



Slovakia's new combat uniform and small arms

(12 Dec) More comfort, better protection, and well-thought-out details and design that keep up with the requirements of today's service to the country. The MOD has introduced the new Slovak Armed Forces Personal Clothing System – Combat Uniform (PCS-CU), also known as M25 Combat Uniform, which will take the soldier's combat clothing to the next level – worthy of the 21st century – as a symbol of professionalism, courage and readiness to defend the country.

The MOD also officially presented the Grand Power (GP) M4M1 assault rifle as the next standard issue weapon and other small arms and support weapons for military personnel. With all the components sourced from the SVK Defence Supply Chain (DSC) companies, both the combat uniform and the weapons are to come in several variants. They were presented by DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák and CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko at an MOD-hosted press conference on Fri 9 Dec.

Minister Kaliňák underscored that all soldiers will receive the uniforms as early as next year. The MOD has purchased the military fabrics for them abroad and is now ordering tailoring services in Slovakia. One variant of the uniform will be flame-resistant. The soldier's personal equipment will be upgraded with a new body armour system, helmet, and night vision device. "The new uniform has an extremely important function of ensuring that the soldier is able to survive in the field for a long time. This uniform will make that possible, but the previous one which I am wearing today unfortunately fails to do so," Gen Zmeko said.

Brand new weapons are to be issued to military personnel as the MOD is in the process of procuring new GP assault rifles, sniper rifles, SMGs, and pistols. These will be fielded to the Forces in stages, with first delivery planned for 2026 and the last one for 2028.

1,000 and still rising

(9 Dec) Kuchyňa AB hosted an Oath of Allegiance ceremony for 101 NDF reservists after completing their basic training at Turkish Hill TA and at 13 Mech Bn Levice. Currently, the SVK military counts over 1,000 NDF reservists trained in 2025 alone. During the ceremony, the NDF reservists proudly marched past dignitaries and guests including MOD SEGGEN Peter Krajčírovič, CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko, CDR NDF Brig Gen Ladislav Kisel, the training units' commanders and instructors, and family members. Peter Krajčírovič, who himself completed the first NDF training in June, said: "The two-week NDF training is so fully packed with information, drills, diversity and dynamics that there's hardly anything that compares to it. Great respect goes out to the instructors and the trainees."



First Gendarme patrols on duty across Slovakia

(12 Dec) The first seven Gendarme patrols went out across Slovakia on Friday evening – two in Malacky, one in Bánovce nad Bebravou, two in Kapušany, and another two in Slovenská Lupča, DPM and MINDEF Robert Kaliňák and MININT Matúš Šutaj Eštok announced at a press conference in Malacky on Friday evening.

"Over 1,100 serving soldiers, 250 active duty police officers, and more than 200 recently retired police officers have signed up for service in the Gendarme Corps. Still, we are interested in recruiting more personnel. So far, we have trained over 340 gendarmes, who will gradually take on their duties," Mr Kaliňák said, adding that 40 patrols are now ready to serve and that some 1,500 gendarmes will be fully trained for their roles.

Mr Eštok explained that the gendarmes will operate under the leadership of the SVK Police Forces, as with similar units operating in other countries.

Currently, on-duty gendarmes wear military uniforms with a yellow arm band and drive service vehicles with special Gendarme markings. The MOD does not think it is necessary for them to be issued with uniforms similar to police uniforms.



■ **Chargé d'Affaires Jacques de Noray** from the French Embassy in Bratislava paid a visit to the 5 SOF Regt members on the two-week military French language course in Žilina on 9 Dec. The course, delivered by Mr Jean-Pascal Lyonnet (provided by the French side), focuses on practical military terminology and conversation for soldiers attending international military events.

■ Working closely with the SVK Armed Forces' Joint Operations Command (JOCOM) Banská Bystrica, **Spanish personnel from the NATO MN BDE TF SVK** visited Youth Park Grammar School in Košice and Andrej Sládkovič Primary School in Sliac. Their Spanish-language discussions with students demonstrated not only the students' impressive command of Spanish, but also the strong ties between Spanish soldiers and the Host Nation (HN), reflecting deep commitment to Slovak society.

■ At Camp Riečky on 8 Dec, members of the TC Lešť-based NATO MN BDE TF SVK marked the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, the patron saint of infantry.

■ Working closely with the Spanish Marine Corps and officer cadets from the USA, Greece, Belgium and Poland, two 4th-year AOS Officer Cadets completed **Advanced Marines Training in Spain**. At the Naval Academy at Marín, they were introduced to the Marine Corps procedures and equipment. On Parga Training Area, they underwent demanding practical training in map reading & navigation, shooting from an assault rifle, pistol, shotgun, grenade launcher and machine gun, even with the use of Night Vision Goggles (NVGs). Their training culminated with a final 40-hour complex training exercise.

■ Vicar General of the Vicariate of the SVK RC Bishopric of the Forces Col Jozef Michalov and Director of the Ecumenical Pastoral Service Office Lt Col Simon Czup visited SVK soldiers serving with **KFOR in Kosovo**.

