



NATO Summit in Brussels

(14 June) Strong transatlantic partnership, NATO 2030, Allied unity and cohesiveness – these were the central themes of the NATO Summit of Allied leaders at NATO HQ in Brussels on 14 June 2021. Slovakia was represented by President and Commander-in-Chief of the Slovak Armed Forces Zuzana Čaputová, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď, and Foreign and European Affairs Minister Ivan Korčok.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "The agenda of today's summit is the outcome of month-long discussions to set the main priorities in a number of important areas such as collective defence and the overall extension of the Allied approach to defence. This is a major step forward by which we and our partners acknowledge that we are willing to seize these tasks to the benefit of all NATO members, while NATO's adaptation to the changing security environment and our consensual position play a truly key role in this issue."

The core priorities of the Slovak Republic at today's Brussels Summit were, above all, to reinforce NATO's defence dimension, to advance the NATO-EU relationship, and to strengthen collective defence and deterrence in the face of traditional and new security threats. In this context, Mr Naď emphasised that individual member states perceive the Alliance as the main organisational framework for delivering the collective defence of Allies and the Euro-Atlantic area.

NATO leaders agreed a set of nine main decisions regarding NATO 2030 to guide the Alliance's adaptation in the coming years. These include strengthening political consultations, keeping NATO's technological edge, increasing resources, upholding the rules-based international order, stepping up training and capacity building for partners, and addressing NATO's response to climate change. They also announced the beginning of work on the next Strategic Concept, to be endorsed by NATO leaders at the next NATO Summit in Madrid in 2022.

GLOBSEC Security Conference

(17 June) At the GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď spoke on the panel "NATO 2030: How to get there?" – which was the central theme of previous week's NATO Summit of Allied leaders in Brussels. He was joined on the panel by Defence Minister of North Macedonia Radmila Šekerinska in person and by Minister of National Defence of Canada Harjit Sajjan virtually over a video call.

Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer was joined by his Czech and Swedish counterparts Jan Havránek and Jan-Olof Lind in having a full discussion on "European Defence Cooperation: Defining the Resilient Europe". They also discussed the latest defence themes such as the impact of new technologies and modernisation on the defence and security of countries.

Director General of the MOD's Defence Policy Department Martin Sklenár participated in a discussion on arms control and disarmament, named "Current State of Arms Control".

Advisor to the Defence Minister on Hybrid Threats Victor Breiner presented the Action Plan for Coordination of the Fight Against Hybrid Threats to an expert audience. This interdepartmental document identifies problems and proposes solutions to mitigating the effects of hybrid activity in Slovakia.

Defence Minister Naď underlined that, thanks to the high quality input into the conference by MOD experts, the MOD was one of the crucial shapers of strategic security discussions in the Euro-Atlantic area. In the margins of the conference, Mr Naď had a number of bilateral engagements during the conference.

President visits Exercise Slovak Shield 2021

(18 June) President and Commander-in-Chief of the SVK Armed Forces Zuzana Čaputová paid a visit to the Training Centre (TC) Lešť to give her support to service personnel on Ex Slovak Shield 2021, Slovakia's biggest military exercise, running from 1 to 24 June, testing all types of our Armed Forces capabilities. Also in attendance were Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko. Overall, over 8,000 servicemen and women took part in Ex Slovak Shield 2021, with TC Lešť hosting over 1,700 troops. The training audience at TC Lešť involved military units from Czechia, Hungary, Poland and the United States of America with 650 pieces of vehicles and equipment. The end of the entire exercise was dedicated to checks on mechanised battalion-level live firing with the participation of international partners, and the results of the exercising troops were due to be announced in the presence of senior military leaders and government officials.



- **Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil** to Slovakia HE Eduardo Ricardo Gradilone Neto met with Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď on 15 June. Focus of the meeting was mainly on the current domestic and foreign defence themes, the prospects for future bilateral cooperation, and support and options for promoting the domestic defence industry sectors.

- Meeting at one of the leading security conferences in Europe – **GLOBSEC 2021** in Bratislava on 15 June, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Czech Deputy Defence Minister Jan Havránek held bilateral talks on current defence and security issues, plans and visions for the modernisation and development of armed forces.

- Commander of the SVK Special Operations Forces Brig Branislav Benka has authorised his Second-in-Command Lt Col Miroslav Modročky to take **command of 5 Special Forces Regiment Žilina**, as COM 5 SOF Regt Žilina Col Pavol Šebik has left for a year-long course in the USA.

- The latest edition of **Azimuth 24/7** covers the 11km Jozef Gabčík Memorial Run from Jozef Gabčík's native home in Poluvsie to Žilina Barracks and reports on the Change of Command (COC) ceremony for COM 5 SOF Regt Žilina.

