred them: they spontaneously travelled miles to take a couple of photos and have a chat with soldiers. I have a good feeling for that," Minister Stropnický said.

Not only demonstration of equipment

All stops they convoy had in the Czech Republic included opportunities to chat with the soldiers and many other events. In Prague, that involved a concert right at the Ruzyně barracks and a follow-on concert for the U.S. Army service personnel in the La Fabrika club with many prominent Czech singers and artists on stage. American soldiers admitted it was a "kick-ass" show and Czech were "amazing". Some rather opted for a look into history and went to see the Thanks America Memorial in Pilsen. Moving narratives by eye witnesses commemorated for the U.S. Army soldiers their forerunners who fell in 1945 when liberating Czechoslovakia.

by Michal Voska



factsheet

STRYKER

The Stryker family of combat vehicles have been manufactured for the U.S. Army by Canada-based General Dynamics Land Systems Corporation since 2002. The Stryker is a highly resistant and mobile system that also enables movement in urban environments and is air transportable, for example by the C-130. They provide mobility a fire support to infantry teams. The Stryker can carry a team of nine personnel, two-man crew (driver and commander) with equipment and materiel and provide fire support for dismounted infantry team against soft-skin and lightly armoured targets. The vehicle has a six-gear gearbox, ABS, 4-wheel drive (8x4) that can be switched to all-wheel drive (8x8).

Stryker variants

- M1126 Stryker ICV – infantry combat vehicle
- M1127 Stryker RV – reconnaissance vehicle
- M1128 Stryker MGS – mobile gun system
- M1129 Stryker MC – mortar carrier
- M1130 Stryker CV – command vehicle
- M1131 Stryker FSV – fire support vehicle
- M1132 Stryker ESV – engineer squad vehicle
- M1133 Stryker MEV – medical evacuation vehicle
- M1134 Stryker ATGM – antitank guided missile vehicle
- M1135 Stryker NBCRV – nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicle

The armaments comprise Kongsberg Remote Weapon Station with 50 calibre M2HB machine gun or 40mm calibre MK19 grenade launcher, four M6 smoke grenade launchers, 30 calibre M240 machine gun and Javelin antitank guided missiles.

Tactical and technical data:

Weight	16.47 t
Length	6.95 m
Width	2.72 m
Height	2.64 m
Crew	2 + 9 (baseline variant)
Engine power	260 kW
Max speed	97 km/h



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General Petr Pavel: the will to contribute to defence and be involved, either directly or indirectly, is much bigger

Proud and confident

In June later this year, former Chief of General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces General Petr Pavel will assume the highest military position in the NATO Alliance: Chairman of the Military Committee.

When your candidacy for the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee started to be discussed at the beginning of the last year, how much seriously did you take it?

When I heard it for the first time, I could not trust my ears. I told myself it would either be a very ambitious idea, or a joke. The Czech Ambassador Jiří Šedivý however neither indulges in kidding nor is a big fan of ambitious impracticable ideas, so I started to pay attention to that. When people from the Alliance began telling that in their opinion an atmosphere was right for a possible successful candidacy of the Czech Republic, I started to take it more seriously. But I still saw it as something very remote. So, event the very vote in Vilnius took me by surprise. And very positively.

Did you learn details about that vote? What decided that you were chosen in particular?

I may only guess what specifically turned the tide. After years of candidates from traditional countries, I believe sort of a need arose to give space to the new nations. The situation that started to develop in the relation to Russia perhaps also led to a greater willingness to give space to someone who has a closer, hands-on experience with that environment.

Did you receive the news with satisfaction over what is an extraordinarily successful peak of your military career?

I primarily took it as something that I rather regard as success of the Czech Republic in its entirety. Only then I thought it would be a peak of my military endeavour. In uniform, that post is second to none. But the way I see it is that the individual eventually elected represents his military and his country. Rather than his personality and abilities, there are many other reasons behind it. I am very glad that it ended up this way. In parallel with joy over the vote, the burden of responsibility and worries began to fall on me. I started to think whether I would be able to answer the challenge, or perhaps all of us as the armed forces, the MoD, the Czech Republic. As it is a premiere for us, we may not afford to leave a bad impression and close the door for our successors for long.

Many soldiers and airmen wished you success, but on the other hand they were also disappointed that they would lose you, that you leave prematurely and

perhaps from unfinished work. How did you perceive it in that context?

I would not go for a longer term than four years in the position of the Chief of General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces. Rotation is completely natural in the military: it opens up the space for younger and more progressive ones. Moreover, four years in such a frequented position are on the edge of what is still manageable. After that time, one either takes a slightly relaxed stance not with full dedication and commitment, or risks health or family life. I have just one year to go before this standard term is complete. I would leave after a year anyway. As the Chief of General Staff, there is never a situation that the incumbent could say: well I have accomplished everything I intended to, and may now pass the sceptre on my successor. There will always be much unfinished work. Continuity is high here and you cannot take it that I would stay in the post until I complete everything substantial and only then I would hand over. I believe much has been done over those three years. The security situation also affected many things. We have made a great progress since when I assumed the post. The current trend is more positive for the military in that both the political representation and the public started to increasingly realise the need to have a truly operational tool for defence. There is also a greater will to adequately fund the operational toolbox.

Looking back at those three years, what intentions you managed to materialise, and where did you fail contrarily?

I did not have a clearly formulated list of goals that I would like to achieve. Also, I could not anticipate what course the development of security environment will follow. One of my primary tasks was to persuade the political representation that it was essential to invest more in defence. At the end of the day, the very development of security situations has confirmed that. In the whole context, I regard the increased defence appropriations one of the positive things. The will to contribute to defence and be involved, either directly or indirectly, is much bigger. Another objective I had at the outset of my tenure was that a sort of pride came back to the military to the practicable extent. My aim was to work for the armed forces to be confident at all levels so that it would be able to back its opinion up when it thinks the opinion is right. It is

commonplace in every democratic society that the military recommends and politicians approve. Armed Forces servicemembers should be able to defend their opinion. I believe that has been accomplished as well. Especially the new generation – including senior officers who have been through foreign schools and deployments – are not overly shy to express their opinion. They normally have it backed up both with expertise and practical skills. They are not afraid at all to defend their opinions. That is another reason to be optimistic. The new generation of commissioned and non-commissioned officers assuming to the armed forces high command will fully compare to their counterparts in command of NATO nations' armed forces.

After years, the bill to amend the Career Soldiers Act is meant to establish a sound career management system. Do you believe it will not lapse again into some exceptions and inconsistencies and it will successfully be implemented in a systemic fashion?

It may only lapse into compromises and inconsistent solutions if we allow it. I would like to trust that we have had opportunities over the past couple of years to see that it works and is worthwhile of continuing. The system that we seek to implement is still far from ideal, but is definitely better than "non-system", we have had so far. If we continue working it, I trust it will really select people based on their qualities in the future and no one would even recall it was ever otherwise. That posts will be filled only by individuals who truly deserve it, for what they have done for the military and what they are able to offer. It will depend on whether the will prevails or there will attempts to lapse into something more comfortable in the short run, but bring dissatisfaction, bad relations and mediocrity in the long term.

The Czech Armed Forces Development Concept should originally be ready for approval last year in the autumn. But it only comes out now, after an eight-month delay. What was the problem?

I would not like to place guilt somewhere outside, as is customary in many instances. The Armed Forces Development Concept is not a document that could come into being in vacuum. It has its position in the hierarchy of strategic policy documents. In this case, the primary superior document is the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic, which was updated and authorised at the end of 2014. It is therefore obvious that our concept had to be adjusted to the changes that occurred in the security situation in the course of the last year. The developments in the security environment were so dynamic in 2014 that what



was relevant at the beginning changed substantially during the year. It was therefore necessary to reflect it during the development of our document. The change of Cabinet was also a part of the delay. The new Cabinet naturally tended to have many things explained and reassess whether they met their intentions or not. The original deadline was extended including because of that. But the key factor was updating the concept for the new security environment. I do not think that extending the efforts to prepare the policy would be detrimental. Contrarily, it allowed sufficient space for introducing all necessary modifications.

The policy document will be approved by the Government, which should also guarantee that adequate funding be allocated. Will this happen before you hand over as the CHOD?

The document is slated for a Government session in the second half of May. So it will already be a matter for my successor.

Do you not regret that that you have not succeeded in finalising that?

The document is not signed by a specific author. I definitely do not aspire to be the father of the concept. I contributed my opinions and remarks as many dozens and hundreds of others did. It is a collective work. Whether it will be finalised under General Pavel or General Bečvář does not really play a role.

The Concept envisages quite a major enlargement of the armed forces by 2025. Are you confident there will be enough political will to achieve that?

I would like to make this clear. It is not about expanding the military or enhancing the authorised strength, but rather about increasing the manning levels to what has been the strength authorised a long time ago. What happened over the years was that defence cuts also impacted personnel budget. As the military wanted to stay at least partially competitive in the labour market, it had to cut down on the number of people it remunerated. In the armed forces units

and components, we progressively got down to average manning levels of 70 percent. While we seek under the concept to achieve at least 90 percent manning levels, which is one of the NATO's criteria for combat ready certification, we are only getting back to the originally planned strength of the military.

While there will probably be certain increase over the framework authorised some years ago, it will however involve realignments reflecting changes in current warfare, technology and lessons learnt from operations. Without that, we would hardly meet the requirements for advanced and effective military forces ready for the next not past wars. In case we successfully meet recruitment targets in the years ahead, we believe we could get up to the full objective force numbers over some seven to ten years.

As you took over your current post, you undertook not to hide anything and speak openly about everything. To what extent did you succeed in doing so?

Speech is silver, silence is golden goes the old proverb. It would be better to stay silent at times. But I am not the type that would be quiet when I think things should be spoken about. It is correct to say though I had problems with that every now and then. On the other hand I did not get into a situation in which I would have or be forced to do something I was not convinced about. Or that I would be manoeuvred into a situation when I would have a totally different opinion but be denied a chance to express it. The dilemma between expressing opinions and the expected military obedience was there throughout my term of office and is probably here to stay forever. Soldiers, and especially those in senior positions, are however rather obliged to alert their superiors to the risks of the decision at hand. At the same time, the alert may often be in contradiction of the superior's expectations. It is quite logical that every superior would wish that their vision is fulfilled without any problems or contradictory opinions. But that is not always possible. That has happened and will in happen in the future

too. I believe it is completely apposite. Soldiers as experts, who have the military craft as a life-long or long-standing occupation, definitely have a much greater insight to specialist issue than politicians coming and going after a relatively short period of time. The symbiosis should be based on mutual confidence and respect. An expert opinion coupled with a common goal, which is a well-functioning military and defence.

Is it not a part of the problem that we were led too much to loyalty and subordination in the past, which resulted in a lack of self-confidence?

But it does not show only with soldiers but also with people above them in the decision-making chain. Loyalty is often replaced with servility. In my opinion, loyalty consists in that we do not follow our goal, but the goal of the armed forces. When speak critically about anything, it is not because I would like to be more visible but because I truly see the risk there and want to alert to it. Superiors should perceive alerts to possible risks as an expression of loyalty to them. That is how we create an environment impermissible for decision not substantiated by information, which are ultimately erroneous. If I am quiet and nod to everything, I will look loyal at the first sight, but my superior will then bear the consequences of a bad decision, because I do not alert him to risks. It is often a twisted perception from both sides. In the military, it may be some sort of customary tendency not to create additional problems when I do not have to. On the other hand, superiors expect smooth and seamless course of action.

Some nicknamed you "the Man from Snowy River". They said you approached duty honestly and ingeniously and that you believed that others work on the same principles. Have you not been disappointed by some people?

I would rather say I did not let them disappoint me. In principle, I trust in the better. And although I sometimes also encounter the worse, I do not want to think the worse prevails. I take it as isolated cases and I rather tend to believe the majority is good. When I encountered something negative, I did not take it that I should be on guard against everyone, or that I would put such an individual on a blacklist. My attitude is rather that the individual had just a bad moment and tomorrow everything can be otherwise.

Have you prepared or will you prepare yourself for the takeover as the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee?

Major portion of preparation has already been associated with the performance of my current assignment. In terms of decision-making, NATO is a collective body and requires approval by all twenty-eight nations. All essential agendas are deliberated in ANTO in attendance of the Chiefs of Defence. I am continuously updated on all concepts, systemic and organisational changes in the military domain. So, it is my day-to-day business and every Chief of Defence prepares for serving as Chairman of the Military Committee in that regard. But then there is a range of procedures and rules associated with

the Military Committee workings, knowledge of environment in Brussels, understanding of issues not intrinsic to our national environment such as naval forces, nuclear weapons plus some strategic surveillance systems, communications and other assets. Those are matters we are not very familiar with, and it is necessary to get to know them in detail. I am obtaining some essential information from documents and I will learn other agendas through people who tackle those issues in Brussels. Besides that whole expert package, I also need to prepare myself personally. Much the same way I did in the past, I have to pack everything necessary into boxes and get ready for living in a different environment with different rules and parameters.

You are taking the team of seven into Brussels. Based on what did you select them and whom do you seek to lean on?

As a model, I had reviewed the structure of the last two presidencies, Italian and Danish one. I had a chance to compare how many individuals the earlier Chairmen worked with.

I spoke both with Italians and the Danes and asked about their experience. I eventually favoured the Danish model as it seems more economic and efficient, both in terms of human resources and funding. I also had job descriptions sent to me for all those comprising my closest team from the Czech Republic. Our HR selected appropriate individuals for every post based on those criteria. And I performed the final selection with my military assistant out of those persons. One of the important criteria I judged was their ability to work in team. You can set up a group of stars, but the joint performance does not necessarily need to be good. It was also one of my aims that the people were able to get along with each other and cooperate including under certain pressure. The worst thing that can happen on a foreign staff tour, where you have a handful of people with many tasks under time pressure, is a quarrelling team and cabin fever. Of course there will always be people saying someone else should be there. But that cannot be avoided. You cannot please everybody. I am glad that all those going with me meet all the



criteria. There is no one on the team who would require an exception.

You surely do not take over as the Chairman in easy times. On one hand the relations with the Russian Federation worsened significantly, and there are threats posed by the Islamic State on the other hand. What are your plans you are taking along to Brussels?

Well I may have plans, but the question is whether they will fit into the NATO continuity. Many of the projects worked for a long time are being developed and approved both on ministerial level and the Wales Summit. They were worked on military including our active involvement. All of that will continue, and no changes probably come into question in relation with the change in the chairman's post. What I would like to personally achieve during my term in Brussels is a truly open debate in the Military Committee free of all political correctness. At least we the soldiers should understand each other and completely and fully comprehend all the context of our decision-making. The worst thing that could happen to us is that soldiers turn into diplomats - we would speak in very neat language and will not be able to concur on anything. The effect will then simply be left aside. I believe the trend of transparency has been in place in NATO, and I will seek to deepen and expand it. It must be absolutely clear among us during military discussions what we talk about and what the whole context is. Furthermore, it is about us being able at the military-political interface to argue and defend our recommendations, even if they do not meet the expectations of politicians. Again I would see as very detrimental - particularly in the times to come - if we were to try and accommodate expectations of politicians and bend facts and our analyses as a result. That could backfire on us in the long run.

People recently started discussing you as a possible candidate for the President. Have you been pleased by such confidence by the public?

That primarily surprised at the outset even more than nomination for the Chairman of Military Committee. I said to myself no one can really mean that. On the other hand, I would not like to hurt anyhow the confidence of people, who - either on Facebook or in other way - expressed their support to me. It gives me a pleasure, I appreciate that, but for many reasons I already alluded to, such an option is not viable for me. First, I have lived my entire life in an environment different than in politics. Politics is an environment that is a strange, unknown and definitely not attractive for me. Over the next couple of years, it is my priority to take up with honour the assignment awaiting me. So that I could, after three years, to look back calmly and say I did my best to make it a success story, or at least for it not to be a failure. I definitely do not want to compromise that objective by any side effort although motivated by the best intentions.

CZECH ARMED FORCES in 2014

The atmosphere of the last year 2014 followed in the Czech Armed Forces on relative calming down at the end of the previous year that had seen a major restructuring in the whole Czech military.

The new Cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies assumed offices in January. The Defence Minister introduced his new team and identified a more effective spending and subsequent increase of defence appropriations as one of his principal priorities. Including with a view to developments and worsening security situations in

Europe, the new Cabinet indicated for the Czech Armed Forces a changed mindset and approach to defence policy, particularly the aim to renew Czech Republic's national defence posture by starting an open dialogue about the need to increase defence spending. That effort resulted in a conference of parliamentary parties convened at the Prague Castle to the effect of signing a "contract on defence" designed to get defence spending back up to 2% GDP. The outcome was eventually more modest both in terms of scope of the agreement and the growth of spending,



but it nevertheless paved the way for progressive increase of situation in the domain of national defence.

On the other hand, the initial stability at the beginning of 2014 was challenged by growing active risks in the field of security, especially the Ukraine crisis on the outskirts of Europe and then the declaration of the Islamic State, which continues noticeable recruitment of radical Moslems all around the world after having occupying significant part of the territory of Syria and Iraq at the outset. In addition, risks with conflict background were complemented with an aggravated epidemiologic situation in Africa with the threat of Ebola virus spreading into other continents, including Europe.

In 2014, the Czech Armed Forces suffered an extraordinary loss in foreign operations as five Czech soldiers were killed in the line of duty in Parwan province, Afghanistan. That tragic event spurred an unprecedented wave of solidarity not only among military professionals but also in the public, for which I remain thankful. Besides Afghanistan, the Czech Armed Forces continued its deployments in Mali, Sinai, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2015, the operation ISAF in Afghanistan was replaced by the smaller assistance-focused Resolute Support Mission. The Czech Armed Forces is today fully ready and capable of deploying for any crisis management operation mandated by clear legislation framework and with at least minimum conditions in place to accomplish the mission. On a sustained basis, the Czech Armed Forces proves high standards of professionalism with its service personnel on operational deployments and no doubt that trend will continue.

Intrinsic longterm direction of Czech Armed Forces development with a clear decision on keeping, developing as well as phasing out own capabilities was developed under the Czech Armed Forces Development Concept finalised at the end of 2014 with the intention for the Government to authorise it in 2015. Besides addressing new security environment and challenges,

realignment with the new Security Strategy of the Czech Republic and other strategic policies seeks to specifically define a long-term frame for capability development to provide guidance for a transparent acquisition process and offer a clearer picture to the political leaders and the public of the spending required for national defence in individual years.

From the viewpoint of legislation, the amendment to the Act No. 221/1999 Coll., on Career Soldiers that will become effective at 1 July 2015 entailing a new career management system and remuneration scheme played the most important role. Coupled with the selection system that has been effectively used in the armed forces for two years, will represent a substantial change in service of all military professionals. The remainder of the defence legislation package will be on the agenda in 2015.

The authorised fiscal year 2015 defence budget amounts to CZK 43.5 billion with outlook for further growth in 2016 and 2017. A major milestone in 2014 was the signing in May of the contract on extension of the lease of JAS-39C/D Gripen aircraft till 2027 including their continuous upgrading. That acquisition was followed by a package of major procurements deliberated by the Government – to provide ammunition, maintenance support and realisation of overhauls. All that material and maintenance support is critical for supporting key capabilities of the Czech Armed Forces. Increased budget in the next years will make it possible to carry on projects launched to maintain and develop defence capabilities. As to acquisition projects I will particularly highlight the introduction of additional wheeled armoured command and communications vehicles into manoeuvre and support forces, acquisition of new mobile air defence radars and acquisition of multirole helicopters to partially replace the obsolete Mi-24/35 gunships. In 2015, the Scan Eagle unmanned aerial system will be procured with U.S. assistance for operation starting in April in support of the



Czech Force Protection Company deployed at Bagram Airfield. The increased budget will enable progressive increase of recruitment targets and increasing levels at undermanned units and components.

The security environment will continue to be very complex in 2015 and will develop dynamically. The only way for the military to adequately respond to such environment is to prepare itself in a quality manner for conducting operations across the whole spectrum of intensity and missions, increasing capabilities and deployability in all aspects. We will achieve that both by intensive training on national level and particularly through by joining a number of exercises with Allies and partners. I will just mention the largest NATO exercise in the last decade, TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015, which will be a clear signal that NATO stands ready and resolved to face security threats wherever needed. We will also provide a major contribution into the standby readiness system. As for NATO, some 1,500 service personnel will be assigned to the NRF, whereas development and certification of a 950-strong force contribution will continue for assignment to V4 EU BG with standby readiness in the first

semester of 2016 and a contribution of 250 personnel into the DE EU BG scheduled for standby in the second semester of 2016.

In September 2014, the Czech Republic stroke success in Vilnius, Lithuania, in the vote for the new Chairman of NATO Military Committee. I would like to reemphasise that had it not been for many years' excellent effort by thousands of service personnel and civilians on operations, training exercises, permanent foreign missions, and on the home front, and sometimes sadly also sacrifices, such a positive image of Czech would never develop and even the most qualified candidate would not stand a chance of success in the vote of 28 nations. In that sense, the outcome is recognition by our NATO partners for every single Czech soldier and airman. I would like to thank very much all servicemembers and defence civilians for an excellent job and dedication to successfully accomplish even challenging tasks. I trust we will be able to stay the course.

*Chief of General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces
General Petr Pavel*



Czech service personnel in international military structures

In 2014, the total of 162 Czech Armed Forces service personnel served staff tours in international military staffs, international organisations and agencies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisations and the European Union and national representations, who were posted in stations located in the territory of fifteen NATO nations and in the Ukraine.



Permanent foreign missions and postings	Service personnel
Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Greece, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and Ukraine	121
Mission in BRUSSELS, Belgium	34
Mission in NORFOLK, USA	7
Total	162



Czech armed forces in high readiness forces, multinational foreign operations and observer missions



territory of Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iceland, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, United Kingdom, Mali and Egypt. Over 800 Czech service personnel served tours in those operations.

Operation Joint Enterprise (KFOR), Kosovo

The Czech Armed Forces assigned 13 service personnel to KFOR including 6 members of the Deployable Communication Module (DCM) assigned to posts at the Headquarters KFOR at Camp Film City in Pristina.

ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) – Afghanistan

In 2014, the Czech Republic had forces and individual personnel deployed for ISAF in the territory of Afghanistan in the area of responsibility of two regional commands: RC-Capital (RC-C) and RC-East (RC-E).

NATO Response Force (NRF)

From 1 January till 21 December 2014, the Czech Armed Forces assigned to the NRF the total of 302 personnel (medium transport company comprising 120 personnel, contribution to the JLSG HQ staff of 2 personnel, a 57-strong CBRN defence company, 3 personnel to man the CBRN defence battalion staff, biologic detection team comprising 13 servicemembers, contribution of 3 personnel into the Joint Analytic Team, Engineer Construction Platoon of 45 personnel, HUMINT team of 6 personnel and National Support Element comprising 53 servicemembers).

