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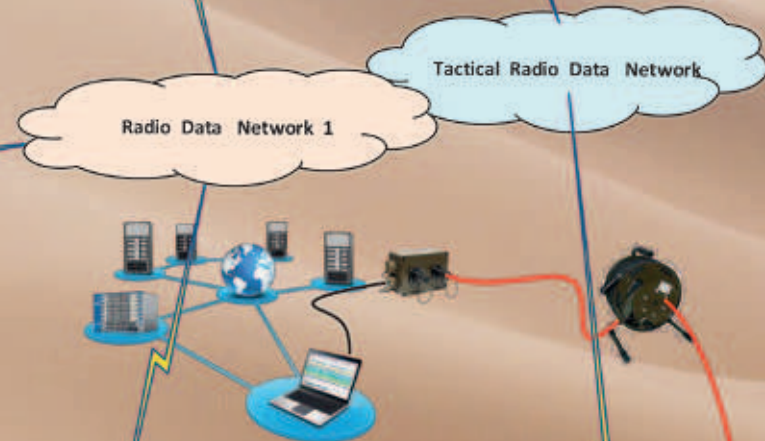
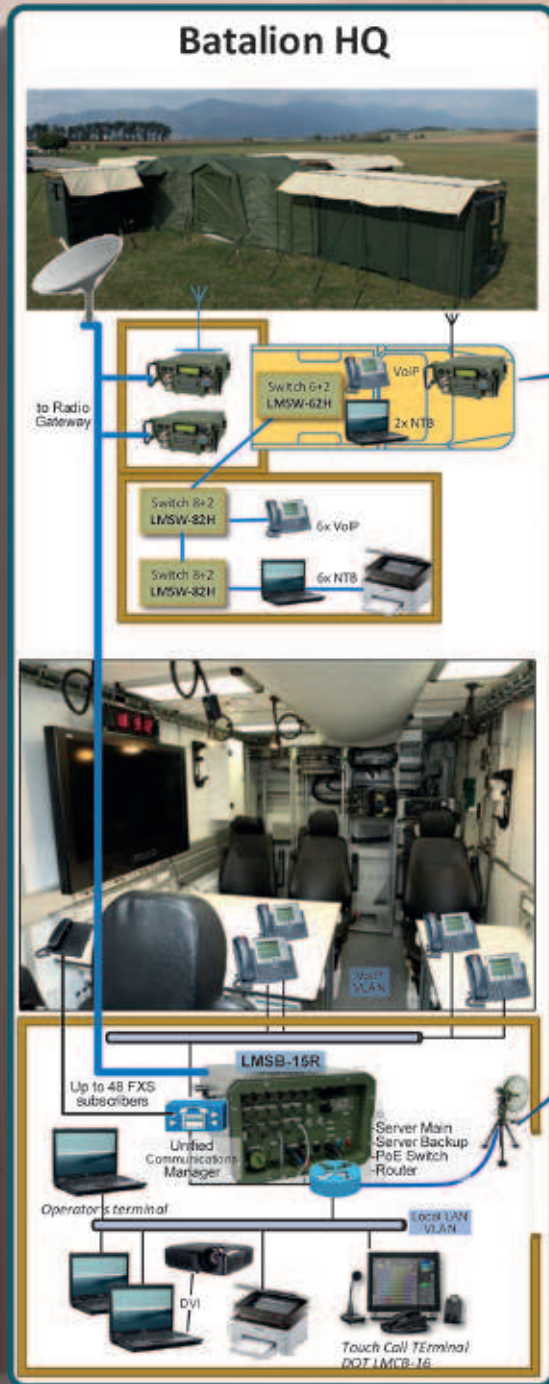
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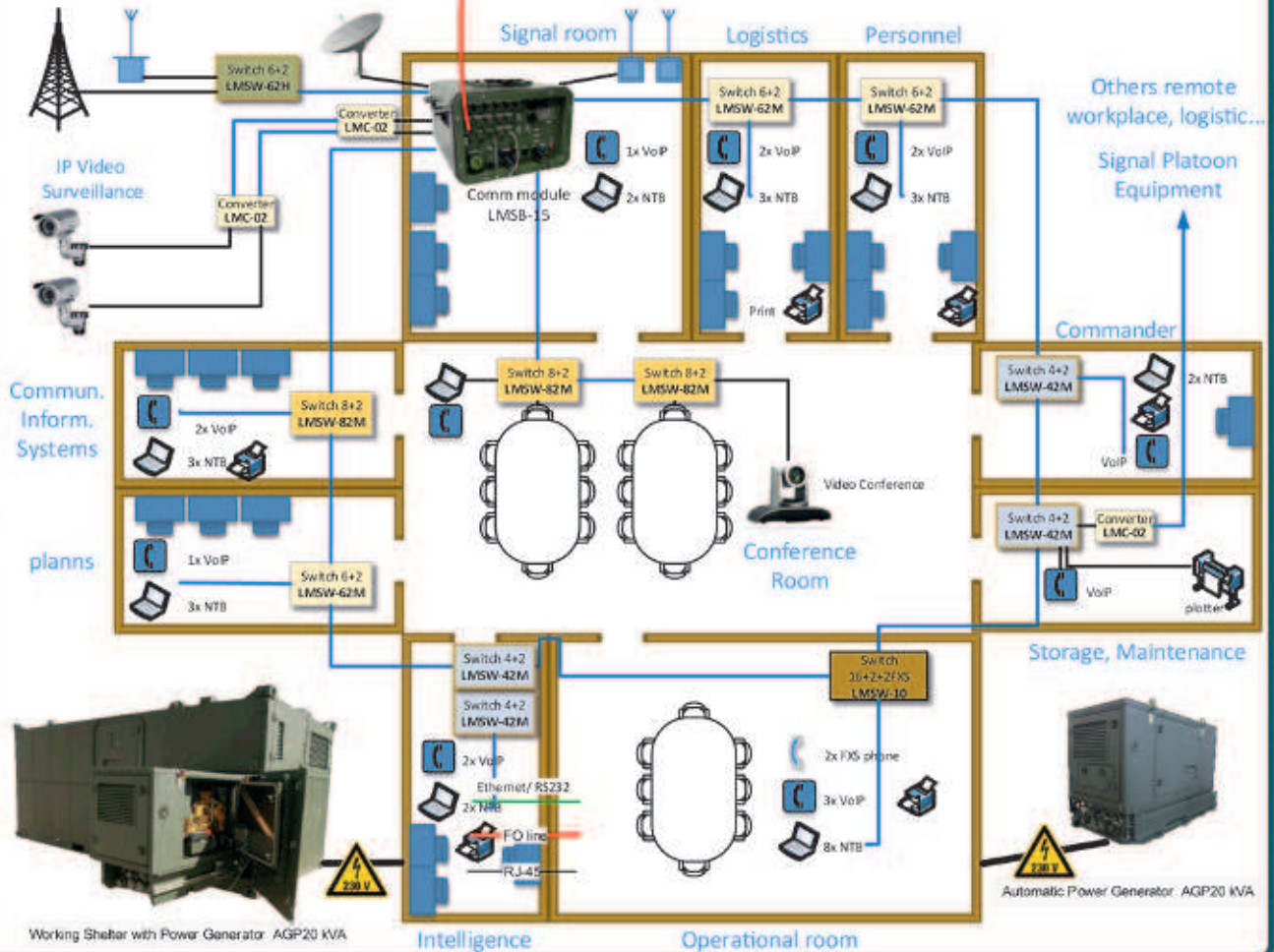
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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

This year's first issue of CDIS Review will present to you the best of the Czech defence and security industry, which promotes its products and services through our magazine at numerous events, including IDEX 2017. You will find many leading Czech companies dealing in soldier's gear, security, training, unmanned aerial vehicles and technologies, defence industry, radio transceivers, optics, ammunition, development and manufacture of CBRN protection equipment etc. at the Czech official stand in Hall 12 or on Outdoor Lot CP 410.

This English version focuses mainly on support of Czech companies at international fairs, and I firmly believe that the companies presented herein will convince you

of their top-ranking status. The magazine contains an opening word of His Excellency Alexandr Sporyš, Czech Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, followed by contributions of Deputy Minister of Defence Tomáš Kuchta or President of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic Jiří Hynek, whose personal involvement means a lot for the support of the Czech Republic's pro-export policy.

