



Defence Ministers in Brussels

(25 October) Slovakia is and remains an active contributor to NATO missions and operations. This message was confirmed by Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš at the NATO Defence Ministers Meeting in Brussels on 24 Oct 2019.

Defence Ministers discussed NATO's collective resilience against hybrid threats and new technologies. In a session joined by Secretary General of the European External Action Service Helga Maria Schmid and partners from Finland and Sweden, they addressed the options for deepening the cooperation between the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union.

Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "Slovakia is a stable and responsible member of the Alliance, which is why we insist on the need to deliver on the NATO target of spending 2 % of GDP on defence. This is important not only for procurement of new assets and infrastructure development, but also for sustainment of our troops on missions and operations abroad. And, last but not least, for the security of us all."

While in Brussels, Defence Ministers also addressed higher defence spending, burden sharing in collective defence, and the progress made in current initiatives. The future of the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan was high on the agenda. On RSM, Ministers agreed that NATO's presence had a positive impact on stability in the region. They also signed the Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Regional Special Operations Component Command (R-SOCC).

VLM SR joins dual education

(22 October) Military Forests and Estates of the Slovak Republic (VLM SR), a state-owned company, has joined the dual education system. Working in cooperation with the Secondary Vocational School, 108 Jarmočná Street, Stará Ľubovňa, VLM SR provides training for the first intake of students on the Forest Production Study Programme. Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš came to the school's facility in the village of Lomnička to give his support to the pilot project. He praised this practice-oriented dual education programme, which combines practical workshops and field assignments.

Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "Thanks to this project, students have a unique chance to gain hands-on experience still over the course of their study, which will help them find employment on the job market in the future." He added they will be employable by VLM SR as well.

According to Director of VLM SR Branch Kežmarok Michal Dudák, this is a pilot project of great prospects. "We want to demonstrate that young people from marginalised groups of our population are not of peripheral interest to us. Already today, we have serious shortages of workforce," he said.

Five students are currently pursuing the Forest Production Study Programme in the 2019/2020 school year. Over the two-year study programme, they will gain hands-on experience from manual and mechanical wood and metal processing, hunting, forest seeding and planting, forest tree nursery operations, and training with forest equipment. VLM SR will provide scholarship, catering, and protective clothing to the students.

HQ Bratislava Garrison marks 100 years since its establishment

(24 October) HQ Bratislava Garrison marked 100 years since its establishment on 25 October 1919 with a concert by military bands at Slovak Radio and Television's Concert Hall in Bratislava on 24 October 2019.

In his opening speech, State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Marián Saloň said: "Especially through the Slovak Armed Forces Guard of Honour, the Slovak Armed Forces Band Bratislava and the Military Band Banská Bystrica, HQ Bratislava Garrison has successfully represented the Ministry of Defence in the public by organising State protocol activities, thus contributing to strengthening military traditions and the dignity and solemnity of military ceremonies and acts of remembrance throughout Slovakia."

Commander of HQ Bratislava Garrison Col Slavomír Milde welcomed distinguished guests to the concert. In attendance were DCHOD Maj Gen Josef Pokorný, DCHOD/COS Miroslav Lorinc, representatives of the Military Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Slovak Republic, former and serving Central European Capital City Garrison Commanders from Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Ljubljana and Kiev as part of the Capital City Garrison Commanders Cooperation.

HQ Bratislava Garrison was established on 25 Oct 1919, when the Czechoslovak state administration bodies took over power in the city. Lt Col František Frinta served as the first Commander of HQ BA GAR and Col Slavomír Milde is currently serving as the 60th Commander of HQ BA GAR.



- CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko signed the principal documents relating to **Ex Slovak Shield 2019** to be held on 4 Nov 2019 at the Training Centre Lešť.

- Parliament endorsed the Driving Schools (Amendment) Bill 2019, which amends and supplements Act No. 93/2005 on Driving Schools. Thanks to this, the SVK Armed Forces will establish a **military driving school**. No such training facility has existed in the SVK military since 2003.

- Miroslav Úradník, race walker of the Dukla Banská Bystrica Military Sports Centre, scooped Bronze in the men's 20km race walk at the **7th CISM Military World Games 2019** on 25 Oct 2019 in Wuhan, China. Martina Hrašnová won the first medal for Slovakia, when she claimed Silver in hammer throw on 22 Oct 2019.

- Roman Ďurek assumed the appointment of acting **Director General of the MOD's Control Department** on 22 Oct 2019.

- Five cyclists of the Dukla Banská Bystrica Military Sports Centre took part in the Grand Prix Chantal Biya in Cameroon. Thanks to their team spirit, **Marek Čanecký** won two stages of the race, collected the green sprint jersey, and placed 2nd in the overall rating of the bicycle road race.

- Members of the **12th Mechanised Battalion** put military vehicles and equipment on display at the Slovak Paper and Plastic Models Championships on 19 Oct 2019 in Nitra. Held in Primary School on Tulipánová Street, the competition attracted over 1,000 visitors.

