



## NATO's 360-degree approach

(4 October) Slovakia supports NATO's 360-degree approach to security threats and challenges as well as fairer burden sharing. This announcement was made by SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš at the conclusion of the NATO Defence Ministers' two-day meeting in Brussels.

Ministers focused attention on where the Alliance is heading and its tasks to be accomplished by the next Ministerial meeting in the spring of 2019. They confirmed that the initiatives adopted at the July Summit will be elaborated on, emphasised the need for NATO-EU cooperation, especially on cyber security and countering hybrid threats, and reviewed the progress made in implementing military mobility.

Among other topics of discussion were the security situation in the Black Sea and NATO-Georgia cooperation. On the latter point, Minister Gajdoš confirmed that Slovakia views Georgia as a significant partner and is ready to assist Georgia in its Euro-Atlantic integration efforts and continue to provide advice and support.

On the margins of the official meeting, the Defence Ministers of the countries participating in the Canadian-led enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroup in Latvia met in a joint session, aimed at exchanging information updates and lessons learned. A total of 152 Slovak personnel have been deployed on eFP duties on Ādaži Training Area in Latvia.



## Minister honours heroes

(5 October) At the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps Memorial at Dukla, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš honoured the heroes who fought in the Carpatho-Dukla Operation 74 years ago.

In his speech, Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "It is our duty to preserve the legacy of this place, since we owe it to every single participant of this operation." In this context, he added that there arises the question whether we are doing enough to prevent history from repeating itself and evil, in the form of extremism, racism and xenophobia, from spreading.

To mark Carpatho-Dukla Operation Heroes Day, the Minister awarded 9 WWII veterans at the 'Gate to Freedom', as the Dukla Pass is symbolically known.

Following the commemoration at the Memorial at Dukla, Defence Minister Peter Gajdoš also attended wreath-laying ceremonies at the Statue of Army General Ludvík Svoboda and the Soviet Army Memorial in Svidník. The official programme wrapped up with a tour of the Museum Section Svidník, of the Military History Museum Piešťany, and the Lookout Tower at Dukla.

## On defence industry cooperation between Slovakia and Czechia

(1 October) The cooperation between the Slovak and Czech Republics in the field of armaments production could be bolstered significantly. This follows from the conclusions of the talks between SVK Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš and CZE Minister of Defence Lubomír Metnar, who today joined the delegations of their Prime Ministers to participate in the 60th International Engineering Trade Fair in Brno.

Minister of Defence Peter Gajdoš said: "An excellent example of a potential area of cooperation is the ZUZANA 2 Self-propelled Gun Howitzer, the state-of-the-art product of the Slovak defence industry, which is based on a Tatra chassis, and this means the Czech Republic might be interested in this artillery system." Another topic of discussion was the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), where the Slovak Republic is the leader of the EuroArtillery Indirect Fire Support project.

The Ministers also discussed possibilities of joint training as well as V4 cooperation, with Slovakia currently holding the V4 Presidency. Still, armaments teams from both departments will get together and look into potential areas of cooperation.



- Military Police personnel will receive **21 new 4x4 pick-ups** worth €720,618. By buying the fleet of vehicles in an electronic auction, the Ministry of Defence has saved over Eur 100,000 below the initial contract price estimate. Six bidders took part in the e-auction, with AUTOPOLIS, s. r. o. offering the best deal and coming out as the winner.

- Having participated in Ex Slovak Shield 2018 at the Lešť Training Centre, on 28 Sept a US Army delegation were taken on a tour of the Museum Section Svidník, Military History Museum, **Institute of Military History (VHÚ) Bratislava**, and visited the Lookout Tower at Dukla. They were briefed on the Carpathian Offensive at the turn of 1914/1915, the development of the Czechoslovak Defence Force in the years 1918-1939, the Carpatho-Dukla Operation, and the liberation of eastern Slovakia in the years 1944-1945.

- Soldiers of the 22nd Mechanised Battalion Michalovce **helped clean up in the aftermath** of a whirlwind that descended on the village of Lekárovice on 3 Oct. At the request for assistance by the Sobrance County Office Crisis Staff, the SVK Armed Forces deployed 40 personnel and military vehicles and equipment to the village to assist in the clean-up.

- Lt Col Vladimír Gažo assumed the appointment of **Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Support**, 1st Mech Bde, with effect from 1 Oct. The outgoing DCOS, Lt Col Imrich Nagy, has been posted to the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces.

