



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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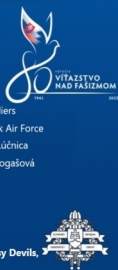
"Let's protect peace,
it was born with great difficulty."

– WW2 veteran Vladimír Strmeň



Join us at VE Day 80 in Piešťany
8 May 2025 • Piešťany Airport

08:00 **Piešťany Airport opens to the public**
From 10:00 All-day programme for families with children, 'VE Day Tent' and other presentation and education stands, experiential attractions, gifts, refreshment stalls
10:00 **Official Wreath-Laying Ceremony** at the Memorial to the Fallen Romanian Soldiers
11:00 **Official Opening Ceremony**, speeches by keynote speakers, flypasts from Slovak Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons and UH-60M Black Hawks, Army Parachute Display Team, Lúdnica Folk Ensemble, Slovak Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica, opera singer Jolana Fogašová
12:00 **Slovak Armed Forces Capabilities Demonstration**
13:00 **Oath of Allegiance Ceremony**
14:00 A WW2 battle reenactment by reenactment clubs, a flying display of WW2-era aircraft by the **Retro Sky Team**
From 14:30 Music and dance performances from KALI and Peter Pann, Peter Cmorič, Gypsy Devils, and Martin Gyimesi (Karol Duchoň)



Robert Kaliňák: I warmly invite you to VE Day 80 in Piešťany

(30 Apr) At an away-day meeting in Malá Lehota, the SVK Govt approved the organisational arrangements for a VE Day 80 Event to be held at Piešťany Airport on 8 May as part of the nationwide VE Day 80 celebrations. "I invite everyone to the VE Day 80 Event in Piešťany and to a rich and dynamic programme by all Services and branches of our Armed Forces, with the participation of other ministries," DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák said. Piešťany Airport opens to the public at 08:00 – admission is free. All-day programme for families with kids starts at 10:00. After the opening ceremony at 11:00 and speeches from keynote speakers, there will be flypasts from F-16 Fighting Falcons and UH-60M Black Hawks and a display from the Army Parachute Display Team. This will be followed by the SVK Armed Forces Capabilities Demonstration at 12:00, the Oath of Allegiance Ceremony at 13:00, and a WW2 battle reenactment by reenactment clubs and a flying display of WW2-era aircraft by the Retro Sky Team at 14:00. Visitors will be treated to live music and dance performances from Lúdnica Folk Ensemble, SVK Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica, Jolana Fogašová, KALI and Peter Pann, Peter Cmorič, Gypsy Devils, and Martin Gyimesi.

The Institute of Military History has prepared a 'VE Day Tent' with period photographs, WW2 documentaries, and interviews with WW2 veterans.

The all-day programme will be supported by the SVK Army Recruitment Teams with their stands on military trades and careers and even some form of entertainment. Their 'Information Point' will provide advice on how to become a soldier, while at their 'Interactive Stand' you can have a go on the trapeze or have fun with quizzes and memory games. Starting from 08:30, the Field Chapel will host an ecumenical worship service. Chaplains will be on hand for conversation, prayer and confession.

For the public, there will be 5,000 parking spaces for free at the airport. A free shuttle service from/to Piešťany will run at 30min intervals from 08:00 to 17:20. The Slovak Railway Company (ZSSK) will strengthen trains and long-distance trains will make a stop at the Piešťany railway station. There will be police security procedures in place.

Military- and Sport-Themed Olympiad Challenge's regional rounds finish

(30 Apr) The Military- and Sport-Themed Olympiad Challenge for secondary schools in the Bratislava region culminated at Secondary Agrotechnical School in Bernolákovo on 28 Apr. Teams from three schools battled it out, while being assessed on physical fitness, accuracy, speed and cooperation. The team from Bernolákovo placed 1st and will advance to the grand finale.

Five teams from the Banská Bystrica region competed in the Olympiad Challenge's final regional round on Wed 30 Apr. Mixed four-member teams tested their physical fitness, teamwork, and life protection knowledge and skills at 'Pod Banošom' Secondary School in Banská Bystrica. The competitors covered a series of seven stations, prepared by airmen of 81 Wng Sliac and 2 SVK AF Bde Zvolen under the leadership of the Chief of the Army Recruitment Team Banská Bystrica, Capt Tomáš Hampachel.

