



National Defence Forces pilot project kicks off

(10 July) The National Defence Forces (NDF) opened their doors to the new reserve candidates once their application process and eligibility assessment for the Operational, Standby and Conscription Reserves were completed. Among those welcomed to Turecký Vrch Training Area were the first intake of 44 people – President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák, Members of Parliament, well-known athletes like MMA fighter Attila Végh and fitness trainer Branislav Martanovič, and other new arrivals.

On Day 1, after familiarisation with the training site, 35 men and 9 women went through the in-processing procedures – paperwork, briefs, and issuance of Army clothing items and equipment for training – before being turned over to their drill sergeants.

Speaking at a press briefing at the start of the NDF pilot training, Mr Kaliňák said: “Ten days ago, on 1 July 2025, Slovakia’s Defence and Security Resilience Act went into force, addressing a host of military, natural and other threats. I want to thank everyone who gathered courage and signed up for the first NDF training. This is especially about having an appetite to make Slovakia more resilient. I am also delighted with people’s response to the NDF Campaign – over 3,000 applications have been registered so far – and by the time the first intake of reserve recruits reported for training, more than 240 applicants to join the NDF had been processed. They will undertake training as early as this autumn. In terms of numbers, we have already exceeded the total strength of the Active Reserves.”

Participants are now undergoing 14 days of intensive training. Every day they have reveille at 05:30hrs and lights out at 21:30hrs. Throughout the day, they are all very busy engaging in physical training sessions and learning everything from the basics of medical, communications, engineer and topographical training, through to the essential elements of tactical combat, marksmanship, defensive and offensive actions, and CBRND. “I have entered the training programme with full respect, because it is neither a camp, nor a reality show – the training is as real as it should be – and none of us will ever ask for special favours or demand some concessions,” Mr Pellegrini said.

For more information, follow the guidance on the NDF website at www.noska.sk or contact the NDF Call Centre on 0960 960 960, where 15 operators are ready 24/7 to answer your questions.



Hello, this is Robert Kaliňák from National Defence Forces

(4 July) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák paid a visit to the NDF Call Centre at NDF Command Nitra to witness first-hand how the Call Centre works in action, discuss the operators’ findings, and establish what interest there is in joining the Operational, Standby, and Conscription Reserves. Interestingly, Mr Kaliňák even handled a phone call with one of the NDF candidates.

The SVK public is most interested in how to fit the NDF training in with their daily working lives, if their days of leave from work will be affected, how long the NDF training takes and what it consists of, what bonuses and benefits there are, and how to apply for the NDF.

These and similar questions are answered by the NDF Call Centre operators on 0960 960 960. More information is available on the NDF website at <https://www.noska.sk/>.

■ At the invitation of Chief of the Cypriot National Guard Lt Gen Georgios Tsitsikostas, Gen Daniel Zmeko visited the Republic of Cyprus from 30 June to 2 July. Discussions centred on today’s security challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean region and ways to expand SVK-CYP defence cooperation. As part of the official programme, Gen Zmeko visited Cyprus Naval Command, SOF Command, and the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.

■ For the first time in Slovakia, the SVK Air Chief’s Secretariat and Vice Air Chief (DS) Col Adolf Daubner organised a preparatory meeting for the **European Air Chiefs’ Conference (EURAC) 2025**. The meeting was attended in person or via video conference by 31 Air Force personnel from 28 EU countries.

■ To meet 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov’s needs, the **T-72 M1 MBT Gunners-Operators Course** was held in collaboration with 7 Trng Regt Martin. While the preparatory phase in Martin focused on theory, assignments on the practical module were undertaken at 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov, with a field training exercise (FTX) on Kamenica nad Cirochou Training Area. The FTX, involving both MBT commanders and gunners-operators, consisted of firing the T-72 M1 MBT’s gun and anti-aircraft machine gun, when stationary and on the move.

■ Members of the SVK Armed Forces GOH participated in a five-day international competition titled “**V4 Garrison Command Patrol**” in Hungary. The main goal of the competition was to compare and enhance the V4 troops’ physical fitness levels and tactical combat and marksmanship skills. In the Teams category, our team led by SSgt Husťý (SVK A) took 3rd place overall. In the Individuals category, Cpl Jonáš (SVK A) won the 3rd place in assault rifle marksmanship.

■ Thanks to the proceeds from this year’s Slovak Armed Forces Charity Gala Evening, the orphans of the soldiers who have died in the line of duty can enjoy a **two-week holiday in Tenerife (ESP)** in a villa offered by Jan Dašovský, Czech philanthropist, supporter of national military traditions, and founder and director of the RAF House Museum.

■ **SLOVCON UNFICYP soldiers in Cyprus** are continuing the tradition of donating blood to those in need. At a time when hospitals are struggling with blood shortages, SVK peacekeepers have donated the most valuable fluid, both in Nicosia and in Famagusta.

