



Armed Forces Day

(28 Sept) Service personnel and the SVK MOD and Armed Forces leadership marked Armed Forces Day (AFD) 2025 in Brezová pod Bradlom. Over 13,000 visitors were out in the field below Baranec Hill to join in with the soldiers' biggest day of celebration in the year.

AFD commemorates the first armed uprising of the Slovaks for their right to national self-determination in Upper Hungary. The Hurbanist Volunteers, led by Ján Francisci, won their first in a series of battles there on 22 Sept 1848.

Senior MOD and Forces leaders paid tribute to the fallen in war at the Gen M. R. Štefánik Tomb on Bradlo Hill and at the Battle of the Hurbanist Volunteers Memorial near Brezová.

While our soldiers stood in formation in Brezová's Gen Štefánik Square, CHOD Gen Zmeko and DEPMINDEF Vojtášovič presented medals to serving and ex-service personnel, families of posthumous awardees, and personalities who spread the good name of our Forces. Col Jaroslav Jakub and Lt Col Mário Pažický received exceptional promotions for their distinguished service.

Combining static and dynamic displays with 600 soldiers and 130 military assets on the ground and in the air, the programme featured: an air display from an Army parachute team, SVK AF flypasts, SOF and MP demonstrations including hand-to-hand combat and a direct action raid with a military working dog, a Guard of Honour (GOH) show, and music performances by the SVK Armed Forces Band, Peter Cmoric, and Kandráč Band.

Our Allied Partners from the NATO MN BDE TF SVK provided a multinational marching section for the military parade and conducted displays of their capabilities, both static (1x ESP VAMTAC ST-5, 1x ESP Centauro, 1x PRT Pandur, 1x ROU VAMTAC) and dynamic (6x ESP VAMTACs and 2x ESP VAMTAC anti-tank vehicles). There were also our SPHs, IFVs, MBTs, UH-60Ms, L-39s, F-16s, and C-27Js that visitors thoroughly enjoyed watching in action.

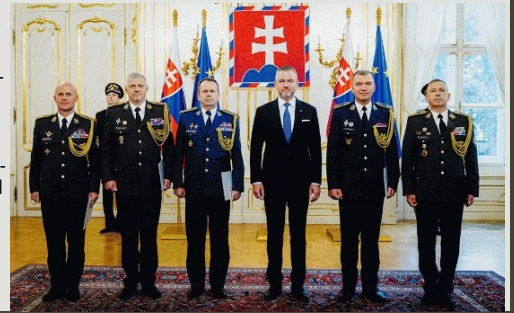


MINDEFs in Bratislava

(23 Sept) A SVK MOD delegation led by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák gave a warm welcome to the Central European Defence Cooperation (CEDC) and Western Balkans (WB) Defence Ministers and Senior Officials as they met for the CEDC + WB Defence Ministers Meeting at Bratislava Castle on 22-23 Sept 2025. The discussions addressed the breadth and depth of today's security challenges, efforts to facilitate the WB countries' integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures, and collaboration with respect to the nations' defence industries. Slovakia holds the CEDC Presidency in 2025 before handing over to Slovenia on 1 Jan 2026.

New generals appointed by SVK PRES and CINC

(26 Sept) Based on the SVK GOV-approved proposal for general officer promotions, SVK PRES and CINC Peter Pellegrini promoted Cols Adolf Daubner, Ladislav Kisel, Jozef Kasl and Dušan Košút to the rank of Brig Gen, and Maj Gen Miroslav Lorinc to the rank of Lt Gen in a promotion ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. These generals – an attack helicopter pilot, an engineer now serving as first ever NDF Commander, another engineer, a paratrooper, and an air defender – represent the SVK Army, AF and SOF. In his remarks, the President said: "Despite the diversity of your specialisations, you are united by one key denominator: you all display the highest professional standards, moral qualities and, above all else, dedication to service to our country." Speaking for the generals, Brig Gen Jozef Kasl said: "The promotion to a general officer rank is not only a soldier's individual success, but an utmost commitment to the soldiers we lead and to the SVK citizens whose security is our highest mission." He said they will remain committed to their work with humility and determination before concluding: "I can assure you we will honestly lead our soldiers and faithfully serve Slovakia, its citizens and our Allies."



