



V4 Chiefs of Defence meet in Balatonfüred

(30 Nov) The Chiefs of Defence of the Visegrád Four (V4) countries – Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia – gathered in Hungary's Balatonfüred, to address areas of cooperation and opportunities for collaboration in military education and logistics.

With opening remarks from HUN CHOD Gen Gábor Böröndi, the host of the V4 meeting, the event underscored that the V4's defence cooperation remains key to regional security.

Topics of discussion covered: experiences and challenges with recruitment, Reserve Forces models, R&D and innovations.

Alongside this, the CHODs gave their assessment of Ex Adaptive Hussars 2025 – Hungary's largest and most complex military exercise since its accession to NATO in 1999.

The SVK delegation also toured Várpalota Training Area – where Ex Breakthrough 2025 was just underway – with the participation of SVK service personnel. There, Gen Zmeko met our soldiers to thank them for representing the country with their personal commitment and professional excellence.

The next V4 CHODs Meeting is due to take place as early as the first half of 2026.



EU CHODs gather in Brussels

(24 Nov) 27 EU Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) convened in Brussels for the biannual EU Military Committee (EUMC) meeting at CHOD level.

Gen Daniel Zmeko and his colleagues exchanged views on key strategic topics – ongoing initiatives to implement the EU's defence capabilities, Preparedness Union Strategy (PUS) and Joint White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030, the future of military support to Ukraine, and the progress of the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity (EU RDC) 2025.

The CHODs reaffirmed their commitment to a stronger and more action-capable EU, calling for the EUMC's early involvement in policy processes with military and defence implications and stressing their readiness to provide unfettered military advice.

The meeting demonstrated the EU's continued focus on strengthening collective defence, supporting partners, and reinforcing Europe's resilience. The next EUMC meeting at CHOD level, scheduled for 20 May 2026 in Brussels, will coincide with the 25th EUMC Anniversary.

Ex Strong Bastion 2025 in Székesfehérvár

(26 Nov) Ex Strong Bastion 2025 (STBA25) took place in Hungary's Székesfehérvár – led by Headquarters Multinational Division Centre (HQ MND-C) – with the participation of hundreds of exercising troops from NATO member countries, including Slovakia's 5 Arty Regt Rožňava, 2 Mech Bde Prešov, and 82 Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín.

STBA25 provided an opportunity to test HQ MND-C's intense combat rhythm and SOPs, with the aim of enhancing operational readiness across all C2 elements, promoting teamwork and cohesion of Allied Forces, integrating newly recruited service members, and working through the phases of scenario planning and execution.

STBA25 also focused on training a logistics battalion at its full capacity to provide the necessary logistical and operational support to the conduct of ops, thereby further improving HQ MND-C's overall capability. The exercise utilised battlefield simulations – presented by SVK and Allied operators – to hone the skills of service personnel.



- The Apostolic Nuncio to Slovakia, H.E. Archbishop Nicola Girasoli administered the **Sacrament of Confirmation to 32 Christians** from the NATO MN BDE TF SVK at St Emeric Church in Senohrad, in the presence of the Spanish Ambassador to Slovakia, H.E. Sofia Ruiz del Arbol Moro. It was a heartfelt ceremony shared with friends, godparents, and local neighbours.

- The NATO MN BDE TF SVK welcomed officers on the **AOS LM-hosted Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC)** to TC Lešť. The visiting officers were briefed on the Unit's structure, capabilities, and activities.

- The **SVK Military Aviation Authority (MAA)** has confirmed that it meets the highest standards of safety and oversight after successfully completing a comprehensive NATO airworthiness audit and receiving the "NATO Certificate of Recognition without Limitations" as an acknowledgement of the SVK MAA's full compliance with all NATO airworthiness requirements.

