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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: “NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 2017”

Ivan Majchút*

On 26 and 27 October 2017, already for the 8th time, the Security and Defence Department of the Armed Forces Academy of general M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia organised an international scientific conference „*National and International Security*“.

This traditional conference was organised under the auspices of Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic Ing. **Peter Gajdoš** and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic General Ing. **Milan Maxim**. Seven representatives of important university institutions from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania and Poland were guarantors and thirty-seven important experts in the domain of national and international security from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania, Poland and Ukraine constituted the Scientific Committee.

The event took place in the conference room of the beautiful historical mansion hotel „Svätojánsky kaštieľ“ in Liptovský Ján and the conference was opened by Rector of Armed Forces Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš Assoc. Prof. Ing. **Jozef Puttera**, CSc. He welcomed the participants and wished them good luck during the discussions. The head of Security and Defence Department, prof. Ing. **Vojtech Jurčák**, CSc., focused in his opening speech on main objectives of the conference and expressed the hope of success of this conference.

Approximately seventy scholars, experts and specialists from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Ukraine attended this conference. The working languages were English, Slovak, Czech and Russian. Given that the organiser of the conference is a military university institution, it is not surprising that the armed forces (soldiers) were represented, including General Director of Human Resources Section – Ministry of Defence of the

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Slovak Republic COL (GS) Ing. **Radoslav Ivančík**, PhD., and Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Planning - General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic COL. Ing. **Gustáv Markovič**. The course of the conference was divided into four discussion panels.

The first discussion panel, entitled „Theory and Practice of Security“, was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Ing. **Pavel Bučka**, CSc. from Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovakia). In this block there were presented research results of **Viktor Porada, Ladislav Hofreiter, Tibor Farkas, Tomáš Hrozenský, and Petr Kovanda**. This panel concentrated on theoretical and practical issues of security, especially on the concept of security, security challenges in the world, info-communicational dimensions, development in anti-satellite technologies and strategic communication.

The second panel, entitled „National Security“, was presided over by prof. Ing. **Ladislav Hofreiter**, CSc. from Faculty of Security Engineering in Žilina (Slovakia). In this block were presented research results of **Jaroslav Ušiak, András Tóth, Jozef Žigraj, Vladimír Zikmund, and Richard Stojar**. The authors presented their researches about national security aspects in various points of view, especially perspectives of V4, international information security, working with secret information, ideology in Chinese military diplomacy, military strategies and contemporary armed conflicts.

The first day of the conference was concluded by social program, where the participants were discussing security topics or findings from particular security working positions in informal disputes.

The second day continued by third discussion panel entitled „Development Aspects of Armed Forces“, which was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Ing. **Jaroslav Varecha**, PhD. from Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovakia). In this block there were presented research results of **Antonín Novotný, František Gubáš, Erik Görner, Veronika Marenčinová, and Miroslav Školník**. Their presentations were about security issues from military point of view, especially logistic and transport, military health service, reserve resources of armed forces, education of logistic experts and women in UN peacekeeping operations.

Last but not least, the fourth panel, entitled „National Security“, moderated by Ing. **Vladimír Andrassy**, PhD. from Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovakia). In this block were presented research results of **Zoltán Krajnc, János Csengery, István Parada, Josef Oborný, Roman Lami, Stanislav Prečuch, and Peter Toma**. All presentations

were about security aspects all over the world, especially hybrid warfare, web hack, Islamism and sport, education of police officers and legislative changes in security environment.

The conference ended with closing speech of the head of Security and Defence Department prof. Ing. **Vojtech Jurčák**, CSc., who summed up the results of the discussions of both days. He wished participants the success in their future work and expressed the hope for the next year meeting at the conference „*National and International Security 2018*“.

The participant's papers were summarised in reviewed conference proceedings in digital version on compact discs, where 75 papers were published. Proceedings of the conference are also available at: <http://www.aos.sk/struktura/katedry/kbo/index.php?go=8>. The editorial work was completed by Ing. **Vladimír Andrassy**, PhD. Hard work in paper reviewing was done by Assoc. Prof. Ing. **Pavel Bučka**, CSc., Assoc. Prof. Ing. **Jaroslav Varecha**, PhD., and Ing. **Štefan Ganoczy**, PhD.

The main benefit of this conference was the meeting of many security experts at one place, thus creating opportunities to listen to many presentations from various sectors of the security field and from different points of view. An important aspect of the conference was the opportunity to talk about the presented topics personally with the authors. The presentations itself often served as a beginning for a fruitful debate and in many cases for subsequent cooperation.

In all cases, the conference was successful and rewarding and it has high assumptions for successful continuation next year.