



## Cabinet approves Long-Term Defence Development Plan

(8 June) The Cabinet approved the MOD-proposed Long-Term Defence Development Plan with an Outlook to 2035. This strategic document sets out the goals of and procedures for generating, sustaining and developing the state's defence capacities and capabilities into the future. According to Minister Naď, the adoption of the new long-term plan is one of the basic premises for a well-functioning and evolving armed forces. The previous version of the 2017 document was not approved by Parliament. Moreover, there was a need to update it in line with the SVK Defence Strategy and the SVK Security Strategy. "With its approval of the Long-Term Defence Development Plan, Slovakia is joining other countries that are willing and capable of perceiving their needs in the field of defence, even beyond a single electoral period," Naď added. The main goals of the Long-Term Defence Development Plan are: building a heavy mechanised brigade; increasing the number and improving the quality of service personnel in the armed forces; reorganising the Slovak Air Force in line with the requirements for new platforms and systems; standing up a new cyber operations unit; and completing the stand-up of Joint Operations Headquarters.



## Continued support for Ukraine

(8 June) Slovakia has so far supported Ukraine with approx. €154m in military aid. In today's conversation, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and his Ukrainian counterpart Olexii Reznikov discussed the next tranche of military assistance for Ukraine. During the phone call, Mr Reznikov highly appreciated all forms of Slovak aid that has contributed to saving thousands of lives in Ukraine, Slovakia's willingness to seek further possibilities of assistance and its constructive approach in the negotiations that resulted in Ukraine awarding a commercial contract for eight Zuzana 2 SpGHs to KONŠTRUKTA - Defence. The state-owned and MOD-run company will complete the production of the first howitzers for Ukraine over the next few weeks.

## B9 Defence Ministerial

(6 June) Speaking in a video conference with the B9 Defence Ministerial, Defence Minister Naď met for talks with his fellow B9 Defence Ministers, the UK Secretary of State for Defence, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, and NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning. Ahead of the upcoming NATO Madrid Summit, they discussed their expectations with regard to the forthcoming adoption of the new NATO 2022 Strategic Concept and the engagement of Allied forces along the Alliance's eastern flank. Minister Naď confirmed Slovakia's stance insofar as the new Strategic Concept must be adjusted to a more confrontational, yet still less predictable period and environment as Russia presents a long-term threat.



## KONŠTRUKTA - Defence to expand its capacities and create new jobs in Moldava nad Bodvou

(10 June) KONŠTRUKTA - Defence is planning to expand its repair and manufacturing capacities as part of its Maintenance & Repair Services (MRS) in Moldava nad Bodvou. At the time when Minister Naď took office, some 10-15 employees worked in the MRS workshop, where KONŠTRUKTA - Defence currently employs 60 employees and now has plans to employ around 150 technicians in the future. The latest increase in the number of employees was announced in a press conference by Minister Naď and Director General Alexander Gurský at the site. This is also linked to the tracked armoured capability acquisition for the SVK military. As with the Patria 8x8 AMVXP, one of the tender's key conditions is a high level of SVK industry content. Currently, the Maintenance & Repair Services (MRS) Moldava nad Bodvou is repairing artillery systems, MLRSs, wheeled and tracked platforms for the SVK Armed Forces, and Ukrainian military equipment. Later still that day, the minister and the company's leadership introduced a new medical evacuation vehicle prototype – a military ambulance built on the MERCEDES UNIMOG chassis, which will most probably be manufactured and serviced in this workshop.



- Senior officials of the MOD and the SNP Museum along with the Greek Ambassador to Slovakia, representatives of the Slovak village of Nemecká and the Greek town of Kalavryta paid tribute to the victims of the Nazi reprisals in WW2 at the Nemecká and Kalište Memorials on 8 June.

- Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer visited personnel of CBRND Bn Rožňava, 54 MLRS Bn Rožňava, and the radar base at Oždany in County Rimavská Sobota. He took a keen interest in the needs of soldiers and in the modernisation projects to improve their aging infrastructure.

- The Czech-led eFP BG in Slovakia has been complemented by over 90 Slovenia soldiers with equipment. As with other Allied troops, SVN Mech Coy will be operational at TC Lest. The BG was formally stood up in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine at the beginning of April. Ever since then, NATO troops have been arriving in Slovakia.

- On 10 June, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer congratulated WW2 veteran Ailsa Doman, a Slovak lady with British roots, on her 95th anniversary.

- After a three-year pause, Berlin hosted the Central European Garrison Commanders Conference. The Slovak Armed Forces were represented at the conference by COM BA GAR Col Miroslav Arnold.

- Preparations for the Slovak International Air Fest, Slovakia's biggest air show, have been at full swing. SIAF is due to take place at Kuchyňa Air Base in Malacky on 27-28 Aug.

- After a two-year pause, the 14th edition of Drill Fest 2022 was held in Karlove Vary and Prague, bringing together Guards of Honour (GOH) from the Central and Southern European region – including from DEU, HUN, POL, AUT, SVN, and SVK.

