



EU Defence Ministerial

(20 May) An EU Defence Ministerial meeting took place in Brussels, with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák representing the Slovak Republic.

The discussions centred on strategic investment in the European defence industry and increasing the interoperability of the Armed Forces of the EU Member States.

"The EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) must reflect current threats and the need to increase our preparedness. Slovakia is ready to actively participate in our collective effort for a safer Europe," Robert Kaliňák said.

Slovak-Moroccan cooperation

(23 May) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák and Foreign and European Affairs Minister Juraj Blanár paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, where they met with Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of National Defence Administration Abdellatif Loudiyi for talks on possible avenues of Defence Industry cooperation. Mr Robert Kaliňák valued the opportunity to visit the MAR MOD, where SVK Defence Industry companies – CSM Industry, DefTech, Konštrukta Defence, Way Industries, SEC Technologies, and ZVS Holding – presented their defence portfolio. "Each of them was given the chance to give a company presentation at an official meeting with the Defence Minister. There is great interest in establishing cooperation," he said.



Memorial service at Brookwood

(23 May) Leading a delegation of the SVK Ministry of Defence to the United Kingdom, DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič paid homage to the Czechoslovak airmen and soldiers who died in action while serving with the Allies in WW2 in a ceremony at the Czechoslovak National Memorial at Brookwood Military Cemetery.



"The stories of our heroes such as Ján Ambruš, Jozef Kaňa, Otto Smik and Karol Valach remind us that the very freedom that we take for granted today was bought with blood and suffering. Our duty is not only to remember, but to act and protect the values for which our people died – freedom, peace and democracy – at a time when these values are once again being challenged," Mr Vojtašovič said.

SVK CHOD and ESP Ambassador

(22 May) While hosting the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Slovakia, Her Excellency Lorea Arribalza Ceballos, and members of the Spanish Armed Forces stationed in Slovakia at the SVK MOD, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko highlighted the excellent military-to-military engagement between the Slovak and Spanish Armed Forces as part of joint NATO activities and bilateral projects. At the Slovak Armed Forces Hall of Fame, Gen Zmeko presented the ESP Ambassador and military personnel with the Slovak Chief of Defence Commemorative Crosses (1st, 2nd and 3rd Grades). He also commended the ESP troops in Slovakia for their high professionalism and reliability.



GEO and NGA CHODs visit SVK Defence Staff

(22 May) During his three-day visit (18-20 May) to Slovakia, Georgian Chief of Defence Maj Gen Giorgi Matiasvili met Gen Daniel Zmeko, the head of the Slovak Armed Forces, for discussions on closer SVK-GEO military engagement and for an exchange of experience and views on today's security challenges. Maj Gen Matiasvili appreciated Slovakia's support to Georgia as a NATO Partner Nation and expressed his interest in the two nations' deeper collaboration on military education, training and exercises.

Maj Gen Matiasvili was also received by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák at the MOD in Bratislava.

On 22 May in Bratislava, Nigerian Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Christopher Musa was hosted by SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko. The Defence Chiefs affirmed their shared interest in advancing bilateral links across defence, military training and courses. Importantly, they agreed to draft a Framework Military-to-Military Engagement Plan with specific projects to cover military education, training, Nigerian officers' participation in the Slovak Armed Forces-organised training courses and exercises.



■ The SVK Military Academy's International Courses Dept held the **NATO-certified Tactical Planning for Land Forces Course**, focused on planning operations at the tactical command level with a particular emphasis on the Battle Staff (BS)'s actions at the battalion and brigade levels. The course – attended by 14 HUN and 13 SVK officers and personnel from NATO partner countries, including from Armenia, Georgia, Iraq and Ukraine – introduced to the participants to the principles of the Land Forces' planning process at the tactical command level in accordance with the NATO STANDARD APP-28 TACTICAL PLANNING FOR LAND FORCES, with a focus on the BS procedures, the processing of planning products, and the use of military English terminology.

■ Bratislava's Apollo Hotel, supported by the Slovak Air Force HQ Zvolen, hosted **international meetings of several working groups**: Link 16 Spectrum Multinational Working Group (MNVG), Frequency Clearance Experts Group (FCEG), Spectrum Access Sub-Working Group (SASWG), and Data Link Management Cell Conference (DLMCC). Also in attendance were representatives of SHAPE, NATO AIRCOM Ramstein, and private companies dealing with the NATO Link 16 Tactical Data Link (TDL).

■ To support natural fish population levels and restore watercourse ecosystems, **Military Forests and Estates (VLM)** has stocked the fishing reserves of VLM Branch Kežmarok, releasing 30,000 river trouts into their waters.

■ Foresters of **Military Forests and Estates (VLM) Branch Kežmarok** won the team category at the 19th edition of the 'Jozef Dekret Matejovie' Memorial Forestry Competition at Donovaly, organised by Forests of the Slovak Republic SOE (State-Owned Enterprise). In the Individuals competition, the Best Forester 2025 title went to Ján Ščavnický of VLM.

