



## Greater efficiency in VLM

(7 July) For its timber operations, Military Forests and Estates (VLM) uses a complex timber marking and registration system. This enables Military Forests and Estates to exercise more effective timber resources management and to have a detailed overview of all timber movements from the moment of harvesting, through to its storage and dispatch to customers. How the system works was today seen by Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' and Environment Minister Ján Budaj. Environment Minister Ján Budaj said: "At the end of last week MPs backed the protection of national parks by voting for the Nature and Landscape Conservation (Amendment) Bill. After the transfer of state-owned forest lands in national parks to the remit of the SVK State Nature Conservation Authority, we need a high quality registration system to make sure there is no longer any illegal logging and timber disappearance from our forests."

Director of Military Forests and Estates SOE Ján Jurica said: "The system is unique, because each and every piece of harvested timber or log pile has a unique identifier in the form of a barcode and all relevant logging data such as timber volume, quality, woodland area and other relevant information is entered into the system on site."

Foresters of Military Forests and Estates SOE forward the data to a website, which means that the state of logging and movements from the logging site are continuously updated and available online. The database with information on logging over the past 16 years provides unique statistics for the purposes of analysis and planning in Military Forests and Estates. In Military Forests and Estates - Kežmarok Branch, the system is supplemented by a video camera device with automatic number plate recognition and a radio-frequency identification (RFID) reader device. The system records the movement of timber trucks based on video footage and number plate recognition and scans the RFID tag and transfers data on the delivery list to the website.



## Ceremony in Medzilaborce

(8 July) A reconsecration ceremony for the restored WW1 cemetery in Medzilaborce was held with the participation of Secretary General of the MOD's Service Office Peter Kozák, Chair of the Prešov Self-Governing Region Milan Majerský, Mayor of Medzilaborce Vladislav Višňovský, Mayor of Snina Daniela Galandová, representatives of the SVK Armed Forces, local authorities, representatives of the Institute of Military History, and other guests. A short memorial service was held in tribute to the fallen soldiers and wreaths were laid at the WW1 Memorial.

After the ceremony, the guests were treated to a new documentary titled "Medzilaborce 1914/1915 – Forgotten Diaries" at the Andy Warhol Modern Arts Museum before attending an unveiling ceremony for a new permanent exhibition "Carpathian Front – Medzilaborce 1914/1915."

## Military Summer Fest to entertain public with music festivals

(6 July) Preparations of the SVK Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces are moving forward for a series of five summer music festivals for the public. The Military Summer Fest will take place in July and August 2021 in Zemplínska Šírava, Banská Bystrica, Liptovský Mikuláš, Banská Štiavnica and Piešťany. The audiences will be treated to an exceptional display of music by popular bands and the SVK Armed Forces Band. The programme will be enriched by side events with the inclusion of SVK Air Force flypasts, static displays and dynamic demonstrations. The festival offers free admission. For more information, go to the MOD website.

The public will be treated to musical performances by bands such as Zoči voči, Zverina, Bijouterier, Helenine oči and the 40-member SVK Armed Forces Band. The event will be moderated by Peter "Šarkan" Novák. There will be a separate tent where the public can talk to military personnel. The event will host a SVK Armed Forces presentation – static displays of military equipment, clothing and weaponry, flypasts of UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters, and performances of the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour. There will also be MOD information stands and the public can also look forward to meeting sportsmen and women of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica.

The MOD is looking forward to seeing you all on 18 July 2021 in Zemplínska Šírava, 1 August 2021 in Banská Bystrica, 8 August 2021 in Liptovský Mikuláš, 15 August 2021 in Banská Štiavnica, and 22 August 2021 in Piešťany.



- As Commander-in-Chief of the Slovak Armed Forces **President Zuzana Čaputová** thanked Brig Karol Navrátil for his service in the Armed Forces and presented him with a Letter of Thank You. She underlined that his valuable contribution to military planning would be carried on by his successors.

- The Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin hosted a **promotion ceremony** on 7 July. Lt Marek Húška was promoted to 1Lt, SSgt Pavol Kaich to Sgt 1C, and Pte 1C Branislav Kavalec and Pte 1C Karol Drlička to Cpl by Base Commander Col Pavol Barančík.

- Members of the Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade welcomed participants of the 19th edition of **Children's Comenius University** to a traditional Army workshop on 8-9 July. They prepared a rich programme for 70 children aged 10 to 15. They briefed them on military specialities and introduced their equipment. As part of the programme, the kids fired air rifles, attended topographical training, viewed CIS equipment and weapons demonstrations, took part in a first aid course, completed an obstacle course, and were treated to a military lunch inside a field tent.

- Since 5 July, members of the **Combat Service Support Brigade** have been deployed to the border crossings with Czechia, Austria and Poland and have patrolled with the SVK Transport Police Units Bratislava and Tmava. While on mixed patrols with policemen, they are tasked with enforcing the COVID-19 restrictions for citizens travelling abroad and returning to Slovakia.

