



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government
Ministria e Mbrojtjes
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CONFERENCE KSF AND PARTNERS 2023

KOSOVA IS OUR
COMMON SUCCESS

Prishtina, 25-27 October 2023



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Republic of Kosovo



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CONFERENCE

KSF AND PARTNERS 2023

**Kosova is our
common success**





OPENING REMARKS OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, MR. EJUP MAQEDONCI AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE "KSF AND PARTNERS 2023"

First of all, I would like to thank you for attending the 15th "KSF and Partners Conference".

You are a continuous part of the growth and development of our defense system and the Kosovo Security Force.

The Republic of Kosovo, the Ministry of Defense, and the KSF are determined to continue and increase cooperation with partners in order to shape the path toward integration in Euro-Atlantic institutions and NATO.

The role of partners in this regard is not just important but fundamental and crucial.

Despite threats from both global and regional stakeholders, and other challenges, our country continues to remain a trusted partner of the democratic world.

Kosovo is determined to contribute to peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Today, the world is facing security challenges caused by autocratic governments that are trying to reshape the world order in order to pursue their hegemonic interests.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and other conflicts in the world show how fragile the current security environment is.

Cooperation and interoperability between partners is more important than ever before in order to face old and new security challenges.

The importance of such cooperation in achieving operational success was proven recently in the northern part of our country.

On the 24th of September, organized paramilitary terrorist groups encouraged and supported by Serbian institutions, conducted a terrorist attack against Kosovo Police with the aim to seize the terrain and destabilize our country.

Thanks to the Kosovo Police's extraordinary professionalism, the excellent synchronization of instruments of national power, and well-coordinated efforts with partners, this blatant attack did not succeed. We protected our constitutional order, our sovereignty, and defended our territorial integrity.

However, we are fully aware that threat is still there, as long as 48 Serbian forward operational bases exist all along the border with Kosovo.

And, for as long as Serbia continues to have a hegemonic approach toward its' neighbors.

Let me stress, Kosovo, Will never be a threat to anyone! But we are prepared to be a friend to all.



Dear partners and participants of this conference, In recent years, Kosova has made great achievements in the development of security and defense capabilities.

In this regard, the support from the government of Kosova for the Kosovo Security Force played a very important role. Within two years the Budget for MoD and the KSF was increased by 120%.

We reviewed laws, drafted regulations, and worked on plans and strategic documents with the aim of enabling the KSF to accomplish its mission tasks and to achieve its objectives of the Comprehensive Transition Plan.

During the last two years, we almost doubled the number of military personnel, tripled investments in weapon systems, and participated in many joint and multinational exercises.

For the first time ever Kosova in its territory hosted part of the US-led exercises Defender Europe 21 and Defender Europe 23, and continues to participate in planning conferences for Defender Europe 25.

Moreover, the KSF deployed small units in the Middle East and Falkland Islands for operational training and peace support missions.

Early this year KSF specialized units were in Türkiye for Search and Rescue operations, where

they joined others in saving lives after a terrible earthquake.

We are especially proud of our Search and Rescue training center which is providing specialized training for partners and domestic operators.

We are also active in the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, and continually seek ways to make tangible contributions to this vital effort for freedom.

With the government and our partners' support, and the professionalism and dedication of the KSF members, today the Kosovo Security Force is seen by everyone as a highly credible and very professional force that represents the whole diversity of our country.

Dear partners,

I encourage your respective countries and armed forces to continue supporting us on our way towards developing and strengthening the KSF.

I assure you that our path directed to Euro-Atlantic integration will be unchangeable and MoD and the KSF will remain committed to contributing to peace and stability in the country, region, and beyond.





COMMANDER OF THE KSF, LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHKIM JASHARI AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE “KSF AND PARTNERS 2023”

It is a pleasure to be meeting with all of you and I thank you for the support you have as partner countries to the Kosovo Security Force.

KSF would not be here today if it wasn't for the continuous support from its allied countries through training, education and equipment.

The development of human capabilities of KSF remains one of its biggest achievements. Additionally, your support remains critical in advancing logistics, infrastructure and in weapon systems.

As you know, Kosovo Security Force is continuing its path in alignment with the Comprehensive Transition Plan and we are currently in phase two. My focus is the development of the Land Force capabilities.