FOREIGN OPERATIONS

In 2014, the Czech Armed Forces contributed personnel into 8 foreign operations in the



RC-C Kabul – the Kabul International Airport (KAIA) hosted the following Czech deployments:

- Air Advisory Team (AAT) comprising 30 personnel, whose mission was to train Afghan Air Force flight and ground personnel on the Mi-35 and Mi-17 helicopters;
- National Support Element (NSE) with up to 61 personnel with the mission to provide logistic support to all Czech Armed Forces deployments in Afghanistan;
- Field Surgical Team (FST) comprising 13 personnel as a component of the French field hospital;
- National representation at the ISAF, KAIA and RC Centre headquarters up to 19 personnel.

RC-E – a Czech Armed Forces deployment operated in RC-E in the Parwan province:

- The Bagram Airfield (BAF) Force Protection Company comprising 150 personnel had the assignment to provide security to Bagram



airfield. In July 2014, the Force Protection Company suffered one of the greatest losses in the modern history of the Czech Armed Forces as a suicide attacker killed 5 Czech soldiers.

ASICIPPN, Iceland

The Czech Republic was involved in NATO defence of Iceland's airspace from 15 October till 3 December 2014. The Czech Armed Forces task force comprised four JAS-39 Gripen aircraft (5th as operational reserve) and the total of 67 flight and ground personnel. The task force operated from the Keflavik air station from October 6th till December 7, 2014. (including preparatory and withdrawal phase). The unit ended their assignment with total flight time of 145:01 hours in 82 sorties.

Operation Active Fence, Turkey

The Czech Republic was engaged in the operation with a Deployable Communications

Module (DCM) comprising 7 service personnel. The team is a part of the 3rd NATO Signal Battalion stationed in Bydgoszcz, Poland. For operation Active Fence, the unit was stationed at the Incirlik base in Turkey from 29 August 2014 till 31 January 2015. Their mission was to provide communications in support of a Dutch Patriot unit.

Operation EU Althea (EUFOR), Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Czech Republic contributed 2 officers who performed tasks associated with training the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the HQ EUFOR at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo.

EU NAVFOR, United Kingdom

The Czech Republic was involved with 2 officers and a warrant officer, who performed tasks as per their assignment at the Operation Headquarters (OHQ) in Northwood.

EU Training Mission (EU TM), Mali

The Czech Republic has been engaged in the operation with a Czech Armed Forces Task Force EU TM Mali with total strength of 38 personnel. An officer and an NCO were posted at the EU TM HQ in Bamako, 32 personnel were involved in performing missions relating to the provision of security to HQ EUTM Mali in Bamako and convoy security. Four instructors assisted on training Malian forces as part of the French Infantry Training Company at the Koulikoro and Sikasso training centres.

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

The Czech contributed 3 officers into the MFO, who performed missions relevant to their service assignment at MFO headquarters stationed at Camp El Gorah. Along with them, air unit with C-295 CASA aircraft comprising 12 personnel were deployed there. The air unit provided air transport for passengers and materiel among MFO, Cairo and Tel Aviv, transportation of government and liaison officials of the peace treaty parties, partially also the search and rescue service and air MEDEVAC. In addition, they performed verification and observation flights.

OBSERVER MISSIONS

The total of 10 Czech Armed Forces military observers and monitors served in 4 UN peace-keeping missions in 2014.

MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo)

– 3 personnel

UNMIK (Kosovo)

– 2 personnel

UNAMA (Afghanistan)

– 2 personnel

MINUSCA (Republic of Central Africa)

– 3 personnel



Training priorities and focus and major exercises with international partners

Priorities and focus of training of the Czech Armed Forces supported the trend of increased effort in training commanders and staffs of units to the effect of attaining capabilities critical for meeting requirements under the Czech Republic's political-military ambitions. Progressive decrease of the number of service personnel actually deployed for foreign operations helped consolidate individual units and intensity training of forces for full spectrum of operations in both symmetric and asymmetric environments with emphasis on capability to defend own national territory.

The Czech Armed Forces continues to develop units for NATO collective defence, whose forces and assets prepare for assignment to NATO and EU BG readiness forces and deployment for foreign operations.

In order to meet the Czech Republic's commitment to assign a Brigade Task Force (BdeTF) as a NATO deployable force, the planned progressive realisation was initiated of measures designed to attain full operational capability by the BdeTF built on the basis of the 4th Rapid Deployment Brigade at 31 December 2014. The principal priority for the Land Forces is to assign forces and assets for the NATO Response Force in 2015, harmonisation of manoeuvre units with combat support units for a broad spectrum of operations and achieving a higher degree of interoperability with jet and helicopter squadrons of the Czech Air Force.

The Czech Air Force focused its training on honing skills essential defence of the Czech national territory and common defence of NATO territory as part of NATINAMDS, SAR skills,

helicopter emergency medical service with the jet and transport squadrons and the Ground Based Air Defence unit.

Training provided by Training Command - Military Academy focused on honing skills improving parachuting skills, rescue activities by para specialists, insertion by fastrope and interoperability of simulation technology systems.

Simulators and training technology are also intensively used.

Training of units and staffs with international participation was performed in compliance with the 2014 MoD foreign cooperation priorities and goals, which set the following priorities for the Czech Armed Forces:

- Deployment of Czech forces in and outside national territory;
- Participation in NRF;



exercise trained 581 controls of which were 401 runs with aircraft.

Major exercises of the Czech Armed Forces with international partners outside the Czech Republic

EMBOW

Hosted by France on March 17–27, 2014, the exercise was prepared to improve aircrew flying skills in demanding tactical and geographic conditions and served as an ISAF predeployment rehearsal. The total of 64 Czech Armed Forces service personnel of the 21st AFB, 22nd AFB (Helo), 24th AFB (Transport) and 26th Command, Control and Surveillance Regiment, Czech Air Force Command and MoD Capability Planning and Development Division joined the training event.

TOXIC LEAK I & II

Training of Czech Armed Forces CBRN defence troops represented by the members of the 31st

– Preparation for EU BG 2016;
– Attainment of capabilities for combat activities across the whole spectrum of operations (BdeTF).

At the same time, the guidance defined the tasks the Czech Armed Forces perform in the second half of 2014 and has been up to in 2015.

In the 2014 planning process, comprehensiveness of Czech Armed Forces training reflected the the Connected Forces Initiative (CFI). In line with CFI requirements, preparation started for principal exercise NATO TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015. The exercise has been expanded with involvement of other forces and assets than those assigned for NRF. The Czech Air Force has successfully hosted the NATO-linked exercise AMPLE STRIKE 2014 and paved the way for performing multinational exercises of that type in the years ahead. Deployability and interoperability of tactical fighter units was proven in NATO exercises ANATOLIAN EAGLE and TIGER MEET.

Claiming an unplanned involvement of Czech forces in NATO's increased training effort was the contribution to Assurance Measures, into which the Czech Republic sent land and air units to exercise GROUND PEPPER and exercise IRON SWORD.

Major exercise of the Czech Armed Forces with international partners in the territory of the Czech Republic

HALO/HAHO/OXY

Held on 23 May - 6 June 2014, the exercise was sponsored by the Training Command – Military Academy and the Land Forces Command and trained Czech and Belgian rescue and para training instructors. Its objective was to improve those specialists in airborne insertion into unknown areas from a C-130.



FALCON

The exercise took place at the 601st Special Forces Group home base at Prostějov on June 16–27, 2014. Their partners were U.S. Special Operation Forces. The aim was to improve the 601st SFG personnel in specific specialties, special reconnaissance skills and share experience.

AMPLE STRIKE

The exercise took place on September 3–15, 2014, and involved twelve NATO nations including the Czech Republic, with 1,400 trainees (out of which were 300 foreign participants) with 30 air assets and 50 ground vehicles. The exercise was designed to train 22 forward air controller teams and harmonising their activities with fighter and helicopter aircrews. The training focused on a broad spectrum of operations employing close air support. The exercise followed on the RAMSTEIN ROVER multinational exercise series, but its organisation was the sole responsibility of the Czech Armed Forces. In aggregate, the

Chemical, Biologic, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Regiment was organised in Chemical, Radiation and Biologic Defence Training and Test Centre at Zemianské Kostolany, Slovakia, on April 7–11, and 28 September – 4 October 2014. Both events trained handling contaminants and specifically for the trainees to develop practical skills in near real-world environments and saw the participation of over 40 personnel. The objective was to drill movement in a contaminated environment in presence of toxic agents using individual protection equipment.

RELIABLE SWORD

The training exercise took place in Nieuw Milligen, Netherlands, from May 5–21, 2014 and saw the participation of roughly 4,000 military professionals from over 14 nations including 220 members of the Czech 4th Brigade Task Force (BdeTF). The exercise was a part of the training of Czech forces declared for NRF in 2015 and certified the 4th BdeTF as having a full operational capability.

UNIFIED VISION

The exercise was held at Ørland airbase in Norway from May 5–31, 2014, with the goal to demonstrate interoperability in Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR). Besides the Czech Republic represented by the Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Department, 53rd Reconnaissance and EW Regiment and 102nd Recce Battalion, 15 NATO nations joined the exercise with over 2,000 military professionals including representatives of 12 NATO command headquarters and agencies to prove operating and technical procedures in joint and common operations. For the first time ever, the Czech Armed Forces connected to the Cooperative Electronic Support Measures Operations (CESMO) integrated network in an ISR environment.

BALT

The Balt Field Training Exercise took place in the Ustka Military Training Area in Poland from 28 May–5 June 2014. Some 100 members of the



Air Force Command, 25th ADM Regt and 21st Air Force Base with 30 military vehicles were involved in the exercise shoulder to shoulder with the Polish Armed Forces servicemembers. The training exercise was designed to harmonise air defence systems crews in engagement of aerial targets and prove skills of the 251st Air Defence Missile Battalion service personnel. The exercise came to a head with a LIVEX involving the SA-6 Gainful air defence missile system.

EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT TRAINING

On June 15–27, 2014, the total of ten NATO nations were engaged in the 3rd edition of international air transport training event in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The Czech Air Force was represented by 17 members of the 24th Transport Airbase with a C-295M CASA airplane. Training exercise for NATO transport aircrews focused on standardised procedures in joint performance of transport and tactical missions.

COMPOSITE CHALLENGE – NATO Tiger Tactical Meet

Held in Germany on June 16–27, 2014, the aim of the exercise was to share experience in advanced dogfighting tactics and improving interoperability of NATO aircrews in a comprehensive tactical scenario. The Czech Armed Forces were represented by 60 personnel from the 21st Tactical Airbase, 22nd Helicopter Airbase, 24th Transport Airbase and 26th Command, Control and Reconnaissance Regiment with two JAS-39 Gripen fighters, two Mi-171Sh helicopters and C-295M CASA transport aircraft.

MOUNTAIN FLIGHT

The Czech Armed Forces' helicopter exercise took place in France on 23 June – 4 July 2014. The objective was to hone skills and abilities of heli-crews for flying in difficult mountain environments at altitudes over 2,000 metres above sea level, including landings and take-offs.

ANACONDA

The exercise was hosted in all military training areas in Poland from September 24 till October 3, 2014. It was the largest regular CPX/LIVEX for the Polish Armed Forces in 2014 with total participation of 12,500 military professionals, 126 tanks and vehicles, 25 fixed-wing and 17 rotary wing assets and 17 vessels. In addition to the host nation, armed forces of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Canada, Lithuania, Hungary, the Netherlands, United States and United Kingdom sent the total of 750 soldiers. The Czech Armed Forces joined in with over 180 soldiers with 60 vehicles forming the 7th BdeTF. Their goal was to synchronise operation command with subordinate staffs and forces in performance of a multinational defence operation and practise reinforcement or relieving units with NATO forces.

GROUND PEPPER

On October 13–23, 2014, the Lešť Military Training Area in Slovakia was the venue for a common exercise of soldiers from Visegrad Four countries and the United States. Some 700 foreign participants, including 271 Czech service personnel with 72 vehicles and 630 weapons and weapon systems, took part in the training event. On the exercise, the Czech battalion task force was a part of the 22nd Multinational Task Force (MNTF). The total 1,300 rehearsed for a simulated Article 5 collective defence operation.

IRON SWORD

Exercise Iron Sword was organised at Rukla and Pabrade training sites in the territory of Lithuania from November 3–14, 2014, and saw the participation of over 2,000 service personnel from NATO nations, including 70 members of the 25th Air Defence Missile Regiment with 26 pieces of military hardware. They comprised a platoon-sized air defence missile task force equipped with RBS-70 man-portable air defence systems. Along with Lithuanian Armed Forces personnel, Czech soldiers performed ground based air defence missions. The goal was to prove whether individual NATO nations' forces are able to cooperate both in planning and the very conduct of multinational operations in the frame of a multinational task force.

ARRCADE FUSION

A certification command post exercise of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), exercise ARRCAD FUSION took place at RAF St Mawgan station in Newquay, UK, on November 3–21, 2014. In the domain of CBRN defence, the CBRN Def Bde Command monitored radiation, chemical and biologic situation in the area of operation, controlled assigned CBRN units and coordinated an early warning system. The exercise involved 22 Czech Armed Forces servicemembers from five units, including CBRN defence specialists.

Armed Forces modernisation

Mechanised forces: are in the process of realising Phase 2 of small arms replacement program with 4 076 pieces of CZ 805 BREN assault rifles, 1,831 CZ 75 SP Phantom pistols and 455 pieces of CZ Scorpion EVO personal defence weapons delivered to units in 2014.

Artillery: the SNĚŽKA-M (surveillance system) defence research project was completed and LOV-Pz (light armoured reconnaissance vehicle) and additional four LOV-Pz vehicles were delivered into the inventory of the artillery.

Engineers: special equipment was procured to meet the requirements of EOD specialists and the United States donated to the Czech Armed Forces special EOD equipment as part of the Security Assistance program.

CBRN defence: new personnel and casualty decontamination systems were procured. At the same time, additional acquisition and replacement continued of individual protection means, specifically the OM-90 masks and OPCH-05 CBRN defence suits. Renovation was launched of the Military Radiation Monitoring Network (ARMS) to the effect of progressively renewing information feeding into the Nationwide Radiation Monitoring Network (CRMS) operated by the State Nuclear Safety Office.

Signals: a project was prepared for the Land Forces involving acquisition of ten KIM-5 communication and information modules that will provide command and control support to company-sized and other task forces. In the frame of modernisation of tactical radiocommunication

systems, preparatory steps were taken for acquisition of radio stations manufactured by Harris that will increase capabilities of the Czech Armed Forces in the domain secure as well as non-secure radiocommunication and ensure compatibility and interoperability with systems used by NATO Allies.

Geospatial and meteorological support: an investment was realised into the modernisation of Geospatial and Meteorological Service systems consisting in replacement of obsolete meteorological instruments and equipment at military airfields with new systems compatible with air traffic management (ATM) systems and meeting at the same time international standards defined by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). An investment was made to procure a photogrammetric scanner for the needs digitising aerial surveying imagery. The investment was completed into the Technical evaluation of GIS ELA software license involving upgrade of HW and SW comprising the single platform of geospatial information systems and digital production lines.

Tactical air force units: modernisation of the KTL-159 simulator took place (replacement of visualisation system) designed for L-159 aircraft pilots; the aim of the project was to upgrade to avionics of the simulator to the status of the real aircraft.

Helicopter units: Mi-171Sh helicopter modernisation involved integration of M-134D-H Minigun machineguns, meteo radars, Forward

Looking Infrared (FLIR) and lightweight ballistic protection. Modernisation was funded from a U.S. foreign military assistance fund.

Air Defence Missile forces: in 2014-15, four low level surveillance radar sensors (in 2014-15) were acquired for V SHORAD units equipped with RBS-70 MANPADS. SW and HW on automated command and fire control system were upgraded with implementation of newly introduced components into command post systems and the S-10M2D/IFF air defence missile system so as to attain the full potential of air defence missile systems. Visible, infrared and microwave camouflage was procured for GBAD fire systems and local surveillance sensors for specific combat use. To enable carrying the RBS-70 MANPADS, provisions were realised on DINGO vehicles, which expanded their tactical potential, particularly ballistic resistance for symmetric and asymmetric conflicts and missions.

Air Traffic Management: construction and arrangements were realised at radio sites, plus acquisition and installation of radiocommunication equipment to provide radio communication among ATM points at Čáslav, Náměšť, Prague Kbely and Pardubice airfields. In the frame of ATM systems integration, civil-military interface was delivered for coordination, communication, exchange of data and information among individual military air operation services sites and the sites operated by the Air Navigation Services of the Czech Republic, including acquisition of a voice communication system at CRC Hlavenec to provide direct voice communication for civilian and military control and coordination sites.

Forward Air Controllers: capabilities were increased to deliver close air support to land forces in the domain of communication with command and control components, reception of imagery data from UAV-borne sensors and acquisition and locating targets for controlling aircraft carrying precision guided munitions.



Armament and Modernisation Programs

The re-equipping of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic with new vehicles and weapon systems or upgrades of older, but well-proven hardware walk hand in hand with profound changes that have taken place in the course of reforms and transformations of the Ministry of Defence during the last two decades. Since twenty years ago, more than 170 acquisitions and upgrade projects related to the modernization of armament of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic and other components of the Czech Armed Forces have been implemented and delivered. The following list briefly presents at least some of them.

Pandur II 8×8 wheeled infantry fighting vehicle

The Pandur II wheeled IFV is an amphibious vehicle with a permanent drive of the 1st, 3rd and 4th axles and an engageable 2nd axle drive. Its features include high manoeuvrability, agility, off-road mobility, and capability to traverse water obstacles and streams by swimming. It also provides adequate ballistic protection to its crew.

The Pandur II can engage enemy personnel and light- and medium-armoured targets and provide fire support to dismounted troops from vehicle-mounted weapons from a stationary position, during a short stop or on the move, against stationary or moving targets, both in daytime and at night or in reduced visibility conditions.

The Armed Forces of the Czech Republic will use six role versions of the vehicle, namely KBVP (wheeled infantry fighting vehicle), KBV-VR (wheeled fighting vehicle – company commander), KBV-Pz RL (wheeled fighting vehicle – reconnaissance, with radar), KBV-Pz (wheeled fighting vehicle – reconnaissance, without radar), KOT-Ž (wheeled armoured personnel carrier – combat engineers) and KOT-Zdr (wheeled armoured personnel carrier – ambulance).

The KBVP role version is armed with the RCWS-30 remote-controlled weapon station with a 30mm ATK Mk44 automatic gun, a 7.62mm M240 coaxial machine gun and a SPIKE-LR ATGM launcher.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length	7,384 mm
Width	2,670 mm
Height, top of hull	2,080 mm
Clearance	448 mm
Weight	20,800 kg
Top speed on the road	110 km/h
Range	700 km
Swimming speed	10 km/h
Crew	3 + 8



50 B Iveco light armoured vehicle

The LOV 50 B Iveco M65E 19WM 4×4 light armoured vehicle is intended for motorized troops, in particular for engaging enemy personnel, light-armoured and soft-skinned vehicles and other lightly fortified objects. It is a robust, highly mobile military vehicle that can seat five (1 + 4). It is based on a M65E 19WM 4×4 chassis with a permanent all-wheel drive and meets STANAG 4569 Annex A LEVEL 3 (ballistic protection) and STANAG 4569 Annex B LEVEL 2 (protection against explosion) requirements.

The LOV 50 B serves as a platform for different role versions. The version in service with the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic is armed with the Kongsberg PROTECTOR M151 A2



remote-controlled, fully stabilized weapon station with a 12.7mm M2 machine gun. Alternatively, the vehicles are armed with the ZSRD-07 remote-controlled weapon station with a 7.62mm FN MAG machine gun, or serve as ambulances.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length	4,800 mm
Width	2,200 mm
Height, incl. PROTECTOR M151 A2 RCWS	2,920 mm
Clearance under axle centre	340 mm
Maximum permissible weight	7,100 kg
Top speed on the road	110 km/h
Range	750 km
Gradient	30°
Vertical step	350 mm
Fording (with/without preparations)	850 (1,000) mm
Crew	1 + 4

Land Rover Defender 130 Military-Armoured 4 Kajman

The six-seat vehicle is designed for combat and special missions conducted by an airborne battalion assigned to an Alliance battle group or a peace support operation outside the territory of the Czech Republic. Its characteristic features include high deployment readiness, air transportability and ability to be parachuted or ferried by a helicopter to wherever it is required to conduct a special mission. It allows a rapid conversion between "transport" and "combat" configurations; insofar as the latter is concerned, the vehicle can be armed with a) a 12.7mm NSV machine gun and a 7.62mm TPKB machine gun; b) two 7.62mm TPKB machine guns; c) a 7.62mm TPKB machine gun and a 30mm AGS-17 grenade launcher; or d) a 7.62mm TPKB machine gun and 12.7mm PL 38/46 DShKM anti-aircraft machine gun.

Special modifications and equipment may include STANAG 4569 LEVEL 1 spall liner enhancing crew protection in the front part and on the bottom of the vehicle, or bulletproof glass. In addition to communication equipment, the vehicle is also fitted with a WARN XDC 12 V winch the rated line pull of which is 42.2 kN (4,300 kg).



Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length	6,060 mm
Width	2,245 mm
Height	2,660 mm
Clearance	220 mm
Maximum permissible weight	4,200 kg
Top speed on the road	110 km/h
Range	540 km
Gradient	30°
Vertical step	300 mm
Fording	500 mm
Crew	1 + 5

Tatra T810 medium off-road truck

Between 2008 and 2009, the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic replaced the venerable Praga V3S by the Tatra T810 medium off-road truck in different role versions – platform truck with a tail lift unit, truck carrying a box-shaped superstructure, container carrier, load-handling unit, platform truck with double controls, or platform truck with a fully armoured cab. The Tatra T810 has a ladder frame and a chassis with rigid portal axles. Its RDxi7 six-cylinder in-line supercharged engine delivering 177 kW meets EURO 3 emission limits. The Tatra T810 is the first-ever off-road truck in the service of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic which is equipped with disc brakes on all wheels. The cab floor is up-armoured by a steel plate. The three-seat cab can be tilted forward (cab-over-engine), is air-conditioned and designed to allow the installation of add-on armour. It has a roof hatch with a 7.62mm Model 59 machine gun mount.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length	7,750 mm
Width	2,550 mm
Height	3,200 mm
Maximum GVW	13,000 kg
Payload	4,750 kg
Top speed on the road	100 km/h
Range	800 km
Fording	1,200 mm (incl. wave)
Crew	3 + 16



T-72M4 CZ Main Battle Tank

The T-72M4 CZ Main Battle Tank has an up-to-date fire control system with thermal night vision devices, a new powerpack including an automatic transmission and an engine delivering 736 kW, and an add-on armour package significantly increasing the tank's battlefield survivability. Compared to the T-72 MBT it is based on, its combat efficiency, mobility and crew protection have been substantially improved. Its 125mm main gun with an autoloader can use high-performance anti-tank ammunition. The tank's secondary armament includes a 12.7mm machine gun and a 7.62mm machine gun.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length, including the main gun	9,800 mm
Width	3,800 mm
Height	2,700 mm
Combat weight	48,000 kg
Top speed on the road	61 km/h
Range	700 km
Crew	3



JAS-39C Gripen multi-role combat aircraft

The Gripen is a single-seat (or two-seat in the case of a training version) single-engine mid-wing aircraft with a delta wing in the rear part of the fuselage and canard control surfaces aft of the cockpit. It is a fourth-plus (4+) generation fighter plane, the primary mission of which is to protect the airspace of the Czech Republic and possibly also of other NATO allies; however, its concept allows it to engage ground or naval targets as well. Due to its three-leg nosewheel landing gear, it can take off and land on short runways, grassy airstrips or highway sections.

