



OSLAVA ODVAHY A HRDOSTI POD BRADLOM

DEŇ NAŠICH OZBROJENÝCH SÍL



„KDE HISTÓRIA ŽÍJE A HRDINSTVO TRVÁ“
BREZOVÁ POD BRADLOM

28. SEPTEMBRA 2024

Armed Forces Day

(20 Sept) Armed Forces Day, held on 22 Sept every year, has been celebrated since 1998. On 22 Sept 1848, Slovak volunteers won the battle over the Imperial Army and the Hungarian Guards at Brezová pod Bradlom. To mark this occasion, the Slovak MOD and Armed Forces will host a rich programme for the public on Sat 28 Sept, with President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini and DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák in attendance.

“This Armed Forces Day will be not just for military enthusiasts, but also for the general public, including families with children. In addition to military demonstrations, we are preparing a cultural programme with a vast array of side events,” Robert Kaliňák explained.

Between 11:30 and 12:30, there will be an Armed Forces ceremony on Gen M. R. Štefánik Square. From 11:30 to 16:00, visitors will be able to see static and dynamic displays of military assets. The Protestant Church in Brezová pod Bradlom will host an ecumenical worship service, with military chaplains among the celebrants. Throughout the afternoon, live music entertainment will be provided by singer Peter Bažik, Peter Cmoric Band, and Magic Spurs Band. The Armed Forces Day National Event will also feature a parachute drop, a flypast from Slovak Air Force aircraft, and SOF demonstrations.

“This is the only event where the public will be able to watch dynamic displays of combat vehicles on a large scale thanks to local conditions and terrain,” CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko said. ESP and PRT soldiers from NATO MN BDE TF SVK will also take part.

B9 meeting in Bucharest

(20 Sept) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher represented Slovakia at the Bucharest Nine (B9) Defence Ministers' Meeting in Romania's capital city. In his statement, he reaffirmed Slovakia's position that prioritises gradual fielding of missing capabilities so that Slovakia and NATO can deliver on their defence plans, including on supporting their national defence industrial bases and building essential defence infrastructure.

Summer School of Diplomacy

(19 Sept) The MOD was visited by three dozen young international relations (IR) experts working in various government departments – participants of the Foreign and European Affairs Ministry-organised Štefan Osuský Summer School of Diplomacy. They were welcomed to the MOD by Ms Karin Silberhorn, Director of the Defence Minister's Office. Among the lecturers were Director General of the MOD Service Office Peter Krajčirovič and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko. Topics included protocol security, defence capabilities generation, human resources in the changed geopolitical situation, and military protocol. Among the participants of the Summer School of Diplomacy were three MOD civil servants.

Brig Gen Ivan Balog appointed as new head of Slovak Army

(20 Sept) By handing the SVK national flag over to Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko, Maj Gen Martin Stoklasa ceased to be the head of the Slovak Army in a change of command ceremony at SNP Barracks in Trenčín on 20 Sept. He is to be succeeded by Brig Gen Ivan Balog, with effect from 1 Oct 2024. Also present at the ceremony, attended by 420 military personnel of the SVK Army HQ and its subordinate units and formations, were DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher, Commander of JOCOM Banská Bystrica Maj Gen Martin Michalko, deputy commanders of subordinate units and formations, and former heads of the Slovak Army. In recognition of his service to the country, Maj Gen Martin Stoklasa received the DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák Commemorative Plaque from Igor Melicher. In his remarks, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko thanked both commanders and wished them well for the challenges that lie ahead.



• DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič received Vice Chancellor for Science and Research of the Slovak Technical University (STU) Prof Ján Hivoš. Based on the MOD-STU Cooperation Agreement, they discussed developing science and research cooperation.

• To mark 23 years of the Presidential Guard of Honour (GOH), Turecký Vrch Training Area hosted a **Presidential GOH Commander's Shooting Competition**, under the aegis of President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini, who turned up in person at the event. 27 three-member teams competed in three shooting disciplines (Pi vz. 82 Pistol, 'Sa vz. 58' Assault Rifle, 'SaPu vz. 52/57' Assault Rifle). The 'Pres GOH Command' team triumphed over their competitors. Sgt Maj Ján Štefan was named 'Best Shot'.

• Between 15 and 20 Sept, Kamenica nad Cirochou Training Area was the venue for the 65 Recce Bn Prešov-organised **1st Army Reconnaissance Teams Competition**.

• The 18th National Pilgrimage of the Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps to Rome and the Vatican began with a Holy Mass at St Sebastian's Cathedral in Bratislava's Kráľovský on 22 Sept 2024. Nearly 450 members of the Armed Forces, Police Forces, Fire and Rescue Service, Financial Directorate, and Prison & Court Guard Corps, as well as employees and volunteers from the Sisters of Mercy Hospice in Trenčín are taking part. Leading the pilgrimage is Bishop of the Forces and Armed Corps František Rábek.

• SVK Armed Forces personnel from across eastern Slovakia have been helping with essential maintenance work at the **Dukla Memorial and War Cemetery** ahead of the Battle of the Dukla Pass 80th Anniversary celebrations.

• With the theme for this year's event 'Whole of Society Approach to Comprehensive Defence', the 8th edition of **Global SOF Symposium – Europe**, co-sponsored by the SVK MOD, will be organised by the Global Special Operations Forces Foundation and the Slovak Special Operations Forces in Bratislava from 1-3 Oct 2024. Every year, GSOF Europe brings together leaders of governments, armed services, academia, think tanks and industry from around the world for presentations, lectures and discussions on future challenges. The organisers wish to invite soldiers and civilian employees in Defence to the event. You can find more information [on the internet](#).

