



Defence Minister meets Jens Stoltenberg

(13 Nov) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic Robert Kaliňák travelled to Brussels for a meeting of the EU FAC with Defence Ministers. On the eve of the occasion, Minister Kaliňák met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. Also in attendance was Foreign and European Affairs Minister Juraj Blanár. The main themes on the agenda of the meeting with NATO's top official were the SVK Govt's security and defence priorities and the future of Slovakia's support to Ukraine.

The Secretary General was informed of the end of SVK military aid to Ukraine from the country's own military stocks. Nevertheless, Slovakia offers a sufficiently wide range of humanitarian, civilian, and technical non-lethal assistance to Ukraine. Our foreign partners fully respect the decision of the new SVK Govt.

The goal of the new MOD leadership is to strengthen the SVK Armed Forces' capacities and capabilities so as to deliver the security of the State and its citizens. Modernisation will be directed towards minimising any risk to the lives of soldiers. Mr Kaliňák stressed that Slovakia is a responsible partner who is ready to build defence capabilities, both nationally and collectively.

Secretary General Stoltenberg appreciated the new SVK Govt's intent to modernise the SVK Armed Forces, encourage the growth of the defence industry, and invest in defence infrastructure projects. He also highlighted Slovakia's progress on NATO Capability Targets, including Slovakia's efforts to renew its independent AD capability. Both leaders confirmed that NATO and Slovakia will continue to work together to increase the readiness, deployability and interoperability of armed forces.

Adm Calderón in Slovakia

(15 Nov) Spanish Chief of the Defence Staff Adm Teodoro López Calderón paid a visit to Slovakia on 12 -15 Nov. On Day 1, Adm Calderón attended the Ex Strong Cohesion 23-2



(DEPLOYEX) Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) at the Training Centre (TC) Lešť, where he met Defence Minister Robert Kaliňák. The three-day programme involved the ESP CHOD's visit to the MOD in Bratislava and a meeting with SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko at the SVK Defence Staff, with a focus on the evolving security situation in the Euro-Atlantic region. Adm Calderón expressed his satisfaction with the course of STCO 23-2 and affirmed his conviction that Allies will continue to strengthen the readiness of NATO's existing multinational battlegroups on the Alliance's eastern flank.

Armed Forces Academy marks Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day

(16 Nov) Academic staff, employees, and officer cadets of the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) at Liptovský Mikuláš marked Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day, which coincides with Students Day, in a ceremony in the Academy's Hall, in the presence of Director General of the MOD Human Resources Dept Martin Rímeš. On the occasion of Col Jozef Wesselényi's jubilee, the Director of the AOS Education Centre received the SVK Chief of Defence Commemorative Cross during the ceremony. Col Viktor Sabo, Military Bishop and Chaplain General of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Forces, presented commemorative medals to selected AOS staff. Assoc Prof Jozef Puttera, the Academy's Commandant, presented the Commandant of General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Commemorative Medal to Dominik Jurko, 4th-year Arty OC on the Security and Defence of the State Programme, who helped to disarm and detain a dangerous offender on 2 Nov, for his bravery and decisiveness in accordance with the Soldier's Code of Ethics. To mark Students Day, the Academy also awarded special scholarships to eleven OCs for their active R&D involvement in the Academy's departments and for representing the Military Academy at scientific conferences.



► Maj Dávid Vargaeštok, Office Director of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Forces, took part in a meeting of the European Protestant Military Chaplaincies on 13-15 Nov in Warsaw on behalf of Col Viktor Sabo, Military Bishop and Chaplain General of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service in the Forces.

► During his visit to the Slovak Special Operations Forces (SVK SOF), CSM Jeremy Lile, U.S. Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR) Senior Enlisted Leader, met with Sgt Maj Imrich Fekete, Command Sergeant Major (CSM) of SVK SOF, and Sgt Maj Marcel Kaniak, Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) of SVK Armed Forces, before attending a graduation ceremony for SOF personnel on completion of 3 weeks of intensive Small Unit Tactics (SUT) training.

► Soldiers of 54 MLRS Bn Rožňava joined forces with officers of the Police Corps Rožňava and the Flying Squad Košice (FS KE) to practice assistance tasks as part of military support to police operations. The practical module, led by FS KE instructors, focused on self-defence techniques, including defending against grips and grabs, SOPs for detaining suspects, and crowd control techniques.

► A graduation ceremony for the graduates of the International Staff Officers' Course (ISOC) No 27 took place at AOS LM on 16 Nov. A total of 29 officers from Slovakia, Czechia, Republic of Korea, and (for the first time) Jordan took part in the course. Capt Sejin Jang (ROK A) was recognised as the best officer on the course.

► Environmental Crime Enforcement training for MP personnel was held at Military Forests and Estates (VLM)'s Facility Kamenný Vrch at TC Lešť under the auspices of the MP Activities Dept, with the aim of increasing their professional knowledge of fighting environmental crime and developing cooperation with other state environmental control bodies.

