



Slovak-Brazilian defence cooperation marks a new beginning

(11 Dec) A SVK government delegation signed several intergovernmental agreements and memoranda in Brazil, including the SVK-BRA Defence Cooperation Agreement, among others.

While Brazil takes a close interest in Slovakia's munitions manufacturing know-how, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák announced the plan to purchase Embraer C-390 aircraft to replace the Slovak Air Force's transport fleet. "I think both the Brazilian and Slovak industrial bases can offer a lot of expertise on areas we are strong in and good at," he explained. The SVK defence industry is strong in the manufacture of howitzers, and there is great interest in howitzers in Brazil. The SVK-BRA Defence Cooperation Agreement covers potential training of soldiers in the partner country with new opportunities for gaining experience.

Newly promoted General officers

(13 Dec) President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini promoted seven Slovak Armed Forces officers to the General officer ranks in a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. This move reflects their readiness to assume top military posts and recognises their merit, abilities, and professional qualities. "Serving in the Armed Forces is not just a job, but a mission. It is a challenging, yet still noble mission of serving the State and undertaking the core task of securing its defences and keeping its citizens safe," the President said in his remarks, believing that the generals will confirm the status of their ranks by performing their duties to the very highest standards. "It is important that other soldiers will find a model of conduct, authority, and support in you. Be demanding of your subordinates and be open to your superiors," he said, appealing to the Generals.

Cols Štefan Acsai, Norbert Hrib, Roland Sabolčík and Csaba Németh were promoted to Brigadier General, Brig Gens Slavomír Verčimák and Ivan Balog were promoted to Major General, and Maj Gen Peter Babiar was promoted to Lieutenant General.



ESP troops deployed to Slovakia hold Transfer of Authority ceremony

(10 Dec) A Transfer of Authority ceremony for the commander of the Spanish troops deployed to Slovakia such as the Corps Forward Element and the HQ NATO Rapid Deployable Corps took place at 46 Wng Kuchyňa as part of a regular rotation of forces to support NATO MN BDE TF SVK. Col Gustavo Paredes Lobo, the outgoing commander, handed over command to the commander of the new rotation, Col Miguel Lopez Rodriguez, in the presence of Commander HQ NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - Spain (NRDC-ESP) Lt Gen Luis Sáez Rocandio and representatives of SVK, HUN, CZE forces taking part in the mission. Among the participants were also officials of the Spanish Embassy in Bratislava and representatives of Allied Forces. Chaplain of the RC Bishopric of the SVK Forces Maj Slavko Ganaj, substituting for ESP military chaplain Lt Col Angel Diez Bustos with whom he provides spiritual and pastoral support to the ESP troops stationed at Kuchyňa AB, thanked all departing ESP military personnel for their service, bid them farewell with a service of prayer and blessing, and wished them a safe return home.



- Working closely with Proaviate company, the Liptovský Mikuláš-based Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Simulation Centre delivered a professional course on **Assessing and Mitigating the Risk of Changes to a Functional System in the Air Traffic Management Environment**. The course, both in theory and in practice, was attended by MOD air accident and incident investigation experts. They appreciated the practical focus of the course with a high level of expertise and insight.

- From 20 Nov to 12 Dec, the Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Chaplaincy Service arranged a **charity clothes collection for children and adults in need**, mainly winter clothes, footwear, bed linen, and school supplies. Dean of the Bishopric of the Forces Maj Tomáš Huďa and Pavlína Adamiková from AOS collected all the donated aid and headed off with it to the Institute of Christ the High Priest in Zakovce on 13 Dec.

- 7 Trng Regt Martin organised the **Chainsaw Operator Course**. Two intensive days of theory were followed by two days of practical training at 4th Czechoslovak Rifle Regiment Barracks in Martin. Most of the military sawyers came into contact with a chainsaw for the first time. All 20 trainees from across the Slovak Armed Forces units and facilities passed the course successfully.

- Officer Cadets were accepted as **apprentices of the Army Logistics Guild** in a ceremony at the Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš on 12 Dec.

- The **Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum Banská Bystrica** and its galleries will be closed over the festive season from 16 Dec 2024 to 6 Jan 2025 and will reopen to the public on 7 Jan 2025.

