



SVK CHOD Commanders' Convention

(24 Oct) The Ministry of Defence hosted the Slovak Chief of Defence (CHOD) Commanders' Convention in the spirit of the motto: "On Values of Past, We Build Security of Future". In his keynote address to the gathering of SVK military leaders, Gen Daniel Zmeko looked back on the work of the Forces throughout 2025, outlined the challenges that lie ahead of them, and emphasised the need to strengthen their internal bonds of cohesion, international cooperation, and the links of trust between our soldiers and citizens. In their remarks, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák and PRES and CINC Peter Pellegrini summed up the core aspects of SVK Defence and Security with the Forces' challenges and successes over the past year. The Convention's programme featured a medal presentation ceremony, where medals were handed out to selected soldiers – these all have been in pursuit of high standards, performance, development, professional good name, and merit across the Forces, at home and abroad. In the afternoon, Gen Zmeko and senior DS officials assessed individual strategic effects and their impact on the assigned goals, as well as setting out the tasks ahead for the Forces. The Convention continued on 24 Oct with the 7th iteration of the SVK CHOD Commanders' Conference, focused on a variety of lectures on today's international security, cyber defence ops, and the administration and training of the Reserves. At the end of the event, Lt Gen Miroslav Lorinc gave his assessment of Ex Strong Together 2025 – the largest CPX/LIVEX to have ever taken place in Slovakia.



Building team spirit

(24 Oct) In his visit to 13 Mech Bn Levice, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák showed his inspirational side as he turned up to encourage the National Defence Forces (NDF) trainee reservists just ahead of their intensive 24-hour survival skills training. Thanking them for their resolve to join the Active Reserves (AR) to increase national resilience, Mr Kaliňák said: "What social networks keep apart, training brings together. You are building an excellent team and team spirit!"

Explosive Ordnance has a tradition and a future in Slovakia

(23 Oct) The 12th International Explosive Ordnance (EO) Community Conference was organised in Trenčianske Teplice on 22-23 Oct, with the participation of DEP-MINDEF Martin Vojtašovič. The Conference, attracting SMEs, industry leaders, and innovators from across the world, explored new knowledge, technologies, and perspectives: from the historical roots of EOD ops to the modern challenges of Defence & Security. Over the two days, a series of in-depth presentations were given on Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives (OME) and EOD from the perspective of SVK Defence & Security, as well as on tech innovations, munitions manufacturing, and a variety of munitions and fuzes.



Slovakia marks 106 years of CZE-SVK EOD ops. "What once used to be an industrial production capability has now become a strategic pillar of our national defence and a significant area of our national and allied security. Today EOD is not just a technical occupational specialty – it is a symbol of our ability to cooperate, innovate, and protect," Mr Vojtašovič said. Slovakia has a strong position in this area, largely thanks to the NATO Explosive Ordnance Disposal Centre of Excellence (NATO EOD COE) Trenčín and the soon-to-be established NATO Fires Centre of Excellence (NATO FCOE). The DEP-MINDEF summed up by saying: "Traditional expertise, modern investment, and international trust are the foundation on which we are building a strong, safe and technologically advanced Slovakia."

- On his first official trip to explore Slovakia's regions on 23 Oct, the new **British Ambassador to Slovakia**, His Excellency Bilal Zahid paid a visit to the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum Banská Bystrica. While there, Ambassador Zahid was introduced to the Museum's mission, history, and plans by SNP Museum Director Marian Uhrin.

- Capt Ladislav Čáni of the International Courses Sect represented the SVK Military Academy (AOS) at the annual **NATO Quality Assurance (QA) Forum 2025** in Helsinki, Finland. The Forum – creating a space for sharing NATO QA practices and building links between Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and Education and Training Facilities (ETFs) – promotes high quality education & training in NATO through the NATO QA Programme, NATO Course Certification, and NATO Institutional Accreditation. Bratislava will host this important international event in 2026.

- The SVK Defence Attaché to Poland, Maj Gen Miroslav Korba attended the "Slovaks' Involvement in the Warsaw Uprising" book presentation by SVK historian Juraj Kasard at the Warsaw-based SVK Institute. While the Polish version of the book was published by the POL Institute of National Remembrance, the Slovak edition is now being prepared by the SVK Nation's Memory Institute.

- AOS hosted the 38-hour **Fire Support Course Level 1 (Planning Fire Support at Battalion/ Detachment Level)** – professionally led by its Military Tactics and Operational Art Dept and organisationally supported by its National Courses Sect – where participants gained knowledge and skills required for Joint Fire Support (JFS) planning.

- To learn more about SVK military history, officers on the **AOS-organised 23rd Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC)** and members of the AOS Education Centre completed a study visit to the SNP Museum Banská Bystrica on 20 Oct. They toured the Museum's collection objects, read the captions for the exhibits, and listened to a lecture titled "Czechoslovak Army's Military Uniforms Development in 1918-39 with Overlap into WW2 Period" in the Museum's cinema. They also paused to pay their respects at the WW2 Memorials in Kremnička and Nemecká.

