



A friend in need is a friend indeed

(16 July) At the medal awards ceremony at the Austrian Ministry of Defence in Vienna, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko presented the SVK Minister of Defence Commemorative Medal (2nd and 3rd Grades) to 34 Austrian servicemen and servicewomen for supporting the first phase of Op Shared Responsibility, Slovakia's most extensive civil-military operation to contain the outbreak of coronavirus. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "A friend in need is a friend indeed. This was proven even in the most difficult moment when, with no hesitation, Austria gave us a helping hand by assigning military personnel to assist in nation-wide testing for COVID-19 as part of the most extensive civil-military operation in our country. I once again wish to extend my Thank You to the Austrian Government and the Austrian servicemen and servicewomen for their commitment and selfless help." As part of the official programme, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Federal Minister of Defence Klaudia Tanner met at the Austrian Ministry of Defence for talks on current bilateral, regional and multilateral defence and security issues. Both leaders commended the continued cooperation between the countries on joint training and international exercises. Minister Naď provided an update to Minister Tanner on Slovakia's Action Plan for Coordination of the Fight Against Hybrid Threats, new strategic defence and security documents, and current state of contributions to international crisis management operations. Mr Naď pointed at the importance of efforts to intensify EU-NATO dialogue, especially the fight against hybrid threats and strategic communications. The meeting also provided the space for a discussion of the Central European Defence Cooperation (CEDC) activities.

Deputy Defence Minister in Athens

(13 July) Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer attended the 1st Defence Exhibition Athens (DEFEA) 2021 on 12 July. As part of his official programme in Athens, he also held bilateral talks with Hellenic Deputy Minister of National Defence Alkiviadis Stefanis and Cypriot Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence Andreas P. Louka. The meeting between Mr Majer and Mr Stefanis provided the space for a discussion, among others, of the ongoing modernisation programmes, recent developments at the NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence Centre of Excellence (NATO IAMD), and the posting of a member of the Hellenic Armed Forces to the NATO Force Integration Unit Slovakia (NFUI SVK). At the talks with his Cypriot counterpart, Mr Majer and Mr Louka discussed areas of defence and security cooperation, with the participation of both Defence Attachés (DAs). That same day during his visit to DEFEA 2021 in Athens, Mr Majer also met with the Hellenic Minister of National Defence and the Hellenic Chief of Defence, the Slovenian Minister of Defence, and the Czech Chief of Defence. Starting a day earlier, the official programme took Mr Majer on a tour of military installations at Souda Bay in Crete.



Laureate of Military Deed of the Year Award takes over accolade

(12 July) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď received SSgt Ivana Krivošová, the first woman laureate of the Military Deed of the Year Award in the "Service to the Country" category. She received the award in 2020, but was not able to attend the award ceremony due to her tour of duty abroad.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "The laureates of the Military Deed of the Year Awards are heroes who take their service to the country as their mission and prove that with their acts worthy of respect and honour. SSgt Ivana Krivošová is one of them – she did not hesitate to help people in danger, while disregarding any danger to herself. That is why I wanted to thank and present her with the award in person." SSgt Ivana Krivošová is a nurse from the Office of the SVK Armed Forces Surgeon General. During the first wave of the pandemic, she provided health care in Slovakia's marginalised Roma communities as part of Op Umbrella. During her deployment to one such community, she reversed the fatal health condition of a malnourished child with other associated illnesses and saved his life.

The Military Deed of the Year Awards recognise and reward the extraordinary acts of regular soldiers in saving human lives and assisting in emergencies, and the friends of the Armed Forces who contribute to building civil-military relations.



• On 14 July, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď met with the Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Slovakia, Her Excellency Catherine Flumiani, on her first visit to the MOD since taking up her Diplomatic Service appointment in Slovakia. They consulted closely on ways to enhance mutual cooperation on defence and security. They also spoke about the expected participation of the Italian Air Force in the Slovak International Air Fest (SIAF 2021).

• Members of the Transport Wing Kuchyňa prepared a Military Demonstrations Day for participants of the 19th edition of Children's Comenius University in Bratislava on 12 July. The airmen familiarised them with their tasks and equipment. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď showed up to give his support to the event. The programme was concluded with a firefighting capability demonstration by the Fire Defence Service.