Its onboard armament consists of a 27mm automatic gun. The Gripen's external pylons can carry AIM-120 AMRAAM or AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air and AGM-65 MAVERICK air-to-ground missiles, and, if necessary, also Meteor and IRIS-T air-to-air and RBS-15 anti-ship missiles.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Wingspan	8.4 m
Length	14.1 m
Height	4.7 m
Maximum takeoff weight	13,000 kg
Maximum ordnance weight	4,200 kg
Top speed (at 12–18 km above the ground) ..	2,128 km/h
Top speed (at 1 km above the ground)	1,223 km/h
Time of climb to 10 km	120 s
Time of climb to 14 km	180 s
Ferry range	3,000 km
Combat radius with 2 000 kg of payload	700 km
Crew	1 pilot



CASA C-295 M

The CASA C-295M is a twin-turboprop tactical military transport aircraft designed to haul cargo and personnel to short and medium distances. It can carry up to 66 passengers or 46 fully equipped paratroops. The aircraft can also be configured for medevac operations; in this capacity, it can carry up to 24 stretcher patients and accompanying medical personnel. The 46.9 m³ cargo bay can accommodate palletized cargo weighing up to 9,250 kg. With this cargo, the airplane's range is 1,200 km. With a 6,000 kg load, the range is extended up to 3,900 km.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Wingspan	25.81 m
Length	24.5 m
Height	8.66 m
Maximum takeoff weight	23,200 kg
Payload	9,250 kg
Cruise speed	480 km/h
Service ceiling	9,150 m
Range / Number of passengers	5,500 km / up to 66
Crew	2 pilots



Airbus A-319 CJ

The Airbus A-319 CJ is a twin-engine jet airplane designed to transport personnel and cargo to long distances. The A-319 CJ is a corporate version of the standard A-319 model. It has extra fuel tanks in the cargo bay, which give it an extended 12,000 km range. The first aircraft was delivered in December 2006, the other in October 2007. Both are named after Czech WW2 veterans, Generals Karel Janoušek and Josef Ocelka.

In March 2011, the two military transport aircraft flew to Japan to evacuate 106 people after the disastrous earthquake and tsunami.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Wingspan	34.1 m
Length	33.84 m
Height	11.76 m
Maximum takeoff weight	75,500 kg
Cruise speed	840–850 km/h
Range / Number of passengers	6,480 km / 98 personnel
Range / Number of passengers	8,660 km / 42 personnel
Crew	2 pilots



L-159 ALCA

The L-159 ALCA is a single-engine single-seat (or two-seat in the case of a training version designated L-159T1) lightweight multi-role subsonic tactical low-wing monoplane with a one-piece tapered wing. It is designed to destroy ground targets and to provide direct support to ground forces, to engage air targets at short and medium distances, and to perform tactical reconnaissance. Its armament and equipment allows it to operate both in daytime and at night.

In addition to a 20mm pod-mounted twin-barrel ZPL-20 "Plamen" automatic gun, it can carry short-range air-to-air missiles, different types of bombs, air-to-ground missiles or auxiliary external fuel tanks.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Wingspan	9.54 m
Length	12.72 m
Height	4.87 m
Maximum takeoff weight	8,000 kg
Maximum ordnance weight	2,700 kg
Top speed	935 km/h
Climb rate close to the ground	53 m/s
Combat radius	420–950 km
Crew	1



Mi-171Sh transport helicopter

The Mi-171Sh is the latest upgrade of the Mi-8/Mi helicopter. Its improved powerful engines perform better in high altitudes or in an environment with a high air temperature. The redesigned tail section houses a hydraulic access ramp which allows cargoes to be loaded and unloaded faster and more safely than with the original bridges. The upgrade has made the rotary-wing aircraft combat-deployable. However, the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic does not plan to use the helicopter in this capacity; instead of weapons, the side pylons can carry external fuel tanks which will extend the flight duration up to six hours.

Tactical and technical specifications

Length	25.45 m
Height	5.52 m
Main rotor diameter	21.3 m
Empty weight	7,640 kg

Maximum takeoff weight	13,000 kg
Maximum onboard cargo weight	4,000 kg / 24 passengers
Maximum underslung cargo weight	4,000 kg
Maximum crane load	150/300 kg
Cruise speed	240 km/h
Static ceiling	3,980 m
Dynamic ceiling	6,000 m
Maximum range	950 km
Combat radius	495 km
Crew	2 pilots + engineer
Cargo bay dimensions: Length	5.34 m
Width	2.3 m
Height	1.8 m



W-3A Sokol helicopter

The W-3A Sokol is a twin-engine multi-purpose helicopter. The Czech Air Force operates two role versions, a SAR (Search and Rescue) one, and a transport version capable of carrying up to 12 passengers or a cargo weighing up to 2,200 kg. Both versions can also carry a Bambi bucket and used to fight fires. The helicopter is equipped with a four-blade main rotor and a three-blade tail rotor. The capacity of its onboard tanks is up to 1,700 litres of fuel. The instrument/avionics suite allows the aircraft to operate in adverse weather conditions or at night.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length	18.8 m
Height	4.2 m
Main rotor diameter	15.7 m
Empty weight	3,300 kg
Maximum takeoff weight	6,400 kg
Payload	2,200 kg
Top speed	260 km/h
Cruise speed	235 km/h
Endurance	3.5 h
Service ceiling	6 000 m
Climb rate close to the ground	9.1 m/s
Range	1,225 km
Crew	2 pilots + engineer
Cargo bay dimensions: Length	3.2 m
Width	1.55 m
Height	1.38 m



5.56 × 45 mm CZ 805 BREN A1/A2 assault rifle

The CZ 805 A1 assault rifle and the CZ 805 A2 carbine (with a shorter) represent a unified modular weapon system using 5.56 x 45 mm NATO ammunition and offering three firing modes (single shots, double taps, continuous bursts). The weapon can be used for any combat activity, including those involving the use of personal CBRN protective equipment, winter clothing articles, body armour elements or tactical goggles. The weapon is designed for aimed fire at ground, lightly armoured and air targets.

Accessories: collimator-type ZD-Dot red dot sight, transparent plastic magazine for 30 rounds, three-point strap, magazine pouch (for two or three magazines), combat knife and scabbard, night vision sight, NV-Mag3 night vision riflescope, magnifying module, DV-Mag3 daytime riflescope, PPGRIIP and MVG tactical grips/bipods, underslung CZ 805 G1 grenade launcher.

Tactical and technical specifications (A1 / A2)

Calibre	5.56 × 45 mm
Length, with unfolded shoulder stock unfolded	868 mm / 782 mm
Length, with folded shoulder stock	670 mm / 587 mm
Length, with unfolded shoulder stock and a combat knife fitted	1,050 mm
Weight, including a full magazine and strap	4,120 g / 4,075 g
Effective range of fire	500 m / 400 m
Maximum range of fire	4,300 m
Number of magazines	8
Technical lifecycle duration	at least 20 years



FN Minimi light machine gun

The versatile Minimi machine gun developed by Fabrique Nationale Herstal, Belgium, is a long-barrelled, fully automatic military weapon designed to engage individual human targets or groups of enemy personnel, lightly armoured or soft-skinned vehicles, low-flying air targets at a distance up to 1,000m, or for harassing fire up to its maximum range, i.e. 4,000m. It is the primary support weapon of a squad (platoon), carried and served by a single soldier. However, it can also be mounted on a tripod or integrated onto a vehicle, in which configuration it also offers limited capabilities of a universal machine gun.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Calibre	7.62 × 51mm NATO
Maximum length	1,015 mm
Width	128 mm
Height	230 mm
Height, including bipod	340 mm
Unloaded/loaded weight	8.5/11.8 kg
Effective range of fire	1,000 m
Maximum range of fire	4,100 m
Combat rate of fire	50–400 rounds/minute
Muzzle velocity	810 m/s



Carl Gustaf M3 recoilless rifle

The Carl Gustaf M3 is a multi-role recoilless weapon. Due to a wide assortment of rounds it can use, it is able to engage tanks, armoured vehicles, field fortifications, enemy infantry hiding in buildings, in the open or in trenches, and can be also employed to illuminate or lay a smoke screen on the battlefield. Depending on the round type, its range may be up to 700 meters.

Ammunition used – HEAT 751, HEAT 551, TP 552, HEDP 502, HE 441, SMOKE 469, ILLUM 545, TPT 141 a 553 B.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Calibre	84 mm
Length	1,065 mm
Weight	10 kg
Range	up to 700 m
Practical rate of fire	6 rounds/minute
Crew	2



ANTOS LR-2 mortar

The ANTOS LR mortar is designed to increase the firepower of airborne, reconnaissance and special units. Its role is to act as an artillery support weapon at the squad or platoon level. It is designed to engage enemy personnel hiding in trenches or shelters, especially in situations which do not permit the use of direct fire (positions on reverse slopes, in ravines etc.), to demolish roadblocks and obstacles, observation posts, gun emplacements, local pockets of resistance, bases, depots etc.

The weapon makes use of 60mm Model 99 rounds in six different versions – high explosive/incendiary (HEI), high explosive fragmentary (HEF), PR-S and JUMP training rounds, illumination (Illum) and smoke (SMK).



Basic tactical and technical specifications

Calibre	60.7 mm
Barrel length	1,000 mm
Weight of combat-deployed weapon	15.9 kg
Total weight, including accessories	43 kg
Minimum range	102 m
Maximum range	3,098 m
Rate of fire	20 rounds/minute
Crew	2

OP 99 FALCON sniper rifle

The Falcon large-calibre sniper rifle is used mainly by ground and special forces. It is designed to engage point targets, such as command and control assets of rocket and artillery units, light armoured vehicles, communication assets, radars, helicopters, and fuel or ammunition depots, at great distances. Its standard version is equipped with a ZD 10 × 50 daytime riflescope and mechanical sights.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Calibre	12.7 × 99 mm
Weapon length	1,290 mm
Barrel length	927 mm
Weight	13.4 kg
Effective range in daytime	1,600 m
Effective range at night	800 m
Muzzle velocity	790–900 m/s



Glock 17 pistol

The Glock 17 pistol is an individual weapon designed for self-protection and engaging enemy personnel at short distances (up to 50 m). It is a semi-automatic handgun the loading principle of which is based on a short rearward movement of the barrel combined with a cam that forces the barrel down as it moves rearward. When the pistol is fired, its breech is in the front position. Its properties, including simple design, reliability, low weight and reasonable accuracy, have made it popular among members of the Military Police.

Accessories: magazine, tactical flashlight.

Takticko-technická data

Calibre	9 mm
Round	9 × 19 Luger
Overall length	185 mm
Barrel length	114 mm
Empty weight	620 g
Full magazine weight	260 g
Maximum range	approx. 2,000 m
Effective range of fire	50 m
Muzzle velocity	360 m/s
Magazine capacity	17 rounds



RBS-70 man-portable short-range air-defence system

The RBS-70 MANPADS is designed to destroy enemy airborne attack and tactical assets, such as cruise missiles, glider bombs and cluster bombs dropped by aircraft in order to provide air defence to manoeuvre ground units engaged in all types of combat, to protect important industrial and military facilities, and to secure airspace as part of emergency or counter-terrorist measures. The system offers a possibility of plugging in an IFF system.



Basic tactical and technical specifications

Guidance	semi-automatic command to line-of-sight (SACLOS)
Target tracking	manual/visual
Missile type	man-portable surface-to-air missile, Mk1, Mk2 or BOLIDE
Weight of the system: Sight	34 kg
Launcher	25 kg
Missile	27 kg
Range	0.3–8 km (depending on missile type)
Ceiling	3–5 km (depending on missile type)
Deployment time	30 s
Reloading time	do 5 s
Minimum target acquisition to launch time	5 s
Crew	3

Božena 5 mine clearing vehicle

The Božena 5 mine clearing vehicle is designed to dispose of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines by detonating or mechanically destroying them. The demining system consists of a set of mutually complementing elements and tool attachments designed for rapid deployment and quick transport to the demining site. It is used to clear large areas of mines in peacetime conditions, employing a flail unit attached to the quick coupler of the remote-controlled primary B-5 vehicle. Due to its wide assortment of tools and attachments, the system offers a broad range of applications – from mine clearing to destruction of low dense vegetation, earthmoving operations, handling of hazardous materials or evacuation of casualties.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Demining unit length	7,320 mm
B-5 primary vehicle length.....	4,170 mm
Flail unit width	2,600 mm
Flail unit maximum width	3,350 mm
Mine-cleared strip width	2,810 mm
Primary vehicle height	2,255 mm
Total weight, including flail unit	12,020 kg
Optimum demining speed of flail unit	350–500 rev/m
Travel speed	4–9 km/h
Demining speed	0.1–0.5 km/h
Demining rate	1,000–5,000 m ² /h
Crew	2
Remote-controllable up to	3,000 m



Tatra 6×6 815-7 EOD/IEDD special truck

The vehicle is designed to carry EOD/IEDD teams and their equipment. A low-slung cab makes the vehicle C-130 Hercules-transportable. The Tatra 6x6 815-7 EOD/IEDD has a permanent rear axle drive and an engageable front axle drive, ABS and CTIS. Its engine meets EURO 2 emission limits. The chassis and the cab are up-armoured to withstand a mine explosion and the superstructure provides ballistic protection to crewmembers. The cab is equipped with an overpressure air filtration system, a heated windshield and an air conditioning system.

The superstructure – EOD/IEDD team workplace – houses a Panda 12 kW generation unit, air filtration and air conditioning systems, modular racks, a 500 kg tail lifting platform, a telescopic mast with a halogen floodlight, an intercom system, a mechanical workstation and a workstation of the thEO-Dor robot operator.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length	9,150 mm
Width	2,500 mm
Height	2,900 mm
Fording	1,500 mm
Engine power output	270 kW @ 1,800 rpm



thEODor EOD robot

The remote-controlled automatic tracked robotic vehicle is used by specialized engineer and EOD teams to inspect, remove or dispose of dangerous or suspicious objects posing a threat of explosion. The battery-powered vehicle can also climb stairs and the revolving arm of its multi-role manipulator can lift a load weighing up to 30 kg. It can carry other tools and attachments, such as an X-ray unit to examine a suspicious object or a disruptor.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Length	1,300 mm
Width	680 mm
Height	1,100 mm
Weight	350 kg
Full operation time	3–4 hours
Crew.....	1



Land Rover RCH CBRN reconnaissance vehicle

The Land Rover RCH vehicle is designed to perform CBRN reconnaissance tasks. Its equipment allows either a manual reconnaissance mode, or an automated mode of collection, evaluation and transmission of information.

Its principal components are a Land Rover Defender 130 TD 5V vehicle with a driver's cab, a box body, a special CBRN superstructure and a box-body twin-axle trailer.

Tactical and technical specifications

Length	5,160 mm
Width	2,005 mm
Height	2,840 mm
Weight	3,495 kg
Pressurized space overpressure	at least 250 Pa



VERA S/M passive surveillance system

The unique passive surveillance system is designed to search for, identify and keep track of airborne, but also naval, targets, using signals emitted by their onboard radars, navigation instruments, communication devices and other sources of electromagnetic signals.

The VERA S/M passive surveillance system typically comprises one central and three side sites and a number of other evaluation and logistic elements. It provides information both on the position and heading of the targets it is tracking and on some parameters of their onboard radar systems.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Accuracy	50–500 m
Range	450 km
Arc sector	more than 120°
Capacity of target library	10,000
Number of tracked targets	up to 200 simultaneously
Crew	1 operator at the situation display

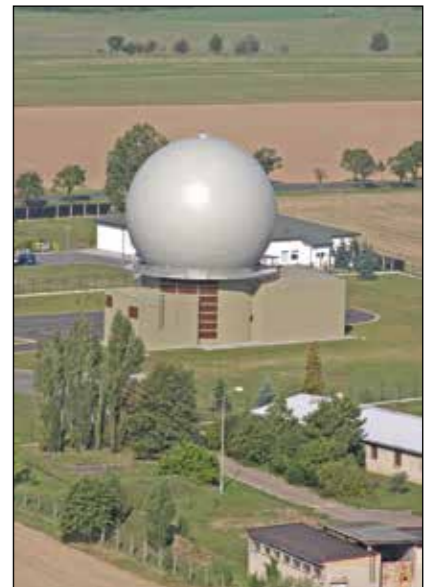


RAT-31DL radar

The modern three-dimensional FAD (Fixed Air Defence) radar at Sokolnice, off Slavkov u Brna, is an important contribution to the security of the Czech Republic and other NATO allies. Together with a similar radar installation at Nepolisy, it will become a part of the trunk radar network of the Alliance's integrated air defence system (NATINADS). This is why most of its construction costs were financed from the NATO budget. The radar provides a continuous picture of the airspace situation within a radius of up to 470 km.

Basic tactical and technical specifications

Radar height	25.5 m
Protective spherical radome diameter	18 m
Range	470 km



Source: Equipment Repair Facility Štěpánov, MoD PDD

Organisational redesign

Pursuant to the Government authorised the policy document "Structure and strength of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic in 2013–2015", the Czech Armed Forces continued assignments defined thereunder.

At 1 May 2014, Czech Armed Forces Personnel Agency was reorganised to the effect of centralising personnel management bodies.

At 30 June 2014, the Czech Armed Forces' foreign mission in Tampa was closed down.

At 1 September 2014, the MoD Special Forces Directorate was created.

At 1 November 2014, the Czech Armed foreign mission in Mons was reorganised to reflect the formation of the NATO Liaison Office in Kiev.

At 1 December 2014, the Czech Armed Forces Personnel Agency was reorganised in order to provide for establishment of new recruitment offices; 53rd Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Regiment to enable operation of the Scan Eagle surveillance UAV system; and Training Command – Military Academy to the effect of increasing recruitment capacity.

At 1 January 2015, the 601st Special Forces Group was incorporated into the structure of the Czech Armed Forces. Arms Control Department was transferred organisationally from the Foreign Activities Directorate into the structure of the MoD Capability Development and Planning Division as part of implementation of the Government Service Act. Administrative Activities Department was created within the MoD Support Policy Division.

No Czech Armed Forces stationing locations were closed in 2014.

At 31 December 2014, the Czech Armed Forces was stationed in 25 garrisons, 19 standalone operating locations and 36 operating locations. It is planned to stabilise that status of basing and maintain for the future.



Key missions of the Czech Armed Forces in 2015

1. Implement the Czech Armed Forces Development Concept.

2. Plan, provide national command and control and deploy assigned forces and assets into operations and for standby readiness forces in line with authorised Plan of MoD forces and assets deployment for foreign operations.

3. Accomplish the tasks of development, preparation and certification of task forces for:

- NATO Response Force 2016;
- V4 EU Battle Group I/2016 and DE EU Battle Group II/2016;
- Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF).

4. Provide earmarked forces and contribute to meeting the goals of multinational exercises.

5. Implement the amendment to Act No. 221/1999 Coll., on Career Soldiers. Finalise realisation of defence bills package:

- Amendment to the Act No. 219/1999 Coll., on the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic;
- Act on Reserve Soldiers (new);
- Amendment to the Act No. 222/1999 Coll., on ensuring defence of the Czech Republic;
- Amendment to the Act No. 585/2004 Coll., on Liability to Conscription and its ensuring.



Military ranks and rank corps

Generals



General



Lieutenant-General



Major-General



Brigadier-General

Senior officers



Colonel



Lieutenant-Colonel



Major

Junior officers



Captain



First-Lieutenant



Lieutenant

Senior non-commissioned officers



Chief Warrant Officer



Senior Warrant Officer



Warrant Officer

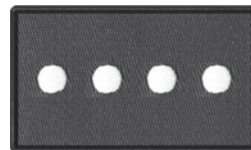


Master Sergeant

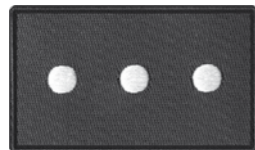


Sergeant First Class

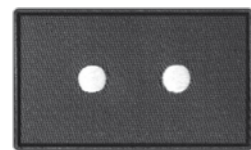
Junior non-commissioned officers



Staff Sergeant

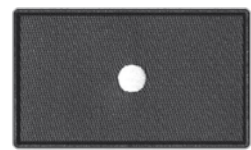


Sergeant



Corporal

Enlisted personnel



Private First Class



Private



Images show embroidered rank insignia worn on field uniforms

MoD Defence Decorations



National Defence Cross of the Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic



Golden Linden Decoration of the Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic



Cross of Merit of the Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic 1st Class



Medal of the Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic, For injury



Medal of the Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic, For Service Abroad



Czech Armed Forces Service Medal 1st Class

2nd Class

3rd Class

2nd Class

3rd Class

Personnel

In 2014, the total of 324 new service personnel were enlisted through direct recruitment in 2014 and 327 students of the Defence University and the Military Department of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports of the Charles University. The total of 1,088 service personnel and 616 defence civilians left the MoD in 2014.

Actual numbers of MoD personnel in 2005–15

As at	Service personnel	Defence civilians	Total strength
1 Jan 2005	22,272	17,858	40,130
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



Performance on recruitment target in 2014

	Recruitment target	Applicants	Enlisted	%
Defence University and Mil Dept. of Physical Education and Sports Faculty the Charles University	275	1 198	327	118,9
Recruitment	310	1 180	324	104,5



Czech Armed Forces' Foreign Deployments and Missions

UNPROFOR / UNCRO – Yugoslavia

Mission: establish and run checkpoints; organising mobile observation teams; oversight of deposited weapons of warring parties; provide security the Croatian Podlapač community; patrolling and humanitarian aid; escorting convoys carrying displaced persons from the Republic of Serbian Krajina into Croatia

Bases: Knin, Borje, Jezerce, Udbina, Klapavica etc.

