



Oath with an F-16

(28 Oct) 87 new reservists, ten of whom were women, joined the ranks of the National Defence Forces (NDF) by concluding their training with the Oath of Allegiance. Over the course of two weeks, they underwent intensive training in physical fitness, marksmanship, combat tactics, first aid, and emergency incident response. Their Oath of Allegiance – attended by DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič – was enriched by a flypast from a Slovak Air Force F-16 over Kuchyňa AB. After passing out of training, the number of the NDF reservists has reached 356.

NDF 'Stand-By' Reserves

(26 Oct) On 25-26 Oct, the Training Centre Lešť hosted improvement training for the NDF 'Stand-By' Reserves for the third time this year. The aim of the training was to work closely with the SVK Police Forces to perform specific tasks, even out on the beat. Day 1, led by Police instructors, was dedicated to lectures, demonstrations and training in complex police search ops with the use of service dogs and drones and in the provision of first aid to the found victim. Day 2, led by MP instructors, covered training for combined patrols to stop and search people and vehicles, and to detect and detain intruders at a military facility.



NFIU SVK on Ex Steadfast Duel

(30 Oct) Members of the NATO Force Integration Unit Slovakia (NFIU SVK) along with their fellow colleagues from the NFIU HUN participated in the Alliance's largest computer-assisted command post exercise (CAX/CPX) in 2025, Ex Steadfast Duel (STDU25).



STDU25 – overseen by SACEUR General Alexis G. Grynkeiwich – was planned and directed by the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) in Stavanger, Norway. For the first time ever, it involved all three NATO Joint Force Commands – JFC Brunssum, JFC Naples, and JFC Norfolk – and the units subordinate to them. The aim of the exercise – with all 32 NATO member states – was to jointly practice multi-domain ops according to the regional defence plans, in pursuance of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. On the exercise, the SVK and HUN NFIUs set up a command and coordination element to exercise their operational readiness tasks, while working closely with and under the command of the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) Brunssum.

Emma Zapletalová crowned 'Sportsperson of the Year in Defence'

(30 Oct) In the presence of DEPMINDEF Igor Melicher and SECGEN Peter Krajčírovič, the Defence Sportsperson of the Year Awards were officially announced in Banská Bystrica. Among the awardees – ten, three and one in the Senior, Youth, and Coach categories respectively – were the most successful sportspeople of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica. Athlete Emma Zapletalová, the winner of bronze in the women's 400m hurdles at the World Champs in Tokyo, the holder of the new SVK record in the 400m hurdles, and the three-time second place finisher at the Diamond League Athletics Series, was crowned the 'Sportsperson of the Year in Defence'. "I'm very happy that Dukla supported me even when I didn't have results. Yet, I was given a chance, support, and all the conditions to train," Emma said, without hiding her emotions. Wrestler Tajmuraz Salkazanov, the bronze medalist from the World Wrestling Champs in Croatia's Zagreb and the third place finisher at the European Wrestling Champs in Šamorín, came second in the Awards. Shooter Juraj Tužinský, the European champion in 10m air pistol from Croatia's Osijek, scooped third place in the Awards. The Coach of the Year Award went to Miroslav Mark, Juraj Tužinský's coach. The Young Athlete of the Year was awarded to biathlete Jakub Borguľa, the silver medalist in the junior men's 10km sprint at the Junior World Champs in Sweden's Östersund. Coach Jozef Hanušovský and Olympian Matej Tóth were inducted into the Dukla Hall of Fame.



- At St Sebastian's Cathedral on 2 Nov, the Bishop of the SVK RC Ordinate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps, Monsignor Pavol Saigalik celebrated Holy Mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed – from across the Armed Forces, Police Forces, Prison & Court Guard, Financial Administration Authority, Fire & Rescue Services, and Mountain Rescue Services – who died in the line of duty.

- During his visit to the SVK Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš (AOS LM) on 30 Oct, Col Jonathan Kitson, UK Defence Attaché to the Czech and Slovak Republics, gave a lecture titled 'Evolving Situation in NATO' to the officers on the Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC), covering NATO's developments and adaptations, the current and future challenges for the Alliance, and the dynamically changing global security situation. In the afternoon, he addressed the AOS Officer Cadets and Academic Staff. On this occasion, AOS COMDT Brig Gen Aurel Sabó presented Col Jonathan Kitson with the AOS 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal.

- The autumn round of the prestigious NATO MN BDE LVA-hosted 'Baltic Warrior' competition, which tests the physical fitness, endurance and team spirit of the BDE's competitors twice a year, took place at Camp Ďažď. Three teams from the SVK contingent – one mixed and two male teams – took part. The former, consisting of Lt Sařariková and MSgt Turiak, won their category.

- Members of the NATO MN BDE TF SVK joined the BIORUN Vineyards Race in Veľký Krtíš, part of the Krtíš Running League 2025. The 7km route took them through local meadows, fields, and vineyards.

- EOD COE Trenčín has officially concluded its 2025 Education & Training (E&T) Courses Programme with this year's last NATO-certified course – NATO CBRN EOD Staff Officer Incident Management Training Course.

- The final phase of the KPVT/PKT Heavy Machine Gun Operators' Course for gunners of 3rd AD Grp from 11 SVK AF Bde Nitra took place on the ranges at TC Lešť. The course culminated with 27 gunners shooting at targets from the vehicle-mounted heavy machine guns. The gunners' shooting skills were rated as 'Excellent'. Cpl Marián Blaško scored the most points, and Pte Nikol Vaňová was awarded 'Best Student' on the course.

