



Minister hands over a Spartan

(31 October) SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš via CHOD Gen Milan Maxim and SVK Air Force Commander Brig Lubomír Svoboda today formally handed over the first of the two Spartan airlifters to SVK Air Force personnel for operational use in a ceremony held in the grounds of the General M. R. Štefánik Transport Wing (TW) Kuchyňa. From the perspective of modernising the Armed Forces, this is yet another historic milestone.

In his remarks, SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "I want to extend my best wishes to our pilots for many happy flying hours. At the same time, I trust the new state-of-the-art air asset will be a motivation to them to perform to even higher standards." He went on to underscore that the aircraft will not only be used to meet soldiers' operational needs, but it will also be employed on domestic crisis management operations to serve all Slovak citizens.

According to Chairman of the SVK Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security/Slovak National Party (SNS) Deputy Chairman Anton Hrnko, this is one of the major steps in delivering on the reform goals of the Armed Forces, in the sense that Slovakia will have a small, well equipped, trained and deployable armed forces. "In light of deployability, this aircraft marks a significant step ahead. Still, there is a need to continue rearming the core component of our Armed Forces, i.e. SVK Land Forces," he said.

On the air transport capability, SVK Chief of Defence Gen Milan Maxim added: "The capability to transport troops and materiel by air is one of the main characteristic features of modern militaries. I am very pleased that we have joined them again, since we lost this capability for some time with the phase-out of the Antonov aircraft fleet. I believe this aircraft will always be well prepared to meet current operational requests with flexibility."

After the formal handover the Staff Chaplain of TW Kuchyňa, Capt Slavko Ganaj, blessed the new aircraft and asked for protection for all those who will use it part of their job against disasters and damage.

Gen Maxim spoke to media after the ceremony, "This aircraft is called Spartan and I trust it will get its tasks done as reliably and masterfully as did the Spartans, the best warriors of Ancient Greece."

The purchase of the two C-27J Spartan airlifters was implemented in conformity with the SVK Air Force Development Concept. The contract for delivery of the aircraft was signed in 2014. The new C-27J Spartan fleet will replace the retired Antonov AN-24 and AN-26 transport aircraft. As a result, the SVK Air Force will not lose its air transport capability with the transport capacity it temporarily lacked after the SVK Air Force had retired the Antonov aircraft fleet.

The new C-27J Spartan is capable of carrying, aside from a 3-man crew, 46 service personnel. The advantage of the aircraft is that it may also be utilised in the role of domestic crisis management. This includes transporting the injured, aerial delivery of materiel and supplies, and firefighting operations.

Ministry of Defence pays respects to deceased colleagues

(31 October) In an Act of Remembrance, MOD service personnel, civil servants and civilian employees paid their respects to the memory of deceased professional soldiers and colleagues in Defence in a ceremony to mark All Saints' Day at the Appeasement Memorial, located in the grounds of the SVK MOD. In his short prayer, Ordinary of the SVK Armed Forces and Armed Corps Bishop Mons František Rábek reminded of the transience of human life and the need to respect life. On this occasion, SVK MOD leaders also lit candles at the Hall of Fame, honouring the sacrifice of the 57 fallen military professionals who have died in the service of their country while performing their duties on operations and missions abroad.



- As part of the operational readiness checks on the new SVK personnel in UNFICYP, who had rotated in this September, UNFICYP commanders and UNFICYP HQ staff conducted a series of inspections to check the readiness of troops to perform operational tasks in Sector 4 and the tasks associated with the support elements' activities in the area of responsibility. The serving personnel demonstrated a high level of readiness, commitment and quick adaptability to the operational environment and its changes, which was praised by the UNFICYP Chief of Staff as well as by the Force Commander, Maj Gen Humayun Kabir.

- The largest NATO civil-military (CIMIC) exercise, **Joint Co-operation 2017**, was held on 20-27 Oct in Germany's Nienburg. The exercise was attended by over 300 soldiers from 23 NATO and Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries, including 6 CIMIC personnel from the SVK Armed Forces. It was aimed at NATO forces performing missions according to Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty on sustainment and development of NATO Member States' individual and collective abilities to resist an armed attack.

- Selection for the **Best Soldier and NCO of the Year** from among the NCOs and the Other Ranks of CSS Bn Prešov in Training Year (TY) 2017 took place on 23 Oct. The Selection Board, chaired by the CSEL of CSS Bn Prešov, Sgt Maj Lubomír Mihalik, chose SSgt Tomáš Ragulský, of the Intelligence Group, part of CSS Bn Staff, as the Best NCO of the Year, and Cpl Rastislav Migaľ, of the Field Services Company, as the Best Soldier of the Year.

