



Štefánik as a source of universal values

(21 July) To mark M. R. Štefánik's 141st birthday, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad, joined by MOD and military officials, paused to remember Gen M. R. Štefánik, one of the most prominent personalities of Slovakia's contemporary history to have formed SVK identity, at a remembrance ceremony held in his native village of Košariská.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad said: "Gen Štefánik's legacy is a source of universal values that must be protected under all circumstances. Because even today they are of indisputable significance and of vital importance to our society. Thanks to such values as freedom and democracy, we can keep writing a successful story of Slovak statehood." He pointed out that Gen Štefánik worked very hard to win a permanent place in SVK history not only as a scientist, a diplomat, an advocate of the national and social rights of the Slovak people, but also as an extraordinary person with an exceptional ability to pursue his ambitious dreams.

Among the many of his great achievements as the only Czechoslovak Minister of War was his key role in forming the Czechoslovak resistance movement abroad during WW1, thus making a marked contribution to the establishment of Czechoslovakia.

Gen M. R. Štefánik, a Slovak astronomer, a diplomat and a politician, was born on 21 July 1880 in Košariská. He died in a plane crash as it went down on approach to Ivanka pri Dunaji near Vajnory, Bratislava on 4 May 1919.



M. Majer visits Zemianske Kostolany

(22 July) While on a visit to two military installations in Zemianske Kostolany, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer met military personnel at the Supply Base III and the CBRN Defence Training and Testing Centre where he was interested in improvements to aging military infrastructure, the progress of capabilities modernisation, and the soldiers' current needs.

Mr Majer appreciated the results of the completed investment projects. "Whether it be a modern fuel storage and dispensing system or a new carpentry workshop – these are just some of the projects with which we want to make the duties of soldiers easier and more effective," he said, adding that gas mains installation and buildings insulation projects worth €3,81mil, VAT included, have been implemented this year.

Mr Majer also announced that the planned refurbishment of a CBRN material storage building in Zemianske Kostolany will soon be put out to tender. The project's costs are estimated at €973,800, VAT included, however, the final contract price will be known after the tender evaluation.

The CBRN Defence Training and Testing Centre Zemianske Kostolany, which forms part of the National EOD and CBRN Defence Centre Nováky – a SVK Armed Forces training facility for EOD specialists and technicians to work with explosives and munitions, is authorised to produce and operate with real Chemical Warfare Agents (CWA), as well as analysing and designing procedures for handling CBRN material.

Military Summer Festival raises €7,000 for blind and partially sighted

(19 July) Alongside fostering public engagement, the Military Summer Festival in Zemplínska Šírava lived up to its charitable spirit – 7,000 euros were raised and donated to the SVK Blind and Partially Sighted Union thanks to solidarity. Minister Nad appreciated the money raised for the SVK Blind and Partially Sighted Union, i.e. €1,215.90 from the sale of military themed T-shirts, €700 from the sale of sports equipment donated by sportspeople of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre including Žampa brothers, and €1,000 from each of the MOD-run joint stock companies – Military Forests and Estates, Konštruktúra-Defence, Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín, ZVS Holding, and ZTS - ŠPECIÁL. The Military Summer Festival is still to take place in four cities across Slovakia, as follows: 1 August 2021 in Banská Bystrica, 8 August 2021 in Liptovský Mikuláš, 15 August 2021 in Banská Štiavnica and 22 August 2021 in Piešťany.



- Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad hosted a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Michal Mlynár on 21 July. Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer also met Ambassador Mlynár to discuss SVK involvement in UNFICYP in Cyprus, the developments in Afghanistan after NATO's withdrawal, and the situation in the Sahel region.

- This year the 10th Slovak International Air Fest (SIAF) 2021 will take place at Malacky Air Base on 4-5 Sept. Sliac Air Base, where SIAF has been held traditionally since 2011, is undergoing full refurbishment in preparation for the arrival of Slovakia's new F-16 multi-role combat aircraft.

- The General M. R. Štefánik SVK Armed Forces Academy hosted a graduation ceremony for artillery cadets – the SVK Army's newest artillerymen. The ceremony was attended by leaders of the Czech and Slovak Artillery Community. Its Presidium awarded and presented its highest Order of Artillery Knight to the head of the Military Tactics and Operational Art Department, Col (Rtd) Jaroslav Varecha, for his extraordinary contribution to educating and training artillery officers.

- The Divisional ZIS-3 Gun as a Slovak National Uprising (SNP) monument on Bystrická Road in Ružomberok has been upgraded thanks to volunteers who repair, clean and paint military monuments. Among them are members of the SVK Anti-Nazi Fighters Union and personnel of the Military Unit 1115 Ružomberok.

