



Self-sufficiency as main criterion

(22 Nov) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák received Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Poland Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz at the MOD in Bratislava. The leading topics of discussion were closer cooperation between the nations' defence industries with its future potential opportunities and the security situation in our region.

"There is a huge space emerging for our cooperation in the area of defence industries," Mr Kaliňák said at a joint press conference, underlining that self-sufficiency should be the main criterion for taking the SVK-POL relationship forward. "We have already identified several overlapping areas of interest where we can build joint projects that are essential not only to our Forces, but thanks to which we will also prove successful abroad," he said.

In his remarks, DPM and MINDEF Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz highlighted Slovakia's defence manufacturing capabilities, especially large calibre munitions manufacturing, saying: "Slovakia has an enormous potential, one of the largest ones – not only in Europe, but also in the world. Together with you, we want to develop defence industrial projects – and in that area you are our strategic partner. We will do everything we can to ensure that our companies work together as closely as possible," before adding: "Our single biggest priority now is to launch large-scale manufacturing of large calibre munitions, and I am convinced we will not be able to do so without our partners from Slovakia. Therefore, we have agreed to prepare an intergovernmental agreement to address our defence industrial cooperation and co-development."

The Ministers agreed that defence and security cooperation between the two countries has been very intense. Both sides underscored the very high level of their collaboration within the Euro-Atlantic structures so far. They noted the SOFs as a possible area of cooperation between the two countries. Minister Kaliňák gave his personal thanks to our Polish partners for safeguarding SVK airspace and for the POL military participating in this year's SNP 80 celebrations.



Defence Minister addresses current security issues in Brussels

(19 Nov) Speaking at the FAC (DEF) on the conflict in Ukraine and the related possible authorisations by European Allies of the UKR Forces to fire long-range missiles into Russia, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák clearly set out Slovakia's position. Accordingly, such a move following the example of the outgoing US administration would lead to a dramatic escalation of tensions and the SVK MOD will take no such action. "Peace must always come first, especially the issue of EU and NATO countries having no direct involvement in this conflict," he said, underlining the need to negotiate a ceasefire and return to diplomatic negotiations. Also discussed was boosting Europe's defence industrial sectors and their self-sufficiency, which is crucial in a time of crisis when international supplies may be extremely difficult. According to Mr Kaliňák, the EU's defence industry should be developed so as to completely cover all the capabilities we need. "From the EU's perspective, the SVK defence industry has some interesting capacities. European support for our defence industry may contribute to the creation of an adequate number of jobs and to a rise in salaries with a positive impact on our economy. The rules for getting such support, especially in the case of small and medium-sized arms manufacturers, should be clearly established. Building and increasing defence industrial self-sufficiency should be the key criterion in this respect," he said.



- 65 Recce Bn Prešov marked the 105th anniversary of the birth of WW2 hero **Sgt Michael Strank**, whose name it bears in its honorary title, with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Michael Strank Military Exhibition in Stará Ľubovňa. In attendance was the mayor of Jarabina, Strank's native village.

- At a recreational facility in Orava's Zuberec, Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps František Rábek guided civilian employees of the **Roman Catholic Bishporic of the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps** through spiritual exercises and delivered lectures on the 'Second Vatican Council' and 'Church Unity as Preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025'. Chaplains of the Bishporic Maj Peter Három and Capt Ľuboš Kohút offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual conversations.

- 13 Mech Bn Levice hosted a handover ceremony for a **fully refurbished repair workshop** at Dukla Barracks. The aim of the refurbishment was to reduce energy costs by insulating the building's envelope and roof and to create a quality maintenance environment by providing new technical and technological equipment. Cdr 13 Mech Bn Levice Lt Col Miroslav Osif thanked everyone involved in the project and handed over the workshop to Cdr CS Coy Capt Kamila Fabianová.

- On 21 Nov, the Military Veterans Association Bratislava and other organisations supporting the MOD hosted a ceremony to mark the **175th anniversary of the disbandment of Hurban's Volunteers Corps** at the Memorial Plaque of the SVK Government's Historic Building.

- On Sun 24 Nov, St Sebastian's Cathedral in Bratislava, the main cathedral church of the RC Bishporic of the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps, hosted a **meeting between Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps František Rábek and the youth of the Bishporic**. The programme was also attended by dozens of OCs. Confirmation recipients, parishioners of the Military Academy under the leadership of Maj Tomáš Huda, cadets of the Police Academy, and the youth of St Joseph's Territorial Cathedral Parish.

- Vicar General Col Jozef Michalov and Director of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Head Office Lt Col Simon Czup, both from the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps Chaplaincy Service, paid a **pastoral visit** to SVK soldiers of EUFOR Op ALTHEA in BiH. They met SLOVCON COM Lt Col Jozef Durkot and members of the SVK LOTs in Novo Sarajevo, Foča and Višegrad.

