



NEWSLETTER

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20 Years of Cooperation between Slovenia and the Colorado National Guard

Slovenian Minister of Defense Roman Jakič with a delegation, Chief of General Staff of Slovenian Armed Forces, Brigadier Dobran Božič, and Slovenian Ambassador to the U.S. Roman Kirn, accompanied by a business delegation; representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Slovenia and representatives of the Ljubljana University paid a visit to Colorado



Republic of Slovenia's Minister of Defense Roman Jakič's address at the ceremony that was held at the Colorado National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility, Buckley AFB.

at the end of May to mark twenty years of cooperation between the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Colorado National Guard within the State Partnership Program, which has recently also been being upgraded to cooperation in business, culture and sport.

At the official ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of cooperation at the Buckley

Air Force Base, the Commander of the Colorado National Guard (CNG), Major General Michael Edwards, praised the Slovenian Armed Forces (SV) noting that "The program has formed many personal, lasting relationships; also it's relationships like these that change preconceived notions and are truly able to change the world by developing trust and





Republic of Slovenia's Minister of Defense Roman Jakič joins Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, the Adjutant General of Colorado, to celebrate the milestone of international relations.



Minister Jakič honoring Slovenian consul in Denver, CO Srečko Vidmar who helped to organize the visit. For more information about the honorary consulate in Colorado visit: <http://slovenia-colorado.com/>

partnerships that last a career and beyond."

Minister Jakič emphasized that the cooperation has been very intensive and fruitful in the past 20 years, peaking in a partnership program of exercise and training of members of SV and CNG in Colorado and Slovenia for the operations and management of OMLT (Operational Mentor and Liaison Team) in Afghanistan, and also that he has hopes for future enhancement of cooperation between the SV and CNG.

"The Colorado National Guard has been a great military partner," said Brigadier Božič. "As a true testament of the friendship, we have deployed together to Afghanistan and continue to look for future military collaboration. Deployments are the benchmark of trusting partners -- putting your life in your friend's hands."

The State Partnership Program (SPP) evolved from a 1991 U.S. European Command decision to set up the Joint

Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region with the Reserve component Soldiers and Airmen. A subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal paired U.S. states with the three nations emerging from the former Soviet Bloc, and the SPP was born, becoming a key U.S. security cooperation tool, facilitating cooperation across all aspects of international civil-military affairs and encouraging people-to-people ties at the state level.

Colorado's partnership with the Republic of Slovenia began in 1993, when the Colorado National Guard was chosen to help Slovenia in meeting the NATO standards necessary for joining the Alliance and to support the restructuring of the Slovenian Armed Forces. The partnership has resulted in an average of 20 exchanges a year, by supporting national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political and

economic conduits at the local, state and national level.

Prior to the ceremony, Slovenian honorary consul in Denver, Srečko Vidmar, organized a business forum where Slovenian business executives met their American counterparts, as the Slovenian defense delegation watched training of the Colorado National Guard at the Fort Carson military base.

Concluding his visit to Colorado on Thursday, May 30, Slovenian Defense Minister Roman Jakič and his delegation attended a graduation ceremony of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, where Slovenian Marko Podplatnik was among only ten foreign graduating cadets. On the sidelines of the ceremony, Minister Jakič met with the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force Michael B. Donley, who conferred the diplomas, and with the American astronaut of Slovenian ancestry, Ronald Šega.



Minister of Defense Roman Jakič, Slovenian cadet Marko Podplatnik with his father and Chief of General Staff of Slovenian Armed Forces Brig. Gen. Dobran Božič at a graduation ceremony in Colorado Springs.

Adventurer Lenarčič Returns Home from the North Pole

Pilot and photographer Matevž Lenarčič touched ground in Ljubljana airport on Sunday, May 26, completing the latest in a series of his bold adventures: a flight over the North Pole in an ultralight aircraft, made by Slovenian company Pipistrel.

Piloting a slightly modified Virus-SW, Lenarčič managed to overcome all weather-related difficulties and complete his mission, although with a slight delay. He was welcomed at the airport by the team of the project "GreenLight WorldFlight - North Pole" and sponsors.

Pipistrel CEO, Ivo Boscarol, said that Lenarčič, who had already completed two solo flights around the world with the ultralight aircraft, once again proved that he and Pipistrel's Virus were a "good team" and that with a good team one can push boundaries ever further. Lenarčič's flight over the North Pole, which started on April 22, was carried out in several stages. He was often forced to delay the continuation of his journey due to poor weather conditions. He flew over northern Europe, the North Pole, Canada and back via the Atlantic route first completed by Charles Lindberg.



Pilot and photographer Matevž Lenarčič successfully finishes his flight over the North Pole. (Source: www.ukom.si)

Aside from being an adventure, Lenarčič's endeavor also had a scientific dimension, as his aircraft was equipped with sensors to measure the concentrations of black carbon, a key driver of climate change in the Arctic.

So far, such measurements were conducted only from the Earth's surface or from the altitude of 10,000 meters (39,370 ft.). The Virus SW plane is 6.5 meters (21 ft.) long and has 10.7 meters (35 ft.) wide wings. Empty it weighs 290 kilograms (640

lbs.) but can develop speeds of up to 300 km/h (186 mph.)

Lenarčič was the first person to circle the globe in an ultralight aircraft without a copilot or additional air support in 2004. Flying the Pipistrel Sinus 912 UL aircraft, he also set a world speed record in the under 500 kilo (1100 lbs.) category. During last year's flight, he became the first Slovenian to land on Antarctica and the first Slovenian to make a flyover of Mt. Everest. (Source: STA)

TRADE

Slovenian Wines Awarded Five Gold Medals in the U.S.

