



MINDEFs meet in Brussels

(18 Oct) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák took part in a two-day meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Brussels. Topics included individual and collective defence, the present global and regional security situation, the growth of defence industrial capacity across the Alliance, and today's transatlantic processes. According to Allies, delivering the ambitious goals as set out in the Alliance's defence plans requires more forces, capabilities and investment. Expanded defence industrial capacity, more secure supply chains and new technologies are critical to ensuring the Alliance remains resilient across all domains. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views on the current global security situation with NATO's close partners in the Indo-Pacific region as NATO Defence Ministers were joined for the first time by the Defence Ministers of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea.

Ukraine Mine Action Conference

(18 Oct) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher took part in the Ukraine Mine Action Conference (UMAC) 2024 in Lausanne, Switzerland, with mine clearance operations as a central element in rebuilding Ukraine's society and economy. In attendance were representatives of governments, international organisations, private sector, civil society, and academia. In discussions with partners, Mr Melicher underscored Slovakia's position on continued assistance to Ukraine with demining as well as civilian and humanitarian aid.



EUMC meets in Budapest

(16 Oct) SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko attended the EU Military Committee (EUMC) Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) level meeting in Budapest on 14-16 Oct. 27 EU and Western Balkans (WB) CHODs gathered to address the current security situation. Topics covered the conduct of EU naval operations in the northwest of the Indian Ocean, the delivery of the EU's military ambitions through the mitigation of capability gaps, the achievement of Full Operational Capability (FOC) for the EU's Rapid Deployment Capacity (EU RDC), support for Ukraine, and the situation in the Western Balkans.



Applause for Karate World Vice Champion (18 Oct) Karate fighter Roman Hřčka from the Dukla Military Sports Centre won a silver medal at the U21 Karate World Championships in Venice, Italy. The success of this talented native of Bratislava was very much appreciated by the Secretary General of the MOD Service Office, Mr Peter Krajčirovič, and the Director of the Defence Minister's Office, Ms Karin Silberhorn, who received Roman Hřčka and his coach Kristína Macková at the MOD, congratulated them on their outstanding performance, and wished them every bit of success in their careers.



Ministry of Defence is cooperating with Sečovce Joint School

(14 Oct) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák visited the Sečovce Joint School, which offers an adequate training environment for those planning their careers in the Armed Forces and Military Police. The Minister was given a tour of the school facilities and familiarised himself with the theoretical and, especially, practical aspects of the Personal & Property Security Programme at the establishment's Technology and Services Secondary School. He praised the work of school managers and teachers in creating optimal learning conditions for students. The first milestone in the planned future cooperation has been reached with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the MOD and the Sečovce Joint School. "It will be an honour for us if the MOD can contribute to this cooperation through the dual education system as well as recruit graduates from this school. We can also see other possibilities for joint collaboration," Mr Kaliňák added.



- Slovak Air Force C-27J Spartan pilots from 46 Wng Kuchyňa completed emergency and abnormal procedures training at the Training Centre Pisa (ITA) under the guidance of ITA instructors with the aid of software simulations.

- In light of the strengthening of NATO's Eastern Flank, the Spanish Contingent stationed at MTC Lešť in Slovakia organised a Media Day event. The first stop of representatives of Spanish media outlets was Kuchyňa Air Base, where ESP military personnel presented their mission, activities, and cooperation with the Slovak Armed Forces before visiting MTC Lešť.

- Members of 57 Ind SOF Bn Martin descended on Ex Powerful Word 2024 to join their colleagues from seven NATO countries in rehearsing procedures for combat disinformation, fake news and other threats on Libavá Training Area (CZE).

- Rožňava Garrison hosted training under the guidance of the Special Response Team (SRT) of District Police HQ Košice on 15 Oct. Personnel of 5 Arty Regt, 54 MRLS Bn, and 103 CBRND Bn familiarised themselves with the SRT's work and procedures for the provision of event security.

- Thanks to a mobile National Transfusion Service (NTS) team, 50 voluntary blood donors – Liptovský Mikuláš-based Military Academy (AOS) Officer Cadets as well as military and civilian personnel – gave blood on 15 Oct.

- The Slovak Air Force Aviation Authority organised the 11th meeting of the Military Air Traffic Controller Officers Working Group EDA (MATCO WG EDA). The programme involved a tour of the Liptovský Mikuláš-based Military Academy (AOS) Simulation Centre and familiarisation with the training of SVK AF ATCs.

- 81 Wng Sliáč hosted Security Forces training – delivered by a U.S. Security Forces (SF) Mobile Training Team (MTT) – on Ex Falcon Defender. Under the F-16 beddown programme, the U.S. SF MTT has delivered its fifth such training for SVK military personnel of the Defence & Protection Battalion based at 81 Wng Sliáč.

- The planning process for Ex Valiant Resistance 2024 with the theme of '2 Mech Bde on Defensive Operations' took place at 2 Mech Bde Prešov. The main aim of the Battle Staff (BS) rehearsal was to coordinate 2 Mech Bde BS's activities in planning operations in defence of Slovak territory.

- Instructors from the Mobilisation Force Generation & Courses Section Poprad, the MOD Personnel and Social Welfare Dept, and the Joint Logistics Brigade Trenčín delivered the Readiness, Combat Readiness and Mobilisation Course - Level 1 at the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin.