I ask for your support in this matter since by exercising and training together we increase each others' readiness and interoperability against the rising security threats.

I am certain that you, as military representatives, are informed about the terrorist attack that occurred on the 24th of September in the Republic of Kosovo.

KSF together with the Ministry of Defense has been in close coordination with all the domestic and international security institutions in Kosovo.

The recent attack, as well as the security developments around the world, are a clear sign that KSF should always be ready to accomplish its constitutional and legal mandate.

As a Force we are led by the euro-Atlantic values and we are building an inter-operable force with NATO and partner countries.

Therefore, your support remains critical in this phase: be it in the development of capabilities as well supporting our efforts to become a member of PfP and in our ultimate goal, becoming a NATO member.

I thank you for your support and participation.
We are stronger together!



THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATO ADVISORY AND LIAISON TEAM (NALT) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE, BRIGADIER GENERAL RALF HAMMERSTEIN

This meeting is timely, as NATO remains fully committed to play its part in support to lasting security in Kosovo and stability across the region, especially against the backdrop of the recent tensions that we all have seen.

As many of you may know, NATO is currently engaged in Kosovo through two distinct pillars: KFOR is one pillar, as mandated by the UNSC Resolution 1244.

The second pillar, support for capacity building efforts, is carried out by my team – the NALT – We are a team of approximately 50 civilians and military personnel representing 13 Allies and local staff. We have a wide range of expertise, from medical capabilities to explosive ordinance disposal.

As directed by the North Atlantic Council, our mission is to provide advice and assistance to support the further development of the 2 security organizations in Kosovo focusing on capacity building, education, and training coordination.

Regarding the KSF, we support the development of a professional, multi-ethnic force abiding by the

principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

Our advice is provided only on the basis of the original KSF mandate. This mandate includes crisis response, assistance to civilian authorities in responding to natural disasters and emergencies, explosive ordinance disposal, and civilian protection.

We cannot work outside of this mandate, but there is plenty of work for us to do.

Despite of the transition process ongoing, the KSF National Guard is still required to prepare for, and provide support to the civilian authorities in emergencies and explosive ordinance disposal. We continue to work closely with the KSF and the civilian structure overseeing the KSF to develop these functions.

As the KSF grows, the need for effective sustainment functions increases. We support the development of procurement, budgeting, medical, and logistics functions as a means of ensuring that the KSF can carry out its emergency response responsibilities. It is important that the transition





does not neglect the maintenance of these core force sustainment functions.

The KSF must strive, more than ever, to reflect the multi-ethnic composition of Kosovo. The NALT supports this effort by encouraging best practice in recruitment procedures.

Despite changes to the KSF mandate, our focus on supporting the development of an effective and democratic civilian structure overseeing the KSF has not changed. Our advisors assist this institution in developing procedures for doctrine development, planning, organizational development, and legislative drafting, in accordance with the KSF's original mandate.

My team work shoulder to shoulder with their Kosovo counterparts on a daily basis at a range of levels. We can be found out at the search and rescue Centre, TRADOC, or even in conference rooms conducting workshops.

I would like to take this time to thank our counterparts. We have developed constructive and open relationships at all levels. I would particularly

note the valuable support from the senior leadership in the KSF and the civilian structure overseeing the KSF. I have developed a strong personal relationship with many of you.

We also recognize the important role played by individual Allies and partners in developing the security organizations in Kosovo. In many cases, these activities complement our own. Our intention is always to complement your work. I know that many of my team work effectively alongside you to deliver results.

Enhanced coordination of our activities can only lead to better results. I would encourage partners to coordinate closely with the NALT in order to avoid duplication and full complimentary of efforts.

I hope that many of you will work with our advisor to help orientate cooperation to our collective priorities.

I also thank those NATO Allies and Partners for their direct support to my team. We are very fortunate to have so many experienced personnel working for us.





AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, H.E. MR. JEFFREY M. HOVENIER AT THE KSF PARTNER'S CONFERENCE

The U.S. government is committed to supporting the KSF's development both through NATO and through bilateral, U.S. – Kosovo assistance.

