



SNP Museum enjoys great support from MOD

(21 January) Having been moved to the remit of the Ministry of Defence, the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum has seen its budget rise up by 50% against last year. The Museum can also rely on other forms of support like collection care and conservation treatment of large objects by experts from across the MOD and Armed Forces.

This was acknowledged today in a joint statement by Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer, and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko after visiting the Museum and leading a discussion with the Museum's managers and staff.

Minister Naď said: "For the Ministry of Defence and military personnel, the legacy of the Slovak National Uprising is exceptionally powerful and we'll do our utmost to make sure that the SNP Museum thrives under the MOD's remit and that it is taken to the level it deserves." Mr Naď thanked Director General of the SNP Museum Marian Uhrin for his approach and cooperation.

On the Museum's spending, Naď said: "While the Museum's budget was €2.21m in 2021 and €2.15m was planned for 2022, we took measures to increase it by €841,588 in capital investments, i.e. to help drive improvements to the Museum, and an additional €286,000 was allocated for standard maintenance and repairs." This means the MOD has increased the Museum's budget by 50% up to €3.28m.



Mr Naď confirmed that while the Museum's legal status after its transition to the MOD's remit remains unchanged, the institution is neither moving to a different place, nor is being liquidated, and no redundancies have been made. He continued: "On the contrary, funding is up significantly and specific projects are being identified for implementation. This is our message in response to the scaremongering that we have witnessed." Now that more funding has been allocated to the Museum, among the first projects to move forward are essential repairs, including to the Museum's roofs and fences, the support wall at an aircraft exhibit in the Museum's grounds, the concrete pedestals for exhibits at the Museum's open air site and the partisan bunkers at Kalište, as well as insulation works to a house at Kalište. Given that the Armed Forces and the Institute of Military History work closely together, soldiers are ready to assist with restoring and conserving items from the SNP Museum's collections. Similarly, experts from Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN), the MOD-run joint stock company, are standing by to offer expertise in their specialisms.

Also at the meeting, the head of the MOD pointed to the findings and shortcomings at the Museum, revealed by the National Audit Office (NAO) in the years 2016-21. "The NAO has identified 29 serious irregularities. It is now up to the director to deal with them. Measures will have to be taken to remedy the mistakes, problems and law infringements and to prevent such practices from happening again in the future," he said.

Mr Uhrin said: "Over this short period of time since the Museum's transition to the remit of the new establishing authority, there have been no changes at first glance. Yet, the prospects for the Museum are very promising and when we meet together in a year's time, I think we'll see concrete results which will enable us to take the Museum forward. For me as a historian, one of the priorities is to take good care of objects from the Museum's collections." He went on to appreciate the support for the Museum from across Defence. The MOD and Armed Forces leaders received a tour of the Museum's exhibition spaces to be redeveloped under the Open Depository Project, as well as visiting the SNP Museum Education Centre.

Minister Naď at Hejce: Time flies, but pain remains after the loss of close ones

(19 January) 19 January 2006 saw the worst air disaster ever to strike Slovakia in its history when the Slovak Air Force Antonov AN-24 transport aircraft that was carrying SLOVCON KFOR personnel returning from their tour of duty in Kosovo crashed into Hill Borsó at the village of Hejce. At today's annual Act of Remembrance, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko paused to pay their utmost respects to the memory of the Service members at the 42 symbolic oak posts which stand at the site of the tragedy. Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "We have gathered here for the last 16 years since the moment that shook our MOD – our working and personal lives, the whole of Slovakia, and our allies. Time flies, but pain remains after the loss of close ones, as do the empty places after our colleagues, friends and relatives who lost their lives at this site." He continued: "These 39 men and 3 women from among our ranks perished while serving our country in support of peace and calm in the world. Therefore, they will forever remain imprinted in the memory of both their close ones and our modern independent Slovakia." He sympathised with all the next-of-kin and bereaved families over their long-lasting pain. Earlier, he had complied with their wishes by declassifying the Service Inquiry Report into the Antonov AN-24 Air Disaster in 2020. The Act of Remembrance continued at the Hejce Air Disaster Memorial in the village. There, Mr Naď thanked the village mayor and residents for preserving the memory of the fallen Service members. For this, he awarded them with the SVK Minister of Defence Commemorative Medal, 3rd Grade.



- Bishop of the Forces **Mons František Rábek** visited cadets of the SVK Armed Forces Academy who began their initial training at the TMMB Martin on 16 Jan. At the beginning of the Holy Mass, he introduced a new military chaplain of the parish, 1Lt Jaroslav Leopold Jablonský, a Franciscan priest. Father Jaroslav's most recent appointment in the Forces community was as parish priest at Nitra Garrison.

- Rožňava-based artillerymen marked **Artillery and Missile Forces Day**. To mark the occasion, the Order of CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko was read out in front of the gathered troops. Commander 54 MLRS Bn Lt Col Ján Hric thanked members of the Battalion for their work and wished them a lot of strength in performing their duties in the future.