- On behalf of the Bishop of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps, Col Jozef Michalov presented accolades to Col (Ret'D) Štefan Jangl, Col (Ret'D) Miroslav Klímeč and Col (Ret'D) Bernard Roščeky of the UN-Veteran Slovakia Association for their long-term cooperation with the SVK RC Ordinate in a ceremony at 91 Engr Regt Sereď on 29 Oct. On this occasion, Col Michalov received the UN-Veteran Slovakia Medal (2nd Grade).

- To mark All Souls Day, AOS COMDT Brig Gen Aurel Sabó joined AOS OCS and AS and Liptovský Mikuláš City Council officials in paying tribute to their departed colleagues and war heroes at Háj-Nicovó WW2 cemetery. To mark this occasion, some 50 AOS OCS donated blood on 29 Oct.

- On 27 Oct, internal medicine specialists of the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok have returned to their newly renovated premises in the Internal Medicine Clinic's basement. Patients will be examined in a modern, comfortable and pleasant environment.

- Military Forests and Estates ("VLM") has opened a Forest Educational Trail for children at the Malacky Game Reserve. MOD kindergarten kids from Bratislava were the first to visit the site. Almost 2km in length, it offers guided tours by forest educators, 12 interactive information stands, fun elements, gazebos, and an observation tower for watching birds and forest animals, including fallow deers and moutlins in small herds. Schools and kindergartens interested in touring the site can book a visit by e-mail.

- The SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office invites the public to an exhibition of entries for the Defence-wide 'PhotoAttack and Gallery MIL 2025 Competitive Displays', to be held until 11 Nov at the Prešov Garrison Club.

- At the European U23 Champs in Chisinau, Dukla judoka Benjamin Mařašeje (SVK) won bronze in the 100kg category, defeating Rares Arsenie (ROU) in overtime.

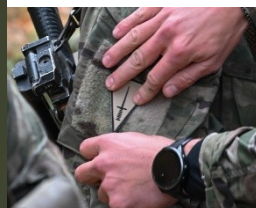
- Dukla weightlifter Sebastián Cabala (SVK) took bronze with his 174kg 'Clean & Jerk' lift at the 2025 European Junior & U23 Weightlifting Champs in Albania's Durrës. In the doubles, he took fourth place, being separated from the bronze-winning Austrian by 1kg only.

A new level of saving lives



(30 Oct) The Mountain Rescue Service, the Special Operations Forces and the Slovak Air Force have joined forces to conduct search and rescue operations (SAR OPS) under an integrated cooperation agreement. This marks a major shift in the effectiveness of SAR interventions in the mountains – from joint mountain rescue training to air SAR OPs. The agreement covers rope techniques training, faster movement of equipment and evacuation of people from hard-to-reach areas, sharing of SOPs and mountain safety updates, and the use of air assets and UASs in SAR and EVAC OPS. CDR SOF Maj Gen Jaroslav Krám stressed: "Using the SVK AF's assets and drones on SAR and EVAC OPS in the mountains will take incident training and response to a whole new level."

Commando A Course in Belgium



(27 Oct) SVK paratroopers on the prestigious Commando A Course – one of the most demanding military training programmes – attended their graduation ceremony at the Commando Training Centre (CTC) in Marche-les-Dames, Belgium. Among the successful graduates were operatives of 5 SOF Regt Žilina who passed the demanding course with high marks and received the Course Graduate Badge. On this occasion, representatives of 5 SOF Regt Žilina met with the CTC leadership. Both sides confirmed their will to continue their cooperation on SOF training.

91 Engr Regt's 4th birthday



(30 Oct) 91 Engr Regt Sereď celebrated its fourth birthday on 30 Oct. To mark the occasion, 32 engineers rolled up their sleeves to donate blood in the 33rd edition of the 'Drop of Blood from the Engineer' event in the morning ahead of a special 'birthday' ceremony that followed.

In his remarks, Cdr 91 Engr Regt Sereď Col Ján Adamuško thanked the former commanders of the engineer units based in Sereď and all those who contributed to the Regt's success. Among the medal recipients was the Chair of the Soldiers Association & Club Sereď, Lt Col (Ret'D) Ondrej Urban. After a ceremonial march and live-action demonstrations of engineer capabilities, the ceremony wrapped up with a visit to the Army Engineers Hall of Fame. Cdr NDF Brig Gen Ladislav Kisel, Maj Gen (Ret'D) Ondřej Novosad, and Mayor of Sereď Ondrej Kurbel attended the event to extend their warmest congrats on the anniversary of the Regt's formation.

Gen Zmeko visits Poland for talks on mil-to-mil cooperation

(30 Oct) Coordination efforts to bring SVK F-16 fighter jets into service with the Slovak Air Force was one of the main topics of the meeting's agenda between SVK CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko and POL CHOD Gen Wiesław Kukula at the Polish Land Forces Training Centre (LFTC) Poznań. The generals discussed supporting the fielding of the new aircraft, strengthening cooperation in the fields of training and technical coordination of forces, developing cooperation between LFTC Poznań and TC Lešť, and supporting the Slovak Armed Forces in building a mechanised brigade to achieve its full operational capability (FOC). During his visit to Biedrusko Training Area, Gen Zmeko became acquainted with the training of POL tank crews and tried out driving the K2 Black Panther Main Battle Tank. The South Korean platforms – in a Polonized "K2PL" variant – are to become the mainstay of the POL Army's land warfighting capability in the coming years. The POL MOD has signed a framework agreement for the supply of 1,000 K2/

K2PL MBTs in 2022. According to POL CHOD Gen Kukula, POL-SVK defence cooperation in such areas as Armed Forces' training, transformation and lessons learned represents an important element in strengthening shared security and the next stage in the advancement of Allied cooperation.

