

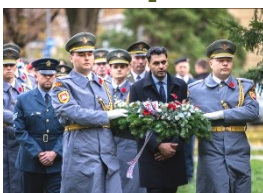


Veterans Day

(11 Nov) Speaking on the anniversary of the WWI Armistice at the Veterans Day memorial service at the WWI cemetery in Bratislava's Kopčany, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák said: "These crosses are about those who gave their lives in battle and those thanks to whom other lives could continue." PRES and CINC Peter Pellegrini, Parliamentary Chair Richard Raši, soldiers of the Slovak Armed Forces and National Defence Forces, officer cadets of the SVK Military Academy, sportsmen and women of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, military and civilian staff of the Ministry of Defence, and veterans as our most precious guests came together, paused and thought about the war dead. More than 500 participants then took part in the traditional 'Run in Honour of Veterans'. Veterans Day, also known as Armistice Day (Remembrance Day or Poppy Day in the UK), is commemorated across Slovakia by men and women of the Slovak Armed Forces, officer cadets of the SVK Military Academy, and military and civilian personnel of the Ministry of Defence, soldiers on missions and operations abroad, and international troops serving in Slovakia.

Poppies in Šafárik Square

(10 Nov) To mark Veterans Day in Slovakia, a wreath-laying memorial service was held – under the auspices of the Slovak Ministry of Defence and the British Embassy in Bratislava – at the Western Front Veterans Memorial in Bratislava's Šafárik Square. The attendees were addressed by His Majesty's Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Bilal Zahid, and the Director General of the MOD Personnel and Social Welfare Dept, Mr Martin Rimeš. The SVK Defence Staff was represented by DCHOD/COS Brig Gen Marek Banas. Chaplain-in-Chief Col Viktor Sabo addressed the audience with a spiritual word of encouragement and a memorial prayer.



Memorial service in Kubrá

(11 Nov) To mark Veterans Day and the 107th anniversary of WWI Armistice, the Munitions Depot and its WWI cemetery in Trenčín's Kubrá - Zábranie hosted a wreath-laying memorial service at 11:11 on 11/11, with the commanders of all military units based at Trenčín Garrison, officials of Trenčín City Council, members of the Trenčín Garrison and Historical Re-enactment Clubs, and local residents paying tribute to the war dead. Military chaplains reflected on the value of peace and the sacrifice of all who fell on the fronts of the Great War. Chair of the SVK Generals' Club Lt Gen (Ret'd) Peter Vojtek explained the significance of 11/11/1918. The ceremony concluded with a tribute to the late Lt Gen (Ret'd) Pavel Honzek and Maj Gen (Ret'd) Gašpar Hozman for their contributions to restoring the WWI cemetery.



SVK AF pilot excels at the top of his class

(10 Nov) After graduating from the Technical University of Košice earlier this Jan, the eleventh pair of SVK AF pilots in the training pipeline travelled to Texas, USA. Following their English language study at the DLIELC at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, in March they moved on to Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, where their colleagues were undergoing F-16 pilot training, for Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT). After academic courses and flight simulator sessions, they began flying the T-6 Texan basic trainer with their instructor pilots (IPs) before their first solo flights at the end of July. Of the 23 UPT graduates earning their silver wings, one of the SVK pilots graduated at the top of his class and earned the Distinguished Graduate Award and received the Order of Daedalians for the best pilot in training. After their training in the T-6, both SVK pilots will now work their way through Advanced Flight Training (AFT) in the T-38 Talon fighter trainer before finally transitioning to specialised training in the F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jet. Upon successfully completing the F-16 Pilot Training Program, they will return to Slovakia to make the best of their flying skills and lessons learned during their time in the USA to the benefit of the Slovak Air Force.



■ UNFICYP Head of Mission and SRSG Khassim Diagne met with SVK UNFICYP engineers to learn more about their mission – to construct, maintain and repair all UN facilities including camps, observation posts and patrol bases – in the UN Buffer Zone in Cyprus.

■ Col Jonathan Kitson, UK Defence Attaché to the Slovak and Czech Republics, made his first visit to the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) Martin, operating under the command of 7 Trng Regt Martin. He became familiar with the key aspects of the Academy, including its organisational structure, facilities, education system, curriculum, and activities. Col Kitson was also present at the graduation ceremony for the graduates of the OR-5 (Sergeant) NCO Course. In addition, WO1 Andy Harris from the British Military Advisory and Training Team (Czech Republic) (BMATT (CZ)) delivered a "Leadership" lecture to SVK NCOs.

■ 81 Wing Sliac, inspired by the great heroism of SVK WW2 fighter pilot and fighter ace in the Royal Air Force S/Ldr Otto Smik DFC, has officially opened its Hall of Honour and Fame to serve – with its stories of SVK pilots and airmen across generations – as a source of inspiration for the Wing personnel. The British Embassy in Bratislava stepped forward to support the project by providing the funding to furnish the Hall of Honour and Fame.

■ The Slovak Air Chiefs' Commanders Meeting – attended by DCHOD Lt Gen Miroslav Lorinc and senior SVK AF officials and commanders – saw Slovak Air Chief Brig Gen Adolf Daubner giving his assessment of the tasks performed in the second phase of the 2024/2025 Training Cycle.

■ The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Operators Training Organisation, falling under the AOS Simulation Centre, led a UAS Operators Course for SVK DS personnel. After their final test, they received a certificate authorising them to carry out missions with rotary wing UASs with a maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of 25kg.

Ever since July 2025, chaplains from the Vicariate of the SVK RC Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps have supported the newly established NDF – the trainee reservists, instructors, and logistics teams from across the Forces – with spiritual care at the NDF training locations: first at Turkish Hill TA, then in Levice, and most recently in Sliac.

