



A rise in demand to join Slovak Armed Forces

(16 Aug) There was an increase of 215 applications to the Armed Forces in the first half of 2023. The Slovak military has continued with the positive trend of the last year, when the highest number of new regular soldiers in the history of the Slovak Armed Forces was recorded. For the prospective candidates to join the Armed Services, all the necessary and useful information is available at www.budemvojak.sk. To increase recruitment into the Armed Forces, the MOD and the Armed Forces have taken several strategic steps. First, military professionals have set up the Recruitment Support Groups (RSGs) since the beginning of 2023. These have significantly stepped up engagement with secondary schools across individual regions, briefing students on a wide range of roles in the Armed Forces. Second, the first point-of-contact places have opened up for prospective candidates at 25 military units across Slovakia to simplify access to information on active duty service and get more people sign up and join the Armed Forces. On a day-to-day basis, they support the Recruitment Teams based in Slovakia's six regional capitals. Third, the MOD conducted a new recruitment campaign – 'A LOT OF PROFESSIONS, ONE MISSION' – from May to July 2023. Recruitment adverts were shown on television and aired on radio. As part of a longer-term communications strategy, the campaign also appeared on billboards and citylights. The MOD continues to use its own means to communicate the meaning and significance of the military profession.

Minister meets UKR DAS

(15 Aug) Defence Minister Martin Sklenár received the outgoing and incoming Ukrainian Defence Attachés to Slovakia, Col Bogdan Kharchuk and Col Volodymyr Konyk, at the MOD. Minister Sklenár thanked the outgoing DA for his cooperative work towards supporting the Ukrainian people as they defend themselves against Russia's aggression and for maintaining very correct relations and genuine dialogue. The meeting was also an opportunity to officially welcome Col Volodymyr Konyk and discuss the MOD's assistance to Ukraine and other priorities for the coming period. "I appreciate Col Kharchuk's extraordinary determination and cooperation during his tenure as DA. Ukraine can be proud of the work he has done here. Thanks to our well-established and flexible cooperation with Ukraine's military diplomacy and foreign service, we have undoubtedly managed and will manage to save many innocent lives," Mr Sklenár said. In recognition of his cooperation 'over and above' the standard expected of his role and his pro-active approach as DA, Col Kharchuk received the Slovak Minister of Defence Medal in Bronze (3rd Grade) from Minister Sklenár.



No SVK peacekeepers injured in the incident in Cyprus

(18 Aug) Turkish Cypriot forces attacked UN peacekeepers in Cyprus on the morning of 18 Aug as they tried to stop unauthorised construction work at the village of Pyla in the demilitarised zone dividing Cyprus. SVK soldiers were involved in the clashes, but were not injured. "The UN peacekeepers blocked the unauthorised construction of a road with vehicles in the buffer zone. An incident occurred in which UN property was damaged," the SVK military stated. A day earlier, the peacekeeping mission warned authorities against unauthorised construction in the buffer zone. Turkish Cypriot police and military in plain clothes assaulted UN soldiers and pushed a dozen others back violently. A tractor was used to drag a UN vehicle out of the way and three other UN vehicles were damaged. UNFICYP called on Turkish Cypriots "to respect the mission's mandated authority, refrain from any actions that could escalate tensions further, and withdraw all personnel and machinery from the demilitarised zone". The UN personnel will continue to block the road construction. "Threats to the safety of UN peacekeepers and damage to UN property are unacceptable and constitute a serious crime under international law which will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law," the peacekeeping force said in a statement. The action was condemned by the EU, the UK, France and the USA. Cyprus has since 1974 been split into the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus, an EU member, and northern Cyprus, occupied by Turkey. The Turkish forces seized the northern part of the island after Greek Cypriot nationalists staged the coup d'état in an attempt to unite Cyprus with Greece. SVK peacekeepers have served with UNFICYP since 2001.



► Working closely with Children's Comenius University and the Centre for Children and Families in Levice, 13th Mech Bn Levice hosted an "Army Workshop" event. The welcome speech by Battalion Commander Lt Col Miroslav Osif was followed by a rich programme of demonstrations of firearms, combat equipment, and close combat. The kids tested their physical fitness on the ARMY obstacle course. They also tried shooting air rifles at targets. As a highlight, they were given a ride in an IFV on Levice Garrison's training ground.

► NATO MN BG SVK has carried out engagement with children and local residents this summer. During a **sports day for kids and youth**, they displayed their weapons, equipment and vehicles. They also played soccer in a local tournament, which was won by local residents.

► Employees of the **SNP Museum Banská Bystrica** along with soldiers of 54 Independent Detachment (SOF) and partners from the U.S. Civil Affairs Team (CAT) installed a new wooden fence in Kalište, Slovakia's national heritage site.

