



Pellegrini inauguration: New President sworn in

(15 June) Peter Pellegrini was sworn in as President of the Slovak Republic before Constitutional Court Chair Ivan Fiačan in a ceremonial parliamentary session in Bratislava's Slovak Philharmonic Hall on Saturday.

As Mr President stated in his inaugural address, "Slovakia was, is, and will remain a firm part of the EU and the NATO Alliance – but it will never be afraid to speak in its sovereign voice within them." He went on to say he will work on healthy relationships with all our neighbours, actively promote the vision of a united and cohesive nation, and strive to create a strong and caring state.

A military parade by the SVK Armed Forces took place on Hviezdoslav Square. The SVK Armed Forces will see significant renewal in the coming years, according to the new Commander-in-Chief, who thanked Service personnel for their service to the Nation, hoping that the war in Ukraine would end soon and that SVK servicemen and women would never have to sacrifice their lives in the line of duty.

To mark the occasion, the 'Te Deum' mass was celebrated at St Martin's Cathedral. Outgoing President Zuzana Čaputová then handed the Presidential Palace over to the new head of the State. Peter Pellegrini inspected the Presidential GOH on the Palace's parade ground before laying wreaths at the Štefánik Memorial in Ivanka pri Dunaji and at the Freedom Gate Memorial in Bratislava's Devin.

Among those in attendance at the inauguration ceremony were ex-presidents Andrej Kiska, Rudolf Schuster, Ivan Gašparovič, ex-PMs Vladimír Mečiar and Eduard Heger, and Czech ex-president Miloš Zeman and Czech ex-PM Andrej Babiš. Pope Francis sent his heartfelt congratulations to President Peter Pellegrini, assuring of his prayers.

Minister of Defence in Brussels

(14 June) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák took part in a two-day meeting of Allied Defence Ministers in Brussels. The central themes of the meeting were the current security situation in relation to the war in Ukraine and the opportunities to streamline practical support for building UKR defence capacities and the Alliance's defences on the Eastern Flank.

On the provision of aid to the people of Ukraine and the UKR Armed Forces, Minister Kaliňák reminded that the Slovak side is constantly seeking the most effective approach – this essentially involves the delivery of demining, civilian and humanitarian assistance. On deterrence and defence, he made the case for rebuilding the nation's Air and Missile Defence (AMD) capability. Slovakia has been in negotiations to purchase its AMD systems. Meanwhile, it would like to use the Rotational Model for NATO IAMD, with assets to be deployed to the Eastern Flank on a rotational basis.

Ministers discussed how to ensure reliable and predictable assistance to Ukraine for the long haul, plans to align Ukraine's defence planning with the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP), and the establishment of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Analysis, Training and Education Centre (JATEC) in Poland.



SVK-HUN Joint Commission on Military, Security and Political Issues meets in Bratislava

(13 June) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher hosted his Hungarian counterpart Zsolt Kutnyánszky for a meeting of the SVK-HUN Joint Commission on Military, Security and Political Issues at the MOD in Bratislava. Topics included bilateral defence cooperation and ways to expand it, Air Policing in SVK airspace by the V4 Air Forces, and NATO's transatlantic processes. According to Mr Melicher, meetings of this format not only encourage mutual dialogue and cooperation, but also enable a better understanding of our visions for building a functional and modern Armed Forces. "This platform has laid a solid foundation for our ongoing and future cooperation in a number of areas such as the defence industry and the modernization of the Armed Forces as we identify and explore several more opportunities for cooperation," Mr Melicher said.

In addition to addressing possible collaboration on international crisis management ops, both delegations presented their official positions on the key issues ahead of the upcoming NATO Summit in Washington, D.C.

The SVK-HUN Joint Commission on Military, Security and Political Issues is part of wider cooperation between Slovakia and Hungary. The previous meeting of this format took place in Budapest on 10 Mar 2022. A series of SVK-HUN joint commissions were established to implement the Agreement on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation between Slovakia and Hungary.

- The Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš hosted a two-day international conference titled **Cyber Defence Innovations and Cyber Security Trends**, organised by AFCEA Slovakia in cooperation with AOS, under the auspices of the Slovak Minister of Defence. The SVK MOD and Armed Forces were represented by DEPDEFMIN Igor Melicher and DCHOD Lt Gen Ľubomír Svoboda.

- Seven Officer Cadets (OCs) – two transport aircraft pilots, three tactical aircraft pilots, and two air traffic controllers – graduated from the Aviation Faculty of the Technical University of Košice. The **graduation ceremony** was attended by an AOS delegation led by Deputy Commandant for Military Affairs Col Štefan Acsai, who promoted the OCs to the rank of Lieutenant. Of the 84 graduates of the Aviation Faculty, Cadet Emil Holko received the Dean's Best Study Achievements Award. For their excellent results, Cadet Jozef Matis and Cadet Martin Židek graduated with distinction. The latter also received the Commandant's Award for representing the Military Academy.

- **81 WNG Sliac** was visited by DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič. He was briefed on the Wing's structure, tasks, facilities and assets by Slovak Air Chief Maj Gen Róbert Tóth, Chief of Staff 81 WNG Sliac Lt Col Jaroslav Bitala, Chief of SVK AF Logistics Col Oliver Straka, and Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the Air Force (CSEALF) CMSgt Rastislav Skubeň.

