



NATO MINDEFs meet in Brussels

(5 June) A NATO Ministerial meeting took place in Brussels, with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák representing Slovakia. Among the main topics on the agenda was scaling up the Alliance's defences and the Member States' commitment to NATO's defence spend target. The discussions were a key preparatory step ahead of the NATO Summit in The Hague on 24-25 June 2025. Minister Kaliňák confirmed Slovakia's pledge to actively contribute to the collective defence of the Allies and stressed the importance of unity in the Alliance, saying: "For Slovakia, it is crucial that we increase defence expenditure gradually over a period of several years to fund, among others, dual-use projects, so that the people of Slovakia can also benefit from it, while setting the conditions for us to work on our own defence self-sufficiency within the Alliance."

DEPMINDEF Melicher in Latvia

(5 June) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher visited the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, where he met his counterpart, Aivars Puriņš. They discussed continuing to work together on boosting defence and the Allied presence in the region.



At Camp Ādaži, he was given a series of briefs from Commander of the NATO Multinational Division North (MND N) Danish Army Maj Gen Jette Albinus, Deputy Commander of the NATO MN BDE LVA and Commander of the Spanish Contingent (ESPCON) Lt Col Daniel Quintian Frade, and Commander of the Slovak Contingent (SLOVCON) Maj Peter Gál. The visit culminated with a SLOVCON change of command ceremony, in which Mr Melicher thanked the SVK soldiers for their professionalism and commitment to collective defence across NATO's eFP, saying: "Our soldiers have once again confirmed that they are professionals we can rely on in the international arena. I want to thank them for their service to the cause of security."

Polomka: OSS and SOE remembered

(5 June) In Polomka, DEPMINDEF Martin Vojašovič attended a memorial ceremony dedicated to the members of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and British Special Operations Executive (SOE) Missions to the Slovak National Uprising in WW2. On 26 Dec 1944, many of them were captured by the Nazis near Polomka, and were taken to and executed at Mauthausen concentration camp on 24 Jan 1945. Among the victims were members of the U.S. and British military intelligence missions.



"We have a moral obligation to carry their story forward. That's because a nation that does not respect the fallen risks losing itself. The names of the fallen are not just historical records: they are the symbols of courage – unlimited by borders, language or origin," Mr Vojašovič said. To connect history with the present, a Bench of Honour, sponsored by the Military Support Foundation, was unveiled on this occasion as a tribute to all heroes of the Upper Hron region.

NATO DIANA's Challenge Call for defence innovations

(3 July) Innovators and technology leaders can now apply to the NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)'s Challenges through a Challenge Call for 2025. Project proposals must be submitted no later than midnight on Thur 10 July. The aim is to seek out innovative dual use (military and civilian), deep tech solutions to the NATO member nations' defence, security and resilience capabilities.

10 challenge areas have been announced for 2025. Selected applicants will participate in DIANA's six-month Accelerator Programme, starting from Jan 2026. As well as providing a funding grant of €100,000 up to €300,000 and access to the markets of NATO member states, the programme will also facilitate access to a network of more than 180 test centres from across the Alliance, deliver professional advice from experienced mentors and experts, and create opportunities to establish contacts with investors.

The SVK MOD is seeking innovations with the potential to fundamentally impact the future of defence and security. DIANA represents a unique opportunity for start-ups and research teams to develop their technologies and apply them in the NATO environment. Slovakia wants to actively partake in shaping modern defence as the key to strengthening its technological sovereignty.

Applicants can submit their proposals via: <https://www.diana.nato.int/challenges.html>. For more information, you can also go to <https://www.mosr.sk/severoatlanticky-akcelerator-pre-obranne-inovacie-diana/> or send an email to diana@mod.gov.sk.

■ A Visegrád Four (V4) Chiefs of Defence Meeting – with SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko in attendance – was held on 3-4 June in Poland, to confirm the importance of cooperation, stronger regional defence, interoperability of the Forces, and the readiness to jointly address security challenges in Central Europe.

■ During Ex Slovak Shield 2025, soldiers of 12 Inf Regt Nitra, 91 Engr Regt Sered, 54 MLRS Bn Rožňava, and 21 Sp Arty Bn Michalovce collected and dropped off food donations at the Centre for Children and Families in Trenčín.