► Working closely with the Berea Christian Centre, the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service organised a **military Christian camp for kids** aged 13-18 in Kysak. The programme featured demanding physical activities and games to strengthen their body and spirit.

► Laundry services for the **Central Military Hospital Ružomberok** used to be provided by a contractor. However, last year a new automated laundry was introduced there. Today, the industrial laundry, staffed by 12 workers, provides complex laundry services, with a capacity of 1,100kg of hospital linen and 300kg of external linen per shift. The hospital has improved the quality of washing and cut the laundry costs significantly.

► Based on the organisational changes in Defence as of 1 Sept 2023, **42 Supply Base Martin** will be resubordinated under 4 Log Regt Trenčín. Its email address has changed from vebsp.42.zz@mil.sk to 4.plog.42.zz@mil.sk.

► Due to the ongoing refurbishment works to the **Centre for Aviation Medicine (CAM) Sliac**, all of its facilities and services will be closed on 21-31 Aug, except for the detached CAM sites in Zvolen and Banská Bystrica.

► Powerboat racer Marián Jung, member of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre**, claimed the title of Vice-Champion of the F-500 European Championships on 20 Aug in Poland's Chodzież.

► Eight Dukla athletes are representing Slovakia at the **World Athletics Championships** in Budapest.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit presents a report on cluster munitions disposal by EOD experts from Nováky live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Joint police training



(17 Aug) During the second week of August, another joint training activity for members of the SVK Military Police's Special Training Section and Specialised Police Ops Section was held close to the Liptovská Mara

Reservoir, organised by the Training Branch of the SVK Police Presidium in cooperation with the Aviation Unit of the Ministry of the Interior, the Fire and Rescue Service, the River Police Unit, and the Institute of Crime Investigation and Expertise. The improvement training focused on rescue on land and water and on working at heights and above the water surface. Individual tasks, e.g. rescuing and transporting an injured person, were performed by mixed teams involving both police and military personnel.

Army families at Lešť



(16 Aug) The Director of the TC Lešť hosted the families of the TC personnel. The visitors were shown around the facilities where their close ones work

before being treated to a display of NATO MN BG SVK's weaponry, an obstacle course, and a tour of some facilities, including the deep water fording facility and the airborne and helicopter training facility. In addition, military medics and firefighters prepared their relevant content and demonstrations.

30th IMP to Czestochowa



(15 Aug) A dozen SVK soldiers, led by Dean of the Army HQ Trenčín Capt Stanislav Dulák, represented the Bishopric of the Forces and the SVK Armed Forces at the 30th International Military Pilgrimage (IMP) from Warsaw to

Czestochowa. A total of 500 servicemen and women from five countries took part in the over 380km pilgrimage in 10 days. Polish troops marched along with their families. Bishop of the Forces Mons Rábek and Dean of the SVK Air Force Maj Pavel Lukáč joined the Slovak pilgrims for the final leg of the pilgrimage.

MOD seeks to draw in civilian employees

(14 Aug) At a time when extensive investments in warfighting capabilities and defence infrastructure are required, there are a lot of jobs related to state defence management that offer career progression to military and civilian personnel. Employment opportunities in the MOD come with different occupational, welfare, health, culture, leisure and sporting benefits. The MOD staff have the chance of professional self-realisation in a number of fields. "Expanding cooperation with the defence industry, engaging in interdepartmental and international defence cooperation initiatives, developing R&D activities, and strengthening the population's resistance to hybrid threats – these are just some of the areas that offer attractive employment opportunities for project managers, lawyers, economists, and other subject matter experts," Secretary General of the Service Office Peter Kozák explained. The MOD is quite specific in terms of its own system of agencies and specialisms – this is especially so for military hygiene, epidemiology, building construction, military aviation, for-



estry and hunting to name a few. "This variety allows those interested to apply their professional knowledge in the conditions of a strong powerhouse ministry," he added. The MOD provides its personnel with other employment benefits such as education programmes, recreational stays at the MOD accommodation facilities, and a kindergarten. "We are living in a time that underlines the necessity to make investments into sustaining and developing Defence and defence infrastructure. It applies that not just equipment and other assets, but also human resources are at the core of our commitment. In addition to the importance of recruiting military personnel, we also need to strengthen our civilian cadre of qualified personnel," Minister Sklenár said, adding that there is also a choice of MOD postings to NATO, the European Union, and selected allied countries. "We look forward to the contribution of each and every candidate with the required level of professional knowledge and personality, and the desire and enthusiasm to work for their country," the head of the MOD concluded.