



IDEB Bratislava 2024

(14 May) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko were delighted to open the 11th iteration of IDEB Defence & Security 2024 on 14 May. The trade show, of which the SVK MOD has been the Official Event Partner since its very first year, featured the latest in products and services for defence, security and rescue forces as well as modern innovative defence solutions. The SVK Armed Forces were once again proud to be a part of the exhibition with their static displays and demonstrations of military equipment. Speaking at the IDEB Defence & Security 2024 Opening Ceremony, Mr Robert Kaliňák said: "A strong and dynamic defence industry is an essential prerequisite for our security and stability and that of our Allies in the trans-Atlantic region. Slovakia is very much aware of its role in this area and does not want to fall behind others." As he reminded us, IDEB's irreplaceable task is to open the doors to Slovak defence manufacturers and help them expand into new defence and security markets around the world.

Open to visitors on 14-16 May 2024, IDEB 2024 hosted over 100 leading industry exhibitors from 12 countries. Slovakia was represented by more than 40 defence exhibitors, including by the Ministry of Defence-run arms companies.

At IDEB Bratislava, Defence Minister Robert Kaliňák and Chair of the Board of Directors of ZTS Špeciál Miroslav Sim unveiled Slovakia's new vehicle-mounted AM-120 Self-Propelled Mortar System. The 120mm automated mortar platform, produced by ZTS Špeciál, a state-owned company based in Dubnica nad Váhom, is unique insofar as it has a sustained rate of fire of 20 rounds per minute.

"Stronger Together"

(15 May) A conference on Slovakia's 20th anniversary as a NATO Ally titled "Stronger Together" was held as part of the 11th edition of IDEB Defence & Security 2024.

The main highlight of the IDEB Conference was a panel discussion, where DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, former MINDEF Martin Fedor, and former MINDEF Juraj Liška discussed the milestones and benefits of Slovakia's entry into and membership in the Alliance as well as the future of the Alliance.

They elaborated on the most challenging aspects of Slovakia's accession to NATO, i.e. the transformation to make a separate unit's integration into the organizational whole as effective and compact as it could be. Shifting attention to NATO's current affairs, the panellists took stock of the measures Slovakia has been putting in place to continue to be a good NATO Ally. As the NATO Alliance marks the 75th anniversary of its establishment this year after a period of stability and peace, Ministers outlined their vision for the world's security architecture and NATO's potential into the future. At IDEB Defence & Security 2024, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák took the opportunity to hold official talks with the Czech, Azerbaijani, Croatian and Armenian delegations. The head of the SVK MOD and the SVK CHOD were also pleased to welcome Adjutant General of Indiana Major General R. Dale Lyles and his delegation to the industry event.



Adjutant General of Indiana Maj Gen R. Dale Lyles visits Slovakia

(15 May) Adjutant General of Indiana Maj Gen R. Dale Lyles and his Indiana National Guard (INNG) delegation were welcomed to Bratislava by Chief of Defence Daniel Zmeko for an official three-day visit, which saw them attend a commemoration service at the Tomb of M. R. Štefánik on Bradlo Hill in Brezová pod Bradlom and the IDEB defence industry event in Bratislava. In addition, a ceremony to celebrate 30 years of partnership between the Indiana National Guard and the Slovak Armed Forces took place at the SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica. There, among the soldiers standing in formation were the Indiana National Guardsmen who were taking part in Ex Slovak Shield 2024. Gen Daniel Zmeko's remarks highlighting a high level of experience exchanges on joint exercises and deployments to crisis areas were followed by the speeches from DEPDEFMIN Igor Melicher, who underpinned the benefits of our cooperation with the Indiana National Guard, U.S. Ambassador Gautam A. Rana, who pointed to the importance of strategic partnerships, and Adjutant General of Indiana Maj Gen R. Dale Lyles, who read the Indiana Governor's Proclamation on the 30th Anniversary of the Indiana-Slovakia State Partnership Program (SPP) and presented U.S. and SVK soldiers with medals for bringing great value to the SPP program.



- DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák has signed the **Gender Equality for Servicemen and Servicewomen Concept**, featuring the Gender Equality Action Plan and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda for 2024-2030.

- During their two-day intensive CBRN training, military personnel of the **NATO Multinational Battlegroup in Slovakia** trained shoulder to shoulder with soldiers of 103 CBRN Regt Rožňava.

- **Brig Gen Jozef Ševčík** welcomed a four-member HUN Armed Forces delegation, led by Lt Col Richard Joó, Deputy Chief of Staff of Logistics at the HUN Defence Staff, to a meeting on multinational logistics cooperation at the Joint Support Brigade HQ Trenčín on 16 May. Logisticians taking part were from the Joint Support Brigade, Chief of Logistics Col Vladimír Gažo of Joint Operations Command (JOCOM) Banská Bystrica, and Maj Dominika Galková of 701 Military Movement Coordination Centre (MMCC) Bratislava.

- Members of **43 Supply Base Zemianske Kostofany** tested their traffic control skills at a busy intersection in cooperation with policemen of the District Traffic Police Inspectorate Prievidza on 15 May.

- **Engineer units** from 902 Engr Bn Michalovce, 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp and 21 Mech Bn Trebišov trained together on the ranges at Trebišov Garrison training ground in Veľké Ozorovce. They practiced a range of activities from reconnoitring water obstacles to building defensive positions. They also cleared roads with the Božena 4 demining system.

- **3 Mech Coy's intensive training** culminated with a tactical live fire exercise on the firing ranges at Devičany. The LIVEX has confirmed that 3 Mech Coy is ready to perform the tasks in support of the certification exercise (CERTEX) for 13 Hvy Mech Bn Grp due in Sept 2024.

