



F-16 beddown at Sliač AB

(25 June) DEPMINDEF Martin Vojašovič along with his colleagues from the SVK MOD attended a working meeting with the NSPA leadership in Luxembourg. The central theme of the meeting was the delivery of the F-16 Beddown Infrastructure Programme at Sliač AB. The SVK MOD delegation and the NSPA leadership agreed that Slovakia will complete beddown work at Sliač AB on its own.

"We held very fair and direct talks. NSPA understands our position that we need to complete building Sliač AB as soon as possible. Now it's up to us to speed up the processes at the national level and to have all beddown work fully under control," Mr Vojašovič said.

Sliač AB needs to be upgraded to support the arrival of the F-16. The first two F-16s will arrive in Slovakia in a month and will be based temporarily at Kuchyňa AB.

Paying tribute to SNP Uprising

(27 June) The SVK Government approved funding for the 80th Anniversary Slovak National Uprising (SNP) celebrations to feature a military parade, a meeting of generations, and a concert, so that this landmark event can be remembered in a dignified and respectful manner. The concert at the Banská Bystrica State Opera, where the SNP Museum Awards will be presented to the personalities who have either supported or co-operated with the Museum for many years, will take place on the eve of the SNP celebrations. On 29 August, the programme in Banská Bystrica will open with a wreath-laying ceremony and a flypast from Slovak Air Force aircraft. According to the proposed cultural programme, there will be guest speeches, a military parade, tributes to the most important personalities of the SNP Uprising, and fireworks. Live broadcasts of the two-day celebrations will be aired on public television.

Commemoration in Kalište

(29 June) The memory of the suffering in Kalište should be a warning that life without peace and freedom is impossible. Recent years have brought to light a bitter reality where these values are no longer a matter of course today. This message was conveyed by President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini at the 18th 'Meeting of Generations' commemoration on Sat morning in Kalište.

The event was opened with a cultural programme on Sat. This was followed by an ecumenical worship service and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Kalište Memorial. The SVK Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica kept visitors entertained with performances in the afternoon.

During the SNP, the mountain village of Kalište was one of the centres of the "Partisan Republic" in the Low Tatras and it remained an important Resistance centre even after our soldiers turned to partisan warfare. In the early hours of 18 Mar 1945, Nazi troops surrounded Kalište, shot several people dead, and burned others alive in their houses. A group of captured residents was later executed in nearby Moštenica. Repressive Nazi forces set the village on fire. Only six of the 42 houses remained.



9th 'Laugaricio' Tank Days – Slovak Army Days

(30 June) Over 250 pieces of contemporary and historical military equipment, static displays and live-action demonstrations, an airshow, and an Army band concert were offered at the traditional 'Laugaricio' Tank Days near the village of Trenčianske Stankovce at the end of June. The 9th iteration of the Army-themed event was dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the standup of the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps and that's why the main re-enactment was about the Czechoslovak soldiers seeing action in the Battle of the Dukla Pass, according to Slovak Army Commander Maj Gen Martin Stoklasa. The Tank Days opening ceremony was attended by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák. He welcomed ESP Chief of Defence Admiral Teodoro Esteban López Calderón and underlined the importance of this public engagement event. Also present were DCHOD Lt Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, Armed Forces leaders, retired generals led by President of the SVK Generals Club Lt Gen (Ret'd) Peter Vojtek, and members of the CZE, SVN and ESP Contingents of the NATO Battlegroup in Slovakia. Battle re-enactments were played out by re-enactors from military history clubs. The BAE Systems CV90120 light tank made its debut at this event in Slovakia.



- The Czech Army's 71st Mech Bn successfully loaded its IFVs, ending its deployment with the **NATO Battlegroup in Slovakia**. The Battalion will be replaced by the Czech Army's 72nd Mech Bn.

- The Deputy Head of Mission to the British Embassy Bratislava, Mr Andrew Wells paid a visit to **81 WNG Sliač** on 24 June. He was welcomed by Col František Pytlík, Commander 81 WNG Sliač, and Maj Ján Dujčák, the acting Chief of Staff, and was briefed on the Wing's history, core tasks, and infrastructure.

- The Training and Mobilisation Force Generation (T&MFG) Base Martin hosted the **Readiness, Combat Readiness and Mobilisation (K-3) Commanders' Course** under the guidance of instructors from MFG Unit Poprad's MFG Section, MOD Personnel and Social Affairs Dept, and Jnt Sp Bde Trenčín. The course was inspected by Brig Gen Slavomír Verčík, COS Strategic Planning at the Defence Staff, who serves as Chief Specialist of the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) M-20.

- A memorial service was held in Kremnica on the 175th anniversary of the death of Slovak patriot, teacher and volunteer officer **Juraj Langsfeld**, with the Martin Garrison Deputy Commander and members of the 'Juraj Langsfeld' Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin in attendance. They were addressed by the Base Commander, Col Pavol Barančík. Selected soldiers were recognised in the ceremony.

- **Ex Engineer Spirit 2024**, an international engineer exercise in the form of a Command Staff exercise, aided by simulation technologies and with a partial deployment of troops to a training area, took place as the culmination of engineer units' training under Phase 1 of the 2023/2025 Training Cycle at the Military Academy's Simulation Centre.

- Instructors of the Special Training Branch of the Training Centre Lešť and the Physical Training Dept of the Military Academy delivered the **Aircraft Evacuation on Water Course** to get Slovak Air Force pilots and crew ready to deal with critical situations that may occur after ditching aircraft on water when abandoning aircraft in an emergency.