- The TRANSPAREX Public Procurement Database has awarded the **Responsible Public Procurer Award 2023** to the Institute of Military History for its record of public procurement (PP) achievements over the past year.

- The Central Military Hospital - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok has purchased a new **laparoscopy tower stack system** for its Gynaecology and Obstetrics Clinic. The system is now in operation and provides the highest standards of minimally invasive gynaecological surgery.

- Voluntary blood donors at the **Central Military Hospital - Teaching Hospital Ružomberok** can enjoy new adjustable blood donor chairs.

- It was an excellent start of the season for skimo athlete **Marianna Jagerčíková** from the Dukla Military Sports Centre, when, finishing second after winner Emily Harrop, she took a silver medal in the Skimo Sprint race at the French National Championships.

- At the World Aquatics Swimming Championships in Budapest, swimmer **Tamara Potocká** from the Dukla Military Sports Centre finished an excellent 8th place in the Women's 200m Medley Finals. In the morning swim-off, she beat Martina Moravcová (SVK)'s best time – set 25 years earlier. She also made it to the Women's 100m Medley Semifinals, where she finished 10th with Slovakia's new record time of 58.95sec.

- The **Slovak mixed relay team** of Matej Duša, Tibor Tišťan, Tereza Ivanová and Lillian Slušná, all swimmers of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, finished an excellent 6th in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay Team Finals at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships in Budapest on 13 Dec.

FULL FIELD KIT

Radio Regina's Full Field Kit programme presents season's greetings from military personnel serving on missions and operations abroad at 21.05 on Fri 20 Dec with a rebroadcast at 00.30 on Sat and the events in 2024 on Fri 27 Dec.

Armed Forces Academy introduces "Giuliana Benzoni - The Life of A Rebel"

(12 Dec) The Štefánik Society presented a new book about General Štefánik's fiancée "Giuliana Benzoni - The Life of A Rebel" in a book launch event at the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš. Speaking to an audience of Officer Cadets, Chair of the Štefánik Society Maj Gen (Ret'd) Peter Novotňák introduced Ladislav Koudelka, the translator of the publication, who highlighted the key aspects of the new book and Czechoslovak history covered in his Slovak translation of Czechoslovakia 1919 – Liberation of Slovakia From the Hungarian Rule by Italian historian Lamberto Ferranti.

A guest of honour at the book launch was Maj Gen (Ret'd) Svetozár Nadovič, the author of About Turn, a publication about the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia in 1991.

Giuliana Benzoni - The Life of A Rebel was officially launched into life by Commandant of the Armed Forces Academy Brig

VLM is spreading Christmas joy

(9 Dec) In keeping with annual tradition, Military Forests and Estates (VLM), the MOD-run forestry company, has been distributing live Christmas trees to 93 Centres for Children and Families and special schools across Slovakia, including to the Special Primary School and Kindergarten on Karpatská Street in Bratislava. "Children display genuine emotions, and it's beautiful to watch them rejoice in ordinary things. They are looking forward to this Christmas, and we want to make this time special for them," VLM Director Ján Jurica said after bringing a Christmas tree along with small treats to one such community.

Seminar for aviation authorities

(11 Dec) Liptovský Mikuláš hosted an international seminar for Military Aviation Authorities (MAA), with MAA officials from the SVK and CZE MODs in attendance. Among the key topics for an exchange of views were the certification of airmen, air base facilities, aeronautical meteorological services, EU military airworthiness regulations for MAAs, wind turbine project assessment and approval, the fielding of F-16s to the Slovak Air Force, the fielding of AH-12 Vipers and UH-1Y Venoms to the Czech Air Force, and the application of EMAR M & EMAR CAMO within the Czech Air Force.

Survival skills training for pilots

(9 Dec) Survival skills training for fighter pilots took place in the Small Carpathian Mountains, at a swimming pool in Malacky, and at Kuchyňa Air Base. Members of the Airborne and Rescue Service, the First Aid Station, a PT instructor and a military chaplain from Kuchyňa AB took part as well. One of the main points was to parachute out of an aircraft in emergency and land on water. The pilots also tried out rescuing a drowning person, swimming in the flight suit, building shelters, starting and keeping the fire going, and gathering food in the mountains.