- SVK Air Chief Col (GS) Adolf Daubner attended the **European Air Chiefs Conference (EURAC) 2025**, co-hosted by the Czech Air Force and the Future Forces Forum, with the spotlight on: lessons from recent conflicts; European security; and innovations and technological transformation across Europe's air forces. The discussions in the three thematic blocks were led by representatives of the air forces, defence industries, and academia from Europe, Israel, and the U.S.

- His Holiness Pope Leo XIV received the participants of the **19th SVK Roman Catholic (RC) Bishopric of the Forces and Armed Corps National Pilgrimage to Rome** at a general audience in St Peter's Square on 24 Sept. Bishop-Elect Padre Pavol Šajgalik, to be ordained Bishop of the Forces on 18 Oct, joined the Papal Audience. DCHOD/COS Brig Gen Marek Banas presented the Pope with a gift from CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko. The pilgrimage – led for the last time by Bishop František Rábek – was undertaken by 406 pilgrims from across the Armed Forces, Police Forces, and Fire and Rescue Services over the period 21-27 Sept.

- Command and Staff personnel of **1 Mech Bde Topoľčany** completed advanced training at the Training Centre Lešt' on 24 Sept. The aim of the training was to hone their core warfighting skills across marksmanship, first aid, map reading and navigation.

- A company-level Tactical Exercise (TACEX) involving **1 Mech Coy** took place on Trebišov Garrison's training area in Veľké Ozorovce to test the unit's readiness to conduct defensive and combat operations, respond to all forms of attack, and coordinate support elements. The TACEX was joined by Log Pl, Engr Pl, Mor Pl, and First Aid Stations (FAS) from 21 Mech Bn Trebišov and 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov. At the invitation of MI GRP, Czech-based PRAMACOOM company provided advanced recon drones and data links for the TACEX.

- The "ZaMED" Rescue Service organised the **13th Central European Rescue Services Competition 2025** – known as **Komárno Rescue 2025**, attended by 25 rescue crews from Slovakia, Czechia, Hungary and Austria taking part. They were evaluated on seven medical tasks that simulated complex and high-threshold situations, inspired by real emergencies. The Slovak Air Force Team – Sgt 1C Peter Hradský of 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen and Cpl Lubomír Gregureka of 51 WG Prešov's Air Search and Rescue (SAR) Service – achieved a second place finish overall.

- Michalovce Garrison's ranges in Poruba pod Vihorlatom played host to the **Basic Sniper Course**, with soldiers of 21 Mech Bn Trebišov and 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov taking part. The aim was to instruct concentrated fire in the zeroing of the Dragunov SVD sniper rifle and in conducting concentrated fire at short and medium distances from various positions. Pte 1C Marko Rudy and Cpl Jakub Lendač, both from 14 Tnk Bn Trebišov, and Pte 1C Anna Hurajová and Pte 1C Róberta Lebovská, both from 21 Mech Bn Trebišov, stood out from among the course participants.

- An upgraded dining facility has been opened at **21 Mech Bn Trebišov** after the kitchen and dining room underwent a complete internal refurbishment, taking the facility to the required health, safety and food hygiene standards. The kitchen with brand-new catering equipment will allow the eleven CSS Coy cooks to prepare meals faster, and the dining room, with a capacity of 440 people, will be capable of serving up to 1,000 soldiers in an extended dining space.

- With his brilliant results in the 74kg category, Dukla wrestler **Tajmúraz Salkazanov** is now No. 1 on the United World Wrestling (UWW) Wrestlers Rankings list.

- Biathletes of the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** dominated the Slovak Roller Ski Championships, in two roller skiing disciplines – sprint and mass start. Among the men, Jakub Boruľa triumphed over his competitors, and Tomáš Sklenárík and Artur Iskhakov finished in 2nd and 3rd places. Among the women, Paulína Bätovská Filkova was the most successful, ahead of Ema Kaputšová, Zuzana Remeňová, and Mária Remeňová in 2nd, 3rd, 4th places. They achieved the same placements in the mass start races.