(March 1992 – April 1993)

Battalion commander: LTC Karel Blahna
Personnel: 500

(April 1993 – April 1994)

Battalion commander: COL Vladimír Braun
Personnel: 500

(April 1994 – March 1995)

Battalion commander: COL Vojtěch Seidl
Personnel: do 1 000

(April 1995 – March 1996)

Battalion commander: LTC Ludovít Círok
Personnel: do 1 000

(April 1994 – July 1995)

Commander Sector South: MG Rostislav Kotil

(October 1995 – January 1996)

Commander Sector South: COL Karel Blahna

IFOR – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mission: implement individual parts of the Dayton Accords; maintain militarily secure environment; permanently monitor activities of the formerly belligerent armies in barracks and staging locations; provide organisational and logistic assistance to OSCE during elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bases: Donja Ljubija, Bosanska Krupa, Stari Majdan, Arapuša, Brezičani

6th Mechanised Battalion (January–June 1996)

Commanding officer: MG Jiří Šedivý
Battalion commander: LTC Josef Sedlák
Personnel: 669



6th Mechanised Battalion (July–December 1996)

Commanding Officer: COL Jaroslav Jásek
Battalion commander: LTC Josef Prokš
Personnel: 669

The 6th MechBn continued as part of SFOR from 20 December 1996.

UNTAES – Croatia

FIELD HOSPITAL

Mission: provide medical care to UN personnel
Base: Klisa

(March 1996 – March 1997)

Commanding Officer: MAJ Pavel Budínský
Personnel: 40

(April 1997 – March 1998)

Commanding Officer: LTC Miloslav Matoušek
Personnel: 40

SFOR – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mission: supervise implementation of military aspects of the Dayton Accords; stabilising zones of separation; continue to stabilise the secure environment; assist in creating favourable environment for a safe return of refugees and displaced persons, humanitarian aid and reconstruction

Bases: Donja Ljubija, Bosanska Krupa, Divulje, Velka Kladuša etc.

6th Mechanised Battalion

(December 1996 – February 1997)

Commanding officer: COL Jaroslav Jásek
Battalion commander: LTC Josef Prokš
Personnel: 669

6th Mechanised Battalion

(March–November 1997)

Commanding Officer: COL Zdeněk Mach
Battalion commander: LTC Pavel Jiráček
Personnel: 669





(April–December 2004)
Commanding officer: LTC Ladislav Buček
Personnel: 7

AFOR – Albania, Turkey

ALBANIA, KAVAJE – A HUMANITARIAN AID MISSION

Mission: Provide medical aid to Kosovar refugees and AFOR service personnel; provide specialist medical aid in the branch of traumatology, ENT, X-Ray, dentistry, cardiology and psychiatry; provide humanitarian aid to Kosovar refugees



TURKEY, GÖLCÜK – A HUMANITARIAN AID MISSION (aid after disastrous earthquake)

Mission: provide specialist medical aid; provide medical and logistic support to provisional shelter camps

6th Mechanised Battalion (November 1997 – August 1998)

Commanding Officer: COL Jiří Kašpárek
Battalion commander: LTC Jozef Šemelák
Personnel: 669
The 6th MechBn continued as part of SFOR II from June 1998.

7th Mechanised Battalion (August 1998 – March 1999)

Commanding Officer: COL Ján Gurník
Battalion commander: COL Jaroslav Pražan
Personnel: 588

3rd Mechanised Battalion (March–October 1999)

Commanding Officer: COL Michal Vass
Battalion commander: LTC Vladimír Stržih
Personnel: 588

1st Mechanised Battalion (October 1999 – April 2000)

Commanding officer: COL Zdeněk Košťanec
Battalion commander: LTC Martin Květon
Personnel: 580

43rd Mechanised Battalion (April–October 2000)

Commanding Officer: BG Vladimír Lavička
Battalion commander: LTC Aleš Opata
Personnel: 580

4th Mechanised Battalion (October 2000 – April 2001)

Commanding Officer: COL Jaroslav Lazorišák
Battalion commander: LTC Radek Henner
Personnel: 580

5th Mechanised Battalion (April–December 2001)

Commanding Officer: COL Jan Neplech
Battalion commander: LTC Antonín Vícha
Personnel: 580



CZECH ARMED FORCES NATIONAL REPRESENTATION IN SFOR II

Bases: Zagreb, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Prijedor

(December 2001 – April 2002)

Commanding Officer: COL Miroslav Žižka
Personnel: 15

(April–October 2002)

Commanding officer: COL Jaroslav Kolkus
Personnel: 15

(October 2002 – April 2003)

Commanding officer: COL Jiří Kuchař
Personnel: 8

(April–October 2003)

Commanding officer: LTC Petr Smola
Personnel: 5

(October 2003 – April 2004)

Commanding officer: LTC Jaroslav Kulíšek
Personnel: 7

6th Field Hospital (May–November 1999)

Commanding Officer: LTC Jindřich Sitta
Personnel: 89

KFOR – Kosovo

Mission: safeguarding the Administrative Border Line separating Kosovo and Serbia; monitoring all activities at the ABL and in the border areas; registering and ensuring a safe return of displaced persons; creating conditions for the restoration of peaceful coexistence of Kosovar Serbs and Albanians; protection of cultural monuments; monitoring activities of the Kosovo Protection Corps and participation in its transformation and training.



Bases: Camp Sajkovac, Gazala Lines, Lipljan etc.

6th Reconnaissance Company (June 1999 – January 2000)

Commanding Officer: MAJ Karel Klinovský
Personnel: 196

4th Reconnaissance Company (January–July 2000)

Commanding Officer: LTC Vladimír Podlipný
Personnel: 196

2nd Reconnaissance Company (July 2000 – January 2001)

Commanding Officer: MAJ Zdeněk Pitner
Personnel: 196

7th Reconnaissance Company (January–July 2001)

Commanding Officer: MAJ Vlastimil Rozumek
Personnel: 196

11th Reconnaissance Company (July 2001 – January 2002)

Commanding Officer: MAJ Petr Smola
Personnel: 180

1st Czech-Slovak Battalion KFOR (January–July 2002)

Commanding Officer: LTC Lubomír Frk
Battalion commander: LTC Jiří Dragan
Personnel: 400

2nd Czech-Slovak Battalion KFOR (July 2002 – February 2003)

Commanding Officer: LTC Aleš Opata
Battalion commander: MAJ Petr Procházka
Personnel: 400

3rd Czech-Slovak Battalion KFOR (February–October 2003)

Commanding Officer: COL Rostislav Jaroš
Battalion commander: LTC Josef Kopecký
Personnel: 400

4th Czech-Slovak Battalion KFOR (October 2003 – April 2004)

Commanding Officer: LTC Ivo Střecha



Battalion commander:
LTC Zdeněk Havala
from January 2004:
LTC Josef Kopecký
Personnel: 400



5th Czech-Slovak Battalion KFOR (May–December 2004)

Commanding Officer: LTC Aleš Vodehnal
Battalion commander: LTC Antonín Genser
Personnel: 400

6th ACR Contingent KFOR (December 2004 – July 2005)

Commanding Officer: LTC Jaroslav Trojan
Battalion commander: MAJ Roman Náhončík
Personnel: 400

7th ACR Contingent KFOR (July 2005 – January 2006)

Commanding Officer: COL Aleš Vodehnal
Personnel: 500
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 100 (in home station)

8th ACR Contingent KFOR (January–July 2006)

Commanding Officer: COL Miroslav Hlaváč
Personnel: 500
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 100 (in home station)

9th ACR Contingent KFOR (July 2006 – January 2007)

Commanding Officer: LTC Pavel Lipka
Personnel: 448
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 116 (in home station)

10th ACR Contingent KFOR (January–July 2007)

Commanding Officer: LTC Ladislav Švejda
Personnel: 391
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 116 (in home station)



11th ACR Contingent KFOR (July 2007 – January 2008)

Commanding Officer: LTC Milan Schulc
Personnel: 433
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 116 (in home station)

12th ACR Contingent KFOR (January–July 2008)

Commanding Officer: LTC Jiří David
Personnel: 406
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 116 (in home station)

13th ACR Contingent KFOR (July 2008 – January 2009)

Commanding Officer: LTC Jiří Roček
Personnel: 402
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 116 (in home station)

14th ACR Contingent KFOR (January–July 2009)

Commanding Officer: LTC Róbert Bielený
Personnel: 413
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 106 (in home station)

15th ACR Contingent KFOR (July 2009 – February 2010)

Commanding Officer: LTC Jiří Kývala
from 10 December 2009: LTC Jan Cířka
Personnel: 386
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 102 (in home station)

16th ACR Contingent KFOR (February–October 2010)

Commanding Officer: LTC Martin Kavalír
Personnel: 322
Ops Reserve Force Coy: 102 (in home station)

1st CZE ORF KFOR (October 2010 – July 2011)

Commanding Officer (home): LTC Jan Cířka
Personnel (home): 503
CO core force: MAJ Ladislav Horák
Personnel: 92

1st CZE Task Force KFOR (June–November 2011)

Commanding officer: MAJ Josef Nejedlý
Personnel: 99

1st CZE Team HQ KFOR (August 2011 – February 2012)

Commanding Officer: MAJ Pavel Udvorcka
Personnel: 7

2nd CZE Team HQ KFOR (February–August 2012)

Commanding Officer: LTC Vladimír Petera
Personnel: 6

3rd CZE Team HQ KFOR (August 2012 – February 2013)

Commanding officer: LTC Aleš Stybor
Personnel: 7





**4th CZE Team HQ KFOR
(February–August 2013)**
Commanding officer: MAJ Karel Vykoukal
Personnel: 10

**5th CZE Team HQ KFOR
(August 2013 – February 2014)**
Commanding officer: MAJ Jan Matula
Personnel: 7

**6th CZE Team HQ KFOR
(February–August 2014)**
Commanding officer: MAJ Otakar Růžička
Personnel: 13

**7th CZE Team HQ KFOR
(August 2014 – February 2015)**
Commanding officer: MAJ Libor Mašlaň
Personnel: 8

Essential Harvest – Fyrom / Macedonia

Mission: security of the Headquarters Multinational Brigade and relay stations; escorting supply convoys; patrolling in the HQ MNB area; developing the MNB Commander's airborne reserve force
Base: Skopje

**43rd Airborne Company
(August–October 2001)**
Company commander: CAPT Oldřich Nápravník
Personnel: 120



Enduring Freedom – Kuwait

CBRN DEFENCE UNITS

Mission: protection of coalition forces and civilian population against intentional use of chemical, biologic, radiological or nuclear weapons or systems; radiological, chemical and biologic surveillance coverage along with a sustained and continuous detection and early warning; performance of assignments in support civil defence of the State of Kuwait; consequence management following the use of weapons of mass destruction or accidents in an assigned area of responsibility
Bases: Camp Doha, Kuwait City

9th Reinforced Chemical, Biologic, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Company (March–September 2002)

Commanding Officer: COL Josef Prokš
from 5 August 02: LTC Dušan Lupuljev
Personnel: 251

4th Chemical, Biologic, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Detachment (September 2002 – February 2003)

Commanding officer: COL Jan Weiser
Personnel: 251

1st Czech-Slovak Chemical, Biologic, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Battalion (February–June 2003)

Commanding officer: COL Dušan Lupuljev
Personnel: 395

ISAF / Resolute Support (RS) – Afghanistan

ISAF was replaced by non-combat Operation Resolute Support at 1 Jan 2015.

FIELD HOSPITAL – KABUL

Mission: provide Role 3 medical care to the injured, the burnt and ill both during combat activities and at other times; short-term in-patient treatment for ISAF service personnel; provide medical and humanitarian aid to the local population
Base: KAIA

6th Field Hospital (May–October 2002)

Commanding Officer: COL Jindřich Sitta
Personnel: 140

11th Field Hospital (October 2002 – February 2003)

Commanding Officer: LTC Marek Obrtel
Personnel: 140

Field Surgical Team (February–April 2003)

Commanding Officer: COL Peter Gál
Personnel: 12



EOD & METEO – KABUL

Mission: EOD reconnaissance, disposal of unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and engineer reconnaissance of the Kabul International Airport area; meteorological support to air traffic management; measuring and sharing hydrological and meteorological data
Base: KAIA

1st EOD Detachment ISAF KAIA (March–September 2004)

Commanding officer: MAJ Radek Augustýn
Personnel: 16

2nd EOD Detachment ISAF KAIA (September 2004 – March 2005)

Commanding officer: CAPT Zbyněk Koza
Personnel: 16

3rd EOD Detachment ISAF KAIA (March–September 2005)

Commanding officer: 1LT Milan Pavlík
Personnel: 15

4th EOD Detachment ISAF KAIA (September 2005 – March 2006)

Commanding officer: MAJ Bořek Valíček
Personnel: 17

5th EOD Detachment ISAF KAIA (March–September 2006)

Commanding officer: MAJ Zdeněk Hejpetr
Personnel: 18

6th EOD Detachment ISAF KAIA (September 2006 – March 2007)

Commanding officer: MAJ Martin Kolář
Personnel: 19

PRT FAYZABAD, BADAKHSAN PROVINCE

Mission: Provide security to the German PRT; security of the Fayzabad airfield; escorting vehicles and PRT resupplying convoys; liaison with the locals; patrolling in assigned area of responsibility and situational awareness

Base: Fayzabad

1st PRT Fayzabad ISAF (March–October 2005)

Commanding officer: MAJ Miroslav Vybíhal
Personnel: 40

2nd PRT Fayzabad ISAF (October 2005 – March 2006)

Commanding officer: LTC Radek Černý
Personnel: 44

3rd PRT Fayzabad ISAF (March–October 2006)

Commanding officer: LTC Tibor Budík
Personnel: 83

4th PRT Fayzabad ISAF (October 2006 – March 2007)

Commanding officer: MAJ Peter Salák
Personnel: 82

5th PRT Fayzabad ISAF (March–August 2007)

Commanding officer: COL Aleš Opata
Personnel: 86

6th PRT Fayzabad ISAF (August–December 2007)

Commanding officer: LTC Petr Procházka
Personnel: 86

LEAD NATION KAIA – KABUL

Mission: performing the lead nation role at the Kabul International Airport; provide aerodrome daily operations management; provide security for civilian persons at the airport and its preparation for handover to civilian representatives and the Afghan Government
Base: KAIA



1st Contingent LN KAIA ISAF (November 2006 – April 2007)

Commanding officer: COL Bohuslav Dvořák
Personnel: 47

FIELD HOSPITAL AND CBRN DEFENCE UNIT & METEO & AIR OMLT – KABUL

Mission: Provide Role 2E medical care to injured, burnt and ill patients both during ISAF combat operations and at other times; short-term in-patient treatment for ISAF service personnel; provide medical and humanitarian aid to the local population; performance of CBRN reconnaissance, sampling and identification of agents in a mobile lab; CBRN assessment and early warning for forces and local authorities; personnel decontamination up to platoon level; meteo support to air traffic management; performance of measurements and sharing hydrometeorological data; observation and assessment of basic meteo elements and phenomena; since April



2008, training Afghan Air Force personnel on Mi-17 and Mi-24/35 helicopters.

Base: KAIA

1st FH and CBRN contingent (April–August 2007)

Commanding officer: COL Zoltán Bubeník
Personnel: 98

2nd FH and CBRN contingent (August–December 2007)

Commanding officer: COL Igor Krivosudský
Personnel: 99

3rd FH and CBRN contingent (December 2007 – April 2008)

Commanding officer: COL Marek Kocvrlich
Personnel: 104

4th FH and CBRN contingent (April–August 2008)

Commanding officer: COL Mojmír Mrva
Personnel: 104

5th FH and CBRN contingent (August–December 2008)

Commanding officer: MAJ Martin Benda
Personnel: 105

MP SOG – HELMAND

Mission: training ANA forces; assistance on force development, internal security operations with ANA forces; ANP training support

Base: Camp Shank

1st SOG contingent ISAF (April–October 2007)

Commanding officer: MAJ Petr Krčmář
Personnel: 35

2nd SOG contingent SOG ISAF (October 2007 – April 2008)

Commanding officer: MAJ Pavel Růžička
Personnel: 35

3rd SOG contingent ISAF (April–October 2008)

Commanding officer: LTC Miroslav Murček
From August 2008: MAJ Pavel Horňák
Personnel: 35/23

PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM LOGAR

Mission: support humanitarian aid and reconstruction activities in the province; security of the PRT civilian component; ANSF training; monitoring and assessment of military and civilian situation; providing base security; maintaining dialogue with the province governor and district governors; performance of confidence-building activities with local authorities so as to minimise the risk of conflict

Base: Camp Shank

1st PRT Logar ISAF (March–August 2008)

Commanding officer: COL Ivo Střecha
Personnel: 198



2nd PRT Logar ISAF (August 2008 – February 2009)

Commanding officer: LTC Pavel Lipka
Personnel: 200

3rd PRT Logar ISAF (February–August 2009)

Commanding officer: LTC Petr Procházka
Personnel: 275

4th PRT Logar ISAF (August 2009 – February 2010)

Commanding officer: LTC Milan Schulc
Personnel: 275

5th PRT Logar ISAF (February–August 2010)

Commanding officer: COL Rudolf Honzák
Personnel: 275

6th PRT Logar ISAF (August 2010 – February 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Ctibor Gazda
Personnel: 283

7th PRT Logar ISAF (February–August 2011)

Commanding officer: COL Miroslav Hlaváč
Personnel: 293

8th PRT Logar ISAF (August 2011 – February 2012)

Commanding officer: LTC Pavel Andráško
Personnel: 292

9th PRT Logar ISAF (February–August 2012)

Commanding officer: COL Antonín Genser
Personnel: 293

10th PRT Logar ISAF (August 2012 – February 2013)

Commanding officer: COL Josef Kopecký
Personnel: 293

11th PRT Logar ISAF (January–June 2013)

Commanding officer: MAJ Vladimír Jelínek
Personnel: 100

URUZGAN

Mission: base security

Base: Dutch Camp Hadrian / Deh Rawod

1st Contingent Uruzgan ISAF (July 2008 – January 2009)

Commanding officer: MAJ Miroslav Brázda
Personnel: 63

2nd Contingent Uruzgan ISAF (January–April 2009)

Commanding officer: CAPT Jiří Líbal
Personnel: 63

KAIA AND CBRN UNIT + METEO + AIR OMLT – KABUL

Mission: provide CBRN reconnaissance, sampling and identification in a mobile lab; CBRN assessment and early warning for forces and

local authorities; personnel decontamination up to platoon level; meteo support to air traffic management; performance of measurements and sharing hydrometeorological data; observation and assessment of basic meteo elements and phenomena; since April 2008, training Afghan Air Force personnel on Mi-17 and Mi-24/35 helicopters
Base: KAIA

1st Contingent KAIA and CBRN unit (December 2008 – June 2009)

Commanding officer: LTC Pavel Jelínek
Personnel: 70

2nd Contingent KAIA and CBRN unit (June–December 2009)

Commanding officer: LTC Jiří Pluhař
Personnel: 64



3rd Contingent KAIA and CBRN unit (December 2009 – June 2010)

Commanding officer: LTC Josef Šimůnek
Personnel: 61

HELICOPTER UNIT – PAKTIKA

Mission: airlifting personnel and materiel; support to quick reaction forces; medical evacuation of injured and ill NATO and Afghan National Security Forces service personnel
Base: FOB Sharana



1st Heli Unit ISAF (December 2009 – March 2010)

Commanding officer: COL Petr Schwarz
Personnel: 100

2nd Heli Unit ISAF (March–June 2010)

Commanding officer: LTC Milan Koutný
Personnel: 99

3rd Heli Unit ISAF (June–October 2010)

Commanding officer: MAJ Robert Papš
Personnel: 99

4th Heli Unit ISAF (October 2010 – January 2011)

Commanding officer: COL Jaromír Šebesta
Personnel: 99

5th Heli Unit ISAF (January–May 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Karel Krejčířík
Personnel: 98

6th Heli Unit ISAF (May–August 2011)

Commanding officer: COL Václav Valeš
Personnel: 99

7th Heli Unit ISAF (August–December 2011)

Commanding officer: COL Jaromír Šebesta
Personnel: 99

AMT / AAT KABUL

Mission: training Afghan National Army Air Corps personnel on Mi-24/35 and Mi-17 helicopters

Base: KAIA

1st AMT ISAF (April–November 2010)

Commanding officer: CAPT Vladimír Vladík
Personnel: 11

2nd AMT ISAF (November 2010 – March 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Petr Kratochvíl
Personnel: 19

3rd AMT ISAF (April–August 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Rudolf Straka
Personnel: 19

4th AMT ISAF (August–November 2011)

Commanding officer: MAJ Miroslav Borufka
Personnel: 19

5th AAT ISAF (November 2011 – March 2012)

Commanding officer : LTC Petr Kratochvíl
Personnel: 19

6th AAT ISAF (March–July 2012)

Commanding officer: MAJ Jaroslav Falta
Personnel: 19

7th AAT ISAF (July–November 2012)

Commanding officer: MAJ Josef Kořínek
Personnel: 49

8th AAT ISAF (November 2012 – March 2013)

Commanding officer: MAJ Pavel Procházka
Personnel: 27

9th AAT ISAF (March–July 2013)

Commanding officer: CAPT Miroslav Šajban
Personnel: 30

10th AAT ISAF (July–November 2013)

Commanding officer: LTC Josef Falta
Personnel: 30

11th AAT ISAF (November–March 2013)

Commanding officer: MAJ Dalibor Křenek
Personnel: 30

12th AAT ISAF (March–July 2013)

Commanding officer: CAPT Petr Šafařík
Personnel: 30

13th AAT ISAF (July–November 2014)

Commanding officer: MAJ Jan Vanický
Personnel: 30

14th AAT ISAF (November–March 2015)

Commanding officer: MAJ Petr Slíva
Personnel: 30

CZECH ARMED FORCED TASK FORCE ISAF & NSE – KABUL

Mission: The Czech Armed Forces Task Force ISAF provides



an organisational umbrella to all Czech MoD units and components deployed in the territory of Afghanistan, including the provision of comprehensive support to the deployments
Base: KAIA

CZE TF & NSE ISAF

(June 2010 – January 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Pavel Šiška
Personnel: 55

CZE TF & 4th NSE ISAF (January–June 2011)

Commanding officer: COL Jaroslav Jírů
Personnel: 55

CZE TF & 5th NSE ISAF

(June–December 2011)

Commanding officer: COL Jaroslav Štrupl
Personnel: 61

CZE TF & 7th NSE ISAF

(December 2011 – June 2012)