In the bilateral context, one of our strategic priorities is to support the KSF's 10-year transition plan into a professional, multi-ethnic, NATO-interoperable force capable of executing the territorial defense mission, subject to civilian oversight.

For over four years, we have pursued this goal in accordance with the KSF's Comprehensive Transition Plan.

Consequently, we have achieved together a number of security assistance milestones just this past year, a few of which, I would like to highlight here today: First, the KSF has participated in 6 U.S. Army Europe exercises and competitions. This robust participation ultimately resulted in the validation of the KSF's 1st Infantry regiment.

Over the past year, we provided 24 million dollars in assistance funds to train and equip personnel at the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.

One example of our training efforts was a U.S. military mobile training team visit to Ferizaj, where they supported the development of Infantry Basic

and Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) courses at the KSF's Training and Doctrine Command.

Additionally, 47 KSF officers received Professional Military Education at U.S. military schools alongside their U.S. counterparts, developing both the skills and networks that will make them more effective leaders and deepen our bilateral partnership.

In coordination with our German partners, we also sent 23 Kosovan leaders and professionals to the George C Marshall European Center for Security Studies in order to further deepen our strong ties and cooperation in the area of Defense.

And we have either already funded or will soon fund a total 5 advisors in the fields of Strategic Communications, Intelligence, Acquisitions, Cybersecurity, and Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution. These experts are on the ground here, providing insights into best practices and helping to advance Kosovo's capacity across sectors.

I would be remiss if did not highlight and praise the excellent relationship between Kosovo and Iowa – a relationship that began with our National Guard





state partnership program.

This Iowa-Kosovo partnership has resulted in 26 mil-to-mil engagements (and counting) which take place in both countries, but it goes beyond just mil-to-mil engagements.

In fact, President Osmani is traveling to Iowa this week, where I know she will be reinforcing this strong relationship in a number of sectors.

Despite its small size, the MoD has taken its position on the global security stage by becoming a regular participant at the Ukraine Defense Contact Group.

I also want to acknowledge that during the September 24 attack on Kosovo's sovereignty and

security in the north of Kosovo by an armed and equipped group of paramilitary assailants, the KSF and the MoD demonstrated their professional maturity, highlighting their reputation as reliable security partners by avoiding provocative rhetoric and refraining from actions that would have resulted in further escalation.

I'd like to recognize everyone here for your role in stabilizing the situation.

I look forward to continuing the path Kosovo embarked upon years ago with strong support from the United States to complete the Comprehensive Transition Plan.





DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, UK EMBASSY KOSOVO, MR. PAUL O'CONNOR

I am privileged to be here and to represent the UK at this conference, on behalf of our Ambassador who is travelling this week, and alongside colleagues who are visiting from our Ministry of Defence in London. The UK is very proud of our strong bilateral relationship with Kosovo. This now covers a very broad range of shared interests and people-to-people connections – but it was founded on the security and defence partnership that we built together during and after the NATO intervention in 1999.

This partnership feels particularly important now, with renewed tensions and concerns about security particularly in northern Kosovo. I'm glad that the UK was able to deploy the strategic reserve force very quickly to provide Commander KFOR with additional resilience. I hope this has helped to stabilise the situation in the north, and am delighted that UK troops are engaged in the important work of patrolling the border alongside Kosovo Police. I also want to commend the Police operation

following the attack on 24 September, and the responsible and restrained approach demonstrated by the KSF which helped to prevent the situation from escalating further.

In recent years our partnership with the KSF has continued to grow, both through our support to NATO's Advisory and Liaison Team to which we provide the Deputy Director, and through direct bilateral engagement. This has involved capacity-building support, joint training deployments overseas to promote interoperability and the KSF's development towards NATO standards, the KSF's offer to help train Ukrainian soldiers in the UK through Operation Interflex, and continued participation of KSF officers in our defence education courses in the UK. Our former alumni remain a key part of our relationship with the KSF, and military education in the UK will remain a principal component of our offer.



THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE TO KOSOVO, H.E. MR. SABRI TUNÇ ANGILI

I am happy to take part in this conference which displays strong commitment of our allies to sustain peace and stability in Kosovo. As a Balkan country, Türkiye gives special importance to achieve lasting stability across our region.

As of October 2023, Türkiye assumed the KFOR Commandership. This is another strong indication of our commitment to contributing security both in Kosovo and the entire region.