Earlier this year, our company published the 10th edition of the printed Czech-English Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue 2017–2018 of the Czech Republic, which presents an alphabetic list of defence and security companies, including descriptions of their activities and products and services they offer. You can view the online version at http://bit.ly/SDTCatalog2017_2018

I wish you a lot of luck and successes in 2017, and many business opportunities – and not just at IDEX 2017!



Šárka Cook
Editor-in-Chief



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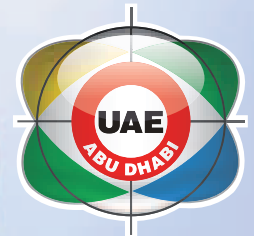
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INVITATION OF THE CZECH COMPANIES AT IDEX 2017



إيدكس
2017
February 19 – 23



Message by H. E. Alexandr Sporýš

Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Arab Emirates



It gives me a great pleasure and privilege, as the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Arab Emirates, to welcome leading Czech defence and security companies to the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) which will take place from 19-23 February in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

The UAE has been a significant trade partner of the Czech Republic. It is the 4th biggest importer of the Czech goods among non-European countries after USA, China and Japan. The mutual trade turnover in 2015 has reached its historical maximum of 898 million USD and we predict it will reach 1 billion USD within maximum one or two years to come as it is continually growing. The 90 % of the mutual trade turnover is formed by the Czech export to the UAE.

To facilitate the mutual trade, the Czech Republic has created the framework for mutual investment by concluding Agreement on Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments and Agreement on the Avoidance of the Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion. Last year we have started the process of concluding the Agreement of Economic and Technical Cooperation establishing the Joint Economic Committee. This will encourage the

economic cooperation in many fields of national economies of both countries as i.e. research and development or innovations.

IDEX is the largest security and defence exhibition in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) and the only one in MENA demonstrating the latest technology across land, sea and air sectors of defence. Together with arms exhibitions in London and Paris IDEX has been among the three largest of its kind in the world. The exhibition is held every two years and currently includes three distinct exhibitions: IDEX (International Defence Exhibition & Conference), NAVDEX (Naval Defence and Maritime Security Exhibition) and UMEX (Unmanned Systems Exhibition).

In 2015 IDEX attracted over 1,100 exhibitors from more than 50 countries, occupying an area of 133,000 square metres. A total of 42 countries had their own national pavilions. The 2015 exhibition was visited by more than 100,000 visitors from the professional community and the UAE Armed Forces signed contracts amounting to 2.6 billion USD.

The Czech Republic has been attending IDEX each biennial, in 2015 the Czech Republic's delegation was led by Mr. Tomáš Kuchta, Deputy Minister of Defence, who also inaugurated the Czech exposition. Our national exhibition stand is held under the auspices of the

Ministry of Industry and Trade and Defence and Security Industry of the Czech Republic. In 2015 the Czech stand was visited by many important guests, the most distinguished being the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The cooperation in the field of defence has a tradition coming back to nineties when about 1,200 TATRA trucks were delivered to the UAE market. Now we see the potential not only in the field of military hardware but also in the domain of electronic warfare and cyber security. Among the Czech companies participating in IDEX 2017 will be OPTOKON, Česká zbrojovka, 4M SYSTEMS, Zbrojovka Brno, Sellier & Bellot, CLUTEX, LANEX / TENDON, MESIT, CS Solutions, ERA, OMNIPOL, Meopta Systems, ORITEST, Ray Service, REDO, STV GROUP, TATRA EXPORT and VTÚ. The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Abu Dhabi is of course ready to lend support to Czech companies and visitors during this year's IDEX.

Finally I would like to thank all Czech companies who decided to participate at IDEX 2017. It is unique opportunity to further strengthen cooperation between the Czech Republic and the United Arab Emirates in such a crucial field and I wish everyone a fruitful and successful stay in Abu Dhabi.

Opening Speech by Mr. Tomáš Kuchta

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic



It is my distinct privilege and honour as well as an absolute pleasure as the Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic to be able to make a few opening remarks on the occasion of the world-renowned International Defence Exhibition and Conference, IDEX, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. As the most prominent as well as the only international exhibition within the whole Middle East and Northern Africa region focusing on the latest technology in the three spheres of conflict, the strategically all-important tri-service defence exhibition that is poised to once again attract significant numbers of important visitors.

From 19th through 23rd February 2017, Abu Dhabi will once again become the focus point of defence and security industry trade negotiations. Leading global defence manufacturers, diplomats and representatives of governments as well as militaries, media and technology enthusiasts will flood to the exhibition grounds in order to acquaint themselves with the latest cutting-edge technology available on the market.

Key decisionmakers, media as well as a broad range of other visitors will attend showcasing of products and appreciate live demonstrations of both equipment and crafts. The much awaited daily choreographed displays will take place in the massive outdoor space, while hundreds of local and international defence manufacturers and contractors will

fill over 35,000 square meters of exhibition space within the 12 exhibition halls, as experts of multiple disciplines discuss the latest developments in such fascinating fields as unmanned systems or naval, maritime and coastal security technology.

In the very forefront, however, over 1,100 companies will present their most sophisticated portfolios yet. It makes me very proud that, among these companies, scores of sophisticated Czech products will be showcased. As a country whose defence and security industry has a rich tradition, with some of our leading industry members being in business for almost 200 years and others beginning their journey in search for brilliance in the interwar period.

Possessing a wealth of experience as well as knowledge as to what works coupled with keeping touch with the most recent trends allows Czech companies to field some of the most sophisticated technology available in a robust a reliable package. Czech products are known to withstand both the test of time and severe conditions, as was proven time and time again, even in life-threatening situations.

An old military wisdom states that "No battle plan ever survives first contact with the enemy." In such a situation, warriors must fully rely on their training as well as the equipment at their disposal, as the failure of either of these could spell the soldiers doom. Reliability is thus a key factor aspect Czech products

excel in. On numerous occasions, Czech products have been combat-tested. Time and time again, they emerged combat-proven.

Our industry is defence-focused and has consistently delivered brilliant products as well as reliable services throughout the products lifecycles. In recent decades, the Czech Republic has become the leading NATO expert in designing the most advanced and sophisticated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence capabilities. Our companies have achieved excellence in demanding and diverse fields such as aircraft, avionics and aircraft support equipment, radars and passive surveillance systems, high-tech radio communication, optoelectronics and electronic warfare systems, small and light weapons, ground vehicles, special fabrics for military applications and many, many other products. Having met the highest quality standards and coming up with innovative ways of constantly improving the world-class equipment they produce, Czech industry members successfully compete in both established and emerging markets.

The Czech national display at IDEX 2017 will consist of around two dozen companies presenting their cutting-edge products. The experience, exchange of thoughts and expert opinions provided by the IDEX exhibition will help ensure that our products stay competitive in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you successful negotiations at this world-renowned event.

Opening Speech by Mr. Jiří Hynek

President
Defence and Security Industry
Association of the Czech Republic



Dear exhibitors, dear visitors,

Let me tell you a few words about the long-standing tradition of the Czech defence industry. It's roots reach far into the past, to the period before the First World War. Since then there have been many changes, but the Czech producers still hold a significant position among the global competitors in the wide range of commodities. For example, the passive surveillance systems from the company ERA are the Czech invention coveted by global producers. Handguns, ammunition, devices for protection against weapons of mass destruction, information and communication technologies, military vehicles and aerospace technologies belong among the Czech products that are successfully exported to countries around the world. Nearly 90 % of the total output of the Czech defence industry is intended for export.

In comparison with the foreign competition, the Czech defence industry excels primarily in the area of high-tech innovations. Military technologies originating here are very sophisticated and can be adapted to the needs of the customer and his technical requirements. It often involves the integration with existing systems. In such cases, the creativity is highly important and we can say that Czechs are masters of it. Thanks to thorough care for delivered products throughout their lifecycle, its continual modernisation and a willingness to cooperate with local companies in export destinations, the Czech defence firms have a strong possibility to beat out their foreign competitors in tenders around the world.

The Czech defence and security industry is ready to contribute to eliminate a globally growing security risks.



