



Defence Minister in Brazil for talks

(12 Apr) Slovakia is very much interested in advancing cooperation in the field of security and defence with Brazil, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad confirmed after his bilateral meeting with Brazilian Defence Minister José Múcio Monteiro Filho during the LAAD Defence & Security 2023 Trade Show in Rio de Janeiro.

Acknowledging Brazil's growing position as a significant manufacturer and innovator of specialist equipment with worldwide reach, Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad said: "Establishing closer collaboration in military-technical fields with Brazil is important insofar as this may bring industrial partners and expertise from the regions where Slovakia is not strongly represented to the SVK defence industry."

At the bilateral meeting, Minister Nad underlined that Brazil is becoming a significant exporter of military equipment. On this note, he welcomed the developing cooperation between the SVK MOD and representatives of Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer. He also informed his Brazilian counterpart about the Slovak Armed Forces' equipment modernisation priorities. Jaroslav Nad offered a reciprocal invitation to José Múcio Monteiro Filho, inviting him to come and visit this year's IDEB 2023 in Bratislava.

Minister Nad along with representatives of the SVK defence industry also took part in the opening ceremony of the LAAD Defence & Security 2023 Trade Show and promoted Slovakia's defence industry.

Mr Nad said: "I am very pleased to see that several Slovak companies are present here with specific project proposals.

So, for example, KONŠTRUKTA - Defence, which has moved on to the second round of the self-propelled howitzer (SPH) tender as the bidder and possible supplier for the Brazilian Armed Forces."

As well as seeking to procure 36 SPHs, Brazil is also interested in technology transfer.

The Minister also applauded the success of the Slovak-designed Falcon 4G laser-based CBRN stand-off detector by SEC Technologies at the event. The company signed a contract for the delivery of yet another detector to the Brazilian Armed Forces. This detector has also been in service with the Slovak Armed Forces.

"Some 15 defence ministers alongside interior ministers and chiefs of defence are taking part in the arms fair, whereas they all have come to support their national businesses and production," Mr Nad said, adding: "I firmly believe that this tradition of giving intense support to the Slovak defence industry will keep going into the future. Government support is key to the success of the SVK industry abroad."



NATO MN BG has been strengthening SVK defences for a year now

(15 Apr) In response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Czech-led Multinational NATO Battlegroup Slovakia (NATO MN BG SVK), consisting of CZE, DEU, SVN, NLD and SVK forces, began work at the Training Centre Lešť in Apr 2022. Its goal is to bolster the Alliance's defensive operations on its eastern border, while increasing Slovakia's defence capability. Since last year, Allies have deployed their forces and assets, worth several billion euros, to reinforce the SVK defences. Among the Combat Equipment (CE) land platforms deployed to the TC Lešť are Patria 8x8 AMVs from Slovenia, Boxer 8x8 AFVs from Germany, Pandur II 8x8 APCs from Czechia, as well as Iveco LMVs (e.g. CBRN variant), Tatra 810 trucks, and U.S. Army Humvee vehicles. Allied GBAD forces are also stationed in Slovakia. A DEU Patriot Battery has been deployed to Sliach, where a Dutch Patriot Battery had until recently served before its withdrawal. In addition, a 150-strong ITA SAMP/T Battery, a replacement for a U.S. Patriot Battery, has been operational at Malacky AB. Over the past year, Allies have rotated nearly 2,000 troops in and out of Slovakia. Currently, the strength of the Battlegroup stands at over 1,300 troops. SVK military personnel make up 10% of the Battlegroup. The NATO MN BG SVK is an important element of deterrence and is ready to protect our country at any time.



► Director General of the MOD Human Resources (HR) Dept Martin Jakal and Government Plenipotentiary for Development of Civil Society Filip Vagač signed a Memorandum of Mutual Cooperation between the MOD and the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Development of Civil Society, to anchor the principles of cooperation and mentoring in drafting selected public policies in Defence. MOD personnel are already taking part in the Learning Institutions (LI) Programme to apply its participative creation of public policies in Defence.

► Soldiers of the Army Recruitment Team took questions from the secondary school graduating classes of students during a series of events dubbed Interview Day, where representatives of the Slovak Armed Forces were among the most-sought-after recruiters.

► Gunners of 54 MLRS Battalion underwent training at the TC Lešť. The aim of the training was to align gunners of 1 MLRS Bty in the conduct of firing tasks and to ensure coordination between the firing and rece units. The training culminated with a three-day tactical live fire exercise (LIVEX), built around the theme of "Battery undertaking specialist tactical tasks" and involving eight live firing tasks, six by day and two by night. The LIVEX allowed the exercising unit to be tested on tactics, logistics support, movements, manoeuvre, topography, ballistics, and meteorology.