- After torrential rains in Nitra's Kynekborough on 10 June, air defenders of **11 SVK AF BDE Nitra** deployed to remove debris and mud deposits as well as filling sand bags to be used against mud floods.

- An **international firefighting exercise** involving Fire and Rescue Services personnel and volunteers from Slovakia and the Italian region of Friuli - Venezia Giulia took place within the cadastre of the village of Spišské Bystré, Poprad County. The event was supported by a Slovak Air Force UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter from 51 WNG Prešov.

- 71 Com Sp Bn Trenčín practiced **rail operations** at the Trenčianska Teplá railhead on 11-12 June. A Movement Control (MOVCON) team of 701 Military Movement Coordination Centre (MMCC) rated the training as Excellent.

- The Institute of Military History's Branch Svidník will join the 9th iteration of the **Legendarium Project** from 14 June to 8 Sept. It brings families with children to the interesting places of the Prešov self-governing region. At the Institute of Military History's Museum Branch Svidník and the Dukla Lookout Tower, families with children will experience fun with the brave cook Vasil and a lecturer on the Dukla battlefield.

- Taking place at the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin on 10-12 June, a three-day course for **heads of the mobilisation stations** was delivered by instructors of the Mobilisation Replenishment & Courses Section of the Mobilisation Replenishment Unit Poprad, focusing on the takeover of materiel and assets.

- On 16 June in Bratislava, priests and deacons of the Bishopric of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps, joined by the faithful of the local parish, commemorated the 15th anniversary of the consecration of **St Sebastian's Cathedral** with a solemn Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps František Rábek.

- **Judoka Viktor Ádám of the Dukla Military Sports Centre** claimed a silver medal in the men's 100kg judo event at the European Cup in Slovenia's Podčetrtek.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents
interviews on international missions and operations with
military personnel at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at
00.30 on Sat.

CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko attends Central European Defence Conference

(12 June) CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko attended the 2024 Central European Chiefs of Defence Conference, co-hosted by Supreme Allied Commander Europe U.S. Army Gen Christopher Cavoli and Croatian CHOD Lt Gen Tihomir Kundid in Croatia's Split on 10-11 June 2024.

The event attracted senior military leaders from Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Delegations from Moldova and Türkiye and officials of the U.S. National Guard Bureau were also present at this year's iteration of the Conference.

The focus of the Conference is to strengthen the readiness of the European nations and the readiness of our allies to successfully meet the security threats and challenges of our time. Leaders discussed collective efforts to enhance cyber and space security and enable the rapid deployment of forces to respond to crises.

The Chiefs of Defence Conferences are regularly hosted by Allies across Europe and are an important part of USEUCOM's



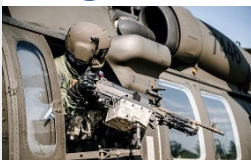
comprehensive approach to regional security. Through continued engagement, USEUCOM and its allies promote lasting partnerships and strengthen cooperation among allies and partner nations.

strengthens military capabilities and capacities for all parties involved.

Chair of the NATO Military Committee Admiral Bauer highlighted that the new NATO Strategic Concept stipulates the crucial role Partners play in supporting the Alliance's 360-degree approach to security. The meeting underscored the importance of continuing to invest in building relations with Partners, in light of the rapidly evolving global security environment.



Door gunners in action



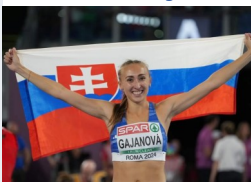
(12 June) After intense training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, USA – where airmen of 51 WNG Prešov improved their skills in operating the M240H machine gun, the SVK Armed Forces have

acquired a new capability that will ensure the protection of helicopter crews, passengers and cargo. Elsewhere, SVK door gunners fired the M240H machine gun out of the door of a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter for the first time at Slovakia's MTC Lešť. Door gunners' improvement training is scheduled to continue in Czechia.

Tribute to SVK WW2 pilots' heroism

(11 June) In a ceremony held at the Military History Museum Piešťany, MOD officials commemorated the 85th anniversary of the courageous act by eight members of 3rd 'Milan Rastislav Štefánik' Air Regiment to link up with Czechoslovakia's Resistance abroad. Less than three months after the declaration of the Nazi-controlled Slovak State in the afternoon of 7 June 1939, the pilots under the leadership of Sgt Imrich Gablech were able to get enough fuel for three Letov Š-328s and an Aero A.101. Under dramatic circumstances, the four planes took off from Piešťany and landed in Poland. Their destination was the military airfield in the city of Dąblin. In a ceremony on Friday 7 June 2024, MOD officials, Polish Ambassador Maciej Ruczał, and representatives of the UK and Czechia laid wreaths in memory of their heroic act. The event was supported by the GOH and military chaplains. The gathered audience was addressed by Military History Institute Director Col Miloš Čaplovič, Deputy Defence Minister Martin Vojtašovič, and Polish Ambassador Maciej Ruczał.

Gabriela Gajanová takes silver



(12 June) Athlete Gabriela Gajanová, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, ran a season's best in 1:58.79 and took silver in the women's 800m final at the 2024 European Athletics Championships in Rome. For

Slovakia, she has won the first medal at the Championships since 2018, when Matej Tóth claimed the same medal in the 50km race walk in Berlin for our country. Gajanová has brought the seventh medal from the Championships for Slovakia in the era of its independence. Her second-place finish is the second best in her career after her last year's personal best of 1:58.78 in Spain's Bellinzona.