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CZ has long been the most important Czech manufacturer of firearms, and at the same time, also one of the most significant arms factories in the world. The company was founded in 1936 and this year celebrates its 80th anniversary. For 80 years, we proudly support and cooperate with many military and law enforcement agencies. Our products are used in more than 100 countries worldwide and they also serve together with NATO soldiers. Our goal is to deliver reliable tool for everyday, heavy duty service.

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Looking Back at IDEX 2015



The twelfth IDEX 2015, one of the world's three largest defence exhibitions, was taking place from February 22 to February 26 in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

No company striving for contracts in the region of Middle East, Asia and Africa can afford not to be present at this event sold out long before it actually starts. According to its organizers, this year's exhibition surpassed all statistical records – there were altogether 1,154 exhibitors from 59 countries, including almost

30 Czech companies, displaying their products on an area exceeding 133,000 m². The traditional large display of the latest systems and technologies included ground, naval and aerospace products, with an emphasis on remote-controlled aircraft and vehicles which were – for the first time ever – concentrated into a compact show named UMEX. The ambitious long-term acquisition programme of the United Arab Emirates also resulted in an unprecedented volume of contracts for defence and security equipment signed during this year's IDEX exhibition.



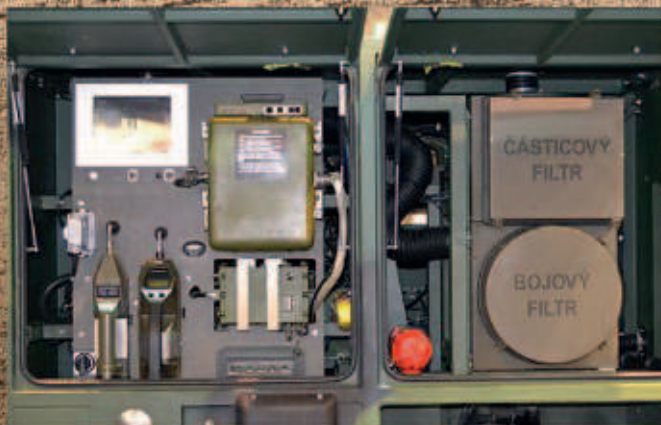
The organizers claim their aggregate value reached AED 16 billion (approximately USD 4.5 billion), with local companies acquiring more than two thirds. The largest contract for satellite and related ground equipment, with a price tag in excess of USD 1 billion, was signed on the very first day of the event by the Airbus Defence/Thales Alenia Space consortium. The Airbus Group also announced another delivery of 30 large capacity airliners to three UAE airlines - Etihad Airways, Emirates Airlines and Air Arabia.

Photo: MS Line archive



Reliability in the Area of CBRN Defence and Environmental Protection

Based on the two decades experience of Oritest's reliable Product Range of Detection Tubes and Papers, Oritest Group, is now extending its activities as a manufacturer to provide innovative and complete CBRN Solutions with a strong focus on supplying the whole range of CBRN Detection and Protection Equipment.



Furthermore we strongly focus to provide the Users with complete CBRN Integration Solutions; like completely equipped Mobile Labs, CBRN Reconnaissance Systems as well as Toxic Waste Recycling Management Treatment and we offer our Customers complete Evaluation, Testing and Training Programs at accredited Competence Centres using our extremely experienced, highly skilled Experts, Specialists and Scientists.

Our Team has more than 25 year experience in dealing with CBRN and Environmental Protection Aspects, both in the Military and Civil Area. We hold more than 80 Patents, exporting our products in more than 40 Countries worldwide.



Miniaturization and Integration

In the last issue of the Review, we published an article on the influence of developments in our company by our customers where we mentioned that almost all of our new devices are the result of customer requirements and their technical specifications.

In this paper, we will show examples of our development activities in the last period, as well as the range of customer requirements that affect the resulting products.

The phenomenon of these new requirements is the miniaturization of electronics, integration of functions and technologies. Such devices have a wider application in terms of better and more convenient installation, as well as in terms of the complexity of the functions of the various components and applied technologies.

These trends are emerging both in commercial devices and in devices for harsh environments.

Examples of the requirements of miniaturization are the PM-215 and SS-215 in terms of the limits of hand control.

commissioning and troubleshooting of optical networks. The design, technical parameters, and price are aimed at a wide-ranging group of operators and assembly companies operating in the field of FTTH (fiber to the home) optical access networks.

The LS-215 is a miniature light source. Together with the optical power meter, it is used to measure insertion loss from optical lines, optical patch cords and connectors. The design of the device is the same as the PM-215.

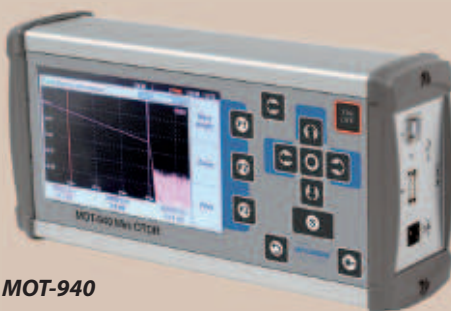
Other miniature devices are the MOT-940 and PM-212 MTP

The **MOT-940** is a new type of mini-OTDR optical reflectometer — apparatus for measuring optical fibers. The device sends light pulses down fibers and by analyzing the reflections is able to measure individual events in the optical fiber, such as reflections on optical connectors, signal attenuation connections and the total attenuation profile of optical lines.

The **PM-212-MTP** optical power meter is designed for measuring absolute or relative optical power in optical networks terminated by 12 multi fiber MTP connectors.

By using a large-size Ge photodiode, the tester can measure the optical power level from all 12 fiber MTP connectors over a wide range of wavelengths; the device with a Si photo detector is designed for measuring multi-mode fibers.

Miniature versions of the special techniques are the LMC-01-GF media converter and the miniature HMA connector.



MOT-940



PM 212 MTP



The original LMC-01-GF and the miniature version, the LMC-01 GC 53-30-M-DC

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For the miniature LMC-01-GF, the project focused on the miniaturization of the original media converter with the related optimization of the internal structure and testing for climatic and mechanical resistance.



Comparison of standard and miniature HMA connectors

In the area of the integration of functions and technologies based on customer requirements, we have developed the **LMCP-Light Mobile Computing Platform**.

The LMCP is a structurally small, specialized, compact computer in a ruggedized construction with various interfaces for connecting devices used in command and control systems.



The LMCP is designed to integrate the data link of dismounted soldiers, sophisticated platforms, surveillance and reconnaissance sensors, IP cameras and vehicle electronics (vetronics). The purpose of this link is to ensure the optimum data connection of these

systems in key communication and information systems.

The LMCP is designed for analyzing, encoding, streaming and recording video signal in up to four IP cameras at the same time while activating the network router, network switch, and a powerful server.

The LMCP communicates with the radio through the serial interface. It is a great advantage to the operator that the LMCP may be administered either locally (local VGA + USB port) or remotely by using the Baseboard Management Controller (BMC). The BMC manages from a base level of HARDWARE (such as the BIOS, Health monitor, and Power control) to the KVM console redirection including the redirection of DVD and USB 2.0 data media.

The LMCP is also a powerful universal mobile computing platform that integrates a robust Gigabit Ethernet router, manageable Ethernet switch, and server based on the Intel Xeon processor six core D-1528 with 9 MB Cache and 1.9 GHz speed. This series represents the platform processor System-on-a-Chip aimed at low power and demanding server applications. The extremely high performance supports four memory positions with a total

capacity of up to 64 GB and modern M.2 position PCI-E x 4 3.0 for SSD disc.

The LMCP offers a wide data interface selection (GigE and Fast Ethernet, optical HMA connector, USB 2.0/3.0, video, VGA, serial, and CAN bus). The security of the stored data ensures the slot of the removable SATA HDD storage for SSD disk up to 2 TB.

The LMCP is an example of the integration of various functions, a different interface, and different technology connectors for links to the information and communication technology equipment. The miniature design is robust and is suitable for implementation in information systems used under demanding climatic conditions (heavy industry, mining, police, army). It activates the direct connection to the optical data network with high data throughput and high transmission reliability.

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Exclusive Interview with Jaroslav Strnad

There is hardly anyone in the defence business whom this man would have to be introduced to. Mr. Jaroslav Strnad is a hard-working and capable man who avoids publicity, shuns social events and rarely gives interviews. The Review's editorial team therefore appreciates that, in spite of the above, he, as a longtime member of the editorial board of our magazine, did not refuse to give one to us.



