



Bids for 3D radar systems

(22 January) The Slovak Ministry of Defence has received 10 bids from the countries it approached in connection with the procurement of the medium, short, and very short range 3D RL radar systems for the SVK Air Force. The MOD plans to purchase the radars via a Government-to-Government (G2G) sale by 2025.

All the submitted bids will be subject to assessment and evaluation by a group of subject matter specialists from the SVK Ministry of Defence, the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces, and the SVK Air Force, whilst taking account of the technical and operational specifications of the radars, delivery schedule, NATO interoperability issues, training programme, logistics support package for the radars' entire life cycle, costs and aspects of infrastructure adjustments, level of participation of the SVK defence industry in the modernization programme, and the price.

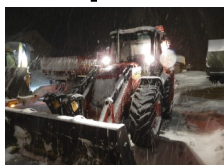
Once the procurement of the medium, short, and very short range 3D RL radar systems was officially announced, the MOD sent out the Request for Government Proposal (RGP) to 13 countries, whereas 10 countries – France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America responded within the deadline laid down in the RGP, i.e. by 20 January 2019.

In delivering on the 2030 Long-Term Defence Development Plan, the Slovak Ministry of Defence plans to procure a total of 17 pieces of medium, short, and very short range 3D RL radars via a G2G sale for an estimated framework price of €155,090,000, VAT included, to be delivered in the required timeframe by 2025. After considering all the criteria and options, the most advantageous solution will be submitted to the SVK Cabinet for consideration by 30 June 2019.

250 soldiers deploy to help Orava

(23 January) More than 250 soldiers have been deployed to help northern Slovakia recover in the aftermath of the snow calamity over the past few days. The SVK Armed Forces received a request for assistance from the crisis staffs of 9 villages in Námestovo County. Residents of the villages have been aided in snow removal by soldiers from Martin, Ružomberok, Sereď, Sliač and Žilina, involving the use of assigned equipment.

Soldiers have cleared 56,500 m² of roads, roofs and other surfaces covered in snow, as well as delivering relief food to elderly and disabled people. In doing so, they have lived up to their mission whereby if requested by domestic crisis management authorities, they are ready to offer assistance to SVK inhabitants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



SVK-HUN Combined Commission on defence cooperation

(22 January) The Slovak-Hungarian Combined Commission met in Bratislava on 22 January 2019, to debate current security and political affairs and issues relating to a wide spectrum of bilateral military cooperation. The SVK-HUN CC is chaired by State Secretary of the Slovak Ministry of Defence Róbert Ondrejcsák and Hungarian State Secretary for Defence István Szabó.

The meeting was dominated by discussions on activities being undertaken by both countries within NATO and the EU, especially on the Military Mobility project, Slovakia's PESCO Indirect Fire Support project, which Hungary has recently joined as a regular member, and Hungary's proposal for the stand-up of the NATO Multinational Division HQ.

Both sides agreed on the importance of joint military exercises and training and expressed their interest in ensuring continuity of such activities even in the future. In this regard, Secretary Ondrejcsák highlighted the benefits of the Slovak Shield and Tobruk Legacy exercise series. On joint airspace defence, the leaders reviewed the progress made on the Joint Airspace Protection Agreement. They both agreed that the signing of the Agreement could take place within a short time frame.

The Slovak-Hungarian Combined Commission has met since 1999 on a regular basis, usually once a year, alternately in the Slovak Republic and in Hungary. It is one of the 12 Slovak-Hungarian Combined Commissions which were established on the basis of the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Hungarian Republic on Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Cooperation in 1995.



- In tribute to martyr St Sebastian, the patron of the **Ordinate of the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps**, members of the Ordinate commemorated St Sebastian Day on Sunday 20 Jan 2019.

- The 44th **Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Gratitude March** took place on 19 Jan 2019, with the participation of Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini. The SNP Gratitude March commemorates the Nazi raid on the village of Cigef in retaliation for local residents supporting SNP partisans. As part of the programme, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Memorial to the Fallen, assisted by members of 12th Mechanised Battalion and Military Band Banská Bystrica.

- As part of his official New Year audiences, SVK President/Commander-in-Chief of the SVK Armed Forces Andrej Kiska received members of the **SVK Presidential Guard of Honour (GoH)** at the Presidential Palace, to thank them for their service to the nation on Wednesday 16 Jan 2019. Also in attendance at the official audience were representatives of the Military Presidential Office – Chief of the Military Presidential Office Maj Gen Vladimír Šimko, Commander of the Presidential Seat Col Norbert Kádek, and members of the Presidential GoH Command and Staff.

