



CHUs for Allied troops based at TC Lešť

(30 Nov) At today's official handover ceremony at the TC Lešť, Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and Czech Defence Minister Jana Černochová handed the first brand new Containerised Housing Units (CHUs) over to Allied service members who have come to strengthen NATO's presence in Slovakia in response to Russia's unprecedented aggression against Ukraine. As the accommodation facilities on the training estate are limited due to years-long neglect of investment in local defence infrastructure, the multifunctional CHUs are here to provide them with the comfort of living quarters.

"I want to thank all those involved. I am delighted that the new rotation of Lešť-based Czech troops will already be living in dignified conditions over the Christmas festivities," Minister Naď said.

"The Slovak side is doing the maximum to enable both Allied and our troops here to feel as comfortable as possible. In view of Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine, I have made a strengthened military presence on NATO's eastern flank one of my priorities and I will definitely give my support for the extension of the mission further into the future," Minister Černochová said.

The "Container City" with an accommodation capacity of 2,000 bed spaces is scheduled to be complete on the training estate in April 2023. The CHUs will be arriving in stages and will be inspected before being handed over for use.

"My thanks go out to the Host Nation, especially to the Director of the TC Lešť, Mr Mašťalský. To build accommodation facilities that meet the 21st century housing standards in such a short time is something worthy of respect," COM NATO MN BG SVK Col Ladislav Bujárek (CZE A) said, adding that the CHUs will serve the needs of Allied troops as well as those of the SVK military.

New CHUs will be deployed to Sliach AB too. The SVK GOV has set aside €31.42m for this type of accommodation.



A planned rotation of forces

(28 Nov) The MOD issued advance warning to the public that a planned rotation of forces in the NATO MN BG SVK would be underway from 28 Nov to 4 Dec 2022, with Allied forces moving by road and rail across Slovakia.

"We provide regular updates in advance to prevent the spread of disinformation and the misuse of information to create unjustified fear. Naturally over time, Allied forces need to rotate their military personnel as well as vehicles and equipment, so that they can continue to conduct operations to the benefit of strengthening our collective defence and security capability," Defence Minister Naď said.

To eliminate any disruptions to traffic, these extensive movements occurred at night and were escorted by MP vehicles.

BVP-1s handed over to Ukraine, Leopard 2A4s soon to arrive in Slovakia

(29 Nov) Slovakia has recently handed the last batch of the 30 tracked BVP-1 IFVs over to Ukraine under an arms swap deal between the Slovak MOD and the German Federal MOD. The first one of the 15 Leopard 2A4 MBTs is set to arrive as early as this December. "We will receive delivery of one or two MBTs every month throughout 2023 until all of the 15 MBTs are here in Slovakia. The tanks will considerably reinforce our Tank Battalion as we deliver our commitment to stand up the Heavy Mechanised Brigade under our NATO Capability Targets," Defence Minister Naď said, adding that this cooperation is beneficial to all the parties involved. Once overhauled and upgraded, the Leopard 2A4 MBTs will be delivered along with a package of ammunition, spare parts, logistics support, and training. Thanks to this gift, Slovakia will strengthen its Tank Battalion by 50%. The current number of T-72s in the SVK Army is neither sufficient nor meets the Alliance's minimum requirements. The standup of the Brigade is a key SVK commitment to NATO. Leopard MBTs are operated by 18 countries, e.g. by Poland and Hungary (soon to be followed by Czechia), which is to facilitate logistics services and upgrades.



- State Secretary Marian Majer attended the two-day **CEDC Ministerial Meeting** in Austria's Krems an der Donau, while WB Defence Ministers were invited into the CEDC Plus format (CEDC+WB) on the second day of the meeting. In-depth discussions were held involving AUS, HRV, CZE, HUN, SVN and SVK Defence leaders, with a particular focus on the security challenges posed by Russia's aggression against Ukraine and on the support for the WB countries' integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures and for deeper collaboration. At the meeting, Ministers signed a renewed Joint Declaration on the CEDC, thereby committing to promoting closer defence cooperation between the participating countries and beefing up the security of the European continent, coupled with the support for the WB, which, from the European perspective, is treated as a strategic priority.

- **COM NATO MN BG SVK Col Ladislav Bujárek**, joined by Director of the TC Lešť Anton Mašťalský, thanked the mayors of local villages for their cooperation with the Battlegroup under his leadership and introduced his successor, Col Karel Navrátil.

- The **Slovak Air Force** has a new DCOS at SVK AF HQ. Col Martin Kuterka, Chief of the Air Force Planning, Use and Development Branch, took up the appointment with effect from 1 Dec, in succession to Col Adolf Uličný, whose next appointment has been announced as a Senior Military Advisor in the USA.

- Following the organisational changes in the Slovak Armed Forces as of 1 Dec, **6 Signals Regiment Trenčín** was formed under the Joint Support Brigade. 61 Sigs Bn Trenčín and 62 Sigs Bn Ružomberok have been resubordinated to the newly formed Regiment. All emails, the website domain name, and telephone numbers are available at telefon.mil.sk.

- The **Deployable CIS Base** has been resubordinated to the Joint Support Brigade during a ceremony presided by COM SVK ARMY Maj Gen Ivan Pach.

