



NATO Summit approaches

(1 June) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad participated in a video conference with Allied Defence Ministers, with the final preparations for the upcoming Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government at NATO HQ in Brussels on 14 June 2021 among the issues up for discussion. This meeting was preceded by an online discussion of NATO Foreign Affairs Ministers on the NATO 2030 agenda.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad said: "The strengthening of NATO's collective defence, its resilience against the existing and emerging threats, and current global challenges – these are the themes that call for a common and engaged approach. It is our joint debate on these issues at NATO that gives individual member states, including Slovakia, a role to play, effectively and purposefully, in addressing these challenges." The NATO 2030 agenda, seen as the culmination process of the Alliance's internal reflection, is geared towards adapting NATO to the changing security landscape, so that it is capable of facing the current and future security challenges and threats at scale and with impact.

Ministers also considered NATO's future support to the process of building peace and stability in Afghanistan after the drawdown of Allied forces, which will bring the Alliance's 20-year-long operational engagement in the country to an end.

Lots of interest in MOD grants

(3 June) This year applicants from the NGO sector have submitted a record number of 158 grant applications to the MOD to fund their projects. Having considered 142 legally compliant applications, the grants panel decided to give out grants totalling €320,000 to 50 NGO projects, which accounts for more than three times the amount awarded in previous years. Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad said: "This means supporting the highly important and societally beneficial work of civil associations, foundations, non-profit organisations and other entities in compliance with law, whereas, of course, the projects are geared towards enhancing defence and security." He added that grants had been awarded to projects targeting education, sporting, cultural, social and military themed activities in order to motivate SVK citizens towards patriotism, to raise greater public awareness of NATO and EU issues, to present the SVK Armed Forces in the public, and to protect and preserve cultural and historical heritage with focus on military history. In processing and assessing the bids, the aim of the grants panel was to give support to as many meaningful, high quality and societally impactful projects as possible, consistent with law. All projects that have received grants must be completed by 31 Dec 2021. The Grants Panel Decisions Protocol is available on the [MOD's website](#).

Silberhorn visits MOD

(3 June) Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer met Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister of Defence Thomas Silberhorn at the MOD. Central themes of the meeting included the SVK military's modernisation projects, possible areas of cooperation on cyber security and hybrid threats, deployments on international crisis management missions and operations, and EU-NATO cooperation. The SVK MOD is drafting a new Action Plan with Germany in order to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between the SVK and DEU MODs. Also discussed were the MOD's current plans and visions. Both sides appreciated the SVK and DEU deployments abroad.

New director of Central Military Hospital Ružomberok appointed

(31 May) Assoc Prof Róbert Rusnák MD PhD, the current head of the Neurosurgery Clinic, was appointed the acting Director of the Central Military Hospital – Faculty Hospital Ružomberok with effect from 1 June 2021. He has an employment contract for a definite period of time until the Hospital Director is selected in the official recruitment process. Mr Rusnák began his medical career with the Central Military Hospital 25 years ago. Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad said: "Assoc Prof Rusnák is an experienced and renowned medical professional who has worked in the CMH for long years and he brings experience from managing the Faculty Hospital. This makes me convinced that the internal processes, management and other related challenges will present no problem for him, on the contrary, he will drive the further development and advancement of our state-of-the-art medical facility, which is rated highly by the patients themselves. In doing so, he can rely on full support from the MOD as the hospital's founding authority, and I am looking forward to cooperating with him." The head of the MOD thanked the outgoing interim director, Tomáš Sieber MD MPH. He will move on to work in the Ministry of Health. "He took up the challenge of leading the Central Military Hospital with determination after Mr Lengvarský had left the post, and I am grateful for the contribution he has made to the hospital. I sincerely wish him all the best, every success and the right decisions in his next position," said Mr Nad.



- At the **Bulgarian Citizens Memorial** in Bratislava's Vajanský Square, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer paid tribute to the Bulgarian citizens who lost their lives in the liberation of Slovakia in WW2. The commemorative event coincided with the Day of Hristo Botev and those fallen for Bulgaria's freedom and independence.

- The first four SVK Air Force pilots who are undergoing training with the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson Air National Guard Base conducted their **first F-16 solo flights** without the instructor.

- On 27 May, the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) hosted the **23rd Cadet Scientific Conference** via an online competition for the best expert or scientific paper, with 57 cadets presenting their papers in six categories.

- Students of the Secondary Industrial Machinery School Košice completed a placement working with the **Technical Repairs and Prescribed Works Squadron** at the Helicopter Wing Prešov on 17-28 May.

