



Ministers meet in Luxembourg

(23 Apr) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák participated in a Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) meeting in Luxembourg. Topics on the agenda included the EU's latest assistance and security obligations to Ukraine, the preparedness of our forces and defences, and the EU nations' defence industrial base initiatives.

Joining the meeting via VTC, Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov and Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba offered an update on the battlefield situation and the requirements to step up the supplies where Ukraine has most critical capability deficiencies.

On Ukraine, Mr Kaliňák appealed for the need to establish a ceasefire, on the basis of which diplomatic negotiations could go ahead. He added that the SVK Government places special emphasis on compliance with international law and condemns any form of aggression. He emphasised that the SVK side is fully aware of the critical situation in Ukraine and continues to look for practical approaches to ensure the continued delivery of non-lethal aid to Kyiv, especially in the fields of demining, humanitarian and civilian support.

Ministers also addressed the security situation in Sudan and the Middle East.

BSD and CEDC in Budapest

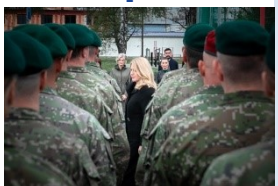
(26 Apr) On his visit to Hungary, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák spoke at the Budapest Security Dialogue (BSD). Mr Kaliňák was joined on the trip by DEPMINDEF Martin Vojašovič, who took part in a meeting of Central European Defence Cooperation (CEDC) and Western Balkans (WB) Defence Ministers.

Today's security challenges in the WB, European and Euro-Atlantic perspectives on the region, and the establishment of the Western Balkans Security and Defence College topped the agenda of the CEDC + WB meeting in Budapest.



President inspects troops

(25 Apr) On an away-day trip to Eastern Slovakia, President and Commander-in-Chief Zuzana Čaputová inspected Falcon Barracks in Prešov to thank members of 65 Recce Bn for their professionalism and service to the Nation. "They played a role in assisting our citizens in crisis situations, whether that be the pandemic, the tragic fire of the apartment building on Mukachevo Street in Prešov, or the protection of the state border after Russia's invasion of Ukraine," the President said and continued: "This military unit is one of the best the Slovak Armed Forces can boast of. Traditionally, it combines specialities with the most advanced capabilities. I am aware that mission performance and success are founded on the soldier's absolute commitment, professional abilities, and moral qualities. For that, all the servicemen and women of 65 Recce Bn deserve my great appreciation and respect."



DEPMINDEF Melicher welcomes U.S. delegation for U.S.-SVK HLDG meeting

(23 Apr) Deputy Defence Minister Igor Melicher welcomed a U.S. DOD delegation led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy Lisa Sawyer to the SVK MOD in Bratislava. The U.S.-Slovakia High Level Defense Group (HLDG) held a meeting to address the developments in the global security environment, including the war in Ukraine, the ongoing instability in the Middle East, the security situation in the Indo-Pacific, and the avenues of cooperation being pursued by the Alliance ahead of the 75th Anniversary NATO Summit in Washington, D.C. DASD Lisa Sawyer applauded Slovakia's 20th anniversary as a NATO Ally, contributions to the Alliance, and its commitment to deliver the declared goals of defence spending and enhanced security for NATO's Eastern Flank. DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher underscored the high level of the U.S.-SVK bilateral defence relationship and reaffirmed Slovakia's interest in seeking opportunities to take U.S.-SVK defence cooperation forward – with benefits to both Nations.



- MP Dept Vikanová - Hronsek's Training and MWD Branch delivered the **Initial Military Police Course**, with a graduation ceremony for successful graduates taking place at the SNP Memorial in Banská Bystrica. Director of the Slovak Military Police Col Valentin Cebo presented a Letter of Commendation to the best course graduates – Lt Peter Šlosiar, SSgt Samuel Dož, and SSgt Adam Kubík.
- A graduation ceremony for 75 MOD officers of the **29th Basic Command and Staff Course** was held at the Military Academy's Main Hall on 26 Apr.
- 20 Log Bn Prešov practiced **moving equipment by rail** at the Šarišské Lúky railhead. Along with members of MOVCON Team 1 of 53 Fld Svcs Bn Hlohovec and 67 Com Spt Coy of 2 Mech Bde Prešov, they covered force and asset protection during the rail movement, flatbed wagon takeover/handover procedures, setting up the loading ramp, loading operations, fastening equipment to the wagons, and the duties of both superiors and subordinates working on an all-day shift.
- In preparation for 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp's September combat readiness evaluation (CREVAL), members of the Battalion Staff and HQ participated in **Ex Lioness 2024** at the AOS Simulation Centre. This complex Command Staff rehearsal, supported by simulation and the hC2 system, was overseen by 1 Mech Bde HQ.
- Military personnel of 65 Recce Bn Prešov completed a week of **special physical training** at the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica. To get ready for a reconnaissance competition later this Sept, they underwent anaerobic threshold tests, endurance training, and shooting practice with a high heart rate.
- **BVP-1 and BVP-2 IFV gunners** of 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany underwent training on the firing ranges in Devičany. As well as reviewing gunnery theory, they tested their practical skills in firing the weapon systems during day and night shoots.
- The Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin hosted a **course for heads of the mobilisation stations**, with particular attention to taking over materiel and equipment across all classes of supply.
- A fire support team (FST) of Recce Pl, part of 21 Mech Bn Trebišov, undertook **intensive training in directing artillery fires** at Trebišov Garrison's Veľké Ozorovce training ground, in difficult conditions and in the dark.
- Cadet Jakub Handzilko and Cadet Jakub Kolečár of the Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš placed first and Cadet Ján Lysý received an honourable mention in the Technical Science section of the **29th SECOSAFT International Student Science Conference 2024** in Romania.

