



Gifting of defence assets to be reviewed by court

(21 June) The SVK MOD is to file a criminal complaint with the court in relation to the gifting of the MIG-29s and some of the Kub missile system assets to Ukraine by the interim government of PM Eduard Heger in March 2023. DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher has called the move of Heger's Cabinet "unconstitutional" inasmuch as it is in conflict with the legal provisions on defence assets, confirming that the criminal complaint concerns charges on suspicion of sabotage, abuse of power by a public official, and a breach of duty in managing the Defence property. The criminal complaint is supported by legal arguments and new facts. Mr Melicher has repeatedly claimed there is no official legal analysis that would have authorised the interim government's handover of the military equipment to Ukraine. According to him, the materials that have been presented by ex-minister Nad fail to bear the attributes of an official document, duly registered in the MOD's documents register.

Army to get wagons from Poprad

(20 June) Slovakia's Poprad-based manufacturer Tatravagónka has been awarded its first contract by NSPA to supply the SVK MOD with 13 Samms series flatbed wagons designed to move heavy military equipment, with delivery of the first two wagons planned for this year and the remaining eleven for July 2025. On behalf of the MOD, the contract was put out to tender by NSPA, which provides logistics and procurement services to Allied countries. DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher noted that the flatbed wagons can be used by other EU and NATO member countries on the basis of existing agreements. "They will be delivered to 41 Supply Base Nemšová and will be used in the transportation of new and old heavy combat equipment across Slovakia. For example, this includes moving the German Leopard 2A4 MBTs by rail," he explained. Commenting on the deal, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko underlined that the flatbed wagons will strengthen our military logistical capacity.



Slovakia's first F-16 two-seat jet

(18 June) Lockheed Martin's 5th-generation multi-role fighter jet manufacturing facility released Slovakia's first F-16 two-seat D-model Block 70 jet. The aircraft touched down at an air base in Arizona where Slovak Air Force pilots have been undergoing training. The new Slovak Air Force aircraft will serve to train our pilots converting from the F-16 C/D variants to the Block 70 at the base. The contract also includes an initial logistics support package in the form of deliveries of ground equipment, spare parts and consumables.



Battle of Zvolen ceremony at SNP Memorial in Banská Bystrica

(17 June) The Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Memorial in Banská Bystrica hosted a ceremony marking the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Zvolen. Back then, the Czechoslovak Army legionnaires successfully repelled the Hungarian Red Army's attempt to occupy the city and its surroundings. The Battle of Zvolen was part of Slovakia's successful integration into Czechoslovakia. The ceremony was supported by the NATO Battlegroup in Slovakia and Spanish troops. At the ceremony, CZE DA Maj Gen Libor Jílek and COM NATO MN BG SVK Col Petr Blecha (CZE A) presented soldiers with the Medal For Service Abroad. Afterwards, representatives of the Armies participating in the Battlegroup viewed the SNP Museum's exhibition galleries.



- Hundreds of children with enthusiastic smiles on their faces and their satisfied parents – that was the **Heroes Day event** in Bratislava's Ružinov, which, co-organised by the MOD, kicked off with a flypast of an Aero Albatros L-39 trainer aircraft. Army and MP personnel prepared displays of equipment and weapons as well as a Guard of Honour (GOH) show programme. The SVK Armed Forces also supported the Petržalka Days event over the weekend.

- Students of the Secondary Forestry Schools in Liptovský Hrádok and Prešov took a tour of **Military Forests and Estates (SOE) Kežmarok Branch**. They became familiar with wood logging, registration, processing and transportation. They were interested in the production of wood pellets and dendromass briquettes. To learn more about flood defences, they visited a dry retention storage basin on the Ľubický Stream.

- Members of the NATO Battlegroup in Slovakia rolled up their sleeves in support of a **free blood donation session** organised by the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok.

- Dog handlers of the SVK Military Police (MP)'s Military Working Dog (MWD) Unit attended the **Joint International K9 Workshop Berlin-Brandenburg**, organised by SEK Berlin. Among those in attendance were K9 units from Germany, Austria, Denmark, Belgium and Slovakia. Focus of the workshop was on security patrol dogs and application of tactical procedures for crisis situations in urban and rural areas, with the use of dog training aids in different scenarios. The end of the training saw the participants administering first aid to their service dogs after action.

- The Social Sciences and Languages Dept of the Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš delivered **two pilot communications skills courses** for the Armed Forces Personnel Office recruitment teams. In cooperation with the AOS Audio-Visual Production Section, they engaged in experiential learning activities and diagnostic tool exercises. The participants tried out the roles of the recruiter and the recruit in front of the camera.

