



Victory Over Fascism Day

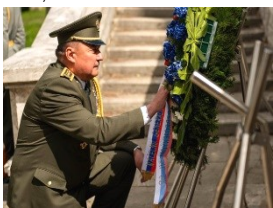
(8 May) 79 years have passed since the largest and most extensive armed conflict in the history of mankind ended on 8 May, claiming the lives of more than 50 million people. Military personnel of Bratislava Garrison HQ supported the wreath-laying ceremony at the Slavin WW2 Memorial, in the presence of PM Róbert Fico, members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Slovakia, and representatives of central and local governments.

The victory over the Nazis in WW2 was also commemorated at Slavin by DEPDEFMIN Igor Melicher. Together with other guests, he came to pay tribute to the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace. "On this day as we mark the end of one of the most devastating conflicts in human history, we must not forget that peace in Europe is a privilege and cannot be taken for granted," he said.

"It is important to remember the legacy of WW2 – that hateful ideologies can kill," President and Commander-in-Chief Zuzana Čaputová noted. She went on to underline that it is our duty to protect the world of prosperity, freedom and democracy and to pass it on to our descendants in the best possible condition. According to her, the only right response to hateful ideologies is to have trust in the values of freedom and democracy as well as in bravery, perseverance, and cooperation. The President made the remarks in a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Bratislava's Rázus Embankment. Speaking at a ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the end of WW2 at the SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica, President-elect Peter Pellegrini said: "European politicians, including Slovak ones, are faced with the fundamental challenge of bringing peace to Ukraine and thus to Europe, so that tragic scenarios will not materialise." The SNP Museum's rich programme included a presentation of military history clubs, a vintage military motorcycle ride, a screening of documentary films, and a presentation of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica.

In the early afternoon at WW2 cemetery in the Háj-Nicovô Memorial Park in Liptovský Mikuláš, Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko, Adjutant General of Indiana Maj Gen Dale Lyles, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Armed Forces leaders, and Mayor of Liptovský Mikuláš Ján Bicháč gathered to honour the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom and peace.

In his remarks, Gen Daniel Zmeko said: "We, soldiers, are bound by the military oath. We want to be and will be the guarantee of security and freedom." He continued: "We must read history clearly and distinctly, we must be aware of which side we stand on, in what way we want to achieve our national interests. And these are prosperity, freedom and democracy in Slovakia." The ceremony was supported by the Slovak Armed Forces Guard of Honour and Band. Elsewhere, General Milan Rastislav Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš hosted a ceremony to mark the end of the most destructive global conflict in history at the Academy's Main Hall on Tue 7 May.



Gen Milan Rastislav Štefánik remembered in Paris

(9 May) On his visit to Paris, Deputy Defence Minister Martin Vojašovič, accompanied by DCHOD Lt Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, took part in a charity concert titled "Through the Eyes of the Heart" at Paris's St Mary Magdalene Church to mark the end of WW2 and General Štefánik's death.

The concert, organised by the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps in cooperation with the Military Support Foundation and the SVK Embassy in France, featured a variety of musical performances from the Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica and organist Zuzana Ferjenčíková. All proceeds from the event will go to the France-based Czechoslovak Volunteers Association, which looks after the legacy, memorials and graves of the Czech and Slovak soldiers who died in WW1 and WW2 in France.

On 9 May, DEPDEFMIN Martin Vojašovič and DCHOD Lt Gen Ľubomír Svoboda participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Paris Observatory in Meudon, a suburb of Paris, where Štefánik had worked since 1905. In Meudon's Peace Garden, Mr Vojašovič participated in the unveiling of Štefánik's Bench of Honour, designed by the Military Support Foundation (MSF).

The head of the Foundation, Milan Gajdoš said that the 'Benches of Honour' were created in the shape of the skeleton of the Caproni CA 33, in which Štefánik made his last, unfinished flight from Italy to his homeland. In Slovakia and abroad, they also aim to commemorate the merits of SVK soldiers on missions and operations.



- Side by side with bomb disposal experts of the Slovak Army, Air Force, SOF, MP and Police, EOD specialists of 905 Specialised Combat Support Centre Nováky completed professional training in the **disposal of surplus air munitions** and the design & development testing of operational procedures to restore the safety of medium-calibre artillery munitions at VTSÚ Žahorie and Malacky AB.

- Along with colleagues from Poland, Denmark, Lithuania, Latvia, Croatia, Germany, Austria and Italy, **SVK MP MWD** handlers with their service dogs attended an international military and police K9 conference at the Military Pharmacy and Medical Technology Centre in Poland's Celestynów. It was a welcome opportunity to exchange experience, receive new training knowledge, strengthen cooperation, and try different training methods in an international environment.

- Based on a SVK Chief of Defence Directive, the **selection of SVK military personnel for NATO and EU postings** will take place on 20 May. You can find all related documents at web1.mil.sk in the Regular Soldiers Management Section's Chief of Defence Directives Folder – May 2024.

- Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the Air Force (CSELAF)** CMSgt Rastislav Skuben convened a meeting of the Slovak Air Force CSELs at 51 Wng Prešov. They paid a visit to 1 Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) Company Prešov and 2 Radar Surveillance (RS) Company Veľká Ida to become familiar with the tasks of the units in the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) system.

- The Presidential Guard of Honour (GOH)** gathered for a ceremony to read out the 'Orders of the President of the Slovak Republic on the Occasion of the 79th Anniversary of the Victory over Fascism in WW2' took place at Bratislava's Dukla Barracks on 7 May. Five members of the GOH were presented with the SVK CHOD Commemorative Medal. DCOM Presidential GOH Lt Col Marián Mäsiar gave an assessment of the tasks performed so far and thanked all guards for a job well done.

- CS and CSS Coy of the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin hosted a **course for operators of the UDS 114 and 214.41 excavators**. The three-day theory module was followed by a two-week practice module at Martin Garrison's Sučany training ground. The participants built non-explosive barricades, repaired roads, and levelled up the impact area of the grenade range.

- Members of **5 Arty Regt Rožňava** visited 18 Arty Regt based in the Polish city of Nowa Dęba, with the aim of establishing the first contact with the newly established unit and discussing the areas of possible cooperation. One of the main points was a presentation of equipment currently in use by the Regiments. Cdr 5 Arty Regt Col Ján Hric expressed hope that the meeting would open the doors to mutually beneficial cooperation.

- The Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps invites you to a **pilgrimage of the Bishopric and medical professionals** to the pilgrimage site of Studnička Pozba on 16 June. The Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop František Rábek.

- The commander of Rožňava Garrison together with Rožňava City Council officials, police, fire and rescue services have joined forces to prepare an **International Children's Day** event on a soccer field at Rožňava Garrison on 3 June.

- The Institute of Military History will participate in the 20th iteration of the European-wide **Night of Museums and Galleries 2024 on 18 May**. The Museum of Military History Piešťany, which is closed to the public due to technical reasons, will reopen for the event with an interesting programme, and the Museum's branch in Svidník will offer an upgraded exhibition.

SVK mechanics gain Certificate in Leopard 2A4 MBT maintenance

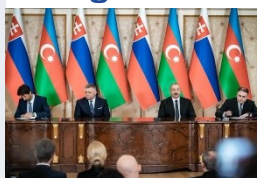
(9 May) The training of the first group of military workshop specialists for the newly fielded Leopard 2A4 MBTs culminated at 405 Repair Battalion Martin in the second week of May.

Part 1 of the course was aimed at developing essential knowledge and skills on the platform. From April 8 to May 10, members of 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov, 405 Rep Bn Martin, T&MFGB Martin, and 20 Log Bn Prešov familiarised themselves with the tank's chassis under the leadership of DEU instructors from Rheinmetall Landsysteme.

They mainly focused on preventive maintenance, regular inspection and fault diagnosis on the tank. The course also included direct replacements of blocks such as a tank engine. All participants received the Certificate in Leopard 2A4 MBT Maintenance Qualification. They praised the German specialists for their high level of competence and responsiveness.

Part 2 of the course will take place at the Battalion from mid-

Two agreements with Azerbaijan



(8 May) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák along with PM Robert Fico and other members of the SVK delegation made an official visit to Azerbaijan for talks with the highest representatives of the State, led by President İlham Aliyev.

The goal of the talks was to deepen ties between the countries in several areas, notably Defence and Security, including intensifying defence industrial base cooperation. Robert Kaliňák signed a Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Col Gen Zakir Hasanov, and a MOU on future cooperation on military and technical matters with Azerbaijani Minister for Defence Industry Vugar Mustafayev.

Successful mission to Malaysia



(10 May) Following his visit to Azerbaijan, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák completed a trip to Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur where he met Defence Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin for talks in the spirit of further enhancing bilateral defence cooperation, and to support Slovakia's 155mm BIA 6x6 fully automated SPH competing in a tender against a French artillery system.

Mr Kaliňák revealed that one of the contracts is now in the final phase of the decision-making process. "If successful, Slovakia will be awarded a very important contract that will help to make the SVK defence industry and its products visible," he stated. Slovakia's showcase at DSA 2024 can be described as very successful, as confirmed by the Slovak exhibitors. With their high-quality product line on display at the Slovak exhibition stand, they captured the interest of defence officials and industry professionals.

Oath of Allegiance on Bradlo Hill



(11 May) 159 Junior Soldiers (JS) marked the end of their basic military training (BMT) with a Pass Off Parade, swearing the Oath of Allegiance at the Tomb of Gen M. R. Štefánik on Bradlo Hill. In his remarks, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák

praised their determination and dedication, because by taking the Oath of Allegiance they also took the commitment to defend their homeland. Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko wished his new colleagues to keep a strong will to overcome difficulties and the best of success in their professional and personal lives.

