



Installation ceremony for AOS Commandant

(14 Mar) Defence Staff (DS) Col Aurel Sabó took charge of General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš as the 6th Commandant of AOS and 14th Commandant of the former Military College during the official installation ceremony, which saw him take the oath and receive the chain of office as a symbol of his official duties. He assumed the leadership position in succession to Assoc Prof Jozef Puttera on 18 Dec 2023, after being appointed by President and Commander-in-Chief Zuzana Čaputová, on the recommendation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák.

Participants in attendance included DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, academic dignitaries from Slovakia as well as Czechia and Hungary's military academies, DAs accredited to Slovakia, representatives of religious, social and business institutions, mayors of local municipalities, ex-Commandants, and the AOS staff.

Speaking about one of the highest priorities – enhancing the quality of education and research, the new Commandant noted: "I want the Academy to offer a modern and relevant education to our Officer Cadets and PhD students so as to become competent officers and professionals." In his remarks, Mr Kaliňák said: "The Armed Forces Academy is here to form the basis of the new future for the entire Armed Forces, and it is essential that we all contribute towards this cause."

On behalf of the Slovak Rectors' Conference, the new Commandant was congratulated on his appointment by Assoc Prof Vladimír Hladovský, President of the Conference and Rector of Matej Bell University.

The other senior appointments to the top echelon of the Academy include Lt Col Michal Turčaník as Deputy Commandant (DC) for Education, Vladimír Andrassy as DC for Quality & Development, Boris Ďurkech as DC for Science, DS Col Štefan Acsai as DC for Military Affairs, and Dušan Mesáros as Quaestor.

Deputy Defence Minister at Lešť

(12 Mar) To mark Czechia's 25 years in NATO, Deputy Defence Minister Igor Melicher addressed the Czech Contingent of the NATO Battlegroup in Slovakia in a ceremony at the Training Centre Lešť on Tue 12 Mar.



Czechia is leading the way as the Framework Nation for the Battlegroup, which is currently comprised of soldiers from Slovenia, Germany, USA, Spain, and Slovakia. In a meeting with the Ambassadors of Ukraine and Bulgaria at the MOD on Mon 11 Mar, Mr Melicher received a letter of invitation for the SVK DPM and MINDEF to the Black Sea Security Conference to be held in Bulgaria's Sofia.

Male and female Dukla race walkers at 50km Race Walk Dudince

(16 Mar) For the Dukla Military Sports Centre race walkers, the 43rd edition of the 50km Race Walk Dudince was an opportunity to gain qualification points for the Paris Summer Olympics. With the 50km race walking removed from the Paris Olympics, 20km race walking was Dudince's main discipline. Dominik Černý (Dukla) placed 4th with a time of 1:20:30 and secured a place at the European Race Walking Champs. For him, it is a big step forward on his way to qualify for the Olympics, where the qualifying mark for 20km race walking is 1:20:10. His fellow Dukla race walkers, Miroslav Úradník and Michal Morvay, clocked times of 1:22:34 and 1:24:25, respectively.

In the Junior 10km Race Walk, Jakub Bátorvský and Tamara Indrišková qualified for the Junior World Champs.

In the women's 20km Race Walk, Mária Katerinka Czaková (pictured here) finished 5th with a time of 1:31:28, which means meeting the qualifying mark for 20km race walking at the European Champs and almost definitely securing a place at the Paris Olympics. Another Dukla race walker, Hanka Burzalová, improved her personal best with a time of 1:32:28.



- The SNP Museum Banská Bystrica hosted the final 'Open Depository Project' international conference on 12 Mar. The project has made the Museum's collections more accessible to visitors in a systematic manner. Thanks to funds from the MOD and the Investments, Regional Development, and Informatisation Ministry as well as grants from the European Economic Area (EEA), Norway, and Norway's Narviksenteret, whilst working closely with other museums and galleries, 2021 saw the creation of dignified spaces for housing the Museum's collections.

- A Black Hawk UH-60M crew and SVK Special Operations Forces (SOF) operatives took part in **Fast Rope and Rappelling drills** at MTC Lešť. The training culminated with SOF operatives being inserted onto the roof of a residential building and extracted from a densely built-up area.

- **SVK Military Police (MP) personnel** underwent specialist training for UNFICYP's Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) in the UK ahead of deploying to Cyprus in support of UNFICYP.

- A new group email – MOSR.KaSTAT2@mil.sk – has been set up for communications with Deputy Defence Minister Martin Vojtašovič's Office.

- As Jnt Spt Bde HQ has been relocated, its address has changed to **Joint Support Brigade HQ Trenčín**, Smetanova 6, 911 01 Trenčín.

- With **4 Log Regt Trenčín** relocated to SNP Trenčín Barracks, its address has changed to **4 Logistics Regiment Trenčín**, Železničná 3, 911 01 Trenčín.