■ The Armed Forces Academy Liptovský Mikuláš, the Centre of Aviation Medicine Sliac, and DIA-PET co-organised the **Medical Support to Air Disasters Course**, with a theory module on the origin and causes of air accidents, the Integrated Rescue System and its role in the aftermath of an air accident, the risks and specifics of air accidents, safe provision of first aid, rescue/transport techniques, forensic medical examinations, psychological aspects of air accidents, and with a practical module centred around a drill using trauma casualty simulation mannequins and model scenarios in a synthetic environment.

■ Airmen of 51 Wng Prešov paid tribute to the memory of their former commander and colleague, **Col Ladislav Malák**, at a memorial on the base and at his final resting place on 8 Dec. Col Malák served as Commander of the first SVK Helicopter Unit deployed to BiH in support of SFOR in 2002, commanded the first rotation of the SVK Helicopter Unit deployed to Kosovo in support of KFOR in 2007, was at the origin of cooperation between the Unit and the Fire and Rescue Service, and responded to emergencies to save lives and prevent damage during natural disasters, floods and wildfires.

■ Engineers of **91 Engr Regt Sereď** donated €1,200 as a gift to the local Social Services Home for Children and Adults on 12 Dec.

■ For the festive period, the **SNP Museum Banská Bystrica** will be closed on 18 Dec - 6 Jan 2026, and the Museum's Archives and Research Room on 16 Dec - 11 Jan.

■ Six teams took part in the **Spartan Cup Floorball Tournament 2025** – held under the auspices of Cdr 46 Wng Kuchyňa – at the Malacky Sports Arena. The SVK Military Police (MP) team won the competition, the team from Skalica was second, and the Czech SOF Team Prostějov finished third. Lt Jerguš Fľačan (SVK MP) was named "Best Player of the Tournament".

■ The **SVK Women's Biathlon Relay Team** – Ema Kapustová, Paulína Bátovská Fialková, Anastasiya Kuzmina and Mária Remešová (all from the Dukla Military Sports Centre) – took fifth place at the Biathlon World Cup in Hochfilzen, Austria. This is the best result since the 2018 Winter Olympics in Korea.

UASs for AOS Simulation Centre



(10 Dec) Working with its partner firm Airvolute, Aircraft Repair Company Trenčín (LOTN) formally handed over two ELLIPSIS AI Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) unmanned aircraft systems (UASs) to the Armed Forces Academy (AOS)'s Simulation Centre in Liptovský Mikuláš.

Exercise NATO RSOM

(11 Dec) On 10-11 Dec, the NATO Force Integration Unit Slovakia (NFIU SVK) organised a NATO Reception, Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drill at Vajnory Barracks in Bratislava, with the participation of 22 key partner organisations from NATO, the Host Nation (HN), and the Slovak Armed Forces' military structures. The aim was to jointly rehearse operational plans and build a shared understanding between NATO's operational headquarters, NATO's tactical headquarters, and HN organisations. The training focused on supporting the RSOM of Allied forces in Slovakia in a crisis situation, including their integration into NATO's unified tactical command, with the aim of better coordinating key activities and ensuring a shared understanding of all steps essential to the effective deployment of Allied forces under collective defence.

Armaments OCs in Nováky



(11 Dec) Female Officer Cadets (OCs) on the Weapon Systems, Weapons and Their Components Programme at the SVK Military Academy completed an intensive work placement in Nováky – at the National EOD and CBRN

Centre, where they had the opportunity to demonstrate their skills at the blasting pit under the guidance of EOD specialists, as well as at the Munitions Testing Centre, where they became familiar with the specialist facilities for testing and storing munitions, and gained an insight into the principles and procedures for munitions handling, testing and decommissioning.

Advent concert for soldiers



(9 Dec) An Advent concert dedicated to all members of the Slovak Armed Forces was held – under the auspices of CDR BA GAR COM Col Jiří Vrchovecký and Cdr 2 Mech Bde Prešov Brig Gen Jozef Kasl – at the Košice House of Arts.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Armed Forces Band Banská Bystrica. Traditional Christmas carols were performed under the direction of conductors Maj Ján Goliaš and Capt Marek Flmel.

Farewell to Maj Gen Michalko and Brig Gen Remeš

(10 Dec) Military personnel's professional and dedicated service to the Nation is the foundation of Slovakia's security and stability, PRES and CINC Peter Pellegrini said in his farewell address to Maj Gen Martin Michalko and Brig Gen Martin Remeš, who are leaving the Service.

The President underpinned the value of their long-term personal contributions to strengthening the country's defences. He appreciated that during their careers both of them accomplished tasks well beyond ordinary commanders would achieve, thus enhancing Slovakia's international reputation. According to him, the outgoing generals' expertise will be reinvested in the future of the Armed Forces and in the formation of their new leaders. Maj Gen Martin Michalko dedicated 39 years of service to his country. He was in command of mechanised troops, completed a tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and held senior command appointments in the SVK Army. He is retiring from his last role as Commander Joint Operations Command (JOCOM) Banská Bystrica.

Having served in the SVK Armed Forces for 38 years, Brig Gen

Martin Remeš held various command and staff positions across Slovakia's Air Defence (AD), Air Force (AF), and Defence Staff (DS), and represented the country on operations in Bosnia and in Georgia, as well as with his postings to NATO's strategic HQs in Norfolk, Brussels, and Mons.

