



### SNP 81: Respect, gratitude, and unity as inspiration

(29 Aug) In his keynote address at the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) 81st Anniversary Celebrations in Banská Bystrica, President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini called for society to take inspiration from the SNP insurgents and rally together for common goals, saying: "Our Nation's ability to unite behind a cause is often mentioned in reference to the SNP. With weapons in their hands, a communist and a civic democrat, a soldier and a partisan, an insurgent from the south and another one from the north, and a city resident and a village dweller would find themselves lying side by side in the trenches."

Parliamentary Speaker Richard Raši then turned the spotlight on the SNP against the backdrop of the global fight against Nazism and struggle for democracy, freedom and human dignity before PM Robert Fico took to the stage for his address, in which he warned that today topics like the new conflict between East and West were being raised with alarming ease, but as long as he remained in office as Prime Minister, he would always pursue the policy of peace.

During the official programme, four WW2 veterans were promoted to the rank of Colonel. Two of them – Vladimír Strmeň and Branislav Tvarožek – received their rank insignia directly from DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák. Their promotion comes as an expression of gratitude for their role in the Uprising and for dedicating a large part of their lives to spreading the SNP's message and values to younger generations.

Supported by other authorities, the MOD was at the heart of nationwide commemorations for SNP 81, with some 600 civilian and up to 600 military personnel involved. Throughout the day, some 27,000 visitors turned out for the celebrations. The official programme was attended by 40 foreign delegations.



### SNP 81 BB: Oath of Allegiance sworn by 379 Junior Soldiers

(29 Aug) During Slovakia's national commemorative event for SNP 81 in Banská Bystrica, 379 Junior Soldiers gathered in the park below the SNP Memorial to mark the end of their basic military training (BMT) with a Pass Off Parade, inspected by President and Commander-in-Chief Peter Pellegrini, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Robert Kaliňák, and Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko. "You have chosen a profession that requires the whole person, enormous family support, and utmost commitment. We all greatly appreciate that and take immense pride in you," Mr Kaliňák said in his address to the Junior Soldiers. He praised them for their decision to join the Army in this difficult international security situation and thanked their families for their continued support.



- On 26 Aug, DEPMINDEFs Igor Melicher and Martin Vojtašovič laid wreaths in two separate ceremonies in memory of the SNP heroes, in Pezínok and in Bratislava. On Thur 28 Aug, Dep Comdt for Military Affairs AOS Col Jaroslav Kompan and representatives of Liptovský Mikuláš City Council met at the Mother Monument for an SNP commemorative service in Vrúčka. Elsewhere, Director of the Central Military Hospital Marian Križko MD delivered a speech at an SNP service of commemoration in Ružomberok. The legacy of the SNP has been remembered and celebrated by the Armed Forces across the garrisons throughout Slovakia.

- On behalf of the SVK MOD and Armed Forces, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko conveyed their deepest condolences to their Polish counterparts as the people of Poland mourn the tragic death of Maj Maciej 'Slab' Krakowian – the leader of the Polish Tiger Demo Team – who died in his F-16 during his rehearsal for the prestigious Radom International Air Show 2025 on Thur 28 Aug 2025.

- A memorial service was held in front of the gates of the Leopoldov Prison – organised by the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in Slovakia – to mark 350 years since the 1674 Galley-Slave Trial, in which Protestants were persecuted for their faith by the Habsburg Monarchy and Catholic elites. Among those present were also chaplains of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Office in the Slovak Armed Forces and Armed Corps, led by Chaplain-in-Chief Col Viktor Sabo.

- At the invitation of Archbishop Jerzy Mariusz Pańkowski, Polish Orthodox Bishop of the Forces, military pilgrims from Slovakia took part in the 30th Holy Mount Grabarka Walking Pilgrimage. Poland's Holy Mount Grabarka is located near the town of Siemiatycze.

- On behalf of the Catholic Military Chaplaincy Service, spiritual services for NDF reservists in training on Turkish Hill Training Area were provided by SVK AF Chaplain Maj Slavko Ganaj of 46 Wng Kuchyňa.

- The Institute of Military History (VHÚ) Bratislava and Piešťany City Council would like to invite the public to the 17th annual "Slovak Armed Forces & Rescue Services Day with Children" to be held – under the auspices of DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák – at the Museum of Military History (VHM) Piešťany on 6 Sept from 09:30hrs to 17:00hrs.

- Military Forests and Estates (VLM) invites members of the public to the 20th edition of St Hubert's Day to be held on Sat 13 Sept in Pliešovce.

- Working closely with the MOD and DS, and other co-organisers, the SVK Soldiers Union and the SVK Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM) want 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.

- Athlete Emma Zapletalová (SVK) of the Dukla Military Sports Centre improved her personal and national record in the women's 400m hurdles at the Diamond League Final in Zurich. With a time of 53.18sec, she improved on her previous best by 0.4sec and took an excellent 2nd place behind Femke Bolová (NLD).

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

### EU meeting in Copenhagen



(28 Aug) DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher represented Slovakia at an informal two-day EU Defence Ministers' Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. Discussions centred on the current security environment in Europe and shared efforts to increase cooperation on European defence readiness, capabilities and industrial capacity.

### New Cdr 5 SOF Regt appointed



(26 Aug) CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko presided over the Change of Command ceremony for the new Commander of 5 Special Forces Regiment Žilina, with Col Peter Zochňák handing over the role to Col Rastislav Mäsiar. The new commander thanked all operatives of the Regiment for holding themselves to high standards of professionalism – which has elevated the Regiment among the most respected NATO SOF units.



### SNP Museum turns 70

(29 Aug) To mark the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum's 70th birthday, DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič presented accolades to two dozen employees of the Museum, awarded to them by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák. During the ceremony, the last three directors of the SNP Museum – Ján Stanislav, Stanislav Mičev and Marian Uhrin – presented their new book entitled *Memory Brings Us Together*.

### Second intake of NDF reservists complete basic training

(27 Aug) This year's second National Defence Forces (NDF) training programme was attended by 38 SVK citizens. Of these, 14 were women and 50% were students. Also in training were representatives of SVK media outlets, three sibling pairs, and a mother and her son.

Structurally and content-wise, this training remained very much the same as that for the first intake of recruits.

The number of those interested in joining the NDF is on the rise. As of the end of Aug, the MOD data records 6,500 prospective recruits and 1,500 applicants.

As early as 4 Sept, another NDF training programme, with full support from the SVK Army and 82 Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín, will get underway at two training locations – Turkish Hill Training Area and 13 Mech Bn Levice.



Na tieto i ďalšie otázky odpovedajú operátori call centra na telefónnom čísle 0960 960 960. Informácie sú tiež dostupné na internete <https://www.noska.sk/>.