- The **Slovak National Uprising Museum Banská Bystrica** will be closed to the public over Easter from 29 Mar to 1 Apr.

- The Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš has opened a touring exhibition of large format photos documenting **20 years of the Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps**.

- The editorial staff and board of **Military History Magazine** would like to announce that the magazine is indexed in the SCOPUS database, one of the largest multi-disciplinary abstract and citation databases in the world.

- Padre Stanislav Kanik was formally inducted as **Military Hospital Chaplain** by Bishop František Rábek in an induction ceremony during a Holy Mass at the Chapel of the Central Military Hospital - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok on 15 Mar.

- Due to the replacement of electrical wiring, the **Study Room of the Military History Archives** will be closed to the public from 13 Mar to 15 Apr.

- The Liptovský Mikuláš-based Slovak Armed Forces Personnel Office held a **workshop for military librarians** who acquainted themselves with the Public Libraries Act, related legal documents, and the status of libraries in Slovakia and in the Armed Forces.

- **Viktória Forster**, hurdles runner and sprinter of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, won gold in the women's 100m hurdles and took silver in the women's 100m sprint at the 31st FISU World University Games Chengdu in China.

- Ivana Horná finished 3rd in the women's U69kg category in powerlifting and took silver in the women's **deadlift competition** at the European Champs Velika Gorica in Croatia.

- Despite her absence in the latest races, skier **Petra Vihová** remains 3rd in this season's Alpine Skiing World Cup slalom standing.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents the Martin-based Military Driving School on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Artillerymen exercise in Latvia and at Záhorie

(14 Mar) At Camp Ādaži on 12 Mar, SLOVCON soldiers of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup Latvia successfully concluded their participation in Ex Crystal Arrow 24, a readiness validation exercise validating the BG's procedures, systems and tactics as a multinational force.

Under the command of Bty Cdr 1Lt Štefan Križák, they tested the capabilities of the SVK Fire Battery, equipped with 155mm Zuzana 2 SPHs, the Fire Support Coordination Group elements, and the Artillery Reconnaissance and Logistics teams during complex defensive and offensive operations on today's battlefield.

The exercise saw the participation of SVK troops from 54 MLRS Bn Rožňava and 21 Sp Bn Michalovce under the leadership of Capt Július Borák ahead of their deployment to Latvia as part of a regular rotation of forces to support NATO's eFP BG LVA later this June.

Elsewhere at the Military Technical and Testing Institute ("VTSÚ") Záhorie, members of 21 Sp Bn Michalovce

96-hour winter training activity

(13 Mar) During a 96-hour winter training activity, 1 and 2 MLRS Bns of 54 MLRS Bn Rožňava underwent live fire training on Rožňava Garrison's Gemerská Hôrka training ground, including practicing carrying out planned and unplanned fire support tasks as well as coordinating fire support platoons. The activity focused on the execution of training for Artillery and Signals speciality roles. At all levels of command, commanders praised their troops for their approach and commitment to making the best of the training opportunity and honing their skills.

Op Honour & Duty



(13 Mar) Soldiers of 3 Mech Coy, part of 22 Mech Bn Michalovce, conducted Op Honour & Duty during their 96-hour training exercise, with the focus on eliminating the remnants of resistance from enemy recce troops. The venue of the training exercise was Michalovce Garrison's Poruba pod Vihorlatom firing range, where they practiced and fine-tuned a set of tactical standard operating procedures (TACSOP) for operations in built-up areas (OBUA). The operation was yet to be fully unfolded at MTC Lešť.

"Throughout the training at MTC Lešť, members of 3 Mech Coy achieved excellent results and demonstrated a high level of motivation in improving their ability to shoot and deal with various tactical scenarios," Cdr 3 Mech Coy Capt Luboš Puškár said in a statement.

Coordination of sections checked

(14 Mar) 20 Log Bn Prešov and Prešov Garrison's Ruská Nová Ves tactical training ground and firing range hosted a training event to check the coordination of sections in the Transport and Field Services Companies of 20 Log Bn Prešov. This activity was part of the Army's efforts to lay stress on the commanders and section members' readiness to plan, prepare and execute logistical support tasks. Tpt Coy Sects practiced running a transport network to keep Army units going in the area of deployment. Their Support Vehicle (SV) fleet transported both containerised and non-containerised materiel such as munitions, fuel and water to the supply points as part of Level 2 Logistic Support to 2 Mech Bde Prešov. Fld Svcs Coy Sects were involved in setting up and operating storage areas, water and fuel supply points, hygiene facilities, a workshop for in-theatre equipment maintenance and repair, as well as deploying a funeral team with a special tasking.

participated in munitions trials under the Artillery Munitions Service Life Extension Programme. This also gave our artillerymen the chance to train new crews for the 155mm Zuzana 2 SPH.

