



New defence doctors

(24 November) A graduation ceremony for eleven new military medical professionals took place at the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš. They will be immediately sent into hospitals to work alongside their colleagues on the coronavirus frontline.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Today, doctors and nursing staff are valued more than gold. That's why I am pleased that doctors from the ranks of the Armed Forces will now reinforce the extremely exhausted heroes in white coats. We are here for our citizens to save their lives and health, we are ready to make all our capacities available." Mr Naď wished the new doctors a lot of strength in their service to the nation.

According to Surgeon General of the Slovak Armed Forces Brig Gen Roman Jantoš MD, as part of their military training, the defence doctors have completed Initial Military Training at the Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin and the Professionally Qualified Officer Course at the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš. "And while two of the eleven new doctors have finished their specialisation, the rest of them have been assigned to follow specialisation studies in different medical specialties," he explained. All the defence doctors have been deployed to hospitals across Slovakia – 35 have been placed at hospitals and 3 in GP practices, whereas an additional eleven new defence doctors will now reinforce them in the days to come.

U.S. assistance to hospital

(22 November) The Central Military Hospital - Faculty Hospital Ružomberok confirmed the receipt of US\$180,000 as a sponsorship gift from Lockheed Martin to restore its fire damaged building and to purchase new medical equipment. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď announced the financial assistance from the manufacturer of the most advanced F-16 fighter jets after meeting with representatives of the company in the USA.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "Not a month has passed since our meeting and the pledged aid is already in the military hospital's bank account. This is an example of serious cooperation which, besides the new aircraft for the SVK Air Force, will bring important support for our hard-pressed healthcare. Not only will this investment in defence benefit the armed forces, but it will be of direct benefit to our citizens."

Of US\$180,000, US\$150,000 will go towards restoring the fire damaged building in the Surgery Pavilion and US\$30,000 will be spent on purchasing new medical equipment – a new mobile diagnostic ultrasound system and an ultralight ventilator for the patients whose medical condition requires magnetic resonance imaging.

Providing an update on the state of the hospital after the blaze and thanking the MOD for engaging with the partners to support the hospital, Director of the Central Military Hospital - Faculty Hospital Ružomberok Robert Rusnák said: "We have cleaned up in the aftermath of the fire and a temporary roof is being installed. We are doing our utmost to repair and renovate the spaces and we wish to restart medical services to a full extent as soon as possible. Of course, the cost of restoration works is high, which is why the funds from Lockheed Martin will help us enormously."

NATO eFP BG Latvia undergoes training on Ex Valiant Forger II

(22 November) The training of the NATO eFP BG Latvia (eFP BG), which consists of three phases – preparation, certification and sustainment, is into its third phase. Ex Valiant Forger II took place as a two-week exercise for the purpose of sustaining and strengthening the cohesion of the BG's multinational elements. Each country was tasked by the BG Commander to prepare a specialist sporting competition for all the other countries. The SVK artillerymen set up an obstacle course, using artillery equipment. Ten-member teams were formed by the involved national contingents. The aim of the activity was to complete a challenging obstacle course with accuracy in the shortest time possible. Although being the fastest, the SVK team honoured other teams by letting them win – the Spanish team placed first ahead of the Czech team and the mixed Viking team.



- SVK Chief of Defence (CHOD) Gen Daniel Zmeko took part in the **Central European Chiefs of Defence Conference** on 17-18 Nov 2021. The conference was organised by Commander U.S. European Command U.S. Air Force Gen Tod Wolters and Bulgarian Chief of Defence Adm Emil Eftimov. Participants also included the Chiefs of Defence from Czechia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia and the Adjutant Generals of the U.S. National Guards participating in the State Partnership Program with the Central European militaries.

- MSgt Pavol Straka, of the Police Operations Section Prešov, was named **Best Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year**.

- With effect from 1 Dec 2021, there will be a change to the structure of **HQ Bratislava Garrison** with the resubordination of the Command Support Company from the Defence Staff to the Logistics Support Office Trenčín, which itself will be reorganised into 4 Log Regt. Earlier on 23 Nov, a command handover/takeover (HOTO) protocol was signed for this purpose between COM HQ BA GAR Col Miloslav Arnold and COM Log Sup Ofc Col Peter Masár at Dukla Barracks, Bratislava.

- Lt Zuzana Klačanská, member of 12 Mechanised Battalion Nitra and free-time sportswoman, placed 3rd at the **WAKO World Kickboxing Championships** in Italy's Lido di Jesolo earlier this October.

- The MOD has issued a **traffic warning** to motorists as 24 Allied road movements are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 29 Nov to 5 Dec 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: Martin – Prešov, Nitra – Trenčín and back, Sliach – Kuchyňa, Prešov – Moldava nad Bodvou, Moldava nad Bodvou – Trebišov, Sliach – Trenčín, Prešov – Veľké Ozorovce, Zemianske Kostolany – Trebišov, Sliach – Zemianske Kostolany and back, Zemianske Kostolany – Topoľčany and back. Next week, there will also be a SVK military rail movement from Zemianske Kostolany to Kuchyňa.

FULL FIELD KIT

on Radio Regina, live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat, presents an intense training exercise of Levice-based soldiers at TC Lešť.

96-hour training for Levice-based soldiers at Training Centre Lešť

(25 November) Members of 3 Mechanised Company, part of the Levice-based Battalion, attended intense 96-hour training at the Training Centre Lešť in the third week of November.

Company Commander 1Lt Filip Mahút, who was in charge of the training, stressed that the training allowed the company's units to focus on coordination and meant a shift in their readiness to undertake assigned tasks, saying: "The company has many junior soldiers who have joined the Service in the last two years. They have made the greatest progress. I also appreciate their senior and more experienced colleagues for



being supportive to them a lot. Developing all combat skills, which was a large focus of individual and team training back at our unit, has paid off."

Brilliant Andreas Žampa

(20 November) Andreas Žampa, alpine skier of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, won the men's giant slalom at the Copper Mountain Resort (USA) despite starting with No. 32. He took over as the leader in the first round and kept his lead throughout to win the race. Andreas Žampa is the first Slovak alpine racer to have won the U.S. Cup ski event.



Cadets and SBAD systems

(22 November) As part of their training, 2nd-year cadets of the Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Electronic Weapons Systems Programme at AOS underwent three-week tactical and electronic weapons systems training. The cadets specialising in SBAD systems engaged in the scheduled works and technical maintenance of the S300PMU air defence system, as well as completing technical checks on the missiles. The training was conducted at the SVK Air Force's 11 Brigade Nitra.

Phased out PCs still to help

(25 November) The Ministry of Defence is to donate €5.18m worth of 2,105 phased out PCs, dated from 1994 to 2014, to the ROMA PROGRESS Civic Association. The MOD wants to make a contribution to supporting the upbringing and education of children and youths from socially disadvantaged circumstances. Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "I can't understand why these phased out, yet still functional computers have been kept in storage all this time. I believe these PCs will be an excellent tool for learning, personal development and education." Director General of the MOD's Property and Infrastructure Department Ján Bučan said: "As a central government body, the MOD manages Defence estate and property with the view to ensuring maximum economy and efficiency. For this reason, we are open to reusing our surplus equipment. This is all the more so when it comes to helping children living in adverse social circumstances."

and our commanders improved on exercising command and control over their units."