



Hospital construction in Prešov progresses

(3 Sept) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, joined by PM Robert Fico and Health Minister Zuzana Dolinková, travelled to Prešov to see first-hand the progress being made in the construction of J. A. Reiman Teaching Hospital in Prešov. The SVK Gov't made this project one of its strategic investment priorities in the field of healthcare. The hospital's transfer to the SVK MOD's remit means that a new €550m military hospital will be set up with 1,200-1,300 hospital beds. Minister Kaliňák announced that the estimated time for completion of the construction works is 31 months. In the region, the modern eight-storey building with three underground floors will play a key role in delivering healthcare services to civilians as well as Armed Forces personnel in the event of emergency. "The entire hospital is being adapted to the needs of the region, and its capacity will be that of the giant hospitals in Slovakia. We decided to go ahead with the project only a few months ago. On-site land improvements are being undertaken today. It is a realistic project. Throughout 2025, people will witness how the hospital gradually grows," PM Fico said, appreciating the dynamics of the construction works. The hospital will accommodate all departments, including the A&E department, the infectious diseases department with high levels of protection standards, operating theatres, teaching and research facilities, and a heliport. What's more, it will deliver education and training programmes for health workers. Upon construction completion, the hospital will join Slovakia's most advanced medical facilities.

MOD opens kindergarten

(3 Sept) The MOD officially opened a kindergarten for children of military and civilian personnel in the grounds of the MOD in Bratislava on 2 Sept. The kindergarten was established by the MOD as the founding authority.



Speaking at the opening ceremony, Secretary General of the MOD Service Office Peter Krajčirovič said: "The MOD leadership have made the welfare of our soldiers and employees one of their highest priorities. So, I am extremely pleased that the kindergarten project has reached its implementation phase and that we can welcome the first children of the MOD staff to these premises in the 2024-2025 school year." The MOD Kindergarten, part of the national network of pre-school and school institutions, will help soldiers and employees better combine their work and family life. The staff team of the newly opened three-class kindergarten for 60 children will consist of six female teachers and a manager. Each class has a play & rest area. Meals are provided on-site. According to Mr Krajčirovič, similar facilities aimed at full-day pre-school care and education are to be established in other cities in Slovakia. Over time they will offer a variety of courses, including English and German classes.

29th International Military Ascent of Mt Kriváň

(7 Sept) On the occasion of the 29th International Military Ascent of Mt Kriváň (2,495m), co-organised by the SVK MOD, the SVK Soldiers Association and the Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM), Deputy Defence Minister Martin Vojtašovič attended a commemoration service at Štrbské Pleso. It is there that Capt Ján Rašo and Capt Štefan Morávka, who once engaged in partisan warfare in the High Tatras, rest in peace at the SNP Memorial.



On their way up to Mt Kriváň, participants paused in the Dill Valley to attend an unveiling ceremony for a fifth Bench of Honour. It commemorates all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against the Nazis in the High Tatras.

And if the annual International Military Ascent of Mt Kriváň starts with laying bouquets of flowers at the SNP Memorial down at Štrbské Pleso, then everyone can now remember the WW2 partisans while sitting on the bench high in the mountains. If you set off from Three Wells and follow the Green Trail, you will find it right in the area of transition between forest and dwarf pine scrub, with a view of the Dill Valley.

- **DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič** paid a visit to 5 SOF Regt Žilina on 6 Sept. He was briefed on the Regiment's mission and tasks by Cdr 5 SOF Regt Žilina Defence Staff (DS) Col Peter Zochňák. The guests attended a service of commemoration, viewed a static display of weaponry, and tried shooting the weapons in use by the Regiment.

- A **memorial plaque** to the British Special Operations Executive and the U.S. Office of Strategic Services and their Slovak allies who fought in the Banská Bystrica area in support of the 1944 Slovak National Uprising was unveiled at the National House in a ceremony in Banská Bystrica on 5 Sept. In attendance were DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher, British Ambassador Nigel Baker and U.S. Ambassador Gautam Rana.

- On 2 Sept, members of **Slovak Air Force HQ** stood together in a ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the SNP and the 32nd anniversary of the SVK Constitution. SVK AF Commander Maj Gen Róbert Tóth presented selected soldiers with military medals and accolades and congratulated those promoted to higher ranks.

- **Joint Operations Command (JOCOM)** played host to a ceremony marking the anniversaries of the SNP and the SVK Constitution. Following the presentation of military medals and accolades, promotion orders were read at the conclusions of the ceremony.

- Tue 3 Sept saw members of the **Presidential Guard of Honour** commemorating the 80th and 32nd anniversaries of the SNP and the SVK Constitution, respectively.

- To mark SNP 80 and SVK Constitution Day, Commandant of the **Military Academy** Liptovský Mikuláš Brig Gen Aurel Sabó presented the Slovak Armed Forces Badge of Honour 2nd Grade to Lt Col Štefan Cuker and the Chief of Defence Base 3rd Grade to M Sgt Peter Pavlica in a ceremony held at the Academy.