- The Combat Service Support (CSS) Battalion Prešov hosted a farewell ceremony for Sergeant Major Lubomír Mihalik, leaving his position as **CSEL of CSS Bn Prešov**. Sergeant Major Milan Pavlík, CSEL of CSS Bde Trenčín, presented him with a memorial plaque and a letter of commemoration.

- 214 soldier trainees, of whom 40 were women, began their **basic military training (BMT)** on 1 Oct. Following all in-processing procedures, they were issued with clothing and equipment, and assigned to BMT platoons to begin their basic training cycle. On its completion, a graduation ceremony will be held in Nov 2018.

- Drivers are asked by the MOD to be alert and drive with care as there will be **17 Allied road movements and 1 railway movement** across Slovakia in the period between 8 and 14 Oct 2018. They will mainly involve US troops. In addition to this, SVK Army vehicles carrying oversized cargo will convoy from Sereď to VPP Turecký vrch; Sereď – CV Lešť; Trebišov – Kamenica nad Cirochou; Martin – CV Lešť; Trebišov – CV Lešť; Trebišov – PC Ozorovce; Trebišov – PSJ Poruba; Prešov – Zemianske Kostoľany – Michalovce; and within Nitra.



## Military Committee Conference

(1 October) Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko attended the NATO Military Committee Conference in Warsaw on 28-30 Sept 2018, accompanied by the SVK MILREP to the NATO Military Committee, Maj Gen Ondřej Novosad. SACEUR General Curtis M. Scaparrotti and SACT General André Lanata were also in attendance. Allied readiness, responsiveness, and modernization of capabilities were the themes at the conference. The Allied Chiefs of Defence also exchanged their views on the recommendations for future NATO operations, exercises and activities in close cooperation with international organizations. Lt Gen Hans-Werner Wiermann of Germany was elected by the CHODs to be the next Director General of the NATO International Military Staff (DGIMS), starting in 2019. On the margins of the conference, the CHODs of the countries participating in the Canadian-led enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group in Latvia met for talks in a joint session.

## CHOD's working trip to Trebišov

(4 October) Chief of Defence Lt Gen Daniel Zmeko visited Trebišov Barracks, to assess the progress of tasks associated with the planned reorganization changes. There, he inspected the base infrastructure, to be able to make an essential decision on the place of location for a tank battalion under formation. The CHOD delivered a speech in front of 21st Mech Bn Trebišov and 23rd Motrd Bn Trebišov personnel before awarding the Chief of Defence Badge to selected personnel.

## Preparations for Ex Air Shield

(5 October) Since 1 October members of the SVK Air Force have been involved in preparing their workstations and earmarked personnel for Ex Air Shield 2018. The main phase of the SVK Air Force's largest exercise this year will run on 9-11 October across the permanent stations of the SVK Air Force, with some troops deploying to Koliňanský Vrch Training Area. Following an inspection of workstations and a complete communications check, rehearsals of activities and coordination were carried out on 5 October. Individual workstations to be involved in the exercise were visited and inspected by Brig Gen Miroslav Lorinc, Officer Commanding Exercise and Deputy Commander SVK Air Force. Involved in the exercise will be members of the DCIS Base Ružomberok, the Topographic Institute Banská Bystrica, and the General Staff of the SVK Armed Forces.

## Slovakians shine at Ex Angel Guardian in Spain

(5 October) Bétera Training Area close to Spain's Valencia saw the culmination of Ex Angel Guardian 2018, NATO's largest Military Police exercise in Europe. In addition to the

participating nations from ESP, USA, BGR, LTU, EST, LVA and ROU, among the 650 MP personnel were also SVK military policemen of the Crisis Management Section (Training and Canine MP Department Vlkánová – Hronsek), including mainly its Prešov-based military policemen, who did not miss out on the training activity either. Observes from GRC, DNK, IRL, CZE, and UAE also took part in the exercise.

Maj Jaroslav Slančík, Chief of the Crisis Management Section at Vlkánová – Hronsek, said: "At the conclusion of the exercise, I was very pleased to hear words of praise for our military

policemen. They demonstrated high levels of professionalism and activity, and achieved excellent results. They were among the best nearly at all workstations in responding to specific

incidents. Even when engaging with representatives of all Military Police elements from Spain, the US and the UK. They brought credit on Slovakia and our Military Police. I am proud of them."

The main task of the exercise was to align the procedures of the participating NATO Military Police units. For Slovakian military policemen, the exercise was an excellent training activity before being placed next year on stand-by alert status with the multinational Military Police Unit of the Visegrad Four EU Battlegroup – V4 EU BG 2019.

