



The remains of an unknown Warrior arrive in Bratislava

(6 Nov) Working closely with Bratislava's Old Town Borough Council, the MOD will soon host the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier unveiling ceremony on Rázus Embankment in Bratislava. It will be a site of protocol ceremonies and a permanent focal point of remembrance. "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a publically accessible symbol of statehood. After long years, we will finally have one in Slovakia as well. This will be an important place of remembrance of those who have laid down their lives for their country. Therefore, special thanks go from my heart to all those who have in any way contributed to the creation of this dignified memorial – whether it be the Government Office, the Ministry of Finance, Bratislava City Council or especially the Institute of Military History and Bratislava's Old Town Borough Council. I am extremely pleased we have succeeded in making this pledge, unfulfilled by previous governments, a reality by installing this beautiful and decent artwork," Minister Nad' said. The Tomb will hold the remains of an unidentified warrior of the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps who fought in the Battle of the Dukla Pass. The remains excavated in 1997 have recently been moved from the Museum of Military History Svidník to be laid to rest at this memorial site. "In all developed democracies, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a central site of commemoration where state ceremonies take place. It is an enduring symbol of patriotism and ultimate heroism of those who have remained loyal to the oath of allegiance," Director of the Institute of Military History Col Miloslav Čaplovič said.



All Souls Day ceremony

(2 Nov) Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Defence Staff (DS) military and civilian personnel attended an All Souls Day ceremony in honour of their departed colleagues at the Reconciliation Memorial at the MOD. Speaking at the ceremony, State Secretary Marian Majer said: "Service in defence of our homeland forms a close knit family. Therefore, our respect and gratitude for all the deeds, cooperation and precious moments with all those who are no longer among us will forever remain in our hearts and minds. We honour their memory, we pledge never to forget." Addressing the audience, Vicar General of the Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps Colonel Mons Jozef Michalov shared a spiritual Word and offered a prayer for all the departed colleagues. The All Souls Day ceremony concluded to the sound of a lone bugler playing the Last Post.



A market survey on new standard infantry weapons for armed forces

(5 Nov) A market survey on the new standard infantry weapons to be introduced into the Slovak Armed Forces is continuing with State Secretary Marian Majer's trip to Northern Italy. While there, he was given a tour of Beretta, the world's oldest gunmaker with a 500-year tradition of manufacturing firearms, and was briefed on the company's operations and products. "We want to make the whole process as much open and transparent as possible, which is why we have been in contact with different gunmakers," Mr Majer remarked. More presentations and talks are scheduled in the coming period. As with all the equipment moving to contract award, the requirements of the Slovak military, transparency and local industrial content are considered decisive factors.



• **U.S. Ambassador Gautam Rana** met with SVK Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko. During their conversation, Ambassador Rana emphasised that the USA remains committed to defending NATO's Eastern Flank in accordance with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and to its continued cooperation with allies.

• In response to the migration wave, the SVK Government has set aside up to 100 Forces personnel for **assistance tasks in support of police forces** until mid-Dec. Given that military personnel will work 12-hour shifts on a rotational basis, around 200 military personnel will be assigned to the task.

• The Flight Simulation Facility at 81 Wing Sliac hosted a Commander 81 Wing Sliac Col František Pytlík's **Meeting of Commanders**, in the presence of DCOM SVK AF Brig Gen Ladislav Dovhun. They took stock of the tasks completed over the first year of the Oct 2021 – Sept 2023 Training Cycle. At the beginning of the meeting, DCOM SVK AF Brig Gen Ladislav Dovhun handed out medals to selected personnel of 81 Wing Sliac for their professional excellence on standby duty.

• Medical and non-medical staff of the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) **Central Military Hospital** - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok have received awards from Chair of the Žilina Self-Governing Region Erika Jurinová for their dedicated work. Awards for "TOP Doctor", "TOP Nurse" and "TOP Non-Medical Worker" have been given out to Gabriela Muchová MD, Agáta Žaškovská, and Maj Dušan Chudý, respectively.