- Director of the **Central Military Hospital - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok** Marian Krížko presented a letter of commendation to 16 students of the Health Sciences Faculty of the Catholic University for their keen interest in the Introduction to Military Medicine subject. Three other students – graduates of the subject received hotel stay vouchers from MOD hotels operator Horezka. The Central Military Hospital is a teaching base for the Catholic University. The Introduction to Military Medicine subject was first taught at the Health Sciences Faculty during the summer semester of the 2022-23 academic year.

- The Central Military Hospital - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok has announced that its **Psychology Section and Clinical and Transport Psychology Practice** will be closed from 20 Dec 2024 to 7 Jan 2025.

- Biathlete **Anastasiya Kuzmina**, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, placed 4th in the sprint race at the Norwegian Season Start in Sjusjøen.

- Dukla powerlifter **Ivana Horná** took a silver medal in the deadlift at the IPF World Open Equipped Powerlifting Championships in Iceland.

- In the U100kg category at the **European U23 Judo Championships** in Poland's Pila, Dukla judokas Viktor Adam and Benjamin Matášeje won the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme pays tribute to the Tokajik Tragedy victims at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Trebišov-based troops at TC Lešť get ready for Ex Combined Resolve

(22 Nov) Intensive training for members of 1 Mech Coy from 21 Mech Bn Trebišov took place at the Training Centre (TC) Lešť in the third week of Nov. According to Cdr 1 Mech Coy Capt Richard Varga, the aim of the training was to improve the soldiers' readiness to fight in built-up areas in preparation for Ex Combined Resolve 2025 (CbR25) to be held in Germany next Jan.

"Much of the training, therefore, took place on the Oremland Tactical Range and on the indoor firing ranges. Because there are many new soldiers from mechanised companies who have joined the unit to deploy on the exercise to Germany, we devoted our best efforts to Fighting in Built-Up Area (FIBUA). We wanted to fully integrate them into our combat-ready collective as soon as possible. Therefore, we first focused on individual soldiers' activity and then on the four-member teams' action inside buildings. The training culminated with marksmanship, using reduced rounds on the indoor firing ranges," Capt Richard Varga said.

The integration of new soldiers into 1 Mech Coy was greatly

Assessment of Phase 1 of TC23-25

(22 Nov) The Trenčín Garrison Club hosted a meeting for representatives of Force Commands, Chiefs of Staff from their subordinated brigades and units, and officers in charge of readiness, combat readiness, operational and mobilisation readiness, defence infrastructure, and the military occupational specialty M20, to assess the performance of tasks on readiness, combat readiness, operational and mobilisation readiness, and defence infrastructure in Phase 1 of the Training Cycle (TC) 2023-2025 and to assign tasks under Phase 2. Held under the aegis of the Defence Staff (DS)'s Staff for Strategic Planning and Staff for Ops, the event was opened by Chief of the Forces Employment Planning Branch (DS) Col Dušan Svitaná. Personnel of SVK Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM) Trenčín, led by Chf Def & Mob Plan Sect Lt Col František Dolog, assisted in the preparation and conduct of the meeting, which unfolded in a constructive spirit and met its intent and goals. The end of the meeting saw the SVK CHOD Commemorative Medal being presented to Lt Col (Res) Milan Slimák, former Chf Def Mob Spt (J53) DS, and a letter of thank you to selected soldiers.

Oath to protect citizens and republic



(22 Nov) On completion of this year's 4th seven-week Basic Military Training (BMT), over 180 soldiers took the Oath of Allegiance in Kežmarok. The focus of this BMT was on mastering basic soldiering skills, which

the soldier trainees practised at Martin Garrison's training ground in Sučany and on the ranges of 7 Trng Regt Martin. Among others, they familiarised themselves with military life and developed their physical and psychological resistance and autonomy. BMT marks only the first step in the soldiers' training and career.

SVK AF firefighters train in Spain

(20 Nov) Firefighters of the Slovak Air Force Fire Service successfully completed Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Training at the Training Centre Gijón in Spain. The goal was to improve the commanders, drivers and firefighters' ability to deal with airport emergencies. Simulated scenarios such as a fuel tank fire and an aircraft fire exposed them to extreme training conditions. While the commanders gained experience in leading the fire response and the drivers practised their driving skills, all fire crews got firsthand experience in working in extreme heat with the self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA).

facilitated by experienced members of the Company, First Sergeant of the Company MSgt Štefan Gecik, Platoon Leaders Sgt 1C Mikuláš Lejb and Sgt 1C Miloš Komjatický, and Team Leader Sgt Peter Kurej. Ahead of deploying on CbR25 to Germany, the Company soldiers will undergo 96-hour training on their garrison training ground.