- The 3rd-year AOS OCs participated in the **International 'Dukla Mace' Shooting Competition**, organised by the Slovak Soldiers in Reserve and Military Sporting Activities Association on the 'Hájiček' ranges near Višňuk. This multi-event cup competition for three-member mixed teams combines shooting from a large-calibre pistol and a self-loading rifle with grenade throw. The OCs also saw a demonstration of different firearms and tried out shooting from them at targets.

- The **Airport Challenge Run** – divided into the 'Servicemen, Servicewomen, Men, Women, and Youth' categories – kicked off with the 'Children's Run', followed by the 5km and 10km races at 51 Hell Wing Prešov. There, the Army Recruitment Team prepared a presentation of the military profession, everyone interested could try out physical fitness exercises on a horizontal bar, and there were also fun activities for kids.

- Among the 41 competitors from around the world, **karateka Roman Hrkča of the Dukla Military Sports Centre** performed brilliantly and won the Male Kata category at the World Champs Qualification Event Paris, securing a spot for the 2025 Karate World Champs in Cairo, Egypt. He succeeded in the one-on-one qualifying round and is now among the competition's top six karatekas.

- **Dukla judokas** competed at the prestigious World Cup Grand Prix in Guadalajara, Mexico. Facing strong competition, Alex Barto finished 7th in the 90kg category.

- At the **Aquatics Swimming World Cup in Carmel, USA**, Dukla swimmer Andrea Podmaniková did very well, making it to the women's 50m breaststroke finals and taking 6th place with a time of 30.44sec.

- In the elimination race at the **Track Cycling World Champs in Santiago, Chile**, Dukla cyclist Alžbeta Bačíková finished 14th among the 24 best female cyclists on the planet.

Strengthening SVK-CZE ties



(22 Oct) DEP-MINDEF Igor Melicher held talks with Director of the CZE MOD Industrial Cooperation Dept Radka Konderlová. The aim

was to open up negotiations on joint military procurement and deepen our Defence & Security engagement. "The SVK-CZE Defence & Security ties have deep historical roots and are based on shared trust, cooperation and goals," Mr Melicher emphasised. The MOD values Slovakia's special partnership with the Czech Republic, which benefits the safety and security of our citizens, the stability of the region, and the defence capabilities of both countries.

MOD-MOT partnership



(24 Oct) DEP-MINDEF Igor Melicher met Deputy Minister of Transport Denisa Žiláková for talks to expand into deeper interministerial cooperation on dual use – military and civilian – transport infrastructure

projects. The aim is to use existing capacities more effectively, improve the links between strategic transport hubs, and strengthen the resilience of Slovakia's transport network. They addressed the dual use projects to be co-funded by the two ministries – from infrastructure building through to R&D innovations and support for defence and transport technologies – to the benefit of both civilian and defence sectors. They agreed on the need for joint action to bring concrete solutions to Slovakia's modernisation and resilience.

CAN delegation visits MOD



(20 Oct) DEP-MINDEF Martin Vojtašovič welcomed Canada's Ambassador to Slovakia, Her Excellency Karen Mollica, and representatives of the CAN and SVK Defence Industry to the SVK MOD for talks on new avenues of cooperation,

defence tech innovations, and partnerships to make the SVK-CAN defence industry ties stronger. Mr Vojtašovič summed up the meeting by saying, "We thank you for the open dialogue and the friendly atmosphere, and we are looking forward to our next joint projects."

Ex STT025 as special training opportunity for 21 Mech Bn Trebišov

(21 Oct) On 13-20 Oct, soldiers of 21 Mech Bn Trebišov joined Ex Strong Together 2025 (STT025) – the largest Command Post Exercise/Live Exercise (CPX/LIVEX) – which saw CPs conducting ops on a modern battlefield to defend Slovakia. A key element in the exercise's success was the ability of CPs to react quickly to the changing battlefield situation and move to Reserve Command Posts (RCPs).

The exercising troops paid special attention to securing the CPs against the effects of new technologies and weapon systems. The most advanced communications systems securely shared voice, data and video communications, protecting information even under jamming or electronic warfare conditions. As a result,



a hardened version of the full-fledged CP was designed on the training ground, reflecting realistic combat conditions, including perimeter security and camouflage arrangements. Thanks to the thorough preparations and coordination of all the components involved, a changing warfighting environment was created that credibly simulated the challenges of the modern battlefield. Giving his concluding assessment of the Unit on STT025, Cdr 21 Mech Bn Trebišov Lt Col Ján Štepita confirmed the Unit's high level of readiness, professionalism and ability to conduct missions with impact under demanding conditions.