



## SVK CHOD's assessment of Phase 1 of Training Cycle 2023/2025

(14 Nov) The MOD hosted the Slovak Chief of Defence's Commanders Meeting and 6th Commanders Conference under the motto 'Unity, Honour and Commitment to a Safer Future' on 14-15 Nov.

In attendance as speakers at the former event were President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini and DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák. An invitation to attend was accepted by Chairman of the European Union Military Committee Gen Robert Brieger. "It hasn't been an easy year, but it has been a year that will allow us to build our defence on solid foundations," Mr Kaliňák said, adding: "From the MOD's perspective, it is important for the MOD leadership to focus on support to the Armed Forces and to keep their backs safe in their activities and modernisation efforts." In his speech, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko expanded on the state of the SVK Armed Forces and set out the SVK military's vision and priorities for the coming period. Reflecting on the modern battlefield that is defined by dynamic situational changes, Gen Zmeko said: "We are witnesses to how quickly and fundamentally the strategic, operational and tactical situation may change and how important it is to have the capability to quickly and effectively respond to the dynamics of armed conflict and, without unnecessary bureaucratic delays, to adjust training, armaments, logistics, personnel management, replenishment and replacement of weapons and munitions, including the implementation of new technologies and operational procedures, accordingly. It is preparing for unpredictability and the high risk of a rapid deterioration in the situation with a minimum time for response that must be our goal and strategy – this is the way ahead for the training of the Forces as well."

Day 2 saw the SVK CHOD's 6th Commanders Conference, with CEUMC Gen Robert Brieger and former POL CHOD Gen Rajmund Andrzejczak delivering lectures on contemporary international security issues.



## Veterans Day

(11 Nov) International Veterans Day was observed on 11 Nov in Slovakia by top Defence officials, headed by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, and senior Armed Forces commanders, led by CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko, who paused to pay tribute to our Armed Forces personnel, both past and present, living and dead.

The official programme commenced in the morning with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Rázus Embankment in Bratislava and continued with a memorial service at Petržalka-Kopčany WW1 Cemetery. 331 soldiers of nine nations lie at rest in the cemetery. Starting from there, as many as 290 runners then challenged themselves to run 5.2km at the 9th Veterans Run.

In the afternoon, our heroes were also honoured in a ceremony at the WW2 Western Front Resistance Memorial in Bratislava's Šafárik Square. This year's Veterans Day events took place across other garrisons as well.



- The 'Annihilating Thunder' Multinational Artillery Battalion of the NATO Multinational Brigade in Latvia (MNB-LVA) – comprising ESP, CAN and SVK artillery batteries, a fire support coordination element (FSCE), and two recon teams – conducted a **joint training exercise**.
- Vicar General Col Jozef Michalov and Director of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Head Office Lt Col Simon Czup, both from the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps Chaplaincy Service, paid a visit to **EUFOR Op ALTHEA** in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They met SLOVCON Commander Lt Col Jozef Durkot and members of the SVK Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) in Novo Sarajevo, Foča and Višegrád.

- A reunion meeting for former **CZE and SVK military personnel of UNOMIL and UNMIL in Liberia** was organised in Prague by the Czechoslovak Legion Community. 15 CZE and 10 SVK military observers were deployed on the UN peacekeeping missions in Liberia in 1993.

- The French Ambassador to Slovakia, His Excellency Nicolas Suran, paid a visit to **5 SOF Regt Žilina**.
- The Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Open Day attracted a record **900 secondary school goers** from across Slovakia. The Academy holds the AOS Open Day event twice a year, in autumn and winter.

- At the WAKO European Kickboxing Championships in Greece's Athens, kickboxer Lucia Tessier Fecková from the Dukla Military Sports Centre won a **gold medal** in the women's U55kg Kick Light (KL) category and a bronze medal in the women's Light Contact (LC) category, and kickboxer Alexandra Filipová (Dukla) took a silver medal in the women's O70kg category.

- At the European Cadet Judo Cup in Hungary's Győr, judoka Lili Križová (Dukla) **placed 2nd** in the women's U48kg category, and judoka Nina Filkorová (Dukla) finished 3rd in the women's O70kg category.

## FULL FIELD KIT

**Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents gender equality issues in the Armed Forces at 21.05 on Fri with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat.**

## Effective processing of traumatic incidents

(11 Nov) The Training and Military Working Dog (MWD) Facility, Military Police Department Vlkánová - Hronsek, hosted four-day Traumatic Incident Reduction (TIR) training for members of the Slovak Defence Psychological Service. TIR is an effective method of reducing any trauma that needs to be processed, including the posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which may occur as a consequence of missions and operations. It is effective in treating a wide range of unwanted fears, grief from the death of others, anxieties and depressions from combat-related incidents. The TIR sessions – a mix of theory and practical modules – were delivered by lecturer Branislav Chrenko MD. The training was hugely beneficial to our military psychologists, personally and professionally.

## NATO Sec Gen pays visit to Latvia

(14 Nov) NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte paid a visit to Latvia to observe Ex Resolute Warrior 24. Among the personnel the Secretary General met were soldiers of the Slovak Contingent of the NATO Multinational Brigade in Latvia (MNB-LVA). Deployed on a rotational basis since 2018, SVK military personnel have been contributing to making the Alliance's Eastern Flank stronger.



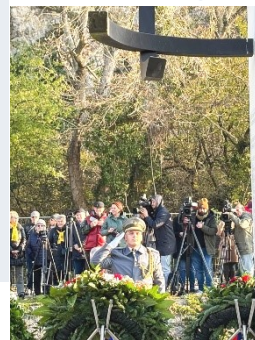
## NATO Resilience Symposium in BA

(12 Nov) Bratislava hosted the three-day 2024 NATO Resilience Symposium with the theme "NATO at 75: Delivering Resilient Deterrence and Defence", covering topics such as bolstering resilience across defence, energy, military medicine, and transport



infrastructure. Among the participants were PM Robert Fico and DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte addressed the Symposium in a video address on Tue 12 Nov.

## Remembering 17 November



(17 Nov) To mark Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day, DEP/INDEF Martin Vojtašovič paid tribute to the victims of communism at the Freedom Gate Memorial below Devin Castle, commemorating hundreds of men and women who were either killed trying to escape the country or persecuted by the communist regime in 1945-1989. He also took part in a commemoration at

the Tortured Political Prisoners Memorial at Vrakúňa Cemetery in Bratislava. In a statement, he emphasised that freedom, peace and security are not a matter of course even 35 years on from the Gentle Revolution.