Commanding officer: COL Ján Kožíak
Personnel: 61

CZE TF & 8th NSE ISAF

(June–December 2012)

Commanding officer: COL Martin Štochl
Personnel: 61

CZE TF & 9th NSE ISAF

(December 2012 – June 2013)

Commanding officer: COL Jaroslav Trakal
Personnel: 61

CZE TF & 10th NSE ISAF

(June–December 2013)

Commanding officer: COL Pavel Veselý
Personnel: 61

CZE TF & 11th NSE ISAF

(December 2013 – June 2014)

Commanding officer: COL Stanislav Hudeček
Personnel: 61

CZE TF & 12th NSE ISAF

(June–December 2014)

Commanding officer: COL Radek Hasala
Personnel: 46

CZE TF & 13th NSE ISAF / RS

(November 2014 – June 2015)

Commanding officer: COL Vratislav Beran
Personnel: 46

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENCE UNIT – KABUL

Mission: provide reconnaissance, sampling and identification in a mobile lab; radiological and chemical situation assessment and early warning for ISAF forces and local authorities
Base: KAIA

9th CBRN Team ISAF

(June 2010 – January 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Karel Dvonč
Personnel: 11

10th CBRN Team ISAF

(January–June 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Miroslav Brázda
Personnel: 14

11th CBRN Team ISAF

(June–December 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Jaroslav Bartoš
Personnel: 14

12th CBRN Team ISAF

(December 2011 – June 2012)

Commanding officer: MAJ Petr Zdráhala
Personnel: 14

13th CBRN Team ISAF

(June–December 2012)

Commanding officer: CAPT Věra Bielská
Personnel: 14

14th CBRN Team ISAF

(December 2012 – June 2013)

Commanding officer: MAJ Jaroslav Dohnánek
Personnel: 14

15th CBRN Team ISAF (June–December 2013)

Commanding officer: CAPT Hanuš Ort
Personnel: 14

OMLT – WARDAK

Mission: Train, mentor and assist on planning, command and control of a battalion equivalent ANA infantry unit (kandak)
Bases: COP Carwile, COP Soltan Kheyl

**1st OMLT ISAF**

(September 2010 – March 2011)

Commanding officer : LTC Ladislav Švejda
Personnel: 54

2nd OMLT ISAF (April–September 2011)

Commanding officer : LTC Michal Kucharski
Personnel: 54

3rd OMLT ISAF (October 2011 – March 2012)

Commanding officer : LTC Zdeněk Mikula
Personnel: 54

4th OMLT ISAF (April–October 2012)

Commanding officer : LTC Martin Botík
Personnel: 54

5th OMLT ISAF (November 2012 – April 2013)

Commanding officer : MAJ Igor Jašek
Personnel: 54

MILITARY ADVISORY TEAM – WARDAK

Mission: mentor assigned Afghan National Army kandak
Base: Soltan Kheyl

1st MAT ISAF Wardak (March–October 2013)

Commanding officer : LTC Jan Zezula
Personnel: 59

MILITARY ADVISORY TEAM – LOGAR

Mission: mentor assigned Afghan National Army kandak
Base: Camp Shank

1st MAT ISAF Logar (March–October 2013)

Commanding officer : MAJ Přemysl Tuček
Personnel: 64

FIELD SURGICAL TEAM – KABUL

Mission: provide specialist medical care as a part of French medical facility
Base: KAIA

1st FST ISAF (February–May 2011)

Commanding officer : LTC Martin Oberreiter
Personnel: 10

2nd FST ISAF (May–September 2011)

Commanding officer : LTC Josef Roubal
Personnel: 10

**3rd FST ISAF**

(September 2011 – January 2012)

Commanding officer : LTC Michal Plodr
Personnel: 11

4th FST ISAF (January–June 2012)

Commanding officer : MAJ Tomáš Dušek
Personnel: 11

5th FST ISAF (June–September 2012)

Commanding officer : MAJ Radek Pohnán
Personnel: 11

6th FST ISAF

(September 2012 – January 2013)

Commanding officer : LTC Ivo Žvák
Personnel: 11

7th FST ISAF (January–May 2013)

Commanding officer : MAJ Ivan Stříbrský
Personnel: 11

8th FST ISAF (June–September 2013)

Commanding officer : MAJ Ivo Kašpárek
Personnel: 12

9th FST ISAF

(September 2013 – January 2014)

Commanding officer : COL Pavel Kupka
Personnel: 12

10th FST ISAF

(January–May 2014)

Commanding officer : LTC Josef Roubal
Personnel: 13

11th FST ISAF

(June–September 2014)

Commanding officer : LTC Martin Oberreiter
Personnel: 13

12th FST ISAF / RS

(September 2014 – January 2015)

Commanding officer : MAJ Radek Pohnán
Personnel: 13

FORCE PROTECTION COMPANY – BAGRAM

Mission: provide security to Bagram Airfield
Base: Bagram Airfield

1st FP Coy ISAF (October 2013 – April 2014)

Commanding officer : CPT Libor Tesař
Personnel: 150

2nd FP Coy ISAF (April–November 2014)

Commanding officer : CPT Jiří Pazděra
Personnel: 150

3rd FP Coy ISAF

(November 2014 – April 2015)

Commanding officer : CPT Pert Liška
Personnel: 150

MP TRAINING TEAM – WARDAK

Mission: training the ANP

Base: outpost at Durani community

1st MP Trng Team ISAF

(March–September 2011)

Commanding officer : CAPT Martin Čajan
Personnel: 12

2nd MP Trng Team ISAF

(September 2011 – March 2012)

Commanding officer : CAPT Zdeněk Koreczki
Personnel: 12

3rd MP Trng Team ISAF

(March–September 2012)

Commanding officer : MAJ Radek Ocelka
Personnel: 12

4th MP Trng Team ISAF

(September 2012 – March 2013)

Commanding officer : MAJ Libor Daněk
Personnel: 12

SPECIAL FORCES TASK FORCE – NANGARHAR

Mission: perform operational assignments tasked by Commander ISAF SOF
Base: Camp Hombre (Jelalabad)





1st SOF TF ISAF
(June 2011 – January 2012)
Commanding officer: COL Karel Řehka
Personnel: 100

2nd SOF TF ISAF (January–June 2012)
Commanding officer: COL Pavel Kolář
Personnel: 100

SPECIAL FORCES UNIT – KABUL
Mission: advise and mentor ANSF
Base: KAIA

1st SOF ISAF (January–June 2014)
Personnel: 19

2nd SOF ISAF (July–December 2014)
Personnel: 23

Iraqi Freedom – Iraq

7TH FIELD HOSPITAL, HUMANITARIAN DETACHMENT, MP TEAM

Mission: provide humanitarian aid, particularly be the means of transportation and distribution of water and collecting and disposal of unexploded ordnance; medical care for the local population to mitigate the consequence of the post-war condition; provide specialist medical care to Czech Armed Forces personnel and other states' armed forces' servicemembers operating in the territory of Iraq; MP – escort, security and guarding duties; provide police security to all Czech deployments
Base: Basra

(April–October 2003)
Commanding officer: COL Mojmir Mrva
Personnel: do 320

(October–December 2003)
Commanding officer: COL Přemysl Škácha
Chief of hospital: COL Vojtěch Humlíček
Personnel: 280

EU OPERATION IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

Mission: staff tours at the operation HQ
Base: Concordia Skopje

(April–December 2003)
Team lead: MAJ Petr Sýkora
Personnel: 2

IZ SFOR / MNF-I – Iraq

MP CONTINGENT – BASRAH
Mission: provide escort, security and guard duties; police security to the Multinational Division South-East (MND-SE); training Iraqi police at the Az Zubayr Police Academy;

training instructors at Iraqi police stations and training Iraqi traffic police
Base: Shaibah, Az Zubayr

MNSTC-I – BAGHDAD

Mission: training selected groups of commanders (strategic and operational command echelon officers); assistance on development of the Military Academy and the Training, Education and Doctrine Centre; assistance on developing and building security structures in Iraq

(December 2003 – March 2004)
CO 1st MP Contingent: LTC Jiří Neubauer
Personnel: 92

(March–June 2004)
CO 2nd MP Contingent: LTC Milan Diviak
Personnel: 92

Sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq was restored at 28 June 2004, and the Iraqi Zone Stabilisation Force (IZ SFOR) was renamed Multinational Forces Iraq (MNF-I) at 19 July 2004.

(June–September 2004)
CO 3rd MP Contingent: LTC Luboš Bahník
Personnel: 92



(September–December 2004)
CO 4th MP Contingent: LTC Miroslav Murček
Personnel: 92

(December 2004 – March 2005)
CO 5th MP Contingent: LTC Jiří Neubauer
Personnel: 100

(March–June 2005)
CO 6th MP Contingent: LTC Milan Diviak
Personnel: 100

(June–September 2005)
CO 7th MP Contingent: LTC Pavel Chovančík
Personnel: 100

(September–December 2005)
CO 8th MP Contingent: LTC Roman Gottfried
Personnel: 100

(December 2005 – March 2006)
CO 9th MP Contingent: LTC Miroslav Murček
Personnel: 100

(March–June 2006)
CO 10th MP Contingent: LTC Jiří Neubauer
Personnel: 100

(June–September 2006)
CO 11th MP Contingent: LTC Milan Diviak
Personnel: 95

(September 2006 – January 2007)
CO 12th MP Contingent: LTC Ladislav Tvrđý
Personnel: 97

MNF-I CONTINGENT – BASRAH

Mission: security of the Delta and Ritz main entry gates and security of the COB internal premises; monitoring and mentoring Iraqi Police stations
Base: Basra – COB (Contingency Operating Base)

1st CZE Contingent MNF-I
(January–April 2007)
Commanding officer: MAJ Jan Marša
Personnel: 99

2nd CZE Contingent MNF-I
(April–August 2007)
Commanding officer: MAJ Marcel Křenek
Personnel: 100

3rd CZE Contingent MNF-I
(August–December 2007)
Commanding officer: LTC Pavel Rous
Personnel: 99

4th CZE Contingent MNF-I
(December 2007 – June 2008)
Commanding officer: MAJ Jiří Hrazdil
Personnel: 99

5th CZE Contingent MNF-I
(June 2008 – December 2008)
Commanding officer: MAJ František Grmela
Personnel: 17

6th CZE Contingent MNF-I
(December 2008 – February 2009)
Commanding officer: COL Zbyněk Janečka
Personnel: 4

Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan

SPECIAL FORCES GROUP
Mission: special reconnaissance

6th Special Group (March–September 2004)
Base: Camp Mauer (Bagram airport)
Commanding officer: COL Ondřej Páleník
Personnel: 111

6th Special Group (May–October 2006)
Base: Camp Prostějov (Kandahar airfield)
Commanding officer: COL Ondřej Páleník
Personnel: 120



601st Special Forces Group
(August 2008 – January 2009)
– 1st deployment
Base: Camp Anaconda (Kandahar)
Commanding officer: COL Milan Kovanda
Personnel: 99

601st Special Forces Group
(January–August 2009) – 2nd deployment
Commanding officer: COL Roman Kopriva
Personnel: 96

601st Special Forces Group
(August–December 2009) – 3rd deployment
Commanding officer: COL Josef Kopecký
Personnel: 99

Operation Althea (Eufor) – Bosnia And Herzegovina

GUARD PLATOON & HELI UNIT – TUZLA

Mission: security and guarding the MNTF (N) command and camp; aerial reconnaissance and air transport of personnel and materiel
Base: Eagle Base (Tuzla)



1st CZE Contingent EUFOR
(December 2004 – July 2005)
Commanding officer: LTC Radim Řehulka
Platoon leader: CAPT Miroslav Folvarský
Personnel: 85

2nd CZE contingent EUFOR
(July–December 2005)
Commanding officer: LTC Pavel Hurt
Platoon leader: CAPT Karel Viček
Personnel: 90

3rd CZE contingent EUFOR
(December 2005 – June 2006)
Commanding officer: LTC Pavel Jelínek



Platoon leader: 1LT Michal Vorschneider
Personnel: 65

4th CZE contingent EUFOR (June–December 2006)

Commanding officer: LTC Vojtěch Prýgl
Platoon leader: 1LT Jiří Novotný
Personnel: 65

5th CZE contingent EUFOR (December 2006 – July 2007)

Commanding officer: MAJ Oto Klos
Platoon leader: 1LT Lukáš Novák
Personnel: 52

6th CZE contingent EUFOR (July–December 2007)

Commanding officer: MAJ Josef Přerovský
Personnel: 4

7th CZE contingent EUFOR (December 2007 – June 2008)

Commanding officer: LTC Petr Voborný
Personnel: 4

REPRESENTATION AT HEADQUARTERS EUFOR – SARAJEVO

Mission: staff tours at Headquarters EUFOR
Base: Butmir (Sarajevo)

1st CZE Team EUFOR (June–December 2010)

Commanding officer: MAJ Jiří Hanke
Personnel: 2

2nd CZE Team EUFOR (December 2010 – June 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Jiří Kubík
Personnel: 2

3rd CZE Team EUFOR (June–December 2011)

Commanding officer: MAJ Milan Holusek
Personnel: 2

4th CZE Team EUFOR (December 2011 – June 2012)

Commanding officer: MAJ Eduard Gregor
Personnel: 2

5th CZE Team EUFOR (June–December 2012)

Commanding officer: LTC Luděk Krč
Personnel: 2

6th CZE Team EUFOR (December 2012 – June 2013)

Commanding officer: LTC Bohuslav Pernica
Personnel: 2

7th CZE Team EUFOR (June–December 2013)

Commanding officer: LTC Roman Vildomec
Personnel: 2

8th CZE Team EUFOR (December 2013 – June 2014)

Commanding officer: LTC Petr Filouš
Personnel: 2

9th CZE Team EUFOR (June–December 2014)

Commanding officer: LTC Lenka Fornůsková
Personnel: 2

EUFOR Chad/RCA

REPRESENTATION AT THE OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (EU OHQ) – FRANCE

Mission: activities in the OHQ
operations team
Base: Mont Valérien

(November 2007 – August 2008)

Operations team officer: LTC Jaroslav Průcha

(August 2008 – March 2009)

Operations team officer: MAJ Josef Melichar

REPRESENTATION AT THE FORCE HEADQUARTERS (EU FHQ) – TCHAD

Mission: logistic support
Base: Ndjamena

(March 2008 – March 2009)

Logistic group officer: MAJ Leon Šoc



Operational Headquarters Eu Bg (OHQ Eu Bg) – Germany

LIAISON TEAM AT OHQ EU BG

Mission: development of planning documentation; coordination of possible deployment of the Czech-Slovak EU Battle Group (CZE/SVK EU BG)

Base: Ulm

(April–August 2009)

Commanding officer: COL Miroslav Hlaváč
Personnel: 5

(September–December 2009)

Commanding officer: LTC Libor Grmela
Personnel: 3

BALTIC AIR POLICING – LITHUANIA

Mission: policing the airspace of the Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in the framework of NATINADS

Base: Shiauliai, Lithuania

(May–August 2009)

Commanding officer:
MAJ Jaroslav Míka
Personnel: 117

(September–December 2012)

Commanding officer:
COL Petr Lančí
Personnel: 64



Multinational Force and Observers (MFO)

REPRESENTATION AT MFO COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN EGYPT

Mission: ACR members served staff tours at HQ
MFO

Base: El Gorah

1st Team MFO

(November 2009 – May 2010)
Commanding officer: MAJ Oto
Klos
Personnel: 3

2nd Team MFO (May 2010 – July 2011)

Commanding officer: LTC Ladislav Sekan
Personnel: 3

3rd Team MFO (July 2011 – July 2012)

Commanding officer: LTC Josef Lejsek
Personnel: 3

4th Team MFO (July 2012 – July 2013)

Commanding officer: LTC Libor Grmela
Personnel: 3



5th Team MFO (July 2013 – August 2014)

Commanding officer: LTC Zoltán Zöld
Personnel: 3

6th Team MFO

(August 2014 – September 2015)
Commanding officer: LTC Marek Pažúr
Personnel: 3

1st CASA MFO Air unit

(November 2013 – May 2014)
Commanding officer: LTC Milan Laniak
Personnel: 11

2nd CASA MFO Air unit (May–November 2014)

Commanding officer: LTC Radim Ulrich
Personnel: 11

3rd CASA MFO Air unit

(November 2014 – May 2015)
Commanding officer: MAJ Miloš Domin
Personnel: 12

EU NAVFOR Atalanta

REPRESENTATION AT OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS – THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mission: ACR servicemembers served staff tours at the operational headquarters commanding the counter-piracy operation at the Horn of Africa
Base: Northwood



1st CZE Team Atalanta (January–July 2010)

Commanding officer: LTC Jozef Podoba
Personnel: 3

2nd CZE Team Atalanta (July 2010 – January 2011)

Commanding officer: MAJ Vladimír Rébl
Personnel: 3

3rd CZE Team Atalanta (January–July 2011)

Commanding officer: MAJ Zdeněk Fuka
Personnel: 3

4th CZE Team Atalanta (July 2011 – January 2012)

Commanding officer: CAPT Jaroslav Černý
Personnel: 3

5th CZE Team Atalanta (January–July 2012)

Commanding officer: MAJ Václav Řidkošil
Personnel: 3

6th CZE Team Atalanta (July 2012 – January 2013)

Commanding officer: MAJ Petr Manda
Personnel: 3

7th CZE Team Atalanta (January–July 2013)

Commanding officer: MAJ Václav Malát
Personnel: 3

8th CZE Team Atalanta (July 2013 – January 2014)

Commanding officer: MAJ Ivo Fiedler
Personnel: 3

9th CZE Team Atalanta (January–July 2014)

Commanding officer: MAJ Martin Tesař
Personnel: 3

10th CZE Team Atalanta (July 2014 – January 2015)

Commanding officer: CPT Pavel Jáger
Personnel: 3

EU TM – Mali

Mission: force protection of EU TM Headquarters, convoy escort, training Malian armed forces
Base: Bamako, Koulikoro



1st TF EU TM Mali (March–September 2013)

Commanding officer: 1LT Marek Štěpánek
Personnel: 34

2nd TF EU TM Mali (September 2013 – March 2014)

Commanding officer: LT Martin Sekera
Personnel: 38

3rd TF EU TM Mali (March–September 2014)

Commanding officer: CPT Martin Náplava
Personnel: 38

4th TF EU TM Mali (September 2014 – March 2015)

Commanding officer: CPT Michal Mamkin
Personnel: 38

Active Fence – Turkey

Mission: provide connectivity in support of a Dutch Patriot SAM unit
Base: Incirlik

1st DCM Team (January–May 2013)

Commanding officer: LT Antonín Fik
Personnel: 4

2nd DCM Team (September 2014 – January 2015)

Commanding officer: 1LT Michaela Čuříková
Personnel: 7

Asicippn – Iceland

Mission: provide air policing coverage to the Republic of Iceland
Base: Keflavik



1st TF ASICIPPN (October–December 2014)

Commanding officer: COL Martin Nezbeda
Personnel: 66



Czech Armed Forces' activities in UN observer missions

UNGCI (United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq) – Iraq

The mission was established based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and the Government of Iraq on providing security to humanitarian workers and creating the feeling of safety and security for Kurds and Shiites. It was a specific humanitarian mission. Our participation started in 1991 (Czechoslovak Armed Forces) and ended in April 2003.

Total participation of Czechoslovak and Czech Armed Forces: 307 service personnel.

UNSCOM (United Nations Special Commission) – Iraq

The mission involved inspection activities to search and dispose weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the Czech Armed Forces personnel participated from 1991 through 1993. The



mission worked in the form of inspection teams, whose composition changed as needed, and their tours varied as well.

Total participation of Czechoslovak and Czech Armed Forces: 11 NBC specialists.

UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force) – Yugoslavia

A mission first mandated to cover the area of ethnic conflicts, and later expanded with the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A military contingent and an observer team deployed in the area at the turn of March and April 1992. Czech military observers participated till January 1996. The mission progressively divided into several offsprings: UNCRO (1995), UNPREDEP (1995), UNMOP (1996) and UNTAES (1996).

Total participation of Czechoslovak and Czech Armed Forces: 119 service personnel.



UNOMOZ (United Nations Operation in Mozambique) – Mozambique

The mission was established to provide assistance on preparing elections in Mozambique and supervising them based on an agreement that ended civic war in the country that had lasted 14 years. The first team of 20 military observers were sent in May 1993. The effort ended in January 1995.

Total ACR participation: 39 service personnel.

UNOMIL (United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia) – Liberia

The mission was established in cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in September 1993 with goal to provide political stability in Liberia. A team of 15 Czech military observers were sent into the country in December 1993. As a part of general reduction of the military component, the number of Czech service personnel was reduced to 5. The effort ended in August 1997.

Total ACR participation: 34 service personnel.

UNOMIG (United Nations Observers Mission in Georgia) – Georgia

UN mission established to supervise the truce between Georgia and Abkhazia. The first team of 5 milobs arrived the area in October 1994. The effort was terminated in 2009.

Total ACR participation: 73 service personnel.

UNCRO (United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia) – Croatia

The UN mission in the territory of Croatia, one of the successors of UNPROFOR, was taking place from March 1995 till January 1996. Its area of responsibility was a Serbian-controlled territory of the Republic of Croatia. The effort was completed in January 1996.

Total ACR participation: 6 service personnel.

UNPREDEP (United Nations Preventive Deployment Force) – Macedonia / Fyrom

The UN mission in the territory of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It was a so-called 2nd generation missions following the division of UNPROFOR, established to provide preventive diplomacy. The mission was active in borderlands of the country from 1995 till 1999.

Total ACR participation: 3 service personnel.

UNTAES (United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia) – Croatia

One of the successors of UNPROFOR, the mission in the territory of Eastern Slavonia in Croatia took place from January 1996 till March 1998. A Czech field hospital started to operate in support of the mission in March 1996 with

a specialist staff of 40 personnel (see ACR Foreign Deployments and Missions).

Total ACR participation: 6 service personnel.

UNMOP (United Nations Mission of Observers In Prevlaka) – Croatia

The UN observer mission mandated to monitor the situation on the border between Croatian territory and Montenegro. One of the successors to UNPROFOR, that mission was established in 1996. In 1996, it was augmented with several new national representations, including the Czech Republic. ACR participation terminated in December 2002.

Total ACR participation: 7 service personnel.

UNMOT (United Nations Mission of Observers In Tajikistan) – Tajikistan

That was an observer mission with the primary objective to supervise the observance of truce on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The mission was established in 1994. In June 1998, it was reinforced with some new national representations, including the Czech one. The effort was terminated in May 2000.

Total ACR participation: 6 service personnel.

