



National Defence Forces

Pass-out Parade

(20 July) The first 40 newly trained NDF reservists swore the Oath of Allegiance at a Pass-Out Parade at the Tomb Monument of M. R. Štefánik on Bradlo Hill on the eve of the 145th anniversary of Štefánik's birth. Among them were President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, MOD SEC GEN Peter Krajčirovič, MPs, senior Civil Service personnel, and even students. They were congratulated on making this pledge of commitment to the Slovak Armed Forces by CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko, CDR NDF Col Ladislav Kisel, and their families and friends.

The MOD is offering SVK citizens an opportunity to join the NDF as a new form of Slovakia's Reserve Forces (RF) to voluntarily engage in the defence of the State. The aim of this initiative is to strengthen Slovakia's resilience by getting our citizens ready to deal with crises and emergencies, while providing them with attractive benefits, professional training, and trade-specific skills that can be used in both civilian and professional settings.

"Since the end of June, more than 600 new reserve recruits have already been processed and the training slots are now being allocated to them. Thousands of citizens have expressed their intent to join the NDF," Mr Kaliňák said, signalling the need to upgrade some of the infrastructure for the NDF training.

"The NDF are primarily intended for SVK citizens who want to spend some of their free time by increasing the resilience of our State and by helping in crisis situations, and for those who want to improve their physical fitness levels, learn new skills, and complete various challenges," Mr Kaliňák said. As a passer-out himself, he appreciated the instructors' support and everyone bonding together as a team.

"I have always valued and respected the Slovak Armed Forces, but since I have had the chance to see soldiers and instructors in action, I am more aware of how demanding their profession is and how much they deserve our respect and recognition," President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini said. The two-week NDF pilot programme began on Turkish Hill Training Area on 10 July. This week it has continued with survival skills training and will culminate on the night from Mon to Tue with a final 24-hour field march, during which they will be putting into practice everything they have learned in two weeks of their training.

Qualified instructors have been provided to the NDF from relevant Army and SOF branches, while 82 Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín has been assisting with the logistics of the NDF training.



65 Reconnaissance Battalion Prešov reaffirms its readiness

(18 July) Elements of 65 Recce Bn Prešov (SVK) and 102 Recce Bn Prostějov (CZE) simultaneously deployed to Kamenica nad Cirochou TA, Veľké Ozorovce GAR TRNG GND, TPC&S Ruská Nová Ves, and 51 WNG Prešov for Ex Clear Sign 2025, centred on a spectrum of intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance (IRS) missions, operational planning, command and control (C2), with the aim of providing accurate and timely intelligence support to the superior commander.

Earlier in July, 22 Recce Regt Prešov's Deep Recce Coy and Recce Coy underwent intensive training to support their core recce skills. They were put through their paces – both physically and mentally – as they overcame an obstacle course, threw hand grenades, completed common military swimming tasks, and applied climbing and rope work techniques, all this under the supervision of the AOS Physical Training & Sports Dept.

For their outstanding results achieved during the training and on the exercise, Cdr 65 Recce Bn Prešov Lt Col Ivan Nagy and Cdr 22 Recce Regt Prešov Col Marián Brinček recognised the best soldiers in a ceremony marking the 11th anniversary of 65 Recce Bn Prešov's formation at 22 Recce Regt Prešov. Also in attendance at the ceremony was the "children's unit" from the children's summer camp, which was underway at Sokolovské Barracks in Prešov.

■ In a mark of Allied solidarity, infants of NATO MN BDE TF SVK took part in a voluntary blood donation drive at the F. D. Roosevelt Teaching Hospital and Polyclinic in Banská Bystrica on 16 July.

■ In the first week of July, the gates of Kuchyňa AB opened its gates to host the Family Day Event. Visitors – welcomed by CDR 46 WNG Defence Staff (DS) Col Peter Výrostek – were treated to static displays of vehicles, weaponry, a C-27J Spartan and an L-410, demonstrations of the Wolf, Gerlach and Patriot II vehicles by 11 Ind Regt, air displays of the F-16 and the L-39 by 81 WNG Sliach, and a demonstration of action against intruders by the Base Protection & Defence Battalion. Along with serving delicious Spanish Paella to visitors, the soldiers of the Spanish contingent showed off their HT-29 Caimans (NH-90) and HT-28 Tiger helicopters.

■ Cdr 22 Recce Regt Prešov Col Marián Brinček visited the J. A. Reiman Polyclinic Prešov's Perinatology Centre - Neonatology Dept to present a bottle and syringe heater for premature babies and other medical equipment, which soldiers purchased from the proceeds of the Regiment's first Military Ball in Feb.

■ English language instructors of the Nitra-based Defence Language Institute (DLI) facility turned up to support the Military Day Camp at 12 Mech Bn Nitra by setting up four stands with English learning activities for kids, giving out sweets as rewards.

■ SVK AF HQ Zvolen and 2 SVK BDE Zvolen played host to a Summer Day Camp for boys and girls of military and civilian families, with children-friendly pursuits prepared by Dean Lt Katarína Zatková of the SVK AF Chaplaincy Service. The programme – with the motto of "Welcome to the Military Driving School" – saw children studying road signs, which, combined with biblical stories, taught them how to walk through life to get to the right place. It also featured military drill, shooting, first aid, excursions and demonstrations of military and firefighting assets before closing with DEP CDR 2 AF BDE Zvolen Lt Col Miloš Pešta's message of thanks and presentation of the Camp certificate to every child participant.