Mr. Strnad, can you tell us how you actually got to the defence business?

Of course. In the 1990's, I was dealing in scrap iron, which I was buying, inter alia, from the Railway Troops of the Army of the Czech Republic, which were being disbanded at that time; I am talking about, for example, rails or railcars. This was in fact my first contact with decommissioned military equipment. Surplus tanks and armoured vehicles followed; initially, they were just another source of scrap iron, but I gradually realized that this equipment, often almost unused, could be kept in storage, repaired and sold with a high added value. My realization developed into a long-term business plan. We were buying, mostly at auctions, surplus equipment, spare parts and defence materiel from various European armies, sorted out the unsellable part and kept the rest in storage, being aware that it might take years before it found a buyer.

How come that EXCALIBUR ARMY, initially just a trading company, has developed into a major and profitable manufacturer of ground vehicles?

The customers we were delivering armoured vehicles to also needed spare parts to support their long-term operations. Initially, these could

be bought from surplus stocks, but the sources gradually dried up and it was necessary to start manufacturing them. The vehicles we had kept in storage for as long as several years also needed a complete overhaul, or often an upgrade tailored to the customer's requirements. This was why we began developing our own production capacities. The first enterprise we acquired was the bankrupt military repair facility in Pře-louč; we bought it from the receiver in bankruptcy in 2008. In 2013, we won the tender for the sale of the site of former VOP Šternberk. While the government did not have any work for these repair enterprises, we managed to find orders, mainly export ones, for them, thus retaining jobs and bringing additional benefits for the Czech economy and the state exchequer.

A question comes to mind why state-owned enterprises are unable to achieve something like this; why, state-owned defence companies in other countries prosper, although they have to hunt for orders themselves...

This is partly true, e.g. in Israel. However, conditions in the Czech Republic are different, because of the legal framework and also because of the mindset. We draw from the industrial tradition of the First Republic, and it was at that time when the most important strategic enterprises, such as Škoda in Plzeň or Kolben in Prague, were in private hands. However, the trend in Europe is opposite, away from exclusively state-owned enterprises, as exemplified by France or Slovakia, where partial or full privatization or long-term lease of state-owned defence companies is taking place.

It is a well-known fact that you and many other entrepreneurs – members of the Czech Defence and Security Industry Association – choose experts or top-ranking managers leaving the army or the Ministry of Defence as your advisors or for top managerial posts. The same applies to defence companies in other countries. What do these people contribute to defence companies?

As you said, the employment of ex-soldiers or ex-policemen by the private sector after their career in the force is a common phenomenon worldwide, and it is a legitimate career choice on their part. Ex-soldiers bring in unique experience and professional capabilities. Today's times are characterized by narrowly specialized professions, and this of course applies to the defence industry as well. This is why our holding, just like all defence and security companies in the Czech Republic and worldwide, employs former soldiers. However, the previous military career is not a guarantee of success in the private sector. At the end of the day, the success in this demanding environment depends on abilities of the individual concerned.



CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP (CSG) in the year 2016

- **January** – EXCALIBUR ARMY changed its name and CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP has been established.
- **March** – a new rocket launcher RM-70 Vampir was presented for the first time.
- **May** – ceremonial opening of the new TATRA DEFENCE VEHICLE factory with the participation of Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic.
- **May** – RETIA company has become a part of CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP.
- **June** – CSG took part in the defence exhibition Eurosatory 2016 in France.
- **June** – CSG participated at the traditional Czech Army's defence show Bahna, ASCOD armoured vehicle was displayed at the show.
- **August** – the first public presentation of a modernized wheeled howitzer DANA M1 M during traditional Tank's Day show in Lešany, the Czech Republic.
- **September** – CSG took part in the defence exhibition MSPO 2016 in Keilce, Poland. Bridge layer AM-50 EX vehicle on Tatra chassis was displayed for the first time.
- **September** – CSG participated at the traditional defence show NATO DAYS in Ostrava, the Czech Republic. Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic visited CSG's exhibition at the show. MRAP TITUS vehicle, ASCOD armoured personal carrier and DANA M1 M howitzer were displayed there.
- **November** – CSG had own exhibition at the defence trade show Indodefence 2016 and presented UAV CANTAS for the first time. During the trade show CSG signed tens of millions of dollars' contract for Tatra trucks and APC Pandurs II delivery for Indonesian Army.
- **December** – RETIA company finished delivery of ground control stations for NATO's Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system.
- **December** – ELTA systems and Retia have won Czech Army tender for new MADR radars.
- **In the year 2016** – CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP delivered a new RM-70 Vampir rocket launchers, logistic vehicles and equipment for Indonesian Army.

Thanks for answering the previous questions, and we are coming now to other breakthroughs – the establishment of EXCALIBUR GROUP, later renamed CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP. What made you take these steps?

A group of other companies gradually started forming up around Excalibur Army, and they needed to be structured in some way. This is why the companies I own or hold a majority stake in are gradually becoming a part of a holding structure which is transparent both toward banks and toward partners. The change of the name to CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP (CSG) was necessary because of several reasons. First, we really follow tradition of the Czechoslovak industry and the "Made in Czechoslovakia", even in territorial terms. Second, we are not – and we have in fact never been – just arms manufacturers. Civilian production – automotive, railway or aerospace products – accounts for a substantial part of our revenues. Moreover, the Excalibur brand was rather military-sounding and, last but not least, our present name is unique, while the previous one was not.

You were previously known as “repairmen” of older vehicles of Soviet provenience; now CSG will manufacture Pandurs, i.e. Western vehicles. Does it mean the focus of your group has changed?

Our business strategies naturally aim to satisfy market requirements. We cannot expect that vehicles which are dozens of years old will continue selling for the next fifty years, no matter how much we will upgrade them. If we relied only on them, I am sure we would not be able to provide enough work for our production employees. Even if the market for older ground equipment without sophisticated and expensive electronics continues to exist, we must be prepared for the future. Thanks to our strategic partnership with General Dynamics European Land Systems, we now have technologies that allow us to manufacture a modern wheeled armoured personnel carrier, which the Pandur undoubtedly still is. Another new vehicle that we manufacture is the six-wheeled Titus on a TATRA chassis. Here too we have a major Western manufacturer as our partner – the French company Nexter. As far as the defence segment of our production is concerned, we clearly focus on partners from NATO countries.

Are you satisfied with how your goals are being met?

I have never been aiming too high. I have been in business for twenty years and now there is an industrial holding developing traditional Czech and Slovak industries, which turns out products with a high added value and does not depend on a single person. The enterprises are managed by their managing directors and there are many capable people working for the group. Without a team of capable people I work with, many important and traditional enterprises would have disappeared, and jobs, tax revenues and, above all, production capacities which are also essential for the Czech Army would have disappeared as well.

The above applies mainly to the defence industry, but also to the civilian segment of our group. An analysis of Ernst & Young indicates that each Czech Koruna that TATRA or any other company of our group spends in the Czech economy generates roughly three Czech Korunas at our subcontractors. One job in our group generates slightly less than three jobs at our subcontractors.

The government realizes it as well, and therefore reassesses procurements of vehicles and other military equipment and materiel through go-betweens, preferring to support the domestic industry which returns the favour in higher taxes and lower unemployment rates. Why, it is good that can manufacture something in our country and export it.

Do you agree that the attitude of the government and the Ministry of Defence to the domestic defence and security industry may also be affected by the security situation?

Certainly. Today's different security crises show that it is useful for any country to have defence

industry production capacities on its own territory. A local factory cannot run away, cannot refuse deliveries to the domestic army.

In this respect, I would to emphasize that we perhaps often mention companies, but not so much people. They are our most valuable asset. As our business had expanded and developed, so have our people and their capabilities. Now we have a strong human potential in production and development areas.

Unfortunately, the defence industry often involves very tough competition in which fair play principles are sometimes forgotten. And being what it is, police elements or various secret services may be involved as well, sometimes cued by competitors. Does the competition affect you, what is your opinion about it?

Until recently, nothing of the above actually concerned us. Just like the rest of the Czech industry, we have been and will be living off export contracts rather than off orders of the Czech Army. By saving TATRA and other strategic companies in our territory, the situation has changed for us. By building a structured industrial holding, we are reducing the playground for go-betweens that only want to import foreign products to our country without an adequate involvement of the Czech industry.

