



## Continued support for Ukraine

(21 Apr) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' took part in a multilateral meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group (UDCG) at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The main theme of the UDCG meeting was addressing Ukraine's most urgent needs to defend itself against Russia's aggression. Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' said: "International support for Ukraine remains inevitable – which is something the participating nations agree on. It is very encouraging to see the international community's strong commitment to Ukraine. Slovakia, one of the most active providers of military aid to Ukraine, is fully committed to the continued provision of military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine." To date, Slovakia has supplied 12 military aid packages to Ukraine. Included there are, among other things, the S-300 air defence system, Božena mine clearance UGVs, 30 BVP-1 IFVs, five transport helicopters, munitions, fuel, and, as part of the latest tranche of military support, 13 MiG-29 fighter jets and some assets of the SA-6 "Gainful" surface-to-air missile system. Ground-based air defence capabilities are key to Ukraine. "That's why we were one of the first countries to have donated this strategic asset to Ukraine. I hope this move will encourage other countries to supply much-needed military equipment," Nad' said. Slovakia also supports Ukraine with its battle damage repair (BDR) workshop in Michalovce. Minister Nad' reaffirmed that Slovakia is now ready to start repairing battle-damaged equipment from Ukraine.

## SVK airspace is protected

(21 Apr) The presence of Allied ground-based air defence (GBAD) capabilities and their rotations in Slovakia depend on the developments in the security environment and the possibilities of Allied Nations' involvement. Naturally, SBAD systems need to be rotated for maintenance purposes. Such rotations are planned and consulted with Allies. This information has been around the public well since the end of last year. We are discussing details with Germany and are in close contact with other Allies to identify options for a possible replacement, given that NATO's strong eastern flank is a priority for the Alliance and a joint approach to SBAD on NATO's eastern flank will be one of the underlying themes of the upcoming NATO Summit in Vilnius. SVK airspace is protected better than ever before. As with the replacement of the U.S. Patriot Battery by the ITA SAMP/T Battery, even in the case of Germany, the MOD along with our Allies will secure an adequate replacement. For free and permanently, Germany is to provide Slovakia with two MANTIS air defence systems, worth €250m, to boost Slovakia's air defences on its eastern border with Ukraine. The SAMP/T air defence system, operated by Italy at its costs and expense, will remain in Slovakia.

## Minister Nad' discusses defence and security with ambassadors

(18 Apr) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' welcomed the ambassadors of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the USA to the MOD, to address current political and security issues with the emphasis on the MOD's priorities in the context of support for Ukraine and SVK Defence modernisation. "I am very pleased that Slovakia's clear positions and resolve to help Ukraine in its justified struggle for freedom are also appreciated by our partners from the Baltics and Scandinavia, several of whom share borders with Russia," Minister Nad' said. On this note, during the Finnish Ambassador's separate office call with the Minister, Mr Nad' extended his congratulations to Finland on its recent accession to the Alliance.



At the meeting, Minister Nad' thanked the ambassadors of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for their countries' contributions to the stability of NATO and the EU's eastern border and cited the initiative of Norway and Denmark which along with Germany decided last year to fund 16 Zuzana 2s for Ukraine as a successful example of Slovakia's defence cooperation with the Scandinavian countries. Later that day, Minister Nad' separately met with U.S. Ambassador Gautam A. Rana, to discuss current transatlantic processes and the modernisation priorities that are linked to the \$200m in U.S. FMF grant assistance to Slovakia. As proposed by the Slovak Armed Forces, these funds will go towards purchasing Oshkosh 4x4 JLTVs, 5,000 M4 assault rifles, and anti-drone systems. They also discussed the next essential steps to be taken regarding the U.S. offer of 12 AH-1Z Vipers to Slovakia.

► State Secretary Marian Majer received **British Ambassador Nigel Baker** at the MOD on 19 Apr. Ambassador Baker appreciated SVK assistance to Ukraine. In their conversation, they also touched on the NATO Summit in Vilnius, including on the commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence and the need to take a clear position on China.

► After two years' time, CZE, HUN, U.S. and SVK CBRND multifunctional platoons have been carrying out recon, monitoring and decontamination tasks at TC Lešť and CBRND TTC Zemianske Kostolany on **Ex Toxic Lance 2023**, running on 17-28 Apr in Slovakia.

► **NATO MNMPBAT** hosted a staff rehearsal at the Rakitje base in Croatia. SVK, CZE, POL, HRV and GEO Military Police (MP) personnel went through scripted exercise scenarios. After four years' time, it was the first real activity of NATO MNMPBAT that put its command staff and troops through their paces in preparation for Ex Sharp Lynx 2023, which will see the Battalion's deployment to Czechia's Libavá Training Area later this October.

► Members of 22 Mech Bn Michalovce, led by Lt Col Peter Pavlík, have deployed to Hohenfels Training Area to take part in **Ex Combined Resolve** on 24 Apr - 16 May 2023.