■ After the **SVK Military Academy (AOS) Class of 2025 Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony**, Apostolic Administrator of the SVK RC Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps Bishop František Rábek along with Military Chaplain - Dean AOS Maj Tomáš Huda celebrated a Eucharistic Thanksgiving Mass for the graduating class. On the same occasion, eight young parishioners – four OCs and four family members of soldiers – received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Rábek.

■ The Institute of Military History has announced that the **Dukla Observation Tower** will reopen to the public from 10 July after the electricity supply is back up and running.

■ **Sport shooter Patrik Jány** of the Dukla Military Sports Centre proved to be in good shape ahead of the upcoming European Shooting Championships in Châteauroux (FRA), when with a score of 592 points, he placed 3rd in the 3x20 MaP at the Masped Cup in Budapest (HUN).

With a time of 54.51sec, athlete **Emma Zapletalová (SVK Dukla)** proved to be in excellent condition when she won 4th place in the women’s 400m Hurdles at the Monaco Diamond League.

■ **Canoeist Peter Kizek (SVK Dukla)** took 4th place in the C1 U23 1,000m Finals at the European Junior and U23 Championships in Pitești (ROU).

■ **Slalom canoeist Ivana Chlebová (SVK Dukla)** finished 10th in the women’s K1 event at the U23 World Championships in Foix (FRA), with Eva Alina Hočevár (SVN) being the winner.

SVK Military Academy presents Bachelor’s Degree Certificates

(11 July) The SVK Military Academy presented the Bachelor’s Degree Certificates to the graduates of the undergraduate programmes in a ceremony at Liptovský Mikuláš.

On completing their undergraduate studies in the Academy’s four study programmes: (1) Security and Defence of the State, (2) Electronic Weapons Systems, (3) Military Communications and Information Systems, and (4) Weapons Systems, Weapons and their Components, a total of 71 Officer Cadets, including 17 women, received their Bachelor’s Degree Certificates from the hands of Comdt AOS Brig Gen Aurel Sabó.

For their excellent academic achievements, gifts and scholarships were awarded to the Academy’s best Officer Cadets in each of the study programmes: Bc. Pavol Kubica (1), Bc. Marek Caban (2), Bc. Lucia Filová (3), and Bc. Filip Duchoň (4).

The ceremony culminated with the official awarding of the PhD title to Maj Martin Bakič on his successful completion



Diplomats at Kuchyňa AB

(12 July) 30 participants of the ‘Summer School of Diplomacy’ – organised by the SVK Defence Staff under the oversight of DCOS Plans Brig Gen Marek Banas – visited Kuchyňa Air Base. Spanish Defence Attaché Col Francisco C. Martínez Vázquez attended the educational event for young diplomats who received briefs on the Spanish Contingent’s operations in Slovakia by COM NATO MN BDE TF SVK Col Angel J. Espiga Gómez (ESP A) and CHIEF STRATCOM Col Jésus Marco Vila (ESP A).

Presidential GOH ceremony

(8 July) Members of the Slovak Presidential Guard of Honour stood in formation in a ceremony at Dukla Barracks in Bratislava, while Capt Maroš Bejd read out the orders of CDR SVK PRES GOH Col Marián Mášiar on the presentation of awards for exemplary performance of duties and the Chief of the Presidential Military Office’s personnel orders for the newest soldiers of SVK PRES GOH. On successful completion of their intensive training, five new soldiers are now qualified to serve with SVK PRES GOH.

Journeymen in Logistics Guild

(7 July) A ceremonial act of admission of the first journeymen to the newly established Army Logistics Guild took place in the SVK Military Academy (AOS)’s Auditorium, in the presence of Comdt AOS Brig Gen Aurel Sabó, Dep Comdt for Education Col Michal Turčaník, elders of the Guild Prof (Col in Res) Martin Petrůf and (Col in Res) František Gubáš, and other guests. The act of admission to the Guild – led by Master of the Army Logistics Guild and Assistant Lecturer of the AOS Logistics Dept Soňa Jirásková – was conducted with a ceremonial sword, followed by the presentation of the membership certificates and the final rite of the journeymen’s admission to the Logistics community.

Children’s camps in Smrekovica

(10 July) On 1-10 July, the first children’s summer camp, organised by the Vicariate of the Forces, took place for four dozen children of service and civilian personnel at HOREZZA’s Granite Hotel in Smrekovica in the Great Fatra Mountains. It was led by Maj Slavko Ganaj and Capt Ján Čupalka, both senior military chaplains of the Vicariate. Three ten-day children’s camps in Smrekovica are scheduled for this summer.

Exhibition: Operation Valkyrie

(8 July) The Slovak National Uprising Museum in Banská Bystrica is staging an exhibition titled ‘Stauffenberg and Operation Valkyrie – an assassination attempt on Hitler of 20 July 1944’, a touring exhibition the Museum offers to schools across Slovakia for educational purposes, with the spotlight on the attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler and the personality of Col Claus von Stauffenberg.