- Engr Spt Coy of 902 Engr Bn Michalovce and Engr Pl of 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp in cooperation with Engr Pl of 21 Mech Bn practiced **reconnoitring water obstacles** at Trebišov Garrison's Veľké Ozorovce training ground.
- The **BRDM-2 Combat Recce Vehicle and 70/85 MODULAR MLRS Vehicle Driver Courses** were delivered by CS & CSS Tng Coy at the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin.
- Logisticians of 14 Log Bn Topoľčany underwent **RG F-1 grenade throw training** on the training grenade range in Turany, with blast walls and throwing bays used for protection.
- **Judoka Marius Fizeľ**, of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, won bronze in the men's +100kg event at the 2024 European Judo Championships in Zagreb, Croatia.
- **Boxer Jessica Triebelová**, of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, took bronze in the women's 56kg event at the European Boxing Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.

Ex Strong Cohesion tested NATO MN BG SVK's readiness

(28 Apr) MTC Lešť hosted Ex Strong Cohesion 2024 for NATO MN BG SVK, with participation from CZE, DEU, ESP, SVN, SVK and US troops. Spain will take over command of the Battlegroup from Czechia on 1 July 2024.

The exercise director was Brig Gen Róbert Kecskő, Commander 2 Mechanised Brigade Prešov. According to Col Petr Blecha (CZE A), Commander NATO Multinational Battlegroup Slovakia (4th rotation), the exercise simulated a High Intensity Warfare (HIW) scenario modelled on the ongoing conflict on NATO's Eastern Flank. "The aim was to test the overall readiness of the Battalion, its Battle Staff (BS) and HQ elements," Col Blecha said.

The exercise saw participation of almost 1,500 soldiers from



six NATO Armies with 400 pieces of combat equipment. The exercising troops went through 50 scenarios and were thoroughly tested on all aspects of operations. STCO24-1 was the NATO Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) for this Battlegroup's rotation, overseen by a CREVAL team under the leadership of Brig Gen Josef Trojáněk (CZE A), Deputy Commander Operations Command. Over 30 CREVAL assessors verified the BG's readiness in seven areas of interest. "The NATO Multinational Battlegroup accomplished all its tasks. This is a special task force made up of five nations that must work together as one force. No key shortages were reported. The Battlegroup was declared 'Combat Ready,'" Brig Gen Trojáněk said at the end of the exercise.

DAs visit Prešov AB

(24 Apr) Chief Engineer of 51 Wng Prešov Lt Col Martin Jachym welcomed 13 Defence Attachés (DAs) of Belgium, Poland, Spain, Hungary, China, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Sweden and the Czech Republic to Prešov Air Base, accompanied by Lt Col Ján Gábor of the SVK Defence Staff. After receiving an initial brief, the guests watched a presentation of UH-60M and Mi-17 SAR helicopters at the Technical Repair Squadron facility and a flying demonstration by airmen of 2 Heli Sq.

V4 CHODs meet in Morava

(24 Apr) Slovak Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko took part in a V4 Chiefs of Defence meeting at Liblice Castle in Mělník. The meeting was chaired by CZE Chief of Defence Lt Gen Karel Řehka. The CHODs discussed the latest developments in Ukraine, including military aid and efforts to provide training for UKR troops, the new NATO Force Model, and logistics in support of our partner countries. Czechia currently chairs the Visegrad Group, Poland will take over the V4 Presidency starting from July.

Military and Methodology Council

(24 Apr) 2 SVK AF Bde hosted a meeting of Slovak Air Chief Maj Gen Róbert Tóth's Military and Methodology Council. The central theme of the meeting was the temporary rebasing of 81 Wng Sliach to 46 Wng Kuchyňa. The Methodology Council was followed by the Military Council, where Maj Gen Tóth presented Brig Gen Martin Kuterka with the Slovak CHOD Commemorative Medal 3rd Grade. The meeting wrapped up with the Military Council's visit to the new NATINAMDS facility.

'Mole' Cup Shooting Comp 2024

(22 Apr) The 3rd edition of the 'Mole' Cup Shooting Competition 2024 took place at the Military Academy's Simulation Centre. A record number of nine teams (54 shooters including OCs, PQOs, and AOS staff) were assessed on precision shooting from short and long firearms at the target distances of 15m and 25m, respectively. 2nd-year OCs from 'Mt Kriváň Team 1' and 'Mt Kriváň Team 2' seized 1st and 2nd places, followed by the T-REX PQO Team in 3rd place. With the highest target scores of 99/100 and 96/100, 1st-year OC Peter Kobik and PQO Mário Palo finished top of the rankings and were named Best Pistol and Rifle Marksman.

