



SVK Defence Industry's reputation is growing

(6 Nov) The path to drive economic growth in Slovakia is through supporting the SVK Defence Industry, as best evidenced by the annual increase in the industry's output and share of GDP.

DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák paid an official visit to Madrid, where he met his counterpart, Minister of Defence of Spain Margarita Robles Fernández, for talks to keep the nations' defence industries developing and thriving, as well as to explore options for munitions manufacturing – in which Slovakia ranks among the market leaders, both in Europe and in the world.

Ms Margarita Robles Fernández expressed hope that Slovakia and Spain will continue to work together and deepen their military and defence industry links. She also underpinned the importance of Fábrica de Municiones de Granada (FMG), which is part of Slovakia-based MSM GROUP.

Mr Robert Kaliňák praised Spain for leading the way – as the Framework Nation for the NATO MN BDE TF SVK – to protect NATO's eastern flank.

MINDEF visits Baku

(7 Nov) DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák was received in Azerbaijan's capital Baku by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Ilham Aliyev.



The focus of their discussion was on strengthening the countries' bilateral relations and on forging closer links with the EU and NATO. Both leaders agreed that the SVK-AZE ties are being built – as a strategic partnership – on the basis of mutual understanding and assistance. President Aliyev stated that there is potential to expand the nations' cooperation in several areas, including between the SVK-AZE Armed Forces and defence industries.

All Souls Day

(3 Nov) To honour our departed colleagues, MOD and DS military and civilian staff gathered at the MOD Reconciliation Memorial for an All Souls Day commemoration, in the presence of



DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič, DCHOD Lt Gen Miroslav Lorinc, DCHOD/COS Brig Gen Marek Banas, and others. Representing the SVK Generals Club was Maj Gen (Ret'd) Miroslav Kocian. In his address, Vicar General of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps Col Jozef Michalovec called on the gathered audience to observe a moment of silence for our departed colleagues. DIR EPS OFC Lt Col Simon Czup then said a prayer for their souls. Candles were lit in memory of all soldiers who died in the line of duty, at home and abroad.

Another award for Dukla athlete Emma Zapletalová

(8 Nov) After being crowned the Sportsperson of the Year in Defence, Emma Zapletalová took the SVK Athlete of the Year Award for the second time in her sporting career. The bronze medalist from the Tokyo World Champs received a total of 748 points from 75 journalists, athletics experts and coaches, sport clubs representatives, and sport events organisers. During the Saturday gala evening, she also took home the Discovery of the Year Award.

Among the top ten awardees were also seven other sportsmen and women of the Dukla Military Sports Centre: race walker Dominik Černý (2), 800m runner Gabriela Gajanová (3), sprinter and hurdles runner Daniela Ledecká (4), race walker Hana Černá-Burzalová (5), sprinter and hurdles runner Viktória Forster (6), trail runner Peter Fraňo (8), and hurdles runner Matej Balúch (10).

"There were three years when I could not compete, so I've been happy with every training session, I've enjoyed every race. The better I perform, the more I look forward to every next start and to being able to do what I enjoy," Zapletalová said.



■ **Ex Protector 2025 for SVK and CZE close protection personnel** took place under the leadership of the SVK Military Police at TC Lešť to improve SOPs and strengthen SVK and CZE MP cooperation.

■ Staff Chaplain of 81st Wing Sliáč Lt Dominik Jäger paid a spiritual and pastoral visit to UNFICYP's SLOVCON in Cyprus. At the SVK positions in Sector 4, he celebrated Holy Mass for All Saints Day and All Souls Day. At Camp General Štefánik in Famagusta, he joined the SVK peacekeepers for a ceremony to honour the members of the mission who lost their lives there, as well as lighting up candles for their souls.

■ At the annual working meeting of the heads of the Military Aviation Authorities (MAAs) from the SVK and CZE MODs, DIR SVK MAA Nofal Kattan and his counterpart signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)**, marking the beginning of an intensive partnership in joint projects, knowledge sharing, and enhanced cooperation between the SVK and CZE MAAs.

■ On 31 Oct, Col (DS) Vladimír Dutka has finished his duties as the historically first **SVK Deputy National Military Representative to SHAPE**, and is succeeded by Col (DS) Tomáš Pjenteľ, with effect from 1 Nov 2025.

■ Dean and Director of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Office in the Armed Forces and Armed Corps Maj Dávid Vargaštok represented Chaplain -in-Chief Col Viktor Sabo at a meeting of the **European Protestant Military Chaplaincy Services** in Berlin, to discuss the challenges in the changing security situation, cooperation between church and state institutions on possible emergencies and conflicts, cooperation among spiritual leaders on multinational operations and exercises, the scheduled courses and exercises, and the meetings of military spiritual leaders.

■ **54 MLRS Bn Rožňava** held a change of command ceremony for the outgoing commander, Lt Col Norbert Hutka, and welcomed Maj Peter Kalna as his successor.