We have deep rooted bonds with all Balkan nations including Kosovo. These bonds define our policy towards the Balkans. In our view, strong and independent Kosovo reinforces peace and stability across the region. That is why, we will continue to support Kosovo Security Force within the NATO framework and on the basis of our bilateral agreements.

In this respect, we will always remember the sacrifice and professionalism displayed by the KSF search and rescue team in saving lives within the earthquake region of my country. This shows us all that enhancing capacity of KSF is good not only for Kosovo but for its partners as well.

Agreements on Military Financial Cooperation (latest in 2019) between Türkiye and Kosovo play crucial role for our support to Kosovo Security Force through military grants. So far, Türkiye has provided more than 14 million US dollars worth military equipment to Kosovo Security Force.

Every year roughly 60 KSF members are receiving military trainings in Türkiye. More than 500 KSF staff, including first military doctors and helicopter pilots of Kosovo, have already received trainings in Türkiye in that regard. Additionally, hundreds of KSF staff have been trained by Turkish military training teams in Kosovo. Agreement of Military Health Cooperation between Türkiye and Kosovo (2014) paved the way for 50 KSF personnel and their families to receive medical treatment in Türkiye every year.

We are also pleased with the ongoing high-level visits between our Defence Ministries and military authorities. This helps us to strengthen our defence cooperation. I want to express my gratitude to Minister Maqedonci and his team for their hospitality extended towards Turkish Minister of Defense during his visit on 16-17 October.

Before concluding, I want to underscore our strong commitment to Kosovo's vision for Euro-Atlantic integration and support Kosovo's NATO membership as its strategic goal. We also wish to see full normalization between Kosovo and Serbia through the dialogue process.

The future of Kosovo is bright. Türkiye would always be a reliable partner for Kosovo in building this future.



THE AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, H.E. MR. JOERN ROHDE

Let me underline first: Germany is and continues to be a strong and reliable partner of Kosovo since independence in all fields - in that regard we fully support the KSF's transformation process.

KSF are one of Bw's closest cooperation partners with a very large number of bilateral cooperation measures per year which are - I'd like to underline here today- are also exceptionally successful. For this reason, we will further intensify the cooperation between the MoD KSF and the

German MoD in the future, e.g. through future joint exercises in DEU and KOS.

Germany will continue to support the KSF in the future as part of the Bundeswehr's upgrade initiative; the future focus will be the SARITC – details to be discussed with our MilAtt.

Germany strongly supports Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic ambitions with the aim of full membership in both – NATO and EU – in the future.





CHIEF OF STAFF, HQ KFOR BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN BOZICEVIC

As the Chief of Staff of the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR), I am honored to serve with 27 nations that share with Kosovo -- a “commitment to support peace and security in the region.” In 1999, KFOR was established in Kosovo under the mandate of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. KFOR is an impartial force with the primary goal of ensuring a Safe and Secure Environment and Freedom of Movement in Kosovo. Since the KSF was established, KFOR has supported KSF development and activities under the original mandate with a focus on civil protection operations such as explosive ordnance disposal, search and rescue, hazardous materials response, firefighting, and medical support. As the KSF has evolved, KFOR has continued to support KSF development. Examples of training in the last four months include

medical evacuation, search and rescue, mass casualty response, medical support, EOD, English language classes, K9 dog handler, unit training management, leadership development, military vehicle drivers' course, plus engineer and construction capabilities. Over the next six-months, joint KSF-KFOR training plans include NCO and officer leadership, staff training, the military decision making process (MDMP), first aid, MEDEVAC, and the Sergeants Major Academy. Looking to the future, KFOR seeks to maintain and strengthen cooperation with the Kosovo Security Force as the government institutions in Kosovo continue the pursuit of dialogue to achieve international cooperation, Euro-Atlantic integration, and lasting peace in Kosovo.



