



Sts Cyril and Methodius Day

(5 July) Without Sts Cyril and Methodius's mission to Great Moravia, it would be impossible to talk about the SVK people's cultural and political independence or national sovereignty, PM Robert Fico said in his speech at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Feast Day celebrations at Devin Castle, highlighting that despite the over the 1000-year-long absence of its territorial, cultural and political autonomy, our Nation has preserved its identity to this day.

The nation-wide Cyrillo-Methodian celebrations at Devin Castle – held under the auspices of the SVK Gov Office – were organised by the MOD closely liaising with the Interior and Health Ministries. With free admission, visitors to the event could explore an all-day programme of historical and cultural entertainment.

In his speech addressing the nation, President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini stated that national holidays should not be appropriated for one's own personal use, since they belong to all citizens. We should celebrate them in their diversity, because they form a complex of identity. They should not divide us, nor should they be abused for political or other purposes. "Slovakia and its national holidays give us a mosaic of values on which our country and our nation are being built. Each of them represents something different, but together they give a picture of the values on which we stand. It would not be good for us to prefer only one holiday we like or hold close to our heart," Pellegrini said, encouraging SVK citizens to commemorate all of Slovakia's national holidays with as much dignity as the Feast Day of Sts Cyril and Methodius.

"Let us draw inspiration from Sts Cyril and Methodius in our domestic and foreign policy. Let us support the values of education, culture and mutual understanding at home," Parliamentary Chair Richard Raši pointed out in his remarks to the audience, adding: "And let us insist with the same urgency on peaceful coexistence of nations, tolerance and diplomacy." At the Great Moravian Church at 16:15 on Sat, the 'Our Father' prayer was recited in Old Church Slavonic in an ecumenical worship service, led by Chaplain-in-Chief of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service Col Viktor Sabo, Vicar General of the RC Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps Col Jozef Michalov, and Chaplain of the Police Academy Maj Milan Bartko, to mark the 1162nd anniversary of the arrival of the two Byzantine missionaries in what is today our territory.



Homecoming parade for soldiers returning from missions and ops

(4 July) With 360 SVK military personnel standing in formation at 12 Mech Bn Nitra, DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher attended the homecoming parade and medal presentation ceremony for 203 SVK soldiers who received the Operational Service Medals and the War Veteran Cross after returning from their tours of duty abroad. "Your professionalism and dedication to the Armed Forces on your deployments have added to a good foundation to increase our country's resilience in the rapidly changing foreign policy situation," Mr Melicher stressed in his speech at the ceremony. According to him, the Armed Forces are ready to keep upgrading their capabilities and are capable of meeting today's challenges and providing the citizens with a sense of security. "For the MOD and the entire country, it is always encouraging to receive positive feedback on your work, whether from officials at the highest levels of Mission Command or from ordinary people. I proudly join them in recognising your work and thanking you for your discipline, professionalism and determination to take your tasks all the way through to completion," Mr Melicher added.



Eleven AOS OCs received their Bachelor's diplomas from the Technical University of Košice (TUKE)'s Aviation Faculty. Among them, two graduates stood out: they graduated with distinction ("red diplomas") and received the Dean's Award for excellent academic results and exceptional commitment.

Lt Soňa Naštická MD and Lt Patrik Ivančíko MD graduated as medical professionals from the Defence University of Brno (UNOB)'s Military Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové and received their diplomas in a ceremony attended by CZE Defence Minister Jana Černochová.

Pre-deployment training (PDT) for NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) at 7 Trng Regt Martin's Peace Support Operations Training Unit (PSOTU) was exceptionally combined with pre-deployment training for the military staff to be posted to NATO and EU institutional structures. The training focused on basic and operational skills and country-specific considerations. U.S. Army soldiers contributed with a 'Key Leaders Engagement' lecture to the training programme, which concluded with a pre-deployment field training exercise in English.

On 3 July, the Slovak Bishops' Conference (KBS) has announced that Bishop-Elect Pavol Šajgalik OFMCap will receive episcopal consecration and will be installed as the new Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps on 18 Oct in Bratislava, with Ordinary Emeritus Mons František Rábek – the Apostolic Administrator of the SVK RC Bishopric until the new Bishop takes possession of the office – as the main consecrator.

Mons František Rábek, Apostolic Administrator of the SVK RC Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps, made a pastoral visit to SVK UNFICYP peacekeepers in Cyprus on 1-2 July 2025.

To celebrate the 19th anniversary of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Office's establishment in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps, between 30 June and 1 July, the EPS chaplains gathered for a meeting and an ecumenical worship service in the EPS Office and Chapel in Bratislava.

