



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



# NEWSLETTER

September 2023



## MINISTER MAQEDONCI MADE HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, made his first official visit as Minister of Defense to the Republic of Albania, where he was received by the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Albania, Niko Peleshi. Beyond the symbolism, this meeting resulted in a fruitful discussion on the current geopolitical situation, the excellent cooperation, already doubled in the field of education and training, which is being worked on to be further deepened, medium and long-term plans in the field of security and defense, with special emphasis on Kosovo's support for membership in regional initiatives and Euro-Atlantic integration. For his part, Minister Peleshi reiterated that the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Albania is committed to increasing the number of joint activities with the Ministry of Defense of

the Republic of Kosovo, with the common goal of maintaining peace and stability in the region and beyond.



## THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND THE KSF REMAIN STEADY AND COMMITTED TO THE LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM



the United Kingdom, H.E. Ilir Kapiti, the Defense Attaché of Kosovo in London, the Military Attaché of the United Kingdom in Kosovo met with the Minister of the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, James Heappy.

The focus of the meeting was the announcement with the Minister Maqedonci and the discussions regarding partnership and activities within the framework of bilateral cooperation. The Minister and the Commander of the KSF thanked Minister Happy and the United Kingdom for the continuous support for Kosovo and the KSF.

At the invitation of the British partners, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, together with the delegation from the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force visited the Defense and Security Fair (DSEI) in London.

On the occasion of the visit, Minister Maqedonci and Lieutenant General Jashari, accompanied by the Ambassador of Kosovo to



## THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE COMMANDER OF THE KSF ATTENDED THE FOLLOWING MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP ON THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari in September participated in the meeting of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine that took place at the air base in Ramstein, Germany. In the 15th meeting of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine, the ministers and chiefs of defense of more than 50 countries of the world that make up the large coalition of supporters of Ukraine, since the beginning of the Russian aggression in this country, participated. The meeting was led by the US Secretary of



Defense, Mr. Lloyd Austin, and focused on the continuation of concrete military assistance to Ukraine from the countries of this coalition. In the context of this event, Minister Maqedonci and Lieutenant General Jashari had the opportunity to hold a special meeting with the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations, Tom Goffus, with whom they discussed the developments in the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force of, as well as the general security situation in the country.





## **MINISTER MAQEDONCI TOGETHER WITH GENERAL JASHARI AND KSF OFFICERS TOOK PART IN THE FUNERAL OF THE HERO POLICE OFFICER, AFRIM BUNJAKU**

On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci said:

“Heroes like Sergeant Afrimi, despite being physically separated from us, spiritually and mentally remain engraved forever in the memory of the people and the history of our homeland. The heroism of Afrim transcends the momentary, to become an eternal testimony of patriotism, the sacrifice that the people over the generations did not hesitate to undertake, even when it meant the sacrifice of life. Glory to the hero Afrim Bunjaku!”



## **PRESIDENT OSMANI: KOSOVO REMAINS COMMITTED TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY AND REGION**

The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, at the same time the supreme commander of the Kosovo Security Force, hosted the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci and the commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari.

At this meeting were discussed topics on security developments and Serbia's hostile actions towards Kosovo, the work of Kosovo's security institutions, as well as coordination with our allies and the international security presence in Kosovo.

President Osmani has emphasized that Kosovo

remains committed to peace and security in the country and the region and that the institutions of Kosovo will act in close partnership with our allies.

## **THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY, GUIDO CROSETTO, CONGRATULATES MINISTER MAQEDONCI ON HIS NEW APPOINTMENT**



In a congratulatory letter, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Italy congratulated Minister Maqedonci on his appointment to the new position as Minister.

In the letter of Minister Crosetto, the excellent partnership that exists between the two countries is appreciated, while he expresses the certainty that this cooperation will continue during the mandate of Minister Maqedonci, for the benefit of the relations between the armed forces, as well as the development of further forms of cooperation in areas of common interest.





