



Kalište will never be forgotten

(13 August) SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš paid tribute to the memory of the victims of the Nazi-burned village of Kalište as well as to that of other villages similarly destroyed throughout the Second World War. The remembrance ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Robert Fico and Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatisation Peter Pellegrini. The act of remembrance formed part of the 11th Meeting of Generations event, organised by the Slovak Anti-Nazi Combatants' Union.

"Fighting for values, such as peace and freedom, is of indisputable significance in every era. The residents of Kalište paid the ultimate sacrifice – with their lives. It is amazing that so many years have elapsed, yet still entire generations of people come together here, so that life can symbolically return to this place even for a while, as we pay our respects to those who for their endeavour to rise up against the Nazis paid a cruel price," said SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš.

He went on to note that even though this is the first time he has been to the remembrance event, it will linger in his mind. "I decidedly recommend that everyone should attend this event in the years to come. This is a message also for young generations who do not remember the event. I was lucky because my parents talked to me about the war and the atrocities that came along with it," he said. He reminded that it is vital to promote traditions and that never ever should we forget that it is always worth fighting for peace and freedom.

The village of Kalište was burned down in March 1945 by Nazi troops and their residents were murdered. Today the village is a national heritage site.



Minister congratulates Grigar

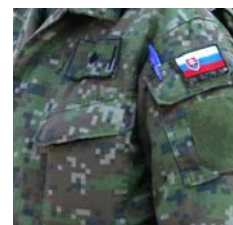
(10 August) The youngest member on the Olympic delegation of the Military Sports Club Dukla Banská Bystrica, 19-year-old Jakub Grigar ended up 5th in his debut performance at the Olympic Games ever. And though, after his thrilling whitewater kayak ride in the semi-finals, he did not reach out for the medal, his performance is still, undoubtedly, a success.

"The performance of our Olympic 'baby of the family' was fantastic. Although it was not enough to secure a medal in the finals, he has everything before him, and I am happy he is part of our military sports centre team. I am in no doubt that he is a warrior role model for junior soldiers as well as for young people. I sincerely extend my congratulation to him, as his 5th place at the Olympics – at the age of 19 – is phenomenal," said SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš.

It was just last month that Grigar placed 1st in the under 23 Men's K1 category at the Junior and U23 Canoe World Championships in Krakow. In 2015, he became the junior world and European champion in whitewater slalom.

Inspection finds no malpractice at Training Battalion Martin

87 basic military training graduates fell victim to medical complications as result of a suspected infectious disease outbreak at the Training Battalion Martin. 57 of them were hospitalised in medical facilities in Ružomberok and Martin, while the rest of them were isolated in a ward at the Training Battalion Martin. On 8 August, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš visited them to familiarise himself with the situation. In his statement, he noted that catering for the battalion is provided by an external contractor. Stringent anti-epidemic measures were taken immediately in a bid to prevent the infection from spreading. Laboratory tests confirmed no presence of infectious bacteria in any of the basic military training graduates. The Defence Ministry's Controls Department established no malpractice on the part of the Training Battalion, nor any wrongdoing on the part of the external catering services contractor. In carrying out inspection checks, the controls team focused on assessing the quality and hygienic standards of food, the organisational arrangements in place for food serving, and hygiene as such. In complying with the framework contract, food was subject to specialist assessment. Despite the fact no shortages were reported, the Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces is to adopt measures applicable across all military units and garrisons in an effort to respond, with a greater impact, to the conditions in which food is delivered. At present, one soldier remains hospitalised, another one is still being isolated in a ward at the Training Battalion in Martin, remaining under increased medical and hygienic supervision. This week the military unit is expected to return to its normal operating regime.



- Running from 30 July to 8 August, the Military Training Area Záhorie hosted the 8th edition of **Slovak Sands 2016**, a get-together of friends and collectors of historic military vehicles and weapons. The event saw the presence of military history fans from Slovakia and abroad and featured a display of historic military vehicles and weapons for the public. The highlight of the happening was a World War II battle re-enactment, bringing together T-34 tanks, numerous tracked and wheeled vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorbikes with sidecars.

- As part of the International Military Education and Training (IMET 2016) programme during the period of 16 June – 4 August, **Sgt 1st Class Jaroslav Spišiak**, Command Sergeant Major of the Mechanised Troop of the 22nd Mechanised Battalion Michalovce, attended, as the only international student, the Advanced Course at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers Academy (SNCOA) of the United States Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, USA. For his exemplary commitment, motivation, results, professionalism, approach, self-discipline and team spirit, he was the first international graduate to be presented with the prestigious **Gung Ho Award**.

- On 11 August, 1st Deputy Chief of Defence Maj Gen Pavel Macko received the **Defence Attaché of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Slovak Republic**, General Staff (GS) Lt Col Rüdiger Heinrich. They focused on the status of affairs in developing bilateral co-operation between the SVK MOD and the Federal Ministry of Defence, with topics of relevance such as military education, armaments, training of Air Force and Land Forces units.

