**Elementary**

The first two Slovak F-16 fighter jets arrived at the military airbase in Kuchyňa, western Slovakia, on Monday evening. They flew over the Atlantic Ocean with a tanker plane. The plane refuelled the jets **during** the flight.

U.S. pilots flew the jets. The jets had the U.S. markings on them. This **flight** showed a new **skill** for the Slovak Air Force because the old MiG-29 jets could not refuel in the air.

Important people came to the ceremony. TheSlovak President Peter Pellegrini, Defence Minister Robert Kaliňák, Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Slovak Republic General Daniel Zmeko and U.S. Ambassador Gautam Rana came there. The U.S. ambassador Gautam Rana said that these jets make Slovakia stronger and they defend NATO´s Eastern Flank.

Slovakia ordered 14 F-16 jets in 2018. **Delivery** took longer because of COVID-19, but another jet will arrive later this year.

The jets will stay at the Kuchyňa base **until** the Sliač airbase in central Slovakia is ready.

*Read the text and finish the sentences so their meaning is the same as in the text.*

**Doplňte vety správnou informáciou z textu.**

1. The Slovak Armed forces welcomed the first two \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Mig-29 could not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the air.
3. The U.S. ambassador thinks that our country will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thanks to the jets.

**GLOSSARY**

* **during** /ˈdʒʊə.rɪŋ/ - počas
* **flight** /flaɪt/ - let
* **skill** /skɪl/ - zručnosť
* **delivery** /dɪˈlɪv.ər.i/ - doručenie, dodávka, zásielka
* **until** /ənˈtɪl/ - až do

**Intermediate**

On Monday evening, the first two Slovak F-16 fighter jets landed at the military airbase in Kuchyňa, western Slovakia. They flew over the Atlantic Ocean accompanied with a tanker plane for in-flight refuelling.

U.S. pilots flew the jets, which had **temporary** U.S. **insignia**. This flight showed a new **capability** for the Slovak Air Force, since their old MiG-29 jets, which they gave to Ukraine last year, could not refuel in the air.

Slovak President Peter Pellegrini, Defence Minister Robert Kaliňák, Chief of General Staff General Daniel Zmeko, and U.S. Ambassador Gautam Rana attended the ceremony. The U.S. ambassador Gautam Rana said these jets make Slovakia stronger and also **strengthen** NATO´s Eastern Flank.

Slovakia ordered 14 F-16 jets in 2018. Despite the whole delivery was **delayed due to** the COVID-19 pandemic, another jet **is due to** arrive later this year.

The jets will stay at the Kuchyňa base until the reconstruction of the Sliač airbase in central Slovakia, is complete.

**Reading comprehension**

1. The jets were given the fuel during the flight by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Refuelling in the air is a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for our AirForce.
3. The COVID-19 caused \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the delivery of the jets. (a delay)

**GLOSSARY**

* **temporary** /ˈtem.pər.ər.i/ - dočasný, prechodný
* **insignia** /ɪnˈsɪɡ.ni.ə/ - insígnia, odznak (y)
* **capability** /ˌkeɪ.pəˈbɪl.ə.ti/ - schopnosť, spôsobilosť
* **strengthen** /ˈstreŋ.θən/ - posilniť, zosilniť
* **delayed due to** /dɪˈleɪd/ /dʒuː tuː / - následkom, výsledkom čoho

**Advanced**

On Monday evening, the first two Slovak F-16s landed at the military airbase in Kuchyňa, western Slovakia, **showcasing** a significant **enhancement** in the **capabilities** of the Slovak Air Force. These aircraft, flown by U.S. pilots and temporarily **bearing** U.S. insignia, completed a transatlantic flight with the aid of in-flight refuelling—a feature not available in Slovakia's previous fleet of Soviet-made MiG-29 jets, which were **donated** to Ukraine last year.

The ceremonial arrival was attended by prominent figures including Slovak President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Peter Pellegrini, Defence Minister Robert Kaliňák, Chief of General Staff General Daniel Zmeko, and U.S. Ambassador Gautam Rana. The U.S. Ambassador Gautam Rana emphasized the strategic importance of these new jets, stating they not only **bolster** Slovakia's national defense but also **reinforce** the security of NATO's Eastern Flank. Considering current war in Ukraine and the risk of spill over to Slovak territory.

Slovakia's **acquisition** of these F-16 C/D Block 70 jets is a part of a larger order of 14 aircraft, secured through a contract signed in late 2018. The delivery of these jets marks a significant **milestone**. Delays in delivery were **attributed** to the COVID-19 pandemic, but a third jet is expected to arrive later this year.

The new F-16s will be stationed at the Kuchyňa airbase until the reconstruction of the Sliač airbase in central Slovakia is completed, **ensuring** the Slovak Air Force can effectively **transition** to its enhanced capabilities.

**Reading comprehension**

1. The landing of F-16 marked a remarkable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Slovakia´s air capabilities.
2. Slovakian and NATO's Eastern Flank will certainly be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by having F-16 jets.
3. The delivery of the jets is fixed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ signed a few years ago.

**GLOSSARY**

* **showcasing** /ˈʃəʊ.keɪsing/ - ukazujúc
* **capabilities** /ˌkeɪ.pəˈbɪl.ə.tis/ - spôsobilosti
* **bearing** /ˈbeə.rɪŋ/ - nesúci
* **donated** /dəʊˈneɪtit/ - darované
* **bolster** /ˈbəʊl.stər/ - podporiť
* **reinforce** /ˌriː.ɪnˈfɔːs/ - posilniť
* **acquisition** /ˌæk.wɪˈzɪʃ.ən/ - získanie, nadobudnutie
* **milestone** /ˈmaɪl.stəʊn/ - medzník
* **attributed** /ˈæt.rɪ.bjuːtid/ - pripisované

**Klúč/ The key**

**Elementary**

1. fighter jets/ F16

2. refuel

3. stronger

**Intermediate**

1. a tanker plane for in-flight refuelling

2. capability

3. a delay

**Advanced**

1. enhancement

2. strengthened

3. a contract