- In preparation for a command post exercise (CPX) which Slovakia will be hosting in 2025 as well as Ex Sharp Lynx 2025 with SVK troop deployment to Croatia in Oct 2025, the NATO Multinational Military Police Battalion (NATO MNMPBAT) hosted a command post rehearsal at the Liptovský Mikuláš-based Military Academy (AOS) Simulation Centre.

- Trebišov and Michalovce Garrisons co-hosted integrated combat engineer specialties training for units subordinate to 2 Mech Bde Prešov (Mech Bns and 14 Tnk Bn), with a focus on engineer work with explosives and charges.

- The Slovak Military Police has issued a notice for the selection and purchase of high quality, fully trained dogs to be trained as military working dogs (MWDs). For more information, go to the Slovak Military Police website.

- Artillerymen of 54 MRLS Bn Rožňava underwent training for military rail operations, with practical training conducted at the Rožňava railhead.

- Chaplain in Chief Col Viktor Sabo convened a meeting of his team of military chaplains from the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) in the Armed Forces and Armed Corps at the Granite Hotel Smerkovic, with grief support counselling as a central theme of the subsequent spiritual exercises.

- Pavol Vitko, editor-in-chief of the Ministry of Defence's Defence Magazine, was presented with the International Egon Erwin Kisch Literary Prize – awarded to Czech and Slovak writers for non-fiction literature – for his book titled 'Porcelain Piglet' and subtitled 'Destinies of our soldiers who suffered because they refused the 1968 occupation of Czechoslovakia as the so-called brotherly help', published by the Military Support Foundation with the SVK MOD's support.

- The Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee announced the most successful sportspeople of 2023 in non-Olympic sports. Muay Thai fighter Monika Tadánek Chochliková and fitness athlete Aneta Tichá, both from the Dukla Military Sports Centre, placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Powerboat racer Šimon Jung won the youth category.

- Judoka Benjámín Maťašeje (Dukla) took home a silver medal in the men's U100kg category at the World Military (CISM) Championships in Uzbekistan's Tashkent.

- Rifle shooter Juraj Tužinský (Dukla) missed one point to make it to the men's 10m Air Rifle finals and finished 6th at the ISSF World Cup Final 2024 in New Delhi, India.

- Slalom canoeist Alexander Sľafkovský (Dukla) bid farewell to his career in competitive sport at the 'Ondrej Cibák' Canoe Slalom Centre in Liptovský Mikuláš.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents interviews with SVK military personnel returning from tours of duty at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

On international armaments



(16 Oct) DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič received ACEBA CEO Eric Stewart, Deputy Minister of Economy Vladimír Šimoňák, and representatives of American defence manufacturers. They were briefed on Slovakia's modernisation programmes by Adrián Kollár, Director of the Armaments Branch, MOD Modernisation Dept. In their subsequent discussion, they defined the areas for future cooperation and experience exchange.

Tactical jumps with oxygen masks

(15 Oct) Organised by SVK SOF and supported by 46 Wng Kuchyňa, the X-Jump Workshop – wherein the Paras have been selecting new parachute items that can be potentially phased into use – has since 7 Oct seen participation of the Parachute, Airborne and Rescue Service (46 Wng Kuchyňa) and SVK Army and Air Force parachutists. Integral to the workshop are parachute jumps. These have been conducted from a German M28 Skytruck transport aircraft, arranged by 701 Military Transport Centre under the ATARES programme.

5 SOF Regt expands its capabilities



(14 Oct) Since October, 5 SOF Regt has expanded its capabilities with a new SOF Military Working Dog (MWD) Unit, comprised of SOF operators and MWDs trained to handle difficult stressful situations. Multi-purpose MWDs are selected in top physical condition and are trained to serve in challenging missions, including in the detection and detention roles. Their skills are put to good use by SOF operators, counterterrorism teams, and airborne assault teams. They can be deployed to a variety of environments through fast-rope descents from helicopters, parachute jumps, or by boats on amphibious operations. The integration of the MWD capability into the national SOF forces aims to increase the security and efficiency of SOF operations. The SOF MWD Unit plays a key role in force protection and detection against threats such as IEDs. K9 units may be embedded in the Special Operation Task Groups (SOTGs) on NATO missions and operations.

CAM Sliáč marks 20th anniversary

(18 Oct) The MOD Centre of Aviation Medicine (CAM) with Outpatient Clinic Sliáč, a detached facility of the Central Military Hospital – Teaching Hospital Ružomberok, marked 20 years of care with a special anniversary event at the Grand Hotel Viglaš. "We are active and still full of strength. Thank you all," CAM Director Col Ivana Gutzelnig MD said.

Defence fire crews at TC Lešť



(18 Oct) Ex Fire Rescue 2024, an international SVK-CZE exercise, took place at the Training Centre (TC) Lešť from 14 to 18 Oct, with a focus on rehearsing and coordinating the fire crews' response on scene during firefighting and rescue operations. The training audience mainly included firefighters from the SVK Air Force and the CZE Army. Ambulance crews with paramedics and doctors from MILMEDCOM HQ Ružomberok and the Bratislava Ambulance Service took part as well.

Quake-damaged memorial restored

(14 Oct) On 9 Oct 2023, an earthquake in northeastern Slovakia with its epicentre near the village of Ďapalovec damaged the dominant element of the Tokajik Tragedy Memorial – the sculpture group titled "A Return to the Exterminated Village". The restoration under the remit of the Institute of Military History of the national monument required a precise approach. It consisted in carefully repairing 64 fragments of the sculpture group and reproducing the missing ones. With the individually restored pieces put in their place, the entire sculpture group was restored to its original state.