- As part of the 3rd Inovec Camp event, Maj Gen Ondrej Novosad, Commander of Trenčín Garrison, organised **Armed Forces Day** for children from socially disadvantaged families and oncological patients. Week 2 of August saw 7 boys and 12 girls participating in the camp. In spite of the rainy days, spirits were high at the Inovec Chalet. The children were visited by members of the Combat Support Brigade Command, the SVK Land Forces Command Support Battalion, the Engineer Battalion Sereď medical staff, and soldiers from the National Centre EOD and CBRN Nováky and the SVK Armed Force Guard of Honour Bratislava Garrison Command. The kids could try on uniforms, tactical gas masks, CBRN protective suits, weapons disassembly and assembly. They showed great interest in the work of EOD robots, which are used for detecting and eliminating improvised explosive devices (IEDs). What livened up the programme were close combat and first aid demonstrations, not to mention the military working dog (MWD) handlers who showed how to train rescue dogs.

- On Sunday, 7 August, professionals from the Col Gen Ján Ambruš Helicopter Wing Prešov, in co-operation with members of the 22nd Mechanised Battalion Michalovce, accepted the invitation of the mayor of Petrovce and the Slovak Anti-Nazi Combatants' Union. As part of the 44th **Peace Celebrations under Lysá** event, dedicated to all the brave Slovaks who fought on the battlefields of the Second World War, they displayed their weaponry and hardware, and conducted an Mi-17M flypast.

Farewell to US Defence Attaché



(12 August) To mark the end of his diplomatic mission, SVK Chief of Defence Gen Milan Maxim, in the presence of 1st Deputy Chief of Defence Maj Gen Pavel Macko, received Lt Col Matthew D. Atkins, the US Defence Attaché accredited in the Slovak Republic, on Friday. He expressed his Thank You

to the outgoing defence attaché for his initiative, interest and activity, through which he contributed to developing co-operation between the SVK and US Armed Forces. He highly appreciated the advancement of practical military co-operation between tactical units and staffs and underscored the continuation of the highly institutionalised co-operation between the SVK and US forces. Also thanks to Lt Col Matthew D. Atkins, bilateral co-operation has been brought up to a new, qualitatively higher level, and joint training exercises with the US Armed Forces' active involvement have been stepped up. Gen Maxim awarded Lt Col Atkinson with the Chief of the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces Memorial Medal in Silver, 2nd Class, and wished him much success in his next posting. The outgoing US defence attaché expressed his conviction that he will apply the expertise gained in Slovakia also in his new assignment at the Pentagon. He thanked for excellent co-operation and emphasised that, of his four diplomatic postings so far, this was the most beneficial one in terms of professional and personal development.

British pilots at Sliach



(12 August) Three Royal Air Force (RAF) BAE Hawk aircraft touched down at Sliach Airfield on Friday. Instructors from 100 Squadron, RAF LEEMING, along with ground support personnel, will exercise with members of the SVK

Air Force until 25 August. The aim of the training is to conduct fighter aircraft instructor qualification training, which will be concluded with the award of the Close Air Combat Group Leader Specialty Qualification Certificate of Training. After the theory phase, the SVK-UK crews on the Hawks will try out different air combat manoeuvres. The joint training of the Royal Air Force and the Slovak Air Force follows up on long-term co-operation and contributes to promoting above-average relations between both countries. The fighter aircraft instructors training will test their readiness in executing one of the priority tasks – safeguarding of airspace. Visitors to the Slovak International Air Fest (SIAF) 2016 will be able to see one of the RAF BAE Hawk aircraft.

Successful Open Day in Nemšová

(12 August) On Friday, the Brigadier General Jozef Martin Kristín Multifunctional Supply Base – West (MFSB-W), based in Nemšová, hosted the 13th edition of Open Day. It brought on to the grounds of the barracks more than one thousand satisfied visitors who were interested in modern military hardware in service with the SVK Armed Forces, as well as in historic military pieces. The visitors were greeted by Brig Gen Juraj Krištofíči, Deputy Commander of the SVK Land Forces, General Staff (GS) Col Ján Žarnovický, Commander of the SVK Armed Forces Logistics Support Office, and others. The MFSB-W base commander, Lt Col Imrich Nagy, expressed his satisfaction with the Open Day events attracting such huge crowds of visitors. This year they could see T-72 tank driving demonstrations and view combat vehicles, aviation and artillery hardware, personal equipment of members of the Military Police,



EOD teams, Military Firefighting Service, as well as a MAGNI telescopic handler for handling air cargo pallets and a MAN AD 30 crane truck, with the latter having received one of the top

awards at this year's International Defence Exhibition Bratislava (IDEB) trade fair. Also, the visitors could fire airsoft weapons at a firing range, have a tour of the firearms from the Military Museum Piešťany, and try out tactical gas masks and many other pieces in the inventory of the SVK Armed Forces. Young and old people could also witness Soviet and German WWII tanks driving demonstrations. What grabbed the attention of the

crowds was the arrival of an Mi-17 helicopter from the Helicopter Wing Prešov and a parachute drop of the Jozef Gabčík 5th Special Forces Regiment paratroopers from Žilina. The SVK Armed Forces Military Band from Banská Bystrica, led by Capt Ján Goliáš, entertained the public with musical performances.