



Revamp as basis for successful modernisation

(11 April) The Central Repair Workshop Hall ("Gun Hall"), operated by the Maintenance & Repair Services (MRS) at MOD-owned KONŠTRUKTA-Defence in Moldava nad Bodvou, has undergone full refurbishment worth €583,095.67 – as part of efforts to get the facility ready for its role in the SVK Army's equipment programmes and to bring in a host of technological upgrades. The refurbishment of a 2,552 sq m area of the company's workshop hall included the Hydraulic Systems Manufacturing & Repair Sections, Electrotechnical Services Laboratory, Engine Diagnostics and Repair Sections, Central Repair Nave, a warehouse, a canteen, WCs, changing rooms and offices. In addition to reinforcing surfaces, the facility was completely refitted with new electrical wiring and fittings, water and heating pipework, and IT infrastructure. The work also involved replacing the entrance gates and servicing the gas pipes, radiators and lifting devices. The Central Repair Workshop is designed to conduct the inspection, maintenance and repair of RM-70 MODULAR MLRSs and Zuzana 2000 and Zuzana 2 155mm SpGHs. At the same time, there are plans to make best use of the facility in the delivery of the SVK Army's PATRIA 8x8 AMVP Programme. "Getting Slovak companies involved in the modernisation projects requires adjustments and upgrades to their infrastructure and equipment. On completion of the extensive refurbishment works to the Workshop in Moldava nad Bodvou, investments are already being made into improving the technological level of the manufacturing and repair processes at MRS," Minister Nad said.



President meets with laureates

(12 April) Slovak President and Commander-in-Chief of the Slovak Armed Forces Zuzana Čaputová received the laureates of the 2020 Military Deed of the Year Awards. These were announced on 12 Nov 2021, however, pandemic restrictions meant that the awards ceremony could not take place until now. In her address at the ceremony, Madam President recognised the acts of selflessness by military personnel and friends of the Armed Forces. According to her, the citations of those receiving the awards are testament to soldiers showing their worth also in fields other than the nation's sovereignty and security. "The deeds you have done go well over and above the standard duties of your role. Through your exemplary conduct, you have contributed to strengthening public trust in soldiers. Your acts are a message of goodness for society and have motivational potential," the president said, noting that people are changing their views on the importance of the Armed Forces in the face of the Ukraine war and are becoming aware that security and sovereignty are not a matter of course. She also pointed to the role soldiers have played in containing pandemics, natural disasters, and refugee crises. The 2020 Military Deed of the Year Award went to Ladislav Parma, Viktor Franciák, Ondrej Hlavatý and the 1st Anti-Aircraft Missile Group for raising funds for their colleague who was diagnosed with cancer and found himself in a difficult situation. The Award also went to basic military training instructor Radek Belan for his dedicated and motivational approach to trainee soldiers, ex-serviceman Richard Koky for his extraordinary support to military personnel in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic across the marginalised Roma communities, and 1Lt Ladislav, of 5th Special Forces Regiment Žilina, for assisting in rescuing a human life in a car crash.

AOS cadets excel at SECOSAFT 2022

(12 April) The Nicolae Bălcescu Land Forces Academy, based in Romania's Sibiu, hosted the 27th edition of the Student's International Scientific Conference (SECOSAFT) 2022, with the participation of officer cadets from 13 nations. Of the 338 scientific entries, "Applications of Neural Networks in Data Communication Analysis" earned Pte Bianca Badidová, 4th-year AOS officer cadet participating in the Military Signals and Information Systems Programme, the best scientific paper of the conference and the commandant's highest accolade – Excellence Award. Highly successful at SECOSAFT's Technical Sciences Section were 3rd-year AOS officer cadets specialising in the Weapons Systems, Weapons and their Components Programme at the Engineering Department – Pte Jakub Handzilko placed 1st with his work "Unmanned Screw Drive Vehicle" and Pte Jakub Kolečár placed 3rd with his entry "Creation of PT-Mi-Ba-III 3D Model in CAD".

- As part of preparing and planning Ex Slovak Shield 2022, members of 2nd Mechanised Brigade have conducted a complex command staff rehearsal, with the aim of verifying the correctness and realism of standard operating procedures (SOP), as well as improving and aligning the planning process by the command staff.

- Team SVK sporting shooter Juraj Tužinský, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, triumphed in the men's 10m air pistol at the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro. In the finals, he competed for gold against Robin Walter (DEU) and claimed a debut victory in the prestigious series.

- The 5th SOF Regiment and SOF Association, supported by sponsors, will host the 28th 11-km Jozef Gabčík Memorial Cross Run to mark the 80th anniversary of Op Anthropoid on 28 May. An invitation letter and instructions for the event are available on the internet.