• The CIS Base Ružomberok hosted a **training session** for its Command and Staff members and Admin Centre personnel on 2 Nov. Capt Juraj Vajs presented new trends in military and non-military threats and outlined changes in the security landscape where the Slovak Armed Forces will be deployed in line with existing legislation.

• Commander of the **Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base** Col Pavol Barančík promoted Sgt 1C František Vydra to Master Sergeant and Sgt Lucia Rodáková to Staff Sergeant in a promotion ceremony on 2 Nov.

• The Central Office of **Ecumenical Pastoral Service** in the Armed Forces and Armed Corps organised a camp for 21 Armed Forces kids aged 6 to 13 in Vyhne, in the middle of the Štiavica Mountains, during the autumn holidays. They enjoyed a variety of games, contests, trips and a night march.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents the Military Deed of the Year Awards on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Field training for young artillery officer cadets is culminating

(3 Nov) 4th- and 5th-year artillery officer cadets of the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš underwent specialist field training. The aim of the training was for a new generation of young officers to develop the skills and competences necessary to operate field artillery (FA) gun systems, artillery reconnaissance assets, and artillery fire control systems. Week 1 saw the 5th-year officer cadets using state-of-the-art Slovak Armed Forces-operated reconnaissance assets for determining target coordinates and drilled procedures for requesting fire support, while 4th-year officer cadets gained practical skills needed to operate the D-30A howitzer and the CP-34 artillery training system. Week 2 saw them practise firing artillery systems and controlling artillery fire. The training



culminated with live firing at TC Lešť, where the officer cadets identified target coordinates, requested artillery fire support, controlled artillery units, and operated gun systems at day and night. English was used as the operational language between the observation post and the artillery fire control point, in line with NATO standards. By doing so, they demonstrated their linguistic competence to work in an international environment. The training, led by instructors of AOS's Military Tactics and Operational Art Dept Maj Miroslav Mušíka, Maj Michal Vajda and Capt Richard Liška and supervised by Assoc Prof Jaroslav Varcha, was supported by 21 Sp Arty Bn, 54 MLRS Bn and 22 Mech Bn.

COC ceremony for COM DEUCON



(3 Nov) Lt Gen Bernd Schütt, Commander Bundeswehr Joint Forces Operations Command (BW JFOC), officiated the change of command (COC) ceremony for

the Commander of the German Contingent (COM DEUCON) based at Sliac AB, with Col Dirk Kraus handing over to Col Volker Pötzsch. Representing the Slovak Armed Forces at the ceremony were DCHOD/COS Maj Gen Peter Babiar and COM SVK AF Maj Gen Róbert Tóth.

Ex Tatra Freedom 2022



(2 Nov) Prešov AB and its detached site at Sliac AB hosted helicopter crews of 51 Wing Prešov, supported by technicians and ground support personnel, for Ex

Tatra Freedom 2022. The main tasks included conducting tactical training, improving the ability to deliver the inviolability of SVK airspace, and assisting aircrews in emergency situations. Another key task was to test the capabilities of the SVK Helicopter Unit declared to NATO's High Readiness Forces (HRF). Operating under national Air Command and Control (AC2), the exercising troops, involving U.S. and DEU allied troops, focused their efforts on planning, running and executing air operations.

Podmaniková's swimming records



(6 Nov) Andrea Podmaniková, swimmer of the DUKLA Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, is the first female SVK swimmer to complete

the women's 50m breaststroke under 30sec – she finished 3rd in the short course (25m) pool at the Swimming World Cup in Indianapolis (USA). With her time of 29.89sec, she broke her personal record by a margin of 0.19 against her last year's previous best of 30.08sec clocked at the World Swimming Championships in Abu Dhabi. This is the 14th time she has improved the SVK record. In addition, she broke the SVK women's 200m breaststroke record with her 2:21.15, finishing fourth in Indianapolis. With her 31.63sec, 24-year-old Podmaniková is also the SVK women's 50m breaststroke record holder in the long course (50m) pool.