



IFV market research continued



(10 June) The Ministry of Defence is continuing its market research to identify new tracked infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) in order to replace its aging fleet in service with the SVK Army's mechanised units. For this reason, three variants of the BAE Systems Hägglunds Combat Vehicle 90 (CV90) were presented at the Technical and Testing Institute Záhorie.

The BAE Systems Hägglunds CV90 Capabilities Demonstration Day was attended by Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer, Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko, National Armaments Director Jozef Zekucia and Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security Juraj Krúpa. The aim of the presentation was to introduce the Combat Vehicle CV90's technical features and functional parameters in a firing and driving capabilities demonstration.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "That service personnel need new and reliable equipment is beyond any doubt. Most importantly, the procurement process must go hand in hand with transparency and efficiency. That is why I view the capabilities demonstrations where military personnel can familiarise themselves with the equipment to be of exceptional importance." Even in this case, among the major selection criteria are the requirements of the SVK Armed Forces, transparency in the procurement process, and a marked role of the domestic defence industry in this modernisation programme, Mr Naď explained.

On SNP Museum transfer

(7 June) The Transition Working Group (TWG) tasked with managing the transfer of the SNP Museum from the remit of the Ministry of Culture to that of the Ministry of Defence met to coordinate the transfer arrangements



for the founding authority's statutory powers over the SNP Museum to the MOD. For this reason, the TWG is formed of experts from such areas as culture, including the Museums and Galleries Council, defence, legislation and finance. Both Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Culture Minister Natália Milanová were in attendance at the meeting. Mr Naď confirmed that the transfer of the founding authority's statutory powers over the Museum to the MOD is motivated by the MOD's attempt to ensure adequate conditions and financial support for the Museum's development. Issues raised included all legal, financial and property arrangements relating to the Museum's transfer.

Mr Naď said: "All aspects of the transfer regarding the founding authority's statutory powers are factored into this expert discussion. For example, the position of the SNP Museum in the structure of the Institute of Military History and its legal status." The TWG delved into the transition arrangements, including the need for financial, personnel and contractual audits and a full inventory to document the state and condition of the Museum. The TWG's meetings will continue and the final solution to the transfer of the founding authority's statutory powers over the SNP Museum to the MOD will be referred to the Cabinet for consideration. The Ministers also announced that, on transfer of the SNP Museum under the remit of the MOD, a committee of experts would be set up to serve as an advisory body for decision-making processes to allow experts to engage in discussions on the Museum's future projects.

Results of 20th MOD Drawing and Painting Contest announced

(9 June) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko, and the Defence Monthly Editorial Staff announced the results of the 20th MOD Drawing and Painting Contest for primary school pupils, named "Soldiers Through the Eyes of Children".

This year the panel of expert judges evaluated the historically highest number of competitive entries – 4,043 drawings and paintings. 367 schools participated in the contest as groups, while 76 drawings were sent by 67 individuals.

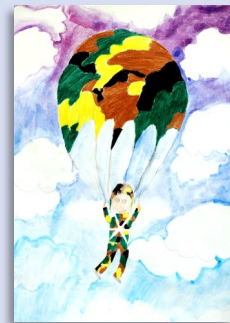
Winners of the Junior Pupils category are:

- 1st place: "We honour soldiers" by Samuel Molnár, Kolárovo
- 2nd place: "Soldiers in training" by Rebeka Jamborová, Beckov
- 3rd place: "A Slovak soldier" by Bianka Bokrošová, Komárno

Winners of the Senior Pupils category are:

- 1st place: "Combating Covid-19" by Barbara Vargová, Komárno
- 2nd place: "Defence, courage, humanity and honour" by Sarah Vivien Dzurovčáková, Trebišov
- 3rd place: "Assistance and Support" by Viktória Havrilčíková, Trebišov

The winners of both categories have been invited to visit the MOD, where Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď will hand presents and cash prizes over to them during a prize ceremony on 29 June 2021.



- After earning the gold medal at the European Wrestling Championships earlier this April in Warsaw, Akhsarbek Guljaev (SVK), freestyle wrestler of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, claimed another huge success for the Military Sports Centre and Slovakia, when on 8 June he won the men's freestyle wrestling title at 79kg at the 2021 Poland Open event and is the world's No. 1 freestyle wrestler in his category.

- A memorial dedicated to the Hungarian POWs who lost their lives in the last months of WW2 was unveiled in the village of Kriváň on 8 June. The unveiling ceremony was attended by a Hungarian delegation led by Commander of the Institute of Military History and Museum Budapest Col Vilmos Kovács and HUN Defence Attaché to Slovakia Lt Col Csaba Vido, and by relatives of the fallen soldiers.

- After an over-a-year-long halt in training, the 10th Banská Bystrica City Marathon took place on 5 June, with the participation of SVK Armed Forces members. In the 3x7km relay run, the "We Are Soldiers" relay team, made up of Maj Ladislav Abraham (Joint Operations Centre), Maj Slavomír Adam (Topographical Institute), MSgt Matej Kazár (SVK AF HQ) finished 3rd out of the 99 relay run teams. The SVK MOD Half Marathon Championships took place as part of the marathon, with Nikola Vajglóvá (Log Bn Hlohovec) finishing 1st from among the female runners.

