

HYGIENIC AND EPIDEMIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CONDITIONS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC ARMY

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Hygienic and epidemic care in the Slovak Republic Army (ASR) is an inseparable part of health care. Its aim is to protect and build up health of the ASR soldiers. The main tasks to reach that goal is formation and protection of healthy living and working conditions, including prevention of the onset and spread of communicable diseases. Activities and job description of the military hygienic-epidemic service issue from the Act Nr. 272/1994 of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, of the Statue Book, concerning health care and the related civilian legislation. Aim of the work of the military hygienic-epidemic service is to monitor occurrence of mass negative phenomena of infectious and non-infectious character in the health status of the army population, their analysis, identification of causes, and an effort of their positive interference to contribute to intensify readiness for action and combat readiness of the troops.

The activity of the military epidemic service is aimed at the following spheres:

- a) Continued affection of the military population's health status and monitoring of the trends of development in the field of non-infectious morbidity.
- b) The primary prevention sphere and with the help of intervention programmes to affect the health status of the profession groups of soldiers in harmony with the National programme for health support.
- c) Execution of the state medical supervision in both its forms, i.e. in a routine and preventive hygienic surveillance, supervision over methods of solution of the hygienic problems of life and training at troops.
- d) Within the bounds of scopes of hygienic sections, participation in creating conditions for professionalization of the Slovak Republic Army.
- e) To form preconditions for sanitary-epidemic se-

curity of the troops under emergency situations, utilizable for the civilian sector.

- f) To provide a functional information system of communicable diseases in the ASR and its connection to the information system in the civilian sector.
- g) Monitoring incidence of infectious diseases and analysis of the epidemiological situation in the ASR.
- h) Planning, development and organisation, management and co-ordination of repressive epidemic measures and participation in their execution in the infection foci.
- i) To follow up long-term trends in development of communicable diseases in the ASR and in the civilian population.
- j) Execution of the communicable diseases surveillance significant for army background that might in its consequence endanger the fighting power of the troops, to search for their prevention and prophylaxis.
- k) To secure preparedness for a prompt detection and identification of exotic and highly dangerous infections which would be utilizable for emergency situations in the civilian sector.
- l) Planning, development, organisation, management and co-ordination of measures, and execution of a specific prophylaxis, including participation in their execution.
- m) Hygienic-epidemic security of the ASR units deployed in the UN peace-keeping forces or the NATO outside the Slovak Republic territory.

Aims and tasks of the military hygienic-epidemic service are fulfilled in the following spheres:

1. The state administration in the area of health protection in the ASR
2. Medical supervision in the ASR.
3. Expertise activities for health protection.

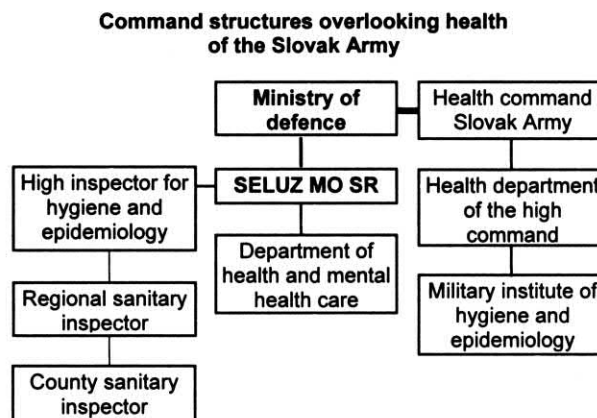
The state administration in the sphere of health protection in the frame of Defence Ministry of the Slovak Republic is executed by the bodies for health protection which are:

- Section for health and mental care (SELUZ)
- Area hygiene officer
- County hygiene officer

For execution of health protection tasks there is an office of the chief inspector for hygiene and epidemiology (the chief inspector further on) in the Section for health and mental care. The chiefs of sections of the Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology administer the function of the area hygiene officer, and the group chiefs of the Air-Force Hospital Košice and Central Military Hospital Ružomberok catchment areas administer the function of the county hygiene officer.

The Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, its founder is Defence Ministry of the Slovak Republic, is a health service establishment and executes the state medical supervision, prepares bases for measures and decisions of the bodies for health protection and provides specialized services connected with health protection in:

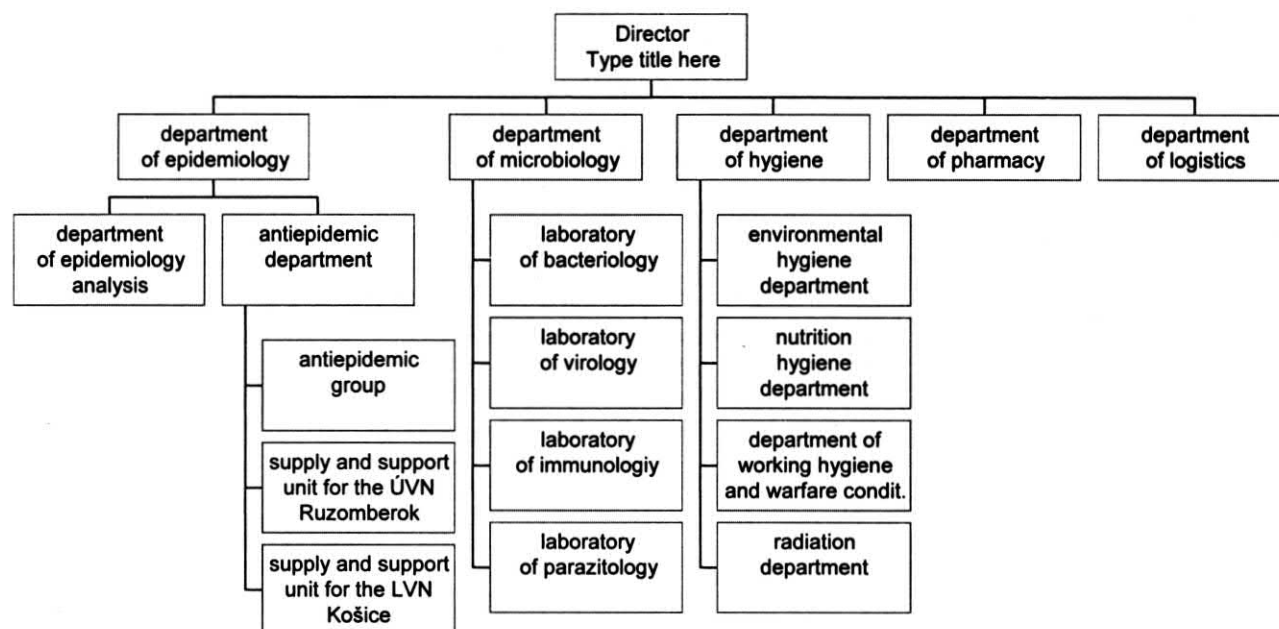
- Section of Environmental Hygiene
- Section of Nutrition Hygiene
- Section of Radiation Hygiene
- Section of Labour Hygiene
- Section of Epidemiology
- Section of Microbiology
- Section of Health Education of Soldiers



The Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Bratislava conducts the following tasks:

1. It studies sanitary conditions and epidemiological situation, analyzes infection morbidity in the army units and establishments of the ASR.
2. Participates in working out and set up of plans for sanitary and epidemic measures at troops and controls their performance.
3. Works out measures for prevention and eradication of communicable diseases, manages their realization, practical help to the medical service of the army corps, brigades and establishments.
4. Compiles bases and issues binding sanitary expertises and instructions.
5. Monitors conditions of labour hygiene, training of action, works out proposals for measures and controls their fulfilment.
6. Administers control of workplaces at risk, controls the working conditions.
7. Checks hygiene conditions of nutrition, boarding, water supply, and waste disposal. Works out proposals for measures and checks the sanitary status.
8. In a routine preventive hygienic supervision it works using the method of sanitary inspections and evaluation, administers sanitary experts report.

Organizational chart of Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Bratislava



9. Methodically conducts execution of disinfection, disinsection and rodent control measures.
10. Executes sanitary, bacteriological, virological, immunologic, parasitologic examinations for the benefit of the army units and military hospitals.
11. Organizes and manages training of medical corps of the ASR in the sphere of epidemic and sanitary security of the troops, participates in training of the predetermined reservists - the specialists of the hygienic-epidemiological service.
12. Participates in preparation and working out the passed bills and the legislative measures for conditions of the Medical Corps of the ASR.

The Institute has reached the most important results in fulfilment of the tasks in epidemic security through vaccination of troops against influenza, in eradication of hepatitis foci, in diagnostic of enteric infections, in isolation and identification of the causative agents of infections of the upper air passages, in diagnostics of parasitic and fungal diseases. In laboratories of the Section of Microbiology there have been conducted on average 42,000 materials and

110,000 examinations per year. The vaccination centre vaccinates on average 600 members of the UN peace-keeping forces yearly before their deployment abroad.

In the sphere of sanitary security in a preventive hygienic surveillance it works out a pilot study. A programme for health, participation in improvement of living conditions and the training of troops, expertise activity in the frame of the new military technology development, sanitary supervision over the workplaces at risk, in pioneering new methods of examination of drinking and waste water are further activities.

Translation Rudolf Rychlý

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