



## Red Poppy Day

(11 November) The world marked Veterans Day (Remembrance Day), symbolised by red poppies, and paid tribute to all those who fought for freedom. This memorial day is observed to recall the end of WW1 hostilities, as soldiers fired one last salvo of artillery rounds at 11:11 on 11 Nov 1918 at the signing of the Armistice in Compiègne, France.

MOD and Armed Forces leaders remembered and gave thanks to all veterans at the Slovak Armed Forces Members Monument and the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps Memorial at the Háj Nicovô War Cemetery in Liptovský Mikuláš. They also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Remembrance Hall of the Slovak National Uprising Memorial and in a rose planting ceremony at the Veterans Bench. Also in attendance at the ceremonies were WW2 veterans Vladimír Strmeň and Pavol Chrapčák.

Paying his respects and thanks to veterans, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď noted there are currently 8,434 veterans in Slovakia, of whom 8,390 are contemporary veterans and 44 are WW2 veterans. In his statement, Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko underlined the timelessness of the veterans' commitment to serve the noble values of our country.

As a symbol of gratitude to veterans, our soldiers handed out red poppies to residents of selected cities in Slovakia. They also raised their awareness of the tradition and importance of Veterans Day. The red poppy was, for the second time, projected onto Bratislava Castle, starting from 18:00, and the Military Deed of the Year Awards Ceremony was rebroadcast by Slovakia's national RTVS Channel.

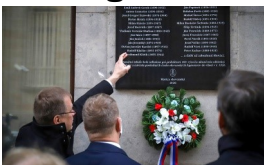
## Veterans Day in Bratislava

(10 November) To mark Veterans Day, a remembrance ceremony in tribute to all the heroes who have fought for our nation and the freedom of future generations was held at the Western Resistance Memorial in Šafárik Square, Bratislava. The event was organised by the Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the British Embassy. Speaking at the Memorial, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer expressed his admiration and respect for all veterans.



## In memory of CZE-SVK legionnaires

(11 November) In Bratislava, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer attended a plaque unveiling ceremony dedicated to the Slovak legionnaires who, serving with the Czechoslovak Legion, fought on the battlefields of the First World War. He thanked Matica slovenská for the initiative. Of 9,957 Czechoslovak legionnaires in France, 1,591 were Slovaks. The Czechoslovak Army Corps in Italy had 19,476 soldiers, of whom 591 were Slovaks. Of 71,310 legionnaires in Russia, 5,104 were Slovaks.



## Military Deed of the Year Awards celebrate outstanding acts of service

(12 November) The finalists of the 24th Military Deed of the Year Awards were announced in the presence of members of the Cabinet, WW2 veterans and members of the Slovak Armed Forces. A panel of judges, led by President and Commander-in-Chief of the Slovak Armed Forces Zuzana Čaputová, considered the nominations across all Award categories. The winners of the Award in the Assistance to the Public category were Capt Ladislav Parma, Capt Viktor Franciák, Maj (Res) Ondrej Hlavatý, and members of 1 Anti-Aircraft Missile Group for their selfless and all-inclusive support to their oncological colleague who found himself in a difficult situation. In the Service to the Country category, the Award went to MSgt Radek Belan for maintaining the highest standards with respect to all the professional duties. In his nomination, he was recognised for his unique way of approaching, leading and motivating trainee soldiers in basic military training. The Award laureate in the Friend of the Armed Forces category was Richard Koky, an ex-serviceman, for building civil-military relations, bringing credit on the Slovak Armed Forces, raising awareness of military history, and cooperating with soldiers in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as a field expert of the Healthy Communities National Project and an employee of the Healthy Regions Agency (Department of Health) working in the marginalised Roma settlements. 1Lt Ladislav of 5 Special Forces Regiment Zilina was named the Award laureate in the Rescue of Life category for saving the life of a woman seriously injured in a car crash. To mark Veterans Day, the Military Deed of the Year Awards Ceremony was rebroadcast by Slovakia's national RTVS Channel.



- On the occasion of Veterans Day on 11 Nov, Maj Gen Ivan Pach along with Mayor of Trenčín Richard Rybníček, members of the Slovak Generals Club, veterans, members of the Slovak Anti-Nazi Fighters Association and other guests paid their respects to the victims of the First World War by laying wreaths at Trenčín - Kubrá War Cemetery.

- To mark the 103rd anniversary of the end of WW1 and Veterans Day on 11 Nov, an act of remembrance took place at Nitra - Mlynárce War Cemetery.

- MOD and Armed Forces leaders attended a remembrance ceremony dedicated to the Romanian Royal Army soldiers, who took part in the liberation of Slovakia in 1944-45, at Zvolen Central War Cemetery on 11 Nov. The MOD was represented at the ceremony by Secretary General of the MOD's Service Office Peter Kozák.

