Celebration of 20th Anniversary

Jubilee 20 YEARS ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Timeline of implementation of the annual program activities
The celebration of the anniversary is an opportunity to see two decades of development of our army, which began to function in extremely difficult and complex political and military conditions, with modest means, when practically it all started from the beginning.

With a number of suitable activities, the Macedonian Army admirably celebrated the "20 years ARM" anniversary. In the planning of the activities and their implementation, the initial directions and instructions have been fully respected regarding the availability of staff of the Ministry of Defense and the Army, Macedonian citizens and the international public, and special emphasis was given to the media coverage.

For successful implementation of the activities, with a decision by the Minister of Defense and an Order by the Chief of Staff of ARM, a Coordinating body was established to manage the activities in the process of preparation and implementation.

As of 19.02.2012, after the successful promotion of the annual program, the following activities were achieved:

- Promotion of activities of the Annual program, the logo of the "20 years Army" anniversary and a promotional brochure. An update on the MOD website with the promotional brochure and logo,
- Officials were appointed for each activity of MoD and ARM, and a system of communication, coordination, notification and exchange of information was established,
- Initiated procedures for providing material and technical resources anticipated to cover the cost of implementation for each activity separately,
- The coordination meetings were implemented as required and according to the agreed pace,
- The directions of the management structure of the MOD and GS were timely and successful in the operational implementation of the activities,
- Achieved coordination meetings with the mayors of Stip, Berovo, Kavadarci, Kumanovo, Tetovo and Kicevo. At the meeting, besides promotion of the key activities of the annual program, special emphasis was given to the activities directly or indirectly related to the local governments (lectures in elementary and secondary schools, open days in barracks, preparations for having the NCO cross-country races, active participation of teams from the local government in all army sports competitions, organizing a national expert panel, promotional concerts of the military orchestra and considering the possibilities for giving advertising space in the central parts of cities),
- The conference of Ministers of Defense of the United States-Adriatic Charter "Common Challenges and allied solutions" was implemented in the period from 28 - 30.03.2012 in Skopje. The Macedonian Army was involved in the activities of administrative protocol character. All tasks and duties were carried out
according to plan, with quality and the instructions of the appointed officials of the activity,

- Successful promotion of the new Army anthem and opening fanfare.
- Fully completed procedures for amending state law to draft decorations medals to members of the security forces and the Rules for recognition of the Macedonian Army (documents published in the Official Gazette and in force),
- The planned international biathlon was implemented as planned and according to the given guidelines and instructions in February 2012 in Krushevo,
- The arrival of the first recruits in the Army of Republic of Macedonia was realized as planned and organized on 12.04.2012. A representative of GS participated in the celebration in garrison Kicevo, where the first recruit officially arrived,
- The activity "20 saplings for 20 years ARM" was conducted in all Army garrisons. The central activity was conducted in the grounds of the MOD and GS on 12.04.2012, with the presence of the former and active generals, military attaches accredited in the Republic of Macedonia and the head of the NATO Advisory Team and the representatives of the MOD leadership structure of RM.
- The planned international scientific conference: The role of active and reserve members of the armed forces in support of their missions and objectives in regional and global security environment in the 21st century was held on 23.04.2012 in the Hall of ARM in Skopje. The preparations were as planned and coordinated with the Association of veterans and reservists from the defense and security of the Republic of Macedonia,
- All army garrisons sports competitions involving one or two teams of local governments are fully realized. The final and friendly matches were held in Skopje garrison,
- The association of veterans and reservists from the defense and security of the Republic of Macedonia held second activity - national professional conference in several cities in Macedonia on "Army of the Republic of Macedonia 1992 - 2012" - formation, development and challenges.
- a catalog of the predicted MTA for the central event, i.e. for the military parade in Ilinden barracks.
- Media coverage was conducted as planned and according to the guidelines of the management structure and the PR responsible officials of the MOD and GS.
- In cooperation with the authorities, i.e. the officials of the MoD conducted planned and coordinated preparations for issuing the White Paper on defense and the festive edition of the magazine Shtit,
- Military orchestra meticulously realized the promotional concerts in several cities in the Republic of Macedonia. Tour of the military orchestra is predicted to finish with a big concert on the Macedonia square in Skopje. The approval and possible locations to hold concerts were reached in cooperation with the local government,
- Implemented humanitarian campaigns for donations of clothing and footwear by the staff of ARM,
- Campaign for voluntary blood donations,
- Open days in the barracks - sending an invitation to primary and secondary schools to visit the units all over Macedonia,
- Central tactical - technical demonstration on the Military Stadium in Skopje,
- Academy Gala and reception followed by a military orchestra concert and awarding commendations and awards for special service in the interest of the Army.

The central event happened in Ilinden barracks - 18.08.2012.

The units of the Army of Republic of Macedonia were presented in a parade led by the Chief of Staff, Major General Goranco Koteski, in the barracks "Ilinden" in Skopje on the occasion of the Day of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia and the celebration "20 years ARM".

In front of the state and the military leadership - Macedonian President George Ivanov, Parliament Speaker Trajkov Veljanovski, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia, Fatmir Besimi and other members of government, military and diplomatic corps accredited in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as the numerous citizens, echelons marched of all branches of the Army and an echelon of members of the U.S. Army.

The Military air force, i.e. the Air Force brigade as an attractive segment of the Macedonian Army was presented by combat-transport helicopters Mi-24, transport helicopters Mi-8/17 and planes Zlin 242L.

The presentation, of over 100 military - technical assets and vehicles that are part of the arms of the Macedonian Army began with an echelon of vehicles from signals, equipped with modern and highly sophisticated communication and information resources, followed by echelon of "Humvee" combat vehicles, assets for anti - air defense, mainly missile systems "Arrow 10" and "Iгла", an echelon of APCs "Hermelin" and an echelon of artillery assets - howitzers of 105 mm, 122 mm, multiple rocket launcher system BM -21 " Grad " and multiple rockets "Flame".

The artillery assets were followed by armored personnel carriers BTR-80 and BMP-2, and what sparked great interest, of course, was an echelon of T-72 tanks, which has great firepower and maneuver capabilities to the extent that it represents a striking force in combat actions.

With repeated flights of the aircrafts from the Army of the Republic of Macedonia the parade on the occasion of the Day of the Army and the anniversary "20 years ARM" was officially ended.

The display of the highly sophisticated assets, as well as the professional members of the ARM proved that the army during the two decades of existence manages to maintain continuous growth and progress, a fact which is confirmed by the unselfish contribution of ARM in international peacekeeping missions worldwide.