■ A **change of command ceremony for Cdr 21 Sp Arty Bn Michalovec** took place at Dukla Barracks, with Cdr 5 Arty Regt Rožňava Col (DS) Ján Hric symbolically handing over the Battalion's Colours to the incoming commander, Maj Marcel Leferovič. The outgoing commander, Lt Col Michal Németh, has joined the SVK Defence Staff as Fire Support (FS) Coordinator – Chief of Artillery.

■ As part of the 'On the Ruins of War' Conference in the SNP Museum, join us in the Museum's cinema room at 19:00 on 12 Nov for a **free film screening of 'Our Lisa'** about an 18-year-old French-Slovak partisan, followed by a live Q&A with the film's director, Veronika Homolová-Tóthová.

■ The Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum, the Ministry of Defence and the Military Support Foundation would like to cordially invite the public to a **Veterans Day ceremony**, taking place at the SNP Memorial in Banská Bystrica at 14:00 on 13 Nov.

■ On 5 Nov, AOS LM OCs attended a **lecture on General M. R. Štefánik** – organised by the 'Carpatia' Military Society and delivered by historian Lt Col (Ret'd) Jozef Buřfa with several publications on Štefánik under his belt – telling the life story of this exceptional personality in SVK history and highlighting Štefánik's lasting legacy for the present and future generations of soldiers.

■ On 5 Nov, Military Chaplain Maj Ján Ostapčuk and members of **11 Mech Bn Martin** visited the graves of their fellow colleagues in the cemetery in Petrovice to pay tribute to their memory by praying together and lighting candles.

■ On 7 Nov, **Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN)**, working closely with the local workers' trade union, held a reunion for its former employees and associates – who will forever remain part of the LOTN community.

■ **Dukla karateka Roman Hříčka** won the youth category of the **Most Successful Slovak Athlete in Non-Olympic Sports Awards** for his 2nd place at the World Kata Champs. In the senior category of the Awards, Dukla karateka Ingrid Bakos Suchánková took third place for her 2024 European Kumite Champion title.

Officer Insight Day attracts record numbers of potential officers

(9 Nov) The SVK Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš (AOS LM) opened its doors to potential officers for its traditional Officer Insight Day, attracting over 1,100 visitors from all over Slovakia – mainly secondary school goers – who were given a chance to get a feel of what day to day life is like at the Academy and to discover more about the military study programmes and occupational specialties.

The guests were welcomed by DEPCOMDT for Education Col Michal Turčaník with his welcoming speech. Next up was a presentation of the Academy's campus, study programmes, admission requirements, and application process. After that came the briefs from OCs, introducing their studies and training. Visitors also met and chatted with AF OCs from the Aviation Faculty of the Technical University in Košice and Medical and Chemistry OCs from the University of Defence in Brno. After viewing the static and dynamic displays by the Academy's Depts and Units, they got a 'taster' into physical training (PT) and fitness assessment by the PT & Sports Dept of an individual's movement performance. To finish off, they could try out

Constructive dialogue with Ukraine

(6 Nov) DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtašovič hosted the Ambassador of Ukraine to Slovakia, His Excellency Myroslav Kastran, at the MOD in Bratislava. They discussed the handover of the 14th non-lethal

assistance package to Ukraine – the agreement on which was signed by the SVK and UKR Defence Ministers in early October, Ukraine's priorities and needs for further assistance, the possibilities for cooperation via the new Security Action for Europe (SAFE) mechanism to strengthen defence capabilities, as well as coordination efforts with the UKR Embassy. Ambassador Kastran thanked the MOD leadership for the support and understanding of Ukraine's needs, especially in the field of engineer, demining, and other non-lethal equipment.

SVK CHOD Gen Zmeko in Cyprus

(7 Nov) UNFICYP Head of Mission and SRSG Khasim Diagne and UNFICYP FC Maj Gen Erdenebat Batsuuri welcomed the SVN and SVK Chiefs of Defence, Lt Gen Robert Glavaš and Gen Daniel Zmeko, to the UN

Protected Area in Cyprus. They discussed the evolving security situation and peacekeeping activities across the island. Both CHODs inspected the ranks of SVN and SVK peacekeepers and stopped to chat with troops.

Centre for Psychological Services

(6 Nov) As of 1 Nov 2025, the Centre for Psychological Services began its operations – to look after the quality of life and mental health of every serviceman and woman and to make mental health counselling available across military garrisons – in the SVK Armed Forces.

The Centre's uniformed psychologists are fully committed to counselling, clinical, occupational, operational, and organisational psychology. CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko initiated a change in the organisation of the Military Psychological Service in an effort to support the mental well-being of service personnel and their families, saying: "Psychological support in the SVK Forces is becoming a natural part of military life in a new standard."



the personal fitness test (PFT), and math and English language tests.

Their time at AOS LM was further enriched by the presence and presentations from the SVK Army, AF, SOF, DMS, and MP.

