



Military Sportsperson of the Year

(29 Oct) The Dukla Military Sports Centre held the 2024 Dukla Sports Awards Ceremony at the Banská Bystrica State Opera House. In the Sportsperson of the Year category, Gabriela Gajanová, 800m sprint silver medallist at the European Athletics Champs in Rome, placed 1st, followed by shooter Patrik Jány and slalom canoeist Jakub Grigar in 2nd and 3rd places. Rounding out the top 10 list were Mária Fízal, Tajmuraz Salkazanov, Petra Vihová, Ema Kapustová, Juraj Tužinský, Paulína Bátovská Fialková and Viktória Forster. The Young Athlete of the Year was awarded to biathlete Ema Kapustová, and the Coach of the Year to Zoltán Baláz (shooting). Lubomír Roško and Pavol Blažek were inducted into the Dukla Hall of Fame. Hammer thrower Martina Hrašnová and slalom canoeist Alexander Slafkovský received accolades to mark the end of their sporting careers. The MOD was represented at the gala evening by Secretary General of the Service Office Peter Krajčirovič, Director of the Defence Minister's Office Karin Silberhom, and Director General of the Personnel and Social Affairs Dept Martin Rímeš. In his remarks, Mr Krajčirovič said: "To all Dukla sportspeople, I wish the best of success and outstanding achievements, so that the judges have a tougher decision to make next year. Speaking on behalf of the MOD, we will do all we can to ensure that the sportsmen and women of the Dukla Military Sports Centre train in dignified conditions." The event was attended by skier Petra Vihová, who, having suffered an injury earlier in Jan, placed 6th. "In many aspects, life is like skiing – a slalom race in between the gates, often with all kinds of obstacles coming up along the way. I wish Petra a speedy return to the slopes, so that she can keep bringing so much joy to Dukla and the whole of Slovakia," Ms Silberhom said, passing on warmest wishes from DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák to the military sports community.

Remembering Czechoslovakia's foundation



(28 Oct) 106 years on from the foundation day of Czechoslovakia – the first independent Czecho-Slovak state, DEPMINDEF Martin Vojšašovič laid a wreath at the T. G. Masaryk Statue in Bratislava. In his remarks for the occasion, he said: "We pay tribute to those who made it possible for our common state and its democratic values to emerge." He continued: "It is important that we don't forget our history and the legacy our forebears have left us."

Armed Forces pay respects to departed colleagues on All Souls Day

(30 Oct) The Chaplaincy Service of the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš, led by Dean of the Academic Parish Maj Tomáš Huďa, laid wreaths and lit candles for the departed during the All Souls Service at WW2 Háj - Nicovô Cemetery in Liptovský Mikuláš. Officer Cadets, AOS military and civilian staff, AOS Commandant Brig Gen Aurel Sabó, and officials of Liptovský Mikuláš City Council gathered to pay their respects to the WW2 heroes who lost their lives in the liberation of the city, the fallen contemporary heroes whose lives were "cut short" on missions and operations abroad, and all our departed colleagues. Elsewhere on 2 Nov, members of the Spanish-led NATO MN BDE TF SVK remembered the fallen Allied soldiers and all those who died in the recent catastrophic floods in the southeast of Spain in a ceremony at TC Lešť.



- **Kuchyňa AB** was visited by the Defence Attachés (DAs) from Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the United States. The military diplomats were welcomed by Dep Cdr 46 Wng Kuchyňa Lt Col Gabriel Tahla and briefed on the Kuchyňa-based Spanish Contingent (ESPCON)'s role by ESPCON Commander Col Gustavo Paredes. The programme continued with a static display of aircraft, and fire crews of the Defence Fire and Rescue Service staged a demonstration of their firefighting capabilities.
- On 28 Oct, HQ Joint Operations Command (HQ JOCOM) Banská Bystrica hosted a ceremony to mark the transfer and resubordination of the **Defence Standardization Branch** from JOCOM to the Joint Support Brigade Trenčín to form the Slovak Armed Forces Doctrines Centre.
- As of 1 Nov, the Joint Support Brigade Trenčín was reorganised and renamed **82 Joint Support Brigade Trenčín**. The Brigade's postal and email addresses are: Veľiteľstvo.82.brigády.spoločnej.podpory.OS.SR,Smetanova.6.911.01.Trenčín, and GS.82.BSP@mil.sk.
- As of 1 Nov, the Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin was renamed **7 Training Regiment Martin** and reorganised to form 71 and 72 Training Battalions. The Regiment's postal and email addresses are: 7.výcvikový.pluk,Jilemnického.6.036.01.Martin, and ve82.bsp.7.vycvp@mil.sk.
- As of 1 Nov, **22 Reconnaissance Regiment** was formally stood up as part of the latest reorganisation involving the **transfer and resubordination** of 65 Recce Bn to 22 Recce Regt and the stood-up of 64 Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Electronic Warfare Battalion (64 UAS EW Bn). The Regiment's postal and email addresses are: 22.prieskumný.pluk.OS.SR,Capajevova.38.080.01.Prešov, and veps.22psp@mil.sk.
- On 30 Oct, **42 Supply Base Martin** hosted a farewell ceremony for its Commander Lt Col Pavol Tabáčar, who is leaving the Service and is succeeded by Lt Col Jaroslav Malý as the new Commander.
- The MOD Public Procurement Dept (PPDEPT) organised the second iteration of the **Autumn PPDEPT Conference 2024** at the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Main Hall, with a record 198 participants. Over two days, the lecturers shared information on the key aspects of public procurement, with the emphasis on drafting the subject-matter of the contract and the conditions for participation, the calculation of the estimated contract value, and public procurement information duties. MOD PPDEPT will host another conference as early as next spring.
- Bratislava's Vajnory Barracks hosted **concentrated training for Barracks Administrators** on 28 Oct. A total of 18 Barracks Administrators along with policemen of the District Police Directorates Bratislava and Trnava took part. Topics included military funerals, wreath-laying ceremonies, flag raising, carrying in and off the flag, flag drills, paying respects to the departed with practical demos from the Guard of Honour.
- The Training and Mobilisation Force Generation Base Martin delivered a **course for the commanders of the mobilisation points** and the personnel reception teams, with the focus on the reception of conscripts reporting for duty. The course concluded with a written test and a graduation ceremony.
- With his 182kg clean and jerk, weightlifter Sebastián Cabala from the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** finished 3rd at the U23 European Weightlifting Federation (EWF) Championships in Poland's Raszyn. He also secured two 4th place finishes: 150kg snatch and 332kg in U23 Total.
- Wrestler **Akhsarbek Guliev** from the Dukla Military Sports Centre snatched a bronze medal in the men's 79kg category at the Wrestling World Championships – Non-Olympic Weight Categories in Tirana, Albania.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme marks Veterans Day with interviews from SNP veterans at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Ex Joint Fires / Ex Neptune Strike at Kuchyňa AWR