- As part of a Holy Mass celebrated by Mons František Rábek at the MOD Chapel on 15 Jan 2019, Lt Col PaedDr ThLic Stanislav Lipka was promoted to Colonel and assumed the appointment of **Bishop's Vicar for the Catholic Church** in the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps in succession to Col PaedDr Mons Jozef Michalov, who assumed the appointment of Bishop's Vicar for the Greek Catholic Church in the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps.

- The first preparatory phase of Ex Sharp Lynx 2019, or the so-called **NATO Multinational Military Police Battalion Workshop**, got underway in mid-January in Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland, with the participation of military policemen from Slovakia, Czechia, Croatia and Poland. After Croatia took over the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee, Maj Jaroslav Slančík (SVK A), of Crisis Management Branch, MP Training and Cynology Department, was appointed Chief of NATO MNMPBAT Staff.

- Over the period of 2016 – 2018, employees of the **Museum Sections Piešťany and Svidník, Military History Museum**, continued to take good care of exhibits of cultural heritage, with the support of the SVK Armed Forces. Over the given period, museum professionals cleaned 4,393 exhibits from the military collections.

- Drivers are asked by the MOD to drive with care as there will be 11 **Allied military road movements** across Slovakia, scheduled from 28 Jan – 3 Feb 2019. They will mostly involve U.S. and POL troops. Also, SVK Army vehicles carrying oversized cargo will drive in convoy from Martin via Žilina to Trenčín, from Nitra via Trnava to Trenčín, from Nitra to Garrison Training Ground at Koliňanský Vrch, from Kamenica nad Cirochou Training Area to Prešov. There will also be a railway movement from Trebišov to Zlatovce.

1st Mech Bde members attend live fire training for the first time this year

(23 January) Members of Headquarters 1st Mech Bde Topoľčany underwent improvement training with the aim of going over the subjects of the all-arms training methodology. The training, which was underway on Topoľčany Garrison's firing range at Lipovnik, was led by Col Ján Halaj, Chief of Staff (COS) 1st Mech Bde Topoľčany. The aim of the training was to practise live fire tasks in the field of marksmanship training. As well as checking the attendance list, receiving a briefing on safety measures



soldiers can keep sustaining and improving their personal weapons skills.

Artillerymen of Michalovce at Lešť

(25 January) Artillerymen of the Self-propelled Artillery Detachment Michalovce began to perform their Training Year (TY) 2019 tasks by undertaking training preparation on simulators at the TC Lešť. On 21-25 January 2019, members of the Detachment worked through the scenarios built around a common theme: Providing Fire Support to 2nd Mech Bde in Defensive Operations. While making the best of simulation technologies, three fire batteries and a recon battery practised and fine-tuned the planning and C2 processes for delivering fire support, the reporting of messages and commands, the activity of artillery reconnaissance and fire control posts at the battery and detachment levels.

The training, supported by modern technologies, has helped improve specific activities instrumental to standardising the procedures for execution of artillery tasks; the ability to prepare artillerymen for execution of fire using a full, abridged and simplified training methodology, and the system of C2 and communications with the result that the maximum possible time interval from target acquisition to target elimination, while taking into consideration the right timing and the conduct of effective fire, was shortened.

Selection for 5th SOF Regt

(21 January) Consistent with the SVK Chief of Defence's guidance, the Commander of 5th Special Forces Regiment (5th SOF Regt) Žilina has announced Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) for active duty soldiers. SFAS will be conducted in the form of intense unit-level training for the Combat Arms (CA) branches and for the Combat Service Support (CSS) branches (logistics, command support, specialist communications, and first aid station) separately, scheduled for 8-17 April 2019 and 8-11 April 2019, respectively.

Application forms of the SOF candidates who have been in serious breach of security or discipline will be declined. If a candidate seriously breaches security measures or military discipline during SFAS, he will be subject to exclusion from SFAS automatically. In the event of an early exclusion for whatever reason, the candidate will be ordered to report to his unit and a written report will be forwarded to the unit commander.

SOF candidates are allowed to attempt SFAS up to a maximum of three times. Upon selection at SFAS, it is possible to accept successful candidates into the ranks of 5th SOF Regt over the next four years since completing the selection process. Respective unit commanders will be notified of the outcomes by the 5th SOF Regt Commander no later than 21 days since the conclusion of the selection process.

