



Deterrence and collective defence

(16 June) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' participated in the NATO Defence Ministerial in Brussels, with a focus on the Alliance's collective ability to respond to current threats in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and on setting the stage for the upcoming NATO Summit in Madrid.

"Our response to the drastic change of the security environment due to Russia's imperialist expansionism must be strong, decisive and credible. Amongst Allies, this calls for a genuine expression of our will to defend ourselves mutually, leaving no room for doubts," Mr Nad' said. He expects from the NATO Madrid Summit that it will represent a strategic milestone in NATO's long-term adaptation. "Collective defence and deterrence are a priority for us. This is why these two principles must take centre stage of the new NATO Strategic Concept," he said, adding that today's security situation demands that the forward presence of Allied deterrence on the Alliance's eastern flank be transformed into permanent forward defence – including with an uplift in its size, readiness and defence capabilities.

In a meeting of the US-led Ukraine Defence Contact Group, Allied ministers joined other defence ministers from around the world in discussing the latest tranches and coordination of military aid for Ukraine. To that end, Mr Nad' informed the leaders that Slovakia has gifted 5 helicopters and munitions to Ukraine.

Minister Nad' and his counterparts from the Visegrad Group hosted a discussion with UK Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace on the margins of the NATO Defence Ministerial in Brussels. This marked the last meeting of the V4 Defence Ministers under the HUN presidency and the first V4 meeting with the participation of the new HUN Defence Minister, Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky.

The V4 meeting was dominated by issues relating to the security situation in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the reinforced defence positions on the Alliance's eastern flank, and the expectations of individual countries for the upcoming NATO Summit in Madrid. Finally, the ministers had a look at the defence events & activities organised under the HUN V4 presidency as Slovakia takes over the rotating presidency from Hungary on 1 July 2022, and Mr Nad' detailed the SVK V4 presidency's priorities for the next year, with a focus on the V4's extended cooperation with Ukraine, joint training and exercises, and closer defence industry ties.



Minister Nad' in Prague

(18 June) Marking the 80th anniversary of the deaths of the Czechoslovak Army paratroopers in Op Anthropoid 22 days on after their successful assassination of Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich, SVK and CZE Defence Ministers Jaroslav Nad' and Jana Černochová remembered the sacrifice made by the Czechoslovak operatives in the crypt of Prague's Saints Cyril and Methodius Cathedral. Speaking on the spot where they died, Mr Nad' said:

"Through their acts of bravery, they have left behind a heroic and binding legacy of freedom for our nations. One cannot fail to see a parallel with the Ukrainian fighters who, too, refuse to succumb to the aggression against freedom."

Among the paratroopers was Maj Gen (in memoriam) Jozef Gabčík of Slovakia. Following the meeting, the CZE MOD announced it would lead talks on the protection of SVK airspace.

Signing up for Active Reserves 2023

(14 June) The MOD has started to accept applications for the Active Reserves (AR) 2023. AR soldiers undergo training to serve alongside the armed forces mainly in emergency situations. Those eligible for joining the Active Reserves are ex-service personnel, reservists of compulsory military service and those who served in the state's security forces (i.e. Police, Firefighting, Justice & Prison Guard personnel). Through the Army Recruitment Teams or by email, those interested can apply for the AR training programme no later than 30 Sept 2022. For more information on how to contact the Army Recruitment Teams and how to apply, go to the [SVK Army's website](#). In 2023, there are plans to train AR soldiers for the Defence Staff, Army HQ Trenčín, HQ 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany, HQ 2 Mech Bde Prešov, 5 SOF Rgt Žilina, CBRND Bn Rožňava, Eng Bn Sereď, TMRB Martin and MP. Today, the MOD is working on a legislative proposal to allow the AR training programme to be open to all SVK citizens that meet the requirements set out by law. Towards this end, the Conscript Amendment Bill, which is currently subject to interdepartmental consultations, will be forwarded to the Cabinet by Nov 2022 before passing through Parliament. The MOD expects the bill to take effect from early 2023.



- The SVK MOD website has experienced an extensive cyber attack. Thanks to the readiness of the Military Intelligence Cyber Defence Centre, the attackers did not get any data. Minister Nad' said that the cyber attack was fought off and no damage was caused to Defence infrastructure. Boosting cyber security is a necessity. The MOD urges the public to use caution.

- In her role as UNFICYP Force Commander, **Maj Gen Ingrid Gjerde** of Norway made her visit to Slovakia. She was welcomed to SVK Army HQ by COM SVK Army Maj Gen Ivan Pach. Central themes of the meeting included COVID-19 and its impact on operations, Op Shared Responsibility, the current situation in Ukraine, training and exercises, lessons learned from crisis management ops.

- Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer travelled to Paris to tour the **EUROSATORY 2022** Trade Show and support the exhibiting SVK defence companies.