(29 Oct) For the first time ever, Kuchyňa Air Weapons Range became the venue for a series of training activities on Ex Joint Fires, with participation from several SVK Armed Forces and NATO elements. This unique training event, overseen by SVK Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM) with substantial support from 46 WNG Kuchyňa's capacities and capabilities, tested cooperation across a range of areas such as tactical air transport and parachute drops, communications, and enemy target destruction. The exercising troops from Sľač, Žilina and Michalovce were supplemented by airmen from the ESP and U.S. Air Forces. SVK paratroopers and airmen provided support to the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) from the SOF Tactical Aviation Control Team, so that they could reach the enemy territory as quickly as possible and call in fires against

the designated targets. The enemy forces were gradually eliminated as SVK Air Force L-39 Albatrosses conducted air strikes and artillerymen fired at the ground targets from their positions at VTSÚ Záhorie. Transport aircraft pilots of 46 WNG



Kuchyňa carried out parachute drops. The exercise culminated with U.S. Air Force F-18 Hornets taking off from an aircraft carrier on Ex Neptune Strike and supporting SOF troops across the range in Slovakia. Whilst in SVK airspace, the F-18s refuelled in-flight from a KC-135 tanker aircraft, under the control of Ground Controlled Interception (GCI) personnel from 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen. SVK MIL COM was represented on Ex Joint Fires by DCHOD Lt Gen Ľubomír Svoboda, Maj Gen Jaroslav Krám and Brig Gen Ivan Balog. They expressed their utmost satisfaction with the course of the exercise and the level of logistic support to the exercise.

Learning from the best

(30 Oct) Ahead of Ex Combined Resolve 2025 to be held next Jan, members of 21 Mech Bn Trebišov, as the only international partner, took part in a prestigious exercise led by the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, U.S. Army Europe, with the focus on operations planning. This provided the Battle Staff (BS) of 21 Mech Bn Trebišov with an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate their professional skills in joint planning. The BS tried out new procedures, verified the effectiveness of the decisions made, and gained experience from working in an international environment. According to Cdr 21 Mech Bn Lt Col Ján Štepiť, the BS has reached a level of the Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP) on which it can build in its two-year certification process for the NATO Readiness Initiative (NRI). The difficulty of the exercise has proved that it is capable of working together as one professional team to carry out all tasks.

Blood means life



(31 Oct) Voluntary blood donation is becoming an increasingly popular tradition across Defence. The first edition of the 'Dukla Drop of Blood' took place at the Military History Museum's branch in Svidník. Its employees, soldiers and the public were invited to donate the most valuable liquid where 80 years ago our ancestors sacrificed their lives for freedom and democracy. The event aimed to establish the tradition of blood donation on the Museum's non-traditional premises, to raise awareness of blood donation, and to remember the war dead of the Battle of the Dukla Pass. Elsewhere, soldiers of NATO MN BDE TF SVK rolled up their sleeves to give blood on Czechoslovakia's Foundation Day on 28 Oct.

Pipeline operators at TC Lešť

(28 Oct) A tactical exercise for the Pipeline Transport Centre (PTC) of 43 Supply Base Zemianske Kostofany took place at TC Lešť. This gave the pipeline operating personnel the chance to practise setting up a high capacity refuelling point and pump fuel from road and rail tankers. While simulating a realistic situation where a PD-48 pump transfers fuel from a rail tanker into a fuel storage system, they made good use of a concrete deck next to a water training obstacle where they practised storing and dispensing 100m3 of fuel. "After those unfavourable pandemic years, which disallowed us to conduct drills to the required extent, we are ready to undertake all the tasks to the highest standards," Cdr PTC Lt Lukáš Beňadik said.