- An **exhibition of paintings by 1st Lt Lenka Zvalová** is being staged at the Bratislava Garrison Club (1st Floor), located at 6 Duloovo Square, from 2 to 30 Nov. The exhibition is open to the public Mon to Fri from 8:00am to 14:30pm.

- The Command, Control and Surveillance Wing (2CSW) Zvolen has played a role in securing the **protection of airspace over Slovakia's eastern border** since 30 Nov 2015. Last week saw the 100th jubilee rotation of a temporary early warning system post operated by the SVK Air Force. To mark this occasion, a ceremony was held in the presence of Commander SVK Air Force Brig Lubomír Svoboda and Commander 2CSW Zvolen Col Vladimír Jaklovský. The Commander SVK Air Force presented personnel with Letters of Thank You, thanked military professionals for the job well done, and wished them every success in their next postings.

- The SVK MOD informs the public of the upcoming **Allied military movements**, scheduled from 6 to 12 Nov 2017. A total of 33 Allied road moves will take place across Slovakia, especially involving Polish troops and Czech soldiers returning from Exercise CETEX 2017.

Service of Remembrance at Academy

(30 October) Gen M. R. Štefánik Armed Forces Academy (AOS) Liptovský Mikuláš hosted a service of remembrance for fallen soldiers. Originally, the service was to be held at Háj-Nicovó Military Cemetery, but it was moved to the AOS Chapel due to bad weather conditions. Celebrated in the presence of LM City officials, AOS leaders, servicemen and women, male and female cadets, AOS employees, and local residents, the service was led by the Dean of the AOS Military Parish, Capt Tomáš Huďa. After the Liturgy of Word and the Homily, followed by the remarks of AOS Commandant Jozef Puttera and Deputy Mayor of LM Ján Blicháč, the service was concluded with a prayer for the deceased and a final blessing.

Procedural simulator in Prešov



(2 November) Commander Helicopter Wing (HW) Prešov, Col Róbert Tóth, launched the Cockpit Academics Procedural Tool-Enhanced (CAPT-E) simulator, which is designed as a training

tool for helicopter flying personnel to acquire and refine their skillset to control the UH-60M systems for start-up, shutdown, on-ground and in-air emergency procedures.

The procedural tool is primarily designed to deliver training on the helicopter control systems. To a limited extent, it may also be used for practising flight mission procedures in a variety of environments. Being the only one of its kind in Europe, the CAPT-E is a highly effective tool for enhancing flight safety levels of aircrews.

Czecho-Slovak Day in Kabul

(30 October) Members of the Slovak and Czech Contingents marked the 99th anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic on 28 October at HKIA in Kabul. On the occasion, the military base at HKIA saw a vehicle pull contest with teams pulling the Tatra 815 truck and a 4-km run for individuals. A traditional lunch with cuisine highlights of both countries was followed by an official ceremony, in the presence of the Czech Ambassador to Afghanistan, Commander HKIA, Commander TAAC-Air, members of both SLOVCON and CZECON, and representatives of the countries operating at HKIA. The SLOVCON commander handed over the Memorial Cross for Participation in Military Operations, which had been awarded by the SVK Defence Minister, to Col Daniel Zlatník, Commander 15th Task Force, ACR.

SVK MOD has once again prepared a run in honour of war veterans

(4 November) The SVK MOD invites the public along with service personnel and employees in Defence to participate in a run to mark War Veterans Day and to pay tribute to the soldiers who have fallen in the service of their country. This is the fourth year of the run that falls on 11 November 2017, with the starting line located at Bratislava's Petržalka – Kopčany War Cemetery.

The formal start of the "Run in Honour of War Veterans" is symbolically planned to take place at 11:11am, as the world commemorates the 99th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Representing the MOD at the event will be service members, cadets of the SVK Armed Forces Academy Liptovský



Mikuláš, sportsmen and women of the Military Sports Club Dukla Banská Bystrica, led by Olympian Matej Tóth. Still before the run, Petržalka – Kopčany War Cemetery will see an act of commemoration, which is being prepared by the SVK MOD in collaboration with the War Veteran Civic Association Bratislava.

During War Veterans Day, servicemen and women will hand out red poppies – the symbol of War Veterans Day – across the cities of Bratislava, Zvolen, Rožňava, Prešov and Žilina, along with leaflets on the day's history and symbol.

Those interested in participating in the "Run in Honour of War Veterans", please register at <http://www.kril.sk/registracia/vy>.