



Farewell to Italians

(12 Apr) The Italian SAMP/T AD system has ceased its operation in Slovakia as a replacement for Slovakia's S-300, which was gifted to Ukraine by the former SVK Government. The Italian AD unit had served at Malacky - Kuchyňa AB since its arrival in Slovakia in Mar 2023. Speaking at a farewell ceremony, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák thanked our Italian allies for their professionalism and efforts in securing SVK airspace, and expressed his conviction that it is necessary for Slovakia to get its own AD system. After the withdrawal of the Italian AD system from Slovakia, SVK airspace remains protected by NATINAMDS, which includes surveillance radars and other assets operated by NATO member countries. In addition, our skies continue to be protected by CZE, POL and HUN Air Force QRA fighter jets under Allied Air Policing arrangements.



Minister visits artillerymen

(11 Apr) Commander of 21 Sp Arty Bn Michalovec Col Michal Németh and Deputy Commander of 5 Arty Regt Rožňava Lt Col Marek Uchal' welcomed DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák and DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher to Dukla Barracks in Michalovec. The visitors familiarised themselves with the Battalion's state of affairs, discussed changes to the Combat Vehicles (CV) hard stand area, the renovation projects in progress, and the future direction of the Army's artillery modernisation.

Observation flight over Hungary

(8 Apr) The Slovak Verification Centre (MOD) took part in an observation flight over Hungary under the Open Skies Treaty in the first half of Apr. A Romanian Air Force Antonov An-30 surveillance aircraft was used for the 1005km flight to collect aerial images of the points of interest (POI), with soldiers from Slovakia, Czechia and the Benelux countries on board. Such reconnaissance overflights help maintain verification capabilities and strengthen trust and cooperation among OSCE partners in the region.

Combat life savers refresh their skills

(8 Apr) 11 Mech Bn Martin hosted one of the first Combat Life Saver (CLS) Refresher Courses, led by instructors of the Battalion's First Aid Station and assistant instructors of 65 Recce Bn Prešov and 13 Mech Bn Levice.

The course incorporated both theory and practice. The two-day theory module saw the participants receiving classroom instruction for the scenarios they would act out in the practical module: life-saving care provided while under fire, tactical field care, and medevac care. A large focus of the practical scenarios was on treating such conditions as extensive bleeding, tension pneumothorax, and different types of fractures. In doing so, the participants were aided by special medical equipment. The benefit of the course was that it allowed them to share their experiences and new procedures.

At the end of the course, SSgt Marek Jantošík, head of the Battalion's First Aid Station, presented a certificate of completion to the course graduates. In addition to praising their professional approach, he underscored the importance of keeping the combat life savers' skills fresh in the Armed Forces.



- The deadline for submitting applications for the next round of **Voluntary Military Training (VMT)**, due to take place from 8 July to 20 Sept, is 31 May 2024. Those interested can find more details on the internet.

- Units of 11 Mech Bn carried out **intensive training and tactical exercises** at MTC Lešť, Turecký Vrch and VVP Valaškovce MTAs, involving 1 Mech Coy, 3 Mech Coy, mortar units, an anti-tank platoon and a recce platoon.

- Drivers of **14 Log Bn Topoľčany** underwent improvement training at its garrison training ground in Koliňany. They deepened their professional knowledge of road traffic rules, improved their driving performance on minor, field and forest roads, in the city, and in a slow-moving convoy, conducted a vehicle recovery, and executed CBRN defence measures.

- Camp New Amsterdam, based in Huis ter Heide, the Netherlands, hosted the **Military Police Close Protection Forum 2024 (MP CPF-24)** under the aegis of the NATO Military Police Centre of Excellence and the Special Security Assignment Brigade, with 40 experts from NATO and Ukraine in attendance, including two SVK MP officers. The delegates were briefed on the Close Protection Handbook and the latest trends in Close Protection training, weapons and equipment. Live-action demonstrations were provided by the Special Security Assignment Brigade.

- Members of 13 Mech Bn Levice presented the work of the Slovak Armed Forces, options to enter the Armed Services and the Military Academy, and the advantages of serving in the Armed Forces to the public audience at the **Rescuers Day 2024 event**, which was organised by the Slovak Red Cross.

