



Thank you, Bishop Rábek!

(12 Oct) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák received the outgoing Military Ordinary now serving as Apostolic Administrator, Mons František Rábek, the head of the SVK RC Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps since its establishment in 2003, to present him with the Minister of Defence Commemorative Medal in Gold (1st Grade).

Consistent with Canon Law, in Feb 2024, Pope Francis accepted the resignation from office by Bishop Rábek at the retirement age of 75. Pope Leo XIV has appointed Padre Pavol Šajgalik, OFM Cap, to succeed him as 'Bishop Military Ordinary for Slovakia'.

On 12 Oct, for the last time, Bishop Rábek celebrated Sunday Mass as Military Ordinary at St Sebastian's Cathedral in Bratislava. On behalf of the entire Ordinariate, Vicar General Col Jozef Michalov and Episcopal Vicar Lt Col Peter Nižník gave him a truly most precious gift – a relic of St Sebastian – to thank him for 22 years of dedicated service.

On 11 Oct, Bishop-elect Pavol Šajgalik, OFM Cap, who is to receive his Episcopal Ordination on Sat 18 Oct 2025, introduced his coat of arms, designed by Assoc Prof Miroslav Glejtek, Heraldic Consultant to the SVK Bishops' Conference.



NDF reservists swear oath

(9 Oct) After Brezová pod Bradlom and Turkish Hill became the venues for Oath of Allegiance ceremonies for National Defence Forces (NDF) reservists, another 96 NDF reservists swore the oath standing next to the Slovak Air Force's F-16s and a C27J at Kuchyňa AB, in the presence of DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, their families and friends, instructors and commanders.



DEPMINDEF and ROK Ambassador

(8 Oct) At the MOD in Bratislava, DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to Slovakia, H.E. Byeongdo Lee, for talks on current issues regarding SVK-ROK defence co-operation, ways to take it forward into the future, and the exchange of experience between the nations. Both sides confirmed their interest in continuing an open dialogue, strengthening mutual ties, and promoting cooperation on shared security and stability.



Special Event: NATO EOD Demo & Trials 2025 in Bratislava

(8 Oct) DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič formally opened the NATO EOD Demonstrations and Trials 2025 held on 8 - 9 Oct 2025 at Bratislava's Incheba Exhibition & Convention Centre, showcasing the latest in technologies, procedures and innovations in the field of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD).

NATO EOD Demo & Trials – traditionally co-organised by the NATO EOD Centre of Excellence Trenčín, the North Atlantic Alliance and subject matter experts – fosters knowledge sharing, tests new technologies, and strengthens Allies' defence and security cooperation through the EOD community. In his opening remarks, Mr Vojtašovič said: "Our participation in this prestigious event confirms that Slovakia is among NATO's actively engaged and dependable members. Innovation and professional readiness are key to delivering security for us all." After the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests toured the exhibits on display, saw live demonstrations of advanced EOD systems, and watched professional presentations.



- The Military Medical Conference (MILMEDCON) 2025 was held at the General M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš. In attendance at the opening ceremony were Minister of Health Kamil Šaško and Commander of the Defence Medical Service Brig Gen Roman Jantoš MD.

- The Slovak Air Force HQ's Flight Safety Section organised the 61st NATO Flight Safety Working Group (FSWG) Meeting in Bratislava from 29 Sept to 2 Oct, with flight safety experts from 27 NATO countries, Austria, Switzerland, the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) and the European Air Group (EAG). Topics covered the administration, updating and processing of NATO flight safety documents, exchange of experience in the field of flight safety management, and investigation of current aviation events. The participants also addressed using AI in the process of risk management in aviation and against the threat posed by unauthorised UASs to airports.

- Two employees of the Institute of Military History – Ms Milena Balcová and Mr Miloslav Púčik – participated in the 4th annual international scientific conference titled "Battle for the Heart of Europe – the Czech Lands and Intelligence Services in Čáslav". They presented the results of their scientific research in the third block of the conference "Intelligence Activities in a Socialist Czechoslovakia".

- Officer Cadets of the SVK Military Academy (AOS) took on the 1st annual "From Štefánik To Štefánik" March on 10 Oct, organised by the Milan Rastislav Štefánik Society in Liptovský Mikuláš. The route led from the M. R. Štefánik Memorial in front of the AOS building to the Štefánik Bust in Liptovský Hrádok.

- Martin Šimonyi, Director of the Maintenance Services at Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN), represented the company at a professional conference titled "Outlook for Aviation and Defence Industries in the Czech Republic and in the World" in Brno.

- Officer Cadets of the SVK Military Academy joined the volunteering party at Liptov Castle. Together with the Castrum Liptov Civic Association members, they helped build two new bridges and a drawbridge, as well as carrying heavy loads to the ruins of the castle with the highest elevation in Slovakia.

- The first items from the Museum of Military History Piešťany's collections that have been restored at LOTN are already installed in the Museum's newly renovated Exhibition Hall (H2). The public will soon be able to see a pre-series L-29 'Dolphin' (Serial No. 0007), an Aero L-29RS 'Dolphin', an Aero L-39V 'Albatross' with the KT-04 tow target, a unique HC-3 helicopter, a Let L-200A 'Morava', and a pre-series Aero L-39 'Albatross' (Serial No. 0004).