■ The Chaplaincy Service of the SVK Military Academy organised a Bible Day Camp for children on the Liptovský Mikuláš campus. They were in the good hands of Dean of Arc Parish Lt Col Tomáš Huda, Dean of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service Maj Ľubomír Koroš, and officer cadets as volunteers. Along with demonstrations at the AOS Simulation Centre and a tour of the Fire Service Directorate in Liptovský Mikuláš, highlights included an excursion to Orava Castle, horse-riding at the "Mútnik" Horse Farm, and a refreshing dip in an Olympic swimming pool. The event finished off with the Certificate of Attendance ceremony, with Comdt AOS Brig Gen Aurel Sabó in attendance.

■ The SVK Military Academy (AOS)-sponsored Children's University culminated in Liptovský Mikuláš on Fri 18 July. The day started with a history lecture on the Celts, continued with scientific experiments, and wrapped up with children enjoying the Academy's new swimming pool. At the graduation ceremony, participants received their "Little Bachelor's Diploma" from the hands of Comdt AOS Brig Gen Aurel Sabó.

■ Employees of Military Forests and Estates took on the Spartan Beast Race in the Valčianská Valley on 13 July. They successfully conquered the 21-km course with three dozen obstacles and an elevation gain of 1,366m.

■ At the United World Wrestling (UWW) Ranking Series in Budapest on 17-18 July, four wrestlers of the Dukla Military Sports Centre scored points in the men's freestyle under the leadership of their coach Roman Sevcik: Tajmuraž Salkazanov (5th place/74kg category), Boris Makoev (5th place/86kg category), Batiybek Tsakulov (9th place/97kg category), and Akhsarbek Gulaev (12th place/79kg category).

■ Two Dukla athletes shone at the London Athletics Meet, part of the Diamond League series. With her time of 54.08sec – her sixth SVK record this year, Emma Zapletalová improved the SVK record in the 400m Hurdles and took 5th place. With a time of 55.83sec – the second-best performance of her career and her debut at the Diamond League, Daniela Ledecká finished 7th.

Slovak Air Force pilots take part in 2025 Fort Wayne Air Show

(15 July) For the first time, Slovak Air Force pilots from 81 WNG Sliach took part in the Fort Wayne Air Show at Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base (ANGB) in Indiana, USA, where they conducted a static display of the Slovak F-16 Block 70 Fighting Falcon from Morris ANGB, Tucson, Arizona.

The SVK delegation members, led by Col. Adolf Uličný, were welcomed to Fort Wayne by Assistant Adjutant General - Air Brig. Gen. Michael D. Stohler and Commander 122nd Fighter Wing Col. Scott Boatright. As well as showcasing Slovakia's latest fighter jet in the static park, they were delighted to meet 122nd FW pilots to discuss options for further joint training.

The SVK F-16 was among the most visited aircraft at the air show, as were a Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker from Grissom ARB and a Lockheed C-130 Hercules from Kentucky ANGB.



NATO ASG visits Turkish Hill



(16 July) While undergoing the National Defence Forces (NDF) training programme on Turkish Hill Training Area, President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini and DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák met NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy Boris Ruge for talks on SVK Defence. During the meeting with NATO ASG Ruge, the President and the Minister introduced the NDF project, discussed setting up the NATO Indirect Fires COE in Slovakia, and addressed the conclusions of the June NATO Summit in The Hague, where Allies committed to 5% of GDP on defence by 2035. According to the President, Slovakia has been paying special attention to dual-use military-civilian projects such as building hospital, road and railway infrastructure.

MOD welcomes NLD Ambassador



(15 July) DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič welcomed the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Slovakia, His Excellency Jules Gerzon to the MOD in Bratislava. At the bilateral meeting, they discussed SVK-NLD defence cooperation with a strong focus on the defence industry and the potential for joint projects and technological innovations. Their open and substantive dialogue reflected the parties' interest in taking the strategic SVK-NLD partnership from strength to strength.

Cooperation at the heart of NATO



(17 July) SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko hosted POL CHOD Gen Wiesław Kukula in Slovakia. During their discussions, they gave careful thought to the modernisation and transformation of the SVK and POL Armed Forces in light of

the changing security landscape – with the head of the SVK Armed Forces presenting the Innovation and Experimentation Unit to trial new organisational and tactical solutions. Earlier that day, Gen Zmeko and Gen Kukula paid tribute to the service personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice on missions and operations abroad.

Dukla assesses soldiers' performance

(16 July) A comprehensive assessment of 52 ABN BN personnel's physical and mental fitness levels was carried out by the Dukla Military Sports Centre in Banská Bystrica through a general psychological test (GPT) to evaluate the individual's personality traits, temperament, performance motivation, and ability to cope with the psychological states of mind at different stages of physical stress and a physical fitness test (PFT) using physical fitness, movement and endurance as elements of the analysis. Based on the results, soldiers will take some extra training ahead of their Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS).

The IN ANG presented its F-16 Block 40s, A-10 Thunderbolts, UH-72 Lakotas and UH-60 Black Hawks. Taking centre stage at Fort Wayne were the "Thunderbirds", the USAF Air Demonstration Squadron with its F-16 Block

52s. The U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Parachute Team or SOCOM Para-Commandos jumped into the air show to execute precision aerial demonstrations. Also taking to the skies were a B-25 Mitchell "Miss Mitchell" and a P-51D Mustang "Gunfighter" – both from the Commemorative Air Force (CAF)'s fleet of historic aircraft – which wowed viewers with their air display

with a touch of history. Our pilots willingly answered lots of questions as visitors who, getting up close and personal with the SVK F-16, interacted with them to learn more about the aircraft's technical capabilities, pilot training, and Slovakia.