► SVK MP personnel completed the Air Marshal Course in Czechia, with a focus on the protection of military flight crew and passengers. While aboard a CASA C-295M, the participants responded to a number of emergency scenarios such as a sudden change in the altitude of flight, avoidance manoeuvres, and landing in a dangerous area, as well as giving first aid.

► Working closely with the 'Glimmer of Hope' Civic Association, airmen of 81 Wng Sliach visited the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinic in Banská Bystrica to showcase military clothes and equipment to child patients and answer their curious questions.

► Thanks to funding from the Pontis Foundation's Mobis Fund, the MOD Centre of Aviation Medicine (MOD CAM) Sliach received a portable Vscan Extend Dual Probe ultrasound device for early diagnosis of avoidable organ failures, when dealing with a serious worsening of the patient's health condition and resuscitation either at the Centre or during an air MEDEVAC.

► The Turkish Hill Training Area hosted marksmanship and grenade throw skills improvement training for 40 staffers of HQ 1 Mech Bde on 14 Nov.

► The Training and Mobilisation Force Generation (T&MFG) Base Martin hosted the Commanders' Course on Higher Readiness, Combat Readiness and Mobilisation (C-3) led by instructors from the Mobilisation Force Generation and Courses Section (MFG Unit Poprad), the MOD Human Resources Dept, and the Slovak Armed Forces' Joint Support Brigade.

► Boxer Jessica Třebelová, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, won the bronze medal in the women's Welterweight (W66kg) category at the U22 European Boxing Championships in Budva, Montenegro.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents 100 years of TC Lešť live on Fri at 21.05 with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Tactical phase of Ex Strong Cohesion 23-2 comes to an end at TC Lešť

(13 Nov) Phase 2 of Ex STCO 23-2 (DEPLOYEX) culminated at TC Lešť on Mon 13 Nov. Defence Minister Robert Kaliňák and Spanish Ambassador Lorea Arribalzaga Ceballos joined ESP CHOD Adm Teodoro López Calderón, CZE CHOD Lt Gen Karel Řehka, and SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko for the STCO 23-2 Distinguished Visitors' Day (DVD), where the exercising Allied forces demonstrated a high level of cooperation in defence of Slovakia. On the exercise, the deployed ESPCON joined forces with soldiers of the NATO Multinational Battlegroup Slovakia to test the compatibility of operational procedures in conducting combat missions. STCO 23-2 involved almost 1,000 soldiers with vehicles. The exercise also put to the test Slovakia's Host Nation Support (HNS) during the reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSOM&I) of Allied forces arriving in Slovakia and the reverse for those departing. The final phase of the exercise will officially conclude as and when the ESP forces return to their home base in Spain.

Army Commanders Forum

(16 Nov) Chief of the Army Staff Gen Amandor Enseñat y Berea (ESP A) hosted the 9th European Land Forces Commanders Forum on 14-16 Nov in Valencia, Spain. Representing the SVK Army at the Forum was Col (DS) Vladimír Minárik, COS SVK ARMY HQ. Also in attendance was COS UKR ARMY. They discussed the security environment, new technologies, and changes to the conduct of combat operations.

UAS operators training

(14 Nov) To support environmental crime detection, the Training and Military Working Dog (MWD) Branch, MP Depart Vlkanová-Hronek, hosted unmanned aircraft system (UAS) skills improvement training for MP UAS operators on 13-14 Nov.

The training in day and night conditions, using the autonomous flight planning capability under the operators' supervision with the use of various display modes, has improved the MP drone operators' ability to operate UASs over terrain to detect illegal activity.

A bunch of medals from Spain

(13 Nov) With a total of 11 medals, members of the Dukla Military Sports Centre assembled a rich collection of medals at the World Fitness & Bodybuilding Championships in Spain's Santa Susanna.

Aneta Tichá (pictured here) and Tatiana Ondrušková claimed the World Champion (WC) titles. Aneta won three categories and was crowned the Overall World Champion. Tatiana claimed two WC titles. Kristína Juricová took the WC title and placed 3rd in the junior women's (21-23y) and women's (163cm plus) Acrobatic Fitness categories, respectively. Nelli Novodomská won two silver medals in the junior women's (16-20y) and women's (163cm plus) Junior Acrobatic Fitness categories. Natália Poprocká won the bronze medal and placed 4th in the junior women's (21-23y, 163cm plus) and women's (168cm) Wellness Fitness, respectively. Martin Sagan placed 2nd and 4th in the men's (175cm plus) Games Classic Bodybuilding and Classic Bodybuilding categories, respectively. Capt Martina Gromová, COS, OE, Log Bn, MILMED Liptovský Mikuláš, triumphed in the women's (35-39y, 164cm plus) Bikini Fitness Masters and Bikini Fitness Masters Overall categories.