The competitors considered the obstacle course and movement in the hazardous area with the use of improvised personal protective equipment (PPE) as the most challenging disciplines. The final order was decided by the resulting time from all disciplines. The best time of 20min 46sec was achieved by the 'Štúr' Grammar School team from Zvolen. As well as receiving the winning cup and sport equipment, they have advanced to the grand finale at TC Lešť, where they will be competing with the winners of the other regional rounds from 18 to 20 June. The nationwide Olympiad Challenge is organised by the MOD, with the aim of improving students' physical fitness levels, enhancing their military awareness, and preparing them for crisis situations.



■ The French Ambassador to Slovakia, His Excellency Nicolas Suran, Press and Culture Attaché Didier Rogasik, and Honorary Consul of France for Central Slovakia Grégory Delton paid a visit to 5 SOF Regt Žilina. They were welcomed to the Regt by 5 SOF Regt Comd and Dep Comd Col Peter Žochňák and Maj Matej Marvoň, who introduced the FRA delegation to the Regt's history, mission and tasks. Together, they discussed SVK-FRA cooperation on SOF training and exchanges of SOF personnel.

■ Graduates of **Basic Command and Staff Course No 30** attended the graduation ceremony at the Main Hall of the SVK Military Academy (AOS). The course, involving 77 MOD members, featured a new format: working in five syndicates. In attendance at the ceremony were Director General of the MOD Personnel and Social Affairs Dept Martin Rimeš, DCHOD/COS Maj Gen Slavomír Verčímač, AOS Comdt Brig Gen Aurel Sabó, AOS Vice-Comdt for Education Col Michal Turčaník, AOS Vice-Comdt for Military Affairs Col Jaroslav Kompan, Director of the AOS Education Centre Col Roman Král, and other guests.

■ The historically first **Comd 91 Engr Regt Sereď**, Col Jozef Kasl handed over command of the Regt to his successor, Col Ján Adamušek, in the presence of Slovak Army Commander Maj Gen Ivan Balog.

■ On 23-25 Apr, the **47th Annual Seminar for CZE and SVK Radioelectronic Depts and Institutes** was held in the Ziariska Valley in Slovakia. This year's seminar, organised by the Electronics Dept of the SVK Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the SVK Electrotechnical Society - Liptovský Mikuláš Branch, was attended by 49 experts from 12 Academic Depts. The programme was divided into the education and scientific sections, with discussions on education, research & development, and cooperation. The organiser's baton has now passed to the Communications Technology, Electronic Warfare, and Radar Operations Dept, Defence University of Brno.

■ The 21st annual international scientific conference titled **'Technical Systems Degradation'** took place at the SVK Military Academy. This important professional event – organised by the Academy's Mechanical Engineering Dept in cooperation with the Warsaw University of Technology, the Lublin University of Technology, and the University of Žilina – traditionally focuses on the issues related to technical systems and their degradation, diagnostics, operation, maintenance, and modernisation.

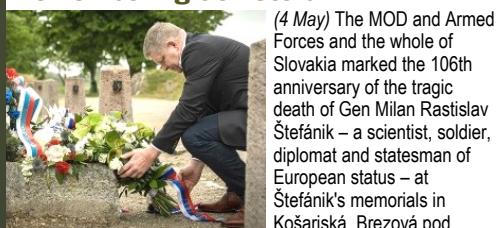
■ Working closely with representatives of the Sliac Centre of Aviation Medicine (CAM) and Diapet, the SVK Military Academy's Simulation Centre hosted the **Emergency Medical Response to Aviation Disasters Course** in Apr. After the theory module, a series of first responder emergency drills with trauma casualty simulation mannequins were conducted.

■ Members of 901 Engr Bn Sereď represented the Slovak Armed Forces at the **Young Drivers Contest**. This aims to popularise the military driver's profession among secondary technical school students in Galanta and its surroundings. This year, 32 students from ten schools took part. They were briefed, among others, on the Tatra 815 truck's capabilities by military drivers.