With the ESPCON CDR in Slovakia and other ESPCON soldiers present at a ceremony at 46 Kuchyňa Wing on Sat 28 June, there was a change of Spanish military chaplains – Padre Jose Maria Goyarrola took over from padre Juan Luis Garcia Rodriguez, both members of the Military Archbishopric of Spain, and led his first Holy Mass in Spanish in Slovakia, co-celebrated by Slovak Air Force Chaplain and Titular Dean Maj Slavko Ganaj.

Last month, regular training of Active Reserves (AR) soldiers was carried out at 7 Trng Regt Martin, with a focus on mobilisation, psychological, tactical, drill, topographical, communication, marksmanship, medical, engineer, CBRN and leadership tasks under orders from commanders of individual levels of command, in accordance with the training schedule.

For 400 secondary schoolers from Sereď, Galanta, Dunajská Streda and Trnava, engineers from 91 Engr Regt Sereď prepared an emergencies training package, supported by Sereď City Council, SVK UN Veterans Association, Soldiers' Union – Sereď Branch, Fire and Rescue Services, and Trnava Self-Governing Region. The aim was to train students for different crisis situations. The schools want to continue with the training every year.

The Institute of Military History Bratislava is working on the Military History Museum's exhibition design and content for its new Exhibition Hall 4 (H4) in Piešťany, putting Army vehicles, armament and equipment since 1945 in the spotlight. In addition, preparatory work is underway to modernise Exhibition Halls H1 and H2 to house a collection of air assets – including aircraft and helicopters restored by LOTN.

60 voluntary blood donors came to the traditional 'Ružomberok Drop of Blood' event, co-organised by the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok and the Ružomberok Residents Civic Association on 1 July. Three donors rolled up their sleeves for the cause for the first time.

Canoeist Peter Kizek of the Dukla Military Sports Centre took 4th place in the C1 U23 Men 1,000m Final Race at the 2025 ECA Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint European Championships in Pitești, Romania.

President attends graduation and commissioning ceremony for AOS OCs

(4 July) The General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Class of 2025 Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony in Liptovský Mikuláš was honoured by the presence of President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini. In his speech to the graduating class, the President acknowledged the importance of the Academy in the State's defence system, praised the OCs' decision to dedicate their lives and careers to serving the nation, underscored their exceptional values, courage and readiness to face today's challenges, and drew attention to the necessity for officers to maintain the highest standards with respect to all professional attributes.

The Academy graduated 92 OCs, including 22 women, in four study programmes: Security and Defence of the State;

Electronic Weapons Systems; Military Communications and Information Systems; and Weapon Systems, Weapons and their Components.



For their extraordinary achievements, OC Dávid Regásek received an award from the President, OC Kristína Tesáková was given a MINDEF's gift from DEPMINDEF from Martin Vojtašovič, and OC Dávid Martinkovič was presented the CHOD's Award from DCHOD Maj Gen Miroslav Lorinc.

The ceremony culminated with the Diploma Presentation and Commissioning ceremony at the AOS

Main Hall. Then, Comdt AOS Brig Gen Aurel Sabó presented the best graduates with memorial medals and scientific scholarships for their excellent academic results. The Commandant's Award went to OC Terézia Lišková.

Uniformed pilgrims walk to Levoča



(5 July) This year's 27th edition of the RC Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps Pilgrimage to Levoča started for the fourth time with a walking pilgrimage from Prešov to Levoča on Fri 4 June. 50 SVK military, police and fire-fighting personnel and other members of

the Bishopric reached the area below Branisko, only to be joined by 51 CZE, ESP and SVN troops from the Lešť-based NATO MN BDE SVK, plus another 20 Poles and six Germans. After the Holy Mass in the Minorites Church in Levoča, the pilgrims, accompanied by horse-mounted police officers, walked up Levoča's Marian Hill, where the closing Holy Mass was celebrated by Bishop František Rábek as Apostolic Administrator of the Bishopric, in the presence of the Bishopric's clergy.

Exercise Open Water 2025

(1 July) The Czechia-organised international military diving training – dubbed Open Water 2025 – brought together CZE, SVK and HUN Army divers to work in mixed three-man teams on assignments to professionalise their skillset and teamwork: underwater sawing and drilling, searches for lost objects with metal detectors, and recovery of submerged objects. The comprehensive training allowed them to improve their navigation and tool handling skills in a challenging environment, which is key to running underwater engineering operations safe and smooth. It was a chance for the divers from the three countries to connect and share experiences of best practices and modern tech. For instance, the participants took an opportunity to try out the CZE Army's newly fielded diver propulsion vehicles (DPV).