- Director of the SVK Military Aviation Authority (MAA) Nofal Kattan led a SVK delegation to a meeting of the **NATO Aviation Committee (AVC)** in Brussels. The participants discussed strengthening interoperability in military aviation, accelerating modernisation and innovation efforts, and increasing the Alliance's readiness and operational capability.

- During the **Medical Professionals Awards ceremony** in the Žilina Self-Governing Region, the Top Doctor Award went to Marián Paulík MD from the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok, Darina Janovcová won the Top Nurse Award, Peter Valko took the Top Healthcare Worker Award, and lawyer Líbuša Augustínová claimed the Top Non-Healthcare Worker Award – all of them from the Central Military Hospital.

- All specialists' surgeries in the **Slovak Air Force Centre for Aviation Medicine** in Sliac reopened to the public under normal operating times on 27 Nov.

- Working closely with the Ružomberok Residents Civic Association, the **Central Military Hospital's Haematology and Transfusion Clinic** hosted 66 blood donors including four first-timers for its traditional "Winter Drop of Blood" donation activity on 27 Nov.

- The **Armed Forces Academy (AOS)'s Simulation Centre** delivered a specialist course titled **Assessing and Mitigating the Risk of Functional System Changes in the Air Traffic Management Environment** for inspectors, pilots, air traffic controllers, and other experts involved in the investigation of air accidents and incidents, with both theory and practical modules.

- Seven first-year SVK Military Academy OCs on the **National Security and Defence Programme** undertook demanding **Military Parachute Training** under the guidance of instructors from 22 Recca Regt Prešov. After intensive ground training in the parachute jump technique, parachute control and landing, safety procedures, and parachute packing, they were faced with two practical jumps, one with deploying a reserve parachute. They mastered all the tasks assigned to them.

- **Personnel Management (PM) military and civilian staff** from across the Forces, the SVK Military Police, and the MOD Personnel and Social Welfare Dept met at the Trenčín Army House for a meeting, chaired by Chief of the Personnel Management Branch Col Milošlav Arnold from the SVK Defence Staff, to analyse current PM issues and set the key PM goals in the Forces.

- **Transport Wing (TW) Kuchyňa** marked the 56th anniversary of **Czechoslovak pilot Lt Col František Maxa's tragic death in an aviation mishap** in the woods close to the village of Rožňavka within the Military District Záhorie on 20 Nov 1969. A memorial service at the Lt Col František Maxa Memorial was led by SVK AF Chaplain Maj Slavko Ganaj, in the presence of Lt Col Tibor Férer, Chief Engineer of TW Kuchyňa, and members of the Veterans Club Kuchyňa.

- A memorial service on the occasion of the 240th anniversary of the death of **Maj Gen George Augustus von Mecklenburg-Strelitz of Austria** was held in the Evangelical Church in Pezinok. The ceremony – attended by Duke George Borwin von Mecklenburg-Strelitz and his wife – featured a lecture by historian Michal Duchon of the SVK Institute of Military History.

- Working closely with the **Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS)** in the Forces, members of the **SVK Military Police** visited the Children's Haematology and Oncology Clinic and the National Centre for Children's Diseases, both in Bratislava. For the child patients, their parents, and the staff, they prepared demonstrations of military working dog (MWD) handlers and their dogs, and weapons and equipment. Yet, the little puppies preparing for MWD training were by far the greatest attraction.

- Officials from the Children with Cancer Organisation, the Prof Karol Matulay Centre for Social Services, and the František Mišún Foundation gathered to receive donations from the **Presidential Guard of Honour** in a ceremony in the courtyard of the Grassalkovich Palace in Bratislava on 26 Nov.

- The Educational & Cultural Events Section, part of the SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office, has released a video on **Gender Equality Practice in Slovak Armed Forces** – you can find and watch it on the Internet.

- Lt Lucia Vičáková represented the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** at the **International Military Sports Council (CISM) Conference 2025** in Berlin. Slovakia will host the 48th CISM Parachuting World Champs from 14 to 23 Aug 2026 in Boľkovec near Lučencec.