► Martin Garrison's training grounds at Sučany and Turany hosted improvement training for staffers of the Slovak Army HQ. The aim of the training was to improve their marksmanship skills by firing the standard issue pistol and the 7.62mm Model 58 SMG. In addition, the soldiers familiarised themselves with handling and firing the 5.56mm FN MINIMI LMG and the Opu SVD sniper rifle.

► The MAGNI HTH 35.12-V/A-N Telescopic Container Handler (TCH) Operator Course, led by instructors from the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin, took place at 53 Field Services Battalion Hlohovec for the third time. 10 service personnel passed the course successfully.

► Deputy Commandant of the NCO Academy Sgt Maj Karol Poslušný left the Service and was transferred to the reserves.

► At the Cultural House in Pezinok on 14 Apr, the SNP Museum staged the screening of Silence, a WW2 film dedicated to the Slovak National Uprising, for primary school pupils and secondary school students from Pezinok and Modra, with a follow-up discussion with WW2 veteran Vladimír Strmeň.

► Ema Hačundová and Dominik Černý, race walkers of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, broke their personal records and won the Slovak 20km Race Walk Championships in Banská Bystrica, while Filip Krestianko and Jakub Mažgút, members of the Dukla SK BCF Club, triumphed in the Juniors category's 10km and 5km walk races, respectively.

► The last men's and women's sprint race of the Ski Mountaineering World Cup season took place in Norway's Tromsø. Marianna Jagerčíková and Jakub Šiarnik, skimo athletes of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, finished 5th and 27th, respectively.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents interviews with soldiers on Ex Toxic Lance 2023 live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Course for Air Force fire & rescue services in Spain

(12 Apr) As part of the training of Slovak Air Force firefighting units under the Crash & Fire Rescue Module (CFRM), SVK firefighters attended the practical phase of the Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting Course at Centro Jovellanos in Spain's Gijón.

The course provides firefighters with effective drills to rescue the crew and save the aircraft in an emergency and is seen as being essential for crash and fire rescue protection at any air station. Led by experienced and certified instructors from Strategic Fire Solutions (SFS), a fire training provider, the firefighters dealt with aircraft fire emergencies, such as extinguishing a 500l jet fuel tank on



Certificate required under the CFRM module, as well as taking home firefighting expertise from incident response drills, rescuing crews and passengers and saving aircraft.

SVK MiG-29s are in Ukraine

(16 Apr) Slovakia handed all of the announced 13 MiG-29 fighter jets over to Ukraine. With the first four MiG-29s flown to Ukraine by UKR Air Force pilots in Mar 2023, the remaining nine were successfully transferred to the UKR forces. "The transfer of equipment was conducted by road, while maintaining the highest levels of security. Our thanks go out to all those involved in the transfer, because in cases like this it is always really an important and challenging logistics operation," Minister Nad said, noting that the MiG-29s represent Slovakia's huge support for Ukraine in its defence against Russia's aggression and in its protection of human lives.

JTACs and JFOs



(13 Apr) JTACs, part of the NATO MN BG SVK, coordinate air assets and provide close air support (CAS). Currently, there are five JTACs from three Allied countries at the TC Lešť. Their main communication equipment to stay in contact with the commanders, aircraft, helicopters, UAVs and indirect fire support elements is the radio. But in addition to voice communications during Ex SLS23, they also used data communications for the first time. JTACs are supported by joint fires observers (JFOs). Working on the ground directly at the company level, JFOs identify enemy targets, provide targeting and terrain information, coordinate close combat attacks (CCA), request field artillery (FA) fires, minimise threats to civilian residents and damage to property. Six JFOs from three Allied countries are currently serving with the Lešť-based Battlegroup. Recently, these JFOs and JTACs underwent training in guiding in contracted civilian (Learjet and Pilatus PC-12) aircraft, piloted by ex-German Air Force pilots, all the way from Germany.

Mil jobs on offer at a job fair

(16 Apr) The 'Agrokomplex' Exhibition Centre in Nitra hosted a job fair, attracting over 50 employers and 3,000 visitors. The Slovak Armed Forces had their own information stand to present military jobs – from classic military roles such as a machine gun operator, a marksman, an anti-armour system operator, a cook, a driver, a medic, a diver, an engineer, through to a signaller, an IT specialist, and a pilot. The Recruitment Team provided information on military job benefits and career progression. At the job fair, visitors spoke with soldiers from the SVK Armed Forces GOH, the Presidential GOH, and 5 SOF Regt Žilina.