- Dukla judoka Benjamin Matášeje won 2nd place and captured silver in the men's 100kg category at the **Skopje Judo European Cup**. His Dukla colleague, Ema Fizeľová took 5th place in the women's 70kg category.

- At the second round of the **World Powerboat Championships** in Germany's Bad Saarow, Dukla powerboat racer Marián Jung took 4th place in the F500 and confirmed his stable place in the elite world competition.

- In the roller skiing races at the FIS Cup in Štrbské Pleso, **Elisej Kuzmin** took 7th place in the 7.5 km classic race and 6th place in the 15km skate race.

MOD and Dukla join forces

(25 Sept) The Defence Ministry and the Dukla Ice-Hockey Club Trenčín signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to connect sport and defence, with the aim of getting young people more active in sports,

developing young talents, and strengthening values such as discipline, perseverance and teamwork. On behalf of the MOD and the Dukla Ice-Hockey Club, the MOC was signed by SEGGEN Peter Krajčovič and Richard Pavlikovský, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Tomáš Lipták, Member of the Board of Directors.

DS holds ceremony for AFD 2025

(22 Sept) The SVK Defence Staff (DS) hosted a ceremony to mark Armed Forces Day (AFD) 2025. Chief of the Personnel Support Section (DS) Lt Col Zuzana Prikrýlová read

out the SVK President's orders for AFD 2025 and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko presented medals to selected DS personnel. In his speech on this occasion, Gen Zmeko underscored the Armed Forces' role in carrying forward the historic legacy and fine traditions of our forebears in defence of our values.

CV90 User Club meets in Slovakia

(25 Sept) A SVK Army delegation led by Maj Gen Ivan Balog welcomed generals from Czechia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden to SVK

Army HQ Trenčín for a CV90 User Club event. The aim was to share experiences from the day-to-day operations of the CV90 Infantry Fighting Vehicle and discuss evolving the CV90's capabilities. There were also lessons learned from the vehicles' deployment to Ukraine, opportunities for joint crew education and training, and ways to strengthen interoperability across the Alliance's commitments. Representatives of BAE Systems Hägglunds, the CV90 family of vehicles manufacturer, also took part. The programme featured visits to SVK Defence Industry companies – VRM and EVPÚ – both involved in the CV90 MK IV project.

Military Police Service Dog Championships 2025

(22 Sept) MP Dept Vlkánová-Hronek's Training and Military Working Dog (MWD) Section played host to the Military Police Service Dog Championships 2025, where the dog-handler teams battled it out to be crowned 'Top Dog' in the three main competitive canine disciplines: obedience, defence, and all-arms. In attendance were Slovakia's MP and other SF dog handlers, as well as MP dog handling teams from Hungary and Germany. In the "obedience" discipline, the handler-dog teams demonstrated walking the dog at the handler's side, turns while walking, and responding to basic commands. The "defence" discipline tested the four-legged warriors in reconnoitring an area and marking hidden individuals. The teams were also evaluated on the dog's ability to protect the handler while walking, to stop and apprehend an escaping intruder, and to prevent an illegal entry into a building. The "all-arms" discipline required the handler, wearing the KIRASA body armour, to take his service dog through a series of military tasks at stations – from live firing at targets, tyre flipping, the handler coming under attack by an attacker and the dog tackling the attacker to obstacle clear-

ance by climbing, crawling, and jumping into and out of a deep trench. The MP Service Dog Championships 2025 confirmed the high level of the MP handlers' preparedness for dog handling. The scores combined propelled Cpl Lubomír Skočej and his MWD "Edo" (MP Dept Prešov) to a first place finish, Sgt Tomáš Berky and his MWD "Ozym" (MP Dept Bratislava) seized second place, and third place went to Cpl Jakub Jurčíšin and his MWD "Hektor" (MP Dept Prešov).

