



Heroes deserve our respect and thanks

(4 Apr) Bratislava-Nové Mesto Borough Council unanimously agreed to rename a section of Kutuzov Street in Bratislava-Nové Mesto as General Viest Square. General Rudolf Viest is a major figure of SVK military history and a WW2 Slovak National Uprising hero.

Defence Minister Nad said: "I think the time has come to take action and ensure that the institutions responsible for Slovakia's defence and security agenda are located on a street that bears the name of an important personality of our military history. Undoubtedly, General Viest is just such a person and deserves to be remembered in a dignified way in the capital city. We owe a lot to him and many other heroes, which is why I hope that our proposal will be accepted by the borough council and that we all together will give this true hero well-deserved homage."

According to him, it is unacceptable for the MOD and the DS to be located on a street named after a military figure of the country which today represents one of the greatest threats to the values of freedom and sovereignty.

Rudolf Viest was born in Revúca. Shortly after WW1, he played a vital role in recruiting Slovaks for the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia. His journey with legionaries took him across Siberia, around the world, and back to his homeland. For six years of his active duty service during the First Czechoslovak Republic, he held a range of high command and staff appointments in Bratislava. In 1933, he became the first Slovak officer to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General of the Czechoslovak Army. In late Aug 1939, he immigrated to France where he commanded the 1st Czechoslovak Division. After the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising, he returned home and took command of the Resistance forces in Slovakia on 7 Oct 1944. General Viest was captured by Nazi troops and most probably transported to the Flossenbürg concentration camp. After WW2, the Communist regime did not recognise his wartime merits.

The proposal to rename a section of Kutuzov Street in Bratislava-Nové Mesto as General Viest Square must still be approved by Bratislava City Council. The residents of Bratislava will not be affected by the renaming in any way.

Muay Thai fighter in uniform

(4 Apr) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad welcomed world class Muay Thai fighter Monika Chochlíková, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica and the SVK National Team, to the MOD in Bratislava. For her outstanding results while representing Slovakia in martial arts, he thanked and presented her with the SVK Minister of Defence Medal. "It was a surprise until the very last moment and a great honour. I'm grateful for all the support I get from the Dukla Military Sports Centre and the Ministry of Defence," Monika Chochlíková said.



A truly significant day for NATO and all its members

(4 Apr) As we marked the 74th anniversary of NATO, the Alliance's membership base grew to include its 31st member – Finland. Defence Minister Nad said that this is a truly significant day for the Alliance and all its members in light of the strengthening of NATO's collective defence and security. He continued: "The security reality that the Russian Federation created for the whole world more than a year ago has clearly confirmed the justification for the existence of the largest and strongest defence alliance in the world – NATO. Following the "musketeer principle", we have voluntarily committed to defend each other together – our countries, people and values. I am therefore very happy that Finland is set to officially join us today, because together we are stronger." Mr Nad added Finland saw the fastest ratification process in NATO's modern history and expressed his support for the Alliance's expansion by the 32nd member – Sweden. NATO came into existence with 12 founding states signing the Washington Treaty on 4 Apr 1949. NATO's founding document came into force on 24 Aug 1949. Slovakia became a member of the Alliance along with Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania and Bulgaria as part of NATO's biggest enlargement in 2004.



► On NATO Day on 4 Apr, coinciding with Finland's accession to NATO, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Slovakia Her Excellency Ms Gabriella Sancisi met for an office call with State Secretary Marian Majer.

► While in Banská Bystrica, Ambassador of the French Republic to Slovakia His Excellency Mr Pascal Le Deunff paid a visit to the Slovak National Uprising Museum.

► An intensive 96-hour-long training deployment to a military training area saw members of 11 Mech Bn Martin giving first aid in combat, setting up traps and firing small arms.

► On 4-5 Apr, Nitra Garrison's training ground at Koliňanský vrch hosted the training of combat vehicle (CV) drivers under the watchful eye of experts from 12 Mech Bn Nitra. 20 Army drivers improved their off-road driving skills both day and night across some of the most difficult terrain.

