



Final farewell to Karol Kuna

(25 Oct) Family, friends, comrades-in-arms and the public bade their last farewell to WW2 veteran Karol Kuna (27 Apr 1928 - 20 Oct 2024) this Fri. Before the outbreak of the SNP, he was involved in Slovakia's WW2 Resistance against the Nazis. During the SNP, he delivered messages as a runner in the 'For the Freedom of the Slavs' partisan group before taking part in combat ops. He was a long-time member of the SVK Anti-Nazi Fighters Union. At the end of Aug, he attended the nationwide SNP 80 celebrations in Banská Bystrica, where he was presented with the SNP 80 Commemorative Medal from DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák. President Pellegrini and Minister Kaliňák offered their heartfelt condolences to Mr Kuna's family and attended his military funeral at Nightingale Valley Cemetery in Bratislava.

Military-themed activities in Partizánske

(25 Oct) Partizánske hosted a pilot military-themed activities project to promote cooperation, teamwork and basic life protection skills. This project follows on from the Memorandum of Cooperation between the MOD and the Towns and Municipalities Association. In Partizánske, 180 8th-year senior pupils from the town's five elementary schools took part in military-themed activities at the Radovan Kaufman Elementary School. Soldiers of 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany and students of the Sečovce Joint School, pursuing the Personal and Property Security Programme, prepared seven stands with scenarios and tasks for young participants. In a playful, yet still challenging way, they were introduced to the Armed Forces environment and the specifics of the military profession. The MOD also announced its intention to step up cooperation with the Ministry of Education on systematic training of children and youth to develop their physical fitness abilities, teamwork, and basic life protection skills.



DEPMINDEF in Zvolen and Bystrica

(21 Oct) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher visited SVK AF HQ Zvolen, 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen, and 81 WNG Sliac to receive status updates on the Slovak Air Force's tasks and facilities, armaments and equipment, and modernisation programmes. Afterwards, he watched Military Working Dog (MWD) demonstrations from Military Police (MP) dog handlers and service dogs at the Training and MWD Centre Vikanová-Hronek.



Whilst in Banská Bystrica on Day 2 of the working trip, he took time to visit the Dukla Military Sports Centre, where he was briefed on the Centre's goals and tasks, new sports facilities, and modern equipment for the screening of athletes. Then, on a visit to HQ Joint Operations Command (HQ JOCOM), he became familiar with JOCOM's mission, history, organisational structure, activities, and infrastructure. Wrapping up in Banská Bystrica, he was given a tour of the Military Topographical Institute and saw examples of its graphics design, production and publishing process.

Training and certification for SVK Security Forces (SF) specialists

(25 Oct) Working closely with the U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) Security Forces Mobile Training Team (SF MTT), 81 WNG Sliac hosted Ex Falcon Defender on 14-25 Oct, with a focus on the training and certification of the Defence and Protection Battalion (DP BN) based at 81 WNG Sliac. The SF MTT has delivered its fifth training for DP BN personnel as part of the F-16 modernisation programme.

The training and certification of the SVK AF SF centred on training and testing the air base defenders in basic procedures covering combat tactics to protect air bases, Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), and marksmanship.

Week 1 was dedicated to the application of basic life saving procedures according to TCCC standards and the provision of air base security. Week 2 was all about Close Quarters Battle (CQB) and firearms shooting. The last day of the training culminated with a complex verification exercise to demonstrate that the SF specialists were able to defend an air base. The training and certification of SF instructors took place simultaneously.

Ex Falcon Defender concluded with a graduation ceremony for 34 DP BN members at 81 WNG Sliac on 25 Oct. Cdr 81 WNG Sliac Col František Pytlík and the Chief Instructor of the USAFE SF MTT handed over the SF certificates and insignia to the graduating air base defenders. Nine SF instructors of DP BN were successfully certified.



- At this year's **Presidential Guard of Honour (GOH) Commanders Meeting** on 22-23 Oct, Commander of the Presidential GOH Col Andrej Tvrdoň along with Commander of the Presidential Palace Col Richard Beniak and acting COS Maj Tomáš Medo appraised the GOH's performance in Phase 1 of the 2023-25 Training Period and set out the tasks ahead for the upcoming period.

- **Rail operations training** for airmen of 46 WNG Kuchyňa took place at Kuchyňa AB, including in guiding and driving vehicles onto flatbed wagons and using fastening equipment.

- Žilina City Police hosted an **international K9 tactical exercise**, involving K9 units from Belgium, Germany, Poland and Slovakia, including SOF and City Police dog handlers and service dogs. The SVK military was represented by SOF operators and MWDs from 5 SOF Regt Žilina.

- Liptovský Ján was the venue for the 15th **National and International Security Conference 2024**, with the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Security & Defence Dept as the main organiser. Participants in attendance were POL, HUN, CZE, and SVK experts from military and civilian colleges, security & defence-related research and educational institutions, and the MOD and DS.

- With the support of the IEEE Czechoslovakia Section, the AOS Electronics Dept and the SVK Electro-Technical Society organised the 17th **New Trends in Signal Processing (NTSP) Conference 2024**. 79 participants from Sweden, Vietnam, Poland, Slovakia and Czechia registered for the event. Zdeněk Vyležl (Defence University Brno) was awarded the 2024 NTSP PhD Student Prize.

- The **Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) Course** for Ukrainian armed forces, organised by HQ JFC Naples and supported by four HQ JFC Naples instructors, took place at AOS Liptovský Mikuláš.

