



**TWO CENTURIES SINCE THE TAKOVO UPRISING
THE SERBIAN ARMED FORCES DAY – 23rd APRIL**

Takovo, 23rd April 2015









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* FRONT PAGE: Paja Jovanovic, *The Takovo Uprising*, 1898, Takovo Museum (oil painting on canvas)



THE TAKOVO UPRISING

**“And when Milos heard what the guards told him,
Then he shouted at his voivodes
Voivodes, those young standard-bearers
They lifted their flagpoles high up skyward,
And mounted their strong and mighty stallions,
Spread the word to Serbian soldiery,
And rallied the whole of military”**

From folk poem “Uprising of Knez Milos against the Ottomans”
(Cycle of poems about the liberation of Serbia and Montenegro,
Vuk Stefanovic Karadzic)

The battle for the creation of the modern Serbian state began with the First Serbian Uprising in 1804, and continued in 1815 with the Second Serbian Uprising in Takovo, under the leadership of the most prominent national hero Milos Obrenovic.

The people and their leaders saw armed battle as the only way to end the centuries of the Ottoman Rule and rebuild the statehood that had grown in the times of the Nemanjic dynasty. The powerful symbolism of the past was the signpost on the crossroads of history, and the statehood spirit of Serbian rulers shone from the darkness of centuries.

The Serbian military was created from uprising troops, from the people who had taken weapons to fight for their freedom. The use of weapons and people's army in the fight for foundation of the independent state determined the importance of the military factor and the dedication to develop the military as the people's beacon of hope that would one day finish the national liberation mission.

The uprising brought a new beginning of the fight for the creation of the modern Serbian state that Prince Milos continued leading using diplomacy, and gained the Serbian autonomy within the Ottoman Empire and establishment of the Principality of Serbia, which had its Assembly, Constitution and its ruling dynasty. The military had an important role in the creation of Serbian statehood.



At the memorial complex in Takovo, there is a monumental bronze sculpture "**Takovo Uprising**", made by Serbian sculptor Petar Ubavkic, depicting Prince Milos and Archimandrite Melentije Pavlovic taking the oath.



THE SERBIAN ARMED FORCES DAY – 23rd APRIL

“The history of our Serbia is a book about everlasting martyrdom. Every force has attacked and attacks us, powerful, relying on the unjust rule of survival of the fittest. This is why our tormented and anguished people has written the history of liberation, of a people that has never conquered, never enslaved, but always liberated.

Proud of its heroic ancestors – insurgents, privates, field marshals, commanders, heroes – The Serbian Armed Forces, a modern military force, honourably serves to its country and the people which it comes from, saluted by the roaring strength of the same cheer through centuries, battles, and victories, to this very day: LONG LIVE SERBIA!”

President of the Republic
Tomislav Nikolic

The Serbian Armed Forces celebrates its day on 23rd April, in memory of the day on which the Second Serbian Uprising began in 1815. The people, armed, ready and determined to continue their fight for freedom, provided strong support for diplomatic efforts to gain autonomy and statehood. The military, born from the strong rebellion of people against centuries of foreign rule, remained tied by fate to its people in all wars for preservation of the hard-won freedom and independence.

Today, the Serbian Armed Forces is a modern defence force that builds its capabilities while combining firm foundations of tradition with top standards of great armies of the world. This institution has earned greatest respect of the citizens of Serbia; it guarantees its stability and security, and creates conditions for its faster economic growth. It is always first when it comes to helping the people in the most difficult moments, and it is increasingly present in peacekeeping efforts and missions under the auspices of the United Nations and the European Union.

Its most important tasks are aimed at further modernization, in accordance with overall capabilities of the state, and maintaining strategic direction of active and comprehensive military cooperation.

Celebration of the Serbian Armed Forces Day confirms that we remember and value the sacrifice of all those who gave their lives for freedom and honour of their fatherland. Serbia that we are building is bound by their victories and even more so by the dreams of its younger generations.





MILITARY FLAGS

“The flag is the utmost military sanctity, the holy testimony of military honour and duty, of military glory and pride.”

General Stepa Stepanovic, Minister of War, 1911



FOR FREEDOM AND HONOR OF THE FATHERLAND

Text on the flags of units of the Serbian Armed Forces



At the central ceremony of the Serbian Armed Forces Day in Takovo and marking two centuries since the Takovo Uprising, President of the Republic of Serbia will hand over military flags to units at brigade level of the Serbian Armed Forces .

«The flag is the utmost military sanctity, the holy testimony of military honour and duty, of military glory and pride», General Stepa Stepanovic said. He was the Minister of War when King Petar I Karadjordjevic, with honorary salvo and parade march, ceremonially handed over military flags to regiments of the Serbian Army in Banjica in 1911.