DEFENSE ATTACHES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE



Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Netherlands, Colonel Enver Voca
Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Germany, Lieutenant Colonel Besim Gashi
Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in the United Kingdom, Colonel Agron Bajrami
Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Türkiye, Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu
Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Albania, Colonel Enver Hoti
Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in USA, Colonel Berat Shala
Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Croatia, Lieutenant Colonel Shpend Zogaj



DEFENSE ATTACHES FROM PARTNER COUNTRIES

ALB



Altin KURTI
Colonel
Defence Attache

CRO



Stjepan DOMJANČIĆ,
Colonel
Defense Attaché

GER



Franz- Josef NOLTE
Lieutenant Colonel
Defense Attaché

NL



Jurgen FLEISCHMANN
Lieutenant Colonel
NLD Defence Attaché
(travelling) for Kosovo

TUR



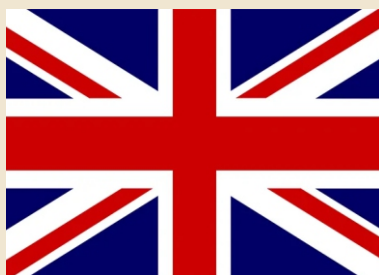
Ç.Akif KAHRAMAN
Colonel
Military Attache

USA



Darrick MOSLEY
Colonel
Defense Attache and Senior
Defense Official

UK



Mathew WALKER
Lieutenant Colonel
Defense Attaché

FRA



Nicolas COUSSIÈRE
Colonel
Defense Attaché

ITA



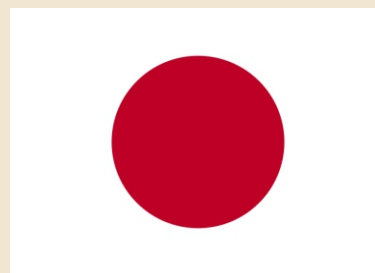
Stefano ANGIONI
Colonel
Defense Attaché

CZECH



Radim JONÁŠ
Colonel
Defence Attaché

JPN



Saito TOMU
Colonel
Defence Attaché





PRESENTATIONS DURING THE CONFERENCE



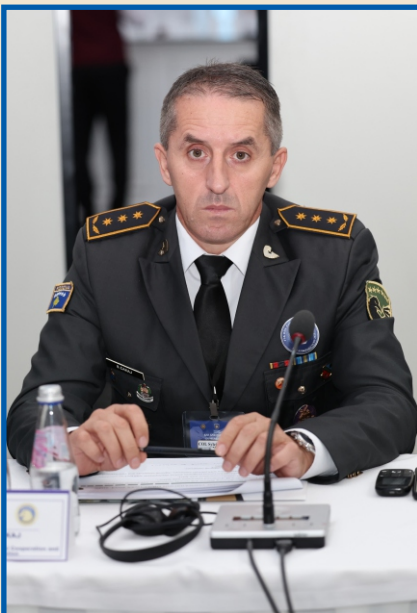
Moderator of the Conference,
Major Mentor Ibrahimimi



Strategic Objectives and Goals for 2024-2026
Mr. Faruk Geci, Defense Policy Director at the MoD



Kosovo Security Force Development and Current and Future Operations
Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi
Chief of Staff of the KSF
General Staff and Colonel Astrit Haliti
Chief of G3/7 General Staff



International Defense Cooperation
Colonel Sylejman Cakaj
Director of Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration



MoD / KSF Transition process and way ahead
Colonel Bekim Osmani
Director of the Department for Transformation and Modernization at the MoD



Security Situation and Intelligence Brief
Capitan Shpetim Ujkani,
Intelligence and Security Officer at the MoD



THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, "KSF AND PARTNERS 2023" WAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY



The Ministry of Defense and the KSF General Staff held the annual international conference "KSF and partners 2023", under the motto "Kosovo is our common success".

The conference's leading panel was attended by: Defense Minister Ejup Maqedonci, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Deputy Defense Ministers Shemsi Sylja and Adnan Jagcilar, Deputy Secretary General of the MoD, Gafurr Dugolli, director of the Department for Intelligence and Security, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, Inspector General of the KSF, Major General Irfete Spahiu, Chief of Staff of the General Staff, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Peter Hammerstein, Chief of KFOR Headquarters, John Bozicevic, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kreshnik Ahmeti, KSF's senior officers and attaches, as well as ambassadors, defense attaches and diplomatic and military representatives of all partner countries of the Republic of Kosovo.

