



Minister of Defence in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

(7 Nov) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák made his first official visit to Kazakhstan. In a bilateral meeting with Minister of Defence of Kazakhstan Col Gen Ruslan Zhaksylykov in Astana, the two leaders discussed potential avenues of defence industrial cooperation between the nations and the exchange of expertise on the education and training of Armed Forces personnel. The ongoing and planned projects will reinforce the countries' defence and production self-sufficiency at this time of the dynamically changing security environment. Defence Minister Kaliňák and his delegation carried out a series of official engagements with Kazakhstan's National Guard Commander-in-Chief, Industry and Construction Minister, and Emergencies Minister. "At all of the meetings with the ministers, we found many overlaps of interest that connect us. We exchanged valuable information and experience we can use for Slovakia's cooperation with Kazakhstan. Not only on armaments, but also on training, education, and the defence medical services. And we also agreed on the need for a peaceful resolution of conflicts in the world," Mr Kaliňák said.

After travelling on to Uzbekistan, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák met Minister of Defence of Uzbekistan Lt Gen Bakhodir Kurbanov in Tashkent on 8 Nov for talks on furthering defence industrial cooperation, which may add to the growth of both GDPs. "I can see Uzbekistan has made tremendous progress in recent years and has even overtaken many European countries. In these times when armed conflicts are raging in nearby regions, it is also up to our countries to do everything possible to avoid another Cold War. What's more, we must focus on the self-sufficiency of defence industries. While Uzbekistan has technologies we miss out on, Slovakia excels in the production of some other products," Mr Kaliňák said. Both ministers agreed that SVK-UZB cooperation could be beneficial to both sides and will adopt concrete steps to take this cooperation to a higher level. While in Uzbekistan, Mr Kaliňák also toured the key defence manufacturers specialised in the production of munitions and armoured fighting vehicles.



Azerbaijani delegation in Slovakia

(4 Nov) Minister of Defence of Azerbaijan Col Gen Zakir Hasanov paid a two-day working visit to Slovakia, following DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák's official trip to Baku in Azerbaijan earlier this May. The aim of the Defence Ministers' discussions was to intensify SVK-AZE cooperation in a number of areas, including deepening defence industrial ties. As part of its official programme in Slovakia, the AZE delegation attended live demonstrations of Slovak-made Army capabilities at the Military Technical and Testing Institute Záhorie. Col Gen Zakir Hasanov and Mr Robert Kaliňák along with their delegations watched live firing of the Zuzana 2 self-propelled howitzer, the BVP infantry fighting vehicle, and the latest prototype of the AM-120 mortar system produced by ZTS Špeciál in Dubnica.



- On 4 Nov, the Multinational Brigade Task Force Slovakia (MN BDE TF SVK) began its **certification exercise (CERTEX 24-I)** at TC Lešť. Soldiers from Spain, Portugal, Czechia, Slovenia, the US, and Slovakia have been taking part in the exercise to demonstrate the NATO Multinational Brigade's operational readiness and capability to protect NATO's eastern flank.

- The Military Technical and Testing Institute (VTSÚ) Záhorie hosted the **Joint Fires Workshop** to improve the coordination and synchronisation of SVK Army, Air Force and Special Operations Forces units. Fire support for the training activity was provided by 21 Sp Arty Bn Michalovce with the use of the 155mm Zuzana 2 SPH.

- To rehearse the procedures for handling radioactive or nuclear material of unknown origin in a simulated accident situation, **emergency drills** for the SVK Radiation Monitoring Unit and CBRN specialists of 103 CBRND Bn Rožňava took place in Spišská Nová Ves.

- At the Physical Training and Sports Dept of the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš, military PT instructors met to discuss **expanding cooperation with the Dukla Military Sports Centre**, as well as reviewing plans for the selection, training and participation of SVK military professionals in the 2025 Winter World Military Games in Lucerne, Switzerland.

- AOS Officer Cadets, led by Lt Martin Koziak, participated in the **23km Czechoslovak March** in Czechia's Mosty u Jablunkova, bringing together, among others, members of the 'power' ministries in charge of armed forces and law enforcement agencies from Czechia and Slovakia.

- Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN) is putting its finishing touches to the **restoration** of a second MiG-23 from the collections of the Military History Institute - Military History Museum Piešťany. This MiG-23UB two-seater with variable-sweep wings went into production in 1970 and was stationed at Čáslav AB in Czechia.

- Collaborating closely with the Papavero Civic Association on the **Jozef Gabčík Park Project** with aid funding from the Milan Dubec Foundation, 5 SOF Regt Žilina has planted a linden tree alley with pink-flowering chestnut trees at the Jozef Gabčík Memorial in Žilina.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents successful sportsmen and women of the Dukla Military Sports Centre at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.

Basic and improvement training with U.S. instructors

(7 Nov) SVK airmen underwent training on the BAK-12 aircraft arresting system at Kuchyňa Air Base. In Week 1, new airmen from 46 Wng Kuchyňa, 51 Wng Prešov, and 81 Wng Sliac covered their basic training on the BAK-12 system. Throughout Week 2, improvement training for previously trained personnel took place, so that they could grow in their mastery of the knowledge and skills necessary for the safe



operation of the BAK-12. The training was conducted under the guidance of U.S. airmen from the 435th Contingency Response Group (435th CRG) stationed at Ramstein AB. Under their supervision, the SVK airmen achieved higher preparedness to handle potential emergency situations, ensuring the safe arrest of the F-16 Fighting Falcons during emergency landings at Kuchyňa AB.

Security challenges



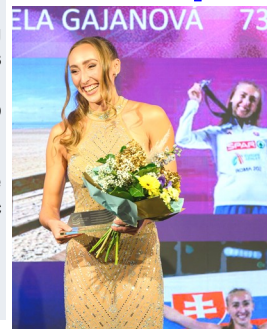
(7 Nov) Maj Gen Erdenebat Batsuuri, Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), met with Brig Gen Ferdinand Muriň, Chief of Staff Operations Support in the SVK Defence Staff. The generals discussed the current security situation and challenges in the country and the SVK contribution to UNFICYP.

Remembrance and respect



(6 Nov) To mark All Souls Day, MOD military and civilian staff stood together at the MOD Reconciliation Memorial to honour their departed colleagues on 6 Nov. An All Souls Day Mass was celebrated at the military Cathedral of St Sebastian in Bratislava on 7 Nov. On Remembrance Sunday on 10 Nov, a Remembrance ceremony took place at the WW2 Royal Air Force (RAF) Memorial in Čunovo.

9 out of top 10



(7 Nov) Nine out of the top ten sports personalities in the SVK Athlete of the Year Awards 2024 are from the Dukla Military Sports Centre. Gabriela Gajanová, after being named the Dukla Sportsperson of the Year, earned her first 'Slovak Athletics Queen' title. In a vote by a panel of 76 athletics officials and coaches, event organisers, representatives of the track and field athletics clubs, and journalists, Gajanová received 736 points, 82 more than the Athlete of the Year 2023, Viktória Forster from Dukla too. The only athlete not from Dukla to be on the top ten list is the SVK Athlete of the Year 2024 third place finisher, runner Ján Volko.