



Memorandum of Cooperation

(10 June) The Slovak Defence Ministry and the Slovak Cities Union signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to forge a long-term partnership in organising a programme of military- and sports-themed activities to get primary school pupils moving and learning throughout Slovakia.

It is in the interest of both parties to the Memorandum – signed by Secretary General of the MOD Service Office Peter Krajčirovič and President of the Slovak Cities Union Richard Rybníček – to provide systemic support for activities that will help develop young learners' physical fitness, teamwork, and basic life-saving skills.

The MOC: encourages military- and sports-themed activities in schools and urban communities to build children's fitness and resilience levels; promotes exercises and games to improve teamwork and movement skills; delivers lectures from military personnel on national defence, PT, first aid, the mission, structure and tasks of the Armed Forces; incorporates military- and sports-themed competitions with the aim of getting children active and interested in defending their country; and offers summer day and residential camps.

The MOD sees this cooperation as an essential step in developing young people's civic responsibility, patriotic pride and national identity, and readiness to face today's challenges. Commenting on the programme, Secretary General of the MOD Service Office Peter Krajčirovič said: "We are taking all steps to introduce children to the work of soldiers and give them the basics of military training through military- and sports-themed activities and team exercises. We also want to cultivate patriotism in children. Our cooperation with the Slovak Cities Union will allow us to bring these values closer to primary school learners throughout Slovakia. School children are potential future members of the Slovak Armed Forces." In his statement, President of the Slovak Cities Union Richard Rybníček said: "Thanks to our cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, the values of patriotism will be instilled in primary school children in a safe and playful way. To them, the summer camps will bring a supervised learning environment, new experiences, and a keen interest in the values of shared responsibility, solidarity and service." The scheduled events will begin in the summer months and in the upcoming school year.

MINDEF recognises ESP Ambassador

(9 June) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák received the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Slovak Republic, Her Excellency Ms Lorea Arribalzaga Ceballos at the MOD in Bratislava as she completes her Diplomatic Service appointment in the country. On this occasion, he presented her with the Commemorative Medal of the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic 1st Grade (Gold) to recognise her active and meritorious contributions in pursuit of strengthening the SVK-ESP defence relationship and building the NATO Multinational Brigade Slovakia (MN BDE SVK), where Spain plays a key role as the Framework Nation (FN). The meeting took place shortly before the official visit of His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain to Slovakia.



His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain visits Training Centre Lešť

(11 June) His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain made a two-day working trip to Slovakia on 10-11 June. On Tue, he was welcomed to the Presidential Palace by President Peter Pellegrini, in the presence of DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák. On Wed, they together inspected the ranks of the NATO MN BDE SVK on Ex Strong Lineage 2025 at TC Lešť. While there, Mr Kaliňák praised the ESP deployment for marking a development in the SVK-ESP defence relationship – Spain plays a significant role in building and leading the NATO MN BDE SVK. As His Majesty King Felipe VI toured TC Lešť, he noted his appreciation for the "universality" of the Centre – that was playing host to Ex Strong Lineage 2025, a certification exercise, the success of which confirmed the Battlegroup's warfighting readiness and granted it NATO certification. With Spain in command of the NATO MN BDE SVK for a year now, Mr Kaliňák said: "His Majesty King Felipe VI has come to personally inspect the progress made in the Brigade's certification process. TC Lešť has created unique conditions for comprehensive training and combined exercises in the Alliance." He went on to add: "The NATO multinational battlegroups have been scaled up to brigades to act as a safeguard in the event of an escalation of the conflict, which could potentially spread to other parts of Europe." The NATO MN BDE SVK is led by ESP in partnership with other troop-contributing Allies – CZE, PRT, ROU, SVK, SVN, and TUR.



- Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of UNTSO Maj Gen Patrick Gauchat (CHE A) presented Lt Col Stanislav Miščík (SVK A) with a **Letter of Commendation** as he completes his mission as Chief of the Observer Group Golan - Tiberias (OGG-T), based in Israel. He was recognised for his professional leadership of OGG-T, exemplary service, and creating a positive working environment. He greatly contributed to improving the cooperation between the UN Forces and the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in the Golan Heights, which allowed the reopening of Observation Point 52 – OP52 is now fully used by UNTSO and UNDOF.