- As part of Ex Slovak Shield, **Sliach Air Base** hosted a two-week **integration training course for helicopter crews** of the SVK Air Force and the US Army, which operates AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

- **Ex Alertex 2021** took place at several locations across Slovakia as part of Ex Slovak Shield. The aim of the task force was to find an enemy group in its area of responsibility and to prevent it from launching attacks on the critical infrastructure facilities.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as 31 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 21-27 June 2021, and so are SVK military road movements from/to: Sereď – Martin, Kamenica nad Čirochou – Trebišov, Trebišov – Rožňava, Rožňava – Sereď, Sliach – Martin, Michalovce – Kamenica nad Čirochou and back, Lešť – Sereď, Veľké Ozorovce – Trebišov, Lešť – Martin, Martin – Hlohovec, Kamenica nad Čirochou – Veľké Ozorovce, Nitra – Topoľčany, Zemianske Kostolany – Lešť and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Sereď and back, Trenčín – Nováky and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Bratislava and back, Rašov – Nováky and back, Ruskov – Poruba pod Vihorlatom, Poruba pod Vihorlatom – Michalovce, Mokrad – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Prešov – Trenčín, Nováky – Záhorie, Alekšince – Nitra and Lešť – Hlohovec.

FULL FIELD KIT

on **RÁDIO REGINA**, live on **Fri at 21.05** with a rebroadcast at **00.30 on Sat**, will present the latest news from Defence and commemorate the **30th anniversary of the Soviet Army's withdrawal from Czechoslovakia**.

SVK Armed Forces end their 20-year-long engagement in Afghanistan

(17 June) Consistent with NATO's drawdown of forces in Afghanistan, the Slovak Armed Forces have withdrawn their forces and assets deployed under the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan, bringing the nearly 20-year-long presence of SVK servicemen and women in this country to an end on 16 June 2021.

Over 4,300 SVK military personnel had rotated in and out of Afghanistan under the "coalition of the willing" and the NATO flag since 2002, serving with Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and the Resolute Support Mission (RSM).

"Our servicemen and women got through an immense amount of work in Afghanistan by which they contributed towards building the security of the country and bringing credit on our Armed Forces. It was both a challenge and

Thanks go out to soldiers

(19 June) The CBRN Defence Battalion Rožňava hosted a special thank you ceremony where Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď along with Vladimír Zajačik MP and Head of the Rožňava County Office Jaroslav Šíp thanked the Rožňava-based military personnel for supporting the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The head of the MOD was keen to learn more about the needs of soldiers, their experience and expertise in combatting the spread of COVID-19, and the state of local equipment and infrastructure.

US Army lecturers at Business Academy



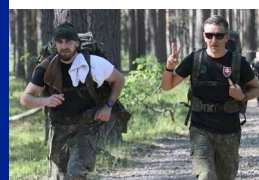
(19 June) Personnel of the CIMIC and PSYOPS Centre Martin and members of the US Civil Affairs Team in Slovakia started cooperating with the Business Academy Martin. English practice with

US Army personnel as hosting lecturers supports the bilingual programme at the Academy. The Academy appreciates English classes with native speakers from the US Army. The CIMIC and PSYOPS Centre helps raise awareness of military issues at Martin-based schools.

Fight against pandemic goes on

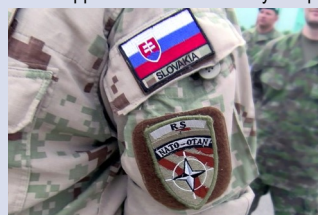
(17 June) Members of the Logistics Support Office and its subordinate military units continue to assist in the national response to the pandemic. Medical staff are collecting biological samples before training activities and events with high numbers of participants and coordinating the vaccination of military and civilian staff. Additionally, a medical professional along with two servicewomen of the Supply Base I Nemšová are working at the Vaccination Centre, Central Military Hospital Ružomberok – Outpatient Clinic Trenčín.

Baltic Warrior in Latvia



(16 June) Service members from across NATO's eFP participated in the "Baltic Warrior" competition in Latvia. Ex Baltic Warrior bi-annually tests the physical and spiritual resilience of Allied soldiers on Ādaži Training Area. There,

two-member teams completed a 16.8km loaded march with a backpack weighing 15kg, 2km of walking with a canoe, 11.1km of rafting, and a final 5.2km march. The competition was opened by the Canadian and Slovak Ambassadors to Latvia, HE Kevin Rex and HE Ladislav Babčan. Among those participating were 246 two-member teams, of them 16 were SVK teams and 1 SVK-SVN mixed team. The best SVK team – Lt Radoslav Regenda and Maj Michal Németh – finished 16th with 4:21:00.



an opportunity to gain a lot of new experience and expertise," said Mr Naď. He also praised the contribution made by SVK Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) experts on the Provincial

Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in building and modernising the Afghan countryside, as well as the postings of staff officers to all levels of the operation's command structures.

CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko said: "I find this long-term deployment and the achievements of our service members in such a remote and climatically

challenging destination as Afghanistan a success of the entire Armed Forces. We owe our thanks to every serviceman and woman and civilian employee who have played a role in making this success happen over the past twenty years – be that while involved in direct action or carrying out support tasks."