UNMIK (United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo) – Kosovo

UNMIK has not been an observer mission; it rather provides basic civil administration functions and support autonomous Kosovo. It also supports an in-country humanitarian aid program, where it operates by the means of a network of liaison centres. It was established based on UNSC Resolution 1244 in June 1999 and has been active to date.

Total ACR participation: 16 service personnel.

UNAMSIL (United Nations Mission to Sierra Leone) – Sierra Leone

The UN observer mission was established to supervise truce between insurgent groups and governmental forces in Sierra Leone. A team of 5 military observers deployed there in October 1999. The effort continued through 2005.

Total ACR participation: 27 service personnel.

MONUSCO (Mission de l'organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo; United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo) – Democratic republic of Congo

MONUSCO is one of the largest UN missions supervising truce between local insurgents and governmental forces. A team of 4 Czech military observers deployed in the area for the first time in May 2000. The mission started under the name of MONUC (Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en République Démocratique du Congo) and was renamed in 2011, is still active.

Total ACR participation: 45 service personnel.

UNMEE (United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea) – Ethiopia and Eritrea

The UN observer mission was established to develop confidence between Ethiopia and Eritrea and for the preparation of the Military Coordination Commission. In addition to that, the mission provides oversight of the withdrawal of military forces of the parties involved in the conflict and monitor observance of truce after the end of the war. A team of 2 military observers were sent into the area in January 2001. The effort was completed in 2008.

Total ACR participation: 16 service personnel.

UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia) – Liberia

That mission was established based on UN Security Council Resolution 1509 of 19 September 2003 with the objective to maintain security and stability in the country, provide conditions for holding presidential and parliamentary elections in 2005, realise security sector reform, renovate infrastructure etc. First Czech military observers were sent for the mission already when it was launched, the last Czech tour was served in 2008.

Total ACR participation: 17 service personnel.

UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan) – Afghanistan

The role of that supporting mission was to coordinate the UN civilian and military efforts in the country, provide advisory assistance to the Government of Afghanistan, support to development of Afghan National Security Forces, issues of development of society and democracy, realisation of gender related activities and

coordination of humanitarian aid. Czech soldiers joined the effort, which still lasts, in 2008.

Total ACR participation: 8 service personnel.

UNSMIS (UNITED NATIONS SUPERVISION MISSION IN SYRIA) – SYRIA

Mandated to supervise ceasefire and provide support to the fulfilment of the Peace Plan in Syria, the mission was commenced in 2012.

Total ACR participation: 3 service personnel.

MINUSCA (Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République centrafricaine; United

Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Central African Republic) Central African Republic

The mission started in 2014. Its role is to provide security to the population, support the transition to the rule of law, disarmament, demobilisation reintegration and return of refugees.

Total ACR participation: 3 service personnel.



Czech Armed Forces' activities in OSCE observer missions

OSCE – Georgia

One or two Czech Armed Forces' military monitors-supervisors performed duties in the territory of Georgia from 1994. The mission controlled from the CPC/OSCE centre in Vienna had a similar assignment as the UNOMIG observer mission established to supervise truce between Georgia and Abkhazia. The mission ended in 2005.

Total ACR participation: 14 service personnel.

OSCE – Moldova

The mission was also controlled from the CPC/OCSE in Vienna. It was tasked to monitor the situation in the Dniester area in the territory of Moldova. The Czech participation ended in September 1997, and the whole mission was closed down in December later that year.

Total ACR participation: 3 service personnel.

OSCE – Nagorno Karabakh

The Czech Armed Forces personnel filled the post of "field assistant" to the mission head and performed duties continuously from 1995, with responsibilities being very much similar as in the mission in the territory of Georgia. The effort was concluded in October 2001.

Total ACR participation: 5 service personnel.

OSCE – Bosnia and Herzegovina

The mission operated in the form of regional headquarters in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina where it had been active from the beginning of 1996. The ACR filled several posts based on the national contingent rotation key. The effort was terminated in August 2001.

Total ACR participation: 17 service personnel.

OSCE – Croatia

The mission in the territory of Croatia commenced in October 1997, and the Czech participation ended in May 2001. ACR servicemembers were primarily assigned to monitor human rights.

Total ACR participation: 11 service personnel.

OSCE – Chechnya

The Czech participation in the mission began in September 1998 by assigning a Czech soldier to the post of an assistance group member. The individual terminated his assignment in March 2001.

Total ACR participation: 1 servicemember.

OSCE – Albania

From January 1999 till February 2001, there was always one individual assigned to the post of monitor-supervisor.

Total ACR participation: 3 service personnel.

KVM (Kosovo Verification Mission) – Kosovo

An OSCE led mission designed to supervise the situation in Kosovo as tensions escalated in spring 1999. The mission failed as the situation came to head with the "Kosovo crisis" and the arrival of KFOR forces. Eight Czech Armed

Forces personnel were progressively sent into the area; 7 were sent back in March 1999, and one individual continued tour as a liaison officer in the OSCE mission in Albania.

Total ACR participation: 8 service personnel.

OSCE – Kosovo

After the termination of the Kosovo Verification Mission, one Czech Armed Forces soldier served there from March 1999 till February 2000. Another servicemember transferred to Kosovo from the OSCE mission in Albania. The effort ended in September 2001.

Total ACR participation: 2 service personnel.

Czech Armed Force's activities in missions of other international organisations

NNSC – Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission – Korean Peninsula

The United Nations established the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC)

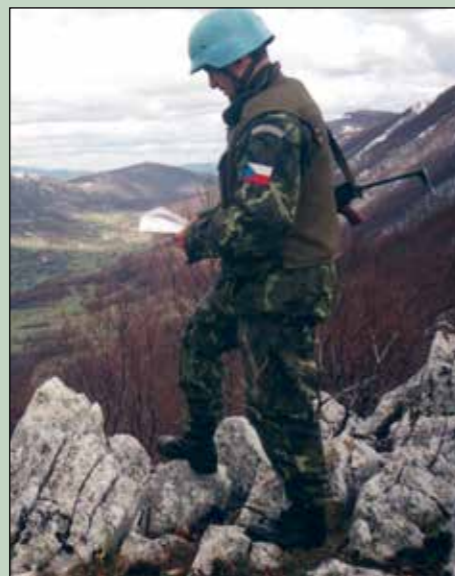
already in 1954 as a vehicle to supervise armistice following the Korean crisis. The responsibility for coordinating the Czech participation was assigned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Czech Armed Forces participated with 6 persons. Total participation counts in dozens of persons, but the Foreign Relations Directorate of the General Staff Czechoslovak People's Army did not keep any records. The Czech participation was terminated at 10 April 1993.

Total participation of the Czechoslovak People's, Czechoslovak and Czech Armed Forces was not documented.

MAPEXT-WEU – Albania

A Czech medical team operated as a part of that mission in Albania from August 1998. The mission was led by the West European Union. The Czech participation was covered using national funds and ended on 30 June 2001.

Total ACR participation: 8 service personnel.



Specialists from Lipník nad Bečvou provided connectivity with a NATO operation headquarters

NATO Operation Active Fence

The Czech Republic recently participated in an operation focused on reinforcing the NATO Integrated Air and Defence Missile System in southern Turkey using the Patriot systems.



Our mission was to provide and maintain secure and non-secure voice and data communication into NATO network for a Dutch Patriot air defence missile unit stationed at U.S. Air Force Base Incirlik in Adana, Turkey. From 26th January, the Dutch ADM missileers were relieved by Spanish forces. To support the mission, a team comprising seven personnel of the Deployable Communication Module (DCM) were sent from the Operational-Tactical Command and Control Systems Centre based in Lipník nad Bečvou comprising a team leader, two satcom operators/maintainers, two system administrators and two network technicians. For the commanding officer First Lieutenant Michaela Čuříková, it was her first foreign deployment. "For me personally, it was the first deployment for a foreign operation; engagement in Operation Active Fence primarily meant a huge experience in terms of my specialism. At the same time, it is also an invaluable opportunity to cooperate with service members of other nations' armed forces and NATO command headquarters."

of deployment. Additional NATO forces had their service personnel stationed in the towns of Kahramanmaraş and Gaziantep to provide the same support as the Czechs for German and U.S. Patriot forces.

For the period of deployment, the Czech DCM was transferred under operational command of AC Ramstein; the tactical command authority over all three teams was vested with the commander of the NCISG Coordination Team (NACT). The job for the Czech service personnel was to continuously monitor the deployed communication systems and immediately tackle any failures.

Perfect cooperation

Overall, cooperation was completely seamless, both with the Dutch and with Spanish Patriot unit that took over. The Dutch were very highly appreciated the forth-coming attitude and professionalism of Czech soldiers; the Dutch commanding officer also thanked to the Czech team in his closing remarks during the handover ceremony that passed the operational assignment

Not just Czechs

The Czech Deployable Communication Module was not the only one to operate in the area



to the Spanish. We enjoyed a full logistic as well as specialist support by NATO, represented by the NACT commander in the area of deployment. All DCM personnel received international assessment by the NACT commander with overall evaluation "very good" or "excellent".

Orientation in the environment

Since the DCM is a component of the 3rd NATO Signal Battalion, working in multinational environment is a regular part of day-to-day life. In essence, it is fair to say our personnel perform the same duties as part of providing connectivity for command headquarters on international exercises the unit takes part in twice a year. So, most of the team who served in Turkey already had practical experience prior to the deployment. Some also completed courses in the NATO Communications and Information Systems School in Latina, Italy.

24/7 duty

The Czech military professionals had two-man duty shifts, always twelve hours – since there were six of them, that involved three six-hour duty shifts, that is twelve-hour duty and then twenty-four hour rest. The primary task was to monitor all systems, do the troubleshooting and process user requests. All of that was challenging organisationally, but thanks to a long-standing experience (incl. exercise Steadfast Jazz in Latvia) and predeployment rehearsals, it is was not eventually a problem to perform missions in a professional and seamless manner and provide data, voice and video connection with NATO.



United States appreciated the professionalism displayed by Czech helicopter pilots with the highest accolade

438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron

For the first time in the history of the mission in Afghanistan, the composite training unit stationed at Hamid Karzai International Airport has a commanding officer who is not from the United States. Since February, it has been a Czech, Major Miroslav Šajban. Mentoring pilots, their preparation and the direction their training will develop are in the hands of the experienced military professional from the 22nd Helicopter Airbase in Náměšť nad Oslavou.

The Operation Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) from 231st Helicopter Squadron served in Afghanistan already from April 2008 with the mission to train Mi-24 Hind pilots and ground personnel. Since 2010, the Czech AAT – Air Advisor Team (named Air Mentoring Team - AMT - in 2010–12) has been active at the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA). Deployments serving regular tours comprise two expert groups. Manned by the members of the 24th Transport Airbase Prague-Kbely, group one focuses on training with Mi-17 transport helicopters. The

second one, comprising airmen from the 22nd Helicopter Airbase Náměšť, has the role of providing training on Mi-24/35 gunships.

The primary mission for the AAT is to train Afghan Air Force helicopter pilots. Specific conditions of Afghanistan, encompassing the changing areas of hostilities, rugged terrain and demanding weather conditions, entail major difficulties even for training deployments. Helicopters with multinational Czech-Afghan aircrews perform flights over what is in fact a hostile territory and frequently get under insurgency fire.

In case transport machines request support, the Hinds with Afghan pilot and Czech advisor also start off.

Training in Pardubice

The Flight Training Centre in Pardubice, Czech Republic, provides training services to pilots (particularly those operating helicopters) from all around the world. Training at the FTC Pardubice encompasses multiple domains. The course starts in lecture with academic part and in hangars on aircraft, where theoretical knowledge of students is harmonised and expanded. Academic training covers aerodynamics, air navigation, radio communication and knowledge of hardware. Simulator training comes up when the theoretical part is completed. The lecture rooms house simulators of Russian Mi-2/8/17/171Sh helicopters. For advanced helicopter pilot training, the Mi-171Sh Full Mission Simulator (FMS) is offered in cooperation with the sister company HTP Ostrava CZ at the Leoš Janáček Airport

Ostrava. The simulator comprises a high fidelity Mi-8/17/171Sh cockpit. Virtual reality is magnified with an authentic sound. Pilots learn to fly in diverse climatic, meteo and lighting conditions. The simulator generates a range of emergency or tactical situations for the pilots to practise.

Confidence

The fact that the position of the Commanding Officer was entrusted to service members of the Czech Air Force testifies to a great confidence our partners have in the Czech Armed Forces. The commander post is truly important and it has been previously filled by U.S. pilots only. The possibility to command the 438th Squadron clearly attests to the fact that the job Czech mentors are doing in Afghanistan has been regarded outstanding and the respect we have won with our partners since 2008 resulted in the offer for the Czech Armed Forces to set the direction of training on the Afghan Air Force Mi-24 and Mi-17 helicopters. As well, state-of-the-art facilities in the Czech Republic helped boost

our reputation. Afghan pilots who underwent training at LOM Prague / FTC Pardubice, show excellent knowledge and skills. Cooperation with pilots subsequently flying AAF Mi-17 Hips possesses a high quality and reaches very high standards. A good English proficiency is a great benefit Afghan pilots with training in the Czech Republic and especially in the U.S. possess. Completing pilot training beyond the borders of Afghanistan also represents a considerable motivation for many pilots. After assignment into the structure of the Afghan Air Force, they rank among elite pilots and only receive words of praise.

U.S. command

"The Americans started this mentoring on their own. Additional countries, such as the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary and others progressively joined in. U.S. service personnel are represented on all types of helicopters operated by the Afghan Air Force, besides the Mi-35 type, where only our experts are active after



Hungarian Air Force pilots departed in 2013," Major Miroslav Šajban said. The U.S. command considered acquiring American hardware for some time, with UH-60 Black Hawk in question, but the Mi family of helicopters is more suitable for Afghanistan given maintenance and overall operating costs. The Czech pilots are able to fly them masterfully and pass their skills on, which largely contributed to the fact that the command was given into the hands of Czechs.

Uneasy situation

Afghan National Army has major problems with fluctuation, which is fortunately not the case with Afghan Air Force. The AAF Commander Major General Abdul Wahab Wardak approved: "We really do not have problems with that. There are no soldiers or airmen here intending to leave or not satisfied with their job. I would like to emphasise that we promote a strategy to canvass the youth. We need to imbue our ranks with fresh innovative ideas. But cooperation with senior and experienced individuals is essential too as they provide valuable advice and pass on lessons gathered over many years. We highly appreciate cooperation with Czechs; we are satisfied with the job specialists and systems engineers do. We send our pilots into the training centre in Pardubice, and we are satisfied there too in all aspects." One has to settle with the uneasy situation in Afghanistan. The end of operation ISAF in the last year and progressive redeployment of personnel and hardware places high demands on professionalism and training standards of the standing units. At the beginning of the operation, some 130,000 international forces were deployed; the strength of the present Resolute Support Mission (RSM) is approximately 11,000 service personnel.

Setting the direction

Cooperation in the 438th Squadron is on very high standards. Given the multinational environment in the squadron structure, differing opinions may naturally arise. If no compromise solution can be identified, it is up for the commander to set the direction for personnel training to follow. Consistency, fairness, patience and endurance is the name of the game here. "If you want the Afghan pilots' respect, you have to win their maximum trust. I am confident our teams have done a great job on a sustained basis. We have proven even in such tense situations that we are able to lead top quality training and that is one of the reasons why we enjoy a considerable respect by our Afghan colleagues," adds Major Miroslav Šajban, who currently stresses flight training with Night Vision Goggles (NVG) and live fire practice from Mi-17 Hips. The training is designed to meet the mandatory goals with an ever increasing quality, which naturally expands the range of missions performed.



Prior to their arrival, a number of measures had to be taken and facilities prepared for the British ground personnel, who landed at the Vaclav Havel Airport Prague a day ahead of the Typhoons' arrival, on 11 March 2015. Right after "acclimatising", maintenance facilities had to be checked and all necessary action taken associated with the arrival and subsequent maintenance. British fighters arrived in the formation of three single-seaters and one double-seater aircraft. Before they touched down, a number of flyovers were performed, including a formation

with the Gripens, who provided an honorary escort for their colleagues and guided them to the airbase.

16 years in NATO

Flyover of four Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, multinational exercise Quo Vadis, flyover by JAS-39 Gripen fighters, roar of the L-159 ALCA aircraft engines, parade ceremony in the afternoon in attendance of mayors representing municipalities and communities of the Central



British Eurofighter Typhoon fighters at the 21st Tactical Air Force Base in Čáslav

Exercise Quo Vadis

Czech fighter pilots on JAS-39 Gripen aircraft put their power to a test with apparently higher performing machines of the Royal Air Force from the Coningsby airbase. Bearing the honorary name of "Zvolen", the Čáslav AFB also honoured an important anniversary.

Bohemian region – that was a day the 21st Air Force Base Čáslav organised exactly 16 years after the Czech Republic joined NATO. From the very beginning of its membership, it joined the operations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. "On 12 March 1999, the commander of NATO Air Forces Central Europe General John P. Jumper arrived at the Čáslav Air Force Base, which immediately joined the NATO Integrated Air Defence System on the day of the Czech Republic's accession to the Alliance," commander of the 21st Air Force Base Čáslav Colonel Petr



factsheet

JAS-39 Gripen

- Crew: 1 (2 for JAS-39B/D)
 - Length: 14,1 m
 - Wingspan: 8,4 m
 - Height: 4,5 m
 - Wing area: 30,0 m²
 - Empty weight: 5,700 kg
 - Mission weight: 8,500 kg
 - Maximum take-off weight: 14,000 kg
 - Powerplant: one Volvo Aero RM12 engine with afterburner
 - Thrust: 54 kN
 - Thrust with afterburner: 80,5 kN
- Performance
- Max speed: 2,204 km/h
 - Transfer range: 3,200 km with extra tanks
 - Mission range: 800 km
 - Area load: 336 kg/m²
 - Ceiling: 15,452 m
 - Thrust to weight: 0,97

Hromek said in his opening remarks during the ceremony. "Our airbase participated in Air Policing over the Baltic States and in Iceland. We represented both the Čáslav airbase and the Czech Armed Forces," COL Hromek added.

One versus one dogfight

It was the first time for the Brits to train fighting against JAS-39 Gripen. Pilots concurred it was a valuable lesson for them. "Our machines may have a stronger engine, but the Gripen can contrarily operate at lower speeds and Czech pilots make an excellent use of that capability, so that the outcome of the fight is based on the tactics the pilot selects," RAF Major Paul

Gardiner said. Exercise Quo Vadis organised by the Czech Air Force 211th Squadron only took two days, but there were dozens of dogfights though. "We trained one versus one and two versus one dogfighting. Two versus one fights ended up according to expectations, superiority in number guarantees success, results of one versus one clashes were however not that clear," JAS-39 Gripen pilot First Lieutenant Stanislav Čejka explained. "On Friday, I fought against an experienced Eurofighter pilot and the dogfight ended in tie. I won once and once him, but

factsheet

Eurofighter Typhoon

- Crew: 1
 - Length: 15,96 m
 - Wingspan: 10,95 m
 - Height: 5,28 m
 - Wing area: 51,2 m²
 - Empty weight: 11,150 kg
 - Mission weight: 16,000 kg
 - Maximum take-off weight: 23,500 kg
 - Powerplant: two Eurojet EJ200 engines with afterburner
 - Thrust: 60 kN
 - Thrust with afterburner: 89 kN
- Performance
- Max speed: 2 495 km/h
 - Range: 2 900 km
 - Transfer range: 3 790 km
 - Ceiling: 19 810 m
 - Climbing ability: 315 m/s
 - Area load: 312 kg/m²
 - Thrust to weight: 1,15



several times we got into a phase that did not have a winner," First Lieutenant Čejka adds. So, the strategy of Czech fighters will not need to change; it is important to carry on honing tactical skills.

Hit recorded

Pilots are able to assess the fight almost immediately. The winner is he who manages to get his missile or cannon locked onto the adversary's airplane. It is fair to say that the overall assessment of Czech and British pilots ended up in tie. That points to the fact that Czech airmen are able to show their class in the international arena, which has been proven by our participation in the NATO Tiger Meets or in the Baltic Air Policing mission.

Lion Effort

Two days of aerial fighting and rehearsals preceded major exercise Lion Effort the Czech Republic will host in May later this year. The participants will include countries, whose air forces operate any variants of the JAS-39 Gripen aircraft (teamed under the umbrella of GUG = Gripen Users Group). The first exercise of the kind took place in Hungary in 2009, the second one in Sweden in 2012. The 21st Tactical Air Force Base Čáslav its pilots flying both the Gripen and the L-159 ALCA aircraft participated in both. This time around, the GUG exercise will be hosted by the 21st Tactical Air Force Base Čáslav, Czech Republic. The exercise will take two weeks with the main air effort on working days from May 11-24, 2015. The Kingdom of Sweden and Hungary promised to participate with their air assets; the Kingdom of Thailand will take part without aircraft. The Czech Air Force will contribute not only the Gripens, but also L-159 ALCA aircraft, Mi-171 and Mi-24 helicopters and CASA C-295 transport aircraft. Members of the Gripen Users Group meet regularly two times a year to share their experience and lessons they gained operating the fourth-generation supersonic capability. Exercise Lion Effort 2015 will truly be a large-scale effort: the number of air assets and duration compare to multinational exercise Flying Rhino, Ramstein Rover and Ample Strike.

by Michal Voska

The 4th deployment of the Czech Force Protection Company trained at Vyškov for the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan

Shield for Bagram

The Podivice community close to Vyškov became the venue for predeployment rehearsal of the fourth deployment the Bagram Airfield Force Protection Company, which set off for Afghanistan in April. Along with U.S. servicemembers, they will provide protection to one of the largest coalition bases in country, the Bagram airfield.

Named Shield, the exercise took place under the baton of the Vyškov-based Training Command – Military Academy from March 2-6, 2015, and was designed to prove abilities and skills of service personnel in the domain of reconnaissance, protection and negotiation. To make the predeployment training for a challenging mission most effective, the organisers selected the environment of realworld community. "The Training Command – Military Academy has a long-standing cooperation with the Podivice community and the locals are accustomed to the presence of military forces. Indeed, they enjoy something is actually going on in their village," explained Lieutenant-Colonel Ladislav Zakuťanský, the exercise director.

Although the local citizens did not actively join the training, their very presence was valuable for the soldiers. It represented commonplace day-to-day life the deployment will encounter in Afghanistan. It provides a realistic preparation for patrols and guard activities in the vicinity of Bagram.



Closely watched by instructors

In Podivice, the members of the 4th FPC BAF were up to a tough drill, repetition and improvement of procedures. Everything was followed by instructors who evaluated the action on spot, and corrected possible mistakes immediately.

