

ITAPA DEFENCE

September 21, 2023

Slovak National Uprising Museum
Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

9:00 - 9:15 Conference Opening

Andrej Matišák, moderator confirmed

Conference opening: Marian Uhrin, director of the SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica confirmed

Project Open D: Dalibor Lesník, deputy director of the SNP Museum confirmed

9:15 – 9:45 Have we Found Ourselves at the Crossroads Between East and West?

Discussion with the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs about the current situation in defense and security. Is Slovakia approaching a crossroads, where it will have to decide whether we want to head more westward as a country or are we inclined more eastward? What threats and opportunities does the current geopolitical situation bring? What is Slovakia's position in relation to Russian aggression in Ukraine? Will Slovakia's position change after the elections to the National Council? What would the ministers of the official government recommend to their successors in the ministerial chairs?

DISCUSSION

Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová, moderator confirmed

Martin Sklenár, Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic confirmed

Peter Bátor, ambassador, permanent representative of the Slovak Republic to NATO confirmed

9:45 - 10:05 1on1: The world and Slovakia are under permanent threat

What are the current threats to which Slovakia must respond? How does Russian aggression in Ukraine affect our own security? How has the situation in our armed forces changed? What capabilities are we strengthening and how is the interoperability of our forces ensured with our alliance partners?

1on1 with the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the SR

Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová, moderator confirmed

1on1: Daniel Zmeko, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the SR confirmed

10:05 - 10:25 Modernization of Armed Forces on the Eastern Border of NATO

The current geopolitical situation has moved the world into a new reality. Armed conflict has become an everyday part of it, and it is necessary for NATO member states to respond to it. How do our capabilities change over time? How is NATO's eastern border exposed to the greatest risk from potential aggressors? What is our reaction to these risks? What is the modern perspective on the need for interoperability? We will discuss this and much more with

the representatives of the member states on the eastern border of the Alliance who are responsible for the modernization and armament of their armed forces.

DISCUSSION

Andrej Matišák, moderator confirmed

Michal Homza, National Director for Armament, Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic confirmed

10:25 – 10:55 Coffee and networking

11:00 – 11:30 How are we Innovating the North Atlantic Alliance?

The Defense Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) is a new part of NATO that works with leading researchers and entrepreneurs across the Alliance to help them develop technologies to keep NATO citizens safe. DIANA complements the NATO Innovation Fund, which is the first multinational venture capital fund in the world that invests 1 billion euros in start-ups developing technologies for defense and security. You will find out what opportunities the fund and accelerator bring to Slovak companies in this section of the ITAPA DEFENSE conference.

DISCUSSION

Andrej Matišák, moderator confirmed

Adrian Dan, DIANA Transition Team confirmed

Kelly Chen, NATO Innovation Fund LPAC confirmed

11:30 - 12:00 How are Defense Innovations Created in Slovakia?

DIANA also brings opportunities to Slovakia, where under the leadership of the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, this accelerator brings together universities and industries to collaborate with start-ups and other innovators in solving critical defense and security challenges. You will learn about the opportunities the DIANA accelerator brings for the creation of defense innovations in Slovakia in this panel discussion.

DISCUSSION

Andrej Matišák, moderator confirmed

Michaela Kollárová, department of investment planning and project financing, MD SR confirmed

Andrej Veľas, University of Žilina confirmed

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch and networking

13:00 – 13:30 Human Health, Biotechnology, and Human Enhancement

How can modern technologies contribute to better health not only for soldiers, but also for the civilian population? Many of the innovations that we know today as commonly available originate in the defense sector. What are the military health needs? What technologies do we use in it and what opportunities does it bring? What does human enhancement mean in practice?

DISCUSSION

Andrej Matišák, moderator confirmed

Roman Jantoš, commander of the Military Health Command confirmed

Vladimír Lengvarský, Central Military Hospital SNP Ružomberok confirmed

13:30 – 14:15 Information Sharing and Cyber Security

The panel will focus on the latest technological solutions, cooperation between industries and states, and to identify key challenges to be faced in sharing information about cyber threats and incidents. What is the critical importance of information sharing for defense and security? What approaches and tools can we use to improve cooperation and efficiency in the field of cyber security?

Andrej Matišák, moderator confirmed

Secure server-client platform for military purposes: Stanislav Chlepko, Nexineo confirmed

Protection of the information border - software tools for suppression of hostile information activity: Michal Trnka, Gerulata Technologies confirmed

Identity and information sharing in critical infrastructure: Peter Kolarov, Crayonic confirmed

Cyber Digital Twin in a critical infrastructure environment: Zuzana Omelková, GAMO confirmed

COTS-based IP ISR Pod container: Michal Remper, CISCO confirmed

14:15 – 15:05 Sensorics and Imaging

The panel will explore innovations in sensor and imaging systems that provide new capabilities and improve monitoring, detection and evaluation capabilities in defense applications. The discussion will focus on the importance of these technologies for modern defense systems and their contribution to increasing the security and efficiency of military operations. What is the potential of new sensor and imaging technologies for the defense industry and what challenges must be overcome in their implementation and use in practice?

Andrej Matišák, moderator confirmed

From sensors to sensor networks: Robert Lászlo, Needronix confirmed

Use of autonomous mobile robots for military purposes: Martin Smolák, RoboTech Vision confirmed

New imaging and sensor technologies for the defense industry: Miloslav Ďurica, Photomap confirmed

DISCUSSION

Barbora Hrozenská, Ministry of Defence SR **confirmed**

Róbert Zadňančin, Ministry of Interior SR **confirmed**

15:05 – 15:40 Break

15:40 – 16:05 Resilience of energy infrastructure

Andrej Matišák, moderator **confirmed**

Flexible and resilient microgrids controlled by artificial intelligence in the defense and civil sectors: Peter Šimko, PowereX **confirmed**

Drone threats and critical infrastructure protection: Milan Lím, PROFiber Trading **confirmed**

Mobile base for the protection of critical infrastructure: Radovan Maník, ZETOR **confirmed**

16:05 – 17:00 ITAPA OPEN TALK: History, Presence and Reality of Hybrid Threats

What is the impact of increasing technological developments on the nature of hybrid threats in defense and what new risks does it bring to the current environment? How has the nature of hybrid threats changed throughout history and how have defense systems and strategies dealt with them? In the context of the current reality of the global security situation, what new approaches and cooperation between states and technology firms could help in the fight against hybrid threats? And how can we learn from history?

ITAPA OPEN TALK

Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová, moderator **confirmed**

Katarína Klingová, GLOBSEC Policy Institute **invited**

Vladimír Šucha, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovakia **confirmed**

Michal Trnka, Gerulata Technologies **confirmed**

Marian Uhrin, director of the SNP Museum in Banská Bystrica **confirmed**

9:00 – 18:00

SIDE PROGRAM

- Božena demining machine, Leopard 2A4 battle tank, Zuzana self-propelled howitzer, Polaris all-terrain vehicle, ambulance
- the "MMR" vehicle from Aliter Technologies, a Gerlach armored vehicle that reflects the latest combat tactics from Zetor Engineering
- robotics and AI are brought together by the duo Crawler and Ringo from RoboTech
- Human resources section of the Slovak Ministry of Defense
- falconry show
- dynamic canine show of the Military Police
- performance by artists from the Military Orchestra of the Slovak Armed Forces
- excursions to the permanent exhibits in the premises of the SNP Museum