- During his official visit to Slovakia, HRH Prince Radu of Romania, the husband of Her Majesty Margaret, the oldest daughter of the late King Michael I of Romania, met with Secretary General of the MOD's Service Office Peter Kozák at the Ministry of Defence on 8 Nov.

- Commander of the Slovak Special Operations Forces Brig Branislav Benka attended the Warsaw Global SOF Symposium where he received a medal from the Minister of Defence of Poland for his long-term and exemplary cooperation.

- Chaplain General of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps Col Viktor Sabo visited Slovak Air Force HQ Zvolen on 12 Nov. He was greeted by Deputy Commander of the SVK Air Force Brig Ladislav Dovhun.

- CBRND Battalion Rožňava was reorganised into 103 CBRND Battalion Rožňava with effect from 1 Nov. The Battalion's official address is 109 Šafárik Street, Rožňava.

- Military engineers, led by 1Lt Matúš Daňa, took part in Ex Disaster Relief and Military Mobility 2021 in Slovenia, with a training audience of 1,004 soldiers from 20 EU Member States.

- The latest edition of *Azimuth 24/7*, available on YouTube, captures Michalovce-based artillerymen firing ZUZANA 2 SpGHs as part of their predeployment training on Valaškovce Training Area ahead of deploying to Latvia for NATO's eFP duties.

- The BVP-1 and BVP-2 IFV Driver/Operator Course opened for 22 participants at the Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin on 25 Oct.

- The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as 15 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 15-21 November 2021. Over the same period, the SVK military will conduct road movements from/to: Prešov – Michalovce and back, Sliach – Banská Bystrica, Michalovce – Kamenica nad Cirochou and back, Martin – Levice, Záhorie – Hlohovec, Nemecká – Sliach, Zemianske Kostolany – Nemšová and back, Prešov – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Bratislava and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Ružomberok and back, and Zemianske Kostolany – Nováky and back.

## Growing trust in Armed Forces

(12 November) The Slovak Armed Forces have enjoyed the highest levels of public trust and confidence over the past years. Currently, over 77% per cent of the Slovak public, aged 18 and over, trust our Armed Forces. This follows on from the public opinion survey conducted on 14-24 Oct 2021 by FOCUS Ltd for the Ministry of Defence. The opinion survey involved a total of 1220 respondents in the form of personal interviews. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko ascribed the results to the superb work of our servicemen and women.

## MOD attends ITAPA

(10 November) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer attended ITAPA 2021, the largest conference on digitalization and new technologies in Slovakia, which is also supported by the MOD. At ITAPA, the MOD leaders presented their visions and solutions to new security challenges and signalled that new strategic documents would be adopted to take the fight against hybrid threats in Slovakia to a higher level. Mr Majer appeared on the panel titled "EU and NATO: How to build a secure Europe?" As an inspirational speaker, Olympian and Director of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica Col Matej Tóth spoke on the subject of "How to become the best in the world".



## AOS cadets on FTX at Lešť

(10 November) As part of cooperation between the Military Tactics and Art of War Department at AOS and the Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin, 5th-year AOS, G10 specialty cadets attended the Gunner/Operator Course at TC Lešť. After the theory phase, they conducted live firing from the BVP-2 IFVs. Despite the coronavirus measures in place, the Department also organised a field training exercise (FTX) for 5th-year AOS, G20 specialty cadets at TC Lešť. As part of the FTX, the cadets also fired the 122mm D-30A gun howitzers.

## Signallers undergo training to work on masts at different heights

(14 November) The Training Centre Lešť hosted a course specifically designed for signallers of 2 Brigade Zvolen, who provide communications for the SVK Air Force, to improve their work at heights. The activity saw them honing their skills in moving up and down the communications masts.

The course, which was held at the climbing simulator at Lešť, was led by Maj Igor Lišaník of the Special Training Branch Lešť. On Day 1, participants took a test before undergoing specialist training.

The training was concluded with written and practical skills tests. Senior signaller PFC Radoslav Lupták saw the course as an excellent opportunity to refresh the skills he needed for maintaining communications devices. "During the course, we

practised different rope climbing techniques and improved our practices. Our instructors showed us the right procedures and corrected our mistakes. This would make my work on maintaining the communications systems in the Slanské Hills and on Mt Chopok a lot easier," said PFC Lupták. His more experienced colleague, Sgt Radoslav Nemčok, who attended the course for the seventh time, said: "I always learn something new to work more safely on the mast, whether it be while replacing spare parts or tuning the radio antenna systems." Sharing his thoughts, technician SSgt Matúš Krivúš



said: "We do regular checks in the event of power blackout. If you consider that our highest mast is 65m high, working at heights is definitely not easy!"