## **KSF COMMANDER LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHKIM JASHARI TOOK PART IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE CHIEFS OF DEFENSE OF A5**

At the invitation of his counterpart from North Macedonia, Lieutenant General Vasko Gjurchinovski and co-organized by the US Forces Europe Command (EUCOM), headed by General Christopher Cavoli, the KSF Commander participated in the Conference of Chiefs of Defense of the Adriatic Charter - USA in Skopje, North Macedonia. Major General Stephen Osborn, Commander of the National Guard of Iowa, Kosovo's partner state, also participated in the conference. During the conference, General Jashari addressed the audience in a speech where he presented the achievements of the KSF. Also,



he spoke about the attacks that took place in the north of Kosovo and the fact that they are a threat to the stability of Kosovo and the region. The general reiterated that such things cannot be repeated and the countries that support them should receive the deserved punishment. In the end, General Jashari officially declared to the participants that the time has come for Kosovo to become a full member of the Adriatic Charter. The conference continued its work, where in its context, the Commander of the KSF with his delegation held bilateral meetings with the American delegation headed by General Christopher Cavoli, Commander of the American Forces for Europe (EUCOM). During the meeting, General Jashari presented the achievements of the KSF and thanked General Cavoli for the support and partnership in the military field between the two countries. Also, the security situation in our country and the challenges surrounding it were discussed. General Cavoli congratulated General Jashari for his leadership and at the same time reiterated that the US will continue to support the KSF in the development of military and defense capabilities.

he spoke about the attacks that took place in the north of Kosovo and the fact that they are a threat to the stability of Kosovo and the region. The general reiterated that such things cannot be repeated and the countries that support them should receive the deserved punishment. In the end,



## **KOSOVO AND ITALY EMBRACE THE SAME DEMOCRATIC VALUES WITH AIM TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND STABILITY**

In the meeting between the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Ambassador of Italy in Kosovo, Antonello De Riu, many issues related to the field of security and defense were discussed, with special emphasis on the cooperation between the defense ministries of the two countries.

The implementation of the bilateral plan, the deepening of cooperation in the development of joint trainings, the education of new military cadres, were some of the main points of discussion.

On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci emphasized that "as two states that embrace the same democratic values with the aim of maintaining peace and

stability, we will continue the excellent cooperation between us".



## 302 NEW SOLDIERS ARE ADDED TO THE KSF

At the “Skënderbeu” barracks in Ferizaj in September, the oath and certification ceremony was held for the 302 new soldiers of the Kosovo Security Force, generation 01-2023.

This ceremony was attended by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylaj, Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, Director of the DIS, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, Commander of the TRADOC, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, the commander of the LFC, Brigadier General Hysen Dreshaj, international soldiers, as well as senior officials of the Ministry of Defense, senior officers of the KSF, municipal leaders

and family members of the young soldiers.

Addressing the recruits at this ceremony,

Minister Maqedonci emphasized that:

“In front of your family members and our people, you are preserving a very valuable and important thing, the continuity, the continuity of endurance, the continuity of the fighting spirit and the wonderful feeling of service to homeland”.



## NEW CADETS OF KSF - GENERATION 2027 ARE SWORN IN

At the “Adem Jashari” barracks in Prishtina, in September, the swearing-in ceremony of the new KSF Cadets, generation 2027, was held. The student-cadets of the Center for University Studies of the KSF will follow regular four-year studies according to the curriculum plan with theoretical and practical modules according to the standards of the most advanced western military academies, especially the USA.



## DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA TOOK PART IN “TECHNOFEST 2023” HELD IN IZMIR, TÜRKIYE



The Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylaj, together with the military attaché of the Republic of Kosovo in Türkiye, Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu and Captain Bardhyl Dugolli from the KSF, at the invitation of the organizer, participated in the technology and aerospace festival “Teknofest” which is being held in Izmir, Türkiye.

During the participation, the deputy minister was received by many leaders of important companies of the defense industry of Türkiye, with common interest of cooperation in the field of defense industry.

Also, there was an important meeting with the President of the Defense Industry Agency of Türkiye, prof.dr. doctor Haluk Görgünku, where they discussed important topics in

the interest of the development of the defense industry in Kosovo.