One should bear in mind that our way of doing business, i.e. the acquisition of own manufacturing capabilities rather than a mere resale of foreign products, is a significant disturbance of a system that has existed for more than twenty years in the Czech Republic. It is obvious that we pose a problem for connections and relations which have existed and still exist here. Success is not something that is forgiven and we must be prepared for and protect ourselves against the attacks you mentioned.

However, it is the results that matter, and they speak for themselves. Thanks to CSG's team, several important enterprises with a long-standing international tradition have been saved for the Czech Republic, including ones in a purely civilian sphere. This of course helps to maintain existing jobs and create new ones, generate tax revenues for the state and all positive secondary effects resulting from our activities. CSG's business profits are being invested into the group's growth and the development of companies that have been, for various reasons, neglected by their previous owners. Political representatives realize it and treat the CSG holding and its companies accordingly; the company TATRA in Kopřivnice is a showcase example.

Your companies are active exhibitors both at home and abroad. We will distribute our Review magazines at the IDEX 2017 and IDET 2017 international exhibitions in Abu Dhabi and Brno, respectively. Can you briefly outline CSG's presentation and marketing plans?

Companies belonging to the CSG group will take part in roughly 40 exhibitions and other



marketing events in 2017, both in the Czech Republic and abroad. The participation in exhibitions is a key part of our corporate presentation, as it allows us to meet with both customers and our defence industry colleagues. We will display both the defence and civilian product portfolios of the group. Thanks to the inclusion of the Pardubice-based company Retia in the CSG holding, we will also be able to add electronics and radars to the products that we are going to show.

Mr. Strnad, you are a relatively a very young man, and I will now ask you a million-dollar question – have your goals been fulfilled, or are you planning another surprise for us?

The year 2016 was a year rich in acquisitions. Avia, Elton, Retia and JOB Air Technics have been added to the CSG group. These acquisitions show that the holding also devotes its attention to sectors other than ground vehicles. In addition, we have been helping the South Bohemian company Kovosvit MAS, although it is not, strictly speaking, a part of the CSG group. Most of the projects and acquisitions had been prepared for quite a long time, and they were just finalized in 2016. The year 2017 will not bring so many new great surprises, i.e. new companies in the group. We must now pay attention to the development of those which have already been included in the group. By mid-2017, we want to restart the production of new Avia trucks, it will be a big symbolical step forward, much more demanding than in the case of TATRA which, its problems notwithstanding, maintained its truck production at the time when I and my partner René Matera acquired it. Avia has not been producing anything for three years; we will have to transfer the production from Prague to Přelouč and in fact to rebuild the enterprise from the scratch. I am not saying we will not expand the group in 2017, but everything will depend on opportunities.

Roughly 10 to 15 years ago, a phenomenon known as globalism, i.e. mergers of defence giants, became quite important, particularly in Western countries. From the viewpoint of international competitiveness, it is gratifying to see that, thanks to you, CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP has become, insofar as ground vehicles are concerned, the leading defence entity in the Czech Republic. Mr. Strnad, we wish you many successful years in your business and may all your companies be profitable.

Interviewer: Miloš Soukup



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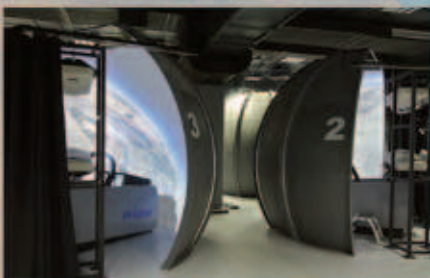
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News from Explosia

Semtex Razor – crushing power at the right place

This product, which is manufactured by the Czech company Explosia a.s., has been in the market for 12 years. But now is finding its place also among tools to assist rescue teams in their work.

Semtex Razor is primarily intended for demolition work during which a precise power must be available. Unlike blasting agents that act in all directions, Razor gives rise to an exact cut.

In 2010, Razor was also tested by a fire brigade during flood amelioration works. In fact, flood is a typical natural disaster in the mitigation of which Semtex Razor can be very useful. It is, of course, not only during floods that this cumulative charge finds use. "We try various procedures and simulate real situations during training courses. We demolish staircases and create holes enabling the rescue teams to enter the buildings", Mr. Martin Červenka, Czech Fire Rescue Service's Blasting Intervention Manager, explains.

The firemen appreciate, in particular, easy Razor handling and installation. The primary asset, however, is safety, because the material on which Razor is used is cut rather than blasted, and so no fragments fly away to endanger everyone standing nearby. Three years ago Explosia put on the market Razor 20 and Razor 30, whereby the range was extended to 7 sizes, from size 6 to size 40. The size denotes the thickness in millimetres that can be cut with the respective Razor product. Explosia a.s. is well aware of the power of this cumulative charge. So it is also in the company's interest that the product is used right in situations where it can save lives.



A new kind of plastic explosive Semtex

Semtex 90 from the previously produced plastic explosives Semtex differ mainly in the new binder system. Uses binder based on silicone which, when the temperature changes almost does not change its mechanical properties and density. New Semtex explosive 90 is therefore without limit since the plastic temperature of $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. Another advantage is the very good workability and low rate of change in properties during storage.

Semtex 90 is also easily moldable and therefore also applicable to more sophisticated

uses. Compared to conventional plastic explosives Semtex 90 is also characterized by up to 20 % higher capacity for work. Semtex can be, unlike some types of industrial explosives, divide and shape as needed. Explosia a.s. has in three different variants of Semtex 90, which differ from each other mainly by using crystalline A High explosive PETN or RDX.

Semtex 90 had also huge success at the fair weaponry Future Forces in the Czech Republic. Immediately after its premiere managed to get third place among the products on the fair.

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Since Taken up the Post it has been my Job to Direct the Day-to-Day Business of the Military Committee



On September 2, 2014, out of three candidates, Army General Petr Pavel was elected the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee for a three-year term. He took over the highest military office of the North Atlantic Alliance in June 2015 as the first-ever representative of countries of the former Warsaw Pact, succeeding Danish general Knud Barltels and becoming the senior consultant/advisor of Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. As a result of being elected to the new office in the Alliance, he resigned to the position of the Chief of Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic. On the occasion of visiting the FUTURE FORCES FORUM exhibition as a member of NATO's official delegation, he complied with our wish and gave us an exclusive interview in spite of his busy schedule.

General, have you managed to fulfil some of the ideas you wanted to implement as the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee?

The Chairman of the Military Committee is elected by his fellow NATO Chiefs of Defence or CHoDs to represent them, to be their voice and therefore, it is not imaginable for him to have a personal agenda or a set course for the Committee. Since taken up the post in June 2015, it has been my job to direct the day-to-day business of the Military Committee and act on its behalf. My role is to provide consensus-based military advice from NATO's 28 Chiefs of Defence or Military Representatives to the political decision-making bodies of NATO and to NATO's Secretary General as his senior military advisor on all military matters. It's not always easy but I am glad that we are able to create and maintain an atmosphere in the Military Committee that allows Nations to voice their national views during the meetings

but still allows us to provide clear and balanced military advice to the North Atlantic Council or NAC. All Military Representatives see the value and importance of our military advice and work hard to ensure that the Military Committee provides it in a timely and unfettered manner.

What other important tasks will the Alliance have to undertake in the New Year?

As you know, we live in an increasingly complex security environment with threats emanating from the East and from the South. At the Warsaw Summit, the Heads of State and Government took decisions for NATO to face these new challenges. I think the most important tasks that lay ahead of us is the continued implementation of these decisions. We have already achieved quite a lot. We have implemented Assurance Measures in the East and the South. The work of our enhanced Forward Presence is progressing well and the four battalions are on track to be deployed in early 2017. We have increased our cooperation with the EU on countering hybrid threats, maritime cooperation, on cyber security, on the coordination of exercises and fostering the resilience of our partners. We are working on many different fields of activity to make sure all decisions taken at Warsaw are implemented in a timely manner so that NATO continues to have the required capabilities and resources to perform its three core tasks: collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security.

What importance do you attach to the arms/defence industry in individual NATO countries and the importance of the concept that allows for fairs like Future Forces Forum and IDET in the Czech Republic?