- **Military chaplains** and employees of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Armed Forces and Armed Corps met to discuss issues of common interest at the Armed Forces Academy (AOS).

- 91 members of the Army Command Support Battalion underwent **intense training** on Turkish Hill Training Area.

- The 28th edition of **Azimuth 24/7**, available on [YouTube](#), presents Ex Combined Effort, an international exercise, involving SVK and POL SBAD, Air Force and Army units.

- As part of the Find Your Home project, members of the Helicopter Wing Prešov organised a sporting event for a Košice-based **children's home** on 31 May. Apart from different outdoor contests, children were treated to military themed activities and were briefed on military jobs. Items of equipment and clothing were on display for view and questions.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as 47 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place in support of Ex Europe Defender 2021, Ex Atlantic Resolve and Ex Brave Warrior 2021 across Slovakia from 7 to 13 June 2021. Over the same period, the SVK Armed Forces will conduct road movements across Slovakia from/to: Zvolen – Trebišov and back, Martin – Lešť, Trebišov – Kamenica nad Cirochou, Martin – Trstená, Milhost' – Michalovce, Zemianske Kostoľany – Lešť and back, Michalovce – Zemianske Kostoľany and back, Zemianske Kostoľany – Zvolen and back, Nováky – Rašov, Sľač – Zemianske Kostoľany and back, Ruskov – Kamenica nad Cirochou, Zemianske Kostoľany – Žilina and back, Zemianske Kostoľany – Trenčín, Zemianske Kostoľany – Trebišov, and Kamenica nad Cirochou – Michalovce. Also scheduled is a SVK military rail movement from Kamenica nad Cirochou to Sása-Pliešovce.

FULL FIELD KIT

on : **RÁDIO REGINA**, live on **Fri at 21.05** with a rebroadcast at **00.30 on Sat**, will present news from across Defence, especially on the **logistics of Ex Slovak Shield 2021**.

Two more Black Hawks for SOF

(2 June) The Cabinet approved the purchase of two more UH-60M Black Hawks to serve the needs of the SVK Special Operations Forces (SOF). The overall costs of this project stand at €102.6 million, however, thanks to a U.S. Gov grant, the MOD will deliver savings of €42.7 million. The new helicopters will be equipped with a self-defence system, a ballistic protection system, two rotating machine guns, and a forward looking infrared (FLIR) pod. Under the contract, the MOD will also procure spare parts and the AMPS system for the entire helicopter fleet. The price includes personnel training and warranty service.

Military Police Active Reserves



(2 June) The Crisis Management, Training and Canine Branch, Police Department Vlkavce – Hronsek, hosted a training programme for Military Police Active Reserves (MP AR) soldiers until 4 June 2021.

A total of 23 reservists joined the second MP AR training programme. As part of the two-week course, the reservists will familiarise themselves with the SVK Military Police's organisational structure and tasks. The training programme also includes marksmanship, incident response, and the use of MP technical equipment.

Ex Brave Warrior 21

(31 May) Ex Brave Warrior 21 took place as part of Ex Europe Defender 21 between 24 May and 11 June on Varpalóta Training Area in Hungary, with the participation of Hungary, the United States, Croatia, Poland, Ukraine and Slovakia. The aim of the exercise was to conduct defensive operations in an international environment. Slovakia participated in the exercise with a Mech Coy, led by Capt Jozef Lipták, and members of HQ and Staff 22 Mech Bn Michalovce. As part of the exercise, they are integrated into 3 Mech Bn, part of 5 Mech Bde.

DUKLA at Athletics Meeting

(3. júna) Sportsmen and women of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre achieved several successes at the P-T-S Athletics Meeting in Šamorín on Wednesday 2 June 2021. Race walker Dominik Černý brought out the best world performance of the year in the 3,000m race walk and placed 1st. Martina Hrašnová recorded her best performance of the season by throwing 70.38m. Overall, she placed 3rd and is still in with a chance of earning qualification for the OG. Among others still standing a chance of representing Slovakia in Japan is Marcel Lomnický, hammer thrower of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre.

Successful training of Mechanised Battalion Levice at Lešť TC



(5 June) Starting from 18 May, the Training Centre Lešť hosted intense training for units of the Mechanised Battalion Levice, with focus on drivers driving tracked IFVs across difficult terrain.

The training also included marksmanship with the use of IFV-mounted and personal weapons, followed by tactical, engineering and CBRN training, a check on the cohesiveness and coordination of companies before moving on to a company-level tactical rehearsal with live firing. 3 Mech Coy was the last unit to successfully practise marksmanship at the end of the first week of June. The company-level tactical training activity with live firing was the culmination of the Battalion's latest series of training events.