

Top Level Sport in the Czech Armed Forces.

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The top and representative sport is aimed at providing the Czech Republic's representation with select sportsmen, who are obliged to execute the compulsory military service, or after having finished it they continue in the army as professionals. Besides these sportsmen there are also civilian members inclusive of the junior category.

This sector has no direct effect upon fulfilling the tasks concerning the combative preparedness of troops. After accomplishment of the elementary training the sportsmen are designated to Army sport centre. There is the sports action provided and directed in cooperation with the ministry of education, youth and P.T., Czech Olympic Committee and sports federations according to resolutions of Czech Republic's government, out of fighting formations, in accordance with special principles and orders.

The main target is to create the conditions by reason of sportive preparation for top world competitions - Olympic Games, World Championship, World cups, further for European competitions, junior and of course also of the army ones.

As priority are selected Olympic sports branches: athletics, boxing, cycling, canoeing, skiing, modern pentathlon, shooting, rowing, fencing; further games: handball, ice-hockey and volley-ball.

There are also parachuting and orienteering - the sports not Olympic, but for army's representation very significant.

Particular sports are situated in Prague, Liberec, Plzeň, Hradec Králové, Olomouc, Prostějov, Brno, Jihlava and Brandýs nad Labem. In Prague there is centre that provides the whole domain in organizational, methodical, material, financial and personal respect.

This system has in Czech Army a tradition 50 years old and has been in the course of these ages several times modified. The most significant changes have taken place in the year 1993 in connection with the origin of Czech Republic.

The first Czech and soldier gained a gold olympic medal however as early as in the year 1928 in Amsterdam. It was captain VENTURA in riding. In fiftieth ages made the army sport famous legendary runner captain ZÁTOPEK, hero at Olympic Games in London 1948 and above all in Helsinki 1952.

Similarly the contemporary racing generation at Olympic Games in the years 1992, 1996 and 1998 - the winners Železný and Změlík (athletics), Hilgertová (water-slalom), Chalupa (rowing), Račanský and Januš (shooting), Neumannová, Parma, Jež (skiing) is proving high sporting mastery.

The army sportsmen bring yearly 40 up to 50 medals from the most prestige competitions, are overcoming records inclusive of world ones.

Since the year 1991, when the Czech Army is member of CISM, they are also achievements from these contests.

Efficiency competition and its permanent growth claims a long - termed, demanding and national preparation with making the most of all contemporaneous knowledge from theory and sports training's practice and the shape of a sport centre presents itself on that ground as practical and effective and consequently also optimum solution. Its structure and standpoints for incorporating sports branches, member of received sportsmen (about 300) and coaches (about 60) and with it connected ensurance and conditions accord with state interest in sports representation and with relevant possibilities.

A great accent is laid on optimum and objectivity of sports preparation. It demands a professional qualification of coaches, who are graduates of a specialized coach-study on the Faculty of physical training and sport of Charles University in Prague. Knowledge of decidivly and limiting factors of efficiency, their measurements and evaluations contribute to planning an effective training. The process of medical-pedagogical pursuance provides the proper sanitary department and service - methodical workplace CASRI. To this purpose are also exploited civil specialized workplaces and laboratories.

Sports training runs through either in army equipments or ones specially let out on hire in civil conditions. There is very good cooperation within the framework of CISM, especially with armies of Germany and Italy, whose perfect equipments enabled us already many times to make first-rate preparations.

In the sports preparation's system there are also junior sections (about 120), that take part in their own competitions and make the best of respective conditions before starting the basic military service.

This way of preparation and cadre's selection is long-termed successful and a row of present champions went it through.

Decisive for ranging oneself with army sport centre is the reached efficiency. The selection of recruits - sportsmen is carried out central by taking into consideration the requirements of sports federations. It is unmistakable, that talented recruits are nowadays scarcer then they were in the past. That is why such a great significance has one's own completing and care of junior category, that is in fact a qualitatively prepared reserve.

As it has been already mentioned the army top sport's system has in this country a long-termed and successful tradition. The army sport constitutes a significant buttress of state representation. With regard to it has a high reputation, paradoxically for the most part much bigger in foreign countries than at home. This can be considered as result of an professionally directed model and its securing in Czech Army's conditions.

In the following year, which is the preolympic one, the leading aims of the Army sport centre are pointed at world top competitions, which are mostly ranged as nomination's, which are mostly ranged as nomination's criterions for Olympic Games in Sydney 2000. We should like to succeed also at II. World Army games in Croatia and so confirm the high level of Czech army sport.