- The 2nd **Current Military Logistics and Resource Management Issues in Defence & Security Conference**, organised by the AOS Logistics Dept, was held at the AOS Scientific Council Hall on 23 Oct.

- The 2nd NOI Forum Conference - 2023 Statistical Audit of Breast Cancer Screening recognised the best breast cancer screening facilities. Among the recipients of the NOI Forum Award was the **Central Military Hospital - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok**.

- The SNP Museum Banská Bystrica and the Military History Museum Piešťany's Museum Branch Svidník will be **closed to the public** from 1-3 Nov.

- The SNP Museum Banská Bystrica will be hosting the **SNP and Europe up in Arms against Fascism Conference** on 11-13 Nov.

- Six representatives of the **Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)** from 19 countries and four continents attended the 59th AMI General Assembly and Conference in Mombasa, Kenya. Slovakia was represented by Military Chaplain Lt František Krušínský.

- A day ahead of the Feast of Pardon and Patronal Feast of St John Paul II, **Military Chaplain Lt Col D. Ángel Díez Bustos** from the Spanish Roman Catholic (RC) Bishopric of the Forces paid a pastoral visit to Spanish troops stationed at Kuchyňa AB.

- The **Feast Day of St John Paul II**, the Patron Saint of the 46 Wng Kuchyňa-based Roman Catholic (RC) Bishopric of the Forces Parish, was marked on 22 Oct by Kuchyňa AB with a Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop of the Forces František Rábek and Titular Dean Slavko Ganaj.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents the training of IFV gunners-operators from 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

1 Mech Bde gunners conduct LIVEX on Devičany tank range

(24 Oct) The third week of October saw a live fire exercise (LIVEX) for BVP-1 IFV gunners-operators from 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany on 13 Mech Bn Levice-run Devičany tank range. The aim was to test the readiness levels of the gunners-operators to fire weapons, including the vehicle-mounted weapons, from stationary positions and on the move, both day and night. Given that the main guns of the BVP-1 IFVs cannot be fired across the tank range, the gunners-operators fired the 7.62mm PKT coaxial machine guns.

The exercising troops refreshed their knowledge and skills in zeroing their weapons, fitting the machine guns to the coaxial mounts, checking the PTRS anti-tank rifles before opening fire, reloading training ammunition belts and placing them in the IFVs, and remedying identified shortcomings, including those in theoretical training.

BVP-1 IFV gunners-operators of all mechanised battalions from 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany completed all the tasks of the exercise. Among those performing the best on the exercise

Ex Strong Bastion 2024



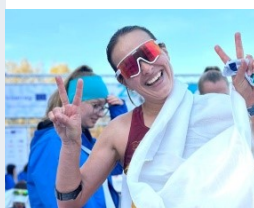
Rožňava and 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany. One of the main tasks of STBA24 was to improve the conduct of combat ops at the divisional level. It was also designed to test a logistics battalion at its full capability.

(23 Oct) Under the supervision of the Hungary-based Headquarters Multinational Division Centre (HQ MND-C), Székesfehérvár played host to Ex Strong Bastion 2024 (STBA24), with participation from 11 NATO countries, including from Slovakia's 5 Arty Rgt

CBRND specialists in action

(24 Oct) The Jaslovské Bohunice Nuclear Power Plant was the venue for Ex Bearded Vulture II 2024. The first exercise of this type took place at the Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant on 9 Oct. The aim of the exercise was to practice safety measures in the event of a radiation leak and to prepare the first responders to deal with the effects of radiation at a nuclear power station. Thanks to a high degree of coordination, the first responders were able to take swift action. Drills like this substantially add to improving the response teams' readiness to contain a nuclear incident. The radiological decontamination of casualties and vehicles by 103 CBRND BN Rožňava, which was deployed to the nuclear site, was incorporated into the exercise.

Dukla race walkers with good results



(26 Oct) At the World Race Walking Tour Silver Meeting in Germany's Zittau, race walker Mária Katerinka Czaková improved on her personal best in the women's 35km race walk by 8min with a time of 2:49:50, claiming her 24th SVK RW Champion title, while Hana Burzalová placed 6th overall and

took silver at the SVK RW Champs. Among the Dukla male race walkers, Michal Morvaj finished 4th with a time of 2:33:54, improving by 1:02min on his personal best he set at the 2022 Dudince RW Champs.

International K9 Competition

(24 Oct) Members of the Slovak Military Police (SVK MP) took part in the 8th iteration of the International K9 Competition in Červená nad Vltavou with a trophy from the competition director - the director of the CZE Foreign Police Directorate. 21 dog handlers and service dogs from Czechia, Slovakia and Poland competed in disciplines including obedience, tracking, and searching for samples of explosives - planted on different modes of transport, in a primary school building, on the rail tracks, and in a forest. With his 4th place finish overall, Sgt 1C Miroslav Szegény (SVK MP) and his dog, Irk, seized 1st place in the Foreign Participants category. After claiming a seventh-place finish overall, Cpl Marek Korfanta (SVK MP) took 3rd place in the Foreign Participants category.

LIVEX on Devičany tank range

were Cpl Ján Bodorik and Cpl Ján Martinčík from 11 Mech Bn Martin, Cpl Martin Horňák and Cpl Marián Franko from 12 Mech Bn Nitra, Cpl Andrej Jonáš and Cpl Roman Drexler from 13 Mech Bn Levice.

