



Minister Nad' visits Republic of Korea

(21 September) Slovak Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' embarked on a series of working meetings in Seoul on his official visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK), including holding talks with South Korean National Defence Minister Lee Jong-sup and representatives of the ROK's defence industry. The leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work closely towards forging closer SVK-ROK defence and security ties. This marked the first official bilateral meeting between the Ministers of Defence of Slovakia and South Korea.

Central themes of the bilateral meeting included a deepening of SVK-ROK cooperation and Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Minister Nad' and Minister Lee also talked about future cooperation opportunities in the field of military cyber defence. In addition, Minister Nad' attended the Defence & Security Expo Korea (DX-KOREA) 2022, the ROK's only defence & security trade exhibition specialised in Army equipment, where he saw the exhibition stands showcasing weapon and non-weapon systems, counterterrorism devices, autonomous systems, AI, and military equipment. He expressed SVK defence companies' interest in forging closer cooperation with their ROK partners.



Oath of Allegiance at Martin base

(23 September) A total of 351 trainee soldiers and officer cadets of the Slovak Armed Forces Academy, including 94 women, passed out of a seven-week Initial Military Training (IMT) programme and swore the Oath of Allegiance at the Attestation Ceremony at the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin. Apart from them, 49 graduates of an 11-week Voluntary Military Training (VMT) programme took the Oath of Allegiance too. Of them, 30 VMT soldiers want to serve in the Slovak Armed Forces.

They were congratulated on making their oath – the highest moral promise of loyalty to the Slovak Armed Forces – by State Secretary Marian Majer and DCHOD Maj Gen Peter Babiar. After completing the IMT programme, young soldiers are ready to perform only basic military duties and will, therefore, move on to branch-specialised training. On their successful completion of Phase 2 training, they will report to respective military units of the Slovak Armed Forces.

On completion of the VMT programme, VMT soldiers are promoted to the rank of 2nd Degree Private (OR-2) and are transferred to the Reserves, with an option to enter the Active Reserves and deploy on domestic crisis management operations.

This is the third intake to SVK regular forces this year. Over 460 new soldiers – the highest number of soldiers to pass out of initial training on a single day in the history of the Slovak Armed Forces – took their oath in February, as did almost 200 young soldiers in May. Over 1,000 new soldiers have pledged their allegiance to the Slovak Armed Forces so far this year.

Armed Forces Day celebrated traditionally in Brezová pod Bradlom

(24 September) The beginning of Slovak Armed Forces Day was marked with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial dedicated to the 1848 battles fought for Slovakia's independence in the Habsburg Monarchy by Slovak volunteers-turned-soldiers on Prietržská Road close to Brezová pod Bradlom. Subsequently, the ceremony held in Brezová pod Bradlom's General M. R. Štefánik Square saw the best soldiers, veterans and representatives of the organisations cooperating with the MOD awarded with medals and decorations. In his address, Defence Minister Nad' said: "I want to give my sincere thanks to all Slovak Armed Forces service members for their dedicated service to their homeland and for the fantastic work they are doing – sometimes invisibly in demanding crisis situations under the watchful eyes of commanders or media, while at other times, there is still a whole raft of work going on unnoticed and in silence as business as usual. I hope a lot of soldiers can very palpably feel the many measures we have put into place in terms of investments in the modernisation of military vehicles, weaponry and clothing." After the ceremony, members of the public saw Slovak Armed Forces and Military Police demonstrations and could get a close-up look at their equipment and that of our allies from the NATO MN BG SVK. As part of the programme, popular bands and folk dance groups put on a real show, as did the SVK Armed Forces Band and Guard of Honour.



- A meeting of the **Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence Session** took place on 16-18 Sept in Tallinn, Estonia. Also in attendance was Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko and SVK MILREP to NATO Lt Gen Josef Pokorný. Central theme of the meeting was NATO's strategic development and adaptation to new security challenges.

- A **Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation (MOUC)** was signed between the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš and the Multinational Logistics Coordination Centre (MLCC) Prague on 20 Sept. The parties to the MOUC have committed to sharing expertise in the field of logistics, exchanging instructors, organising education activities and certified logistics courses.

- At his General Audience, Pope Francis greeted Slovak pilgrims on the **16th Slovak Bishopric of the Forces National Pilgrimage to Rome** on 18-24 Sept, led by Bishop Mons František Rábek. The programme of the pilgrimage included guided tours of selected basilicas and the places associated with St Sebastian, the Patron Saint of the Bishopric of the Forces, and with Sts Cyril and Methodius.

- Director of the Institute of Military History (VHÚ) Bratislava Col Miloslav Čaplovič and Director of the Museum of Military History (VHM) Lt Col Milan Kubizniak visited **Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN)** on 22 Sept, to inspect the state of progress made in restoring aircraft for VHM Piešťany.