- Roman Catholic Bishop of the Forces Mons František Rábek, accompanied by Dean of the Slovak Air Force Capt Pavol Lukáč, made a pastoral visit to SVK UNFICYP soldiers in Cyprus. SVK peacekeepers were confirmed by Bishop František in a confirmation ceremony.

- The SVK Army Psychological Team now provides psychological counselling for soldiers and civilians in Defence and war veterans via email at [psycholog.OSSR@mil.sk](mailto:psycholog.OSSR@mil.sk).

- Daniela Ledecká, runner of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, triumphed in the women's 400m hurdles race at the 57th P-T-S Athletics Meeting in Šamorin.

- By defeating her opponent in the 52kg category of the PML3 League in Brno, Monika Chochlíková, fighter of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, has remained undefeated in the Muay Thai ring for 1,649 days.

- Ivana Horná, powerlifter of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, claimed a silver medal at the 10th World Open Classic Powerlifting Championships in Sun City, South Africa. Her 512.5kg total marks a new Slovak record.

- The latest edition of Azimuth 24/7, available on the SVK Armed Forces YouTube channel, presents the latest training of Sered-based military divers at Lake Black Water.

## Lieutenants from Košice



(10 June) Among the 60 Master of Engineering (MEng) graduates from the Aviation Faculty of the Technical University (LF TUKE) in Košice were four officer cadets of the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces

Academy who joined the ranks of commissioned officers: Lt Branislav Pavlišin completed the Aerospace Engineering Programme, Lt Alexander Šariczi and Lt Pavol Nazarej passed out of the Air Transport Management – Helicopter Pilot Programme, and Lt Matúš Šteuček completed his studies on the Air Transport Management – Tactical Aircraft Pilot Programme. Lt Nazarej was named Best Student of the Aviation Faculty and took over the Dean's Award and the Minister of Defence plaque. Defence Minister Naď turned up in person at the graduation ceremony to congratulate them on their career achievements.

## Ex Ramstein Legacy 2022



(10 June) Ex Ramstein Legacy 2022, a follow-up to Ex Tobruq Legacy, took place between 30 May to 12 June in several locations, including across Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. Focus of the exercise was on interoperability and SOPs in the Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD)

environment. On arrival at Poland's Ustka, DCOM 11 SVK AF Bde Lt Col Pavel Kožlej initiated the preparation of the SVK exercising troops, involving an IGLA MANPAD unit and other personnel of 11 AF Brigade. The SVK element, integrated into the Allied Task Force comprising Czechia, France, Poland, Turkey and the UK, underwent integration training with the Czech troops between 30 May and 5 June. The SVK soldiers' combat skills and readiness were then tested in a LIVEX exercise. This was followed by 9K38 IGLA live firings on 9-10 June.

## "Ants" from 11 Mech Bn on exercise



(10 June) Combat Service Support (CSS) operations, provided by 11 Mech Bn units, cover a wide range of activities with a focus on co-ordinated supplies, move-

ments of vehicles, repair of military equipment, and the delivery of complex services to soldiers in the field. Such training, led by Capt Marián Murín, was undertaken by CSS Coy of 11 Mech Bn, part of 1 Mech Bde Martin, at Martin Garrison's training grounds at Sučany and Turany on 6-9 June. The training culminated in a 72-hour intense field activity with vehicles swimming across the Ontario water obstacle.

## FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme reports on the Change of Command at SBAD Bde Nitra live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

## Air cadet pilots of 81 Wing Sliáč undertake first solo flights

(7 June) The air cadet pilots of the Armed Force Academy Liptovský Mikuláš who have been pursuing their studies at the Aviation Faculty of the Technical University in Košice

completed their first solo flights. Cadet Pte Jaroslav Gahura and Cadet Pte Frederik Arvay flew solo in an L-39 CM Albatross. This qualified them for joining the ranks of pilots in 2 Tac Sqdn, part of 81 Wing Sliáč. Here is what it takes to become a pilot of the L-39 jet. The trainee pilot must first complete a four-week conversion training programme at the Aviation Specialties Training Centre Prešov before under-



going training and a test at the Aircraft Engineering Services Group. After that is parachute training. This covers both theory and practice, including five parachute jumps with the use of the circular parachute. Next up is the cockpit simulator.

The simulation training sees the trainee pilot flying in the L-39 aircraft cockpit simulator for a number of hours. Only then is the trainee pilot allowed to fly a real L-39 jet, but only with

an instructor on board. Once the instructor is convinced that the trainee pilot can go solo, he must be tested by another instructor. Cadet Pte Jaroslav Gahura began flight training at Sliáč Air Base on 11 Apr 2022. He clocked 9 flying hours and 40 minutes with a flight instructor before his solo flight. Similarly, Cadet Pte Frederik Arvay spent 10 flying hours and 45 minutes practising with a flight instructor. Yet still ahead of their solo flights, they both undertook a check flight with Commander 81 Wing Col František Pytlík. Finally, they obtained the Wing Commander's approval and were cleared to fly solo.