



First two F-16s delivered

(10 Jan) U.S.-based Lockheed Martin Corporation has delivered the first two out of the 14 F-16 fighter jets on order for Slovakia. The first group of jets, known as a ferry cell, is due to be delivered by mid-2024 and the rest in 2025. The SVK MOD has requested the U.S. side to use the two aircraft for the ongoing training of SVK pilots in the United States. Bulgaria has signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) for an additional eight jets for its fleet. Today's latest version, the Block 70/72, will be used by six countries. The F-16 is operated by 25 countries.

New CSEALAF appointed

(8 Jan) CMSgt Rastislav Skubeň has been appointed Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the Air Force (CSEALAF) in succession to CMSgt Štefan Patassy, who had served in the role from 1 Sept 2022. In a farewell ceremony, COM SVK AF Maj Gen Róbert Tóth thanked the outgoing CSEALAF for a job well done to the benefit of the SVK Armed Forces and wished him the best of luck and success in his civilian life. CMSgt Rastislav Skubeň's previous assignments include serving as a technician, squad leader, First Sergeant in charge of the companies subordinate to 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen and the Slovak Contingent (SLOVCON) of UNFICYP, and Command Chief of 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen and 81 WNG Sliač (2018 - 2023).



Farewell to Provost Marshal

(10 Jan) The Military Police Dept Trenčín hosted a meeting between representatives of the SVK Military Police and Provost Marshal of MPCC MNBG SVK Maj Jan Trmal (CZE A) and his successor Maj Roman Čapka (CZE A). Director of the MP Dept's Police Activities Branch Lt Col Jaroslav Slančík thanked Maj Trmal for the work he has done in Slovakia, welcomed the new Provost Marshal, Maj Roman Čapka, and wished him every success with his duties in his new position.



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'The World Remembers' – a database of soldiers fallen in WW1

(5 Jan) At the Slovak Armed Forces 30th Anniversary Concert at the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, the Institute of Military History launched the 'World Remembers' database, a listing of the soldiers who died in WW1. The database can be searched by entering the soldier's first name, surname, date of birth, place of birth, military unit, date of death, and place of burial. For each name, the register office from which the data comes is also listed, so it is possible to find more information on the soldier. The database will be updated in the coming months and years. The project, on which the Military History Archives (MHA) staff have been working, envisages digitalising 267 military registers, stored in the MHA Bratislava, for the database. Because the military registers are in the Slovak, Czech, Hungarian and German languages, the staff need essential knowledge of historical reality and language skills for processing the data.



SVET SI PAMÄTÁ
medzinárodný projekt

- President and Commander-in-Chief Zuzana Čaputová awarded the Order of Ľudovít Štúr 1st Class to Petra Vlhová, skier of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, in recognition of her merit in developing SVK sport and taking forward Slovakia's good name in the world into the future.
- To keep in the spirit of the tradition of blessing the service personnel's flats, houses, and offices, Bishop of the Forces Mons František Rábek visited HQ Bratislava Garrison to perform the Three Kings' Blessing Ceremony on the afternoon of 10 Jan, in the presence of COM HQ BA GAR Col Jiří Vrchovský.
- Starting from the Vigil of Epiphany, between 5-11 Jan, Military Chaplain Maj Slavko Ganaj blessed the offices and facilities at eight different locations in Sector Four of UNFICYP where SLOVCON peacekeepers are serving in Cyprus.
- Military Chaplain of 2 Mech Bde Prešov Capt Vlasta Kovaľová travelled to Cyprus to provide spiritual support to SVK UNFICYP peacekeepers on duty over the Christmas period.
- Service personnel attending language courses at the Defence Language Institute underwent marksmanship training at the AOS-based Simulation Centre. After the brief on the safe use of the Electronic Target Range (ETR) and weapon handling, they practiced shooting weapons at targets of various distances.
- A photo exhibition featuring the best of the Defence-wide PhotoAttack Competition, organised by the Educational and Cultural Activities Section, Slovak Armed Forces Personnel Office, is taking place in the foyer of the Military Academy on 5-30 Jan.
- The leadership of the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Clinic, Central Military Hospital - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok, has decided to close the Clinic to visitors of the patients staying in the inpatient rooms and extend the visiting hours in the Clinic's canteen. Visitors are now allowed to enter the Clinic's canteen between 1:00pm - 6:00pm.
- Petra Vlhová, skier of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, won the women's slalom at the World Cup on 7 Jan in Slovenia's Kranjska Gora.
- Marianna Jagerčíková, Dukla skimo athlete, finished 3rd in the women's sprint race at the ISMF European Ski Mountaineering Championships on 10 Jan in Flaine, France.
- Juraj Tužinský, Dukla pistol shooter, made it to the men's 10m Air Pistol finals from the 5th place and took home the gold medal from the Grand Prix ISSF in Slovenia's Ruše.

