



Good relations bring opportunities

(17 Apr) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák received the Ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Slovenia to Slovakia, His Excellencies Vusal Hajimakhmud Abdullayev and Stanislav Raščan, at the MOD in Bratislava. Minister Kaliňák and Ambassador Abdullayev discussed deepening the SVK-AZE relationship, especially in the fields of strategic partnership, defence policy, and defence industrial cooperation. It is in these areas that Azerbaijan is a promising partner for Slovakia. Our long-standing good relations with Slovenia are reflected notably in international crisis management operations. SVN troops are deployed with the NATO BG in Slovakia. Moreover, our partner's UN peacekeeping duties in Cyprus will be renewed after the SVK Government's decision to do so. SVN military personnel will be embedded in the SVK Engineer Platoon in Sector 4 of UNFICYP.

Medals for those persecuted

(17 Apr) The SVK DPM and MINDEF Commemorative Medal was awarded to ten members of the Auxiliary Technical Battalions or Military Forced Labour Camps at the County House in Liptovský Mikuláš. Six of them were presented the medal posthumously, including two Catholic and two Protestant priests. The medals were handed out to the recipients by Director General of the MOD HR Dept Martin Rímeš, in the presence of Political Prisoners Association (KPVS) Chair Peter Sandtner, Deputy Mayor of Liptovský Mikuláš Rudolf Urbanovič, Auxiliary Bishop of the RC Diocese of Spiš Mons Ján Kuboš, Chaplain General of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Forces and Armed Corps Col Viktor Sabo. The event was organised by the KPVS and was supported by a wind band as well as the Armed Forces Academy Guard of Honour led by Capt Pavol Tkáč.



Leopards on the roads

(15 Apr) For the first time, members of 4 Tnk Coy, part of 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov, tried driving Leopard 2A4 tanks on the road from the Battalion base to Trebišov garrison training ground in Veľké Ozorovce to complete tactical training. Their route took them from Trebišov via Nový Ruskov, Sečovce, Zbehnov, Malé Ozorovce to Veľké Ozorovce. The column of the MBTs, supported by its logistics team, was escorted by MP vehicles. Due to their weight, the tanks moved one by one across the bridges along the route. The movement went ahead without any problems. The Leopard 2A4s were ready in time for 96-hour tactical training that tested the capabilities of the newly fielded platform, including its CIS systems.



AOS Commandant Col Aurel Sabó is promoted to Brigadier General

(18 Apr) For the last time as President and Commander-in-Chief, Ms Zuzana Čaputová promoted colonels and general officers in today's promotion ceremony at the Grassalkovich Palace, Bratislava. Brig Gen Juraj Štefanka and Brig Gen Jaroslav Krám were promoted to Major General, and Commandant of the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Col Aurel Sabó to Brigadier General. In her remarks, President Čaputová expressed her recognition and gratitude to the Armed Forces for their service to the Nation and praised the professionalism of the promoted service personnel, stressing that they embody the essence of the contributions that Slovakia and the Slovak Armed Forces have made to NATO. In his remarks, Brig Gen Aurel Sabó outlined four pillars on which the professional growth of the promoted soldiers rest: family, service to the SVK military, values, and cognitive and physical abilities. "We will value and protect the solidity of our pillars, so that we can perform our duties effectively and serve our country as best as we can," AOS Commandant Brig Gen Sabó said.



- To mark 75 years of the North Atlantic Alliance, NATO HQ MND-C Székesfehérvár organised a march from Kisfalud to the National Military Memorial in Pákozd, Hungary. HQ military personnel of 10 Allied Nations attended the event.

- At 51 WNG Prešov, the CSEL of the Slovak Armed Forces and the Command Sergeant Majors (CSMs) of the Forces and Commands organised a workshop for 43 CSMs and 20 NCOs who are currently on the military occupational specialty U10 training course.

- The CBRN labs of 905 Specialist Combat Support Centre Zemianske Kostoľany were visited by a delegation from Finland's Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) to develop cooperation.

- The NATO Land Forces Chaplain Consultative Committee Working Group met at a working conference in Ādaži, Latvia. Chaplains from NATO units based in Latvia and guests from Poland drew up a list of tasks to deliver religious support to NATO troops serving across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. In addition, they completed a practical exercise where they put into practice the interoperational religious support concepts. Slovakia was represented by Lt František Krušínsky.

- Logisticians of 53 Field Services Battalion Hlohovec practiced basic combat skills and specialist logistic capabilities in the field. Concurrently, they conducted a separate Battle Staff (BS) exercise at the Main Command Post (MCP) at a military training area. The goal was to test the Battalion's ability to react to the ever-changing battlefield and to perform resupply and logistic tasks under time constraints and in tactically unfavourable conditions.