Wines from wine cellar P&F Jeruzalem Ormož and P&F Jeruzalem Ljutomer were awarded five gold medals for quality at the recent international wine competition in the United States.

The largest Slovenian winemaker continues to perform successfully at domestic and international competitions for wine quality. Thus, five registered wines: sauvignon, muscat, sauvignon-gray pinot

blend, and muscat sparkling wine of Puklavec & Friends brand, and Sauvignon Exceptional of Gomila brand were recently awarded five golden medals at the WSWA Wine Competition 2013 in Orlando, FL. Sauvignon (Puklavec&Friends) won an additional golden medal at the competition Concours Mondial du Sauvignon in Brussels.

While the smallest, the Ljutomer-Ormož region is arguably the best wine growing

area of the Podravje region in Slovenia, with the highest density of ideal wine growing sites. Situated between the Mura river to the northeast and the Drava river to the southwest, its climate is more balanced due to their cooling effect. The wines of this region are among Slovenia's most prestigious, having been known since prehistoric times; the wine cellar P&F Jeruzalem, however, has been producing fine wines since 1967.

Ajdovščina



Ajdovščina is the economic, educational and cultural center of the upper Vipava valley. (Source: www.slovenia.info; TIC Ajdovščina).

The town of Ajdovščina, which lies in the western part of Slovenia in the Primorska region, is the economic, educational and cultural center of the upper Vipava valley, named after the Vipava river, which has its source in the neighboring municipality of Vipava and flows into the Soča and then into the Adriatic Sea. The Vipava valley is surrounded from east and north by the plateaus Trnovski gozd and Nanos, and in the south separated from Kras (Karst) by the Vipava hills. Thus the sharp northerly and the warm southerly winds create conditions for variety and uniqueness of nature and climate. The winegrowing area in the Vipava valley extends over 2334 hectares (app. 5767 acres) of vineyards, many of which are spread around the town of Ajdovščina.

The area was settled already in Roman times, when the Battle of the Frigidus in AD 394 took place near Ajdovščina. A local legend mentions that Theodosius I used the strong northern bora wind to his favor and disabled the enemy archers and pilum units with the help of the wind.

With around present 7000 inhabitants, the town has had an extremely rich and agitated history, reflected in its perfect combination of first Roman buildings and later medieval architectural developments. The Hubelj river is the dividing line between the two largest parts of Ajdovščina, locally known as Šturje and Ajdovščina. During the pre-World War I years, the river was also the border between the Slovene regions of Gorizia and Carniola.

Especially interesting is the eastern part of the town with its restored portion of the city walls, its tower, and Renaissance castle arcades, which also form a part of the city wall. Mansions, castles, and churches, such as St. John the Baptist's church, built on the site of a Roman cemetery, the town's typical Karst architecture, and many other sights testify of the pulse of life in previous periods. Reputed cultural institutions such as the Pilon gallery, the Lavrič library and the Museum Ajdovščina offer an interesting cultural experience.



Especially interesting is the eastern part of the town with its restored portion of the city walls, its tower, and Renaissance castle arcades, which also form a part of the city wall. (Source: TIC Ajdovščina; Photographer: G. Humar).

[Holy Cross Parish's 100th Anniversary](#)

The members of the Holy Cross Parish in Bridgeport, CT, and the KSKJ 148 St. Joseph Lodge are celebrating the 100th Anniversary.

When: [Sunday, June 9th, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

Where: [Holy Cross Parish, 750 Tahmore Dr., Fairfield, CT 06825](#)

Banquet to follow anniversary mass

More information: [\(203\) 372-4595](#)

[Slovenian American Heritage Foundation 2013 Lecture Series -- Women in Politics](#)

The Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation invites all to attend the third talk in its 2013 Lecture Series. The Foundation is extremely pleased that Baldwin Wallace University Professor, Dr. Barbara Palmer, a Minnesota native of Slovenian descent, will present a discussion on women in politics with a special focus on Slovenian women in politics. The program is free and open to the public.

When: [Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Lower Hall of the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio](#)

[Participation in a Study of American-Slovenian Music](#)

The Institute of Ethnomusicology, a component of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, located in Ljubljana, is dedicated to the collection, preservation and research of the Slovenian folk-music tradition. Given the unique character of the musical heritage of Slovenian immigrants in the U.S., the institute has identified it as a subject of great interest.

A study has been designed and approved by the Institute, and American-Slovenians of all ages are invited to participate. The primary means by which the study will be pursued is through the use of a questionnaire. The questionnaire seeks to discover how the ties to Slovenian distinctive ethnic heritage are maintained in America through music.

You are invited to complete the questionnaire, which can be accessed by clicking on the following link or pasting it into your browser:

<http://anketnik.zrc-sazu.si/index.php/858462/lang-en>

[SNPJ Slovenefest](#)

Slovenefest, a three-day annual event held the second weekend of July at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ, PA, brings together thousands to enjoy the ethnic food, music, culture and fun of Slovenia.

When: [July 12, 13 & 14, 2013](#)

Where: [The SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Enon Valley, Pennsylvania](#)

More information and detailed schedule of events at: <http://www.slovenefest.com/schedule>.

[Gr@y Matter – Language of Shadows by Eva Petrič in NYC](#)

Eva Petrič is a multimedia Slovenian artist and designer, whose work has recently been featured in the Bergdorff Goodman windows.

When: [Ongoing](#)

Where: [Bergdorff Goodman, 5th Avenue at 58th Street; New York, NY 10019](#)

More information: www.draperccontemporary.com/eva-p-exhibition-history.html