- JOCOM, SVK Army, and SVK Air Force military personnel participated in **Ex Connected Logisticians 2024**, running on 2-5 Sept, at the Joint Logistic Support Group Coordination and Training Centre Gartstedt, Germany. During COLO24, participants practiced planning and coordinating logistics, including strategic and operational planning in support of troops deployed in a theatre of operations.

- The **SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office** hosted a recruitment exchange programme, bringing together members of the Indiana National Guard and the SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office. The programme included visits to the Military Academy, Training & Mobilisation Force Generation Base, and 57 Independent Battalion. Recently, Indiana Guardsmen marched alongside the Slovak and Allied forces at the SNP 80 Parade in Banská Bystrica.

- To mark the end of his service in the Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps, **Don Stanislav Haburčík** was thanked by Bishop František Rábek for his caring service as a chaplain of the Bishopric Cathedral and St Joseph's Parish community at the Cathedral.

- SVK military personnel of the **NATO Multinational Brigade in Latvia** donated blood during an SNP 80 blood donation event, organised by the Multinational Medical Unit at Camp Ādaži, Latvia.

- Trail runner Peter Fraňo of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** placed 2nd at the prestigious Hoka CCC UTMB Mont Blanc Race from Courmayeur to Chamonix.

- **Paddleboard athlete Jana Sabová**, physiotherapist of MOD Outpatient Clinic Trenčín, won three gold medals in the 200m Sprint, 1,000m Technical Race and 6,000m Endurance Race at the Slovak Paddleboarding Championships at the Veľký Zemník Canoe Sprint Facility in Bratislava. Her most recent win makes her a three-time national paddleboard champion (2022, 2023, 2024).

Farewell to generals



(4 Sept) A farewell ceremony for service leavers Lt Gen Josef Pokorný and Brig Gen Alexander Kollárik took place at the Presidential Palace, in the presence of Deputy Defence Minister Igor Melicher. Both generals played a key role in building and modernising the Armed Forces. CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko praised them for their moral qualities, sacrifice, professionalism, and human approach. In his remarks, President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini thanked them for their service to the country.

Dutch Ambassador visits MOD

(5 Sept) Deputy Defence Minister Igor Melicher received the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Slovakia, Her Excellency Ms Gabriella Sancisi at the MOD. The aim of the meeting was to deepen bilateral cooperation between both countries in the fields of armaments, defence industry, munitions refurbishment and military education. The Netherlands has extensive experience in operating F-16s. Mr Melicher thanked Ambassador Sancisi for the support the Netherlands had given us by deploying its Patriot Battery to Slovakia at such a crucial time of need, congratulated her on the appointment of her fellow countryman, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as the next NATO Secretary General, and wished the Netherlands the best of luck with hosting the next NATO Summit in The Hague.

New CSMs and CSEL appointed



(8 Sept) Sgt Maj Peter Cibřin took over as Command Sergeant Major of Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM) from Sgt Maj Imrich Fekete, who has been appointed to the role of Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the Slovak Armed Forces.

MSgt Martin Halko assumed the duties as Command Sergeant Major of 51 SOF Training Base Žilina from Sgt Maj Peter Cibřin. MSgt Ján Munka succeeded Sgt Maj Roman Kostúrik as Command Sergeant Major of 5 Special Forces Regiment Žilina. And Sgt Maj Jozef Antolík became the new Command Sergeant Major of Joint Operations Command (JOCOM) with effect from 2 Sept.

Prešov-based helicopters tackle blaze

(3 Sept) After taking part in the SNP 80 ceremonial flypast, two of 51 Wing Prešov's Slovak Air Force UH-60M helicopters tackled a forest blaze above the village of Pohorelá in County Brezno. The crew completed over 13 flying hours and dropped 39 Bambi buckets or 97,500 litres of water. The firefighting mission greatly helped to contain the crisis situation.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents Ex Toxic Valley for CBRND specialists at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Open Day at Museum of Military History Piešťany

(7 Sept) The 16th edition of 'Armed Forces, Police, Fire and Rescue Services Day with Children', organised under

children were having fun in a foam party, provided by firefighters.

the auspices of DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, took place at the Museum of Military History Piešťany. The event was prepared by the MOD, the Armed Forces and the Institute of Military History. As well as viewing museum exhibits from WW2 onwards, visitors tried out it is like to be a Military Police (MP) officer, competed with members of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, learned more about the military profession and the benefits of service in the Armed Forces at the Army Recruitment stand, got a feel of how the Financial Administration Authority works – all this while



Static displays were not the only form of entertainment. There was a flypast from Slovak Air Force air and rotary assets. Visitors took the opportunity to chat with the paratroopers who had parachuted into the Museum's grounds. And they enjoyed a demonstration of remote controlled models of military vehicles.

To mark SNP 80, a memorial plaque in memory of the Piešťany-based airmen who flew into Slovakia's Resistance territory and served heroically with the 'Haluzice'

Motorised Battalion in the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) operations was unveiled at the Museum's Hangar 1 (H1).