Minister Ejup Maqedonci thanked the participants for participating in this conference, where he stressed that the Republic of Kosovo, the Ministry of Defense and the KSF are determined to continue and increase cooperation with partners, to shape the path towards integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions and NATO and that the role of partners in this regard is not only important, but fundamental and decisive.

He stressed that the importance of such cooperation in achieving operational success was recently witnessed in the northern part of our country, where on September 24, an organized paramilitary terrorist groups, encouraged and supported by

Serbian institutions, carried out a terrorist attack against Kosovo Police, with the aim of seizing the ground and destabilizing our country.

While in his speech, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari said that the KSF would not have the achievements without the support of our partner countries, through trainings, education and equipment.

General Jashari stressed that the recent attack on September 24, as well as security developments in the world, are clear indications that the KSF must always be ready to carry out its constitutional and legal mission.

General Jashari reiterated that the support of partner countries remains crucial at this stage, both in terms of capacity building as well as in our efforts for PfP membership and our ultimate goal, NATO membership.

The objectives of the conference "KSF and Partners 2023" are to inform the partners about the strategic goals and objectives and development plan of the KSF 2024-2026, synchronize bilateral activities with partner countries, increase bilateral and multilateral cooperation and inform on the achievements of the MoD/KSF during 2023.

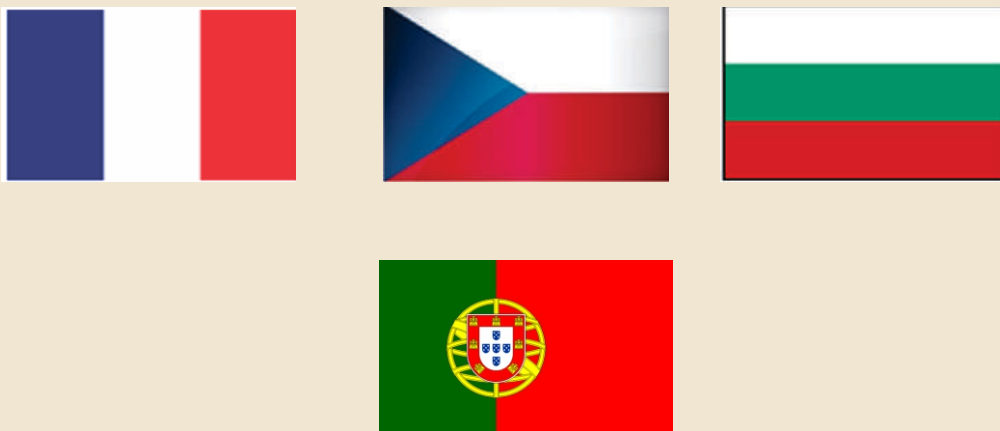




CURRENT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS



IN PROGRESS



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Within the framework of the Conference “KSF and Partners 2023”, our guests from the partner countries had the opportunity to conduct a visit at the KSF EOD Demining Unit where they were briefed in details about the activities they have.

After this visit, the partners had a chance to visit the beautiful city of Prizren.





ULPIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Our guests from the partner countries also visited our cultural heritage monument, the Ulpiana Archaeological Park.



Ulpiana is a cultural heritage monument in Gracanica, Kosovo, a Roman city founded at the beginning of the II century by Emperor Trajan. Archaeological excavations have given traces of pre-Roman life, and Ulpiana is an Illyrian city. Ulpiana was an important place for the Dardanian Kingdom. The town was located near the current Lipjan town in Kosovo.

[Visit Kosovo - Ulpiana Archaeological Park \(rks-gov.net\)](http://rks-gov.net)



THE WORKING GROUP THAT ORGANIZED THE 2023 KSF AND PARTNERS CONFERENCE

The conference "KSF and Partners 2023" was implemented with a complete success. Such a success was achieved thanks to a professional dedication of the staff of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force.

From left to right: Mr. Avni Dakaj, MAJ Nysret Buzhala, Mr. Ilir Mujota, Mrs. Edona Abazi Zylfijaj, COL Sefer Shyti, Mrs. Dafina Myrtaj Gashi, LTC Bexhet Shala, Mrs. Kimete Beqiri Gashi, MAJ Mentor Ibrahim, Mr. Besart Prebreza.





KSF AND PARTNERS
CONFERENCE 2022

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