► 2 Heli Sqn, part of 51 Wng Prešov, carried out a **live fire exercise**, using the Mi-17M helicopter and S-5 unguided rockets against ground targets. During 11 sorties, a total of 384 rockets were fired at 400 simulated targets across the Kuchyňa Air Weapons Range.

► 103 CBRND Battalion Rožňava is currently training the sixth intake of **Active Reserves (AR)** soldiers. For them, MSgt Gabriel Górní, the NCO in charge of the training, prepared an intensive training programme, culminating with the use of toxic chemical warfare agents (CWAs) at Zemianske Kostolany Training Area.

► The Dukla Military Sports Centre will host an **open doors day** at its SNP Athletics Stadium from 09:00 to 13:00 on 1 May. SVK military sports stars are looking forward to meeting their fans.

► To mark 50 years of AOS Liptovský Mikuláš, the Commandant of the **Armed Forces Academy** treated some 450 staff and officer cadets to a sporting day out. On 20 Apr, they participated in a range of sporting disciplines from hiking to shooting at the AOS Simulation Centre. Director of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Lt Col Matej Tóth joined the event as well.

► Having won the nation-wide **Štúr's Pen Writing Competition**, the editors-in-chief of the "Gymplák" Magazine from Topoľčany and the "Life in the Academy" Magazine from Poprad received MOD prizes from Deputy Director of the SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office Lt Col Juraj Nýkčí.

► **Tajmuraz Salkazanov (SVK)**, wrestler of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica, defended his European Champion title after beating Frank Chamizo (ITA) 3:1 in the 74kg finals of the European Wrestling Championships in Zagreb, Croatia.

## FULL FIELD KIT

**Radio Regína's Full Field Kit presents the 30th anniversary of the SVK Army engineers' deployment to UNPROFOR live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.**

## International MASCAL training exercise at TC Lešť

(20 Apr) The Training Centre Lešť hosted an international mass casualty, or MASCAL, training exercise dubbed Mass Casualty Response Plan on 18-20 Apr, with the NATO MN BG SVK working alongside the SVK Integrated Rescue Service – Regional Operations Centre Banská Bystrica and the SVK armed forces, with the aim of seeing greater alignment between forces and civilian rescue services in a mass casualty response. The MASCAL drills reacted to multiple accidents and incidents where a large number of the Battlegroup soldiers were injured and the situation could not be contained by them alone. In such cases, civilian rescue services must be called in to help.



One of the scenarios simulated a road traffic accident involving a combat vehicle and a coach in difficult mountainous terrain, requiring a response from CZE, DEU, U.S. medical staff of the ROLE-1 medical treatment facility, SVN and SVK defence medics, and firefighters of 81 Wing Sliac. Over the three days,

## SVK S-300 saves lives in Ukraine

(20 Apr) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' received Ukrainian Ambassador Myroslav Kastran at the MOD. They discussed the situation in Ukraine, the justifiability of gifting military equipment to Ukraine, and additional options of assistance. Ambassador Kastran thanked Slovakia for its humanitarian and military aid and confirmed that the Slovak S-300 air defence system is still operational, saying that it has been effective in defending against Russian missile attacks. He also appreciated that Slovakia was among the first countries to help Ukraine with combat effective weapons systems.

## NSPA General Manager in BA

(21 Apr) State Secretary Marian Majer received the NSPA General Manager, Ms Stacy Cummings, at the MOD in Bratislava. Through the NSPA, the MOD is implementing a number of major projects on modernisation, infrastructure, munitions, weapons and equipment. The two discussed ongoing projects, notably the reconstruction works to Sliac AB and the procurement of equipment for SVK military personnel. Mr Majer and Ms Cummings agreed that multinational cooperation is a very effective way of procurement, even though defence equipment is now in high demand and there is a growing backlog in deliveries.

## A second Leopard delivered

(17 Apr) Personnel of 14 Tank Bn Trebišov, 42 Supply Base Martin, and the MOD's Modernisation Dept took delivery of the second Leopard 2A4 MBT, in accordance with the delivery plan. Under the arms swap deal with Germany, Slovakia has gifted 30 BVP-1 IFVs to Ukraine in exchange for 15 Leopard 2A4 MBTs. All of the remaining 13 Leopard 2A4s are expected to have been delivered to Slovakia by the end of this year. The MTBs are comprehensively repaired and serviced by Rheinmetall Landsysteme before their handover to the SVK military. Trials of the first Leopard 2A4 MBT to verify some of its technical specifications and tactical performance parameters have been completed at the VTŠÚ Záhorie. The results of the trials are currently being analysed by the MOD. Training in all aspects of operating the Leopard 2A4 MBT will be led by Bundeswehr instructors at the TC Lešť as early as this summer.

## New sniper rifles for MP

(18 Apr) Military Police (MP) sharpshooters received marksmanship training in using the SAKO TRG 42A1 Bolt Action Sniper Rifle, its optical scope and other accessories at the Training and K9 Branch, MP Dept Vlkánová - Hronec. The new optical scope provides data required for the calculation of the ballistic trajectory to engage the target precisely. The training included mounting the optical scope to the rifle and adjusting the sniper rifle according to individual needs.