■ 221 junior soldiers marked the completion of their basic military training with a Pass Off Parade at 7 Trng Regt Martin. Pte Róbert Hodák was named Best Graduate of the intake, and Sgt Štefan Macko and Sgt Peter Hanus were named Best Instructors of the Training Company.

■ Working closely with the National Transfusion Service, HQ 2 Inf Bde Prešov prepared a 'Drop of Blood' donation drive at Prešov Garrison Club for military personnel and the public on 2 June.

■ The village of Iľhany was hit by a strong local torrential storm on 2 June. The flood detention basins, built in 2015 by Military Forests and Estates (VLM), contained the flood water surge and prevented possible large-scale damage. VLM employees and equipment are now cleaning the structures to prepare the basins for future downpours.

■ The International Military Sports Council (CISM) Congress in Sri Lanka's Colombo decided that the 48th CISM 2026 World Parachuting Championships will take place at Boľkovec airport near Lučenec in Slovakia on 14-23 Aug 2026, with the Dukla Military Sports Centre and the SVK MOD as the organisers. 38 countries from all over the world, including the CISM President, have confirmed their participation. This will be the 7th World Championships in this location and the 3rd CISM World Championships in Slovakia. Slovakia was represented at the Congress by Lt Lucia Vičáková (SVK Dukla).

■ On 2-6 June, a week-long professional development workshop for RC Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps chaplains and deacons took place in Badin. Bishop František Rábek welcomed the participants and explained his role of the Apostolic Administrator as his successor, Padre Pavol Šaigalik, takes over as Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps in Oct 2025. In addition to regular spiritual exercises, the programme also featured lectures from Mons František Trstenský, Mons Tibor Hajda, and Padre Štefan Fábry.

■ On 5 June, Trenčín Aircraft Repair Company and ProLab Engineering gave a presentation of an unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) prototype designed for emergencies in difficult conditions – especially for extinguishing fires in mountainous terrain, evacuating people, and handling rescue equipment in the ruins of buildings.

■ The new Military Forests and Estates (VLM) administrative building in Malacky has won yet another prestigious award – the Slovak Wood Processors Association recognised the building with the Wood Building of the Year Award in the Other Buildings category, as well as winning a Special Prize for its 3rd place in an online public vote.

■ A Civil Protection (CP) training exercise at Červený Kameň Castle was co-organised by the Slovak National Museum, the Crisis Management Operations Branch of Pezinok County Office, and the officer cadets of the SVK Military Academy under the 'Training Populations for the Defence of the State' Concept. Children from primary schools tried out personal protective equipment (PPE), orienteering, self-defence, grenade throw, and other practical skills.

■ On 5 June, 53rd Fld Svcs Bn Hlohovec Barracks was filled with elementary and secondary school pupils and students and children of the Battalion personnel. Local soldiers prepared a day full of fun, static and dynamic demonstrations, and a meeting with real heroes. Among the co-organisers of the 'Safe City' event were the mayor of Hlohovec, Police Dept Hlohovec, City Police Hlohovec, Prison and Court Guard, Fire and Rescue Service Hlohovec, and Voluntary Civil Protection. In addition to military and police live action demonstrations, children saw FC Spartak Trnava's Slovnafť Soccer Cup on display and the SVK Guard of Honour Show. Military goulash soup was not to be missed out on, nor was the foam show!

■ Soldiers, civilian employees and members of the CZE and SVK Integrated Rescue Systems took part in the Iron Engineer Obstacle Race 2025 at Bechyň airport in the Czech Republic. Among the 26 mixed teams, the SVK team – PFC Samuel Barma, 2Pte Maroš Drábik and 2Pte Radka Matúšková from 902 Engr Bn Michalovce – completed the more than 10km course with 30 obstacles and took 2nd place.

■ CDR 11 SVK AF BDE Col Ján Koreň opened the 13th Slovak Armed Forces Racquet (Tennis, Badminton and Squash) Championships. 26 SVK soldiers battled it out at the Tennis Centre in Chrenová and the City Sports Hall in Nitra. In tennis, Pte Juraj Gajdoš of the SVK Military Academy and Sgt 1C Katarína Gablasová of the Armed Forces Personnel Office took home the Tennis Cups. In badminton, a female member of 51 Training Base Žilina and 1Lt Vladan Pevný of 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen placed 1st. In squash, Sgt 1C Patrik Babindaľ of 13 Mech Bn Levice and Sgt 1C Katarína Gablasová of the Armed Forces Personnel Office achieved a first place finish overall.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents secondary school students on the Personal and Property Security Programme in Nitra at 21.05 on Fri.

