



Tribute to WW2 villages & personalities

(18 Mar) A commemoration marking the 80th anniversary of the burning of the village of Kalište by German troops took place in the presence of DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher at the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum in Banská Bystrica, with Slovakia's burned-out villages and SNP personalities being honoured with commemorative medals in a medal presentation ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Melicher stated: "Today is not only the anniversary of this dark side of our history, but also an opportunity to recall the admirable strength and perseverance of our forebears who never gave up their desire for freedom."

The commemoration also reminded us of all the other burned-out villages – symbols of Slovakia's WW2 resistance, sacrifice and fight for freedom. "With their painful, yet still proud history, Kalište and the other villages have taught us that history is not just about the past, but our knowledge and understanding of it can help us avoid making the same mistakes in today's world," Mr Melicher emphasised.

Afterwards, DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher joined SNP hero Vladimír Strmeň in laying a wreath at the Kalište Memorial Plaque at the SNP Memorial.

MOD's role in FMD response

(22 Mar) The MOD is fully cooperating to bring the livestock-threatening foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) epidemic under control. For animals specified for vaccination, the Slovak Air Force has transported FMD vaccines from Germany to Slovakia. In addition, 100 SVK soldiers have been on standby to assist with the collection and disposal of dead livestock. Across the infected areas, specialists of 103 CBRN Bn Rožňava have been undertaking a full range of disease control measures. Representing the MOD at a crisis staff meeting, DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher announced that "no-fly zones for drones have been established over the farms affected by the FMD epidemic and that any violation of the measure will prompt a swift response from the security forces."

Changes lie in wait for Dukla

(18 Mar) Major changes lie in wait for the Dukla Military Sports Centre. At a press conference, Acting Director Gabriel Baran announced a cost-efficiency audit to improve the Centre's performance and secure investment in the athletes with the greatest potential. "We are going to conduct an audit of the Centre's financial accounts and sporting results. We want to provide our athletes with top training conditions and, in return, we expect top rankings. We need to select the athletes who are worth investing in," Baran said. And that, in essence, is why Dukla will keep those with the greatest potential for medals. This means introducing a stricter selection process and a thorough investment analysis. The new athlete selection criteria will be tougher as Dukla aims to get rid of mediocrity. "We want to have the best of the best. We will be looking at real results rather than participation in events. We must make sure that Dukla is a flagship facility for SVK Sport," he stressed.



Dukla shooter Juraj Tužinský sets his sights on Los Angeles Olympics

(18 Mar) After claiming the European 10m Air Pistol Champion title at the 2025 European Championships held in Croatia's Osijek, Juraj Tužinský, pistol shooter of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, has set his sights on securing a place at the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, he confirmed just ten days after winning the Continental Champion title at a press conference in Banská Bystrica.

For Tužinský, 40, this is already the second continental title after his triumph in Osijek in 2021. Having won silver in Hungary's Győr a year ago and bronze in Norway's Meråker 15 years ago, he has a complete medal collection from the European Championships.

Tužinský claims that he has gained a lot of experience with age, has become calmer, and enjoys getting successful results. This year, however, the shooter's international programme will be somewhat curtailed. He will take part in two World Cup events only. After flying to Argentina at the end of March and to Germany in June, he will compete at the World Championships in Egypt's Cairo in November.



■ To prevent foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from spreading, the airspace over critical areas of FMD occurrence has been closed for UAS within a radius of 10km from the villages of Baka and Pataš. At the request of the Director of the SVK Military Aviation Authority, temporary no-fly zones have been established in the areas. We urge all drone users to avoid the no-fly zones.

■ Deputy Head of Mission to the British Embassy Bratislava Mr Andrew Wells and British Defence Attaché Col Jonathan Kitson visited the Museum of Military History Piešťany, where they received a brief on the Museum's history, current status and future direction from Museum Director Lt Col Milan Kubizniak.

■ Sgt Jennyfer Luperon and SFC Benjamin Tucker from the U.S. Civil Affairs Team paid a visit to the SVK Defence Language Institute (DLI) facility in Prešov, to introduce the Basic Principles of Negotiations and the work of the U.S. Civil Affairs Team to students of the intensive NATO STANAG 6001 SLP Level 2 English Language Course.

■ Having become involved in voluntary activity under the 11th annual Enviro-Day event in Liptov, officer cadets of the SVK Military Academy helped to clean the banks of the Liptovská Mara Reservoir.

■ The focus of the latest episode of the SVK Military Academy Podcast is on the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) G30 (Engineer Support and EOD), with AOS DComdt for Military Affairs Col Jaroslav Kompan, who oversees the education and training of future SVK Army engineers, as a guest speaker.

