



CZE MINDEF at Lešť

(7 Apr) Lešť Training Area (TA) has been hosting almost 200 Czech Army soldiers as part of the NATO Multinational Brigade Slovakia (MNB SVK) along with service personnel from Spain, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United States and Turkey. Visiting Lešť on Mon 7 Apr, Czech Minister of Defence Jana Černočková, accompanied by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, met with and talked to CZE troops stationed there. Both ministers agreed on the need to boost the defence capability of not only the Slovak and Czech Republics, but also of the entire European territory. Our common history, close ties, and common defence goals oblige us to go on building stronger links that will go over and above the standard scope of defence cooperation.

Robert Kaliňák in Czechia

(8 Apr) Slovakia takes interest in a number of Czech defence products and services. These include the Aero L-39 Skyfox subsonic jet trainer, the target tracking technologies from ERA, and the pilot training programmes at LOM Pardubice's new Simulation Centre, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák confirmed in a visit to Czechia, during which Czech Minister of Defence Jana Černočková and he toured the facilities of several defence manufacturers. According to Mr Kaliňák, Slovakia needs to expand its ability to "see and know" – which could be helped by the target detection, recognition and tracking systems from Pardubice-based ERA. Speaking about LOM Pardubice's Simulation Centre, he praised the facility – where SVK pilots could undertake training in the future. On the L-39 Skyfox, he made it clear that the Slovak Armed Forces Development Plan 2035 envisages a jet trainer capability – the Slovak Air Force will need 10-12 trainer aircraft. According to Minister Černočková, the Czech Air Force operates a fleet of L-39s, and if Slovakia decides to procure the aircraft, it will be a vital contribution to strengthening regional cooperation and interoperability. "Czechia takes a great interest in cooperating [with Slovakia] on the purchase of munitions," Ms Černočková announced.

DEPMINDEF Melicher in BiH

(9 Apr) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher attended a change of command ceremony in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), with Lt Col Jozef Durkot (SVK A) handing over command of the Slovak Contingent (SLOVCON) of EUFOR Op Althea to Lt Col Ján Smatana (SVK A). In a visit to Camp Butmir, Mr Melicher talked to SLOVCON soldiers about their work, as well as discussing the possibility of building a representational space for SLOVCON's needs and Slovakia's presentation in the international environment. EUFOR Commander Maj Gen Florin-Marian Barbu (ROU A) thanked Mr Melicher for Slovakia's cooperation and appreciated its contribution to one of the EU's largest military operations. While in BiH, DEPMINDEF Melicher also met with Minister of Defence Zukan Helez and Deputy Minister of Defence Aleksandar Goganović for talks on security and political challenges. Slovakia has made the Western Balkans (WB) region a foreign policy priority.



New future for LOTN as F-16 maintainer

(9 Apr) In the presence of DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, Slovakia's LOTN and Norway's KAMS-KONGSBERG signed a teaming agreement to work towards establishing a joint venture or another appropriate business model to deliver an F-16 Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) capability at LOTN in a signature ceremony in Trenčín on 9 Apr 2025. Speaking at a press conference at LOTN, Mr Robert Kaliňák said: "The signing of the agreement marks a significant step for the arms industry in Slovakia. Since taking office as Minister of Defence, I have stated that we will support the domestic defence industry in order to increase GDP and the standard of living for the people of Slovakia." At the core of LOTN-KAMS cooperation is the delivery of MRO, logistics, and support services to sustain F-16s over their service life cycle. "While LOTN is part of the service life cycle support for the Slovak Air Force's new generation F-16 Block 70s, it will now also deliver MRO services for other F-16 variants, from Block 15 to Block 52," Chair and CEO of LOTN Juraj Lauš said. "KAMS, as a Lockheed Martin-licensed F-16 Falcon Service Centre for F-16s from Block 15 up to Block 52, combined with LOTN's experienced labour force, modern infrastructure and certified F-16 Block 70 capability from Lockheed Martin, will provide a legitimate and strategically located option for in-service support to other F-16 operators," President of KAMS André Jægtvik said. Both companies want to achieve initial operational capability (IOC) in the fourth quarter of this year.



■ Director of the SVK Military Aviation Authority Nofal Kattan led a SVK delegation to the **NATO JCGUAS Conference** in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DEU). As a NATO source of technical and operational UAS information, JCGUAS addresses UAS issues: acquisition design, employment, capability demonstrations, a common approach to airspace management, complementary use among UAS categories, operator training and standards, and doctrine.

■ In Cyprus, almost 50 **SVK UNFICYP peacekeepers** joined SVK Ambassador to Cyprus Martin Bezák in giving life-saving blood to the local community. A total of 320 SVK blood donors have taken part in blood donation sessions since 2022 – that's over 140 litres of blood donated over the period.

■ While once again collaborating with the National Transfusion Service (NTS) after six months, the SVK Armed Forces Academy (AOS) held yet another blood donation event titled **'Spring Drop of Blood'** on 10 Apr. More than 60 blood donors, including first-year OCs and first-time donor, took part.

■ On successful completion of their trade-specific training, five new privates were officially welcomed into the **SVK Presidential Guard of Honour** by SVK Pres GOH Comd Col Marián Mášiar in a ceremony at Dukla Barracks on 8 Apr.

■ **SVK Defence Language Institute (DLI) English language instructors** received a tour of 5 SOF Regt Žilina and were introduced to the specific terminology and language used by SOF operatives.

■ Due to the spread of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), **Military Forests and Estates (VLM)** warns the public that the Chief Veterinary Officer has issued an emergency measure establishing a restricted zone across the entirety of the Bratislava, Trnava and Nitra regions. All voluntary work parties at the Rašielny - Prievally pond site have been cancelled.

