



Secondary students with a specialisation in military training

(1 Sept) At the start of the new school year 2025/2026, Sečovce Joint School hosted a ceremony to open the first Military Class that combines the statutory secondary national curriculum with military training, personal development and education for 15-year-olds and older students under Slovakia's dual education system after more than 20 years.

All this happened in the presence of DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko, Director General of the MOD Personnel & Social Welfare Dept Martin Rímeš, Chair of the Košice Self-Governing Region Rastislav Trnka, and other guests.

After the arrival of students and teachers including the first 32 Military Class students (21 boys and 11 girls) for the Opening of School Year Ceremony, addresses by headteacher Michaela Štundová and other guests were made to highlight the uniqueness of the Joint School's cooperation with the Košice Self-Governing Region as well as the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces.

Every month the students will undertake five-day work placements – directly with 21 Mech Bn Trebišov – which will allow them to become fully qualified experts with the potential to sign up for service in the Armed Forces. It is believed that there will be growing interest in this field of specialisation and that this may lead to a gradual restoration of fully-fledged secondary military education in several other cities in Slovakia.



Building our interoperability with Spanish troops and NATO

(1 Sept) At the end of this summer, the Spanish Army Helicopter Unit Slovakia (UHEL SVK) carried out a training exercise involving Slovak Air Force airmen. Taking place at 46 WG Kuchyňa's training camp, it consisted of Military Free Fall (MFF) jumps from the side doors of an HT-29 Caiman helicopter – which required a high level of coordination and integration, expertise and focus. The intent was to enhance the interoperability of Allied Forces with the aim of getting a better grasp on the operational skillset required to thrive in challenging scenarios, while demonstrating the commitment of Allied nations to scaling up the effectiveness of NATO's collective defence and security arrangements across the Eastern Flank.



- To mark the 81st anniversary of the SNP and Constitution Day in a ceremony involving the military and civilian staff of 82 Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín, the President of the Slovak Republic's orders were read out – which Brigade Commander Brig Gen Jozef Ševčík then reflected on in his speech. The ceremony then continued with the reading of DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák's promotions to higher ranks, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko's orders to award military decorations to service personnel, and the promotion orders issued by Director of the Slovak Armed Forces Personnel Office Col František Grznár.

- DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič led a commemoration in marking the 81st anniversary of the 1944 SNP in the partisan village of Vrchteplá near Považská Bystrica.

- On 6 Sept, the Piešťany-based Museum of Military History was the venue for a special event for families with children – "Armed Forces & Rescue Services Day with Children" – with highlights of the day featuring a flyover from SVK AF aircraft, an air display by a military parachute display team, and performances and presentations from the SVK Armed Forces Guard of Honour, SVK Armed Forces Band, Dukla Military Sports Centre, and SNP Museum.

- On the basis of the SVK MOD's cooperation with the SVK Soccer Association, before Slovakia's first qualifying match against Germany for the 2026 World Cup – in which Slovakia beat Germany 2:0 – the Slovak and German national anthems were played out by the SVK Armed Forces Band at Bratislava's "Tehelné Pole" Soccer Stadium on Thur 3 Sept 2025.

- Working closely with the SVK MOD and DS, the SVK Soldiers Union and the Special Operations Forces Command (SOCOM) Trenčín organised the 30th annual International Military Ascent of Mt Kriváň in the High Tatras on 6 Sept.

- Members of the Defence Workers' Trade Union from Military Unit (MU) 1010 Bratislava made their first planned trip to the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape Complex in Moravia to learn about the history of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as building bonds in the Trade Union community.

- The current issue of "War Chronicle", the official magazine of the SNP Museum, is dedicated to the functioning of Slovakia's economy and day-to-day life in the last months of WWII, Czechoslovak-made armoured vehicles in service with the Royal Romanian Army, and the reprisals against the Slovak minority in Nazi-Ustasha Croatia.

- The latest issue of the "Slovak Military History Sources", published by the Institute of Military History (VHÚ) Bratislava, features an overview of the Austro-Hungarian forces and the Hungarian Home Guard stationed in today's Slovakia in 1868 - 1914.

- VHÚ Bratislava's "Journal of Military History" for military history, museology and archives professionals contains articles on Duke Albrecht I of Habsburg and his campaign to the Rhineland in 1298, Mokrad' airfield in the Slovak National Uprising, and Capt (Res) Martin Miklan as a contemporary veteran.

- 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 2025 in Pliešovce.

AOS honours SNP



(2 Sept) Military and civilian staff of the M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) played host to a ceremony marking the 81st anniversary of the 1944 Slovak National Uprising (SNP). By reflecting on

this historical milestone, they honoured the heroic actions of the SNP insurgents who took up arms against Nazi German forces in WWII.

Enduro course for MP riders



(1 Sept) As a follow-up to the June training in Slovakia, at the end of Aug, motorcyclists from the SVK Military Police (MP)'s Personal Protection and Escort

Section completed a two-day international Enduro training course with a focus on handling off-road trails at the BMW Enduro Park Hechlingen, Germany.

NDF training in progress

(7 Sept) Following this year's first two National Defence Forces (NDF) training programmes on Turkish Hill TA, two more are currently underway – on Turkish Hill TA and at 13 Mech Bn Levice. While in training, future reservists seeking spiritual growth and guidance met with Military Chaplain Lt Ján Lehocký from 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany at the Military Pastoral Centre in Levice on Sunday.



Prešov Airshow 2025 captivates with SVK AF air displays

(7 Sept) In one of its areas that are otherwise closed to the public, Prešov Air Base – home to 51 WG Prešov – hosted the Prešov Airshow or the 'M. R. Štefánik' Slovak International Air Days (SIAD) 2025. For the first time ever, this prestigious air festival was held here at the helicopter base. Spectators enjoyed a weekend packed with air performances by pilots, from home and abroad. The aircraft on flying and static displays included: the F-16, JAS 39 Gripen, MIG-15, Black Hawk UH-60M, Tiger EC-665, Albatros L-39, Spartan C-27J and Iskra TS-11. Crowds were also treated to an air display by a military parachute display team and static displays of the SVK Army's vehicles, equipment and weaponry.