- Under the guidance of the Specialist Training Section of the Training and Military Working Dog (MWD) Branch, Vikanová-Hronsek MP Dept, MP officers underwent **basic alternate insertion and extraction training**. They focused on the Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System (FRIES) and the Special Portal Insertion/Extraction (SPIES) operations, both day and night. The training was supported by a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter. Concurrently, a refresher course to qualify MP officers for FRIES and SPIES operations was conducted by an instructor of 51 SOF Training Base Žilina.

- 12 AOS OCs – pilots, ATC controllers and technicians – successfully completed their studies at the Aviation Faculty of the Technical University in Košice. Eight of them passed with distinction and earned the 'Red Diploma'. OC Richard Rindoš and OC Tomáš Koliwoška were named Best Graduates of the Year and received the Dean's Award. At the graduation ceremony, they were promoted to the first officer rank of Lieutenant.

- Members of the SVK Military Aviation Authority (MAA)'s Air Traffic Branch completed a three-week **Specific Operations Risk Assessment for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS-SORA 2.0 and 2.5)** at the EUROCONTROL Aviation Learning Centre in Luxembourg on 9 June. The course provides a comprehensive understanding of the risk assessment process and its practical application for safe UAS operations. The Military Aviation Authority will use the knowledge in its work with the civil sector.

- DEP CDR 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen Lt Col Miloš Pešta opened the 11th edition of the annual 24-hour **'Capt Edmund Makovinsk' Memorial Basic Combat Skills Competition** on 9 June. Five four-member teams battled it out in tactical, communications, medical and CBRN challenges. They continued with a shooting competition and a 26km tab (march at a fast pace with a weighted rucksack). On Day 2, after crossing a contaminated area, they set up communications and transmitted a Morse code message. Blindfolded, they disassembled and reassembled the Sa-58 assault rifle and the Pi-82 pistol. Next, they completed an obstacle course. They were also tested on aircraft recognition, medevac, and 15m AKTIS truck pull. The 1 Radio-Technical Recce Coy team from NOPCEN Prešov took 3rd place, the Spt Coy team from SVK AF HQ Zvolen finished 2nd, and the winning OPCEN team received the Challenge Trophy from CDR 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen Col Patrik Paulovič.

- On 10-11 June, Bratislava Garrison Command organised the 2nd edition of the annual **Football Tournament** for SVK soldiers, secondary schoolers and college students at the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica. Ten 12-member teams, divided into two groups, took part. The first group consisted of secondary schoolers from Banská Bystrica and Zvolen and students from Matej Bel University, while the second group was made up of teams from AOS, Bratislava GAR COM, 81 WG Sliach, 11 AF BDE Nitra, and 1 MECH BDE Topoľčany. The Challenge Trophy was won by students from Secondary Sports School in Banská Bystrica, followed by OCs from AOS and students from Matej Bel University in 2nd and 3rd places. The event concluded with a concert by the Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica and pop singer Adam Ďurica at the Dukla Sports Hall.

- 47 AOS OCs along with Capt Martin Koziak took part in the **8th International Police Association (IPA) Night March/11th IPA March** – held under the auspices of President of the Czech Republic Petr Pavel – in Czechia's Hranice, with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the Armed, Police and Security Forces and the public.

- The 'Meeting With Those Who Fought For Us' event brought together veterans of the Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq wars, WW2 veteran Vladimír Strmeň, and the public at the SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica on 13 June.

- The SVK Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps invites you to the **27th National Pilgrimage to Levoča** on 5-6 July. As part of it, the **4th (60km) Military Walking Pilgrimage to Levoča's Marian Hill** will take place on 4-5 July. Those interested in attending can get in touch with your chaplain of the Bishopric.

- During Pentecost, Dean of SVK AF HQ Lt Katarína Zatková, from the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Office in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps, visited SVK soldiers serving with **EUFOR Op Althea** in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to Camp Butmir, she toured the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) sites in Foča, Višegrad and Novi Sarajevo.

