



Patriot system is ready

(25 March) With a Patriot battery now fully operational at Sliach, the Patriot air defence system is ready to provide protection over the strategic area of central Slovakia. Two additional batteries are expected to become operational in the coming days. Overall, one Dutch and two German Patriots will be set up so as to protect as much SVK territory as possible. Defence Minister Nad' said: "I offer my thanks to the Allies for their swift reaction, which proves the readiness and willingness of NATO Member States to provide for our defence and security. I want to reassure our citizens that the Allied systems and personnel are here to strengthen our defence and that there is no reason for concerns over their presence." The Patriot Advanced Capability 3 (PAC3) represents one of the most sophisticated GBAD systems. In the coming period, additional Allied and Slovak air defence systems will be installed in Slovakia, especially on the SVK-UKR border. The SVK military's existing infrastructure will be preferred as the location of the operational sites. Motorists are advised to use caution as military convoys roll towards their destination.



Spike LR2s delivered to Slovakia

(27 March) Spike LR2 anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) have been delivered to Slovakia. Covered under the contract worth €18.3m are 100 Spike LR2 ATGMs, 10 command launch units (CLUs) and essential logistics materiel. Thanks to its autonomy and independence, the Spike LR2 is to be integrated into the weapon systems on the SVK Army's future armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs), while its man-portable variant is suitable for infantry, in line with the Slovak Armed Forces' modernisation projects.



Meeting with representatives of churches

(24 March) CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko met with representatives of the largest registered churches at the MOD Chapel. The key theme of the meeting was the security situation in Ukraine. Gen Zmeko praised the activities of the religious communities to mitigate the consequences of the crisis on the refugees crossing into Slovakia, saying: "Alongside us and police forces, religious groups were among the first to provide aid for the women and children directly at the border crossings." The deployment of military chaplains to the border crossings and humanitarian facilities was the theme of yet another meeting. Those present agreed on the need and importance of chaplaincy in the SVK Armed Forces structures, not only from the perspective of service personnel, but also in terms of handling the challenging tasks of the unprecedented humanitarian crisis we face today.

NATO troop presence in Slovakia to increase our defence capability

(24 March) Slovakia considers NATO's enhanced Forward Presence in its territory to be of great contribution to increasing the nation's defence capability and security. NATO's eFP in Slovakia will support Slovakia's ability to defend itself against a wide spectrum of security threats. In this context, the eFP troops will complement the capabilities and capacities of the SVK Armed Forces, as well as beefing up the level of deterrence against an armed attack. Relying on NATO's eFP model in the form of battlegroups in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia following Russia's invasion of Crimea and in response to Russia's assault on Ukraine, NATO Member States have agreed to stand up multinational enhanced Forward Presence battlegroups along the entirety of NATO's Eastern Flank, including in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia. The aim of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup Slovakia (NATO eFP BG SVK) is to backfill the capabilities of the Slovak Armed Forces in order to help defend the country's critical infrastructure sites, strengthen the capabilities to respond to security threats, and undertake the tasks of collective defence if the security situation deteriorates. The establishment of the NATO eFP BG SVK comes as part of efforts to bolster the defences along NATO's Eastern Flank. The North Atlantic Alliance officially approved this move at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) at the level of Heads of State in Brussels on 24 March. Also in attendance at the Extraordinary NATO Summit was President Čaputová, she said: "This proposal has already passed through the Slovak Parliament and the battlegroup will be led by the Czech Republic," she reminded. Also on 24 March, the Czech Parliament adopted the mandate for the Czech deployment to Slovakia until 30 June 2023. According to a statement from the Czech Defence Ministry, nothing now stands in the way of the Czech Armed Forces establishing and leading NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup Slovakia.

- On 22-23 Mar, **SVK and CZE Chiefs of Defence** Gen Daniel Zmeko and Gen Aleš Opatá met for talks in Myjava close to the SVK-CZE border. Full military honours for CZE Chief of Defence Gen Aleš Opatá's visit were provided by the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour and the SVK Armed Forces Band at Kuchyňa Air Base, while both delegations were protected and escorted by military policemen during the entire visit.

- On 25 Mar, the SVK Defence Staff has received an invitation letter from the United Nations, to nominate active duty soldiers for **UN staff positions** in New York, USA. For more information on the selection of candidates and the required documents go to web1.mil.sk → Personnel Management → 2022 UN Vacancy Announcements.

- After placing 2nd in the faculty hospitals category of the latest Dôvera Health Insurer Patient Satisfaction Survey for 2021, the **Central Military Hospital - Faculty Hospital Ružomberok** has received the highest mark among the state university and faculty hospitals in a patient satisfaction survey conducted by Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa Health Insurer.