- **Rehabilitation services**, including rehab procedures, resumed at the Central Military Hospital – Faculty Hospital Ružomberok on 24 Jan. To book an appointment, please call 044 438 2539 or 044 438 2538 from 07:00 to 15:00 from Mon to Fri.

- The **Dukla Military Sports Centre BB** has participated in the selection of soldiers for the SVK Special Operations Forces for the seventh time. After passing the all-arms tests under the supervision of SOF instructors, at Dukla the candidates were subjected to new methods of testing in different aspects of top-level sports on Wed 19 Jan.

- Doctors from the Departments of Immunology, Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine and Paediatrics, F. D. Roosevelt Faculty Hospital with Outpatient Clinic Banská Bystrica, visited members of **81 Wing Sliač** to raise awareness about the advantages of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and to share their experience with and knowledge of vaccine safety.

- **Lugers Tomáš Vaverčák** and **Matej Zmij**, members of the Dukla Military Sports Centre BB, finished 3rd and won Bronze in the men's double luge competition at the **U23 FIL European Luge Championships** in St Moritz, Switzerland.

- **Race walker Michal Morvay**, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre BB, won the Open 35km Race Walking Championships in Turkey's Antalya, a World Athletics Race Walking Tour Bronze event.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as 8 Allied road movements and 1 Allied rail movement are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 24 to 30 Jan 2022. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Lešť – Dubnica nad Váhom, within Levice City, Prešov – Zemianske Kostolany, Zemianske Kostolany – Nitra and back, Trenčín – Lešť, Nováky – Lešť, Zemianske Kostolany – Nováky and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Bratislava and back, and Zemianske Kostolany – Žilina and back.

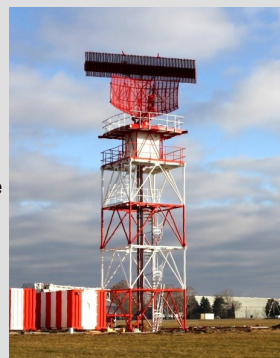
FULL FIELD KIT

The Full Field Kit radio programme, featured on Radio Regina live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, reports on new radars at 46 Wing Kuchyňa.

Kuchyňa Air Base has been kitted out with new airport radars

(19 January) 46 Wing Kuchyňa is the first SVK Air Force station to have been kitted out with new airport radars. Being instrumental to controlling air traffic, the radars are already operational. The state of the art reliable radar systems have finally replaced the malfunctioning equipment the service life of which ended in 2015 and the upgrade of which would not pay off – it was equal to the price of a new radar.

Alongside Kuchyňa Air Base, the new radars – the Primary Surveillance Radar (PSR), the Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) and the Precision Approach Radar (PAR) will be rolled out to all SVK Air Force stations, including to Sliač Air Base (2022) and Prešov Air Base (2023). Their task is to deliver safe and reliable air traffic control (ATC) and to provide air navigation services (ANS)



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across the SVK Air Force stations, consistent with the civil aviation regulations and NATO standards. As well as this, they contribute to generating a complex Air Situation Picture (ASP). Appreciative of the new equipment, Commander of the Slovak Air Force Brig Gen Róbert Tóth said: "With the purchase of the required airport radars, the capabilities for the provision of safe military and civil air traffic management, pilot training, the Slovak Air Force's QRA, and NATIN-AMDS will be sustained." The new equipment has been delivered on the basis of a framework contract for replacement radars, which was put out to tender. It covers the delivery of three types of radar systems, construction and installation works and associated services.

Deputy Minister in Ostrý Grúň

(23 January) Ostrý Grúň was the first of the hamlets in the Kľak Valley to feel the retaliations of the German occupying forces against local residents for supporting partisans in the Slovak National Uprising. The victims of Bloody Sunday were honoured today by Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer in a commemoration at the Bloody Sunday Victims Memorial in Ostrý Grúň.



Otto Smik's 100th birthday

(20 January) 81 Wing Sliač leaders remembered Maj Gen Otto Smik's 100th birthday in commemorations on 19 and 20 Jan. The first one took place at the Smik Memorial Plaque installed on the house where the Smik family lived in Bratislava. In attendance were British Ambassador Nigel Baker, Chief of Staff Lt Col Tomáš Bajnok and CSEL Sgt Maj Štefan Patassy. The other commemoration took place at the Otto Smik Bust at 81 Wing Sliač, with the participation of Commander 81 Wing Sliač Col Josef Hausner. The unit has borne Otto Smik's name in its designation since August 2002.

Highest intake of new recruits

(21 January) Initial Military Training (IMT) with the highest intake of new recruits has been underway at the TMMB Martin since 10 Jan. Due to the record number of trainee soldiers and COVID-19 restrictions, 7 training companies have been undergoing training on the Martin base and six training companies at the TC Lešť. Martin-based instructors have had to cope with the new environment, while Lešť offers better training conditions. During Week 1 and 2, trainee soldiers and cadets familiarised themselves with basic military issues. After the theory module they will undergo practical training, including marksmanship and tactics, in the weeks to come. The training will culminate with a 72-hour survival mission.