Forums like the Future Forces Forum or even the NATO Industry Forum are important because they create a platform for politicians, decision makers and organisations such as NATO to meet with the defence industry and find ways of working more closely and more efficiently together. The reality is that we are dependent on a strong European and North-American defence industry. It has been providing NATO with the best equipment and the most modern capabilities which have allowed us for the past decades to protect close to one billion citizens living in Europe and North America. But we have to make sure that that is also the case in the future. So it is important that we continue to strengthen the cooperation between NATO and the defence industry. At the same time, what NATO does is important for the industry because NATO plays a key role in deciding how much we spend on defence, on what we spend and how we spend. We have a senior NATO committee, the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) that is responsible for promoting the cooperation between countries in the armaments field. CNAD is leading initiatives to bring new thinking to the customer/supplier relationship and the possibilities to continue the enhanced NATO-industry relationship. NATO can, also, make a large difference by encouraging greater multinational collaboration and better coordination of allies' requirements.

But another problem remains, the European defence market is too fragmented. In Europe we have 19 different types of infantry fighting vehicle, in the United States they have 1. In Europe we have 13 different types of air to air missiles, the United States has 3 and European nations have 29 different types of naval frigates, the United States has 4. This fragmentation exists for many types of military equipment: on land, in the air, and at sea. This is a challenge, especially as NATO Allies move to meet the pledge we made in 2014 – to invest 20 % of all defence spending in new equipment. So many different types of equipment training, research and development exist which makes it more expensive and reduces the competitiveness of our industry as well as limits our interoperability. We need competition, we need different industries but we need some greater degree of coordination and standardization when it comes to requirements and investments from the European governments so we can get economical scale and reduce the unit costs of the different kinds of capabilities and equipment. I welcome the EU's initiatives to consolidate the European defence industry. This will mean greater economies of scale, and better capabilities for everyone.



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How is the Czech defence industry perceived at NATO?

The Czech Republic has traditionally had a strong defence industry and one that is respected for the high quality of its products. What is important for NATO is that we continue to work closely with defence industries so that we ensure that we get the right kind of equipment and capabilities.

How do you see the EU situation after Brexit? EU leaders and a number of countries suggest that there may be some obstacles to unblock (which blocked EU defence cooperation in the United Kingdom) and to strengthen European defence, for example in the form of permanent structured cooperation.

While it will take time for the consequences of “Brexit” to become clear, the UK’s position in NATO will remain unchanged. It will continue to play a leading role in our Alliance as can be seen with it leading an eFP battalion. However this also means cooperation between NATO and the European Union has become even more important in the wake of the UK referendum. Our security is interconnected and we face greater and more complex security challenges than a few years ago. Neither NATO nor the EU are entirely equipped with the tools to tackle these challenges. But, together, we have the full tool-kit and our partnership will continue to grow. But what is important to underline is that there is a need for complementarity rather than duplication. Many NATO Nations are in the EU, both organisations have their own requirements which Nations are trying, within the best of their abilities, to meet, requesting more from Nations will also require that NATO and the EU invest or spend better. The idea is not for each organisation to have one of each but to work better together better in order to do more with common capabilities.

The role of the defence industry is changing from a simple material supplier to an active participant in discussions on future technologies, concepts and technical requirements for defence systems. And not only at NATO, EU attaches to the DEFENSE industry received a dignified place in the DEFENSE system at the Council meetings in 2013 and 2015. (The December 2016

Board will also consider OBP). How do you see this trend?

NATO has always recognised the importance of the defence industry. More so since 2009 when ACT started hosting the NATO Industry Forum, initially called the ACT Industry Days. Reinforced by the Framework for NATO Industry Engagement, NATO is engaged in a smart and open dialogue with the Industry. This year’s NATO-Industry Forum brought together top leaders from the Industry, NATO and European institutions, and the discussions ensured that NATO and Industry clearly understand each other’s needs and are better positioned to provide the necessary security to NATO citizens and contribute to all significant international military missions for the foreseeable future.

We are fostering our relationship with the defence industry but we also need to look within to figure out what we can do better. We are now in the midst of a new defence planning cycle. In Wales, Heads of State and Governments agreed to increase their defence spending to 2 % and after years of budget cuts most of the NATO Allies have started to increase their defence budgets. We have turned a corner and I think these budgets will continue to rise in the foreseen future. Nations have started doing their parts and now we need to make sure that we do the same as an Alliance. NATO and the 28 allies need to identify what we need, what kind of capabilities, what kind of equipment, which are priorities and in what timeframes and this is why the defence planning process is extremely important.

It’s perhaps one of the most important things NATO does which is to coordinate with allies to really work together and fill the gaps when it comes to different kinds of defence capabilities. This is to make sure that we have enough capabilities but also the right kind of capabilities and some kind of division of responsibilities among the NATO allies. When we have finished this defence planning cycle NATO’s task and the task of the governments will be to make sure that we implement and follow up on the guidelines and the defence planning conclusions. For example, the guidance could relate to capabilities such as joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, precision guided munition and strategic airlift which have been identified as current gaps.

NATO also influences what allies spend on and what NATO spends on by our common funded

projects, like AWACS. And we have already started to work on the project which shall succeed the Early Warning Airborne capability. Or the new Alliance Future Surveillance and Control System which will be another big project and investment. But the reality is that the efficiency of procurement is much lower than expected because of the high level of fragmentation of the European defence market. So spending together is a way to spend smarter. We do need to spend more but we have to also make sure that we spend in a better way.

The US presidential elections were held. Do you expect changes in U.S. defence priorities and could they have any impact on NATO?

We have heard a lot of different statements during the American campaign but they belong to the campaign and this phase is over. We have now a President-elect and a new phase is coming. We have to wait for the new administration to be in place and to articulate their policies and only then can we start reacting, if at all. We have also heard a lot of different concerns about NATO’s unity and cohesiveness and about the relevance of the Alliance. These concerns are quite natural. We are living in a world with more complex international security environment. However we all acknowledge the value of the Alliance for our collective security. We all acknowledge that NATO provides a unique platform for cooperation, for interoperability and for consultations, not only among the Allies but also with all 40 partner countries. I strongly believe, despite occasional negative view of NATO or some of its activities, NATO has markedly positive merit for its Allies and Partners. In terms of relevance, I also strongly believe that NATO is more relevant today than it has ever been. No one doubts that today we live in an unsafe and insecure environment, that there is no universal peace and that we need security guarantees, that we need a platform that would offer all of us the ability to defend ourselves when and where we need to. And in that sense, NATO is very much the vehicle for this strategic defence as it is a vehicle for strategic partnerships based on shared values, principles and interests.

General, thank you for the interview.

Šárka Cook

Interview with the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff Lt-General Jiří Baloun



The military career of Jiří Baloun started at the Military Secondary School in Opava and subsequently at the Military Technical University in Liptovský Mikuláš. Practically everything he has been doing so far was revolving around signals. He started literally from the scratch, from command of a radio relay platoon and company to being a specialist of the Department of Signal Troops at the General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic, Chief of Signal Troops, military representative of the Czech Republic at NATO and EU in Brussels, becoming the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff in May 2015 and being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General on October 28, 2015. Between 2005 and 2009, he gave us altogether four interviews and was also a member of our Editorial Board. With the hundredth anniversary of the Signal Troops of the Army of the Czech Republic getting nearer, we asked Lieutenant General Dipl. Eng. Jiří Baloun, Ph.D., MSc., for another interview.

General, could you briefly characterize your principal years during the last decade, i.e. since the time you were the Chief of Signal Troops?

In 2007, I left the position of the Chief of Signal Troops after four years and in a situation when we had had a number of important achievements at our belt. In 2004, we had re-embarked



upon the practice of intensive training and exercises; I can mention the first exercise code-named "Elektron", or a subsequent series of "Network Challenge" exercises. We prepared a new information concept and created a then unique NEC (Network Enabled Capabilities) architecture. An element reacting to cyberspace threats, known as CIRC (Computer Incident Response Cell), was established. In my opinion, a change relating to the anniversary of the Signal Troops was also very important.

