



Gen Boček visits Slovakia

(3 August) Commander of the SVK Air Force Brig Róbert Tóth welcomed Gen (Rtd) Emil Boček to the SVK Air Force Headquarters Zvolen. WW2 veteran Gen Boček, escorted by DCHOD Lt Gen Lubomír Svoboda, met with the key HQ leaders and presented accolades to selected HQ personnel. On Thursday, Gen Boček followed up his visit to the HQ with a visit to the village of Zvolenská Slatina where he attended wreath-laying ceremonies at the Liberation Memorial and at the Gen M. R. Štefánik Memorial, as well as taking a tour of the Ján Kulich Gallery. The afternoon was reserved for his meeting with local residents. On Friday, he took part in a remembrance ceremony at the Gen Otto Smik Memorial at the Tactical Wing Sliač. Accompanied by Commander of the Tactical Wing Sliač Col Josef Hausner, he received a tour of a flight simulator and saw a static display of a MiG-29 fighter jet, where he shared his experiences as a WWII Czechoslovak RAF pilot.

Thai Boxing World Champion

(7 August) Monika Chochlíková, member of the SVK National Muay Thai Team and the DUKLA Military Sports Centre, defeated Funda Alkayis (TUR) and won the WMC



World Champion title on Saturday. The trophy was handed over to her by Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad. The WMC World Champion title is the highest recognition of professionalism in Muay Thai. Monika is the first female fighter in Slovakia and Czechia to have claimed it. Over the past 25 years, only one Czech and one Slovak – Jiří Žák and Vladimír Moravčík – have won the title. Monika holds the Kickboxing World Champion and European Champion titles, and the European Muay Thai Champion title. And just yesterday evening, she added the WMC World Champion title. She has also competed successfully in the MMA ring.

Military Summer Festival

(8 August) The travelling Military Summer Festival with an exciting programme of music took place in Liberators Square in Liptovský Mikuláš as its third venue, starting from 13:00 on



Sunday. The programme featured music bands such as Helenine oči (Helen's Eyes), Bijouterier (Bijou Terrier), Zoči voči (Face to Face), Zverina (Wild Animals) and Mince vo fontáne (Coins in the Fountain). The public event saw a display of combat systems and equipment in use by the Slovak Armed Forces, a show by the Presidential Guard of Honour, and a flypast from SVK Air Force MiG-29 and L-39 Albatros aircraft. The festival was attended by members of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, including skier Petra Vhová and World Fitness Champion Michal Barbier.

As part of the fundraiser, €7,020 was raised for the Sky Blue Butterfly Charity for people with neuromuscular dystrophy, including €1,320 from the sale of military themed T-shirts, €700 from the sale of Petra Vhová's ski race suit, and €1,000 from each of the MOD-run joint stock companies – Military Forests and Estates, KONŠTRUKTA – Defence, Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín, ZVS Holding, and ZTS – ŠPECIÁL.

Matej Tóth finishes his brilliant sports career

(6 August) Matej Tóth, race walker of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, placed 14th in his last 50km race walk at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. His colleague, Michal Morvay, finished 41st in his first debut under the five Olympic circles. The 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympian and 2015 Beijing World Champion battled his way bravely well up until the 30th km, when he fell behind and finished 6:15min behind the winner, Dawid Tomala (POL). In his last 50km race walk, he clocked 3:56:23. For the 38-year-old native of Nitra, this marked the end of his successful sporting career. He is expected to host a farewell party for his fans in Slovakia. Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer said: "I congratulate Matej Tóth on his last 50km race and his brilliant career. Things may have not worked out for him as he had planned for his last race, yet his 14th place at the Olympics is fantastic. Matej doesn't owe anything to anyone. He will forever remain an Olympian and a World Champion, and, above all else, a huge professional who has always been decorated with modesty, fairness and an extra desire to win. After he finishes his sporting career, I hope he will remain involved in sports and pass on his wealth of experience to benefit the future of SVK race walking."



- The Military Summer Festival in Banská Bystrica raised €6,200 for charity on 1 August. Money raised from the event went towards the Light Hope Charity for oncological patients and their families. "I want to thank all those who supported a good cause by buying a military-themed T-shirt," said Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad. Donations were also made by the MOD-run joint stock companies – Military Forests and Estates, KONŠTRUKTA – Defence, Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín, ZVS Holding, and ZTS – ŠPECIÁL.

- Thanks to the favourable weather conditions and a low risk of wildfires, the Ministry of Defence has lifted the ban, dated 25 July 2021, on entering the woodlands across the Military Districts Záhorie and Valaškovce, starting from 7 August 2021. The ban was imposed on 25 July in response to two wildfires. No fire has been reported since the introduction of the ban.

- Deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of Op EUFOR Althea, Deputy Commander of the Višegrad-based Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Maj Martin Trebula and MSgt Ján Tutoky coordinated and distributed humanitarian aid – clothing and toys for kids from families in need in the town of Han Pijesak. Among the contributors were youngsters from the Nursery and Primary School in the village of Hriňová, a partner school for a primary school in the town of Han Pijesak, who gifted clothes, school aids and toys.

- The Emergency Logistics Base, run by the Interior Ministry, has dispatched humanitarian aid to Lithuania to help deal with illegal migration and the Covid-19 pandemic. The humanitarian consignment, worth €85,000, comes as a prompt response from the Foreign and European Affairs Ministry and the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Armed Forces and Armed Corps. The latter has contributed 1,500 hygiene sets to the consignment.

- The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as 14 Allied road movements transporting personnel and equipment are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 9 to 15 August 2021. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Topoľčany – Nemecká and back, Kuchyňa – Moldava nad Bodvou and back, Lešť – Sliač, Alekšince – Bratislava, Michalovce – Sklené, Sklené – Ruskov, Trenčín – Malacky, Nováky – Malacky, Zemianske Kostolány – Hlohovec, Zemianske Kostolány – Sereď and back, Nitra – Zemianske Kostolány and back, and Nováky – Záhorie.

FULL FIELD KIT

on Radio Regina, live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, brings a report on a horse riding expedition retracing the steps of Ladislav Škulúty – Gabriš from Slovakia to Romania.

Basic training kicks off

(4 August) The gates of the Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin have opened to new trainee soldiers, cadets and college graduates to undertake Phase 1 training. 4th Czechoslovak Brigade Barracks have become home to 292 trainees, of whom 55 are women. After completing arrival administration and drawing all necessary clothing and equipment at the Regional Issue Point, Multifunctional Supply Base West Nemšová, the newcomers were assigned to the training platoons and the training got underway immediately according to the Phase 1 training programme. In the weeks to come, they will focus on basic soldiery skills and practise them on the ranges at Martin Garrison training ground in Sučany and at the Base's training facilities in Martin. On successful completion of basic military training, they will take the Oath of Allegiance and complete a passing out parade on 24 September 2021.

Find your home in Bernolákovo



(3 August) Following a pause over the coronavirus pandemic, members of the Presidential Guard of Honour met with kids from the Children's Home in Bernolákovo. They prepared military themed activities for

them. Sgt 1st Class Marek Rybárik led a Physical Training (PT) session in the morning. This was followed by a self-defence course with the basics of striking and get away techniques. The obstacle course was a great success with children. They ran, jumped, crawled through a tunnel, did somersaults, and threw grenades. The older youngsters flipped tyres, did push-ups, took a short PT test, including sit-ups, pull-ups, 30m and 60m sprints, and were briefed by Capt Andrea Šantorová on the entry requirements for service in the SVK Armed Forces and the Presidential Guard of Honour. The soldiers and the kids finished off their day with playing volleyball and soccer.

Paying tribute to "eternal" soldier

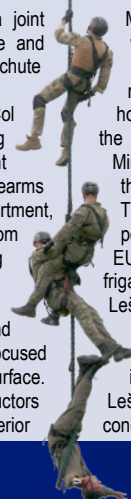
(6 August) To mark the 190th anniversary of the death of Ladislav Škulúty – Gabriš, on 31 July 2021 members of the Gabriš Military History Club, dressed in Hussar uniform, set off on a nearly 500-km horse riding expedition from the birthplace of the Slovak Hussar of the Habsburg Imperial Army, known as the "eternal" soldier, from Slovakia's Mojtiň to Romania's Arad where he died. The ceremony was attended by Secretary General of the SVK MOD's Service Office Peter Kozák and Chief of Staff for Operations Support Brig Pavol Tököly.

Police instructors on one rope

(3 August) The Liptovská Mara Reservoir hosted a joint training activity for instructors of the national police and military police units responsible for rope and parachute training during the first week of August.

The officer in charge of the training programme, Lt Col Marián Pogány, of the SVK Police Corps Training Branch, said that the training event had brought together representatives of all SVK Specialist Firearms Command (SCO19) units, the River Police Department, members of the Military Police and instructors from the Special Training Branch at the Lešť Training Centre.

Military policeman Capt Martin Urban considers this cooperation as highly beneficial. Organised close to and over the water reservoir, the specialist training was focused on operations in the air and above the water surface. The combined teams, made up of MP personnel, instructors of the Training Centre Lešť and member of the Interior



Ministry's elements, practised general work operations with an individual hanging under the helicopter, safety procedures for abseiling from the helicopter, casualty rescue and transport with the litter connected to a rescue hook below the helicopter, and rescue operations over the water surface supported by a powerboat. The Interior Ministry Bell 429 and Mi-171 helicopters were used for the training.

The training event was also attended by the military policemen who were getting ready to deploy on Op EUNAVFOR MED Iriini to operate out of a German Navy frigate in the Mediterranean. Members of the Training Centre Lešť made their debut there. Maj Juraj Antol said: "Our goal is to gain new expertise on abseiling techniques with the use of thin and thick ropes, including for water insertion. We want to use them at the Training Centre Lešť, as we plan to conduct similar training in our conditions."