



100 years of victories

(2 Dec) On the occasion of his 100th birthday, Col (Ret'd) Branislav Tvarožek, a patriot and a Slovak National Uprising (SNP) veteran who served in World War II, was welcomed with respect and recognition to the MOD by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák, PRES and CINC Peter Pellegrini, and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko. "May you be a role model to guide us and the younger generation in what relationship we should have with our homeland and in how we should protect it in the event of any threat to security," Mr Kaliňák said. During the 1944 SNP, Branislav Tvarožek joined the 'University Guards Unit' tasked with providing security to the Uprising's commanders – Gen Ján Golian and Gen Rudolf Viest. After 1948, he remained faithful to the ideals of freedom and democracy. That's why, in a fabricated political trial he was sentenced to five years in a labour camp. In his congratulatory message, DEPMINDEF Martin Vojtášovič said: "Col (Ret'd) Tvarožek reminds us that freedom is neither a matter of course, nor a matter of inheritance. Freedom is a task – a task of every generation. He who resisted injustice deserves to be remembered more than he who ruled the country."

Tribute to the fallen in WWII

(1 Dec) Cdr 2 Mech Bde Trebišov Brig Gen Jozef Kasl and Cdr Trebišov Gar Lt Col Ján Štepita paid tribute to the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the city's liberation at the Memorial to the Fallen in WWII in Trebišov. To mark this occasion, personalities living in the city – to include Maj (Ret'd) Ján Micišin, former Cdr CBRN Bn Rožňava, and Ján Barila, civilian employee of 21 Mech Bn Trebišov – were recognised with a letter of thank you in a ceremony hosted by Trebišov City Council. The Mayor of Trebišov award went to CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko, who began his military career by serving with Mech Bn Trebišov (1991 - 2005).



Nina becomes Vice World Champ

(4 Dec) During an MOD ceremony on 1 Dec, SECGEN Peter Krajčirovič congratulated Nina Kvasnicová of the Dukla Military Sports Centre Banská Bystrica on her Vice World Champion title in the women's Kumite 55kg category at the 2025 World Senior Individual Karate Championships in Cairo, Egypt. After many wins amid fierce competition from the world's top karate athletes from 86 countries, she made it to the final, where she lost to Ahlam Youssef (EGY). Praising her achievement, SECGEN Peter Krajčirovič remarked: "What Nina has demonstrated is proof of her incredible hard work, discipline, and fighting heart." Elsewhere, Nina confirmed her excellent shape by winning third place in the women's Kumite 55kg category at the U21 World Cup in Italy's Jesolo on 4 Dec.



Slovak Armed Forces Psychological Services Centre opens in Trenčín

(2 Dec) The newly established Slovak Armed Forces Psychological Services Centre (PSC) was officially opened – as the first of its kind to administer the SVK military's psychological support to soldiers across the whole of Slovakia – in what used to be the Garrison Club of the Army House in Trenčín. The opening ceremony was attended by CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko, Advisor to the DPM and MINDEF Ms Dušana Skuhrová, and CDR PSC and CHF MIL CLIN PSYCH Maj Andrea Viteková. "It is vital to understand the soldiers' mental condition as part of their overall performance, because mental resilience is just as important as physical readiness," Gen Zmeko emphasised, adding: "The mental health of Armed Forces personnel has a direct impact on their combat readiness, decision-making, teamwork, and long-term performance. Today, they are faced with both physical and psychological stressors. This is all the more true because the security situation is changing extremely rapidly." PSC Trenčín aims to create a safe, professional and inclusive environment for all military professionals and their families seeking mental health support; to increase the availability of quality psychological health services across the Forces; and to prevent the onset and recurrence of mental disorders.



- HQ 1 Mech Bde Topoľčany hosted the readiness verification for the declared INF-M-BDE unit assigned to the NATO Force Model (NFM) force pool. The five-day verification visit – to validate the complex readiness of the Brigade and its assigned components – was conducted in detail by a verification team from NATO Allied Land Command (LANDCOM) Izmir.

- With effect from 1 Dec 2025, Col František Pytlík (SVK F) was appointed as the new Senior Military Advisor (SMA), also known as the Slovak Foreign Liaison Officer (LNO) to 162nd WG, Tucson, Arizona, USA, where Slovak Air Force pilots are undergoing pilot training.

- Even in 2025, the Central Military Hospital Ružomberok has retained its Hospital of the Year title in the latest national survey by the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO). For the sixth time – and the fourth time in a row – it received the highest award in the State Universities and Teaching Hospitals category on 3 Dec.

- 2 FA Bty of 21 Sp Arty Bn Michalovce joined the International Field Artillery Task Force on Ex Breakthrough 2025 at Camp Croft Training Area in Hungary. The aim of the exercise was to keep the V4's military training and cooperation going from strength to strength.

- From cutting-edge medical simulations to tactical evacuation drills, SVK SOF paramedics pushed their speed, teamwork, and performance to the limits to save lives in challenging conditions at the international Prolonged Evacuation Transport Team (PETT) Workshop at TC Lešť.

- The CBRN Observers Course, coordinated by 7 Trng Regt Martin, culminated with a practical field training exercise (FTX) at the CBRN Training & Testing Centre Zemianske Kostoľany. While wearing the CBRN suits, participants practiced detecting signs of toxic chemical and radioactive substances on people and various types of external surfaces in the field, as well as the initial and operational decontamination of vehicles, weapons and equipment with the military decontamination kits.

- Slovakia's TRANSPAREX public procurement data platform has recognised the SVK Military Academy's professional work with a prestigious A+ rating and the award of the Responsible Public Procuring Entity Certificate. The Academy ranks among Slovakia's most trustworthy public procuring entities.