Soldiers were welcomed by an instructor replicating a tribal leader. He offered some refreshment to soldiers, but cautioned their presence was not welcome in the community. "The task for the trainees was to lead discussion to be fluently translated into English. Throughout the negotiation, it is critical to provide security to the community, secure the environs and check on vehicles passing by," LTC Zakuťanský outlined the reality soldiers will be up to in Afghanistan. Although the community does not even remotely resemble traditional dwellings in Afghanistan, it does represent a realworld environment though. To add fidelity to the scenario, a number of costumes were used: there was also



factsheet

The 4th deployment the Bagram Airfield Force protection Company will be manned primarily by the members of the 42nd Mechanised Battalion home-stationed in Tábor. Their readiness for potential contacts is decisive in performance of assignments as part of the Resolute Support Mission and naturally for protection of their own lives.

a woman in blue burqa with child on her hands, which was actually a plastic doll.

Convoy under fire

The second stage involved preparation for a real attack that took place in the military training area and adjacent forests. The opposing forces prepared explosives that simulated an Improvised Explosive Device eventually hit by the first vehicle on the convoy and subsequent engagement of vehicles at the end using RPGs.



That resulted in heavy injuries of the crew in the first vehicle that was put out of action. "Soldiers had to orient themselves quickly in a difficult situation, push the opposing forces out, eliminate them and provide treatment to casualties. Everything was under cautious supervision by the instructors," LTC Zakuťanský described. A couple of high-fidelity masks were used to add on reality and many appeared frightening or even disgusting at the first sight. They simulated heavy burns and also a severed arm. Such drills are essential for the soldiers, because they can encounter anything in Afghanistan, and a high-quality, consistent and practical preparation can make them ready for all contingencies.

Precision shooting

Besides observation, foot movements and medical courses, the exercise primarily drills shooting practice. Fire at standstill is something done for fun at weekends but is of no use for the military. In case they have to use weapons, soldiers do it in situations threatening life, eliminating the opponent, in stress, while running or crawling. They can take cover behind an APC or other vehicles. During exercise Shield, it was necessary to eliminate the opponent with quick and especially precise fire, but also think how many mags are still available. Mindless shooting action can be seen in movies, not in real combat. The soldiers are equipped with CZ 805 Bren assault rifles with the same calibre their coalition partners have. The reason is clear – the

possibility to replenish ammo from other nations' forces. As their reserve weapon, they have the Glock or Phantom, reliable pistols with high capacity magazines.

Aiding the injured

Quick movement, shooting, perimeter security: those are elements of basic skills. Medical training ranks among the important ones. The training emphasises proper use of tourniquets and casualty treatment. Tourniquets are an essential element of equipment, because according to statistics, bleeding tolls the highest number of fatalities. Stopping of bleeding must be practiced and drilled: soldier may get into a situation when they need stop bleeding on their own and wait until the Medevac arrives for a safe transport into medical facility to get professional treatment. In the training area, a genuine concert took place following the engagement and activation of the improvised explosive device. Words were not needed, everybody knew exactly where to be, what to do and how to help the injured. Besides episodes at day, medical training is also drilled at night. Inserting a catheter with the use of night vision goggles is a demanding thing to do and claims a high professionalism.

No fear

Despite difficult environment and loss of several Czech Armed Forces servicemembers, the soldiers comprising the 4th Force

Protection Company BAF are not afraid of going downrange. It is our job, we are ready and will do our best to meet the mission and protect the base they concur. They will be assisted by the ScanEagle system deployed at Bagram in May. The UAV will be used in support of perimeter security and for the patrols as well. It will become their eye in the sky, as it is able to operate at high altitudes for twenty-four hours plus without refuelling. Equipment may help the military, but the human factor is still the key. Equipment is not able to rely on each other, consolidate the unit, breathe for the others and always be ready to risk one's life for comrades in arms. That is what only well-trained soldiers can do.

Afghanistan at present

Given the progressive drawdown of coalition forces, while out of the original strength of more than a hundred and thirty thousand ISAF personnel there are now only thirteen thousand in Afghanistan, the current situation is difficult. Demands placed on military professional are enormous; one has to count with everything. It used to be the case in the past that the number of incidents decreased in winter – the Taliban took cover in wintertime and only started its activities in the spring. The last winter was the other way round: many attacks and contacts made it clear there was a tough opponent who does not give up and only a good preparation can minimise the risk.

14th Logistic Support Regiment beefs up: it builds the 143rd Supply Battalion home based in Lipník nad Bečvou

LOGGIES: Alpha and Omega of Combat Forces

The command headquarters of the 14th Logistic Support Regiment in Pardubice has currently intensive efforts underway to prepare the formation of the 143rd Supply Battalion. At 1 July 2015, a 54-strong organisational core is scheduled for activation to provide the base and facilities for the new unit in Lipník nad Bečvou. The newly forming battalion is planned to be fully operational at 31 December 2018.

"The battalion commander has been selected and he has the authority over selection of personnel for the organisational core," says Colonel Stanislav Hudeček, the commander of the 14th Logistic Support Regiment based in Pardubice. "Now we have the preparatory phase in full swing, both in terms of documentation and equipment to support the base and facilities in order for the new battalion to begin the manning process from 1 January 2016 on."

To achieve that, the staff of the Headquarters of the 14th Logistics Support Regiment now fully works in support of the 143rd Supply Battalion.

Preparations in full swing

In the initial six months, the organisational core has to take over assigned buildings and facilities in Lipník nad Bečvou, where three units were formerly stationed. Areas and buildings have been abandoned and empty, so the first task is to provide materiel either from other units (surplus, on stock) or acquire housing materiel through procurement. Everything has to be in place for the soldiers to be housed right after they are assigned to the unit so that the

unit could function seamlessly from the very start.

"It is a huge amount of work that we are up to as part of the preparatory phase, before the new battalion's organisational core," COL Hudeček adds. "Acquisition of materiel is a time-consuming effort; we have therefore already launched some of the tenders so that we have the materiel ready when the battalion will be in the process of forming."

143rd Battalion will be a reinforcement

The new 143rd Supply Battalion will essentially mirror the structure of the 141st Supply Battalion and will perform supply and resupply missions in support of units and forces according to the requirements of the Czech Armed Forces or NATO requirements in case of an international conflict.

"There is just a single tank battalion currently in the structure of the Czech Armed Forces, so we did not have the possibility to consolidate unit rotations the way other brigades did," the Regiment Commander explains. "Ideally, in one

year the unit should prepare for NRF or other high readiness task force, perform the mission of that force in the second year and consolidate and regenerate in the third year."

That was however impossible, because the 141st Supply Battalion was more or less permanently in action. The newly forming unit will therefore hugely benefit particularly the 141st Supply Battalion and partially also the 142nd Supply Battalion based in Klatovy, because it will allow consolidation of one while the other battalion will be on standby.

Stage unit – NATO requirement

Given our NATO membership commitments, another role the new battalion will deliver is building the so-called staging station. The Czech Armed Forces has to be able to perform that function from 1 January 2019 on. In case of any conflict, it is necessary to provide logistic support along the whole route of their movement and in the area of deployment for NRF forces that would be assigned for a mission



including outside the Czech Republic. The need to build the new battalion also showed in exercise Strong Campaigner that took place in 2014.

"The timeframe appears very far down the road, but it is essential to begin arrangement of all requisites now, ranging from documentation to equipment," COL Hudeček describes. "It will be challenging primarily in terms of equipment, but also manning, because specialist posts will largely need to be filled by experienced and trained soldiers for the unit to start operating immediately."

The battalion may be manned out of specialists from other units, but it is not viable on a larger scale, because the existing ones would collapse. Required manning levels will not be achieved instantly, it is longterm process. The same applies to the selection of new recruits. There will be many of them but a high percentage often drop out.

A logistician, a specialist

Soldiers with expert specialisations, especially drivers of trucks with semitrailers will be in high demand.

"But that applies to more or less all logistic occupational specialties, such as power generator operators, cooks, maintainers," COL Hudeček points out and goes on to say that the battalion will also comprise a medical unit as a battalion aid station, but the primary role will be transportation of materiel and distribution of supplies to forces.

In order for the battalion to provide all the logistic functions for other units, it must be logistically self-sufficient. Field dining facility with a cook or field restrooms will be a must.

"As to the stage station, logisticians has to provide support facilities to combat forces for the warfighters to refuel their vehicles, but also to take a rest, have meals or sleep," COL Hudeček adds. "To that effect, the unit will have additional tent shelters to provide accommodation."

First line logistics

The timeframe available for building a fully operational battalion is from 1 January 2016 till 31 December 2018. "As I mentioned, I expect considerable problems with the provision of equipment including because it has recently not been replaced and renewed," COL Hudeček points out. "When the soldiers of the new battalion are ready in terms of personnel, I will assigned ten percent of equipment from one of the operational battalions or add equipment from a battalion that will have their equipment replaced after a mission or standby period. So there will be challenges with equipment, but we will manage. That however only applies in case we would not need to assign or deploy both operational battalions at the same time."

The primary reason for the 143rd Battalion to come into being is to provide the full spectrum

factsheet

14th Logistic Support Regiment (14th LogSptRegt) is a component of the Czech Land Forces. Its mission is to prepare, plan, control and organise logistic support to land forces on their build-up and performance of missions outside the Czech Republic.

14th LogSptRegt provides additional fully professional logistic capability to logistically support operations by units up to brigade size (BdeTF – Brigade Task Force) without the need to mobilise resources and reserves.

- 141st Supply Battalion in Pardubice
- 142nd Maintenance Battalion in Klatovy
- 143rd Supply Battalion in Lipník nad Bečvou (in the making)

The 14th Logistic Support Regiment provides:

- Level 2 and Level 3 logistic support;
- Organisation and provision of all types of transportations and transfers of personnel, equipment and materiel;
- Reception, handling, registering, redistribution and issuing of materiel and equipment;
- Repairs of vehicles up to intermediate level;
- Recovery of inoperational vehicles;
- Removal of surplus and damaged materiel;
- Contracting and support activities – performance of requirements in the area of deployment;
- Financial management;
- Maintenance of stocks and units resupplying;
- Personnel support – transportation;
- Weapons and ammunition support, including transportation, storage and maintenance;
- Medical support – support to casualty transport;
- Field postal services support – transport of letters, duty stamps and consignments;
- 24/7 duty for transportation services in support of the Czech Armed Forces, including international transports.

of level 2 and level 3 logistic support. That is why the number of soldiers with logistic military occupational specialties is increased to provide facilities for front line forces anywhere on the route and in area of deployment.

"I believe the formation of the new battalion is the right step ahead," sums up the commander of the 14th Logistic Support Regiment Colonel Stanislav Hudeček. "That was also one of the conclusions of the final assessment of exercise Strong Campaigner 2014. Creating fully operational support facilities for combat forces is absolutely critical for them to be able to operate as needed. Simply put, logistics is alpha and omega of combat operations."

by Jana Deckerová, photos by 1LT Lucie Masaříková



Czech CBRN personnel participated in the largest exercise of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps

Arrcade Fusion 2014

Royal Air Force station St. Mawgan at Newquay in Cornwall became the second home for 2,000 service people in November 2014. They came to the United Kingdom for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) certification command post exercise Arrcade Fusion 2014.

The Czech CBRN defence unit joined the training exercise effort alongside servicemembers of the British, Italian and Canadian division and additional NATO force including naval and air components. The Czechs are assigned in the order of battle of the British command of Chemical, Biologic, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Brigade earmarked for ARRC. The exercise field took place in the country of Cerasia. Developing country Tytan, which has recently been occupied by alienated nation of Kamon, was up to a humanitarian crisis and growing religious and ethnical unrests in the region. NATO forces deployed to help restore the country's stability and sovereignty.

Czech advice on CBRN defence

The Czech-British CBRN Bde Command for ARRC operated in support of HQ ARRC specifically in the domain of defence against weapons of mass destruction. "The HQ mission was to monitor chemical, biological and radiological situation in the area of deployment of the TFOR (Tytan Force), provide command and control of subordinate forces in the field of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence, set up and coordinate force early warning system, assess and recommend measures CBRN force protection measures," said the chief of staff of the Czech-British Bde HQ Lieutenant-Colonel Martin Fokt.

The soldiers tackled situations representing a realistic threat and reducing capabilities of NATO forces on a fictive operation. For the

contingencies involving the use or leakage of radiological, chemical and biological warfare agents and industrial contaminants, they were ready to set specialised teams in support of NATO forces and help minimise the effects of those agents on the health of both service personnel and local inhabitants. "We were a part of the planning process of HQ ARRC for emergency management. Together with naval, special and air forces, we created an advisory and response team to be ready for such situations. One of the episodes involved a discovery of factory manufacturing and storing chemical weapons in possession of extremists. The outcome of our joint activity was developing a set of documents from Mission Analysis to operational order for intervention in the factory. The documents provided an in-depth analysis of the situation at hand and were used as input for the commander's decision-making process before issuing the order and directives. In cooperation with medical and logistic support service, we also prepared preventive measures for the contingency of occurrence of Ebola and other hemorrhagic fevers and their possible impact on the forces deployed in the

operation, should an epidemic break out," LTC Fokt described.

Operators alerted the forces

In the CBRN Bde HQ, an invaluable role was played by the operators of computing and analysis centre, who collected and analysed the data on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) incidents. During the operation, experts from the 314th CBRN Early Warning Centre based at Hostivice, Czech Republic, monitored and analysed information on biologic and chemical weapons, radiological threats and incidents connected with a leak of industrial contaminants. They provided warning for forces and proposed force and assets protection measures to the commander. "We gathered and analysed data on the location of incident, basic physical and chemical properties of hazardous materials, symptoms of contamination, medical risks, first aid and possibilities of decontamination," Lieutenant Jiří Hajda explained. The operators also developed models

factsheet

The Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) is a multinational corps under British command with headquarters stationed in Innsbruck, UK, and is capable of deployment as a formation comprising up to 160,000 service personnel. The force structure will be tailored to demands of individual operations. The core comprises five all-arms (mechanised) divisions, brigades and additional forces representing various services. High readiness of the ARRC HQ and Staff and readiness of assigned forces make ARRC suitable for deployment in the most demanding crisis situations. The ARRC was in command of operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995-96, Kosovo in 1998-99 and Afghanistan in 2006-07 and 2010-11.



predicting possible spread of agents and contaminants using dedicated CBRN Analysis software. "Our outputs were used not only by commander at all echelons, but also to the communities and municipalities as well as fire, police and medical services in our area of responsibility to provide protection of forces and citizens. For example, we managed incidents such as a crash of truck carrying chlorine, stolen industrial radiator, abused precursor for the production of sarin by sabotage group or when an airplane crashed onto an oil processing facility and subsequent fire," LT Hajda added. Members of computing and analysis team collected and evaluated data at the HQ Bde echelon as the so-called CBRN Bde CC (Collection Centre).

Support of additional forces

It was a premiere for specialists from the Operational-Tactical Command and Control Systems Centre homebased at Lipník nad Bečvou to provide communication and information support for the



CBRN Bde on a NATO training exercise. "On the exercise, we proved transportation and deployment of the KIM 10 operational-tactical system that provided us the connectivity for parallel communication using own secure network and superior component network," LTC Fokt described. The unit was travelled for the exercise on a CASA tactical aircraft of the 24th Transport Air Force Base.

factsheet

In 2006, Chiefs of Defence of the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom signed an affiliation of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Brigade Headquarters to the ARRC. The Bde HQ is a permanent Czech-British component under Czech command stationed in Liberec, Czech Republic, HQ members were assigned from the 31st CBRN Regt (former 31st CBRN Bde) and will be augmented with members of staff of the 31st CBRN Regt for deployments. The CBRN Bde HQ achieved initial operational capability at 1 January 2009 and full operational capability at 1 January 2012. The mission of the ARRC CBRN Bde HQ is to prepare for operational deployments as part of ARRC forces, harmonise the ARRC CBRN defence concept, provide command over assigned forces on operation and coordinate CBRN defence forces in individual ARRC divisions. On deployment, the ARRC CBRN Bde HQ will comprise 30 Czech and 15 British service personnel.



Exercise Trident Jaguar

The training exercise in November was the last rehearsal of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in the run-up to the main certification exercise. Its readiness will be confirmed by certification in accordance with the NATO JTF HQ (Joint Task Force Headquarters) concept in the command post exercise Trident Jaguar scheduled to take place in Stavanger, Norway, later in 2015.

November Czech style

Czech CBRN defence specialists expressed their support to the Movember charity project. It was designed to increase awareness of men's health problems, specifically prostate cancer and its prevention. The name combines two words: moustache and November. Symbolically – as many men sympathising with the event all around the world – soldiers did not shave and let their moustache grow till the end of November.

by Captain Vlastimila Cyprisová,
31st Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
Defence Regiment, photos by Vladimír Marek
and PAO HQ ARRC

The 211th Tactical Squadron successfully completed its mission to provide air policing over Iceland for more than seven weeks.

RETURN from the Icelandic Skies

It is morning 4 December 2014 shortly after seven a.m. Czech Air Force ground technical specialists deployed at the Keflavik airport for the ASICIPPN (Airborne Surveillance and Interception to meet Capabilities Iceland's Peacetime Preparedness) mission have a short operative meeting. The flight commander Captain Jan Ďucha gives final instructions to the mechanics and technicians. Yesterday right at midnight, a pair of Quick Reaction Alert pilots terminated the Czech duty of defence coverage of the airspace over Iceland. Now it is essential to finalise preparations for the transfer flight of five supersonic JAS-39 Gripen aircraft to their home station at Čáslav AFB.

One of the technicians mentions the aircraft return to the European Union. The customs are expected to come. It is necessary to have five copies of customs declaration verified for each machine. One will stay at Iceland, others are meant for customs officers in the Czech Republic. "We are bringing the fleet back in a perfect condition, no one can reproach us for anything," Captain Ďucha closes the meeting.

Preflight preparation

Then he drives technicians and mechanics to individual aircraft shelters housing the Gripens. The shelters differ from those we know from Czech airfields already at the first sight. They are not so much embedded in the soil, but that is made up for by the thickness of concrete. Huge

door do not open to the sides but to the inside of the shelter. Hydraulic cylinders however work pretty slowly, which could delay the QRA fighter in case of scramble.

The aircraft crew comprising a technician and a mechanic start the preflight preparation. It is the basic type of aircraft preparation for flight or for combat use. The machines are fully armed and loaded for their journey back home. The standard preflight lasts approximately sixty minutes. The local crews are so experienced, that they complete in a much shorter timeframe, including thanks to the fact that they have been getting ready for transfer flight to their home station over the past two days.

The very preparation encompasses an external review of the aircraft with focus on completeness. The powerplant is checked on thoroughly.

factsheet

Keflavik airbase is located amidst barren land of lava on the Reykjanes peninsula on the southwest coast of Iceland. The airport was built by the U.S. Air Force during World War II. It was put into operation in March 1943. Over time, the U.S. had as many as 47 thousand military personnel on Iceland.

Another chapter in the history of the airbase started after World War II. All military forces had to leave Iceland by 1947. The base came under the home administration. In parallel with the talks on the departure of U.S. military personnel from the island, negotiations were underway to forge an agreement providing for landing of U.S. aircraft at the Keflavik airbase. In 1951, the Government of Iceland signed a defence agreement with U.S. representatives, which included operation of U.S. airbase Keflavik. First fifteen U.S. aircraft arrived the base at that time. The airbase progressively expanded. Besides air forces, it accommodated many radar and monitoring sites. There was a command headquarters for radar ships and aircraft as well as logistic support to strategic operations. The base had a strategic importance particularly during Cold War. Its location between the United States and the territory controlled by the Soviet Union was unique. Its importance however diminished after the end of the Cold War. In mid March 2006, U.S. Ambassador in Iceland announced that the United States had decided to significantly reduce their presence on Iceland. The last American soldier left the Keflavik base in September 2006. NATO then offered to Iceland that it will provide air defence coverage, the way it does for the Baltic States. Besides U.S. pilots, service personnel of other NATO air forces performed that mission. The Czech Air Force joined them in October 2014.



All liquids and gasses have to be replenished. A high attention is paid to the ejection seat and extraction of all safeties.

Taking everything along

"If the technician or mechanic identifies some shortfalls, they contact me as the flight commander. We discuss whether we can redress those on spot. In case not, we would go the maintenance facility to see specification of subsequent procedures in the documentation. If it is out of our local compass, we would tackle it through the specialist engineer. But nothing like that happened. Everything is OK. The local rougher climate has not have an influence on the failure rate of our aircraft. The technology did not let us down. We encountered common defects we also need to deal with back home in the Czech Republic. It is fair to say we improved our maintenance parameter, which stands for the number of flight hours between failures. We got close to seven hours. That is a very good figure," Captain Ďucha explains. "As a matter of standard, we operated at Keflavik in three flights with each comprising a commanding officer and three pairs of technicians and mechanics. We could use almost no equipment from the local base. The Gripens were only stationed here for the second time in history. If we deploy in a foreign country and it is not Sweden, we are used to carry everything along. We also took standard spares. In addition, we have contracted regular ferry flights from the Kbely airfield.

Should a contingency occur, it would be managed that way. We checked the aircraft in a standard mode according to the maintenance plan. Off the more complex ones, we had a failure of radar and the hydraulic system. But we were able to tackle everything in the magnitude of several hours."

Although technicians worked in hardened shelters in Iceland, the temperature inside was as low as the ambient one. The personnel suffered from wind gusts so typical for that region. Dusty environment also caused some difficulties.

The preflight preparation does not end with the arrival of the pilot and aircraft handover. The wheels are still on chocks. A hailstorm has raged over Keflavik for the second day in a row. It is necessary to open the heavy door and take shovels. Otherwise the aircraft would have problems rolling out of the shelter.

A year to prepare

The distance between the Čáslav AFB and Keflavik airport is roughly two thousand and eight hundred kilometres, which what the 211th Squadron pilots had to fly at the beginning of October last year. "Covering such a distance is truly unique in our history. It would not be possible without air-to-air refuelling. That was why we refuelled from a KC-767 tanker provided by the Italian Air Force. The Italians follow the highest professional standards. Their approach to our requirements and needs was outstanding. We may only evaluate mutual cooperation



as excellent. Both on the journey to Iceland and in preparation for departure from this country," says the commanding officer of the Czech task force Colonel Martin Nezbeda. "It was challenging also given the time our pilots had to spend airborne. They were closed in the cockpit for four to five hours. That was naturally associated with preparing the hardware, personnel and pilots themselves."

