

Hungarian Defense Forces (HDF) and COVID-19

To deal with COVID-19, Hungary is in a state of emergency nowadays, so new and unusual tasks have popped up for the military personnel which they have to face with every day.

Hereby a summary of measures and tasks.

Actions taken by HDF

- The leadership of the HDF took all necessary general public health measures according to the recommendations of the Public Health and Epidemiological Authority and the Health Center of the HDF (e.g. travelling-, hygiene-, social distancing-, usage of PPE-s rules, the activity of the medical staff);
- Limitation of non-core activities (training activities, exercises, general administration);
- The HDF determined labour affair measures to minimize the risks of the military personnel, like shift working measures to decrease the number of employees at the same time and place at the military organizations;
- Leaders of the HDF emphasized that the primary consideration is to preserve the health of our soldiers, but the HDF is highly committed to maintaining the operational presence in the EU, UN and NATO missions;
- HDF strengthen the presence of the medical staff in the missions on the Balkan.

Actions taken by HDF towards the public sector

- As the minister of defence became responsible for the security and safety of economically crucial enterprises of Hungary in the epidemic situation, the MoD set up a special duty ('management groups') to support the operation of these enterprises in any circumstances (e.g. providing transportation capabilities, working and other equipment, PPE-s if needed);
- Transportation of different donations (e.g. PPE-s, food);
- Disinfection of COVID-19 infected scenes such as cares homes; provided by the HDF's CNBC battalion;
- HDF provides ROLE-1 capabilities and military tents to hospitals to promote health screening and testing at the entrances;
- In the frame of cooperation with the Police HDF deployed soldiers to aid the work of police forces to control compliance with the rules during the lockdown.

The Honvédszakszervezet, as the only military trade union in the HDF, keeps in contact with the leadership of the HDF and continuously inform the military personnel about the special regulations and possibilities in the field of labour affair (services rights) related to the state of emergency.