■ The Peace Support Operations Training Unit (PSOTU) from 7 Trng Regt Martin conducted pre-deployment training for the SVK UNTSO Military Observers to be deployed to the Middle East. The theory module was enriched by the expertise and experience of those who had previously served with UNTSO, as well as by lectures from the U.S. Civil Affairs Team (CAT) and the Ministry of the Interior (MOI). The training culminated with a three-day final exercise on Martin Garrison's Suchány training ground.

■ The SNP Museum Banská Bystrica has announced that the Nemecká Memorial & Exhibition will be closed to the public due to reconstruction works, starting from 13 Nov until further notice.

■ The Central Military Hospital Ružomberok has introduced Limbus AI contouring software – funded by the EU through Slovakia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) – into the radiotherapy planning process to automate the contouring of anatomical structures and organs at risk and speed up treatment planning for oncological patients.

■ As part of the Erasmus+ programme, six OCs from the SVK Military Academy, led by PT instructor Peter Melek of AOS PT & Sports Dept, took part in the Athens Marathon 2025. In addition to the 42.195km marathon testing their physical and mental endurance, they completed a week full of lectures, training, cultural visits, and sharing of experiences with OCs from the Hellenic Army Academy.

■ A seminar titled 'Legitimation and De-escalation of Wars and Armed Conflicts from Theological, Ecclesiastical-Historical, and Legal Perspectives' was held in Nitra on 12-13 Nov. Staff chaplain Lt Ján Lehocký of 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany participated in it on behalf of the Vicariate of the SVK RC Ordinariate.

■ Cross-country runner Filip Jančík, member of the Dukla Military Sports Centre, finished 4th at the Sparkassen Cross - World Athletics Cross Country Tour Silver in Pforzheim, Germany.

Ex SWAT Winter 2025

(13 Nov) TC Leš' hosted joint training for SVK and CZE Military Police SWAT teams, dubbed SWAT Winter 2025. The immediate intervention teams practiced tactical SOPs (TACSOPs) in built-up areas – they completed a series of demanding tasks, focused on forcing entry into buildings, shooting in reduced visibility, detaining armed individuals, and coordinating mixed teams in model situations. In the final phase of the training, the teams worked through a hostage rescue scenario. Working closely with the Slovak Air Force and TC Leš', UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters and jet-powered boats also took part.

MINDEF recognises WW2 veteran



(13 Nov) To honour our Nation's veterans, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák awarded the War Veteran Commemorative Cross to WW2 veteran František Švidraň (103), who served in the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) as an artilleryman and

later as a partisan. The Cross was presented to him on Veterans Day in Sliac by Richard Zimányi, Head of the War Veterans & Military Pensioners Welfare Service.

SVK CHOD visits AOS LM



(10 Nov) In his visit to the SVK Military Academy Liptovský Mikuláš (AOS LM), SVK Chief of Defence Gen Daniel Zmeko delivered a lecture on today's challenges for the SVK Forces in the evolving security environment. In the afternoon, he led a debate on current de-

fence issues with the lieutenant colonels and colonels on the Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC). They welcomed the debate with the head of the SVK Armed Forces.

Štefánik Bench in honour of SNP



(13 Nov) The ninth 'Gen Štefánik Bench of Honour' was unveiled in the grounds of the SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica, in the presence of SNP soldiers Col (Ret'd) Branislav Tvarožek and Col (Ret'd) Vladimír Strmeň, DEPMINDEF

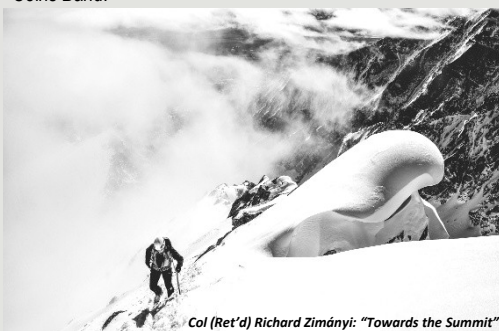
Martin Vojšašovič, SNP Museum Director Marian Uhrin, Cdr 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany Brig Gen Štefan Acsai, DCOM JOCOM Banská Bystrica Brig Gen Norbert Hrib, and other guests.

Results of 'PhotoAttack' and 'MIL Gallery' Awards 2025 announced

(12 Nov) For the second time, the results of the Defence-wide 'PhotoAttack' and 'MIL Gallery' Competitive Display Awards 2025 – promoting the Slovak Armed Forces through photography, painting, sculpture, and applied arts – were announced in an awards ceremony at the Prešov Garrison Club. A total of 199 entries by 63 authors from 17 military units and three garrison clubs were submitted this year. In the PhotoAttack Competition, SSgt Pavol Delej of 22 Mech Bn Michalovce won the Armed Forces category for his image "Getting into a Helicopter", and Col (Ret'd) Richard Zimányi of the War Veterans & Military Pensioners Welfare Service took the Open category with his photograph "Towards the Summit".

In the MIL Gallery Competition, the 1st place winners were Maj (Ret'd) Jozef Tokár in the Painting & Sculpture category, Janka Mrlinová in the Applied Arts category, and Natália Tomláková in the Children's Works category. The Armed Forces Personnel Office Director's Prize went to Danuša Spilá from the SVK Military Academy.

Prizes were also presented to soldiers and civilians in Defence for their contributions to military traditions and culture. Musical support to the event was given by the Slovak Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica and the Water Fountain Coins Band.



Col (Ret'd) Richard Zimányi: "Towards the Summit"