- A pilot course for Leopard 2A4 repair workshop specialists, organised under the auspices of Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH, with the focus on regular repairs and prescribed technical checks, was delivered by instructors of 405 Repair Battalion Martin.

- The preparation of 103 CBRND Bn Rožňava's 1 Multi-Functional Company, formally declared to the NATO High Readiness Forces (HRF) under NATO Capability Targets 2021, culminated with a tactical exercise at MTC Lešt on 16-18 Apr. The exercise tested the Company's capabilities to undertake CBRN missions. The exercise's goals and tasks were met efficiently.

- The 30th edition of the MOD-organised 'Ludovít Štúr's Pen' Young Journalists Competition held its awards presentation for the winning editorial staffs of secondary and tertiary school newsletters with security, armed forces and military history content. Among the awardees were the editorial staffs of 'Phonendoscope' (Secondary Medical School Poprad), 'Newcastle Newsletter' (Juraj Hronec Grammar School Bratislava, 'Unwinding' (Ludovít Štúr Grammar School Trenčín), 'Knot' (Secondary Medical School Dolný Kubín), and 'School Data' (Secondary Technical School of Electrical Engineering Piešťany).

- WW2 Slovak National Uprising (SNP) veteran and member of the 1st Czechoslovak Army in Slovakia Ján Beník was buried with military honours in a cemetery in Pezinok. He passed away shortly before his 101st birthday.

- MOD Kindergarten admission forms can be submitted for the 2024/2025 school year starting on 2 May through 24 May. For more information, including the Kindergarten admission form, go to the Defence intranet.

Museum's construction advances

(19 Apr) Construction works to Slovakia's first museum building since 1989 – Hall 4 (H4) of the Museum of Military History (VHM) Piešťany – have been underway. On completion of the works, the building will get its final building approval and will house a gallery featuring Slovak military history content with exhibits, theme texts, documentaries and photos from 1945 to present. The new hall will open in a ceremony in May 2025 to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2. In addition, Hall 1 (H1) upgrade works are in progress to house an exhibition of aircraft and helicopters, restored to their former glory by LOTN. VHM Piešťany will be closed due to technical reasons throughout 2024 and will reopen for the 'Museums at Night' event on 18 May 2024 and for the Armed and Security Forces and Rescue Services Day event on 7 Sept.

Conference with demonstrations



(19 Apr) The Multinational Aviation Training Centre (MATC) Conference took place at 51 WNG Prešov. Representatives of the Czech, Croatian and Hungarian Armed Forces were greeted by DCOM 51 WNG Prešov Lt Col Vojtech

Pitron. The goal was to discuss mountain flying training (MFT). SVK airmen demonstrated MFT in coordination with the Fire and Rescue Service Spišské Bystré. The participants watched demonstrations of SVK Air Force Mil Mi-17LPZS and UH-60M crews in using the Bambi Bucket and of troop insertions through the heli-abseiling. A Czech airman passed on his valuable knowledge as a UH60M door gunner instructor. Croatian airmen presented the agenda for the upcoming conference in Pula and MFT opportunities in Croatia.

OCs learn blasting operations



(15 Apr) 4th-year Officer Cadets of the Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš, pursuing the Security and Defence of the State Programme, along with members of 901 Engr Bn undertook training in blasting operations on Turkish Hill Training Area. While working

with engineer explosives, regular and special engineer charges, time fuzes, electric and non-electric detonation cords, they set off charges placed on different materials and conducted explosive destruction of structures. The training continued with minelaying operations and culminated with an exam structured around the Explosives and Explosive Destruction Techniques subject.

Live firings by artillerymen ahead of their eFP deployment to Latvia

(18 Apr) In mid-April, members of 21 Self-propelled Artillery Battalion Michalovce conducted Phase 2 Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) on Valaškovce Training Area before deploying to Latvia as part of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroup in June. The PDT was also joined by other military units taking part in this rotation of forces.

As well as working to get the synchronisation between C2 and the Fire Battery correct, they also reconnoitred the axis of march and the Battery's area of operations, took up the positions with the entire force and reinforcements, conducted firing tasks in tandem with the Fire Support Coordination Group, moved to the Battery's reserve location, and simulated

actions in an international environment according to NATO standards.



The training culminated with live firings, controlled by Deputy Commander of 5 Artillery Regiment Lt Col Marek Uchal and Commander of 21 Self-propelled Artillery Battalion Lt Col Michal Németh. During the training, Commander of 5 Artillery Regiment Lt Col Ján Hric inspected the troops as they coordinated the elements subordinate to the Battery and provided mechanised units with fire support, at both planned and unplanned targets. He expressed his satisfaction with the tasks executed during the exercise and the soldiers' readiness ahead of their deployment to Latvia later this June.