• Members of the Parachute & Rescue Service from 46 Wng Kuchyňa trialled **new parachuting gear**. Working closely with the SVK SOF and the SVK MOI, they successfully completed their first jumps using new dual harness systems – with a person and a military working dog (MWD) attached to them.

• The AOS Recruitment Team and Officer Cadets are attending job fairs titled **'Where to Study at College'** across Slovakia. They provide information on the Military Academy and its education and training programmes. You can meet them at the careers events in Banská Bystrica on 26 Sept and in Poprad, Prešov and Košice on 1-3 Oct.

• The Defence Language Institute's Language Training Centre Prešov organised a **workshop for 'Military English' teachers** from the Defence Language Training Centres in Prešov, Martin, Zvolen, Trenčín, and Liptovský Mikuláš. Topics included the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf and Oxford English Hub teaching platforms, the interactive whiteboard, and the use of digital materials in classroom. The workshop continued with a presentation of the latest edition of the New English File books and modern 'Military English' course books.

• Slalom canoeist Michal Martikán of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** finished 3rd at the 2024 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup in La Seu d'Urgell, Portugal.

• Muay Thai fighter **Monika Tadžánok Chochliková** of the Dukla Military Sports Centre won the Rajadamnern World Series (RWS) in Bangkok, Thailand.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents 30 years of the Institute of Military History at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

EUFOR Op Althea: Ex Quick Response 2024 across BiH

(17 Sept) Ex Quick Response 2024 took place across BiH from 26 Aug to 16 Sept. The purpose of this exercise, involving in-theatre EUFOR troops from 23 nations reinforced by AUT, HUN and ROU reserve forces, was to demonstrate EUFOR's readiness and confirm its continued support to its BiH partners in maintaining a safe and secure environment in the country. During QR24, SVK soldiers coordinated exercising troops at the Liaison Coordination Centre (LCC) based in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. Working closely with the Multinational Battalion (MNBN), to which a SVK liaison officer has been assigned, they also undertook tasks within the responsibility of the SVK Liaison Observation Teams (LOTs) in Novo Sarajevo, Foča, and Višegrad. Over the period of three weeks, EUFOR teams practiced evacuating injured soldiers as well as staff from selected institutions, installing and operating security systems, conducting patrols and convoy operations, and guarding mission-critical facilities. Basic Helicopter Manoeuvring (BHM) for operations in contested environments was also incorporated. SVK LOT soldiers joined MNBN troops in using

Slovak Military Aviation Day

(17 Sept) SVK Air Chief Maj Gen Róbert Tóth and SVK AF HQ leaders observed Slovak Military Aviation Day by laying wreaths and bouquets of flowers at the WW2 Resistance Airmen Memorial in Zolná. The celebrations continued with a commemorative service at 81 Wng Sliac. To mark this occasion, Maj Gen Tóth presented the Slovak Air Force Meritorious Pilot/Navigator/Technician Badges to selected airmen. Commemorative medals were also presented to Resident MOD F-16 Program Advisor to Slovakia Mark Ely and U.S. Air Attaché LTC Jonathan J. St. Peter. Tributes to SVK AF pilots were also paid by DCHOD Lt Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, Air Vice Chief Brig Gen Martin Kuterka, airmen of the 21 TAC AB Čáslav, local government officials, representatives of the 'General Štefánik' Slovak Aviation Association, and former SVK Air Chiefs.

30 years of SVK military history

(19 Sept) The Institute of Military History (VHU) Bratislava celebrated the 30th anniversary of its establishment with treasured memories and testimonies of special guests, live music, and awards. DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko were in attendance at the ceremony. Over the past 30 years, VHU has risen to become an invaluable source of military history, mapping out historical milestones and events. Through its scientific research, publications, military archives, exhibitions, and conservation of war memorials, it keeps the legacy of military heroism and sacrifice alive.

Military themed training in schools

(18 Sept) Director General of the MOD Personnel and Social Welfare Branch Martin Rimeš and Chair of the Slovak Towns and Municipalities Association (ZMOS) Jozef Božik signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Military Themed Training and Sporting Activities in Primary Schools'. The collaboration between the MOD and the ZMOS is expected to facilitate more purposeful interaction between the Armed Forces and primary schools through education programmes, military themed training and sporting activities to develop pupils' physical fitness, teamwork and basic life protection skills. On completion of the 'Armed Forces Activities in Schools' pilot project, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko will translate its results into plans for the Slovak Armed Forces' engagement with schools across all regions in Slovakia.

Ex Moonstar 2024

(18 Sept) The Training Centre Hajmáskér (HUN) hosted Ex Moonstar 2024-II, an international tactical exercise (TACEX), with the training audience from Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. 24 SVK Professionally Qualified Officers (PQOs) took part. They were visited by Cdr Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín Brig Gen Jozef Ševčík, CSM of Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín Sgt Maj Milan Kupka, and Maj Nikoleta Tokárová of T&MFG Martin. Our PQOs performed tasks to the highest standards – this was appreciated by Commander Territorial Defence Forces Command Brig Gen László Drót. At the end of his visit, Brig Gen Ševčík wished our PQOs every success in their careers. The event culminated with a live fire exercise with the firearms in service with the Armed Forces of the three nations.

crowd and riot control (CRC) tactics to gain control over the crowd in a simulated unrest. At the closing ceremony in Camp Butmir, the LCC staff and exercising troops were recognised by COM EUFOR Op Althea Maj Gen László Sticz for a job well done.

