



NATO's 75th Anniversary Washington Summit

(12 July) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák along with President Peter Pellegrini and Foreign and European Affairs Minister Juraj Blanár attended NATO's 75th Anniversary Summit in Washington. At the Summit, Allies reached a number of conclusions, particularly in areas such as strengthening collective defence and deterrence and acknowledging the continued needs to increase the level of defence investment and to provide political and practical assistance to Ukraine. One of Slovakia's fundamental expectations after the Summit is ensuring continuity of bolstering the collective defence and deterrence measures on the Alliance's Eastern Flank – first and foremost, NATO's IAMD. Slovakia is currently taking efforts to restore this capability and to replenish its other capabilities given that its AD system, fighter jets, and some of the Army's platforms were gifted to Ukraine without a permanent replacement. In this context, the key issue is the implementation of the IAMD Rotational Model. Accordingly, Allied IAMD assets will be deployed to secure the airspace over NATO's Eastern Flank on a voluntary basis. In the words of Minister Kaliňák, replenishing all missing capabilities is a priority so that Slovakia and the Alliance can push ahead with their defence plans – including supporting the defence industrial base and constructing defence infrastructure. He believes it is essential that the Alliance as an organisation will not become a party to the conflict in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, but will rather help coordinate Allied assistance to Ukraine. Therefore, Slovakia supports the creation of the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU) and the Allies' funding commitment to long-term and predictable assistance to Ukraine. Slovakia will participate in these activities along the lines of its own security interests and political priorities. Under the NATO-approved €40bn aid package for Ukraine, this means that our assistance will continue to be exclusively humanitarian and non-lethal in nature. This Slovak position is respected by our NATO partners, according to Mr Kaliňák. In his speech at the NATO-Ukraine Council meeting, President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini confirmed that Slovakia will continue to provide its fair share of financial and practical assistance, as has been the case so far. According to the President, it is clear that NATO's support for Ukraine is growing, as is the task we face. Slovakia fully supports a peace that will be just and sustainable, consistent with Ukraine's territorial integrity. At the conclusion of the Summit, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg declared that Ukraine can count on NATO, "now and for the long haul". NATO will coordinate training for UKR forces at Allied facilities, plan and coordinate the movement of materiel from the logistics centres to Ukraine, and manage the repair of military equipment. He added that Allies at the Summit sent a signal to Moscow that violence and intimidation will not go unanswered. Speaking at the closing press conference, Stoltenberg pointed out that the joint Chinese-Belarusian military drills show how China is coming closer to NATO in Europe, Africa, the Arctic, and elsewhere.

Malacky-Kuchyňa AB made safer with the BAK-12 ahead of the arrival of F-16s

(10 July) After its verification in a certification test, the BAK-12 Aircraft Arresting System was officially handed over to DEPMINDEP Martin Vojtašovič by US Ambassador Gautam Rana in a handover ceremony at Malacky-Kuchyňa AB. This will ensure the improved safety of the Air Base's operations, pilots and F-16s. The BAK-12, which arrests aircraft in the event of an emergency such as an aborted take-off or a failure of the aircraft's braking system, will stop an aircraft up to a minimum nominal weight of 22,680kg. "The BAK-12 certification and handover are a significant milestone in our preparedness to receive the Slovak Air Force F-16s at this Air Base in just two weeks' time," Mr Vojtašovič said. The installation of and training on the new BAK-12 system were provided by U.S. airmen of 435 CTS, based at Ramstein AB. The first two F-16s will land at Malacky-Kuchyňa AB in late July, with the third scheduled to join the SVK F-16 fleet by the end of this year. That the BAK-12 was installed, tested and made operational underlines our credibility and reliability in the area of international defence, according to Mr Vojtašovič. "The MOD has been in intense communication with its Allied partners to enhance the effectiveness of our country's defences, not only in the air, but also on the ground. It is proof that we are a stable and reliable partner for NATO," he concluded.



- Firefighters of Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín, the Fire and Rescue Services from Trenčín and Nové Mesto nad Váhom, and the Volunteer Fire Brigades from Soblahov and Opatovce were called into action after a severe storm with fierce winds ripped through the **Pohoda Music Festival**.

- The Defence Language Institute, based in Liptovský Mikuláš, was visited by soldiers of the **U.S. Army's 415th Civil Affairs Battalion**, which forms part of the battlegroups in Slovakia and Hungary. Because the mission of such task forces is to build Allied capabilities, Director of the Defence Language Institute Lt Col Matúš Sostronek turned to the U.S. soldiers with a request to help integrate Military English and their experiences from the international military environment into the English Courses delivered by the Institute's facilities across Slovakia and to assist with military recordings for the NATO STANAG 6001 Test.

- SVK Armed Forces personnel descended on Levoča as part of a national pilgrimage. After a two-day march led by Army Chaplain 1Lt Ladislav Jeremiáš of Prešov, they linked up with the other pilgrims of the **26th Bishopric Pilgrimage to Levoča**. Some 300 pilgrims along with POL and DEU soldiers, led by Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps, Mons František Rábek, climbed Levoča's Marian Hill for a Holy Mass. The event, held on 6 July, was ceremonially supported by the Ministry of the Interior Band and the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour.