■ This year, too, the SVK Military Academy is participating in the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth-organised Alma Mater Careers Fairs. This is an opportunity for AOS OCs and staff to present the Academy's study programmes and the current Terms and Conditions of Service (TACOS). After Rožňava, Košice and Prešov, the career fairs will now be held in Komárno, Nitra, Trnava, Bratislava, Trenčín and Žilina in Apr.

■ The SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica is currently in the process of fielding Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology in order to enable contactless identification of objects, monitor the movement of artifacts, and minimise the risk of their loss. Thanks to RFID, curators will be able to quickly and efficiently search the Museum collection and find a specific object. The SNP Museum currently holds almost 17,000 collection items.

■ At the 'Dudince 50' World Athletics Race Walking Tour Gold meeting in Slovakia, Dominik Černý, race walker of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, placed 6th with a time of 2:26:31 and greatly improved the SVK record set by Matej Tóth in Mar 2015.

■ At the Biathlon World Cup in Norway's Oslo, biathlete Paulína Bátovská Fialková (SVK Dukla) moved from 44th place to 6th place in the women's 10km Pursuit and finished 6th in the women's 12.5km Mass Start.

■ At the Tbilisi Grand Slam 2025 in Georgia, judoka Peter Žilka (SVK Dukla) placed 5th in the U90kg category and missed out on the bronze medal in a judo match with Giorgi Jabnashvili (GEO).

■ Zlaté Moravce played host to the 'Zobor Cup 2025' Armed Forces Ice Hockey Championships. Of the eight teams, divided into two groups, the 81 Wng Sliac team finished 1st ahead of the Trenčín GAR team and the 11 SVK AF Bde Nitra team in 2nd and 3rd places. Pte Marek Minárik of Trenčín GAR and PFC Frederik Höger of 11 SVK AF Bde Nitra were named 'Best Player' and 'Best Goalkeeper', respectively.

12 Mech Bn Coys conduct company-level tactical exercise

(20 Mar) The Training Centre Lešt hosted intensive training for a task force (TF) comprised of 1 and 3 Mech Coys from 12 Mech Bn Nitra. A focal point of the training was to prepare the units for checks on the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) to be used in combat missions and a company-level tactical exercise with the use of the MILES 2000 laser engagement system.

During the tactical training, the units practiced a tactical march by day and under reduced visibility conditions, taking up defensive positions without enemy contact, fighting to delay the advance of the Opposing Force (OPFOR) – played by 12 Mech Bn Nitra's Recce Pl, which is embedded with the TC Lešt-based NATO Multinational Brigade Slovakia (MNB-SVK), and responding to a range of incidents.

The commanders at all levels of command practiced tactical leadership procedures in combat missions, reporting, and responding to a variety of incidents. During the TTP checks and the company-level tactical

ESPCON's 1st year at Kuchyňa AB

(17 Mar) A year has passed since the Spanish Contingent (ESPCON) – the Corps Forward Element and the HQ NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – deployed to Kuchyňa AB in March 2024. Spain's deployable divisional HQ has contributed to defending NATO's eastern border. On this occasion, a ceremony to mark ESPCON's 1st anniversary in Slovakia was held at Kuchyňa AB. In their remarks, Commander ESPCON Col Miguel Lopez Rodriguez thanked for cooperation and excellent conditions in the country, and COS 46 Wng Kuchyňa Lt Col Jaroslav Murko expressed his gratitude to ESP troops for their dedication to the defence of Slovakia. Kuchyňa AB is now preparing to expand ESPCON's operations by accommodating a helicopter capability. This is due to arrive in the coming months. Among others, it will support ESP troops stationed at TC Lešt.

Six-time father in uniform



"It seems like none of our kids want to be soldiers, but nothing will stand in their way," MSgt František Galko said smilingly after the Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps, Mons František Rábek, baptised his sixth child, named Matej, in a church in Veľčice. This Sergeant Major of 11 Slovak Air Force Brigade

Group 4, based in Nitra, has been wearing the airman's uniform since 2001. His wife Janka and he have two daughters and four sons. "The Armed Forces have given me a lot and I try to give it back through my service. Similarly, I have received a lot from life. We see children as the greatest gift, and as we bring them up, we try to give them our love and support. In short, we are all happy," MSgt Galko added.

MOD journalist recognised



(20 Mar) The Director and Deputy Director of the SVK Military Police, Col Róbert Beták and Col Elo Hubač received Col (Ret'd) Jozef Žiak, the senior journalist of Defence Magazine, as he

leaves the MOD with 52 years of service in SVK Defence. They expressed their utmost appreciation for his journalistic work and popularisation of the SVK Military Police. On this occasion, Jozef Žiak received the CZE Military Police Cross from Chief of the CZE Military Police Maj Gen Jiří Roček for his long-term active contribution, personal commitment and authentic views on CZE-SVK MP cooperation and for promoting the NATO Multinational Military Police Battalion (MNPBAT).

