



## Anniversary of 1918 Declaration

(30 October) Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš and members of the Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini, marked the 101st anniversary of the proclamation of the 1918 Declaration of the Slovak Nation in an Act of Commemoration in Bratislava's M. R. Štefánik Square.

Underscoring the values and timelessness of the Declaration, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "The Declaration of the Slovak Nation was a proud expression of Slovak identity and the Nation's determination to stand up for freedom, independence, and much-desired peace. Given the circumstances, it was a courageous step, one which deserves our attention even today."

The solemnity of the Act of Commemoration was supported by members of the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour and the SVK Armed Forces Band.

## Štefánik Exhibition

(29 October) Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš visited Bratislava Castle to attend the opening ceremony for the exhibition entitled "Milan Rastislav Štefánik, General – Liberator". In his opening remarks, he singled out the strong points of the exhibition thanks to which wider Slovak society can learn more about General Štefánik's life and work. The exhibition has been prepared and presented by the Slovak National Museum in cooperation with the Institute of Military History to mark the 100th anniversary of General Štefánik's death as well as the 140th anniversary of his birth, which Slovakia will commemorate next year.



"The life of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik has, undoubtedly, been a source of innumerable inspirations. Yet, what in his life needs to be highlighted is the fact that, despite his European outlook, he never forgot his nation and he was always delighted and proud to return to it. Equally important, he managed to connect people in an incredible way. This was true during his life and it's been true over the past 100 years since his death," said Minister Gajdoš. He also appreciated the work of all specialists and historians contributing to the exhibition.

## Remembering departed colleagues

(31 October) MOD leaders, civilians and military professionals gathered at the Reconciliation Memorial in the Ministry of Defence to pay respects to the memory of all departed colleagues ahead of All Souls Day.

Reflecting on the occasion, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš said: "It holds true in the Slovak Armed Forces that a team is like a family and because of this we will never forget our departed colleagues. We honour their memory!"

During a separate commemoration at the MOD Hall of Fame, MOD leaders also paid respects to 58 Service personnel who have died in the line of duty on international crisis management missions and operations.

## Handover of Military Police Director's Standard in Banská Bystrica

(30 October) Director of the SVK Military Police Col Michal Migát took over the Military Police Director's Standard from the hands of State Secretary of the SVK Ministry of Defence Marián Saloň in a ceremony at the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Memorial in Banská Bystrica. The Military Police Director's Standard was awarded in recognition of the outstanding work and efforts of MP personnel. "The Military Police Director's Standard is a symbol of pride, professionalism, respect, work recognition and allegiance to Military Police," said Col Michal Migát. He thanked for the Standard and reminded that it is a commitment for all members of the Military Police community to continue performing their duties to the highest standard and promoting national and military traditions into the future.



■ **Ex Clear Sign 2019**, an international training activity for reconnaissance units, running from 28 Oct to 10 Nov 2019 in Czechia and Slovakia, has brought together a training audience from selected units of the Czech Army's 102nd Reconnaissance Battalion and the Slovak Army's ISTAR Battalion. This is the first time that SVK active reservists are attending an exercise abroad.

■ The SVK Ministry of Defence launched a **new version of its website ([www.mosr.sk](http://www.mosr.sk))** on 31 Oct 2019. The redesigned website brings more photo reports and videos that map out events across Defence. While the website's previous version was not fully compatible with mobile devices, the new version fully supports them.

■ Sgt Martin Rusnák, junior assistant of Com Sup Coy, and PFC Roman Balog, senior sniper of 22nd Mech Bn, were named **Best NCO and Other Ranks Soldier of the Year** in the 2nd Mechanised Brigade Prešov.

■ **The Police Firing Course – Level 3** was organised by the Crisis Management, Training and K9 Branch, Military Police Department Vlkonová – Hronek. Course attendees included MP personnel to be deployed on operations abroad and members of the Constitutional Representatives and Diplomatic Missions Protection Office, SVK Ministry of Interior.

■ A **commemorative ceremony** dedicated to Slovak WW2 pilot Augustin Kubovič, participant of the national fight for liberation in WW2, marked the 75th anniversary of his tragic death. A Memorial to SSgt Augustin Kubovič and an information board were unveiled at the site of his aircraft's crash in Štefanovce near Prešov.

■ Drivers are advised by the MOD to drive carefully as there will be **52 Allied road movements** from 4 to 10 Nov 2019 in Slovakia. They will mostly involve CZE and POL troops escorted by MP. SVK Army convoys will also ferry oversized cargo on the following routes: Nitra – Viničné, Martin – Trenčín, Sliac – TC Lešť.

## Full Field Kit this week

**Live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat on Regina Radio's Full Field Kit, listeners will learn about the Western Resistance in Czechoslovak history, as Veterans Day approaches, and the special act of service that earned Sgt Marcel Barčák an office call with the Defence Minister. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and opinions. Please, write to us at [plnapolna@mod.gov.sk](mailto:plnapolna@mod.gov.sk).**

## Slovaks exercise with Portuguese, Poles and Hungarians at Lešť

(30 October) The Training Centre Lešť hosted a familiarisation exercise for members of the Martin-based 11th Mechanised Battalion and Allied troops assigned to the Battalion to train together ahead of Ex Slovak Shield 2019. The aim of the familiarisation exercise was to familiarise the Allied troops – a Portuguese Infantry Company, a Polish Motorised Platoon, and a Hungarian Motorised Platoon – with the standard operational procedures (SOPs) of the Martin-based Battalion and those of the Slovak Armed Forces, so that they could be fully integrated into the Slovak Armed Forces and execute the tasks of the battalion-level tactical exercise. Allied troops undertook joint training, moves, defensive activities, and small arms firing. They did so to go through all the tasks the Battalion would be performing as part of Slovakia's largest military exercise, Slovak Shield 2019, until 16 Nov 2019.



## Cypriot Ambassador bids farewell

(28 October) Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Slovakia, His Excellency Mr Michalis Stavrinou, as his Diplomatic Service appointment draws to an end. During their meeting at the SVK Ministry of Defence, they reviewed the successes of the bilateral defence cooperation and underlined the engagement of Slovak Armed Forces personnel in UNFICYP, Cyprus. During the meeting, Minister Gajdoš updated Ambassador Stavrinou on Slovakia's NATO and EU commitments, progress made in modernising its land and air systems, and participation in PESCO projects.

## MiG-29s up in the air again

(28 October) The MiG-29 fighter jets grounded as a result of the MiG-29 accident of 28 Sept 2019 are allowed to conduct training flights from Thur 31 Oct 2019. Training flights are permitted following the Preliminary Air Accident Investigation Report, the outcomes of which the MOD will not release until the Final Report and the criminal legal investigation, led by an investigator of the Regional Police Directorate Nitra, have been completed to ensure that the integrity of the investigation is not compromised.



## New old commandant of AOS

(30 October) Assoc Prof Jozef Puttera was reappointed Commandant of the M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš by President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová at the Grasalkovich Palace, Bratislava. Also in attendance at the ceremony was Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš. Assoc Prof Jozef Puttera, Commandant of AOS since 2015, completed his studies at the Military Technical College and the Military Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš. He became Associate Professor in Theoretical Electrical Engineering. Over his career, he has undertaken research, development and studies into Military Intelligence and Electronic Warfare. The results of his research and development activities have been published both nationally and internationally. He has contributed to several national and international projects.