- On 20 Sept, 11 Mech Bn Martin, Sučany TG, and Turkish Hill TA hosted a **combat readiness evaluation (CREVAL) exercise** for 11 Hvy Mech Bn Grp and other declared units. Their training programme is to culminate with a tactical battalion-level exercise.

- Col Ladislav Bujárek and his **NATO MN BG SVK** delegation paid tribute to Czechoslovak RAF pilot Maj Gen (in memoriam) Otto Smik in a ceremony held at the Smik Memorial at VHM Piešťany.

- On 20-21 Sept, the Training and K9 Branch, MP Dept Vikanová - Hronek, hosted improvement **training for MP crime investigators and technicians**, with the participation of experts from the Institute of Crime Investigation and Expertise Slovenská Lupča.

- Competitors of the **NATO MN BG SVK** national contingents battled it out in six sporting categories at the **Strong Man Competition**. COM MN Mech Bn Lt Col Jiří Pazdéra presented the winners with prizes.

- On 21-22 Sept, Zvolen Barracks hosted the **8th Capt Edmund Makovník Memorial Military Skills Competition**, with the participation of five teams from across the units subordinate to 2 SVK AF Bde Zvolen. The rolling trophy went to Lt Adam Hroš, Cpl Matej Medvecký, PFC Ronald Dianiška and Cpl Tomáš Rozložný, all from RS Bn Zvolen.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme reports on swimming training for combat vehicle drivers at TC Lešť, live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

NATO MN BG SVK achieves Full Operational Capability

(22 September) Taking part in Ex Strong Cohesion 2022 at the TC Lešť on 19-23 Sept, the NATO Multinational Battle-group Slovakia (NATO MN BG SVK), the formation of which began under the leadership of the Czech Republic as early as this spring, has experienced its most difficult test so far, according to Commander In-Theatre-Readiness-Inspection (ITRI) Team and Deputy Commander Czech Armed Forces Operations Headquarters Maj Gen Petr Procházka. SVK service personnel from the Mortar Platoon of 22 Mechanised Battalion Michalovce and from 3 Mechanised Company of 21 Mechanised Battalion Trebišov along with Czech, U.S., German and Slovenian service members took part in the certification exercise. A total of 800 NATO MN BG troops and over 200 SVK soldiers attended. They

New Military Archives



(19 September) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' along with Finance Minister Igor Matovič, Mayor of Trnava Peter Bročko and Chairman of the Trnava Self-Governing Region Jozef Viskupič introduced a construction project for a new Military Archives facility on the outskirts of Trnava. The new Military Archives will be constructed on a piece of MOD-owned land. The existing building complex, located in the centre of the city, is in serious disrepair. The new facility will house administrative spaces, storerooms and depots for documentation, a data storage centre for electronic Registry records, and premises for storage of classified files. The project envisages green roofs, solar panels, and a rainwater harvesting system with autonomous irrigation technology. The project is likely to be completed in 2025.

Against hybrid threats together

(21 September) Information warfare and its ramifications for society was discussed by State Secretary Marian Majer and Director of the Finland-based European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats Teija Tiilikainen. "Since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, we have found ourselves engaged in hybrid warfare. So, it is more than important to engage in consultations, cooperate together and enhance interoperability in the fight against hybrid threats," Majer said. Slovakia is planning to work with the Centre on putting into practice its Action Plan for the Coordinated Countering of Hybrid Threats, endorsed in March 2022.

Rock climbing competition



(22 September) The Bralce Rocks, located at the TC Lešť, hosted the 10th Interdepartmental Rock Climbing Competition, organised by the Centre's Specialist Training Branch, with the participation of representatives from across the Armed Forces, the SVK Military Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Mountain Rescue Service, and the SVK Police Corps. They competed in two-member teams, regardless of their gender. There were several routes with different levels of difficulty. More points were awarded for the more challenging ones. Maj Martin Kamas of the Fire and Rescue Service Lešť won the competition, followed by Vladimír Plachý of the Fire and Rescue Service Prievidza in the second place and Capt Martin Urban of the SVK Military Police in the third place.



were supported by combat and support vehicles and equipment. The exercise was inspected by CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko. Maj Gen Petr Procházka familiarised himself with all aspects of the NATO MN BG SVK's Land component to verify its readiness. "The objectives of the exercise were met. The Battlegroup has reached its Full Operational Capability (FOC) and is now ready to carry out the full range of its missions," Maj Gen Procházka said, adding that the ITRI Team focused on command and control (C2) and communications. The main aim of the exercise was to ensure alignment of the units in the field. Commander NATO MN BG SVK Col Ladislav Bujárek and Commander MN Mech Bn Lt Col Jiří Pazdéra were very pleased with the results of the exercise.