



## Learning, Teaching and Training Event 2

(2 Feb) Under the EU's Interdisciplinary Education and Training on Hybrid Warfare Project, the M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš hosted the Learning, Teaching and Training Event 2 (LTTE2), which marked the culmination of the Hybrid Warfare Course (HWC)'s two-year development and design process.

As well as providing outdoor activities, the week-long training event tested the functionality of the online course's individual modules in the form of lectures, seminars, exercises and tests. Alongside SVK and international lecturers, 55 OCs from Hungary, Israel, Italy, Romania and Slovakia took part. On the very first day of LTTE2, the Academy's Physical Training and Sports Dept instructors trained the participants in the basics of winter movement and survival in the Mlynická valley in the High Tatras. First, they walked in snowshoes across mountainous terrain past the Jump Waterfall before being shown how to use natural materials to build makeshift snowshoes. After that was first aid, wherein nine fifth-year AOS OCs assisted in first aid demonstrations. Then it was on to cold winter survival skills, including setting up a cold weather survival shelter and using a fire flint to start a fire. The last two days of LTTE2 were dedicated to verifying the soldiers' knowledge in a computer-assisted exercise (CAX) at the AOS Simulation Centre.

## 20 years of 13 Mech Bn Levice

(31 Jan) Soldiers of 13 Mech Bn Levice gathered for a ceremony to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Battalion's formation. On arrival at the ceremony, COM SVK ARMY Maj Gen Martin Stoklasa, Cdr 1 Mech Bde Brig Gen Alexander Kollárik, Mayor of Levice Ján Krtík, and former Cdr 12 Tnk Bde Col (Ret'd) Michal Mihalov were welcomed by Cdr 13 Mech Bn Levice Lt Col Miroslav Osif. Former commanders and senior officers were also present at the ceremony, in which commemorative medals and plaques were presented to guests and 49 military and civilian staff. SSgt Ľuboš Novoszad, retiring from the Service, took over the SVK CHOD Commemorative Cross 3rd Grade. The event was supported by the Military Support Foundation.



## Initial Planning Conference for 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp TACEX

(1 Feb) In accordance with the Operational Plan (OPLAN) for the Training, Certification, Sustainment and Activation of 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp issued by Cdr 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany Brig Gen Alexander Kollárik, the Initial Planning Conference (IPC) for the 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp Tactical Exercise (TACEX) took place at Topoľčany Garrison Club on 1 Feb 2024. In attendance alongside HQ 1 Mech Bde battle staff were the commanders of the assigned units, including from 13 Mech Bn Levice, 21 Sp Arty Bn Michalovce, 91 Engr Regt Sereď, 103 CBRND Bn Rožňava, 11 SVK AF Bde Nitra, 20 Log Bn Prešov, 57 Ind Bn Martin, 54 MLRS Bn Rožňava, 65 Recce Bn Prešov, 62 Sig Bn Ružomberok, MILMEDCOM Ružomberok and Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín. The opening remarks by Cdr 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany Brig Gen Alexander Kollárik were followed by the presentation and elaboration on the TACEX's theme, aim, specifications, draft scenarios, organisational structure, timeline, and scheduled tasks. Individual commanders then briefed on their units' readiness status. Phase 1 of the TACEX will see 13 Mech Bn elements and the assigned units building tactical integration between forces. The conference also examined the issues that could have an impact on the TACEX, scheduled for Sept 2024. The aim of the certification process will be to assess and verify the combat readiness and deployability of 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp, which is formally declared to NATO.



- The SVK Defence Staff (DS)'s Staff for Operations bid a fond farewell to its senior officers in a farewell ceremony on 31 Jan 2024, with the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Response and Readiness Section – Lt Col Rastislav Barbuš and Lt Col Radoslav Dura – leaving the Service after nearly 33 and over 28 years of service, respectively. COS OPS Brig Gen Ivan Balog presented the two senior officers with a letter of thank you and the SVK CHOD Commemorative Cross for their valuable contributions in the long run.
- As part of their engagement with schools, members of HQ Bratislava Garrison paid a visit to the Agricultural and Technical Secondary School in Bemolákovo during the School Open Doors Event on 1 Feb 2024, to familiarise primary school pupils and their parents with job opportunities in the Slovak Armed Forces.
- Being the administrator of the Planning & Management System (PMS), 6 Sig Bn Trenčín ceased operating the PMS system as of 31 Jan 2024, making the data on the Activities Plan, Directives, STANAGs, Tasks, Dossiers, Materials, Templates, and Samples unavailable to its users. A new Defence Standardisation Documents System (DSDS) has recently been launched at <https://standard-dokumenty.mil.sk>.