- The latest edition of **Azimuth 24/7**, available on YouTube, presents the SVK military's mission to protect Slovakia's eastern border.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as 23 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 28 Mar to 3 Apr 2022. The MOD stresses that the Allied transit movements have been approved in line with the SVK Public Health Authority-issued coronavirus safety guidelines. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Prešov – Sliach, Michalovce – Prešov, Moldava nad Bodvou – Sliach, Dubnica nad Váhom – Michalovce, Michalovce – Hlohovec, Nemšová – Nemecká and back, Poprad – Žilina and back, Trenčín – Žilina and back, Voderady – Martin and back, Mierovo – Zvolen, Nemšová – Michalovce and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Poprad and back, Sliach – Liptovský Mikuláš and back, Rožňava – Lešť, Nitra – Lešť and back, Topoľčany – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Žilina – Trebišov, Trebišov – Rašov, Levice – Martin, Alešince – Nitra and back, Rašov – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Poprad and back, Nováky – Ruskov, Sklené – Viníčenské, Trenčín – Sklené, Trenčín – Nováky, Trenčín – Ruskov, Bratislava – Trenčín and back, Viníčenské – Kuchyňa, Zemianske Kostolany – Nemšová and back, and within the cities of Zvolen, Michalovce and Trenčín. Also planned for next week is a round trip military rail movement from Zemianske Kostolany to Vlková. Additional movements will be planned and conducted in support of the Slovak Armed Forces, if required.

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, presents the SVK military deployments to the Balkans.

SVK military personnel are helping along Slovakia's eastern border

(25 March) SVK military personnel have been deployed in support of the Interior Ministry to carry out assistance tasks along Slovakia's eastern border since 5 March. As part of Task Force 2 (TF2), they have been patrolling the border villages of Petrovce, Vyšné Nemecké, Maťovské Vojkovce, Veľké Slernence and Čierna nad Tisou.

Elsewhere, they have been out on mixed patrols together with members of the Border Police, both on foot and in vehicles, at and around the border crossing points too. Their presence is most felt at the Vyšné Nemecké border crossing, where they have been coordinating the arrivals from Ukraine. This includes helping refugees with luggage, taking care of wheelchair people, accompanying individuals and groups through the passport



control process and the registration process for those without personal documents, providing medical treatment, offering re-

freshments, coordinating the transportation of refugees from the border crossing. Elsewhere, they have also been helping keep things moving at the Refugee Registration Centre in Michalovce. In addition, SVK Air Force personnel have been committed to monitoring the SVK-UKR border by helicopters. TF2, led by COS SVK AF HQ Col Vladimír Jaklovský who has taken over from Commander 11 SVK AF Bde Col Jozef Paňko, is comprised of members of the Presidential GOH, HQ Bratislava GAR, MOD Military Police, 1 Mech Bn Topoľčany, Training and Mobilisation Replenishment Base (TMRB) Martin, and cadets of the Armed Forces Academy (AOS).

Ahead of DSA 2022

(24 March) Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer will be visiting the Defence Services Asia (DSA) Exhibition & Conference 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For the first time, the SVK MOD along with its DMD Group will be joining other SVK defence manufacturers in exhibiting at the leading defence and homeland security show. Ahead of his trip to DSA 2022, Deputy Defence Minister Majer welcomed the Ambassador of Malaysia to Slovakia, HE Mr Ikram Mohd Ibrahim to the SVK MOD. He declared Slovakia's interest in enhancing the level of SVK-MYS bilateral cooperation and fostering closer defence ties between the countries. As part of his official programme in Kuala Lumpur, Mr Majer will also hold talks with his counterpart Ikmal Hisham Abdul Aziz from the Malaysian MOD. This will mark the first highest-level meeting between representatives of the SVK and MYS MODs.

Magni Handler Operator Course



(24 March) 53 Field Services Battalion Hlohovec hosted the two-week Magni HTH 35.12-V/A-N Telescopic Handler Operator Course. This modern support equipment entered service

with the SVK Armed Forces early this year and proved its value on Ex Saber Strike 2022. The course, designed for personnel from CSS Bde Trenčín, especially from 53 Fld Svcs Bn Hlohovec and 20 Log Bn Prešov, was led by Sgt 1C František Vydra and MSgt Pavol Ondrušek, both instructors from the TMRB Martin. After initial theoretical familiarisation with relevant documentation, the participants practised operating the telescopic handlers at the Tepličky training facility, located near Hlohovec. As well as receiving briefs on the telehandlers' driving qualities and different containers, the participants learned how to operate the heavy duty equipment.

SVK shooters win gold and silver

(25 March) Patrik Jány, shooter of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, claimed his first European title in the men's 10m Air Rifle event at the European Shooting Championships in Norway's Hamar. The 24-year-old shooter won his first gold medal at the European Championships and greatly improved on his best results. His fellow teammate Juraj Tužinský became the European Vice-Champion in the men's 10m Air Pistol event. The 37-year-old DUKLA shooter thus completed his medal collection from the European Championships. In the same discipline, he clinched gold in Croatia's Osijek in 2021 and took bronze in Norway's Meraker in 2010.