After graduating from the US National War College, it was this experience, together with my previous position of the director of AKIS (Communications and Information Systems Agency) with major acquisitions and support of operations, enabled my intensive involvement in the work of the Force Planning Division of MoD as its director. Together with my fellow-workers, we prepared substantial changes in the planning system, laid the foundations for the Catalogue of Capabilities and the Capabilities Achievement Plan at the Ministry of Defence. We also made a major step toward better use of tools supporting the planning process. Unfortunately, the decision to move the entire planning department under the then Economic Division of MoD as of January 1, 2010, had a devastating effect on planning capabilities of the Army of the Czech Republic and we can still feel its consequences.

In 2011, I was offered an opportunity to manage our military representation office at NATO and EU in Brussels for three years. Post on this position, unlike others in the structure of our military elements, allowed me to directly participate in NATO and EU planning and decision-making processes on behalf of the Czech Republic.

After Brussels, I was appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff – Director of the Joint Operations Centre. In this capacity, I was directly controlling all our task groups, units and individuals participating in foreign missions and operations and was also responsible for the implementation side of the crisis management system. The greatest benefit for me were much more intensive contacts with troops, units and formation, whether during training or during deployment.

You spent several years studying in the United States and later in Brussels, working in NATO and EU structures. What knowledge and experience did you acquire there? Can you make use of them in your current job?

I have to say that studying at the National Defence University, and in particular at its National War College already mentioned above, was not just the ultimate military education opportunity for me as a soldier, but also priceless personal experience. I could see and listen to hundreds of prominent military and civilian personalities. My lecturers included, for

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example, ex-Secretary of State Kissinger or the Jordanian prince. I had an opportunity to make use of a practically endless number of study documents and materials. Moreover, I was elected the president of foreign students, so for one year, apart from my duties as a student, I had to handle both pleasant and less pleasant aspects stemming from different cultures, religions and human characters. And, believe me, it was quite a challenge.

As to my stint in Brussels, the events in and around Libya, Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, Syria, Somalia, Central African Republic, Mali and other countries gave me countless opportunities of seeing them from a close range and, above all, participating in related plans and operations, as mentioned above. I believe, for example, that our involvement in the mission in Mali was a success, and a visible one at that. However, there are less visible achievements as well, one of them being our involvement in so-called DCMs (Deployable CIS Modules) and EU Deployable Packages. Thanks to it, we have now the latest NATO technologies at our unit in Lipník nad Bečvou, and experts trained thanks to NATO and EU funding who are, moreover, sent to missions and operations where they acquire necessary experience. All this will pay off in the development of our national command and control support systems. I have to admit that I "was pursuing interests of the Signal Troops a bit" while in Brussels, naturally in the interest of the Czech Republic, NATO and EU as well.

What is your key task and goal at the moment, i.e. in the position of the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff?

When assuming this position, I resolved to tackle a few tasks I wanted to fulfill, naturally in addition to the principal one – to be a responsible statutory deputy of the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the



Czech Republic. First and foremost, I wanted to develop and elaborate the "Concept of Development of the Army of the Czech Republic" into lower-level sub-concepts and capture them in a methodologically different way. This is something that we are succeeding at, also thank to cooperation with the Center of Security and Military Strategic Studies in Brno and other institutions. Furthermore, I have undertaken to improve the selection of soldiers for positions abroad, where we now have about 200 of them. This has also been going well, and we even now have laid the groundwork for sending people abroad in 2018. I am also trying, as the person responsible for this area, to improve criteria applying to candidates for training courses for high-ranking officers and General Staff courses, including their fulfillment, to that we have all prerequisites in place for improving the standard of our future top-level commanders. And one of the most important tasks is the preparation and implementation of a new order stipulating, to put it simply, career advance rules. It is, in my opinion, qualitatively different from the previous regulation and I hope that its implementation, which starts early next year, will help us select even better people for top slots.

You are a "heart and soul" signalman, a lifelong professional in the Signal Corps. How do you see, from your viewpoint, the standard of the defence and security industry of the Czech Republic in the last four decades? Can you give us any examples?

Signals, i.e. in fact communication and information systems, have been accompanying me since my youth. Like most boys, I was attracted by flying and wanted to become an astronaut, but I could not manage that before 1978, when our first astronaut was launched into space. I studied and graduated in electrical engineering and in the 1980's I was self-teaching myself in programming, using my private, then very imperfect computer. Without looking farther ahead at all consequences, it gave me some groundwork to build on in the years to come. However, I have always perceived this area from an operational viewpoint, as something supporting command and control functions. As the Chief of the Signal Troops, I have had quite a few opportunities to get acquainted with the work of industries, be they domestic or international, and evaluate its achievements. I have always appreciated the work of our companies most

of which have been led by educated and experienced people. Without going into details, there are examples of firms developing and manufacturing radars, surveillance and radio communication equipment, data security systems and other products. There are "big" names from the past, tradition, and experience. This is what we should build on.

Literally on the eve of the hundredth anniversary of the Signal Troops, a general partnership agreement between the Czech subsidiary of AFCEA and the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic was signed, symbolically in the building of the General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic and in your presence. How do you personally perceive this event?

This agreement is related to support and promotion of the hundredth anniversary of the Signal Troops in 2017. When preparing for the then traditional celebration of the sixtieth anniversary counted from 1945 in 2004, I asked myself why we were celebrating it like this, but I found no specific answer. I asked historians from the Military Institute of History for help and we together identified, after a few months of joint efforts, documents referring to the establishment of a telegraph company within the structure of an army corps of Czech legion as of October 30, 1917. So we turned the "wheel of history" a bit. As early as in the end of 2004, I issued an order to prepare the next anniversary celebration in 2007, which would be based on a historical event directly related not only to the then yet nonexistent Czechoslovakia, but also the army and, first and foremost, signal troops. When I was studying documents that the working group established for this purpose kept discovering, evaluating and selecting, I was not only proud of being a part of this service, but also very humble; as a matter of fact, I became more aware that whatever you were doing in



your life or job was intended primarily for your descendants. It is therefore important to do your job well so that those who will come after you have something to build on. And as was at the beginning of the event mentioned above, I appreciate even more the support of AFCEA and DSIA toward the hundredth anniversary. I would be very happy if the anniversary did not become just another day in the calendar, but was preferably a reminder of people who contributed to our well-being today.

A new Public Procurement Act which also concerns tenders and was drafted by the Ministry for Regional Development has been enacted. According to information available to us, comments of MoD and ACR have not been reflected in the act. How do you think the General Staff can help speed up such lengthy processes?

I believe the deficiencies in the abovementioned sphere are related to a discrepancy between powers and responsibilities. It goes without saying, at all levels of management and regardless of the professional position one holds, that having a position and some authority is not possible without having an appropriate and clearly defined responsibility. Absence of this principle is reflected in legislation and administration which become chaotic and actually significantly reduced the ability to act. This is not just a Czech problem – it is a problem for example of the whole European Union. The voices calling for a simpler administration must be louder, but it is equally necessary to assign concrete responsibilities and intensify audit activities with clear conclusions. The General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic as a leading user may contribute to reducing the duration of different stages of the public procurement process by setting clearly defined and well-formulated requirements, close cooperation with other elements of the defence sector (particularly insofar as step-by-step assessments of the acquisition project progress are concerned), and immediate implementation of remedial measures. The implementation of the first stage, which is largely in our hands, is presently on the right track. We have an approved Concept of the Development of the Army of the Czech Republic, we have set requirements and priorities, and we have very good backing documentation for the 2018 – 2022 medium-term plan, which is to be approved by the minister in the end of March 2017. Here I must emphasize that, contrary to information in some media, the army knows what it wants. Other stages of the process are managed by other elements of the defence sector, but the army is prepared to take part in their fulfillment.

What role could be played by Military Technical Institutes or state-owned enterprises in such cases?

I do not see the role of state-owned enterprises as an involvement in a purely administrative part. I would rather welcome their increased role in assessing the armament and technologies that are available or being offered from the

viewpoint of how they fulfill requirements of the army, whether they have a potential for further development, or how much they will cost throughout their life-cycle, as well as in a practical evaluation and comparison of parameters of different products. I also expect they will participate in tenders and will be a guarantee of the highest quality. The same applies to situations in which they will be, for various reasons, direct suppliers.

When acquiring highly sophisticated systems for the army, do you also consider the outsourcing option, as is often the case in, for example, the Swedish Army?