FULL FIELD KIT

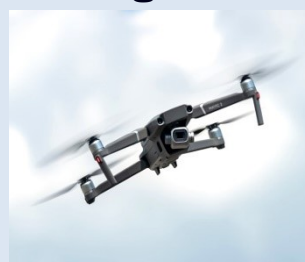
**Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme
presents an interview with Brig Gen Marek
Banas on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at
00.30 on Sat.**

UAS qualification training for instructors and operators

(3 Jan) Working closely with the SVK MOD's Military Aviation Authority, the Military Academy-based Simulation Centre held a three-day workshop titled 'Delivering Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operator Training in the Slovak Armed Forces Environment', with participation from representatives of the MOD and Armed Services actively operating UASs.

The aim of the workshop was to provide the military professional community with the space for a discussion and presentation of practical experience in operating UASs and applying Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for drone operations.

To begin with, the Military Aviation Authority presented the planned changes in issuing and renewing the UAS



Operator Licence and the UAS Operators Training Facility Certificate. Then came the brief from the Simulation Centre's UAS Operators Training Facility staff on the Facility's capabilities and capacities, and the schedule of the UAS Operator and Instructor Qualification Courses.

Next up were representatives of the Slovak Air Force, Training Centre Lešť, Military Police, Special Operations

Forces, and Military Intelligence with their briefs on specific aspects of UAS operations.

Finally, the Simulation Centre staged a demonstration of realistic flight experience with a range of UASs. Along with the workshop, the Simulation Centre concurrently hosted the first UAS Instructor Course in line with NATO and national requirements.

Ambassador visits CBRN specialists

(12 Jan) The Chemical Laboratories Facility and the CBRN Training and Testing Centre, both based in Zemianske Kostoľany, were visited by the SVK Ambassador-Designate to the Netherlands, Juraj Podhorský, who was accompanied by Rastislav Križan, Director of the Disarmament and Combating Terrorism Division, International Organisations and Human Rights Branch, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The work portfolio of the SVK Embassy in The Hague includes working closely with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The distinguished guests were given a presentation on the Facility's tasks, capabilities, plans, and cooperation with the OPCW.



LOTN and military museum specialists

(2 Jan) Throughout 2023, the Institute of Military History once again relied on its traditionally high-quality and years-proven cooperation with Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN) in restoring its aircraft exhibits. Starting from 2025, Il-28B, MiG-23BN, L-29RS aircraft and an Mi-24DU helicopter will form the basis of the extended Czechoslovak Army & Air Force 1945-1992 Gallery, to be housed in the refurbished Hall 1 of the Museum of Military History Piešťany.

Agros Xmas Run in Cyprus

(7 Jan) Agros, a mountain town located over 1000m a.s.l. in the south of Cyprus, hosted the Agros Xmas Run, with almost two dozen of SVK UNFICYP peacekeepers in attendance. They completed the 5.5km running route across mountainous and rugged terrain with a high elevation gain. Interestingly, runners have worn XMAS clothing since the Run's inception in 1987. In the Run's individual categories, five SVK servicemen finished on the podium with two 1st places, two 2nd places, and one 3rd place.