DIANA

Ex Strong Lineage 2025



(7 June) Taking part in Ex Strong Lineage 2025, running from 28 May to 11 June, the NATO Multinational Brigade Slovakia (MN BDE SVK) has been exercising NATO's force projection and joint operations concepts. Activated for the exercise

– to assess the Battlegroup's capacity to scale up to a full brigade – were its units stationed in their home garrisons and on standby to deploy at short notice to Slovakia. HQ 82 Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín and ESP liaison elements worked together to support the reception, staging, and onward movement (RSOM) of these Allied forces. Before the integration phase, the reparatory phase saw a tent camp being set up for the needs of Spain's "Galicia" VII Brigade (BRILAT) by 53 Fld Svcs Bn Hlohovec. 22 soldiers of Recce Coy from 12 Mech Bn Nitra, part of 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany, have been assigned to the NATO MN BDE SVK and five SVK soldiers have been embedded in HQ MN BDE SVK. Nearly 2,000 troops from Czechia, Portugal, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Türkiye are taking part, with 410 combat vehicles and five ESP military helicopters operating out of 46 WG Kuchyňa.

SVK troops depart for Latvia

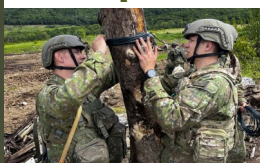
(2 June) 103 CBRND BN Rožňava hosted a departure ceremony for 28 members of the Battalion deploying to Latvia in support of NATO's eFP. The unit – made up of two stand-off detection teams, two recce teams, a national support element, and liaison officers – will be integrated into the NATO MN BDE LVA. Among those showing support and saying goodbye to the members of the 2nd CBRND rotation were CDR SVK ARMY Maj Gen Ivan Balog, CDR 103 CBRND BN Lt Col Anton Kardoš, local authorities and security officials. In their remarks to the departing troops, Maj Gen Ivan Balog and Lt Col Anton Kardoš highlighted NATO's eFP mission in the Baltics, their personal conviction about the Unit's readiness for this mission, and wished the soldiers good luck on their deployment.

CSEL Conference in Lisbon



(4 June) Portugal's Lisbon was the venue for the 21st International Command Senior Enlisted Leaders (CSEL) Conference, or ICC, hosted by ACO's current CSEL CWO Kevin Mathers (CAN N). Representing Slovakia at the conference was the CSEL of the Slovak Armed Forces, Sgt Maj Imrich Fekete. The ICC opened the key topics of the Alliance's future, ranging from defence, strategic challenges, transformation priorities in multidomain operations, through digital transformation, cyber threats and AI to modern military technologies and lessons learned from conflicts. Another important part of the discussion was in relation to the essential role of CSEs in the Armed Forces. The discussants agreed their mission is to make sure that the NCOs and Other Ranks are well-educated, professionally-qualified, and morally strong to build a healthy combat culture and that they can counter the evolving threats of the modern battlefield.

Live explosives training



(3 June) Under the leadership of Instructor of the SVK Military Academy (AOS)'s Military Tactics and Art of Operations Dept Lt Štefan Krivjanský, 4th-year officer cadets (OCs) on the Security and Defence of the State Study Programme with the Combat Engineer (CE) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) undertook training in blasting operations with live explosives. Blasting work to open up passages in obstacles, supervised by MSgt Kamil Makkay, was supported by a team led by Lt Tatiana Ridožňová from 902 Engr Bn Michalovce. The aim was to prepare the OCs for real-life situations, so that the future engineer officers would apply their acquired professional knowledge and skills to handling, storing, transporting and using explosives. The OCs practised setting up explosive devices, issuing commands, and destroying structural elements made of various materials. Before that, they calculated explosive charges for blasting and the detonation parameters. The live explosives training will culminate with their final exam in the Explosives and Destruction subject on 23 June. On completion of the training, the CE OCs will be able to plan, design and conduct blasting operations and training with live explosives.