- On his visit to Bratislava, **Commander Prague Garrison Col Radek Šiba** met with Commander Bratislava Garrison Col Miloslav Arnold to discuss their programme of activities. Col Šiba was then received by Chief of the Military Presidential Office Lt Gen Vladimír Šimko at the Grassalkovich Palace. He also paid a visit to the Cathedral of St Sebastian in Bratislava's Rača borough and was received by Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps Mons Rábek at the Bishop's Residence in Mariánka.

- Members of **81 Wing Sliach** gathered for a ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of Maj Gen Otto Smík's tragic death in WW2.

- Rožňava hosted a meeting of commanders chaired by **Com 5 Arty Regt**. Also in attendance were COM SVK ARMY Maj Gen Ivan Pach, commanders and staffers from the Rožňava- and Michalovce-based units subordinate to the Regt, chiefs of branches at HQ 5 Arty Regt, and Head of the Military Tactics and Operational Art Dept at AOS LM, Assoc Prof Jaroslav Varecha.

- Deputy Commandant for Sciences at AOS LM Assoc Prof Boris Dürkech held a meeting with **DEU Defence Attaché Lt Col Rüdiger Heinrich**. They looked back on the 30 years of SVK-DEU cooperation on military education and explored ways to deepen it.

- While Recce Plt of 22 Mech Bn Michalovce conducted **96 hours of training activity**, including tactical drills on "search and kill" raid operations on Michalovce Garrison's training ranges at Veľké Ozorovce, Repair Plt of 22 Mech Bn Michalovce conducted 72 hours of field repair activity there too.

- As part of all arms training, members of HQ 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany took part in **skills improvement training** at the Lipovník firing ranges on 29 Nov. They fired the CZ P-09 pistol at static targets with a tactical magazine change (reload) and the vz. 58 Assault Rifle at moving and disappearing targets. Finally, they drilled first aid procedures.

- Skimountainbiking (skimo) racer Marianna Jagerčíková, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, finished fifth in the sprint race and 6th in the mixed relay along with Jakub Šiarnik at the **Ski Cross World Cup** in France's Val Thorens.

Future MP personnel receive training on MP duties and procedures

(1 Dec) The Training and K9 Branch of the Military Police Department Vlkanová-Hronek is hosting the Initial Military Police Course for new MP personnel from 3 Oct to 20 Jan. They will receive 520 hours of instruction on MP tactics, techniques and procedures – both in theory and in practice, including the entry and exit tests, which will enable the course participants to familiarise themselves and follow the procedures necessary for MP operations. They must learn to handle standard issue firearms; develop an understanding of the Criminal Code, both substantive (rights and obligations) and procedural (legal rules), and of the Minor Offences Act; respond to incidents in real-life situations; and go through crime and road traffic accident (RTA) investigation procedures – all this under the watchful eye of MP Instructor MSgt (OR-8) Marek Launer, who has recently been named Best NCO of the SVK Military Police for 2022. There are two female and six male officers on the course. Those who served with Police, Justice & Prison Guard, and military forces in the past have

Defence open to universities

(1 Dec) To promote cooperation on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence (CBRND), the MOD is to give Slovak universities a chance to cooperate with the Slovak Army's CBRND facilities, for example, the Chemical Reference Laboratory Zemianske Kostolany, the Training and Testing Centre Zemianske Kostolany, and the Mobile Identification Laboratory Rožňava. Towards this end, cooperation agreements between the Ministry of Defence and Comenius University Bratislava, Slovak Technical University Bratislava, Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica, and Pavol Jozef Šafárik University Košice have been signed by Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď. "I am convinced that closer links between the academic community and the MOD will be of mutual benefit – for example, the unique research conditions and professional activities at the Zemianske Kostolany-based centre, which delivers training with live chemical warfare agents (CWAs), can inspire the potentially future CBRND specialists to sign up for the Slovak Army," Defence Minister Naď said. Cooperation will be encouraged on thesis consultations and defence, reviews of final papers and publications, exchange of scientific CBRND documents, books and information, joint research projects, and scientific events. The MOD expects academia to get more involved in the MOD's R&D projects and international defence capability development projects, with the use of EU instruments.

Training for UN and EU MOs



(2 Dec) The Peace Support Operations Training Unit (PSO TU), based at the Training and Mobilisation Forces Generation Base Martin, has delivered training for the SVK military observers (MOs) to be deployed with UNTSO in the Middle East

and the EUMM in Georgia. The theory module included a series of lectures on different aspects of the deployment and operations, historical developments leading to and after the conflict, first aid instructions, mine safety awareness, radio communications in English as the operational language, working with an interpreter, simulated negotiations with officials, psychological facets of peacekeeping, and driver training on the Land Rover Defender. Next, they put into practice the theory they learned at the PSO TU on Martin Garrison's training ground at Sučany. The Essential Skills on Ops package for the MOs included a 20-km dismounted patrol, with a number of challenges and incidents set up by their instructors along the way. The training culminated with a three-day exercise at Sučany, with a focus on the soldiering skills necessary for the operational deployments. Thanks to the observers' pro-active approach to the training and the quality of instructors' work, the SVK UN and EU MOs are now ready for the job ahead of them.