- 280 participants from 11 European and African countries attended the **74th International Military Protestant Convention** in France's Gagnières. In addition to visiting the Basilica of Lyon, SVK Armed Forces personnel took part in worship services led by the Ivory Coast clergy, a seminar on finding faith, an 'Evening of Nations' with national dishes, a concert by an Austrian Army band, a meditation session, and visits to the memorials in part of the official programme.

- Trebišov-based members of 21 Mech Bn and 25 Moto Bn conducted a **coordination exercise** with 5 SOF Regt Žilina on Trebišov Garrison's training ground at Velké Ozorovce and the firing ranges at Poruba pod Vihorlatom.

- Members of the **Presidential GOH** gathered for a ceremony where Commander of the Presidential GOH Col Andrej Tvrdoň gave his assessment of the tasks recently performed by the unit and thanked the Guard for their professionalism. Lt Michael Végh, a successful graduate of the Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš, was officially introduced to the unit at the ceremony.

- Shooter **Patrik Jány** of the Dukla Military Sports Centre took silver in the men's 10m rifle event at the Masped Cup in Budapest ahead of the Paris Olympics 2024. Only shooters who had qualified for the Paris Olympics made it to the finals.

- Shooter **Alica Poljovková** of the Dukla Military Sports Centre finished 3rd in the women's 3x20 smallbore rifle event at the Masped Cup in Budapest.

Soldiers prepare a rich summer holiday programme of activities for kids

(14 July) The Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin organised a summer camp for children of service and civilian personnel. For the little adventurers, they prepared a first-class programme of games, demonstrations of equipment and weapons, and performances of dogs from the Sporting Dog Training Club Martin. The kids then visited the Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology in Liptovský Mikuláš and the Children's World in Turany. Thanks to the Military Support Foundation, they also got a chance to search for hidden treasures. 103 CBRND Bn Rožňava ran a summer day camp for children of military and civilian families. Camp coordinator Lt Katarína Kravecová prepared a rich 'adventure and discovery' programme. During five days, they saw the falconers in Rimavská Sobota, the castle and the zoo in Bojnice, and the Miklúš Medieval Prison House and the Aviation Museum in Košice. On the last day, they explored the educational trail in the village of Rakovnica and learned to cook goulash.



MOD's honey mission



(11 July) To develop local biodiversity, the MOD has ten beehives at Kutuzov Barracks. As well as being an attractive souvenir, honey from our bees serves as a symbol of environmental sustainability. "This year we will have around 200kg of honey, the highest amount of honey ever, which makes me extremely happy. We'll keep this tradition going to promote the concept of a green ministry," Secretary General of the MOD Service Office Peter Krajčirovič said, getting a firsthand look at the honey extraction process.

Marksanship Coaching Course



(9 July) The Marksanship Coaching Course (MCC) for the officers who organise and supervise Live Fire Marksanship Training (LFMT) at their own units was held at the Vyškov-based British Military Advisory Training Team in the Czech Republic (BMATT CZ) facility and outdoors on the local firing ranges. The aim was to train commanders as marksanship coaches and provide them with the necessary techniques and knowledge to ensure that a unit is trained to a standard where it has the ability to shoot effectively on operations. The course, attended by officers from Czechia, Hungary, Kosovo, Slovakia and Ukraine, was conducted by BMATT instructors in English. Recce Coy Cdr Capt Martin Lukáč of the SVK Army's 65 Recce Bn Prešov emerged as the best student on the course.

Sec & Def Policy Olympiad



(10 July) 15 European countries took part in the 7th CSDP Olympiad at the Ludovika University of Public Service in Budapest, organised under the auspices of the European Education and Training for Young Officers (EMILYO) Programme, referred to as 'Military Erasmus'. Slovakia was represented by Officer Cadets Dávid Regásek and Dávid Martinkovič along with Assistant Lecturers MEng Daniel Brezina and MEng Rudolf Pástor of the AOS Security and Defence Dept, who also acted as evaluators at the event. While the first part of the Olympiad saw the OCs presenting their scientific papers in 5 different areas, the second part was devoted to a team knowledge competition, in which Officer Cadet Dávid Martinkovič placed 2nd.

SVK AF HQ Zvolen and 2 AF BDE Zvolen arranged a summer day camp for children. The camp was overseen by Dean Lt Katarína Zatková of SVK AF HQ Zvolen in the spirit of treasure hunting.

Airmen of 46 WNG Kuchyňa put together a day full of fun activities, games and knowledge quizzes for children from Pezinok Children's Home. At Kuchyňa AB, they also took a tour of the Fire and Rescue Service facility, saw its capabilities, enjoyed refreshments, and received Military Support Foundation-sponsored gifts. The Chaplaincy Service of the Military Academy hosted a Bible day camp for children at its own facility in Liptovský Mikuláš. The programme was supported by Dean of St Joan of Arc Military Parish Maj Tomáš Huďa, Dean of the Central Office of Ecumenical Pastoral Service Maj Lubomír Kordoš, volunteers from the Officer Cadet Corps, the Armed Forces Personnel Office, and the Defence Language Institute.