In addition, the Deputy Minister of Defense also visited the Command of the Military Academy in Maltepe, where he met with the commander of the Academy and KSF cadets who are training and studying at the Academies of Türkiye. Deputy Minister Sylaj thanked the Commander of the Academy on behalf of the Ministry of Defense for the continuous support in the education and training of the members of the KSF. “Teknofest” is the largest aerospace and technology festival in Türkiye that is organized by the Turkish Technology Team Foundation and the Ministry of Industry and Technology and also supported by institutions that play a crucial role in Türkiye’s technological development.



## SOLDIERS FROM KOSOVO SHOW HIGH RESULTS AT MILITARY ACADEMY OF TÜRKIYE



Sec. Lieutenant Edison Murtezi has graduated with high success from the University of National Defense, near the Land Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Türkiye, as well as OR3 Sylejman Dalloshi has successfully completed the professional College of Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO), of the Land Forces. In the organized state ceremony, 937 officers from the Republic of Türkiye and 76 international officers from 15 countries graduated, among them Sec. Lieutenant Murtezi. They will return to the ranks of the KSF, to make their contribution to the establishment and professional advancement of the KSF. This training was carried out thanks to the cooperation that the Kosovo Security Force has with the Republic of Türkiye, where a large number of members have attended numerous trainings in various fields of military education.





## THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE RECEIVED ISG REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE USA

KSF officers and officials of the Ministry of Defense together with members of the American Institute for Security Governance have held joint meetings and activities with the aim of generating ideas about strategic concepts and documents on which the further development of the KSF will be based.

In the meeting of Minister Maqedonci with the ISG, were discussed some findings in this direction that require treatment and further development.

## THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE, SHEMSI SYLA, PARTICIPATED IN THE ISOA WORKSHOP “MOBILITY AND SECURITY”



Deputy Minister Sylla, accompanied by the director of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security of the Ministry of Defense, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, participated in the ISOA Mobility & Security Workshop.

On this occasion, Deputy Minister Sylla presented to the audience some of the progress and challenges of the Kosovo Security Force, where he emphasized that following the Comprehensive Transition Plan and with a 120 percent increase in the Defense budget, the dedicated work are guarantee of the development of the capacities and security of our country.

“Our geopolitical position and national objectives, which are closely related to those of the Ministry of Defense, strengthen

the possibility of cooperation in investments in Kosovo, offering a favorable environment for business. Our main goal remains NATO and EU membership. This is not only a political issue, but a commitment to democratic values’, Deputy Minister Sylla emphasized, among other things. Furthermore, he emphasized the readiness and need for cooperation with foreign investors, in order for Kosovo to become a regional center of the defense industry.





## SOLDIERS FROM JORDAN ARE TRAINED AT THE KSF INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

In the framework of the cooperation with Jordan, an army team from Jordan has carried out the three-week Urban Search and Rescue training at the International Training Center for Search and Rescue (ITCSR), of the

National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force. Present at the certification ceremony were the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shensi Sylja, the Commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, the director of ITCSR, John Doone, the American adviser to the Ministry of Defense, Thomas Niblock, as well as KSF officers. On this occasion, Deputy Minister Sylja highly appreciated the cooperation between the two armies, expressing readiness for the expansion and advancement of this cooperation in other areas of common interest.

The International Training Center for Search and Rescue of KSF continues the professional training of members from different countries of the world.



## NATIONAL BOSNIAKS DAY WAS CELEBRATED AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



On the National Day of Bosniaks - September 28, a round table was held today at the Ministry of Defense, attended by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Adnan Redzeplari, the Deputy

Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, the director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Peter Hammerstein, as well as officials and soldiers of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF from the Bosnian community. On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci congratulated all those present in the Bosnian community for this day and emphasized that the Republic of Kosovo has always focused on non-majority members and has strongly demonstrated that it supports all communities like no other country in the region of the Balkans and beyond, advancing them in all directions and creating a basis and legal mechanisms that protect their rights, interests and full integration in Kosovar society.





## KSF HONORES THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11

As a sign of honor and commemoration for the victims of the terrorist attack that happened 22 years ago in the United States of America, today in all the barracks of the Kosovo Security Force, soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers of Kosovo lined up, lowering the flags to half-mast, to be closer to the families of the American people as they were with us in the most difficult times.