■ **SFC Benjamin Tucker and SPC Lucas Plesh from the U.S. Civil Affairs Team (CAT)** visited the Defence Language Institute English Language Centre (DLIELC) Nitra on 8 Apr. They presented the Basic Principles of Negotiations and the work of the U.S. CAT to students of the intensive NATO STANAG 6001 SLP 2 English Language Course.

■ Starting from 9 Apr, DLIELC Prešov has teamed up with an external lecturer – former **SVK Army Commander Maj Gen (Ret'd) Ivan Pech** – who will present military topics in the intensive SLP2 and SLP3 English language courses and specialised courses.

■ Galanta Secondary Technical School (STS) students got a taste of the military engineers' work by undertaking training at **91 Engr Regt Sered'**. Under the direction of their instructors, they assisted in repairing engineer equipment in the workshops and in preparing vehicles for summer operation in the Regt's vehicle park, as well as receiving briefs on the military driver's regular vehicle maintenance and the mechanic's repair work on wheeled and tracked platforms.

■ The Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Office provided 1,000 first aid kits as **humanitarian aid at the request of the Egyptian government**. Egypt has been facing an influx of refugees, mainly from Gaza and Sudan. Around nine million refugees have overwhelmed the Egyptian healthcare system.

■ The Table Tennis Club Ružomberok hosted the **SVK Armed Forces Table Tennis Championships**. Pte Martin Truska of AOS won the men's individual category with a loss of one set only and was named Best Player of the Championships. The SVK AOS team placed 2nd overall.

■ Wrestlers of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** excelled in the European Freestyle Wrestling Championships in Samorín, Slovakia. After defeating Ion Marcu (MDA) 3:0 on points, Achsarbek Gulayev (SVK) won a bronze medal in the 79kg category. After winning over Radu Lefter (MDA), Bатыrbек Какулов (SVK) finished 3rd in the 97kg category. Finally, Tajmuraz Sakazanov (SVK) defeated Murad Kuramagomedov (HUN) and took bronze in the U74 kg freestyle category.

MOD hosts children's summer camps with continued success

(11 Apr) The MOD has teamed up with the Slovak Towns and Villages Association (ZMOS) to continue offering summer camps for children aged 8-13. The camp programme features an exciting schedule of recreational, sporting and military-themed activities. This year a larger number of children from socially disadvantaged families are expected to attend. Under the guidance of qualified instructors, they will engage in sports and games, orienteering, self-defence, and team challenges.

"Our summer campers will embrace values such as discipline, teamwork and perseverance. I am sure this year's camps will also be a place where children will have an experience of a lifetime which they will carry with them into their future lives," DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher said. The camps are intended for children from socially disadvantaged families, single parent families, and service and civilian



families. If there are any free places, this offer may also be extended to children of law enforcement officers and students from the schools cooperating with the MOD under

the 'Populations in Defence of the State' Training Concept. "After the successful 2024 pilot project for children from military and civilian families, the MOD has decided to carry on with this initiative. With growing interest in the camps, the MOD is expanding its capacities and is planning to host up to 2,353 children in 2025," Martin Rimeš, Director General of the MOD Personnel and Social Affairs Dept, said. Based on long-term MOD-ZMOS cooperation, the 'Children's Summer Camps' project wants to motivate children to stay fit, do sports, and engage in experiential learning, while emphasising the elements of military-themed training – which are absolutely justified in the modern world.

Unfairly Prosecuted Persons Day



(13 Apr) DEPMINDEF Martin Vojašovič took part in a memorial service to mark the 75th anniversary of Operation "K" or the Barbarian Night when male monasteries were raided on the night of 13-14 Apr 1950, as were, later on, female religious orders. We observe 13 Apr as Unfairly Prosecuted Persons Day. In his remarks, DEPMINDEF Vojašovič said: "We remember those who suffered and often gave their lives in the name of faith, human dignity, and moral conviction." Three monks with first-hand experience of unjust prosecution by the then regime were honoured in the memorial service at St Vincent de Paul's Church in Bratislava. Mr Vojašovič presented the Commemorative Medal (2nd Grade) to Štefan Zamiška (95), while Imrich Volek and Marián Kolník were awarded the medal posthumously.

Combat Lifesaver (CLS) Course



(9 Apr) Soldiers of 11 Mech Bn Martin attended the Tactical Combat Casualty Care – Combat Lifesaver (TCCC – CLS) Course from 31 Mar to 9 Apr. The theory module got the participants ready for the scenarios they were going to work through on Martin Garrison's Sučany training ground: Care Under Fire (CUF), Tactical Field Care (TFC), and Tactical Evacuation (TACEVAC). The focus of the practical module was on the treatment of injured soldiers, both in tactical conditions and in low visibility conditions. The course – delivered by course leader SSgt Marek Jantošik, instructors Sgt Erik Paciga and SSgt Vladimír Kubas, and CLS specialist Sgt René Szabo – met its stated aims. The highlight of the course was the presentation of Certificates of Completion to the course graduates.

Military in support of Police

(10 Apr) Soldiers of 71 Com Spt Bn Trenčín completed integration training with policemen of the SVK Police Forces in preparation for their role in support of police operations. As part of the theory module, the participants became familiar with all relevant SVK legislation, the aspects of joint patrolling, the principles and SOPs for a police response, and lessons learned from the police forces. The practical module allowed the soldiers to practice self-defence, grabs and strikes, immediate action to detain a suspect, and restraint techniques, including handcuffing individuals in different positions (standing, kneeling, and lying down).