



64 Patria 8x8 AMVXP vehicles to be made in Slovakia

(27 Apr) The SVK defence industry will get involved in the production of the Patria 8x8 AMVXP vehicles with local industry content as high as 60%, which significantly exceeds the minimum 40% industrial participation requirement, Minister Nad' confirmed during his visit to CSM Industry Ltd in Tisovec. Because the company will play a major role in the project, the technology transfer process is currently underway. The Patria programme will create 40 jobs in Tisovec. The company has already begun to take on the first new assembly workers and is carrying out dual education with the secondary technical schools in Hnúšťa and Revúca. In addition, it is now reconstructing an assembly hall where the vehicles will be assembled. Half of the €4m investment in the facility will come from the Finnish company. "Production on the first Patria vehicle to be "made in Slovakia" will start in September. KONŠTRUKTA-Defence, the prime contractor, will participate in the project by supplying the chassis. A number of other SVK firms will take part in the production of the vehicles, which will bring stability to the companies in Dubnica nad Váhom and Skalica, for example," Nad' said. Managing Director of CSM Industry Ltd Tomáš Maroš said: "This is a significant help for the industry, the region and the engineering sector, because this is the way for the defence industry to re-emerge. We will do our utmost to encourage people to come back to the region and revive it. The vehicle will be produced in Moldava nad Bodvou and Tisovec in Slovakia's two least developed regions." Restoring Slovakia's defence industrial capacity has been a priority for the MOD. "Therefore, we have involved the SVK defence industry in the delivery of all modernisation projects, whether it be the radars, the tracked platforms, or, as in the case of CSM Industry Ltd, the wheeled platforms – the Patria 8x8 AMVXP vehicle," Nad' added.

Getting ready for a new radar

(27 Apr) Defence Minister Nad' visited 3 Radar Surveillance Company (RS Coy) Ožďany – this forms part of the system securing the inviolability of SVK airspace and NATO's collective defence under NATINAMDS. The unit will operate a new 3D radar in the near future. "The tasks of safeguarding SVK airspace are performed on a 24/7 basis. There is a real necessity for new radars, which is why I am pleased that they are soon going to become a reality. They will be serving the needs of the Armed Forces for at least 20 years," Mr Nad' said. During his visit, he was briefed on the Company's history and organisational structure as well as on the state of its personnel, training, certification, logistics, investments, and preparations for the new 3D radar. 3 RS Coy is divided into two elements – the combat element based at the village of Ožďany and the rear element based in the town of Rimavská Sobota. Minister Nad' visited both elements. While in Rimavská Sobota, he inspected the progress made in upgrading defence infrastructure.

Bucharest Nine (B9) is more important today than ever before

(26 Apr) Defence Minister Jaroslav Nad' took part in the B9 Defence Ministers' meeting in Warsaw. The central themes of the meeting were the regional security situation in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the role of NATO and the EU in support of Ukraine. Ministers also tackled issues regarding NATO's eFP in defence of the Alliance's eastern flank. "We confirmed the unity and steadfastness of our positions vis-à-vis the violations of international law and the territorial integrity of sovereign countries that are unprecedented in contemporary history," Mr Nad' said. At the meeting, they spoke about the possible mechanisms to reinforce the Alliance's eastern flank through the adaptation of command structures and the fielding of specific capabilities, including GBAD assets. The meeting also covered issues relating to the NATO Summit in Vilnius and the views of Ministers on the CSDP. In this regard, Ministers paid due attention to NATO and EU support for consolidating the defence capabilities of some countries in their immediate vicinity, especially Moldova, Georgia, and BiH. The B9 group consists of Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. Also in attendance was UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.



► For their military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko presented **medals to military personnel** of JOCOM, MILMEDCOM, HQ 2 Mech Bde, HQ 2 SVK AF Bde, 5 SOF Regt, 57 Sp Bn, 51 Wng, 81 Wng, 65 Recce Bn, 11 Mech Bn, and 21 Mech Bn during a ceremony on 27 Apr.

► The **Higher Readiness, Combat Readiness and Mobilisation Course (K-3)** for commanders up to the brigade/base level culminated at the Mobilisation Force Generation Unit Poprad, to improve their theoretical knowledge of SOPs.

► 139 trainee soldiers and PQOs, including 34 were women, have been undergoing **initial military training (IMT)** at the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin. They have passed the first of the three PT tests and are now following a structured PT programme. The IMT training will culminate in a passing out parade on 2 June.

► Sappers of Engr Cbt Spt Coy and Engr Recce Coy, part of 901 Engr Bn Sereď, underwent **training in breaching operations**. They deepened trenches with the use of explosive charges, detonated explosives at wooden, brick and reinforced concrete structures, and created a breach point in the obstacle for a passage of troops. 12 AOS Officer Cadets (OCs) took part in the training.

► On 26 Apr, officials from the SVK Air Force, the Ministry of Defence's Defence Policy Dept and Military Aviation Office met with a Hungarian delegation, led by Col Tibor Pék, to discuss the **Technical Agreement on Joint Protection of SVK Airspace**.