- After a two-year break, the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** Banská Bystrica will open its sporting grounds to the public on 16 July. Members of the public will have access to the Dukla training stadium and the sports hall between 09:00 and 12:30. As part of the programme, the public will be treated to autograph signing and photo opportunities with the Dukla sportsmen and women who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics and other Olympians and World and European Champions.

- The Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin prepared a summer camp programme for children from the Children and Families Centre Hronec on 7 July. The programme included static and dynamic displays of military and firefighting equipment, military themed activities, and an obstacle course.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as 18 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place in support of international exercises across Slovakia from 12 to 18 July 2021. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct round trip movements from/to: Sereď – Levice, Martin – Prešov, Prešov – Michalovce, Prešov – Trenčín, Zemianske Kostolany – Sliach, Zemianske Kostolany – Rožňava, Zemianske Kostolany – Nemšová, and Zemianske Kostolany – Nitra. Also planned are military rail movements from/to: Prievidza – Zemianske Kostolany, Zemianske Kostolany – Vlkonová – Sliach, and Zemianske Kostolany – Kuchyňa.

## How to rescue pilots



(10 July) Members of the Airborne Parachute and Search and Rescue Service from the Tactical Wing Sliach and the Transport Wing Kuchyňa undertook the Air and Rope Techniques

Course, designed for rescuing pilots after ejecting from aircraft. The aim of the course was to train new rescuers on search and rescue (SAR) operations. While Phase 1 of the course was focused on practising rope techniques at the Jakub Climbing facility, Phase 2 of the course took place in the Bralce Nature Reserve where the course participants searched for the ejected pilot across forested and rocky terrain. After finding him, they moved him on top of a rock from where he was airlifted by the Airborne Parachute and Air Search and Rescue Service. Instructors from the Training Centre Lešť and the Airborne Parachute and SAR Service intend to train all new members of air bases to increase their specialist readiness.

## Operational Planning Course

(5 July) Working in cooperation with the Defence Staff, the International Courses Section, Gen M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy, hosted a two-week operational planning course for 30 members of the SVK Armed Forces. With English as the language of instruction, the course reflected the requirements of the SVK Armed Forces to train officers for postings at national and international operational HQs and Staffs. The aim of the course was to familiarise the participants with the operational tasks analysis, the design and planning of operations, the centre of gravity analysis, the design of activity variants in line with NATO's doctrines and procedures, and to initiate staff officers into NATO's joint operations planning process.

## Lighting upgrade of Dukla

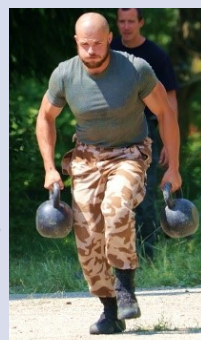


(6 July) Through its Military Museum Section Svidník falling under the remit of the Military Museum Piešťany, the Institute of Military History Bratislava completed

a lighting upgrade to the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps in the USSR Memorial and the Dukla War Cemetery. The old lamps were removed and replaced with energy-efficient LED lamps with sensors switching on at dusk and off at dawn. Given that the site is located in the Eastern Carpathians – Laborec Highlands Birds Special Protection Area (SPA), the Institute of Military History chose an optimal lighting system after consulting with specialists of the Regional Heritage Office and the Special Protection Area Authority.

## Soldier once again named "Ironman" by powerhouse ministries

(8 July) The Lešť Training Centre hosted the 15th Ironman Competition where the strongest of three ministries – the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice – battled it out for the Ironman title on 7-8 July 2021. A total of 30 men tested their strengths in challenging disciplines and in tropical temperatures. Cpl Tomáš Dzurila, a serviceman of the ISTAR Battalion Prešov, regained the Ironman title. Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' said: "I am proud that a soldier has reclaimed the title. Yet, it is with great admiration that I congratulate all the men who took part in this tough competition. Just looking at the disciplines, I feel great respect for them. I am happy we have men like these, from across the ministries, serving our country."



The disciplines included a 5km run in combat uniform while carrying the personal weapon, the CIZMA obstacle course, a 9-tonne Aktis lorry pull for a distance of 40m, chin-ups on the pull-up bar, 200kg weightlifting, carrying 60kg of objects for a distance of 50m, a legless rope climb, 200kg tyre flips, a log lift and others. As part of the final discipline, the ironman jumped into an artificial lake from the Jakub Koloseum helicopter simulator and swam in combat uniform and boots before climbing the rope ladder back into the helicopter. The Ironman Competition is organised by the Special Training Division, TC Lešť.

The Slovak Ministry of Defence was represented by 5 members from the Military Police, ISTAR Battalion, Presidential Guard of Honour, Mechanised Battalion, and Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade.