



## Refurbishment

(16 September) Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer travelled to Luxembourg to discuss the refurbishment works to Sliac Air Base with the newly appointed NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) General Manager, Ms Stacy S. Cummings. NSPA is one of NATO's key agencies with which the SVK MOD cooperates on procuring goods and services for the Slovak Armed Forces. The meeting's central theme was to improve the cooperation between the MOD and NSPA on the Sliac Air Base Refurbishment Works Project, with the aim of making the site handover process to the SVK MOD as the end user as efficient as possible.

Speaking of the meeting at NSPA, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer said: "The refurbishment works to and the preparation of the Sliac Air base for the F-16 beddown is a priority for us, even as part of our cooperation with NSPA. Given the fact that the first fighter jets will be delivered in July 2023, it is in our best interest to have the infrastructure ready in time for the arrival of the aircraft, and I communicated this message to our partners at the agency."

Mr Majer emphasised that Slovakia had decided to implement the Sliac Air Base Refurbishment Works Project through NSPA, because NSPA has a proven record of contracting refurbishment works to NATO air bases and that the MOD is interested in stepping up the procurement process. He appreciated that the Architect & Engineering Services for the F-16 fighter aircraft beddown have been put out to international competitive bidding (ICB), especially with a view to delivering the best available solution in a transparent manner. At the meeting with Ms Cummings, Mr Majer also discussed the progress being made on the disposal of surplus M26 artillery cluster munitions from US funding. "The Slovak Republic is committed to disposing of the munitions by the end of 2023, consistent with our international commitments and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Our cooperation with NSPA will be of crucial importance in this case too," he said.



### New telehandlers

(14 September) At today's handover ceremony held at the Technical and Testing Institute Záhorie, members of the SVK Army took over the last piece from the first delivery of four MAGNI Telescopic Container Handlers. The SVK Armed Forces have a large number of containers in their inventory, however, the handling of containers was complicated without proper load handling equipment in the past. Another four telehandlers will be delivered by the end of 2021. The telehandlers were procured by the MOD through NSPA.

## Slovak Air Force and Allied pilots at 20th NATO Days in Ostrava

(18 September) SVK Air Force pilots along with their aircraft and helicopters participated in the 20th NATO Days in Ostrava & Czech Air Force Days, where side by side with NATO allies they presented the capabilities vital to the defence of the State and NATO's collective defence. The annual event was attended by Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Slovakia is a firm part of the transatlantic alliance, which is the best option for ensuring the defence and security of the Slovak Republic. That's why we are joining this presentation of air forces and assets with those of ours." Mr Naď congratulated the Jagello 2000 Association, the main organiser, on the event's 20th anniversary. SVK Air Force aircraft made a showing at this year's NATO Days in Ostrava & Czech Air Force Days with a flypast of MiG-29 fighter jets and a static display and flying demonstrations of UH-60M Black Hawk multirole helicopters. While at the event in Ostrava, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer used the occasion to meet with the Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic and other members of the Czech Government, as well as with the Ministers of Defence of Sweden and Slovenia. Mr Naď expressed his appreciation for the work done by members of the SVK Air Force to mark Slovak Military Aviation Day on 17 September.



- Defence Minister **Jaroslav Naď** visited the Andrej Kmeť Grammar School in Banská Bystrica to discuss the legacy of the Slovak National Uprising with students.

- Deputy Defence Minister **Marian Majer** hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Slovakia, HE Ms Adiyatwidi Adiwoso Asmady at the MOD Main Building on 14 Sept. As her four-year Diplomatic Service appointment in Slovakia draws to an end, Deputy Defence Minister Majer thanked Ambassador Asmady for her role in the general advancement of cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Indonesia.

- Due to the current pandemic developments, the MOD has resized and rescheduled the **SVK Armed Forces Day** celebrations. The public event along with a static display and dynamic demonstrations of armed forces scheduled for 26 Sept in Brezová pod Bradlom has been cancelled. Instead, military ceremonies will be held at the MOD and individual military units without members of the public on 22 Sept. Similarly, on completion of basic military training, the passing out parade for cadets and trainee soldiers will take place at the Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin and will be livestreamed online to the public on 24 Sept.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as 39 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 20 to 26 Sept 2021. The MOD stresses that the Allied transit movements have been approved in line with the SVK Public Health Authority-issued coronavirus safety guidelines. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Hlohovec – Michalovce, Michalovce – Martin, Michalovce – Nemecká, Nitra – Brezová pod Bradlom and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Martin and back, Sliac – Trenčín, Sklené – Lešť, Nováky – Lešť, Nováky – Sklené, Sklené – Poprad and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Nemšová and back, Nováky – Záhorie, Zemianske Kostolany – Trebišov, Prešov – Zemianske Kostolany, Zemianske Kostolany – Mokrď, Trenčín – Záhorie, Lešť – Martin, and Trenčín – Sliac. And there will also be SVK military rail movements from/to: Trebišov – Hlohovec, Sása-Pliešovce – Trebišov, Sása-Pliešovce – Zlatovce, and Martin – Sereď.

## FULL FIELD KIT

**on Radio Regina, live on Fri at 21.05  
with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, will  
focus on the recording of partisan songs  
by veteran Vladimír Strmeň and the SVK  
Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica.**

## NATO's eFP BG Latvia takes part in Ex SILVER ARROW

(13 September) The eight-day SILVER ARROW certification exercise, aimed at testing the cooperation, connectivity and readiness of all components of the Canadian-led eFP Battlegroup, composed of armed forces from nine NATO countries, wrapped up on Ādaži Training Area. This marked the second such certification exercise the SVK military personnel have participated in since deploying to Latvia. Given that the other countries had rotated their troops, the preparation for the certification exercise was a new challenge for all. This was also true for the SVK recon teams who, embedded into Allied mechanised and tank platoons, had to work with other

## Papal Events supported by soldiers



(15 September) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď gave thanks to all service personnel who supported the Papal Events during Pope Francis's visit to Slovakia. Nearly 2,300 soldiers were deployed to take on assistance tasks alongside policemen from 9 to 15 September. Another two dozen military engineers set up a temporary bridge over the River Torysa to allow local residents to attend the holy mass with Holy Father Francis in Prešov.

## LOTN in good shape



(14 September) Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN) repainted the L-39V (0730) for the Institute of Military History – Military History Museum Piešťany, using the original paint scheme. Only 8 aircraft of this type were manufactured – four of them were operated by the Czech Republic, two aircraft were delivered to Slovakia and two to East Germany. In Slovakia, the L-39Vs were operated between 1976 and 2006. According to Defence Minister Naď, at a time when he took office, LOTN had almost no contracts and over 300 workers were already halfway to the job centre. "Today, LOTN boasts of several huge contracts, more contracts are to be signed soon, and the company is also implementing a new repairs concept for the Military History Museum Piešťany," said the Minister.

## Complex staff rehearsal

(14 September) The September complex staff rehearsal by HQ Joint Operations (HQ JOs) is another step towards reaching its Initial Operational Capability (IOC). HQ JOs was officially stood up in Banská Bystrica in April 2021, because the SVK Armed Forces had missed out on the capability to design new operational procedures. The four-day rehearsal focused on the processing of evaluating military response options, with the aim of processing the Operations Commander's strategic assessment of a crisis situation and recommendations to steer the military response to such crisis.

reconnaissance units and forward observers. Alongside coordinating national and multinational reconnaissance troops and assets, the SVK Artillery Fire Support Coordination Group planned and coordinated artillery fire support. SVK artillerymen carried out fire tasks in support of manoeuvre units. Currently, a total of 134 SVK military personnel are serving with NATO's eFP BG Latvia. The core of the SVK Contingent is formed of the SVK Artillery Battery

Michalovce, equipped with the Zuzana SpGHs. SLOVCON is also made up of signallers from Ružomberok and repairers from Martin.