- The **Military Academy's Library** is hosting an exhibition to mark Slovakia's 20 years in NATO and the EU until 1 May.

- A farewell ceremony for **Maj Slavomír Pristaš**, COS 21 Sp Arty Bn Michalovec, who is leaving the Service, took place at Dukla Barracks in Michalovec. He was presented with the Slovak Army Commemorative Medal at the ceremony.

- The 20th International Scientific Conference on **Degradation of Technical Systems** took place on 3-5 Apr, organised by Warsaw University of Technology, Lublin University of Technology, Žilina University, and the Military Academy's Mechanical Engineering Dept. The overall focus of the Conference was on the degradation of technical systems and security and defence technologies.

- To mark his jubilee, **MSgt František Biely**, member of Special Military Police Operations Group 3, received the International EOD Centre Commemorative Medal for his role in building EOD capabilities at home and abroad from Director of NATO EOD COE Trenčín Col František Mihalovič in a ceremony on 9 Apr.

- Margaréta Vráblová, triathlon athlete of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre**, triumphed at the 2024 European Triathlon Junior Cup Melilla in Spain.

- **ĽEma Fizeľová**, judoka of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, seized 2nd place in the women's U70kg at the Junior European Cup 2024 Poznan in Poland.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents the debate on Slovakia's past and future Air Defence (AD) capabilities on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

How air defenders train for combat

(8 Apr) Air defenders of 3 AD Group, part of 11 SVK AF Bde Nitra, completed intensive basic combat skills training on their garrison training ground in Koliňanský Vrch. The training, built around an individual and team's response to a simulated enemy force, was concentrated on the soldier and team's tactical movement and enemy engagement, all round defence, response to enemy contact, indirect fire, and checkpoint operations. This was followed by combat engineer training, including the use of camouflage to conceal forces and equipment, mine safety, conduct in a dangerous environment, and was concluded with signals, topography and medical training.

Phase 2 PDT for SVK eFP troops



(11 Apr) Pre-deployment training (PDT) for the SVK troops to be deployed as part of the June rotation of the NATO eFP Battlegroup Latvia has been underway. They have been working on

the synchronisation of fires ahead of an intensive live fire certification exercise (LIVEX) on Valaškovce Training Area. As part of the Fire Battery PDT, artillerymen moved into firing positions and executed fires on the ranges at Michalovec Garrison training ground in White Mountain. Recce teams reconnoitred the axis of march, the combat zone, and specific targets, while working closely with the Fire Support Coordination Group.

Archival Documentaries Festival

(12 Apr) The Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum Banská Bystrica hosted the 2nd Archival Documentaries Festival on 8-12 Apr. The Festival showed original films by contemporary film makers who used archival documentaries as a basis for their own edited films, thematically focused lectures, presentations, workshops, and accompanying events. Among the visitors to the Festival was renowned Ukrainian director Sergey Loznitsa.

Soldiers Through the Eyes of Kids



(9 Apr) The Museum of Military History Branch Svidník hosted the 'Soldiers Through the Eyes of Children' Exhibition.

The drawings and paintings by primary school pupils were the entries that made it to the finals of the MOD Drawing and Painting Competition 2023. The exhibition has been staged in Bratislava, Trenčín and Liptovský Mikuláš since June 2023, with the SNP Museum Banská Bystrica soon to follow as its last venue.

CBRND Active Reserves practice their capabilities in Rožňava

(8 Apr) Regular training of the Active Reserves (AR) under the military occupational specialty G40 Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear Defence got underway at 103 CBRND Bn Rožňava.

Part I of the AR Training Programme at MTC Lešť (8-14 Apr) focused on reinforcing All Arms skills such as marksmanship as well as familiarisation with the technical specifications, preparation and operation of decontamination equipment. Under Part II of the AR Training Programme held at CBRND Training & Testing Centre Zemianske Kostofany (15-19 Apr), the reservists applied the principles of moving through a contaminated area on foot before undergoing self-decontamination. In addition, they were trained to establish and operate personnel and equipment decontamination stations. The officer in charge of the training, Lt Dominik Krajec, put together a demanding and well-structured training programme to get the reservists ready to perform professional and tactical tasks in various environments.

