



80th anniversary of Liberation Day in Bratislava

(4 Apr) To celebrate 80 years since Bratislava's liberation from occupation, the SVK Government Office hosted a commemoration at the Slavin War Memorial. Among those present were Parliamentary Chair Richard Raši and Prime Minister Robert Fico who stood side by side with DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher and Martin Vojštašovič, MOD SEC GEN Peter Krajčirovič to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Another two F-16s in Slovakia



(2 Apr) Another two F-16 Block 70 Fighting Falcon combat aircraft touched down on the runway at Kuchyňa AB in the midday hours on Wed 2 Apr 2025. Their arrival brings the Slovak Air Force's fleet of F-16 fighter jets to 5 of the 14 new aircraft on order from the US. Both aircraft were delivered by air in two stages: a trans-Atlantic flight from the US to Morón AB in Spain before their arrival into Kuchyňa AB. These flights demonstrated the technical readiness of the aircraft. The aircraft are currently undergoing certification and are getting ready for the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) mission to defend SVK airspace, due as early as the summer of 2025. On the SVK F-16 pilots, both trained and in training, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko said: "We now have seven fully trained pilots who have been involved in initial test and certification flights for the delivered F-16s. Another six pilots will complete their F-16 Qualification Training in the United States this year, and, along with skilled ground crew and technicians, they will then begin executing their assigned tasks of Flight Training (FT) and Air Operations (AO) missions."

On EU's common defence

(4 Apr) EU Defence Ministers gathered in Warsaw for an informal meeting to discuss the future of Europe. Representing Slovakia on this occasion was DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, who attended a series of meetings



with his European colleagues. "Key themes such as how to act on common defence are opened at official forums where decisions are taken. That's exactly what the European meeting in Poland was about. It was the right place for Slovakia to be – sitting at the same table with our partners and discussing everything essential and important – and be there when the future of the EU's defences took shape," Mr Kaliňák said, summing up the two-day informal meeting of EU defence leaders.

DS Col Jozef Kasl appointed as Comd 2 Mech Bde Prešov

(4 Apr) With the ceremonial handover of the Brigade's Colours by Slovak Army Commander Maj Gen Ivan Balog, Col Maroš Kmec, deputising for the Commander of 2 Mechanised Brigade Prešov, passed on the appointment of Brigade Commander to Defence Staff (DS) Col Jozef Kasl. The ceremony took place at Sokolovské Barracks in Prešov, in the presence of DCHOD/ COS Maj Gen Slavomír Verčimák, Slovak Army Commander Maj Gen Ivan Balog and other guests. Col Kmec thanked the Brigade members for maintaining high-quality work in a difficult period as well as for their determination, commitment and responsible approach to undertaking assigned tasks. In their remarks, Maj Gen Verčimák and Maj Gen Balog gave their assessment of 2 Mech Bde's activities and expressed their satisfaction with the Brigade's achievements so far. They wished the new commander every success and good health for the challenging tasks that lie ahead of the Brigade.



■ Under the leadership of instructors from the Mobilisation Force Generation Unit Poprad, 7 Tmg Regt Martin hosted a course for the 'Chiefs of the Mobilisation Workplaces' from the Personnel Reception Group, with a focus on the in-processing of newly called-up reservists.

■ A farewell ceremony was held for MStg Ján Kocúrko, Command Sergeant Major (CSM) of 11 Mech Bn Martin, who has been reassigned to another military unit.

■ 7 Tmg Regt Martin hosted a graduation ceremony for those graduating from the OR-5 Non-Commissioned Officer Candidate Course (NCOCC). A total of 31 corporals (OR-4) of 91 Engr Regt are now qualified for promotion to the first NCO rank of Sergeant (OR-5).

■ This year, Military Forests and Estates (VLM) - Malacky Branch has been reforesting clearings with 510,000 pine seedlings across the woodlands under its remit. Without reforestation, desert would prevail in the Záhorie region.

■ 2 April saw airmen of 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen embarking on a pilgrimage to the Calvary Hill in Banská Štiavnica. Among the guests was padre Maj Pavel Lukáč, Dean of the Slovak Air Force, who delivered a sermon at the Holy Mass on this occasion. The Stations of the Cross were led by padre Maj Peter Halkoci, Chaplain of 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen.

■ The SVK Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps would like to invite MOD military and civilian personnel to a Stations of the Cross procession to be held on 14 Apr in Marianka as the foremost pilgrimage site in Slovakia. Transport is provided by a service coach, departing at 15:35 from the MOD parking lot.

■ Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Spiš Mons František Trstenský and Episcopal Vicar of the Vicariate of the Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps (with the Remit for the Ministry of the Interior) Col Jozef Paluba wish to invite members of the Armed Forces, Police, and Fire and Rescue Services to attend a Stations of the Cross procession at the Spiš Chapter at 17:00 on 11 Apr.

■ Working with the SVK Military Personnel Office's Educational and Cultural Activities Section, the Bratislava Garrison Club would like to invite you to a 'Flower Romance' exhibition of paintings by SVK and CZE artists – Irena Slavinská, Josef Konečný, Bohumil Hradecký and other artists. You can come and see their artworks until 2 May.

■ The Carpathia Military Society marked the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 with a series of commemorations. Colonels (Ret'd) Peter Pukan and Miroslav Minár laid a wreath at the WW2 Memorial Plaque in Kalná nad Hronom – where Op Bratislava-Brno was launched in 1945. The Society also recognised Jelenec PS for its cooperation, with a letter of thank you being presented to the school director, Miroslav Bogar.

■ Judoka Benjamin Matášeje from the Dukla Military Sports Centre won a bronze medal in the U100kg weight category at the Dubrovnik Senior European Cup in Croatia.

■ Ski mountaineer Marianna Jagerčíková (SVK Dukla) finished 6th at the World Cup in Villars sur Ollon, Switzerland. She and Jakub Šiarnik took 7th place in the mixed relay, earning important points for their Olympic qualification.

In response to a positive foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) case in Plavecký Štvrtok, the SVK MOD, as the state forestry authority for defence woodlands pursuant to the provisions of sec 30 (4) of Act No 326/2005 Coll on Woodlands, as amended, has banned members of the public from accessing the Záhorie Military District (MD) woodlands as a measure to limit the spread of FMD.

This year's second Initial Military Training (IMT) kicks off

(1 Apr) This year's second Initial Military Training (IMT) kicked off for 234 recruits – known as 'candidates of the Preparatory State Service' in Slovakia – at 7 Tmg Regt Martin.

After the in-processing stage, the newcomers were assigned to the Training Platoons where they immediately became immersed in the junior soldiers' training.

Over the next eight weeks, they will focus on mastering professional military knowledge and skills and will practice them on Martin Garrison's Sučany training ground and on the ranges at 7 Tmg Regt Martin. While doing so, they will also conduct training designed to adjust to military life, build physical and psychological resilience, and learn to operate both independently and in teams.

The newest members will be officially welcomed into the Slovak Army at their Pass Off Parade to be held on 8 May in Piešťany on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2.

Liberation Day in Žiar

(1 Apr) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher attended a commemoration marking the 80th anniversary of Žiar nad Hronom's liberation in WW2. As part of his working trip, he also toured 11 Mech Bn Martin and 57 Ind Det Martin to familiarise himself with the Units' missions, tasks and assets in service.

Bundeswehr Cross of Honour



(31 Mar) The Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany awarded the 'Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr in Silber' (Bundeswehr Cross of Honour in Silver) to Maj Jana Cehláriková (SVK A) for her support to the German air defenders

who had operated the Patriot AD system in Slovakia. Brig Gen Gerhard Ernst-Peter Klaffus, DEU NMR to SHAPE, presented the Cross to the servicewoman from the SVK NMR Office at SHAPE, Mons, Belgium.

Battle staff rehearsal at AOS

(4 Apr) 22 Recce Regt Prešov and 65 Recce Bn Prešov used the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Simulation Centre to rehearse the actions of their commanders, battle staff, and members of the Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) and Electronic Warfare (EW) Operations Planning and Control Centre. They executed reconnaissance and surveillance sources fusion tasks via the hC2 Command system, while fully employing the system in a computer-assisted exercises (CAX). With hC2 COMMAND, members of 65 Recce Bn created a real-time Common Operational Picture (COP) for a superior command level, as well as practicing and coordinating the preparation and delivery of critical intelligence products and updates within the C2 process.

Chaplains visit Army HQ



(1 Apr) Chaplain in Chief Col Viktor Sabo and Deacon Lucia Martonová from the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Office in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps visited the SVK Army Headquarters

Trenčín. The Chaplain in Chief attended a series of meetings with EPS Chaplain Capt Ondrej Rišiň, Slovak Army Commander Maj Gen Ivan Balog, and Commander of 82 Joint Support Brigade Brig Gen Jozef Ševčík.