- **Pte Martin Foriš**, 4th-year cadet of the Slovak Armed Forces Academy, placed 3rd in Bench Press in the men's Junior 83kg category at the European Equipped Bench Press Championships held on 14-19 Oct 2019 in Tampere, Finland.

- Drivers are advised by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be 31 **Allied road movements** from 28 Oct to 3 Nov 2019 in Slovakia. They will mostly involve CZE and POL troops escorted by MP. As well as ferrying oversized cargo, SVK Army convoys will conduct road moves on the following routes: Nitra – Kolířanský Vrch, Martin – CV Lešť and Sliach – Moldava nad Bodvou.

Full Field Kit this week

For **Ex Slovak Shield 2019**, this year will be unique, says CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko. **What capabilities will the participating units from the Slovak Armed Forces bring to the exercise? You will learn this and more live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat on Regina Radio's Full Field Kit. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and opinions. Please, write to us at plnapolna@mod.gov.sk.**

CSS Bde TN announces names of its Best Soldier and NCO

(22 October) The Combat Service Support Brigade Trenčín (CSS Bde TN) hosted a selection for the Best Other Ranks Soldier and NCO of the Year. Acting on the SVK CHOD's

guidance for selecting the Other Ranks Soldier and NCO of the Year, the panel of judges, i.e. the command sergeant majors of the battalions reporting to CSEL of CSS Bde TN SMG Milan Pavlík, gave an objective assessment of the nominees based on the selection criteria and decided on the winners of both categories.

Cpl Jaroslav Adamkovič, member of CSS Bn Prešov, and Sgt Jozef Šiška, member of Log Bn Hlohovec, were named the Best Other Ranks Soldier and NCO of the Year in CSS



Bde TN. Both winners will represent the Brigade in the selection of service members for the Best Army Other Ranks Soldier and NCO of the Year.

After the announcement of the results, CSEL of CSS Bde TN Sgt Maj Milan Pavlík said: "This competition is a contemporary tradition of the Other Ranks and NCO Corps, which is why I appreciate all of you who have been nominated and competed in this selection amidst fierce competition with other Brigade members." Acting Commander Lt Col Štefan Rigas

congratulated the winners on their victory and expressed his conviction that they will, in an exemplary manner, represent the Brigade in the next round of the selection process.

Jakubianska Road reopens to users

(22 October) The newly reconstructed Jakubianska Road has reopened to local users, providing access to forest lands within the cadastral boundary of Jakubany, a village in northeastern Slovakia. Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš and Director of Military Forests and Estates of the Slovak Republic (VLM SR) Branch Kežmarok Michal Dudák handed over the road for use at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 22 Oct 2019. Reconstruction works to the road were carried out by VLM SR, a state-owned company, as the authority responsible for the road.

Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "As well as providing access to land owners and tenants, the new road will facilitate the development of forestry by broadening the possibilities for the use of forestry vehicles and equipment and allow firefighting and rescue services to better access the area in the event of an incident response." With this move, Minister Gajdoš further said, the MOD has been cooperative towards the best interests of the original owners of land in the former Javorina Military District.

New COS visits Sector 4



(23 October) The newly appointed UNFICYP's Chief of Staff (COS), Col Neil Wright (A GRB), paid a visit to Sector 4, which falls within the Slovak Armed Forces' area of responsibility. The aim of his visit was to introduce himself to the key leaders of Sector 4,

take a tour of Camp Štefánik, and visit patrol bases. During his visit to the camp, Col Wright received a briefing on the main tasks of Sector 4 from SLOVCON Commander Lt Col Rudolf Rusnák and Chief of Operations Cpt Ľuboslav Tóth.

SVK Air Chief's Military Council

(23 October) The Slovak Air Force Headquarters Zvolen (SVK AF HQ ZV) hosted a meeting of the Slovak Air Chief's Military Council, chaired by SVK Air Chief Maj Gen Ľubomír Svoboda.

Topics discussed by the Military Council included the First Amendment to 'Flight-1-4' Regulation, the Mi-17 Technical Servicing and Maintenance Document, and the Second Amendment to 'Flight-1-21' Military Regulation on Military Transport and Foreign Flights.

At the Military Council meeting, Col Martin Kuterka and Col Jozef Paňko were awarded the Badge of Honour (Grade 1), in the presence of Chiefs of Branches (SVK AF HQ ZV), Chief Engineer of Flight Safety Col Ján Salaj (MOD), Director of the Military Aviation State Administration Authority Ľubomír Žák (MOD), and commanders of the units subordinate to the Slovak Air Force.

Run in Honour of Veterans

(24 October) The Ministry of Defence is organising the 6th Run in Honour of Veterans to be held at 11:11 on 11 Nov 2019 at the WW1 Cemetery in Petržalka-Kopčany, Bratislava. Runners can register at my6.raceresult.com/140453/registration?lang=sk.