• At 09.00 on Wed 14 Feb 2024, the 4th edition of the Major Peter Pavlovský Memorial Swimming Competition will start with the men's 300m freestyle in three age categories (under 30yrs, between 31-40yrs, over 40yrs), followed by the women's 300 freestyle discipline, and the 300m freestyle relay (regardless of age) at Trenčín City's Swimming Pool. Please confirm your attendance by email to [eva.demesova@mil.sk](mailto:eva.demesova@mil.sk) and [jan.bati@mil.sk](mailto:jan.bati@mil.sk) no later than 9 Feb.

• Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps František Rábek along with the Vicars of the Bishopric attended the episcopal ordination of the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Prešov and Head of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia, the Reverend Fr. Jozef Jonáš Maxim. Holy Father Francis has appointed him as 9th Residential Bishop and 2nd Head of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia.

• With just 0.05sec behind Slovakia's 1985 60m sprint race record by Eva Murková, **Viktória Forster**, athlete of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, placed 4th in the women's 60m sprint race with a personal record time of 7.26sec at the Indoor Gala Ostrava 2024 (CZE) - World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold Event.

• **Race walkers** Miroslav Úradník and Mária Katerinka Czaková, of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, won the Slovak Adult & Junior Race Walking Indoor Championships at the Elán Sports Hall, Bratislava. Mária crowned her victory in the women's 5,000m with Slovakia's best time of 21:28.80.

• Jakub Borghla, biathlete of the Military Sports Centre, came in third in the men's sprint and won the **bronze medal** at the IBU Junior Cup Jakuszycze (POL).

• **Dukla track cyclist Alžbeta Bačíková** placed 6th in the women's elimination race at the Track Nations Cup Adelaide (AUS).

**FULL FIELD KIT**  
Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents IFV gunners on a live fire exercise (LIVEX) on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

## Future SVK AF pilots undergo winter survival training

(1 Feb) The last week of January saw the second- and fourth-year Officer Cadets (OCs), of the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy, pursuing studies at the Aviation Faculty of the Technical University of Košice underwent winter survival training in the Low Tatras.

During the rich week-long programme, they built shelters, started a fire, and treated water for drinking. Their fitness and mental endurance levels were tested in their ascent of Mt Ďumbier. In addition to the low temperatures and strong winds, the difficulty of the climb was further enhanced by the continuous ice fields in the exposed part of the route from the Štefánik Mountain Chalet to the summit itself. The steep descent past the Dead Bats Cave to Trangoška was even more difficult.



Rehearsing the procedures that could come in handy once they exit an aircraft in an emergency or land in unfamiliar terrain was combined with elements of special physical training (SPT). In

addition to practicing basic ski techniques, moving on the skimo skis across open terrain, and overcoming obstacles, the OCs certainly did not miss out on military swimming in ice-cold water for the purposes of helping a tired or injured swimmer or rescuing a drowning man by pulling him out of the water and giving him first aid. Elsewhere, the training session in a hotel's swimming pool continued with swimming in uniform and 'stealth'

swimming in the Krpáčovská Reservoir with the water below 3°C. MSgt Miroslav Štubňa, PT Instructor of 51 WNG Prešov, was the NCO in charge of the winter survival training.

## ESP troops at TC Lešť



(1 Feb) The flag of yet another NATO country is flying proudly at the Training Centre (TC) Lešť. ESP troops have reinforced the NATO Multinational Battlegroup Slovakia by joining Allied

forces from Czechia, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia and the United States that have been performing the BG's tasks. As the Battlegroup gradually expands from a battalion to a brigade-sized formation, HQ NATO MN BDE will be built concurrently. ESP soldiers will be arriving in Slovakia in stages by this summer, when Spain is expected to take over command of the NATO Task Force in Slovakia from the Czech Republic.

## MPC for Ex Tobruq Arrows 24



(29 Jan) The Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš hosted the Main Planning Conference (MPC) for Ex Tobruq Arrows 24 (TOAR24), with the aim of planning a live fire exercise using the VSHOR-

AD 9K38 IGLA and C-RAM MANTIS air defence systems. The MPC was attended by representatives of the SVK, LVA and CZE Armed Forces. TOAR24 is due to take place at Hradište Training Area (CZE) in Sept.

## A meeting of tank commanders



(31 Jan) A tank commanders' meeting chaired by Cdr 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov Lt Col Ľubomír Mizerák took place at Trebišov Garrison. The meeting primarily focused on the evaluation of the Battalion's performance and tasks, in the presence of Cdr 2 Mech Bde Prešov Brig Gen Róbert Kecő and Command Sergeant Major (CSM) of 2 Mech Bde Prešov Sgt Maj Michal Tamáš. The first practical part of the meeting involved a number of workplaces covering UAS operations, guiding wheeled combat vehicles in support of the Battalion, and a guided demonstration of the newly fielded Leopard 2A4 MBT. The second part of the commanders' meeting was held in the presence of 14 Tnk Bn battle staff and unit commanders in the Battalion's Hall of Honour and Fame, where Deputy Commander Maj Tomáš Korobanič reported on the status of the decisive tasks being undertaken in individual lines of effort, and set out the priorities for the period ahead.