



MOD assists with flood relief efforts

(15 Sept) The Slovak Armed Forces are always ready to assist civilian populations with flood relief operations across affected parts of Slovakia. This is now especially true in the Záhorie region where flood defences have been installed in areas with a high risk of flooding after heavy rains.

Over the weekend in the village of Kopčany, 78 soldiers helped to reinforce the banks of the River Morava. Whilst there, they were visited by Deputy Defence Minister Igor Melicher and Director General of the MOD Defence Policy Dept Robert Bestro who came to thank them for their professionalism at this difficult time and find out how best to support flood relief assistance.

Elsewhere, Military Forests and Estates personnel deployed to prevent an overflow of water from the dam in the Rakárenska Ponds Network, after accumulating millions of hectolitres of water. Without this network of flood defence structures, local streams would have overflowed and inundated nearby villages and towns with floodwater.



DEPMINDEF Melicher visits ROK

(11 Sept) Deputy Defence Minister Igor Melicher made an official trip to Seoul in the Republic of Korea (ROK), where he took part in the Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) Summit 2024. The panel discussions centred on understanding the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on international peace and security and ways to implement responsible applications of AI in the military.

Sharing his thoughts about the conference, Igor Melicher said: "We've gained interesting expert knowledge about AI which we can use across Defence in the future as well as about things we avoid when using AI."

Whilst in Seoul, Mr Melicher made a statement at the REAIM Ministerial Roundtable, bringing together the heads of government delegations. He also held bilateral talks with the Deputy Defence Ministers of Argentina and Slovenia.



Departure ceremony for SVK peacekeepers heading to Cyprus

(11 Sept) 11 Mech Bn Martin played host to a departure ceremony to see off our SVK peacekeepers departing for Cyprus in support of UNFICYP. The mission of 115 SVK military personnel will be to maintain the status quo of the buffer zone, to ensure that both sides continue to abide by the terms of the ceasefire agreement, to aid the restoration and maintenance of law and order across the island, and to undertake humanitarian tasks. Participants in attendance included Chief of Ops Planning & Control at SVK Army HQ Trenčín Col Rudolf Jančí, Deputy Commander 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany Col Štefan Leja, Commander Training & Mobilisation Force Generation Base Col Pavol Barančík, Commander 14 Log Bn Topoľčany Lt Col Marek Krchňavý, Commander 12 Mech Bn Nitra Lt Col Ľuboš Sagan, Senior Chaplain of 11 Mech Bn Martin Maj Ján Ostapčuk, and Military Dean of Ecumenical Pastoral Service at SVK Army HQ Trenčín Capt Ondrej Rišaiň.



- A SVK AF UH-60M helicopter aircrew from 51 Wng Prešov helped to extinguish a fire in the Ludrovská Valley in the Low Tatras. The aircrew completed 14 flying hours and 25 minutes and dropped 54 Bambi buckets with 135,000 litres of water. Thanks to the joint intervention of the aircrew and the Fire and Rescue Service personnel, the fire was brought under control.

- On completion of their tour of duty in Cyprus, 115 SVK UNFICYP peacekeepers were presented the UNFICYP Medal by SRSG Colin Stewart, Force Commander Maj Gen Erdenebat Batsuuri, UNFICYP's Senior Adviser Aderemi Adekoya, and SVK Ambassador to Cyprus Martin Bezák in a medal presentation ceremony.

- To mark **Holocaust and Racial Violence Victims Day** in Banská Bystrica, the SNP Museum along with the local Jewish community, members of the City Council, and other invited guests remembered the victims by praying together and reading the names of the Holocaust victims from Banská Bystrica and its surroundings.

- The **22nd Higher Command Staff Course**, organised by the Education Centre, is running at the Military Academy from 2 Sept to 13 Dec. 65 officers are attending the course. On completion, the graduates will qualify for promotions to Lt Col and Col.

- **AIRPOWER24**, an airshow in Austria's Zellweg, featured a static display of a SVK AF Mi-17 Search & Rescue (SAR) helicopter. Elsewhere, residents of Košice got to see a SVK AF UH-60M helicopter from 51 Wng Prešov at the Košice Airshow.

- The Engineering Dept of the Military Academy organised a specialist **course for chiefs of the Technical Control Stations** in the Slovak Armed Forces. A total of 20 military professionals who are already in this position or are getting ready for it took part in the course.

- The Institute of Military History Bratislava – Museum of Military History Piešťany is looking for an **independent researcher/museum custodian**. More information is available [on the internet](#).

