



MOD submits RPQ to U.S. Government

(6 July) A request for price quotation (RPQ) for the delivery of 12 AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters along with the precise specification of requirements for the AH-1Z Viper and associated accessories, AGM-114 Hellfire II missiles, initial logistical support, training for pilots and technicians has now been submitted to the U.S. Government by the SVK MOD, which has moved another step closer to accepting the U.S. Government's advantageous offer to strengthen Slovakia's defence potential.

As Defence Minister Sklenár explained, what is to follow next is a review of our request along with other time-consuming arrangements, adding: "Given the complexity of the processes and previous experience, our American partner announced that due to the specifics of the project, which will involve returning the already produced helicopters in storage back into active service rather than producing new ones, it is necessary to expect longer periods for individual stages." He continued: "In this phase, our goal was to specify the requirements of the Slovak Armed Forces in as much detail as possible to increase the chances of quick progress and move on to the next step towards the delivery of the U.S. price quote."

A team of U.S. SMEs must now consider all aspects of the package (logistics, ammunition, maintenance, training, etc.) and review the condition of the helicopters and spares. Only then can the price offer and the formal notification to the U.S. Congress be prepared. After Congressional approval and the signing of the contract, the U.S. side will start refurbishing the helicopters and installing the required systems in them.

Considering the length of the processes involved, the delivery of the AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters to Slovakia is expected to take three years. The U.S. package is worth more than \$1bn. However, based on its negotiations and agreement with the USA, the MOD will pay about \$340m over the course of 3-4 years from the planned Defence budget.

Earlier this March, the USA offered 12 AH-1Z Vipers along with associated accessories, training of pilots and technicians, and sophisticated AGM-114 Hellfire II missiles to Slovakia as compensation for transferring 13 retired MiG-29s and some assets of the Kub air defence system to Ukraine. The move could also be perceived as indirect compensation from the U.S. Government for the announced delay in the delivery of F-16s to Slovakia.

68 graduating OCs receive diplomas and commission

(7 July) Officer Cadets (OCs) of the Magister (Mgr) and Master of Engineering (MEng) degree programmes in military sciences successfully completed their studies and took part in the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Class of 2023 Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony. In the presence of Secretary General of the MOD Service Office Peter Kozák, 68 graduating OCs, of whom 19 were women, received their diplomas and commission as Lieutenant. In a keynote speech, Secretary General of the MOD Service Office Peter Kozák said: "The military profession brings with it lots of duties and responsibilities that bind those involved and give their work special meaning. Not only are Soldiers called to execute orders, but they are called to do something extra – being a soldier also means being a good citizen and leading by example – in families, neighbourhoods, communities and social life." He wished them every success and lots of strength for the future as they embarked on their service to the homeland. In his speech, the Academy's Commandant, Assoc Prof Jozef Puttera, said that in addition to educating and training OCs, the Academy's mission is to instil moral and ethical principles and a sense of civic and social responsibility in them. He thanked all those involved in supporting the military education & training programmes at the highest standards.



► The 25th National Military Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Hill in Levoča took place on the first weekend of July. While one group of pilgrims came to Levoča by four coaches, a second group of pilgrims, led by Senior Chaplain 1Lt Ladislav Jeremiáš, walked there all the way from Prešov. The pilgrimage was joined by a German Bishopric of the Forces delegation led by Bishop Franz-Jozef Overbeck and a Polish Bishopric of the Forces delegation led by Military Chaplain Capt Karol Biegłuk.

► On 3 July, military and civilian staff gathered for a ceremony marking the official announcement of appointments to HQ 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany at Jaselské Barracks, with Lt Col František Gízel as Chief of Staff for Operations, Major Martin Doležal as Chief of Planning and Operations, Capt Michal Zverdoň as Chief of Information Security and Communications and Information Systems, and Capt Martin Štuka as Chief of Maintenance and Repairs. At the ceremony, both captains were promoted to the rank of Major by Comdr 1 Mech Bde Col Štefan Leja.

► Military Police Dept Trenčín hosted a meeting of representatives of the SVK Military Police with Provost Marshal MPCC MNBG SVK Capt Radek Zámečník (CZE A) and his successor Maj Jan Třmal (CZE A) who is to succeed him at the end of July. They discussed issues of common interest for SVK MP and MPCC MNBG units.

