

VOJENSKÉ ZDRAVOTNICKÉ LISTY

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**TO THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE JOURNAL
"VOJENSKÉ ZDRAVOTNICKÉ LISTY"**

RNDr. Vilém HOLÁŇ
Minister of Defence

70 years ago at the birth of a special medical journal of the Czechoslovak Military Medical Service, an effort arose to extend officers' knowledge and education in the spirit of military science of those days, and the tasks appointed for the military medical service. A merit, the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" got as a christening gift, has been successfully fulfilled from the very beginning.

The journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" became an important tool to implement the concept of development and functioning of the Military Medical Service in the pre-war Czechoslovak Republic. A content of the journal included an immediate reaction to a medical progress and its reflection in the military medical service. A thoroughly natural professional and staffing conjunction between civil and military health services supported above mentioned.

On the pages of the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy", specific professional problems of military health service were discussed. The important knowledge take-off line was the military health service experience acquired in the First World War. International relationships and exchange of experience through activities of military services of prominent armies in the world pertained to an unforgettable part of the "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" as well. A characteristic feature of the journal was a development of professional honour and solidarity, the basis of which was a high professional standard. Efforts for the growth of a social level of military medical service officers in particular categories were also supported.

Despite of a time and professional interval, the form of a content of the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" in the period of the first Czechoslovak Republic has been stimulating in different ways for present time. It shows a concept and role of the medical service in the army of a democratic state. In 1939 it was time to publish only one number of a proper volume. It has remained a historical irony that its content was devoted to a glory and prospective turning point of the Czechoslovak Military Medical Service - a new building of T. G. Masaryk Military Hospital in Střešovice.

Years of occupation and the Second World War interrupted publishing of the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy". In 1947 a broken thread had been successfully taken up and the journal followed with its XVIth volume. Experience of the last world war and an extreme development in medical science and technology became its professional precedence. A severe political change in 1948 brought a political pressure into a health care system as well.

However, a special medical orientation of the "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" eliminated in a large extent the efforts to politicize its content. The threat of professional isolation and one-sided orientation was averted as well. The journal fulfilled its principal purpose and played the role of an important information source. Owing to this, a continuing activity of the journal has never been principally interrupted. Therefore today the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" has represented our special military journal with the most long-lasting tradition and publicity abroad.

In 1925 my predecessor the Minister of National Defence František Udržal wrote in the first number of Vojenské zdravotnické listy: "Ability and preparedness of a force depends in the great extent on the standard of Military

Health Service." Time has taken nothing from importance of these words. Since 1989 our Military Medical Service has passed a way of searching its another form. Further to a complete transformation of the Army, its basic mission, form and functioning including staffing were explored step by step.

Our Military Medical Service has to play, in agreement with a standard of the prominent world armies, the permanent role of a perfectly stable element of army mechanism which is together with its specialty and level apparent support for officers. This is also one of the important turning point on the way to gain an accreditation and international respectability of our army.

To assess 70 years of the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" I would like to express my conviction that in addition to all benefits in previous rich tradition its future content will significantly support teaching, knowledge and further education of Czech military doctors and pharmacists.



The introductory article of the first issue of the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" from the year 1925

The fitness and readiness of armed forces depends largely on the standard of the Military Health Service . Its task is to take care of the fact that the progress in this field is properly utilized and that the health care of soldiers complies with the requirements of the given time.

A doctor has to benefit from a new knowledge in science, heading constantly forward, in all the activities, starting with recruiting activity, through daily medical examinations and hygienic education of soldiers to special interventions in hospital. And it is mainly necessary to consider a new knowledge in science during the preparation of our armed forces for war. The same thing holds true about veterinarians and pharmacists. The progress, which has been made in the last few years, is seen among others from the fact that it was possible to stop or suppress different kinds of epidemics, which the people were afraid of in the past, with the joint effort of all the authorities of the Military Health Service, the Military Veterinary Service and the Military Pharmaceutical Service. The necessary task now is to adapt measures in the Military Health Service for new aggressive weapons and defensive means, gases and war in the air.

I welcome the cooperation of all those three components in one joint scientific body and I do not doubt that the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy" helps to solve the special questions which are set by the country's defence.

*Fr. UDRŽAL,
the Secretary of State for Defence.*