► The aim of Dynamic Front 2023 was to improve cooperation of NATO's eFP units in Latvia. For their successful conduct of firing tasks, SVK gunners of 54 MLRS and 21 SPH Det received a commemorative plaque.

► The Museum of Military History Piešťany has launched the construction of its Large Exhibits Hall. This is the first exhibition building to be built in Slovakia in more than 30 years and will offer better protection for its collection objects and more comfort to visitors. The construction works are scheduled to be complete in 2024.

► OCs of the Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš deployed to Mokrad MTA for two days to undertake a tactical move across difficult sections of local terrain. Focus of the training was on the section-level activity during a convoy movement, giving visual signals, crossing 'irisky' sections of the terrain, and moving into all round defence.

► Patrícia Tománková, judoka of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, won the U40kg category at the European Judo Cadet Cup in Czechia's Teplice.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents an interview with Chaplain Capt František Krušínský about his service in the Canadian and Slovak Armed Forces live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Green uniforms, green actions

(6 Apr) The Ministry of Defence is aware of the increasingly urgent need to apply green solutions and is therefore working to put them into practice in the widest possible range of areas, through investments in the refurbishment and maintenance of buildings as a way of boosting their energy efficiency and improving their surroundings, eco solutions to vehicle fleets, environmental remediation works, and green public procurement. Details of the MOD's green measures are set out in the Action Plan for Buildings Upkeep and the Action Plan for Advancing Clean Mobility Across Defence. Among the innovative green projects underway are the construction of the new Trnava-based Military Archives to be equipped with a green roof, solar panels, and an automatic rain water irrigation system, as well as the construction of

the first kindergarten in Slovakia to meet all eco trends such as a green roof and solar power generation. What's more,



the kindergarten's curriculum will be enriched by an environment conservation and protection programme. The MOD's green ambitions are embraced by the MOD's subordinate organisations. In this regard, Military Forests and Estates has been involved in remediating environmental burdens, including water and soil remediation works, and revitalising the environments degraded by contaminants at military sites. In addition, Military

Police (MP) personnel have been engaged in combating environmental crime, including preventing illegal waste dumps from being started and building up across military estates. Thanks to these and similar projects, the natural environment in Defence gets the green light.

We help clear mines in Ukraine

(4 Apr) Contaminated with UXO and landmines as a result of Russia's brutal aggression, Ukraine is one of the most mined countries in the world. Slovakia has provided Ukraine with ten Božena mine clearance unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs), including 2 of its latest variant – Božena-5, worth approx. €3.5m altogether. In addition, UKR instructors have received training on the Božena UGVs from SVK military personnel.

NATO SOF Conference



(6 Apr) In his opening remarks at the NATO Special Operations Forces (SOF) Commanders Conference in Šamorín, COM SVK SOF Brig Gen Jaroslav Krám said: "Joint training & education and friendly bonding activities

with Allies are key to increasing operational readiness." He continued: "It is a great honour to welcome you here at a time when Slovakia marks 19 years in NATO." The NATO SOF Commanders Conference, which is organised by the NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ) based in Belgium's Mons and which took place historically for the first time in Slovakia on 4-6 Apr, was opened by State Secretary Marian Majer.

28th ISOC Course is over



(6 Apr) In the presence of Brig Gen Slavomír Verčimák and AOS Deputy Commandant for Education Col Aurel Sabó, the 28th International Staff Officers

Course (ISOC) concluded with a graduation ceremony at the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš on 6 Apr. 1st lieutenants from the CZE and B&H Armed Forces along with 17 SVK officers improved their skills on the course. For nine weeks, they planned and conducted military operations at the tactical level in line with NATO standards. The course was supported by an instructor from the U.S. Indiana National Guard. The U.S. guardsman stepped in to assist with the multinational unit's two-week introductory field training exercise with a focus on the defence of the country in the wake of the neighbour's aggression. All participants passed the course. 1Lt Václav Melich (CZE A) achieved Best Student on the course.