- While the Banská Bystrica-based Slovak National Uprising Museum's Galleries are undergoing reconstruction, experts are preparing a new exhibition design proposal. The Museum would also like to hear from its fans and visitors what they want to see in the new Galleries. You can get in touch with the Museum via the Museum's website.

- Officer Cadets of the SVK Military Academy participated in the international Military Pentathlon Championships in Norway, where they battled it out with OCs from seven military academies. The competition tested the following basic military skills: rifle shooting, obstacle swimming, grenade throw, obstacle run, and terrain run. The SVK team took third place in the overall rankings as proof of their physical fitness, discipline and determination. Our OCs also did very well in the individual disciplines: OC Martina Hubková won 1st place in shooting, OC Terézia Klementisová and OC Michal Zušňák took 1st place in running, OC Tomáš Kunic snatched 1st place in swimming.

- Due to the worsening epidemiological situation, the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok's Neurosurgery Clinic and Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery Clinic have closed to visitors until further notice. Exceptions are possible on the recommendation from the doctor, in the event that a person's absence may adversely affect the results of the treatment process.

- Thanks to the Pontis Foundation's Mobis Fund, the SVK MOD Centre of Aviation Medicine (MOD CAM) Sliac has received a grant to purchase modern equipment – a BTL-4920 Premium Magnetic Therapy System, a Geratherm Spirometer, a Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT) stick, a BOSO ABI system with pulse wave measurement for early detection of the lower limbs' vascular system diseases, a Cardiofax M EKG-3350 electrocardiograph – all these will greatly contribute to improving the Centre's preventive, diagnostic and treatment services.

11 Mech Bn Martin's 30th birthday

(7 Oct) 11 Mech Bn Martin celebrated its 30th birthday. During the ceremony, Maj Gen Ivan Balog, the head of the SVK Army, awarded ten soldiers for their exceptional contribution and dedication. Five newly recruited soldiers received the green beret. Each member of 11 Mech Bn Martin was presented with the Battalion's 30th Anniversary Commemorative Medal.

ESP Ambassador visits NFIU SVK

(9 Oct) The NATO Force Integration Unit Slovakia (NFIU SVK) was visited by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Slovakia, H.E. Sofía Ruiz del Árbol Moro. After the official welcome ceremony and office call with COM NFIU SVK Col Marián Kurilla, the ESP delegation received a briefing on the Unit's mission and tasks, followed by a discussion – mostly about further options for cooperation. Ambassador Sofia del Árbol also met with the NFIU SVK's Logistic Branch staff who are working closely with the ESP contingent deployed in Slovakia, mainly serving with the NATO MN BDE TF SVK. In addition, an ESP officer of the NFIU SVK leads one of the three sections of the NFIU SVK's J4 Logistic Branch.

EOD techs at Ex MINIGATOR 2025



(7 Oct) EOD technicians of 905 Specialised Combat Support Centre Nováky joined troops from Czechia, Poland and the USA for Ex MINIGATOR 2025, an international EOD

exercise in Czechia. The aim was to thoroughly rehearse the EOD teams' field operations, with the participation of the EOD Command and Control (C2) element. The incidents covered all EOD areas – improvised explosive devices (IEDs), homemade explosives (HMEs), conventional munitions disposal (CMD), unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO), temporary storage places for components and precursors for the production of IEDs and HMEs, with a focus on current security threats.

'Bench of Honour' in Martinky

(6 Oct) In the presence of Cdr 11 Mech Bn Martin Lt Col Jozef Varchol, CSM 11 Mech Bn Martin MSgt Peter Murčo, Chaplain in Chief of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Col Viktor Sabo and Administrator of the Military Support Foundation Lt Col (Ret'd) Milan Gajdoš, members of 11 Mech Bn Martin unveiled a 'Bench of Honour' in Martinky or Martin's uplands, where over 1,300 soldiers died in the fight against the Nazis 80 years ago. In his speech at the unveiling ceremony, Lt Col Varchol noted that Martin's uplands are associated with Slovak military history, patriotism and resistance.

Military psychologists attend convention in Czech Republic

(8 Oct) On 1-3 Oct 2025, military psychologists from the SVK Armed Forces Psychological Service took part in the Military Psychologists and Psychiatrists' Convention – organised by the Central Military Hospital Prague's Medical and Psychological Department – at Châteaux Loučeň, a Czech MOD defence estate.

The main themes of the Convention's three-day programme covered: mental health care for military personnel, psychiatric and psychological care for war veterans, and the current impact of legislative changes on the psychological exams for active duty service applicants. The discussions focused on current procedures and methods in mental health diagnosis and care. Detailed descriptions and understanding of specific cases provided valuable lessons learned and inspiration for subject matter experts to aid the war veterans and their families. The meeting can be seen as a continued tradition of cooperation between the SVK Armed Forces Psychological Service and the CZE Military Medical Agency's Operational Psychology Dept, which enables the development of professional skills and capabilities in response to the current needs of both partner armed forces.

