

**26th April 2020**

## **PARTICIPATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF MONTENEGRO IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS**

The Armed Forces of Montenegro has been involved in the fight against the coronavirus ever since the National Coordination Body introduced the first measures, putting members of the armed forces at the service of the citizens and institutions of the state. Every day there are about 200 men and women on various tasks, ranging from physical provision of quarantines, gerontology centers, the Clinical Center of Montenegro, decontamination of vehicles, facilities, people, to helicopter transport of endangered, medical equipment, as well as delivery of assistance to the population in cooperation with the Red Cross. All of them are at risk, but due to their professional attitude towards job they do, we have no recorded case of infected among the members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro.

Particularly significant is the work of the mobile teams for biological decontamination of the CBRN Defence Service (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear defense), who are active throughout Montenegro, in order to decontaminate health and other facilities, as well as public areas. About their dedication speaks data. So far, 665 different types of vehicles have been decontaminated, including aircraft, as well as over 410,000 m<sup>2</sup> of different surfaces.

Members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro secure quarantines across the country. Practice has shown that there is an extremely mutual respect between citizens who are there and soldiers. Soldiers do their best to meet any request that is under their jurisdiction. This also means that no problems have been reported so far, because by conversation and presenting clear orders and procedures, the members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro managed to solve all the challenges.

The helicopter squadron of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, which is equipped with the latest medical equipment, is of great help in the whole situation. Members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro are making a

major contribution to the fight against coronavirus, because they are also here in case of need for transportation of the endangered, equipment and other necessary resources. And there had been such kind of flights in the previous days. With all that, the helicopter squadron has recently been involved in firefighting in the north of the country, so the Armed Forces of Montenegro behave responsibly toward all the tasks that have been set.

In addition, the Navy, along with the Red Cross, is actively involved in delivering aid to the population in inaccessible areas, putting vessels, which can move, if necessary, by sea, lakes and rivers, on standby.

Of course, if needed, the Armed Forces of Montenegro, which is well organized, modernized, well trained, will engage more extensively in order to help citizens and the state in the fight against coronavirus. The Armed Forces of Montenegro has always been at the service of the citizens, which is one of its missions, which is the most important today. As the Ministry of Defense, ie the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, reacted in the first days of this crisis, we will all continue to do so in the future, in accordance with the needs determined by the National Coordination Body for Communicable Diseases.

Trade Union of Defense and Army of Montenegro (SOVCG) also gives its contribution in this fight in a way that has already donated financial aid in accordance with its capabilities to the account of the National Coordination Body for Communicable Diseases, as well as through engagement of its members on safeguarding quarantines and medical institutions, involvement in the helicopter and other units, etc.

The Armed Forces of Montenegro, all its members, together with trade union SOVCG as social partner will continue to be selflessly involved in the fulfillment of all future tasks.