



Maj Gen Verčimák appointed as SACEUREP MC

(21 Aug) Having assumed duties as Supreme Allied Commander Europe Representative to the Military Committee (SACEUREP MC), Maj Gen Slavomír Verčimák has become the highest-ranking Slovak officer in NATO structures – with the SVK military now holding a major position in Allied structures. He was formally introduced in his new role by Chair of the NATO Military Committee Adm Giuseppe Cavo Dragone at a NATO MC meeting in Brussels. Maj Gen Slavomír Verčimák will represent SACEUR at all political and military meetings at NATO HQ in Brussels for the next three years. The SVK general's appointment comes as a demonstration of the high level of trust our Allies have placed in the SVK military. The SVK Armed Forces have been building this trust through the commitment to and breadth of work being undertaken by all SVK officers and NCOs posted to NATO's Command and Force Structures.



2nd intake of NDF reservists swear Oath of Allegiance

(24 Aug) The second intake of 38 reserve recruits to the National Defence Forces (NDF) swore the Oath of Allegiance on the parade ground of Turkish Hill Training Area. The NDF help boost Slovakia's defence capability and the reservists' physical and mental resilience. With effect from 1 July 2025, MOD -sponsored Act No. 150/2025 Coll. on certain measures to increase the resilience of the Slovak Republic in the field of defence and security, on conscription, and on amendments and supplements to certain other acts – governing the formation and functioning of the NDF – came in response to the security situation, the need to increase the size of the Reserves for the defence of the State, and the demands of national crisis management, as well as bringing military service closer to the public and widening the Army recruitment base, especially among young people.

Join in with SNP 81 celebrations in Banská Bystrica

(24 Aug) Following last year's nationwide Slovak National Uprising (SNP) 80th Anniversary Celebrations, the MOD, the Gov Office, and other co-organisers have been preparing the 81st anniversary celebrations of this landmark in modern Slovak history. One year on from last summer's national event, Banská Bystrica will once again be bustling with socio-cultural activities on Fri 29 Aug 2025. The MOD's priority is to keep this tradition alive, while ensuring that the SNP celebrations remain dignified and commensurate to the Uprising's historical significance, with a large public turnout. The SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica – whose 70th anniversary is being observed this year – has had an irreplaceable role in cultivating the historical legacy of Slovakia's WW2 Resistance.



- President and C-in-C Peter Pellegrini and DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák completed another part of the National Defence Forces (NDF) training package at 91 Engr Regt Sered', with a focus on developing engineer-specific skills on the third, extended weekend of August.

- 81 WG Sliáč was the venue for a working meeting of SVK F-16 pilots from Sliáč AB and Ground Controlled Interception (GCI) personnel from the Air Operations Centre (AOC) of 2 AF BDE Zvolen. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen mutual cooperation, exchange experiences, and align themselves with NATO SOPs, including for safeguarding Allied airspace under the NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System (NATINAMDS).

- Lt Col Jozef Dunaj assumed command of 46 WG Kuchyňa from the outgoing commander, Defence Staff (DS) Col Peter Výrostek during a Change of Command ceremony held on 19 Aug 2025 at 46 WG Kuchyňa, in the presence of DCHOD Maj Gen Miroslav Lorinc, SVK Air Chief Defence Staff (DS) Col Adolf Daubner, and invited guests. All those present received a blessing from Slovak Air Force Chaplain Maj Slavko Ganaj.

- Chaplain-in-Chief of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Col Viktor Sabo visited the Children's Summer Camp in Tatranské Zruby, where kids of serving military and civilian families and military retirees were spending ten days full of recreational activities under the leadership of EPS chaplains Lt Katarína Zaičková and Maj Vlasta Kovalová. The camp, one of a dozen organised by the MOD, provided children with new experiences, lessons and friendships.

- Thanks to MOD-run Military Forests and Estates (VLM), the devastation and havoc caused by a recent storm in the Museum of Military History (VHM) Svidník Branch is a thing of the past. In just five days, military foresters cut down and removed all of the 187 uprooted and broken trees.

- With a time of 2:00.03, athlete Gabriela Gajanová of the Dukla Military Sports Centre won the 800m (B) Women race at the Lausanne Diamond League in Switzerland.

- To ease traffic complications which may possibly occur during the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) 81st Anniversary Celebrations in Banská Bystrica on 29 Aug, shuttle service buses will be running to the city centre from the "Banská Bystrica Railway Station" stop and from the "Radvaň Park" stop at regular intervals every 15 minutes throughout the day.

- Working closely with the MOD and DS, and other co-organisers, the SVK Soldiers Union and the SVK Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM) would like to invite all soldiers, their families and the public to take on the 30th International Military Ascent of Mt Kriváň in the High Tatras on 6 Sept 2025.

- The Central Military Hospital Ružomberok has presented its newly renovated child birth and gynaecology rooms.

- As demand for blood of all types is outpacing supply, the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok is asking more people to sign up to donate blood.

1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia



(21 Aug) On behalf of the MOD, DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič laid a wreath to honour the victims of the Warsaw Pact (WP) invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia in a ceremony in Bratislava's Šafárik Square, saying:

"This invasion was one of the darkest moments in our history – with freedom and independence restricted forcibly, thousands of people came under immense pressure from foreign military forces. It is our duty to remember it – so that it never happens again."

Partisan Trail March



(23 Aug) Ministry of Defence (MOD) officials commemorated the 81st anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) by taking on the 37th iteration

of the Skýcov-Zlatno Educational Partisan Trail March. DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič laid a wreath at the SNP Memorial in Skýcov before joining other participants for a 12km march between Skýcov and Zlatno – Slovakia's WW2 Resistance villages.



"From the Tatras to the Danube"

(19 Aug) SVK Defence was once again represented in Slovakia's longest, 345km team relay race – "From the Tatras to the Danube" – by teams from the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces, the Military Academy, and the Dukla Military Sports Centre. This year, an all-female Armed Forces team entered the race for the first time. Out of the 213 registered teams and five 12-member teams, those from across SVK Defence won four podium placements.

Cadet Basic Training (CBT) with new arrangements in place

(19 Aug) This year's Cadet Basic Training (CBT) for 235 new officer cadets (including 43 women) of the SVK Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš (AOS LM) will be marked with several changes. Importantly, one of them – the change of the training location from 7 Trng Regt Martin to AOS LM and Kamenica nad Cirochou TA – will bring whole new opportunities and more effective links with the AOS's academic and training environment. This five-week CBT programme will see the officer cadets familiarise themselves with the Terms and Conditions of Service (TACOS) and undergo basic foot drill, rifle marksmanship, tactical combat training, and a two-day survival course where their acquired skills will be tested in challenging conditions – only to conclude with the Oath of Allegiance ceremony in the historical Háj-Nicovô Forest Park in Liptovský Mikuláš on 19 September 2025.



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