• The Institute of Military History (VHÚ) has refurbished three exhibition halls (H1, H2, H3) which house large and small museum objects documenting the military history of Slovakia at the Military History Museum Piešťany. Currently, the VHÚ is implementing an investment project to build a modern exhibition hall for large museum objects. Once complete, the public will be able to familiarise themselves with museum objects and their stories in a captivating manner since 1945 until recently.

• MSgt Jaroslav Turčák was appointed CSEL for the SVK Army's Command Support Battalion with effect from 1 July. He brings with him expertise and experience following a progressive career as a technician, group instructor, section commander, platoon sergeant, and company sergeant major.

• The Slovak International Air Fest (SIAF) 2021 will take place at Malacky Air Base on 4-5 Sept. Based on agreement with the organiser, admission is free for military personnel, veterans, military retirees, and MOD employees with military and civilian MOD ID cards.

• The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as 8 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia in support of deliveries of material and international exercises from 19 to 25 July 2021. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Michalovce – Kamienica nad Cirochou and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Levice and back, Prešov – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Zvolen and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Trenčín and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Mokrď, Zemianske Kostolany – Martin and back, and within Mokrď.

FULL FIELD KIT

on Radio Regina, live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, will present the EOD Centre of Excellence (EOD COE) Trenčín as it marks the 10th anniversary of its foundation.

Military policemen undergo pre-deployment training for Op IRINI

(16 July) Members of the SVK Military Police are undergoing training for Op EUNAVFOR MED IRINI on the River Danube at the Port of Bratislava and at a divers' base at Lake Senec. This is the national pre-deployment training (PDT) programme for the SVK Military Police Boarding Team to operate from a German Navy frigate in the Mediterranean Sea from March 2022, if an extension to the existing mandate is approved by Parliament.

The national PDT training programme in Slovakia is scheduled to run from March to September 2021 under the leadership of instructors from the Training Centre Lešť, the Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš and the Police River Operations Section Bratislava. The latter offered its water training area at the Port of Bratislava and on the River Danube and made a vessel available for training the teams assigned to Visit, Board, Search and Seize (VBSS) duties. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď: "The aim of Op EUNAVFOR MED IRINI is to enforce the UN Security Council-imposed arms embargo on Libya to stop illegal arms trafficking by monitoring, boarding and inspecting suspicious vessels." Reflecting the currency and relevance of Op IRINI, the ongoing PDT training programme is aimed at water operations and boarding tactics. "We received feedback from the previous two Boarding Team rotations and we know exactly what they missed out on training.

Closer to people



(18 July) The Open Air Theatre in Zemplínska Štrava hosted the first in a series of five Military Summer Festivals. Through the stunning musicianship of the SVK Armed Forces Band and popular bands, the MOD wants to

bring the roles and operations of the SVK Armed Forces closer to the public. While the audience was treated to musical entertainment, military professionals led discussions with members of the public about service in the SVK Armed Forces. Alongside this, visitors to the festival could take a look at military equipment, weaponry and clothing on display and a performance by the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour. The event's charitable spirit was most present inside the "Support A Good Cause" tent. All the proceeds from the sales of today's Military Summer Festival went towards the White Crayon fundraising initiative, organised by the SVK Blind and Partially Sighted Union. Additionally, there was a charitable auction of sports equipment donated by sportspeople of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre.

Active Reserves in 2022

(14 July) The MOD launched the process of accepting applications for the 2022 Active Reserves (AR) training programme. The applicants who meet the criteria set by law should visit the Army recruitment teams, located in Slovakia's regional capitals depending on their place of residence, or forward their application forms electronically no later than 24 Sept 2021.

The 2022 AR training programme will be focused on trade-specific training in such areas as Army command, mechanised troops, signals, logistics, CBRN, military management and exercises, special operations, engineer support, and other capabilities, as required by the Defence Staff, SVK Army HQ Trenčín, HQ 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany, HQ 2 Mech Bde Prešov, 21 Mech Bn Trebišov, 5 SOF Regt Žilina, Eng Bn Sereď, CBRN Bn Rožňava, TMMB Martin, and MP.

Dukla competes in Tokyo



(14 July) 16 sportsmen and women of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica have joined other members of the SVK Olympic Team to compete for precious Olympic

medals at the Tokyo Summer Olympics from 23 July to 8 August 2021. The SVK Olympic Team members who qualified for the 32nd Olympic Games gathered at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava to take an oath in the presence of President Zuzana Čaputová. Also present at the ceremony was Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď. In a show of public support, Mr Naď wished Team SVK the best of success at the Tokyo Olympic Games.