► The annual remembrance ceremony for Lt Dušan Paľuch who died in the 2006 Hejce air crash disaster began with a wreath-laying ceremony on Borsó Hill, Hungary. In attendance were 31 shooters of the Dušan Paľuch Memorial Shooting Competition, service members of the SVK Armed Forces, invited guests, and 30 ex-servicemen of 51 WG Prešov who have backed this event in the past. Following the ceremony, this year's shooting competition tested the participants' skills to fire the short-barreled rifle (SBR) in five shooting disciplines, culminating in a duel where pairs of shooters fired at the same number of metal targets. The winners received prizes from Lt Dušan Paľuch's sister.

► Airmen of 46 WG Kuchyňa underwent training on Turkish Hill Training Area, firing small arms and throwing F1 defensive fragmentation grenades at targets from assigned positions.

► Canoe sprint athletes Katarína Pecsuková and Bianka Sidová, members of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, snatched 4th in the women's K2 event at the U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships in Italy's Auronzo.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit presents the EOD Support Course in the detonation pit at the MOD facility in Sklené live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

A SVK Combat Search Team exercises in the Netherlands

(3 July) In the Netherlands, a SVK Combat Search Team of 901 Engineer Battalion Sereď has been taking part in a four-week Combat Search Team Course.

Within NATO, the Royal Netherlands Army has a wealth of experience in Combat Search Operations from its deployments on crisis management operations. That's why our engineer team is being trained by instructors of a local NATO-accredited combat search training establishment.

The training programme combines both theory and practice. An interpreter for the course has been provided by the Dutch side. The trainees first dealt with partial tasks and SOPs before tackling a big scenario, lasting 5-6 hours.

The training programme has been significantly affected by the war in Ukraine. Dutch instructors have worked crucial les-

Cooperation agreement signed

(6 July) Director of the SVK Military Police Col Valentin Cebo and Director General Director of the SVK Environmental Inspection Authority Ján Jenčo signed a cooperation agreement between the SVK Military Police and the SVK Environmental Inspection Authority. It covers basic conditions of cooperation in areas such as the prevention of illegal activity in the environmental sector, the preparation and implementation of joint preventive and safety actions, crime detection and evidence gathering in the environmental sector, professional cooperation and education activities in areas under the Inspection's remit, and information sharing.

Medals from European Games



(4 July) 35 sportsmen and women of the Dukla Military Sports Centre joined the 145-strong SVK Team for the 3rd European Games in Poland. They took home silver and bronze medals and achieved

several top ten placements. With her time of 1:59.92 in the women's 800m sprint, sprinter Gabriela Gajanová (pictured here) won bronze and confirmed her place among the best 800m sprinters. With his eighth-place finish in the men's 400m hurdles, hurdler Matej Baluch achieved his personal best time of 49.56sec. On the same track, Daniela Ledecká ran her season's best time of 57.83sec. Karate fighter Ingrid Bakoš Suchánková finished 5th in the women's 61kg kumite. Sprint kayaker Katarína Pecsuková took 9th in the K2 500m event. Shooters Jány, Holko and Šulek ranked 6th in the men's 10m air rifle team event. After their second-place finish in the men's 3x C1 event, slalom canoeists Alexander Slaťavský and Marko Mirgorodský won silver. In the women's Kayak Team event, the SVK team, involving kayakers Eliška Mintálová and Michaela Haššová, placed 7th. Kayaker Eliška Mintálová finished 5th in the Kayak Cross event. Kayakers Jakub Grigar and Martin Halčin ended 6th and 9th in the K1M. Dukla athlete Margaréta Vráblová joined the SVK triathlon team who finished 10th in the mix relay event.

Abandoning aircraft in an emergency



(7 July) Ten SVK military pilots and one flight attendant took part in aircraft water crash landing training on 3-7 July. As part of the training, the participants practiced

swimming techniques in uniform they wear during the flight as well as using an emergency breathing apparatus and a rescue system. After simulated ditching, their final mission was to abandon the aircraft in the water, swim to a life raft in the shortest possible time, call the rescuers, and ignite signal flares to help a UH-60M Black Hawk crew find them.



sons from actions and tactics in Ukraine into it, including on Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) and mines, ranging from antipersonnel to directional mines. Searching for threats, cleaning up areas to ensure safe movement of VIPs, collaboration with special operations forces (SOF), and the provision of escape routes have been among the most interesting training scenarios so far.

The history of the Slovak Combat Search Team dates back to 2022. The Team's training in the Netherlands marks a milestone in their path to passing the INTERMEDIATE level in Combat

Search Operations ahead of their certification in 2024. The path to this goal won't be easy as there are still lots of demanding hours of training ahead of the Team, even under the watchful eye of Dutch instructors.