## KSF MEMBERS COMPLETED THE SPECIAL FORCES COURSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



In the framework of the cooperation that the Kosovo Security Force has with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA), a contingent of the KSF has carried out training for Special Forces, in the premises of the Special Operations Regiment of AFRA, the completion ceremony took place of this course. This activity was attended by the commander of the Ground Forces, Brigadier General Ilir Xhebezha, high-ranking military personnel of the AFRA, representatives from the KSF and friends and family of the trainees. This course has prepared trainees as Special Forces operators with

all the tactical and psychological, professional, leadership and combat skills to be successful in the entire spectrum of special operations.

## COOPERATION BETWEEN KSF- AFRA

Within the framework of the bilateral cooperation plan in the field of defense between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, the Deputy Commander of the LC, Colonel Avdi Raci and his staff visited the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania for implementing the Twinning of units between the Logistics Command (LC/KSF) and the Support Command (SC/AFRA).

During the visit, they were welcomed by the Chief of Staff of AFRA, Major General Arben Kingji, where they discussed the areas of common interest in terms of logistics: transport, supply and maintenance, the advancement of reports and the creation of a joint plan for the twinning of units, such as and the realization of bilateral visits by both sides with the aim of identifying the requirements and needs that help in the development of logistic operational capacities.





## GENERAL JASHARI HOSTED SERGEANT MAJOR STEPHAN STIEBER ON A FAREWELL MEETING



The commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received in a farewell meeting the bilateral adviser for logistics, Sergeant Major Stephan Stieber, of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany.

During his service for several years in Kosovo as a Logistics Advisor, Stieber has worked closely with the KSF, helping to raise and advance the logistics capacities of the Kosovo Security Force, he has shown dedication, commitment and continuous support for the Force. of Kosovo Security, contributing to the strengthening and development of cooperation between the KSF and the German Army. General Jashari, respecting his work and commitment during the

period 2017-2023, has been decorated with the Selfless Service medal.

## KSF PART OF THE CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVE SERGEANT MAJORS OF NATO AND PARTNER COUNTRIES

KSF Sergeant Major Bedri Zuka represented the Kosovo Security Force at the conference of Sergeant Majors of NATO and partner countries that was being held in Norfolk, Virginia, USA.



The main purpose of the conference was the

preparation of the NATO directive for the development of the non-commissioned officer corps within the Alliance and the partner countries in increasing interoperability and effectiveness in carrying out tasks and fulfilling the mission.

Commander of the Alliance Transformation Command, General Philippe Lavigne and Commander of the Alliance Operations Command, General Christopher Cavoli during their speech emphasized the key role of the non-commissioned officer in fulfilling the Alliance mission and provided guidance on the development of the noncommissioned officer corps in the future in response to the demands of time and unpredictable and complex situations.



## AFRA'S TEAMS ARE TRAINED AT ITC SR



At the International Search and Rescue Center (ITRSR) in the “Young Europeans” Barracks in Pomozotin, a “Joint Exercise” was carried out with the Search and Rescue teams of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA) and the Search and Rescue team of the Security of Kosovo (KSF).

As part of this exercise, a competition was held between two AFRA teams and one KSF team, where the skills of cutting and breaking, search and rescue techniques and rope release from the tower were evaluated at the stations all the preparatory capacities of the Urban Rescue Search have been tested.

The Commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, congratulated the participants of both teams, asking them to continue to improve

their professional skills and pass them on to other members, in order to be as prepared as possible to go out in help citizens whenever and wherever required.

## BMATT TRAINS KSF MEMBERS



At the Training and Doctrine Command of and in Ferizaj, the Junior Commander Leadership Course (JCLC) that was carried out in the mountains of Jezerci, with the aim of developing command skills for the new leaders of the Kosovo Security Force, has been completed.

British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT) instructors, based in Vyškov, Czech Republic, provided theoretical knowledge and rich military experience, ensuring qualified and specialized

training for trainees. Through training in the difficult terrain of Jezerc, the trainees faced situations similar to those they might encounter in real missions, improving their tactical and leadership skills. In addition to the British BMATT instructors, 3 instructors from the Kosovo Security Force were also included in the training, creating a valuable and rich international cooperation in the sharing of knowledge and military experience.