■ The **'Fighter Cup' Slovak Armed Forces Ice Hockey Tournament 2025**, organised by 81 WG Sliac, took place in Zvolen. Six Armed Forces teams battled it out, with the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) team winning the valuable trophy. AOS officer cadet Viktor Fertal won the Best Goalkeeper title.

■ A sports committee has awarded the biathletes who have represented Slovakia at domestic and international biathlon events. The **Biathlete of the Year 2025 Award** went to Paulína Bátorová Fialková from the Dukla Military Sports Centre. Jakub Borgula won the Best Junior Award, and Ema Kapustová took the Best U23 Biathlete title.

■ Athlete **Emma Zapletalová** (SVK Dukla) had an excellent debut in the 400m hurdles. With a time of 54.74sec, the second best time of her sporting career, she secured 1st place and the European performance of the year at the International Flanders Athletics Meeting (IFAM) in Brussels.

■ The Dukla Continental Cycling Team has been strengthened by an experienced rider – **Matej Ujik** – the leader of the SVK National Team in Olympic cross-country racing, with three SVK championships titles in Olympic cross-country racing and five SVK championship titles in cyclo-cross racing. He is ranked 108th in the UCI Mountain Biking world rankings, and 54th in the UCI Cyclo-Cross world rankings. According to the UCI rules, 'Express CZ – BMD Team Kolín' will be his home team for MTB and cyclo-cross races. He will represent the Dukla Military Sports Centre in road races.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents the culminating academic year at the SVK Military Academy at 21.05 on Fri.

Successful checks on execution of TTPs on Ex Slovak Shield 2025

(22 May) One of the largest international training events at TC Lešť to exercise and synchronise the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) with Alliance partners from Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the Indiana National Guard (USA) and observers from Georgia is **Ex Slovak Shield 2025**.

As part of SLSD25, comprehensive checks, overseen by Exercise Director Brig Gen Štefan Accsai, were carried out on the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) used by Slovakia's 12 Mech Bn Nitra, part of 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany – these unfolded on the ranges at 'Dolné dlhé diely' and 'Kamenný vrch' on 21 May.

The exercise focused on testing the Unit's capabilities to conduct enabling, defensive and offensive operations in accordance with Cdr 12 Mech Bn TF Lt Col Ľuboš Sagan's tactical intent.



Soldiers of 12 Mech Bn Nitra worked with Allied forces from Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United States as a Task Force (TF), which was tested in model situations that simulated real-life challenges on the battlefield, with the focus on cooperation between the TF's individual elements, coordination, speed of the unit commanders' decision-making, and flexibility of response to changes in the operational environment.

The results of the TACEX confirmed the high level of the Unit's readiness and ability to respond effectively to current security challenges, and an improvement in the Unit's performance and overall warfighting capability. While demonstrating full training readiness and coordination, the TF units met the objectives of the tasks ahead of the battalion-level tactical live fire exercise (LFX) as the culmination point of SLSD25, starting from 23 May at TC Lešť.

USA joins NATO EOD COE

(22 May) The NATO Explosive Ordnance Disposal Centre of Excellence (NATO EOD COE), located in Trenčín, welcomed the United States of America as a new member and Sponsoring Nation alongside Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Romania, with Slovakia as the Host and Framework Nation. The inclusion of the United States in the NATO EOD COE, which marks the first expansion of the COE since 2011, signifies a strengthening of international cooperation and EOD capabilities integration, with the aim of bolstering our collective defence. The ceremony was attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, His Excellency Gautam Rana, Deputy Minister of Defence Igor Melicher, and Director of the NATO EOD COE Col František Mihalovič as keynote speakers. LTC Blake Zenteno (USA A) took up the appointment of Deputy Director of the NATO EOD COE.

Commendation of Excellence



(19 May) The Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Chief of Staff, Gen Markus Laubenthal (DEU A) presented Brig Gen Martin Remes (SVK F) with the Commendation of Excellence as he finishes as Assistant Chief of Staff of the Military Cooperation Division of the SHAPE Partnership Directorate in Mons, to thank him for his leadership and personal role in strengthening and developing military cooperation between NATO and 35 Partner Nations under the Cooperative Security (CS) initiative. Gen Laubenthal acknowledged Brig Gen Remes's contribution to building NATO Partner Nations' operational capabilities and fostering a comprehensive understanding of the operational environment outside of SACEUR's Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Gyula Sipos Award: Maj Gen Králík



(22 May) Székesfehérvár City Council has honoured exceptional personalities who have made major contributions to developing regional defence and raising international awareness of the region this year. The Gyula Sipos Award for Defence went to Maj Gen

Tibor Králík, Commander Headquarters Multinational Division Centre (HQ MND-C) Székesfehérvár. The Award is a form of recognition for his exceptional professional achievements and contribution to military and social life in Székesfehérvár Garrison, an important centre of NATO cooperation and a symbol of partnership among the ten NATO participating nations. "It is a privilege to be serving in Székesfehérvár. The city's historical value, cultural richness, and enduring respect for the defence community combine to create an inspiring environment for our personnel and their families," Maj Gen Králík said.