- For the third time in a row, **Maj Marian Kalina** of 11 AF BDE Nitra won the SVK Class 6 Hillclimb Racing Car Driver Award at the 2025 SVK Motor Sports Association (MSA) Awards ceremony.

- **Karateka Roman Hrká** from the **Dukla Military Sports Centre** finished 5th in Kata at the World Champs in Cairo after losing to world number two Ariel Torres-Gutierrez (USA) in the bronze medal match.

- At the start of the biathlon season at the **World Cup in Sweden's Östersund**, the **Dukla relay team** – Ema Kapustová, Paulína Bátovská Fialková, Anastasiya Kuzmina and Zuzana Remeňová – took an excellent 8th place, and the **Dukla quartet** of Tomáš Sklenářik, Jakub Boruga, Paulína Bátovská Fialková and Anastasiya Kuzmina finished 10th in the mixed relay.

ESP Army general visits Lešť



(27 Nov) The TC Lešť-based NATO MN BDE TF SVK had the honour of receiving Chief of the Spanish Army's Logistic Support Command ('MALE') Lt Gen Raimundo Rodríguez Roca for an on-site review of the logistic deployment in support of NATO's Forward Land Forces (FLF) in Slovakia and for a brief on drone development efforts.

NDF OR reservists in training

(29 Nov) On 22-29 Nov, 38 Operational Reserves (OR) reservists of the National Defence Forces (NDF) continued their training with 91 Engr Regt Sered, taking on Force Protection (FP) tasks and expanding their previous knowledge of how to set up a military crossing point across a river – with the pontoons joined together from bank to bank as a bridge or a self-propelled amphibious bridging vehicle. CDR OR Lt Erik Bartos described the activities in more detail, "They familiarised themselves with FP SOPs, and practiced searching vehicles and people." He went on to say that they got also involved in the "winterisation" of engineer assets, saying: "In the Unit's vehicle park and 1 Ptn Coy, they maintained vehicles and equipment after training, getting them ready for operation in winter conditions."

75 years of quality repair assurance



(24 Nov) 405 Rpr Bn Trenčín, part of 4 Log Regt Trenčín (82 Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín), celebrated the 75th anniversary of its establishment. Cdr 405 Rpr Bn Trenčín Maj Marian Murín led the Battalion's

birthday ceremony. Among those present were the commanders of Martin Garrison's units, former Bn commanders, Cdr 4 Log Regt Trenčín DS Col Miloš Sopoliga, and Cdr 82 Jnt Spt Bde Trenčín Brig Gen Jozef Ševčík. Selected soldiers received medals and plaques for exceptional achievements and long-time service. During the celebrations at Podháj Barracks in Martin, 405 Rpr Bn Martin opened its Hall of Honour and Fame, recording the Battalion's story from 1950 to the present day.

GCI personnel train in France

(24 Nov) Two SVK Ground Controlled Interception (GCI) personnel from the Ground Controlled Interception Centre (GCIC), 2 SVK AF BDE Zvolen, attended the Fighter Controller Course (Grade 3) at the DCI Fighter Control Academy in Mont de Brivan, France. The aim of the training was to get Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) ready for providing intercept mission guidance to 4th generation tactical aircraft and to upskill them to the Air Policing (AP) role in SVK airspace. The training combined 50 hours of theory with 51 simulator missions. A distance training course for SVK intercept controllers (IC) is currently underway in Slovakia.

Let's stop violence against women



(26 Nov) The SVK Military Police personnel on the MOD Permanent Working Group for the Implementation of Gender Equality and Women, Peace and Security (GE&WPS)

Agenda participated in the 7th edition of the nationwide "Stop Violence against Women" campaign – which began on Elimination of Violence against Women Day on 25 Nov and will continue until Human Rights Day on 10 Dec. The 2025 theme is Ending Digital Violence Against Girls and Women.