- The Military Driving School, based at the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin, allows soldiers to earn their **Category B1/B driving licences and qualifications**. The 20-day training course is scheduled for 20 May - 14 June and 3-28 June. For more information, get in touch with us by telephone on 0903 820 741 or by email at peter.jancik@mil.sk or anna.biela@mil.sk.

- A **Children's Day** event, organised by Slovak Military Medical Command (MILMEDCOM), will take place in Ružomberok-Hrabovo on 31 May. Activities included in the programme are static displays of equipment and demonstrations by police and military forces.

- Out of 72 shooters at the **52nd Grand Prix of Liberation Pilsen 2024**, Lt Peter Baláž, a full-time PhD student of the Engineering Dept of the Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš, placed 32nd in the men's 10m Air Pistol event and triumphed in the men's 50m Free Pistol event with a score of 548 points.

- Trail runner Peter Fraňo, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, finished 2nd at the **Transylvania Adidas Terrex Marathon 2024** in La Palma.

- Wrestler **Tajmuraz Salkazanov** (Dukla) secured his qualification for the Paris Summer Olympics at the 2024 World Wrestling Olympic Qualification Tournament in Istanbul.

- Athlete **Gabriela Gajanová** (Dukla) finished 4th in her first women's 800m sprint race of this summer season with her fifth best time of 2:00.30 in the fourth round of the Diamond League 2024 in Marrakech.

- The Slovak C1 men's team - Michal Martikán (Dukla), Marko Mirgorodský (Dukla), and Matej Beňuš (SCP) - won the **bronze medal** at the 2024 European Canoe Slalom Championships in Slovenia's Tacen.

- With his winning mark of 16.39m, athlete **Tomáš Veszelka** (Dukla) won the triple jump at the Austrian Top-Meeting in St Pölten.

Medical professionals on Ex Vigorous Warrior and Ex Clean Care

(16 May) Bakonykúti Training Area (TA) hosted Ex Vigorous Warrior 2024, in conjunction with Ex Clean Care 2024, a multinational medical exercise, with 1,600 soldiers from 35 NATO and Partner Nations participating. The Vigorous Warrior exercise series is organised bi-annually by the NATO Military Medicine Centre of Excellence (NATO MILMED COE) Budapest.

The goal of VW24 was to practice medical support to multinational units undertaking combat operations according to Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, the continuity of medical services at individual levels of medical care, as well as managing medical evacuations and civil-military cooperation.

The Slovak Armed Forces were represented by 12 medical professionals under the leadership of Col Roman Fileka,

Ex Slovak Shield gets underway



(16 May) MTA Lešť, garrisons across the whole of Slovakia, Joint Operations Command (JOCOM), and other Slovak Armed Forces components are the venue of the 9th iteration of Ex Slovak Shield 2024, running from 13 to 30 May. At the opening ceremony for Ex

SLSD24 at MTA Lešť on 16 May, Maj Gen Martin Stoklasa, Exercise Director and SVK Army Chief, addressed the gathered troops on the parade ground in front of the Simulation Technologies Facility. Among those on the exercise are soldiers from the NATO Battlegroup in Slovakia, troops from Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Spain, and Indiana National Guardsmen. The aim of the exercise is to test 2 Mech Bde HQ and Staff and other commands and staffs of the regiments, battalions, and detachments in the Slovak Armed Forces in planning and exercising command and control of defensive operations in Slovakia, with support from Allied forces.

Tribute to our heroes in France



(13 May) On their trip to France, Deputy Defence Minister Martin Vojtašovič and Deputy Chief of Defence Lt Gen Ľubomír Svoboda took part in a series of commemorative events to mark the 79th anniversary of the end of WW2 and

the 105th anniversary of Gen Štefánik's tragic death. They attended a concert by the Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica and organist Zuzana Ferjenčíková at St Mary Magdalene Church in Paris. They also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Štefánik Memorial at the Paris Observatory in Meudon and unveiled Štefánik's Bench of Honour in Meudon's Peace Garden. At La Targette Czechoslovak cemetery, they paid tribute to the Czechoslovak soldiers who died in WW1 and WW2. Another ceremony in honour of the 'Nazdar' ('To the Success of the Mission') Company took place in the village of Neuville-Saint-Vaast, where Martin Vojtašovič recognised the meritorious work of Chair of the Czechoslovak Volunteers in France Association Pavol Lešák.

Artillery OCs in training

(17 May) 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-year Officer Cadets (OCs) of the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš underwent training at Michalovce Garrison. For the 3rd-year OCs, it was their first contact with their trade, with a focus on operating artillery systems and the PAB-2 Artillery Compass. 5th-year OCs acted as instructors for 3rd-year OCs, conducted artillery recce patrols, and requested artillery fire support. They all put into practice everything they had been taught as part of this training in a final exercise.

Chief of the Military Medical Services Management and Analysis Branch, Military Medical Command (MILMEDCOM) Ružomberok.



A SVK Surgical Team of the Role 2E Hospital Liptovský Mikuláš was embedded into and exercised together with the U.S. Air Force Role 2E Hospital Ramstein. A Role 2E Hospital provides first medical emergency care in the area of deployment.

SVK soldiers also joined the HiCON, Case Manager and ExEval teams in supporting VW24, while another SVK participant was a member of the NATO Patient Evacuation Coordination Cell (PECC). At the conclusion of the exercise, SVK soldiers were visited by Maj Gen Tibor Králik (SVK A), Commander HQ MND-C Székesfehérvár, and Brig Gen Roman Jantoš, Surgeon General of the Slovak Armed Forces.