- 6 Sig Regt Trenčín hosted a commanders meeting – chaired by Cdr 6 Sig Regt Trenčín – to evaluate the tasks accomplished throughout the Oct 2024 - Sept 2025 training period of the 2023 - 2025 Forces Training Cycle.

- Representatives of the Defence Language Institutes (DLIs) from Austria, Czechia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Serbia met for an Austrian DLI-organised Terminology Workshop at the National Defence Academy in Vienna. The main topic was the presentation of a Slovenian project to compile a multilingual glossary on unmanned aircraft systems and medium heavy forces next year.

- On St Nicholas Day, Military Forests and Estates spread the season's joy to almost 5,000 children across Slovakia by delivering live Christmas trees, gift vouchers, and wild game meat and products to more than 100 social welfare facilities, from the Centres for Children & Families through to organisations helping families in need and the facilities caring for adult clients.

- The second annual meeting of the Military Logistics Guild took place in the Auditorium of the SVK Military Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš on 2 Dec. Under the Logistics Dept leadership, the Guild expanded its ranks by 11 elders, 4 masters, and 24 apprentices from among the ranks of OCs. On behalf of the apprentices, the Oath of Military Logistics was read out by Officer Cadet Margaréta Gierťová.

- On 3 Dec, Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LORN) was visited by 3rd-year students on the Vehicle Repair and Services Programme and 1st-year students on the Specialist Mobile Assets Maintenance Programme – both groups from the University of Trenčín's Faculty of Specialist Equipment, to gain valuable knowledge of and practical skills in the non-destructive testing methods, repairs, and modernisation of military and civilian aircraft, helicopters and other assets.

- Vicar General of the SVK RC Ordinariate of the Armed Forces and Armed Corps Col Stanislav Varga and Director of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service (EPS) Office Lt Col Simon Czap paid a pastoral visit to SVK soldiers serving with EUFOR Op Althea in BiH.

- In the first round of the Ski Mountaineering World Cup in Solitude Mountain Resort near Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, skimo athlete Marianna Jagerčíková of the Dukla Military Sports Centre placed fourth in the Sprint final – which has put her on the Winter Olympics qualification list.

Training Cycle 2023-25 EVAL

(2 Dec) The Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš (AOS LM) hosted a meeting to evaluate the tasks that have been delivered in areas such as stand-by readiness, combat readiness, mobilisation, operational readiness, and defence infrastructure in Phase 2 of the 2023 - 2025 Forces Training Cycle, as well as to set out the tasks for Phase 1 of the 2025 - 2027 Forces Training Cycle, with each training phase lasting from Oct to Sept. The meeting was attended by officers from Force Commands (FCs) and their subordinate brigades and units who hold a position of authority as Chief of Staff, Officer with responsibility for this area, or the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) M20 (Mobilisation & Replenishment Specialist).

20 years of SVK EOD capability

(5 Dec) The Slovak Armed Forces celebrated the 20th anniversary of their Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) capability at 905 Specialised Combat Support Centre (SCSC) Nováky. The anniversary ceremony – organised under the auspices of Cdr 91 Engr Regt Col Ján Adamuš by 905 SCSC Nováky – saw current and former members of the Centre receiving medals and commemorative coins.

IMINT - MERC Competition 2025

(3 Dec) The 2nd edition of the SVK Defence-wide Military Equipment Recognition Competition (MERC) 2025 took place at the Topographical Institute Banská Bystrica (TI BB). The aim of the competition is to expand the awareness of service personnel about Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) as an intelligence gathering discipline in the Forces, and compare the level of their knowledge in the 'Weapons and Equipment Recognition' field. Thematically, the aim of this year's competition was to identify 60 images of Russia's Army, Air Force and Navy assets from a list of 180 items. Prizes were presented to the top placed competitors – with a member of 22 Recce Regt Prešov as the highest scorer – by DIR TI BB Lt Col Ondrej Krutošík.

Military Act of the Year Awards 2025

The 29th edition of the Military Act of the Year Awards will recognise the extraordinary acts of service to others by military and civilian personnel who – with the strength of their humane character and moral convictions – have performed 'over and above' the standard expected of their roles in 2025. It is also to celebrate and thank our citizens who spread the positive values inherent to service in the Forces or promote SVK military history. The Awards are presented in four categories: Rescue of Life, Assistance to the Public, A Friend of the Armed Forces, and Service to the Country. Nominations for the Awards are to be submitted via email to cinroka@mod.gov.sk no later than 10 Feb 2026.



AOS LM attends NITEC - IPB 2025 on Individual Training & Education

(2 Dec) Earlier this year on 24 Feb 2025, Slovakia's AOS LM and Sweden's SWEDINT were officially appointed to jointly serve as NATO Department Head (DH) for Training and Education (T&E) in the Land Operations (LANDOPS) discipline by NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT). Both institutions – working under the guidance of the Deputy Chief of Staff Multi-Domain Force Development (DCOS MDFD) at HQ ACT – are responsible for matching the requirements set by the Requirements Authority (RA) with T&E solutions. Closely aligned with this mission is the participation of AOS representatives in this year's NATO Individual Training and Education Conference (NITEC) and NATO Individual Training

and Education Programme (ITEP) Planning Board (IPB) events at the NATO School Oberammergau (NSO) on 18-20 Nov.



Among the key themes was the integration of the Cross-Domain Command Concept (CDCC) into the T&E system. Also discussed was strengthening resilience in T&E at all levels. The events included expert presentations, discussion panels, group activities, and intensive networking, all essential for keeping Allied cooperation going. Representing AOS LM at the NITEC - IPB 2025 events were Lt Col Miroslav Majtner and Zuzana Freissl MBA, who both contribute to delivering on the commitments of AOS LM as a modern and reliable NATO partner on multi-domain operations.