- As part of the military's engagement with schools, **1st-year Officer Cadets of the Military Academy** organised military-themed activities – marching drills, obstacle course, grenade throw, weapons briefing – for 1st-year students (aged 11) of an eight-year grammar school in Prievidza.

- Fans of high adrenaline competition challenges from 91 Engr Regt Sereď tested their physical abilities and mental endurance in the **'Angličák' Obstacle Course Race (OCR)** in the Rozálka facility near Pezinok. A team of engineers in modified field uniform competed a 6km course with 46 obstacles.

- Working closely with the Ružomberok Residents Civic Association, the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok organised a **Summer Drop of Blood session** on 27 June. 63 blood donors turned up to donate blood.

- Dagmar Čulenová and Katarína Pecsuková of the Dukla Military Sports Centre and Sofia Bergendi and Hana Zemánková of the Police Sports Centre took silver in the **women's K-4 500m canoe sprint race** in the Zemplín National Canoe Sprint Centre in Bratislava.

- With her personal best of 53.67, athlete **Gabriela Gajanová** (Dukla), 800m European Athletics Championships Silver medalist, won a domestic half-track event.

- With a time of 56.44, **Daniela Ledecká** (Dukla) won the women's 400m hurdles at the Slovak Athletics Championships in Banská Bystrica, and is closer to qualifying for the Paris Summer Olympics.

- Judo **Ema Fizeľová** (Dukla) won the U70kg category at the Junior European Cup in Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia.

MOD accepts applications for 2025 Active Reserves Programme

(28 June) SVK military personnel in the Reserves can now apply for the 2025 Active Reserves (AR) Training Programme, which prepares reservists for exceptional military service in support of the Armed Forces' operations, mainly to eliminate the consequences of emergencies and disasters.

Those eligible for the Active Reserves are personnel in the Reserves who either served in the Armed Forces, the Police Forces or the Fire and Rescue Services or those who passed Compulsory Military Service (CMS) or Voluntary Military Training (VMT). You can find more information on the AR entry requirements by visiting <https://www.mosr.sk/aktivnezalohy/>. The candidates who meet the legal criteria can apply no later than 30 September 2024 by visiting or emailing the Recruitment Teams. It is also possible to apply through the established first point-of-contact places located in selected military units across Slovakia. All contact information you need is available at <https://budemvojak.sk/kontakt/>.



Air Surveillance Battalion on drills



(25 June) Rimavská Sobota saw the Air Surveillance Battalion, part of 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen, undergoing tactical drills under the theme of Military Aid to the Civilian Authorities (MACA). The aim of the drills was to practice assistance tasks in support of

flood-affected populations in Slovakia, such as recovering a vehicle from a flooded area, reversing a vehicle with a trailer, changing a wheel on a truck, giving first aid, evacuating injured persons, abseiling, tying knots, fastening loads onto platforms, and setting up and operating radio communications systems. Inside a mobile field kitchen, the Food Service Team cooked warm meals for all exercising troops. Elsewhere, they practiced applying first aid, abseiling, putting down flood bags, and rescuing drowning people at Vyšný Šnálník Reservoir. The drills were joined by 1 SIGINT COY Prešov and the First Aid Station of 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen.

Ex Rescue 2024



(24 June) The Slovak Army's Ruská Nová Ves and Slanské Vrchy training grounds hosted Ex Rescue 2024, a search and rescue coordination exercise, focused on locating and saving passengers and crew of a crashed aircraft in

difficult terrain. The aim of the exercise was to finetune SOPs and coordination between the elements of the Integrated Rescue System and 51 WNG Prešov, with participation from personnel of 51 WNG Prešov, Slovak Air Force Operations Centre, Air Navigation Services Bratislava, Police Regional and County Directorate Prešov, Police K9 and Mounted Units, Fire & Rescue Service Regional and County Directorate Prešov, and Integrated Rescue System Coordination Centre Prešov.

Repair workshop specialists



(25 June) 405 Repair Battalion Martin provided a temporary home to those on two Leopard 2A4 MBT courses for repair workshop specialists from four SVK Army units – 14 Tank Battalion Trebišov, 405 Repair Battalion Martin, Training and Mobilisation Force Generation

Base Martin, and 20 Logistics Battalion Prešov. The courses, led by experienced German instructors of Rheinmetall Landstysteme, familiarised them with repairs to the chassis and turret structures.

The 2025 Active Reserves Training Programme will be tailored to meet the unique requirements of the following Armed Forces units: 1 Mech Bde HQ Topoľčany, 2 Mech Bde HQ Prešov, 21 Mech Bn Trebišov, 5 SOF Regt Žilina, 91 Engr Bn Sereď, 103 CBRN Bn Rožňava, TMFGB Martin, 405 Repr Bn Martin, 53 Fld Svcs Hlohovec, and MP.

As well as developing valuable soldiering and trade skills, AR soldiers are entitled to a commensurate amount of rank-based military pay, reimbursement of travel expenses for the round trip from their place of permanent residence to the training or exercise location, and 600 euros as financial motivation, provided that they have completed 75% of the training programme or deployed on operations.

While in training, on exercise, or on operations, both the employees and the self-employed workers have their salaries, social payments and health insurance premiums refunded by the MOD. Military equipment, meals and standard military accommodation are provided for free during training and exercises.