Outsourcing and its share in the achievement of capabilities of armed forces is a very sensitive matter. Opinions regarding this option change in time, paradoxically often with some profoundly negative experience. However, this can be, in my opinion, predicted with some probability. The share should not exceed a limit at which the armed forces are still able to sustain, albeit with problems, at least a minimum necessary level of a given capability for a long enough time. These limits are different for different areas. The more “critical” a given capability is for the state’s needs, the closer it is to the definition of a “combat” capability or the higher the probability it will be earmarked for deployment outside the territory of state, or the Alliance or EU, the lower the limit. However, it still holds true for the army that people, our soldiers and officers, hard-trained and educated, if possible with some experience in managing various crises, are our most valuable asset.

Developed Western nations make 80 to 95 % of their purchases from their own companies. According to our sources, the Army of the Czech Republic acquires only 30 to 40 % of the goods and services it needs from Czech firms. The Ministry of Defence vehemently speaks about support of the domestic defence industry, but the practice is quite different, save perhaps for so-called economic diplomacy. How do you view this issue?

I believe that our country should have and maintain at least some essential capabilities that would allow it to adapt to different security scenarios, in particular worse or worst-case ones. This does not concern only industry, but other areas as well. An industrially strong Europe should be based on strong national, or regional, industry. However, as we are a small country, it is necessary at the national level to opt, namely cooperation, for example and particularly in the framework and under the umbrella of the Defence and Security Industry Association. I believe there is a potential for it in our country. This is not about making use of domestic companies at all costs, but about providing appropriate conditions and, on the other hand, making use of opportunities.

General, thank you for the interview.

**Dipl. Eng. Miloš Soukup
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Czech Republic Invests in Safety, IDET, PYROS and ISET Fairs 2017 Will be the Place to Shop

The [Czech] state plans to invest billions to strengthen its security; equipment expansion and modernization are planned by soldiers, policemen, firemen and customs officers. Similar intentions can be seen in governments of other countries as well, which is good news for the export-oriented Czech defence and security industry. This year's security fairs in Brno expect to show the most comprehensive offer of the sector in the recent years.

On 31 May - 3 June 2017, a trio of international trade fairs, IDET (defence and security technology), PYROS (fire equipment and services) and ISET (police, forensic, security technology and services, commercial security) will be held in Brno. It is a well-proven combination of three exhibition themes, which are closely connected and thus exhibitor participation is extremely advantageous. Many companies simultaneously supply several entities – the army, police and the firefighters. Exhibitors can thus reach all the corps in one place. The fairs will contain exhibitions of the Czech Army, Police, Fire Brigade and a number of associations of volunteer firemen, as well as the Customs Administration, Prison Service and Administration of State Material Reserves. For the first time will present the activities of a municipal police nearly 20 municipalities. In a situation where after years' hiatus the power ministries are implementing and preparing significant acquisitions, it is an ideal opportunity for all suppliers to showcase innovations and their entire range. Companies can also use the field polygon - IDET Arena to showcase their products. The competition for the best exhibit, Golden IDET, is also already under way, expecting nominated products with excitement. The last edition in 2015 included 462 exhibiting companies from over 30 countries and the fairs were visited by 27,184 visitors from 51 countries.

Army accelerates its modernization

In response to the security situation in the world, the Ministry of Defence announced a number of armament projects, whose implementation is expected in 2017 to 2030. In the field of ground forces armament, the plan is to purchase 240 precision shooting rifles later this year and 40 sniper rifles next year. In the following years, Russian handheld anti-tank weapons will also be replaced, together with tracked infantry fighting vehicles and Kajman light armoured vehicles. Other projects envisage the acquisition of wheeled armoured vehicles for the command-staff and communication, portable anti-tank defence systems, tanks, self-propelled mortars and fire control systems or artillery radars. The imple-





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mentation of the 21st century soldier project is also on-going. Besides purchasing pistols, night vision devices and individual ballistic protection, acquisition of accurate assault rifles with grenade launchers, as well as NATO calibre machine guns, bridge sets, pontoon bridges, demining or blocking equipment are also being prepared. The armament of ground forces will be gain vehicle sets for the needs of chemical, biological and radiological monitoring, decontamination lines and vehicles etc. The Air Force sees its crucial project in the continuation of renting the JAS-39 Gripen, the acquisition of new multi-purpose helicopters, the MADR 3D radar project and supplementing of RBS-70 NG anti-aircraft resources. Furthermore, purchase of SHORAD air defence systems and prospectively a new generation of missiles are considered. Already this year, the first new airport radar will also be supplied. Extensive investment is expected in the area of communication and information systems, which will modernize its whole connecting and data network. In the area of logistics, purchase of all kinds of vehicles including tank trailers and containers, workshop and rescue vehicles is planned. Development is also expected through acquisition of explosion-resistant containers, forklifts, water treatment plants, field kitchens, power stations and others.

Better equipment for the police

In the context of fighting against terrorist threats and with increased emphasis on national security, a massive upgrade of police and customs officers' equipment continues. Thanks to an increase in the budget, the Ministry of Interior is planning to invest hundreds of mil-

lions of Crowns in new vehicles, bulletproof vests, weapons or hand-held laser radars this year. They should also buy uniform parts and accessories, motorcycles, handheld speed meters, radio communication systems and new information systems. In the medium term the Czech Police plan to purchase multipurpose helicopters, all-terrain vehicles or optical devices.

Greater security of personnel is the objective of extensive investment of the Customs Administration. Customs officers carry out mobile monitoring checks and participate in dangerous activities in the field, e.g. against smugglers of drugs and counterfeit goods. At the same time they are expected to be involved in crisis situations when they can be deployed together with soldiers and the police, for example, to protect national borders. Their equipment, however, lags behind the current safety standards and must be modernized. The state will therefore over these two years purchase new guns, bulletproof vests and spectrometers for detection of explosives, poisons and drugs. Security systems at Václav Havel airport will also be modernized, including acquisition of advanced camera technology. An upgrade of the laser shooting range is prepared, where demanding intervention in crisis situations can be simulated; investment in new information systems should improve communication between the customs, police and secret services. This year is also the first time with the Prison Service participating, as one of the largest armed forces in the country that plans extensive modernization.

PYROS has a retail zone for the first time

Firefighters are also planning to modernize

technology and equipment, both for the professionals from the Fire Brigade as well as members of volunteer fire brigades. Overall, Czech firefighters will work with a budget of 8.7 billion Crowns this year, which is about 900 million more than in 2016. They want to invest 1.1 billion and finance should go to purchase a new intervention equipment or refurbishment of fire stations for volunteer firefighters. A traditional exhibitor at the safety fairs, the State Material Reserves Administration, plans an extensive modernization of their equipment and supplies.

Saturday, 3 June, is designed as a „Safety Day“ for children and adults, where the exhibition centre will be the venue of live demonstrations showcasing various activities related to the integrated rescue system in crisis situations. This concept caters to visitors also from the ranks of volunteer firefighters, who thus no longer have to take time off from work. Their attendance on Saturday will support the competition in the TFA disciplines (Toughest Firefighter Alive) in the “Presidium of the Moravian Fire-fighting Union Cup”.

An interesting new feature, a retail area with direct sales of displayed merchandise to visitors, gives exhibitors an opportunity to offer special clothing and footwear, personal protective equipment and accessories such as helmets, masks, goggles, backpacks and others. Sale of a particular product range is permitted even at the world's largest exhibitions of fire equipment and enjoys great popularity here. The retail area will certainly contribute to making PYROS more alive, which can thus become attractive for more companies.

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Available at MILIPOL (Paris) – 21.–24. 11. 2017.		
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Available to each exhibitor at IDET, PYROS, ISET – 31. 5.–3. 6. 2017.		

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Review for Defence and Security Industry

This magazine represents the Czech defence and security industry particularly in the Czech Republic. Its principal mission is to contribute to a better cooperation between the government and its agencies and the Czech defence and security industry.

Online at this link: http://bit.ly/Review4_2016_EN



Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue

Czech-English publication providing comprehensive summary of possibilities and capabilities of Czech firms engaging in research, development, production and commerce of military and security technologies and materials, or operating in the related spheres. The MS Line publishing house has published the tenth issue of the Security and Defence Technologies Catalogue for the 2017 – 2018 period, which is available as a hard-cover Czech-English publication.

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IDET NEWS

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