



21 May, Hungary's National Defence Day

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Almost all countries of the world commemorate about their defence forces symbolized the sovereignty and self-defence capability of the nation. In the last decades, in our country members of the defence forces were celebrated in several ways. In 1940 a governing order declared 28 June as the Day of Defence. According to this regulation the Day of Defence was "the celebration of armed forces", the ceremonial display of the military spirit and the internal power of the army in front of the nation.

Since the 50's until 1991, 29 September was the Armed Forces Day and National Defence Day. By a regulation of the Government since 1992, 21 May is the Day of the Hungarian National Defence, this is

the day of battle of Castle Buda in 1849, when the Hungarian Army lead by General Artúr Görgey recaptured the capital this day from the troops lead by Austrian General Hentzi.

From the memorials we have learned that the successful occupation of the Buda Castle – the Honvéd General Artúr Görgey was not more than 31 years old at the time – was the 'crown' of the glorious Spring Campaign, and the General had proven his excellent capabilities, when he forged the poorly equipped Hungarian forces into an army within a short time.

This battle was the last step to make clear for Habsburg Emperor the Hungarian's willing of independence, and this victory could symbolized the freedom of the Country and would have provided a good discussion basis for the expected peace talks.

Remembering for this unprecedented battle and victory, since 1992 we remember the heroes who lined up as soldiers under the tricolor of the nation on 21st May 1849, and faced death bravely, singing the national anthem

while attacking the strongholds of the enemy.

First and foremost, this day is the day of remembrance, a celebration in honor of the predecessors who had defended their homeland heroically. Nevertheless, it also has to be mentioned that Hungarian soldiers – just like in the past – deserve all our respect in these times, as well. Be it a contracted soldier, a professional serviceman, regardless of the location they are serving at, both within the boundaries of the country, and in an international mission.

This year, the Hungarian Contingent of NRDC-ITA HQ invited the other





Senior National Representatives (SNRs), Deputy Chief of Staffs (DCOSs) and Assistant Chief of Staffs (ACOSs) of the HQ to celebrate the Hungarian Armed Forces Day together.

The event was held in "Ugo Mara" Barracks, in the garden of the Officers' Club on 19 May at 12.00 hrs.

After arrival of the guests, the Hungarian Senior National Representative, General András Szűcs greeted the participants and thanked them for coming for the celebration. In his speech he expressed that this was an irregular event, because his and the Hungarian Contingent's intention was on one side to commemorate the Hungarian Armed Forces Day because this year on 21 May we celebrated the 162 anniversary of the establishment of the first independent Hungarian Army,

and on the other hand this event could be a good reason to spend more time in a familiar environment.

Following this General Szűcs asked the participants to thank together to all servicemen of the Hungarian Armed Forces to provide their selfless service to the Nation and their commitment to their demanding job, and in order to carry out the other purpose of the event he invited the guests for a small buffet organised, prepared and served by the Hungarian Contingent.

Before the invitees started to enjoy the traditional Hungarian wines



and meals, the Commander of NRDC-ITA, Lieutenant General Gian Marco Chiarini complimented to the Hungarian Contingent and thanked the invitation for the national celebration.

Personally this event was memorable for me, because this illustrious event was the date of my promotion to major and was a great honour for me to received felicitation not only from Hungarian contingent but also from General Chiarini and all invited guests too.

I wish for all officers and NCOs to have same opportunity which could be a life time memory for all military service carriers.