- A total of 735 applications were submitted to the Armed Forces Academy (AOS), but only 280 candidates attended the Active Duty Soldiers State Service selection process before sitting for the entrance exams at AOS for a three-year Bachelor's degree study programme. 155 cadets and students will be allowed to study towards a Bachelor's degree at AOS in the 2021/2022 academic year.

- AOS hosted the International Staff Officers Course (ISOC) with online attendance on 1-12 Feb and in-person attendance on 26 Apr - 4 June. 20 SVK officers participated in the course.

- Troops gathered at 21 Mech Bn Trebišov to continue their pre-deployment training for UNFICYP, with focus on practical training of specific trades and SOPs. The practical phase took place at 21 Mech Bn Trebišov and on Michalovce Garrison's Veľké Ozorovce Training Ground.

- The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as 33 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia in support of Defender Europe 2021 and Saber Guardian 21 from 14 to 20 June 2021. Over the same period, the SVK Armed Forces will conduct road movements across Slovakia from/to: Sereď – Trenčín, Trstená – Martin, Prešov – Trenčín, Ruskov – Kamenica nad Cirochou, Zemianske Kostolány – TC Lešť and back, Zemianske Kostolány – Trenčín, Rašov – VTSÚ Záhorie, Kamenica nad Cirochou – Michalovce, Martin – Michalovce and back, Nováky – Martin and back, Trenčín – Ruskov, Viničné – Alekšince. Also scheduled is a SVK military rail movement from Kamenica nad Cirochou to Sása-Pliešovce.

FULL FIELD KIT

on: **RÁDIO REGINA**, live on Fri at **21.05** with a rebroadcast at **00.30** on Sat, will report on the latest novelties and developments across the Slovak Armed Forces.

Ex Slovak Shield 2021 kicks off at Training Centre Lešť

(10 June) As training resumed after the second wave of the pandemic, troops gathered at an opening ceremony for the tactical phase of Ex Slovak Shield at TC Lešť on 8 June. During the exercise, troops will test the planning and conduct of operations until 24 June, with the participation of soldiers from Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and the United States of America. The aim of the exercise is to increase our readiness and interoperability with international partners. Ex Slovak Shield 2021 is a command post exercise with partial deployment of troops to training areas scheduled from 9 to 12 June, a battalion-level tactical exercise due from 18 to 22 June, followed by a live-firing exercise.

Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko said: "I am satisfied with the course of the exercise so far. Despite the pause in training due to the pandemic, armed forces have maintained a high level of professionalism in the planning processes and in operat-

Ex Scooter Control in Latvia



(10 June) Latvia's Ādaži Training Area hosted Ex Scooter Control to boost the readiness of the eFP Battle Group to guide and correct the firing of artillery units from a helicopter as the last good-bye exercise for the 21-01 troop rotation.

The aim of the exercise was to strengthen the skills of artillery observers who directed artillery fire onto targets from a helicopter, as well as testing the Fire Battery equipped with the Zuzana 155mm SpGH systems. The exercise was co-organised by members of the Fire Support Coordination Group (SVK Contingent). The training audience included artillery observers from Canada, Spain and Italy.

Divers in flooded quarry



(11 June) Ex Open Water tested Czech and Slovak military divers. They dived as deep as 34m in the 4-degree-cold water to saw a wooden structure in complete darkness. Alongside rescue missions, this was one of

the tasks they carried out below the surface in two-member teams. The SVK Army engineer divers were led by MSgt Michal Ščepko. During the training, they made use of underwater scooters with which the SVK divers had only limited experience.

Interactive map with museum objects



(13 June) The Institute of Military History (VHÚ) launched a new interactive map which shows the location of the museum objects from the collections

of both VHÚ-run Military History Museums on loan to other museums, local authorities, and organisations. They are maintained, repaired and restored by the borrowers in close coordination with specialists from the Military History Museums (MHM). The interactive map gives details on 86 exhibits – 50 items from MHM Piešťany and 36 items from MHM Svidník. The objects are divided into four categories: aircraft, tanks and armoured vehicles, artillery systems, and vehicles. They can be searched according to the name, category and owner and are displayed in the interactive map on the VHÚ website.



ing weapon systems. Exercises bring a lot of lessons learned. These lead to systemic changes in the fields of combat and mobilisation readiness with the aim of increasing it as an answer to the still complicated security situation in our area of interest."

The opening ceremony was attended by US Ambassador Bridget Brink who came to see the US exercising troops and members of the Indiana National Guard. Also in attendance were DCHOD Maj Gen Štefan Kovács and Commander of the SVK Air Force Brig Róbert Tóth. In his remarks, Maj Gen Ivan Pach, the exercise director, emphasised the need for joint training activities as an irreplaceable part of building international defence and security cooperation. The Commander and Deputy Commander of the SVK Air Force, Brig Róbert Tóth and Brig Ladislav Dovhun, inspected the Air Operations Centre on 10 June.