■ A total of 18 **'Mission Delta' Summer Adventure Camps** for children aged 8-14 will take place in seven locations across Slovakia – Trnava Hora, Duchonka, Tále, Antonstál, Palárikovo, Bobrovec and Čertovo between 29 Jun and 30 Aug. Promising new friendships and unforgettable memories, children will be treated to adventure activities, sports and games, military missions, and obstacle courses. For details, please visit the Defence Intranet.

■ 15-18 year olds who want to experience an Army camp are invited to attend **'Summer Camp Lešť'**, with two dates available: either from 21 to 25 Jul or from 28 Jul to 1 Aug. They can look forward to military training drills, competitions, shooting, first aid, water polo, self-defence, environmental and forestry awareness, an obstacle course, an orienteering run, and climbing. You can find more information and the application form on the Defence Intranet.

Remembering Gen Štefánik



(4 May) The MOD and Armed Forces and the whole of Slovakia marked the 106th anniversary of the tragic death of Gen Milan Rastislav Štefánik – a scientist, soldier, diplomat and statesman of European status – at Štefánik's memorials in Košariská, Brezová pod

Bradlom, Ivanka pri Dunaji, and Bratislava. On Sun 4 May, President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini visited Campofornido airfield (ITA), from where Gen Štefánik took off on his last flight to his country on 4 May 1919. After a memorial service, he watched a reconstruction of the tragic flight, prepared by the Jonathan Foundation. Elsewhere, PM Robert Fico honoured the memory of M. R. Štefánik at the Štefánik Memorial in Ivanka pri Dunaji. Earlier on Sat, the general's tragic death was commemorated with a memorial ceremony at the Tomb of M. R. Štefánik on Bradlo Hill.

We will never forget



(29 Apr) In the village of Skalité, DEPMINDEF Martin Vojašovič paid tribute to the 80th anniversary of the village's liberation, the victory over the Nazis, and the WW2 victims at the local Memorial to the Fallen of WW2. "It was not just a military operation, but, above all, a glimmer of hope after years of suffering. Solidarity. Unity. Hope. These were the values that drove ordinary people to extraordinary actions," Mr Vojašovič said.

Black Hawk extinguishes "Monk"



(4 May) In the Western Tatras' Monk National Nature Reserve, a wildfire swept across more than 6 ha of inaccessible, extremely steep and dangerous terrain in the cadastre of Bobrovec, County Liptovský Mikuláš.

The fire occurred in a place inaccessible to any fire trucks, 1km from the nearest access road, in a location where trees were struck down in a devastating windstorm in 2014. On Sat, a SVK AF UH-60M Black Hawk with a Bambi Bucket joined the Fire Service's firefighting operation. On Sun, a second SVK AF UH-60M Black Hawk deployed to support the firefighting effort before the fire was contained.

Open Door Day at Dukla Military Sports Centre

(1 May) The Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, providing training for the SVK National Team under the MOD's remit – hosted an Open Door Day for the public on Thur 1 May. The Štiavnický Athletics Stadium was filled with visitors who came to explore sports.

"We want to attract especially children and give them a chance to try out all sports and get to know our top performing athletes. Dukla is the flagship of SVK sport. With this event, we want to contribute to the promotion of sport and physical activity," Dukla Director and seven-time SVK Triathlon Champion Gabriel Baran said.

The programme was enriched by a static display and dynamic demonstrations from the SVK Military Police, a parachute display from 81 Wng Sliac, and music performances from the Slovak Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica. The highlight of the day was an autograph signing session with Olympians Elena Kaliská, Petra Vlhová, Matej Tóth and Jakub Grigar.

Visiting on this occasion, SVK MOD SECGEN Peter Krajčirovič said: "It's a great event. In my free time, I myself train children

and youth at a sports club. This event offers children a fantastic opportunity to see their sporting idols and role models worth following – some very remarkable people who have achieved success with their disciplined and purposeful approach to life."