- Military Forests and Estates organised **St Hubert's Day**, dedicated to all hunters, foresters, and lovers of nature. Military chaplains Lt Katarína Zaťková of SVK AF HQ and Lt Tomáš Kunik of TC Lešť celebrated an ecumenical worship service on this occasion.

- Lisbon hosted the **49th International Commission of Military History (ICMH) Congress**, with 130 military historians from 33 countries and five continents in attendance. Slovakia was represented by Col Miroslav Čaplovič and Matej Medvecký. On Day 3 of the ICMH Congress, they appeared on a panel discussion dedicated to the Cold War crisis with 'A Slovak View of the 1968 Occupation of Czechoslovakia'.

- Over 30 ex-members of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica** met at the 34th Veterans Meeting in Kráľiky on 11 Sept.

- Hammer thrower **Veronika Kaňuchová** of the Dukla Military Sports Centre secured 2nd place with a hammer throw distance of 67.14m at the 2024 Golden Spike Athletics Event in Czechia's Ostrava on 10 Sept.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents the SVK military's flood relief operations at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Zemianske Kostolány hosts Ex Toxic Valley with record attendance

(9 Sept) In the presence of DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtášovič, the CBRND Training & Testing Centre Zemianske Kostolány has opened the 9th iteration of Ex Toxic Valley 24 Strong Mind, running from 9 to 20 Sept.

Col Oliver Toderiška, the officer commanding the exercise, and his team of CBRND specialists from 103 CBRND Bn Rožňava (SVK) and JCBRN Defence COE Vyškov (CZE) prepared a range of challenging and realistic scenarios to put the capabilities of Sampling and Identification of Chemical Agents (SICA) teams and Mobile Chemical Laboratories (MCL) personnel to the test in a realistic environment, using real chemical warfare agents.

Ex Toxic Valley is part of NATO's Military Training and Exercise Programme (MTEP). This year a total of 18 NATO and EU countries, including Sweden as a participant and Finland as an observer, plus Ukraine have been taking part in the exercise. Historically, this is the strongest representation of Allied & Partner countries at the event.

The exercise is divided into two training blocks: Week 1 sees

Training of pilots at Kuchyňa AWR



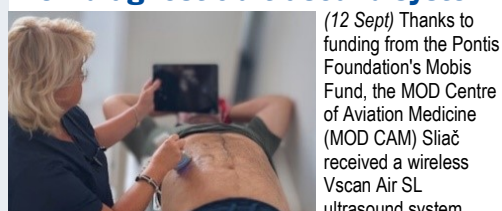
(10 Sept) Airmen of 2 Tac Sqn from 81 Wng Sliáč carried out shoots at Kuchyňa Air Weapons Range (AWR). Flying personnel and technicians from 81 Wng Sliáč were the target audience for this training.

The ground support personnel conducted pre-flight checks on L-39 Albatros aircraft, re-armed the aircraft with live munitions, and prepared the aircraft for repeated take-offs. The pilots practiced low level approach manoeuvres to targets, climbing to a required altitude before attacking, conducting strikes on targets and low altitude horizontal flight bombardment, and selecting and operating weapon systems. The L-39CM and L-39ZAM aircraft were armed with 57mm S-5 unguided rockets. The pilots carried out 85 live strikes against targets, firing 256 rockets. Being rated as 'Excellent', they demonstrated their readiness to undertake whatever missions may be required.

SERE training for flying personnel

(13 Sept) Starting on 9 Sept, Kuchyňa AB has been hosting Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Extraction (SERE) training for SVK AF flying personnel. The focus of the training is on preparing aircrews at high risk of getting lost, isolated, detained or captured in a hostile environment after being forcibly separated from the unit. SERE training serves to align theory with practice in areas such as survival and evasion, resistance to the enemy, escape from the enemy territory, and extraction by a friendly force. SERE training is delivered to aircrews of the Transport Squadron on a regular basis.

New diagnostic ultrasound system



(12 Sept) Thanks to funding from the Pontis Foundation's Mobis Fund, the MOD Centre of Aviation Medicine (MOD CAM) Sliáč received a wireless Vscan Air SL ultrasound system.

This state-of-the-art portable device, equipped with an integrated sector phased array and linear array dual probe, is well suited for complex screening and diagnostic vascular assessments at all levels. It will be used by nephrologists, urologists and other MOD CAM doctors when diagnosing acute medical conditions, on visits to patients based at home, and during medical transports. The Vscan Air SL Operator Course is available to doctors of the MOD CAM.

SICA teams taking samples of agents according to NATO AEP66, with national specifications and forensic SIBCRA missions, and Week 2 places focus on the work of chemical laboratories.

