



A shared vision of a safer world

(15 Feb) According to Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, the UDCG meeting with Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov in attendance in Brussels acknowledged the determination of almost 60 nations at the table to secure continued long-term and tailored support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, which will help them go on fighting for freedom and which will bring them closer to unconditional victory. "We mainly addressed three areas of interest – aircraft including MiG-29 and F-16 fighter jets, main battle tanks, and air defence systems. Things are moving forward in the right direction and Ukraine has seen some truly tremendous support," Minister Naď said, adding that there are countries that have already delivered combat aircraft and associated spare parts to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. On Day 2, Ministers discussed bolstering the Alliance's eastern flank, deploying air defence capabilities to protect all Allied and our territory, and investing more in defence. Minister Naď said: "Slovakia has delivered on its commitment to spend 2 percent of GDP on defence, however, this is not true of all Allies. For the countries in the Alliance, the key is, therefore, to boost defence expenditure. We must be united in this effort because what the Russian Federation is doing in terms of its aggression against Ukraine sounds a warning to us all." He went on to highlight that even though Slovakia has met the 2 percent GDP spending goal, it still spends the least from among NATO's eastern flank Allies. "Given Slovakia's long-neglected defence infrastructure and modernisation, defence spending is all the more important for us now. We are on good track there, but we have by far not yet crossed the finish line," he concluded.

During the two days, Minister Naď held a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings. The central themes of the meetings – the strengthening of the trans-Atlantic partnership and Allied support for war-engulfed Ukraine that has been defending itself against the Russian Federation's unprecedented aggression for almost a year – very much resonated with the situation the Alliance finds itself in. On the margins of the NATO gathering, Minister Naď spoke separately with representatives of Czechia, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany, Slovenia, the United States, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Paying tribute to a legend

(13 Feb) Thanks to an MOD grant and in close cooperation with the SNP Museum, the SNP Museum Friends Club published a book titled WEAPON CAMERA COURAGE in honour of the Uprising's legendary photographer Anton Ivan Székely. Over the past three years, the MOD has increased the total value of grants from €100,000 up to €500,000. Grant applications from civic associations, foundations, interest groupings, non-investment funds, non-profit organisations and municipalities close on 31 Mar 2023. For more information, please go to <https://www.mosr.sk/20263-sk/ziadosti-o-dotacie/>.

NATO MN BG SVK on four-day exercise at Training Centre Lešť

(17 Feb) The four-day Field Tactical Exercise (FTX) of the NATO Multinational Battlegroup Slovakia saw participation from 800 troops and 200 pieces of combat equipment from the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovenia, the United States, and Slovakia. Commander of the Czech-led NATO MN BG SVK Karel Navrátil (CZE A) said: "Under near-real deployment conditions, the exercise has given us an opportunity to test what we have committed to – to be ready to defend the Alliance's eastern flank against any aggressor." He added: "During this deployment, troops have had to work through a number of combat scenarios, for example, the enemy braking through the first line of defence on the Alliance's eastern flank." After the battlegroup's successful integration, the NATO MN BG SVK is getting ready for its most important preparation phase – its Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) on Ex-Slovak Shield due in mid-March 2023.



► Bishop and Chaplain General of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Col Viktor Sabo along with Dean and Head of the Office of the EPS Central Office Capt Dávid Vargaštok attended the **International Military Chiefs of Chaplains Conference** in Romania's Bucharest, with the key theme of "Chaplain's Person and Mission in the Current Geopolitical and Religious Context." The programme consisted of lectures on religion, history, religious freedom, ethics, and international security.

► 901 Engr Bn Sered' hosted the practical module of the short-term **Tactical-Level Engineer Planning Course**, developed by the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) under the leadership of instructors from the AOS Military Tactics and Operational Art Dept and the International Courses Dept. The aim of the course was to improve Army engineers in planning engineer operations at the tactical level. The practical module was preceded by a theory module with a focus on the engineer support planning process.

► The military facilities at Mokrad', Kalenik and Horná Mičina hosted **winter term training** for 154 2nd-year Officer Cadets (OCs) in Feb to improve their tactical and shooting skills.

► The Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin hosted **pre-deployment training for Op EUFOR Althea** in preparation for the coming rotations. Under Phase 1, peacekeepers gained an understanding of the operation, the history of BiH and conflict, culture, ethnic groups, working with an interpreter, as well as rehearsing first aid. Phase 2 saw them practise carrying out operational tasks and leading talks with local representatives in English.

► Under the aegis of the MOD Modernisation Dept, AOS Liptovský Mikuláš hosted a **presentation of 5G network solutions** with companies pinpointing the advantages of the 5G network and their application across the Armed Forces, as well as introducing a 5G campus network with new education and training trends via virtual and extended reality.

► CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko awarded the **Chief of Defence Commemorative Cross to WW2 veterans** Otto Šimko, Anton Lovásko, Július Molitoris and Samuel Baran. While the latter took over the decoration in a ceremony at Bratislava Garrison, COM BA GAR Col Miloslav Arnold presented the other veterans with the decoration in their place of residence in Bratislava.

► Juraj Tužinský (SVK), pistol shooter of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre**, beat Paolo Monna (ITA) in the men's 10m Air Pistol finals for the gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in Egypt's Cairo.

Farewell to Maj Gen Novosad



(16 Feb) President and Commander-in-Chief Zuzana Čaputová bid farewell to Maj Gen Ondřej Novosad at the Presidential Palace. In her remarks, the President highlighted the professional and moral qualities Maj Gen Novosad displayed during his 42 years of service to the homeland. "And that is especially what is so valuable today – the ability to put the public and country's interest first before personal ambitions, comfort and gains."

Bishop of the Forces meets recruits

(19 Feb) Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps Mons František Rábek celebrated a Sunday Holy Mass for soldier trainees at the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin. In his sermon, Bishop Rábek elaborated on what it takes to be a Christian soldier. Afterwards, he spent a few minutes chatting with them.

Fundraising event for Ukraine



(17 Feb) "Let me congratulate the Slovak Armed Forces and the Military Support Foundation on hosting the Ukraine Charity Gala Evening," Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said and continued: "During the gala evening, we remembered

the heroism and suffering of the Ukrainian men and women. In a charity auction, we raised a five-figure sum, which, through the Foundation, will go to Ukraine as humanitarian aid to help the victims of the Russian aggression." The amount of €10,200 raised from the auction was doubled by voluntary contributions.

Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers meet ambassadors to Slovakia

(6 Feb) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Foreign and European Affairs Minister Rastislav Káčer met nearly 50

we are sitting on." While Minister Káčer went on to appreciate the ambassadors' views on Slovak foreign policy, Minister



Nad' built on the words of the other speaker: "Never ever before has our voice in the international environment been so strong. Nor have we been such a respected partner and ally as we are today. These words were echoed around the table by several ambassadors. That Ukraine can defend itself is in our national interest, because it is a free democratic country and our very good friend, partner and neighbour. So, yes, we will continue to help it as much as we can. We must be aware that if Russia wins in Ukraine, we are next..."

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