



Intensive winter training of Trebišov based troops

(16 Feb) At the Training Centre (TC) Lešť, 21 Mech Bn Trebišov completed two weeks of intensive winter training, combined with a 96-hour field training exercise (FTX). This culminated with a company-level tactical live fire exercise (LIVEX). Capt Andrej Timura was the officer commanding the LIVEX. The Battalion's Recce Platoon worked through tactical scenarios, structured around the theme of the 'Mechanised Battalion's Defence'. Around 250 troops from 21 Mech Bn's Battle Staff (BS), CSS Coy, three Mech Coys, First Aid Station (FAS), as well as Active Reserves (AR) soldiers participated in the training event. The training of the mechanised infantry was overseen by Cdr 21 Mech Bn Trebišov Lt Col Peter Hlebaško.



Mortars on standby

(14 Feb) After additional replacements, the SVK Mortar Platoon (Mor Pl), subordinate to the CZE Mor Bty of the TC Lešť-based NATO MN BG SVK, separately underwent topography, first aid, and communications & information systems (CIS) training. While the Hand Over/Take Over (HOTO) process between two CZE Mor Btys was underway, the SVK Mor Pl continued with specialist tactical preparation, trade-specific preparation and technical preparation. Jan 2024 saw the first joint training of SVK and CZE indirect fire infantrymen, more commonly referred to as mortarmen. Intensive joint tactical training then continued under the leadership of individual mortar platoon commanders throughout the first half of Feb.

This year's debut of Active Reserves (AR) soldiers in Velké Ozorovce

(12 Feb) The first training package of 2024 for Active Reserves (AR) soldiers began at 21 Mech Bn Trebišov. Having reported for training, the reservists were first assigned to the Battalion's Regular units and went through in-processing – paperwork, a medical check, issuance of military kit before undergoing training. On 10-15 Feb, 17 Army reservists took part in intensive training at TC Lešť, with the focus on tactical training activities, Command Post (CP) setup, teardown and displacement, the provision of security for the CP, and the use of communications equipment. Further tactical and shooting training is scheduled to take place at Trebišov Garrison's Velké Ozorovce Training Ground. The AR training event will be running until 22 Feb 2024.

- Soldiers of 103 CBRN Bn Rožňava's CSS Coy, CBRN Recce Coy, and CBRN Centre underwent 72 hours of **intensive winter training** on Kamenica nad Cirochou Training Area. They practiced carrying out missions in a contaminated area, monitoring the CBRN situation, giving early warnings to troops, navigating convoys across terrain, and responding to crisis scenarios.
- **The Comprehensive Physical Training Course**, led by a Physical Training (PT) instructor at the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš, saw 13 Slovak Armed Forces soldiers completing 15 military functional exercise programmes aimed at developing mobility, strength, speed and endurance.
- **Military History Magazine**, published by the Slovak Institute of Military History, has been included in the SCOPUS database since Feb 2024. This abstract and citation database is among the largest ones in the world. This positive verdict comes after intensive, long-term efforts by the Institute of Military History staff to constantly improve the quality of their scientific outputs. Importantly, this means anchoring Slovakia's military history science in the international environment.
- 26 military swimmers paid tribute to the memory of Maj Peter Pavlovský by participating in the men and women's swimming disciplines of the 4th **'Maj Peter Pavlovský' Memorial Swimming Competition**, organised by the SVK Army Headquarters.
- With the coming of the Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Maj Slavko Ganaj, military chaplain of the RC Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps, blessed **SLOVCON UNFICYP peacekeepers** with the sign of the ash cross, encouraging them to show openness and appeasement to others and help those in need.
- As part of its engagement with schools, 81 WNG Sliač was visited by 3rd- and 4th-year students of Secondary Transport School Zvolen interested in becoming **aircraft technicians** and their teachers on two different occasions. They were briefed on maintenance and repair work on the SVK AF aircraft, military aviation, and air traffic control (ATC).

FULL FIELD KIT
Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents 'Who Are the War Veterans?' on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Helping a disabled ex-soldier friend who would love to serve in the SVK Army...



(16 Feb) The courage and service of WW2 and contemporary veterans as well as disabled ex-servicemen were celebrated at the Slovak Armed Forces Gala Evening in Halič. The highlight of the gala evening was a charity auction. All proceeds will go towards getting a customised electric wheelchair for Cpl Ondrej Kováč. This father of two and ex-military driver has fallen seriously ill and has become bedridden. Thanks to cameras linked to a computer, his eye movement has been the only way for him to communicate. As he has regained feeling in one hand, he will now be mobile with the aid of the wheelchair.



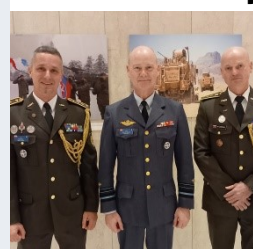
SVK military policemen in Poland



(12 Feb) The NATO MNMPBAT staff, including SVK MP personnel, met to review SOPs and exercise the military decision-making process at Minsk Mazowiecki Military Police Base in Poland. In parallel to this, a working group (WG)

made up of staff officers and legal advisors of the Troops Contributing Nations (TCN) reviewed the Implementation Arrangements for the Battalion, and the Georgian Military Police (GEO MP) Training Planning Working Group, led by SVK MP, continued to design the GEO MP Training Programme.

NATO anniversary marked in Rome



(15 Feb) To mark 25 years and 20 years of Czechia and Slovakia in NATO, the Slovak Embassy in Rome, working in tandem with the Czech Centre, held a photo exhibition on SVK and CZE military deployments abroad at the Slovak Institute in Rome.

Also in attendance at the Exhibition Preview were Commandant of the NATO Defence College (NDC) Rome Lt Gen Max A.L.T. Nielsen and SVK officers posted to the NDC and the Operational Headquarters (OHQ) of EUNAVFORMED Op IRINI in Rome.

AOS delivers UAS Operator Course



(14 Feb) The M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš (AOS LM) delivered the two-week Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operator Course. The course participants familiarised themselves with the electrotechnical aspects of UAS platforms, their performance, aerodynamics and avionics, meteorology, terminology, mission planning for SVK airspace, flight instructions and practice.