- SVK-IDN defence cooperation can continue to grow, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer confirmed this after meeting an **Indonesian Parliamentary Delegation** led by Dr Fadli Zon, Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and Member of the Committee on Defence, Foreign Affairs and Information. The delegation was accompanied by Indonesian Ambassador Sutiono.

- The outgoing **U.S. Air Attaché**, LTC Greg Christiansen and his successor, LTC Jonathan St Peter visited SVK AF HQ Zvolen and were received by DCOM SVK AF Brig Gen Ladislav Dovhun on 15 June.

- To mark 30 years of the **SVK Soldiers Association** on 16 June, the Trenčín Garrison Club hosted a gathering of the Association members, with the participation of Director General of the SVK MOD's Human Resources Dept Martin Jakál and MOD officials.

- A new modern exhibition hall to house large military exhibits will be constructed at the **Military History Museum** Piešťany. The exhibition gallery will feature military hardware from 1945 to present. The €4.07m construction procurement project has been approved by the SVK Cabinet.

- DCOM SVK AF Brig Gen Ladislav Dovhun presided over the **change of command ceremony** for COM 11 SVK AF BDE on 17 June, with Col Jozef Paňko handing over the role to Lt Col Pavol Kožlej.

- Predeployment training for **SVK UNFICYP** service personnel has got underway. Week 1 has incorporated both theory and practice, including all arms preparation, UNFICYP area of operations, the history of the conflict, operational tasks, incident response, and left-hand traffic (RHT) driving. The training will culminate in a 3-day tactical exercise.

V4 Innovation Challenge Day

(16 June) V4 Chiefs of Defence met in Hungary to discuss not only the Ukraine crisis, but also options for closer collaboration on military exercises and possible transformation projects. A V4 Innovation Challenge Day was held concurrently with the meeting, with SVK, HUN and CZE teams presenting autonomous unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) solutions. The SVK team of RoboTech Vision excelled in all disciplines. The MOD wants to collaborate with businesses to bring more sophisticated and disruptive technologies to Defence and the Armed Forces.

SVK air defenders in Poland



(12 June) Ex Ramstein Legacy 2022, an Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) exercise, took place from 30 May to 12 June across Po-

land, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, focused on realigning the standard operating procedures (SOP) across Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD). Members of the SVK Iglia AA Det from 11 SVK AF Bde Nitra fired the 9K38 Iglia MANPADs at the Ustka weapons firing range. 14 SVK air defenders fired 14 missiles with "Excellent" rating.

MP Active Reserves training



(17 June) The Crisis Management, Training and Canine Division, Military Police (MP) Dept Vikanová-Hronec, delivered training for the MP Active Reserves

from 6 to 17 June, with a focus on the use of equipment, weaponry and vehicles and on engineer, topographical and CBRN training. The reservists practised their skills across incident response scenarios, including handling non-standard situations. Legal issues were included in the training programme to update the reservists on legislative changes.

Doors wide open at DUKLA



(15 June) To mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre, Deputy Defence Minister Marian Majer and Secretary General of the MOD's Service Office Peter

Kozák attended an Open Doors Day at the Athletics Stadium in Banská Bystrica. Members of the public were treated to the opportunity to meet top Defence sportsmen and women – Petra Vlhová, Michal Martikán, Monika Chochošilková, Patrik Jány, Paulína and Ivana Fialková, Elena Kaliská, Matej Tóth and others. Also involved in the programme were military helicopter pilots and firefighters with live action demonstrations.

Allied forces in the Baltics have been strengthening security for five years

(16 June) NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup Latvia – in which SVK service personnel are serving – has been demonstrating the Alliance's strength, unity and resolve to defend all of its members. In 2017, four multinational battlegroups came into existence in the Baltics, including in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. Their aim was to bolster the defence and deterrence of the Alliance's eastern flank as further confirmation of Allied solidarity and determination to abide by NATO's collective defence commitment, meaning an attack on one member is an attack on all. SVK service personnel have been on rotational deployment to Latvia since 2018. So far, 908 SVK soldiers (46 servicewomen) have rotated in and out of NATO's eFP BG LVA. The latest rotation of the eFP Battlegroup saw SVK artillery troops,

equipped with ZUZANA 2 SpGHs, replace our mechanised units. The mission of the Slovak Contingent, based in



the Ādaži Training Area, is to provide artillery support to NATO's eFP BG LVA and to deliver indirect fire support (IFS) against the enemy positions. Members of the SVK Armed Forces continue to serve 6-month tours, but when COVID-19 got in the way in 2020, they served a 12-month tour. Speaking on the occasion of 5 years of NATO's eFP, Jaroslav Nad' said: "For the SVK service members, the Slovak operational deployment to Latvia is a unique opportunity to test our capability to deploy forces and assets to an allied setting outside of Slovakia. Our Allies highly appreciate our artillery capability as it markedly increases the overall combat efficiency of the battlegroup." In this sense, he also underpinned the importance of NATO's MN BG SVK.