For the Czech tactical air units, the ASICIPPN deployment was the third operation of the kind. They completed two missions in the Baltic

States. "Yet it poses a challenge again and again. As far the unit is concerned, the 211th Squadron, which comprises the core of the task force in terms of personnel, it is not an easy task either. We have to prepare ourselves for it in due advance. In order to achieve such a deployment, we need at least twelve months for preparation," Colonel Nezbeda underscores. "In addition, we have to devote some time after the end of the deployment. It is difficult particularly because we have both personnel and equipment divided in two very remote locations. We are

nevertheless able to handle such assignment thanks to our experience and high-quality logistics. But I would rather put it into brackets. Indeed, we have just a single unit, i.e. twelve aircraft and a limited number of technicians and especially pilots. It is definitely not easy in these conditions."

Standard piloting techniques

Ten hours before that, First Lieutenant Marian Králík was still on QRA duty. Together with his colleague, he formed the last Czech Air Force QRA pair at the Keflavik airport. There were just three hours to go before midnight 3 December 2014. "Flying in Iceland is specific given the local conditions. The day is shorter here; we fly above the sea and in a foreign unknown environment. There are more frequent changes of weather and a stronger gust wind," 1LT Králík points out. "Same as back in the Czech Republic, we practised standard piloting techniques such as intercepting targets in flight. We also trained supersonic intercepts, which we do in the Czech Republic, but we did that at lower altitudes here. Interesting experience were flights over sea and volcanos. Over Iceland, we also had the opportunity to try supersonic speed, specifically the so-called supersonic intercepts."

Each Gripen serving the QRA duty was armed with two AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles and cannon. All logistic support at the Keflavik airbase worked without problems, including because it is an international airport.

Flight in neoprene

Deployment in Iceland gave pilots opportunities to fly over interesting and beautiful landscape but also over the Atlantic Ocean as far as a hundred and sixty kilometres off the shore. "Flying above sea is not that new to us. We practice it almost every year. Not above the ocean like here, but for instance over the Baltic

States the North Sea. We regularly do training on the ground focused on this type of flying. Pilots practise the sequence necessary for the ejection over water. We are well prepared in that regard," says the Task Force Commanding Officer Colonel Nezbeda.

Other pilots also concur that flying above sea does not make any problems for them, neither with orientation. The feeling that one is above sea may play a role in the fact that in case of drama the rescue could be a little more difficult.

That is why pilots are equipped, in addition to standard anti-G suit increasing their resistance to G force, with a neoprene suit as well. "It does not significantly decrease the comfort. On the other hand, the suit still has some weight, so it reduces the possibility to move in the cockpit. But it did not create any major problems for us. On the other hand, neoprene significantly increases the chances of survival on ejection over sea. At current temperature, the time of survival in icy water would be just several minutes. With the neoprene suit, it grows to several dozen minutes. That increases the chance of rescue for us," 1LT Králík explains. The Icelandic rescue system is also in place providing a rescue team with stand-by helicopter. They take off within fifteen minutes to perform a rescue operation. Every rescuer has a professional training. Our flight personnel had a chance to watch a footage showing ship crew rescue operation using fastrope in a storm with waves as high as twelve metres.

Tactical fighter control

Besides pilots and ground personnel, a team of the 26th Command, Control and Surveillance Regiment also operated at the Keflavik airport. "Our role was to provide direct tactical control of fighters on a mission, no matter whether training or live. It was a premiere for me personally. Members of the 26th C2S Regiment were however already deployed in Lithuania in the past. This mission is nevertheless a bit different. We are not in the role of mentors for the first time, but we are really responsible for control

of tactical assets," describes First-Lieutenant Jan Veselý, the chief of the guidance team. "Our job here is the same as the activity we regularly do back at home in the Czech Republic. We nevertheless had to complete seven-day training in Belgium to get accustomed to a different air traffic control system, which however did not differ from ours much. After a short training, we were fully on board."

At the Keflavik airbase, they first had to request airspace for the flight. There is a mixed civil-military airport and quite a considerable traffic there. It was also necessary to inform the Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) Uedem, Germany. That superior echelon has to approve all the flight missions. The guidance team is sort of an intermediate between that component and our fighter aircraft. The rest already involved routine activities using methods and procedures guiding the operation. "Those were mostly one versus one missions. In that case, we do control primarily on two frequencies. Until approximation and aerial fight," 1LT Veselý adds. "I am confident the mission has done the job. We are leaving with an observation that we are able to operate from any location in any country in the NATO framework. Standards and procedures applicable both to control and coordination are completely identical in the NATO Alliance. That is definitely pleasing to know."

The task force commanding officer also evaluates the mission as successful. "Our task was to provide defence coverage to the airspace over Iceland. We accomplished that. We operated our aircraft throughout that time without failures. We also performed one-hundred percent on the flight plan we had developed. We did not have any problems either with hardware or with personnel," COL Nezbeda says.

On Thursday 4 December at 11:53 local time, five JAS-39 Gripen fighters departed the Keflavik airbase. After three and half hours, they safely arrived Čáslav airfield.

by Vladimír Marek, photos by Vladimír Marek and the 211th Tactical Squadron



Introducing the Rome-based NATO Modelling and Simulation Centre of Excellence (M&S COE)

Virtual Warfare

The NATO Modelling and Simulation Centre of Excellence (M&S COE) was activated in Rome in April 2012. Three NATO nations, specifically Italy, the Czech Republic and the U.S., are directly represented in the COE. As the host nation, Italy covers approximately 50 percent of the COE personnel. The Czech Republic and U.S. assign a commissioned officer each. The Czech representative, Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Hodický, has served a tour in the M&S COE since February 2013.

Modelling and simulation useful

The COE comprises of four parts. The Support Branch tackles day-to-day logistic activities of the COE. The Doctrines, Training and Education Branch is directed by the Czech representative and focuses on NATO standardisation in the M&S domain and support of training using M&S assets, including the NATO Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) for instance. M&S education represents a dedicated part. The distributed simulation branch provides permanent interconnectivity of key simulation systems and command and control systems for experimentation and training support. Experimentation Branch covers application of M&S assets in development of new concepts, operating procedures and experiments in the field of technological and semantic interoperability.

The principal partners of the M&S COE include the Science and Technology Organization (STO), especially the panel focused on modelling and simulation, the Joint Force Training Centre Bydgoszcz, Poland, and Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, Norway. The M&S COE is in contact with those partners almost on day-to-day basis. Out of the total number of roughly 35 projects, two thirds are realised in mutual cooperation.

"The main advantage of modelling an simulation is that it can be put to use in a broad spectrum of military applications, ranging from academic and field training using simulators and trainers. In the acquisition domain, it is possible to set a virtual prototype of new weapons asset and then prove its characteristics. It continues through concept development and proving of standard procedures in a synthetic environment to – what is very current these days – supporting the commander's decision-making process with M&S assets realtime on operational deployment," Lieutenant-Colonel Hodický explains. "Our principal projects in education and training involve modelling and simulation basic orientation course. In addition, we have training course for CAX specialists, who are then usable in support of controlling the NATO Trident type of certification exercises and national CPXs with focus on three principal simulation systems in NATO. Those are the Joint Theatre Level Simulation (JTLS), Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation (JCATS) and Virtual Battlespace 3 (VBS3). As to

the basic orientation course, we have already had Czech Armed Forces personnel complete the training."

The key experiments the M&S COE is involved in include Coalition Warrior Interoperability eXploration, eXperimentation, eXamination, eXercise, abbreviated as CWIX. Since 2014, the M&S COE has been responsible for the whole domain of simulation as part of this experiment.

Future city

"Our primary goal is to provide interoperability between command and control systems and simulation assets. Another important project pursued in cooperation with the ACT focuses on future operation in large urban areas twenty years from now. We have prepared a 3D model representing a big future city for that experiment, in which we will demonstrate how it is essential to modify operating procedures with a view to the development of the population, technologies, infrastructure and new threats," LTC Hodický emphasises. "While we only have roughly twenty-three posts filled out of the total of forty-four, it is not always easy to respond positively to proposals for cooperation on new projects addressed to us either through national channels or through the Allied Command Transformation. One the important objectives we have is to stabilise our strength as soon as possible, particularly through additional NATO nations joining in."

Benefit for the Czech Armed Forces

Since the arrival of the Czech representative, several projects with direct impact on the Czech Armed Forces have been successfully realised. One of those projects consisted in assigning a three-member to the Czech Defence University, where a high-precision 3D laser scanner lent by the M&S COE was used to do several measurements and comparison of data acquisition and processing procedures. "This facility is very unique. For example, it enables a precision replication of real combat assets that are then inserted into the synthetic sim environment," LTC Hodický describes. "Next, we have for instance the project of standardisation in distributed simulation, under which the Czech Armed Forces committed to implement STANAG 4603 – High Level Architecture. One of important parts of the agreement focuses on implementation of a software solution for proving whether the given simulator meets the STANAG or not. The M&S COE has currently efforts to development the SW solution. That generates savings in the Czech defence budget."

by Vladimír Marek, courtesy of LTC Jan Hodický, photo by M&S COE



A Too Courageous Pilot

The meritorious role that Milan Rastislav Štefánik played in the formation of the Czechoslovak Republic is unquestionable. In addition to his indubitable political and diplomatic skills, he was also an outstanding pilot during the Great War.

Štefánik's career of a military aviator began on January 26, 1915; having been transferred to the 1st Air Group in Dijon, he started attending the Military Aviation School in Chartres. He got his military aviator certificate in April and was promoted to Second Lieutenant a month later. He was assigned to the newly formed MF 54 squadron operating on the Western front. "It is downright unbelievable how quickly one gets accustomed to noise and war discomfort. I am aware of the greatness of the moment we are experiencing and I am prepared to fulfill my duty with ardour and dignity," he wrote to his friends in Paris after his first combat sortie.

The Slavic Squadron

Late in the summer of 1915, Milan Rastislav Štefánik asked to be transferred as a pilot to the Serbian front and was granted the permission. In addition to helping the Serbian army, which had found itself in a very difficult situation at that time, his request was motivated by other, one might say nobler, ambitions. He came up with an idea to form a new squadron consisting solely of Slavic flyers. He intended to assume its command. "The squadron must be composed exclusively of young, strong and audacious men. I would like to choose them among Slavs. Please

help me find them. But tell them it is a position of honour. Do we care much about our lives? We must serve a noble cause," he writes in one of his letters to painter Ludvík Strimpl.

He wants to drop leaflets urging Slavic soldiers to go over to the side of the Entente countries. He also intends to launch a similar campaign among Slavic POWs, particularly Czechs and Slovaks.

He gets to the Serbian front via Malta, Piraeus, Thessaloniki and Niš. In his pocket rests a recommendation of the commander of the aviation of the French 10th Army, which contains, inter alia, the following sentences: "Apart from providing valuable scientific knowledge, he also presented magnificent proofs of audacity, sangfroid, and boldness. He presented proofs of the perfect military spirit. The 10th Army is very sorry to part company with Second Lieutenant Štefánik."

Too Much Mistrust

The excellent recommendations notwithstanding and immediately after his arrival to Niš, Štefánik had a firsthand experience indicating that the fulfillment of his plans and intentions would be far from easy. When received by French Ambassador Boppe on September 4, 1915, and intending to seek his help with the recruitment of



Czech and Slovak units in POW camps, he literally felt like under an ice-cold shower. "He asked me with patronizing irony: You are Second Lieutenant, a pilot, aren't you? Of course, I answered. Then, sir, he finally said, return to your unit and mind your own business."

As early as on September 10, Second Lieutenant Štefánik was assigned the MF 99 Squadron under the command of Captain Vitrat. He became a member of the eastern flight stationed in Kovijone nad Raljou and flew reconnaissance missions together with his colleagues.

However, Štefánik's position was not easy even at the new unit. He differed from some of his fellow pilots. Not all of them trusted the new rookie. Some even underestimated his flying capabilities. They did not understand why he took thousands of leaflets in an incomprehensible language in his cockpit. However, it did not take long for his tremendous audacity to win their hearts. "Exceptional bravery was the greatest of his duties. He demonstrated his daredevilry, which everyone admired, on every occasion," wrote Raoul Labry, one of his friends in the squadron.

Retreating

The difficult situation of the Serbian army turned hopeless literally overnight. On the night between October 14 and 15, the Bulgarian army attacked Serbia without any declaration of war. The Serbs, exhausted and battered by tough fighting and heavy casualties, were all of a sudden facing half a million of fresh troops. However, an imminent threat of a cutoff of the vital supply route to Thessaloniki was much worse. To be able to command both flights and also to remain in touch with the headquarters, Captain Vitrat moved his staff to Kragujevac on October 16. The northern flight moved to Niš.

All saints were on the side of the armies of the Central Powers at that time. Bad weather



rendered any reconnaissance impossible. On October 25, the weather cleared and it was possible to fly five reconnaissance sorties. Štefánik too took a place in the cockpit. He penetrated deep into the Bulgarian territory. During one of the missions, he allegedly attacked singlehanded eight enemy bombers. However, the situation was getting worse every day. Even the French air group was forced to retreat under very difficult geographic and weather conditions.

The German, Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian armies smelled blood and their pressure was growing stronger. First artillery shells started falling on Kraljevo early in November, and the Germans took the town on November 5. Ignoring the danger, members of the French aviation group were trying to save the essential materiel. A heavy mobile workshop was saved thanks to its skilled driver, who drove it through muddy and rutted terrain. At that time, large quantities of petrol, spare parts and other materiel were still en route from Kruševac to Kraljevo. However, the operation of the railway line was terminated for good in the evening of November 3. The squadron commander gave an order to burn stocks of petrol and to destroy everything else.

In Kruševac too members of the French aviation base held on until the very last moment, attempting to destroy the materiel they could not evacuate. The last two new airplanes were assigned to Štefánik and Lance Corporal Bastid. Captain Vitrat's report to the French Minister of War provides the following account of the events: "As the route to Kraljevo had already been under threat, I telephoned Lieutenant de Lareinty to tell him to set on foot to Mitrovica with his unit. He did so on November 4, 1915, and arrived to Mitrovica on November 15, having covered close to two hundred kilometres. Second Lieutenant Štefánik left together with Lance Corporal Bastid. He crashed his airplane in Alexandrovac because of a magneto defect and reached Raška on foot. Second Lieutenant Štefánik, who had landed to help him, broke the propeller of his airplane while taking off. He could not get off the ground and had to cover the distance between Alexandrovac and Mitrovica on foot. However, he had destroyed his airplane prior to setting off. He arrived to Mitrovica in a very poor condition requiring his subsequent evacuation by plane to Prizren and thence to Vlorë."

Saying Goodbye to Life

At that time, Štefánik had already been ill. His poor health could not resist the tough conditions. He was marching through the unknown mountainous countryside together with



his fellow student from Prague, Procházka, and Bourdon. He had to use his firearm to fend off bandits trying to rob them. Having covered more than a hundred kilometres and literally on the verge of collapse, he reached Mitrovica on November 12. He recorded his feelings in the following words: "13 (November): Saturday. Terrible night. Stomach bleeding. 14: Exhausted. November 15: I am lying, not able to move. Doc advises a quick operation. Food: two potatoes. Evening: Vitrat announces the defeat of Serbs."

At that time, Štefánik really thought that his last hour had come. As a matter of fact, he shared his thoughts with his friend Raoul Labry. "I do not want any compassion, I do not want to be hanged. I know what awaits me. When they tell me they are getting nearer, my revolver will save me. I have my papers in the right-hand pocket of my jacket. They contain my last thoughts for my friends, for Masaryk, plans, projects, lists of the Czechs who joined the army. If you were going to be taken prisoner during the retreat, please swear to me you will burn them."

By Air to Albania

Information coming from the squadron was hardly encouraging as well.

In the evening of November 15, its commander came with a bad piece of news. The Bulgarians had defeated Serbian units and took hold of Kačanik Pass. The only possible route of retreat to the south, through Simlja, ran only twelve kilometres from enemy positions. This was why the squadron received an order next morning to evacuate as quickly as possible across the entire territory of Kosovo to Prizren, more than 140 kilometres away. The squadron reached the town on November 17. However, Milan Rastislav Štefánik's health condition did not permit him to

evacuate together with the unit and retreat to Prizren on the ground. Bad weather notwithstanding, his colleagues loaded him into an airplane and Lieutenant Paulhan flew him via Prizren to Vlorë in Albania. "The Bulgarians were close and we were thus forced to take off in bad, foggy weather. Before we could climb high enough, we



had to fly for thirty minutes amidst rocky cliffs of Albanian mountains," he made a note later. It was indeed a very risky enterprise. The pilot was flying blind for at least 15 minutes. He allegedly even grazed his landing gear against a rock crest.

Beaten and battered, Milan Rastislav Štefánik could not join his unit in its very tough retreat at anabasis. On November 22, 1915, Lieutenant Paulhan flew him to the Albanian port of Vlorë. From there he was evacuated aboard an Italian destroyer to Brindisi. This was where the next chapter of his life began.



Soldier with soul in the Orient

During the fight for the control over the Těšín (Czyesin) area at the beginning of 1919, the commander-in-chief of Czechoslovak forces in the area Lieutenant-Colonel Josef Šnejdárěk stayed in the flat of his friend V. Mezera in the Orlová community. Members of the Polska organizacja wojskowa (Polish Military Organisation) managed to plant an explosive device under his bed in the bedroom and detonate it. Šnejdárěk however came out unhurt coincidentally, although half of the house was raised to the ground.



Josef Šnejdárěk was born in Napajedla on 2 April 1875. After his mother died, he was reared in the family of his relatives in the town of Jičín. Memories of him preserved from that time speak about his restless nature and passion for the Orient. That was also why ran away from home to Turkey when he was only fifteen.

As a result, he was expelled upon his return from German grammar school. After completing secondary school studies, he nevertheless graduated from the Prague infantry cadet school with best results in 1895. In the Austro-Hungarian Army, he nevertheless also suffered from his inclination to the Orient. He served in garrisons in Budapest and Innsbruck and then volunteered in 1897 to enlist with the Turkish army in the war against Greece.

In service of the Foreign Legion

When he was given a disciplinary punishment in the military after his return to the homeland, he decided that he will not wait for anything and

set off for the North Africa. He joined the French Foreign Legion as a volunteer in 1899. He started nearly from scratch as a soldier. It testifies to his specialist military skills that he both quickly obtained French citizenship and graduated from the Infantry School in Saint-Maixent ranked Lieutenant in 1907. In the following years, he was involved in seventeen military campaigns – in Algeria, Tunisia, western Morocco and Saharan Africa. He suffered several injuries.

During the World War I fights in the French territory, he also proved considerable courage and resolve. When he was assigned as an instructor of the Czechoslovak National Council to the Czechoslovak Legions in November 1917, there was no better choice for the nascent foreign Czechoslovak military than Šnejdárěk: an experienced commander, battle-proven soldier, with Czech as his mother tongue.

He then served as aide-de-camp to the Commander the 21st Czechoslovak Rifle Regiment and a liaison officer for the commander of the newly formed Czechoslovak Army, General Pierre Janin of France. In December 1918, he took over the command of the 22nd Czechoslovak Rifle Regiment in Padua, with which he returned to the homeland at the beginning of 1919.

No success with peace proposals

On the home front, it was essential to secure borders of the newly born state, but also to fight and win the struggle for the Těšín area and Slovakia. In mid-January 1919, Šnejdárěk was appointed the commander-in-chief of Czechoslovak forces in the Těšín area. At that time, there



situation was critical in Slovakia too; only limited forces could therefore be staged on access routes to the Těšín area. Their core was formed by the 21st French Legion Regiment and 2nd Brigade comprising six battalions, two batteries and a cavalry squadron, plus independent battalion of the Olomouc-based 54th Infantry Regiment, independent battalion of the 93rd Infantry Regiment home-stationed in Šumperk, the 17th Mountain Battalion based at Fryšták and two local volunteer battalions. The situation was fortunately not very positive for Poland either. Major portion of Polish forces were tied in the Ukraine fighting for eastern part of Galicia.

Before the beginning of combat operation, Šnejdárěk attempted to achieve a peaceful solution. Same as a note dispatched by the Czechoslovak Government to Warsaw on 21 January 2015, his proposals however did not solicit any response.

On 23 January 1919, the Czechoslovak forces started moving towards Bohumín and Karviná. The 3rd battalion of the Czechoslovak Legions from France moved truly at the speed of light to quickly take control of Bohumín with its railway station. The 1st and 2nd legionnaire battalion marched to Karviná, while supported by a battalion of the 54th Regiment. Next morning, the Poles abandoned the city.

As far as Cracow

On January 25-26, 1919, Polish forces were defeated in minor fighting at Zebrzydowice, Stonawa and Louka and the town of Těšín was occupied next day in the morning without hostilities.

At that point, it was still essential to take control of the strategic railway leading from Bohumín to Žilina. So, Lieutenant-Colonel Šnejdárěk received order from Prague already in the evening on 27 January 1919 to continue onward movement to the west bank of Vistula. Decisive



fightings took place at Skoczów at that time. The very advance of Czechoslovak forces to Vistula commenced in adverse weather conditions on 30 January 1919 in the morning. Major Bláha's group reached their goal by the evening without major problems. The central group with commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel Hanák had a more difficult situation as they faced obstinate Polish resistance at Kisielow, Lonczky and Godziszów. The opponent intended to keep Skoczów with bridgehead on the south bank of the Vistula river. There was a threat for him to come under siege, and so he had to retreat behind the Ilównica river.

Šnejdárěk was full of optimism after those accomplishments. In his report to Prague, he proposed to carry on attacking. He believed that his forces were strong enough to advance as far as Cracow. But he was stopped by the negotiated armistice.

Resolute in Slovakia too

Šnejdárěk behaved in very much the same energetic fashion in Slovakia, where he was appointed the commander of the 2nd Infantry Division in the rank of Colonel on 31 May 1919, after assault by forces of the Hungarian Soviet Republic. In a very short time, he managed to turn the tide for the division retreating under huge enemy pressure and take control of many towns in Slovakia. At the end of 1919, he was assigned to the French Military Mission. Already as a general officer, he was consecutively the commander of the 9th Infantry Division in Trnava, 7th Infantry Division in Olomouc and 11th Infantry Division in Košice. There he was also involved in forming the territorial military command.

In February 1927, he was discharged from the French Army in the rank of Major and enlisted into the Czechoslovak Military Might as a Division General. He performed well in peacetime service too. Almost four years later, he was promoted Army General. In 1932, he became the

commander of the territorial military command in Bratislava and was considered a hot favourite to become the Chief of Main Staff after General Jan Syrový. That post was eventually filled by General Ludvík Krejčí, with whom General Šnejdárěk had different opinions. And so Šnejdárěk retired at the beginning of July 1935 aged sixty.

From Bratislava, where he had lived until the break-up of the Republic and establishment of the Slovak State, he went with his family to exile in France in June 1939. After the fall of France, he moved to the south of the country and then into Casablanca, Morocco. There he lived to see the end of World War II. He died during a surgery on 13 May 1945. In 1996, his remnants were moved into his native town of Napajedla.