► **Principal military chaplains of the V4 countries + Ukraine** met for a conference at the High Tatras on 25-27 Apr. The conference was supported by Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Bishopric of the Forces Col Jozef Michalov and Director of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service Office Capt Simon Czap.

► Members of **HQ Joint Support Brigade Trenčín** took part in a workshop on the Reception, Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) of Allied troops at the NATO Force Integration Unit Hungary (NFIU HUN), supported by RSOM SPT HQ and national NFIUs.

► On 25 Apr, after a three-year pause over the coronavirus pandemic, the Trenčín Garrison Club hosted a **specialist gathering of logisticians** chaired by Chief of Fuel Supply from 44 Log Svcs Ctr, Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín.

► The SNP Museum, the Museum of Military History Piešťany and its Svidník Branch would like to invite the public to the Night of Museums and Galleries on 13 May.

► Skimo athlete **Jakub Šiarnik** became a member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre on 1 May 2023.

► The Ecumenical Pastoral Service Office wishes to invite the public to the **5th Spiritually in the Footsteps of Heroes March** to be held on 15-19 May over the 80km route: Nové Mesto nad Váhom – Krajné – Košariská – Myjava – Stará Turá – Nové Mesto nad Váhom. You can find more information by the internet.

► The latest 56th edition of **Azimuth 24/7**, available on the SVK Armed Forces YouTube channel, reports on the day shoots by Mil Mi-17 helicopter pilots.

Majer visits Mexico

(27 Apr) State Secretary Marian Majer took part in Mexico's FAMEX 2023, Latin America's biggest aerospace fair with a focus on military and civilian aircraft and security & defence. The aerospace industry is one of the most prospective sectors of Mexico's economy and the country's 12th largest manufacturing sector. For this reason, the MOD wants to establish defence cooperation with Mexico, especially on defence industries and armaments. During FAMEX 2023, Mr Majer held bilateral meetings with State Secretary of the Mexican MOD Gen Agustín Raddilla Suastegui, Commander of the Mexican Air Force Maj Gen José Gerardo Vega Rivera, Chair of the Parliamentary Defence Committee Ricardo Villarreal García, and other officials.

Silvanus at Polana Reserve



(27 Apr) The Silvanus project is the integrated technological and information platform for wildfire management and forest resilience, funded by the EU. As part of a tactical coordination exercise, organised by the Technical Univer-

sity in Zvolen, 48 innovative scientific and technological institutes from 11 counties familiarised themselves with the Silvanus platform at the Polana Biosphere Reserve on 25 Apr. The training event, involving firefighters of 46 Wng Kuchyňa, 81 Wng Sliach and 51 Wng Prešov and a Mil Mi-17 with a Bambi Bucket, tested the coordination of the participating units, the C2 system, the SOPs for wildfire emergencies, and air traffic control at the site of the fire. While firefighters from 46 Wng Kuchyňa and 51 Wng Prešov set up a FireFlex tank for aerial operations, firefighters from 81 Wng Sliach built an artificial lake to store water, being transported across rugged terrain with a huge elevation gain, for a ground firefighting response. With their fire engines full of water, they moved across difficult wet terrain. They also used a tracked firefighting UGV.

VLM Branch Office out of timber

(26 Apr) That the focus of Military Forests and Estates (VLM) is on ecology and cost-efficiency is evidenced by the construction of the VLM Malacky Branch Office building. This is entirely made of edge-glued cross-laminated timber (CLT) originating from the VLM's woodlands. Plastic waste will be used for the construction of the fence and the interior staircase. A green roof, a rainwater garden, solar panels, a boiler for wood chip from the VLM's woodlands, and many other eco solutions are a matter of course. The project also features an educational trail for school kids. The building's green certificates are many in number and some of them were issued for the first time in Slovakia.

Exercise Toxic Lance 2023 completed



(28 Apr) On 17-28 Apr, the Training Centre Lešť and the CBRN Defence Training and Testing Centre Zemianske Kostolany hosted Ex Toxic Lance 2023, with participation

from CBRN specialists from Czechia, Hungary, the USA and the Indiana National Guard. The theme of the exercise was "Delivering CBRN Measures in Providing Specialist CBRN Combat Support for Manoeuvre and Support Units and in the Aftermath of Disasters, Accidents and Leaks of Toxic Industrial Chemicals as part of Crisis Management." Interoperability between multifunctional tactical CBRN units in an international environment was at the core of the exercise. The commanders of the platoons and their soldiers went through the planning and decision-making processes ahead of performing CBRN-related combat support (CS) tasks and specialist tasks with toxic chemical substances. On the exercise, the exercising troops tested their detection and decontamination capabilities. The exercise also served as the NATO Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) for the soldiers of 103 CBRN Bn Rožňava's command staff and 2 Multifunctional Company assigned to support the NATO Capability Targets 2021.