- The Aviation Museum Košice invites you to an exhibition titled **20th Century Aircraft Armament and Systems**. Collection items from the Slovak Technical Museum/Museum of Military History collections present a wide range of technical equipment, cannons, bombs, guided and unguided missiles, and support systems. The exhibition runs until 2 Nov.

- Shooter **Patrik Jány (SVK Dukla)** achieved an excellent 4th place in the 3x20 shots finals at the World Cup in Munich, narrowly missing out on a medal. He also achieved 4th place in the 10m air rifle.

- Race walker **Dominik Černý (SVK Dukla)** is a step closer to qualifying for WAC in Tokyo after his personal third-best time of 1:21:39 in the 20km Race Walk at the 51st International Race Walking Festival in Lithuania's Alytus.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents leadership training for young NCOs at the NCO Academy Martin at 21.05 on Fri.

UASs swarm the skies over Trenčín

(9 June) Working with Airvolute as a SVK industrial partner, Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN) hosted an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Demonstration Day to showcase advanced UAS capabilities to Armed, Police and Security Forces. UASs are increasingly vital as a powerful tool in defence and security operations. Used in a wide variety of roles – whether reconnaissance and monitoring or offensive operations and tactical responses, they represent a modern system of the present and a strategic defence solution of the future.

The future of F-16 MRO services

(12 June) DEPMINDEF Martin Vojštašovič met with representatives of Norway's Kongsberg Aviation Maintenance Services (KAMS) and Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN). KAMS, a Lockheed Martin-licensed F-16 Falcon Service Centre, has 40 years of experience in aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services. For Slovakia, LOTN-KAMS cooperation is of strategic importance. In a statement, Mr Martin Vojštašovič said: "LOTN and KAMS will enter into a joint venture in Trenčín. It will provide MRO services to our Slovak Air Force F-16s and enable us to offer them to other F-16 operators in Central and Eastern Europe. The project will bring new technical professions and specialities not only to the SVK defence industry, but also to the entirety of the region."

Students' placements in the Forces

(11 June) 19 third-year female and 8 male students on the 'Personal and Property Security' Programme at Sečovce Joint School have completed work-based training placements in the Forces. The three-week work placements at Trebišov Garrison, under the guidance of instructors from 21 Mech Bn Trebišov, allowed the secondary schoolers to adapt to the Army environment – gain real military work experience, knowledge and skills, build teamwork, cultivate a strong sense of discipline, and take personal responsibility for their actions. After graduating from the programme, the graduates are predestined for service in the Armed, Police and Security Forces.

Zapletalová shines in Oslo

(12 June) With her personal second-best time of 54.44sec, athlete Emma Zapletalová of the Dukla Military Sports Centre achieved an excellent 2nd place in the women's 400m Hurdles at the Diamond League Bislett Games 2025 in Norway's Oslo. Zapletalová, coached by Bram Peters (NLD), met the strict qualifying time of 54.65sec for the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo in Sept. After sprinter Gabriela Gajanová (800m) and race walker Dominik Černý (35km race walk), she is the third Dukla athlete to qualify for WAC Tokyo. In Oslo, she was only surpassed by former Olympian Dalilah Muhammad (USA) with a time of 53.34sec. Gianna Woodruff (PAN) finished 3rd with a time of 54.45sec. The 25-year-old SVK athlete, who grew up in the Nitra Athletics Club, completed in the Diamond League for the fourth time and pulled off her lifetime best achievement.

Veterans take on Mt Ďumbier

(14 June) Among the veterans, soldiers and the public taking part in the 7th 'Veterans' Ascent of Mt Ďumbier' were DEPMINDEF Martin Vojštašovič, COS OPS (DS) Brig Gen Roland Sabolčík, and AOS Commandant Brig Gen Aurel Sabo. At the WW2 Memorial near the Štefánik Chalet, participants paused to lay wreaths in honour of the SNP heroes. This year, favourable weather allowed the climbers to summit Mt Ďumbier. On their return, they were treated to "Veterans' goulash" and an opportunity to chat with WW2 partisan Vladimír Strmeň.