- In their role as observers, military personnel of 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany participated in a CV-90 combat vehicle competition, dubbed **Van Uhm Trofee 2024**, which took place in Bergen-Hohne, Germany.

- Slovak Ambassador to Greece Marcela Hanusová and Defence Attaché Col Ivan Opletal visited the **Operational Headquarters of EUNAVFOR Op ASPIDES** in Larissa, Greece. They also met with Maj Jakub Sasarák (SVK A), who has been posted to the HQ's Medical Support Branch.

- The Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Armed Forces and Armed Corps organised a **conference for SVK and UKR military chaplains**. The aim of the conference was to present the countries' spiritual services and exchange experience.

- Clergy of the **RC Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps** gathered at St Sebastian's Cathedral, located in Bratislava's Krasňany, for a Holy Mass to mark the 15th anniversary of the Cathedral's consecration. Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps Mons František Rábek was the Principal Celebrant.

- With a time of 1:59.57, **Gabriela Gajanová**, athlete of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, won the women's 800m A-race in the Athletics Paavo Nurmi Games – a World Athletics Continental Tour (WACT) Gold in Turku, Finland. Daniela Ledecká placed fifth in the women's 400m hurdles, gaining crucial points for an Olympic qualifying place for Paris.

- **Viktória Forster**, athlete of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, placed 2nd in the women's 100m hurdles and 4th in the women's 100m at the Irena Szewińska Memorial Athletics Meeting, a WACT Gold, in Bydgoszcz, Poland. With her time of 12.88, she won the women's 100m at the Czesława Cybulskiego Memorial Athletics Meeting in Poznań, Poland. With a time of 56.14, Daniela Ledecká finished 3rd in the women's 400m hurdles and is a step closer to qualifying for the Paris Summer Olympics.

6th Veteran Climb to Mt Ďumbier goes ahead in adverse weather

(22 June) The 6th iteration of the Veteran Climb to Mt Ďumbier and the M. R. Štefánik Chalet took place on Saturday. Service personnel, civil servants and civilian employees in Defence, members of civic associations and the public were joined by Director General of the MOD Personnel and Social Affairs Dept Martin Rímeš, Commandant of the Armed Forces Academy Brig Gen Aurel Sabo, Commander of the Slovak Special Operations Forces Maj Gen Jaroslav Krám, and Commander of the Military Medical Command Brig Gen Roman Jantoš. Walking up the hiking route to the peak, the participants paused at the WW2 Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Memorial, close to the M. R. Štefánik Chalet, to attend a wreath-laying ceremony and observe a moment of silence in tribute to Slovakia's WW2 Resistance and service personnel who have died on operations. Due to adverse weather conditions, most hikers interrupted their climb below the peak and returned to a parking lot where they were treated to a bowl of vegetarian goulash and an accordion performance by WW2 partisan Capt (Ret'd) Vladimír Strmeň.

Readiness verification at Sliach

(19 June) While the Slovak Air Force is awaiting the arrival of the first two F-16 jets in Slovakia this July, members of 81 WNG Sliach's AB SEC BN and their U.S. partners have completed the final readiness verification of the Security Forces at Sliach and Kuchyňa ABs, with the focus on protecting designated areas and facilities, verifying actions in response to security incidents, and defending the base against trespassers. They have successfully accomplished all security tasks in support of F-16 operations.

SVK Air Chief visits U.S. Air Force



(18 June) U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen David W. Allvin welcomed SVK Air Chief Maj Gen Róbert Tóth to the USA. Maj Gen Tóth received a full honours arrival and was awarded a Legion of Merit at Joint Base Anacostia

-Bolling in Washington, D.C., attended an office call and staff talks with Gen Allvin at the Pentagon, and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, he travelled to Creech AFB (Nevada) to receive briefings on remotely piloted aircraft capabilities and visited nearby Nellis AFB for briefings on Ex Red Flag and F-16 operations and maintenance.

Change of Command in Latvia

(17 June) In Latvia, the Change of Command at Camp Ādaži saw Lt Col Roman Bulák transfer command of the SVK Artillery Contingent over to the new commander of the 7th rotation, Lt Col Michal Németh. After four years in Latvia, SVK artillery troops with their combat equipment and materiel will be replaced by SVK CBRND troops and their capabilities at the end of this year.

Recce troops in the water



(20 June) Working closely with the Military Academy, 65 Recce Bn Prešov focused its special physical training on military swimming, sailing manually-propelled vessels, rescuing drowning people, and swimming in a strong

current. At the Whitewater Slalom Facility Liptovský Mikuláš and the Liptovská Mara Reservoir, they practiced swimming in a strong current, whitewater rafting, jumping into swift-moving rapids, fording the rapids, and whitewater rescue. The training culminated with the recce teams' tactical drills in open water in the late evening and night hours.