- Commander of the SVK Air Force Brig Róbert Tóth and Chief of Staff SVK Air Force HQ Col Vladimír Jaklovský met with the German Defence Attaché to Slovakia, Lt Col Rüdiger Heinrich, at the SVK AF HQ on 22 July. Alongside briefing him on the SVK Air Force's tasks, structure and development, they discussed joint training.

- The Chief of the Presidential Military Office announced an officer job vacancy under the reference number VKPSR -71/2021 on 23 July. More information can be found [on the internet](#).

- To mark Gen Štefánik's 141st birthday on 21 July, the Transport Wing Kuchyňa hosted a remembrance ceremony in tribute to Gen Štefánik, in the presence of Commander of the SVK Air Force Brig Róbert Tóth and Commander of the Transport Wing Kuchyňa Col Peter Prokop.

- The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as 10 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 26 July to 1 August 2021. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Martin – Kuchyňa and back, Sliac – Nitra and back, Prešov – Michalovce, Trenčín – Nitra, Aleksince – Sliac, Sliac – Banská Bystrica and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Martin and back, Sliac – Trenčín and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Nováky and back, and Zemianske Kostolany – Trebišov. Also scheduled are military rail movements from/to: Kuchyňa – Zemianske Kostolany and Nemšová – Prievidza.

FULL FIELD KIT

on Radio Regina, live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, will present a military horse riding trip in tribute to Ladislav Škultéty – Gabriš.

Gunners take over new ZUZANA 2 Self-propelled Gun Howitzers

(22 July) SVK Army gunners took over eight new ZUZANA 2 155mm Self-propelled Gun Howitzers (SpGH) at an official handover ceremony held at 11 Mechanised Battalion Michalovce. They are destined for the Self-propelled Artillery Battalion Michalovce to boost the Indirect Fire Support (IFS) capabilities of the SVK Army's manoeuvre forces. The new howitzer platforms will form part of the SVK Army's Integrated Artillery Fire System and will be employed in a wide spectrum of operations in support of mechanised and motorised battalions at home and on NATO and EU operations. Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad said: "The availability of modern and reliable equipment



for use by armed forces is an inevitable condition for our military to perform to the highest standards, on which hinges the defence and security of our country and the collective defence of the wider Allied community in the event of

Trust as a basis of success

(19 July) The EU Training Missions are an important tool for enhancing security and stability in Africa. One of them is the EUTM in Mali with SVK military involvement. The SVK soldiers were embedded with an international team and underwent marksmanship training in the international environment. The EUTM in Mali contributes to restoring and developing the military capabilities of the Malian Armed Forces under the oversight of the country's legitimate civilian bodies, so that the Malian military can take over responsibility for the security of Mali.

MP prepare summer camp programme

(20 July) Military Police personnel of the Crisis Management, Training and Canine Branch, MP Department Vikanová – Hronek, prepared a three-day summer camp programme for children from the Children and Families Centre Kráľova Lehota in the third week of July. The programme included medical and topographical training, military themed activities built around the Jakub Koloseum helicopter simulator, and climbing activities at the Bralce Rocks in Lešť. The children saw a demonstration of an injured soldier's extraction from a danger zone and a demonstration of a military working dog (MWD) handler's duties.



Cadets at Training Centre Lešť

(22 July) After a year-long suspension of training due to COVID-19, concentrated field training for 1st-year and 2nd-year cadets of the Armed Forces Academy, joined by 15 Czech cadets of the Defence University of Brno, has resumed at the Training Centre Lešť. A successful completion of the training is a ticket for the next level of studies. In the last two weeks of July, the cadets are undergoing tactical, shooting, topographical and survival training. In September, 15 SVK cadets will follow training at Vyškov.

potential operational deployments. Therefore, the programme delivery of the self-propelled gun howitzers of Slovak provenance is another plus in stabilising the state of equipment in service with the SVK Armed Forces and security as such."

A total of 25 ZUZANA 2 155mm SpGHs along with accessories, a simulator, sets of spare parts and munitions will be delivered to the SVK Army under the contract. An additional 8 SpGHs will enter into service by the end of 2021, with the last delivery of 9 SpGHs scheduled by the end of next year.

Aside the new ZUZANA 2 howitzers, the SVK Army is also equipped with 16 pieces of the Series 2000 ZUZANA SpGH in service with the Sp Arty Bn Michalovce. Some of them are currently deployed with the NATO eFP BG Latvia.