Military flags of the Armed Forces are regulated by the Rule on the coat of arms of the Serbian Armed Forces, military flags, military insignia, and other symbols and signs of the Serbian Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of the President of the Republic of Serbia. They are characteristic symbols that traditionally symbolize attachment to military formation, military honour and the unity of a unit or ship.

The right to the military flag belongs to units at brigade level and ships of riverine units (on the stern and the bow of the ship according to the provisions of the Rule of marine service). Twenty-four units



of the Serbian Armed Forces have military flags. On the occasion of this grand jubilee, President of the Republic of Serbia will hand over 23 military flags, as the Cadet Brigade has already received the military flag.

In the wake of the First Serbian-Ottoman War in 1876, upon the proposal of the Minister of War, procurement of flags for 77 battalions of the 2nd class of the Serbian Army was approved, and by 18th June 1876, 1st and 2nd class battalions of the Army and 29 cavalry squadrons received their flags. According to the 1884 Regulation on flags, on Palm Sunday in 1886, flags were presented to active infantry and cavalry regiments, guard squadron, reserve infantry regiments and reserve cavalry divisions and the King's Guard. Thirty-three flags were presented on the occasion.

Handover of new flags to units of the Serbian military has always been conducted ceremonially, with highest state and military honours. In the same manner, in 1911, at the ceremony in Banjica, King Petar I Kardjordjevic, accompanied by Minister of War Stepa Stepanovic, presented 51 flags to infantry and cavalry regiments. In 1930, at the same location, King Aleksandar presented 69 flags to infantry and cavalry regiments, the King's Guard and Gendarmerie.

During the National Liberation War, Chief Commander Josip Broz Tito or his emissary presented flags to proletarian brigades. Those



flags remained in the Yugoslav People's Army until 22nd December 1951, when new flags were assigned.

After the reorganization of the Serbian Armed Forces, flags were presented to brigades during ceremonies on the occasion of their formation. At the ceremony in Takovo, brigades receive new flags and the old flags are taken to the Military Museum where they are preserved.

The main part of the military flag (obverse and reverse) is made of double crepe satin or silk, in the form of a square with three sides decorated with tassels. On the right side of the main part of the military flag, when the flag is in the salute position, there is the flag of the Republic of Serbia with the small coat of arms of the Republic of Serbia in the middle.

The other side of the military flag is in colour characteristic of the unit at brigade level. In the middle is the emblem of the unit at brigade level, above the emblem there is a semicircular inscription of its full name, and under the emblem there is the motto «FOR FREEDOM AND HONOR OF THE FATHERLAND.»



The main part of the military flag (obverse and reverse) is made of double crepe satin or silk, in the form of a square with three sides decorated with tassels. On the right side of the main part of the military flag, when the flag is in the salute position, there is the flag of the Republic of Serbia with the Small Coat of Arms of the Republic of Serbia in the middle.

The other side of the military flag is in color characteristic of the unit at brigade level. In the middle is the emblem of the unit at brigade level, above the emblem - a semicircular inscription of its full name, and under the emblem is the motto «FOR FREEDOM AND HONOR OF THE FATHERLAND.»

The band (ribbon) of the military flag is in colours of the flag of the Republic of Serbia and of the same material as the main part of the flag. On the short sides it is decorated with tassels in gold colour. At one end of the band (ribbon) there is embroidered small coat of arms of the Republic of Serbia, and at the other end, opposite to the coat of arms, the name of the unit is inscribed. At one third of its length (at the end with the small coat of arms of the Republic of Serbia), the band (ribbon) of the military flag passes through two brass rings, which are attached to the top of the flagpole. Military flag braid (with fringes and a tassel at the ends) is made of golden thread.



Military flagpole consists of a head with the top and a two-piece pole with a base plate. The head of the military flagpole consists of a base, neck, ball and finial. The base of the head is attached to the pole with two brass screws. The band (ribbon) of the military flag and the braid with tassels are attached to the neck of the head. The apple is attached to the neck of the flagpole, with the finial on top of it in the shape of a spike made of brass, into which the application of a crowned double-headed eagle with the shield and the Serbian Cross in silver colour is inserted.

The pole of the military flagpole is made of lacquered oak wood and has two parts connected by brass screwed connection. The base plate of the military flagpole consists of a base and protector. The base plate is made of brass. The base of the flagpole is attached to the lower end of the pole with two brass screws. The protector is conical in shape with a rounded tip.





TAKOVO

**“This bush will dry up in the course of time
And the stone column will be destroyed by the time
But Serbia will exist for ever
And the name of Milos will be mentioned”**

Inscription on Monument to the
Second Serbian Uprising, Takovo, 1887

Takovo is the place in the Municipality of Gornji Milanovac where Prince Milos Obrenovic led the Second Serbian Uprising on Palm Sunday in 1815. It represents a historical reader that depicts the period of the creation of modern Serbia.

The most significant testimonies of these tumultuous times are located in the memorial complex in Takovo. At the Museum, there is a permanent exhibition setup that features Paja Jovanovic's renowned painting «Takovo Uprising».

The Wooden Church of Saint George in Takovo was built in 1795. On Palm Sunday in 1815, Divine Liturgy and Eucharist of leaders of the Uprising were held here, and after the service, Milos Obrenovic announced the new battle against the Ottomans. He did this under the pedunculate oak, the hallmark Takovo bush, in front of the large people's assembly.



ACTIVITIES ON THE OCCASION OF TWO CENTURIES SINCE THE TAKOVO UPRISING

Day	ACTIVITY	PLACE
THURSDAY 16 APRIL	Musical-stage performance "The Bush"	Guard House, Topcider
FRIDAY 17 APRIL	Promotion of the sixth video from the series "Be a professional"	Central Military Club, Belgrade
MONDAY 20 APRIL	Ceremonial march of Nis Military Orchestra	Nis (King Milan Square – Obrenoviceva Street – King Aleksandar Square)
	Ceremonial handover of decorations and military acknowledgements	Great War Hall of the Old Army Headquarters
TUESDAY 21 APRIL	Reception by President of the Republic of Serbia	Building of the General Secretariat of the President of the Republic
	Concert of the Art Ensemble of the Ministry of Defence "Stanislav Binicki"	Gornji Milanovac
	Reception by Minister of Defence and Chief of the Serbian Armed Forces General Staff	Crystal Hall of the Guard House, Topcider

AND THE SERBIAN ARMED FORCES DAY

Day	ACTIVITY	PLACE
WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL	Ceremonial march of the Representative Orchestra of the Guard	Belgrade (Republic Square – Knez Mihailova Street – Kalemegdan)
	Opening of the exhibition “Second Serbian Uprising and the rule of Prince Milos”	Gallery of the Military Museum, Belgrade
THURSDAY 23 APRIL	Divine Liturgy	Wooden Church in Takovo
	Unveiling of Monument to Prince Milos Obrenovic	Pozega
	Visit to the birthplace of Milos Obrenovic and the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul	Gornja Dobrinja
	Laying wreaths at the Monument to the Second Serbian Uprising	Takovo
	Central Ceremony on the occasion of the Serbian Armed Forces Day	Takovo
	Honorary artillery salvo	– Sava terrace of the Belgrade Fortress, Belgrade – Takovo

CENTRAL CEREMONY IN TAKOVO

No.	ACTIVITY	TIME
1.	LINING UP OF THE UNITS FOR THE MILITARY CEREMONY ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAY OF SAF	12.50 to 12.55
2.	LAYING WREATHS AT THE MONUMENT TO THE SECOND SERBIAN UPRISING	12.55 to 13.00
3.	ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	13.00 to 13.05
4.	ARRIVAL OF THE STATE FLAG	13.05 to 13.08
5.	SOUNDING OF THE STATE ANTHEM	13.08 to 13.10
6.	ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	13.10 to 13.17
7.	HONORARY ARTILLERY SALVO	13.17
8.	HANDOVER OF FLAGS	13.17 to 13.37
9.	CLOSE-ORDER DRILL OF THE GUARD	13.37 to 13.43
10.	SEND OFF OF OLD FLAGS	13.43 to 13.47
11.	FLYPAST OF AIRCRAFT	13.43 to 13.47
12.	SEND OFF OF THE STATE FLAG	13.47 to 13.50
13.	TOUR OF THE DISPLAY OF A PART OF SAF ARMS AND EQUIPMENT (STATIC DISPLAY)	13.50 to 14.30
14.	MILITARY LUNCH	14.30 to 15.30

VENUE PLAN



1.	ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
2.	LAYING WREATHS AT THE MONUMENT TO THE SECOND SERBIAN UPRISING
3.	WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT
4.	PRESIDENT INSPECTS THE LINES
5.	WELCOMING THE STATE FLAG
6.	SOUNDING OF THE STATE ANTHEM
7.	ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF SERBIA
8.	HANDOVER OF MILITARY FLAGS
9.	CLOSE-ORDER DRILL OF THE GUARD
10.	PLACE OF THE LINES OF UNITS
11.	VIP TENT
12.	STATIC DISPLAY
13.	CENTRAL OBSERVATION POST
14.	PRESS CENTER
15.	FOOD COURT

STATIC DISPLAY PLAN