- Working closely with the Air Traffic Controllers Training Organisation at AOS in Liptovský Mikuláš, the MOD's Military Aviation Authority has administered a regular annual test to military ATC specialists.

- Soldiers and employees of the Defence Surplus Equipment Base (DSEB) Nemecká hosted a fundraiser for Ukrainian citizens who have been forced to leave their homeland. The money raised has been used to buy items mostly for babies, including baby food, nappies, and hygiene supplies.

- The SVK military personnel deployed on NATO's eFP in Latvia have raised money for kids at the Pediatric Oncology & Hematology Ward of Children's Teaching Hospital Košice.

- Members of the Deployable CIS Base Ružomberok have collected money and food for the Poor and Children - Ukraine Civic Association. The money raised has been handed over to the mayor of Ondavské Matiašovce.

- The latest edition of Azimuth 24/7, the SVK MOD's YouTube-based military channel, presents the SVK Active Reserves in training.

- On Holy Thursday, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Forces Mons František Rábek, joined by chaplains, deacons and believers of the Bishopric and St Joseph's Parish, celebrated the Chrism (Blessing of the Holy Oils or Missa Chrismatis) Mass at St Sebastian's Cathedral in Bratislava. After the Holy Mass, Bishop Rábek presented the St Sebastian Commemorative Medal to all those who made a major contribution to the Catholic Chaplaincy Service in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps.

- The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as 14 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 18 to 24 Apr. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Sereď – Turecký vrch and back, Veľké Ozorovce – Hlohovec and back, Nitra – Koliňanský vrch, Sereď – Nitra, Liptovský Mikuláš – Žilina and back, Nemšová – Kuchyňa and back, Mierovo – Zemianske Kostoľany and back, Levice – Nemšová, Nitra – Levice, Nemšová – Trebišov and back, Nemšová – Sereď and Zemianske Kostoľany – Martin.

FULL FIELD KIT

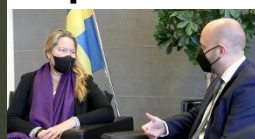
The Full Field Kit radio programme, featured on Radio Regina live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, presents the latest news from across the Slovak Armed Forces.

NATO eVA BG SVK is being formed under Czech command

(14 April) The NATO enhanced Vigilance Activities Battle Group Slovak Republic (NATO eVA BG SVK) is being formed under Czech command in Slovakia. In addition to 650 Czech military personnel, the battlegroup will be comprised of soldiers from another five NATO countries: Germany (1,200), USA (600), Slovenia (200), the Netherlands (200) and Poland (100). The total strength of the battlegroup will be at around 3,000. Since 15 March, Allied troops have been deploying to Slovakia at stages, bringing in equipment to strengthen Slovakia's defence capability. Defence Staff (DS) Colonel Tomáš Unzeitig, Deputy Commander 31st CBRND Regiment Liberec, has been named the first Commander of the NATO eVA BG SVK. He brings with him a wealth of operational experience from Allied



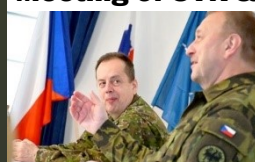
Cooperation under new conditions



(12 April) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad received Swedish Ambassador HE Ms Annika Markovic at the MOD. Topics of discussion covered Russia's

invasion of Ukraine and the resulting impact on the security situation in Europe and Slovak-Swedish bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security. On Ukraine, Mr Nad said: "The change in the strategic security situation has resulted in the West taking a strong and united stance. In particular, I appreciate the consensus that now exists on our stands against the Russian aggression and mutual cooperation and support for Ukraine. It's inevitable to continue to help the country defend itself – and, of course, while keeping aligned with the provisions of the UN Charter."

Meeting of SVK & CZE Army heads



(11 April) The head of the Slovak Army Maj Gen Ivan Pach made an official trip to the Czech Republic. While in Olomouc, he met with Commander Czech Army Maj Gen Ladislav

Jung. One of the main subjects of their meeting was the stand-up of NATO's enhanced Vigilance Activities Battle Group Slovak Republic (NATO eVA BG SVK), led by the Czech Republic. The Czech side provided an update on the structure of the Czech contingent and the battlegroup at Full Operational Capability (FOC). On Day 2, Maj Gen Pach visited Prostějov Garrison and received a briefing from soldiers of 53rd Surveillance and Electronic Warfare Regiment.

Jakub Grigar recognised



(14 April) Slalom canoeist Jakub Grigar and canoe sprinter Erik Viček are the best sportsmen of Slovak canoeing in 2021. The results of the survey were officially announced during a ceremony on 14

April at the Slovak Olympic and Sports Museum in Bratislava. Jakub Grigar, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, won the Performance of the Year Award for his Olympic silver medal and claimed the 2021 Kayaker of the Year title. Matej Beluš was named the 2021 Canoeist of the Year.