Dear,

We are starting the monthly electronic communication together with a wish to be a good year for all of us, peace and understanding. In order to have a better coordination on development of policy for full integration of communities in our Institutions, I received for a meeting delegation of Assembly’s members from communities ranges of Republic of Kosovo Assembly. Concerning this matter, as Ministry and the KSF have achieved excellent results, exactly at the beginning of this year is reached 10% of overall number of members to be integrated in the KSF mentioning the fact that, at about 40 community members from north already have join the KSF whereas from other regions of Kosovo integration of all communities and Serbian as well, occurred since establishment of the KSF.

On the occasion of appointment of resident Attaché from Republic of Albania to Republic of Kosovo, I was honored to host Albanian Ambassador and Officer for an introduction meeting. Minister, also, hosted for a visit expert of Norway Kingdom, Svein Eriksen from Ministry of Defense of Norway Kingdom where it was talked for cooperation between both Ministries specifically on drafting of Integration Plan for Ministry for Kosovo Security Force. Whereas Commander of the KSF despite overloaded engagements attended International Forum at NATO Air Force Command, as well, at invitation of Europe American Army Commander, Major General Timothy McGuire took part at International Forum of Combating Fire at NATO Air Force Command in Germany. Also, General Rama attended ceremony of Command changing of Europe American Army in Wisbaden of Germany as well in Vienna is held meeting “Assessment of sensitive positions from risk of corruption phenomena” organized by Integrity Center in the defense section of Ministry of Defense of Norway Kingdom.

In this case I want to inform you for numerous successes of our officers abroad, at schools, trainings and in various competitions. This months are sent two more new officers for training in United Kingdom. Also, KFOR Chief of Staff, BG.Randy Powell, with collaborators and a delegation from U. S Command to Europe leaded by Col.Chuck Crosby and Captain Mark Hall have visited Demining Coordination Center. The KSF humanitarian operations for good of citizens are still a priority for the KSF. Thus, specialized Unit of Water Search and Rescue after two –weeks searching operation managed to find the lifeless body of 82 years old, Mustafë Haxhia, who fell in Erenik river of Gjakova dated 06.01.2018. The KSF, also has conducted an operation for evacuation of students blocked due to snow falls from Prevalla to Gjakova. Together with the KSF Commander, KFOR Commander as well local leadership and civilian local citizens attended reopening bridge ceremony over Sitnica River in Mitrovica after carrying out repair work and reconstruction from The KSF Engineering Battalion in cooperation with KFOR.

In frame of the KSF and KFOR cooperation for two weeks at Bondsteel Camp, Force Police of the Kosovo Security Force conducted training, Law Enforcement in Military Police”. This training was provided by American Military Police Instructors.

Sincerely,
Rrustem Berisha

Minister of KSF
Wednesday 10 Jan 2018 – Commander of the KSF, LTG.Rrahman Rama and his Military Advisor from United Kingdom, LTC. Gregor Lindsay have greeted the three new KSF Officers, Second Lieutenant Besfort Kurteshi, Eugen Thaçi and Lieutenant, Ismail Hoxha who left for a professional training at the most prestigious Academies based in United Kingdom.

The KSF officers going for professional training in United Kingdom marks another successful year of very good relations with army of United Kingdom and Kosovo Security Force (KSF).

Second Lieutenant, Besfort Kurteshi will be a part of Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst. This is the 18th candidate of the KSF to be educated in this Military Academy. In Sandhurst, Kurteshi will serve together with over 100 future leaders, members from army of the United Kingdom and armies of the other countries.

Whilst, Sc. Lt. Eugen Thaçi will be staying in Edinburgh of Scotland for a pre-training which is under Infantry Training School. Sc.Lt. Thaçi will be engaged in studying of tactic of the British Army and learn how to use the British equipment in weather conditions of Scottish winter. After this challenging training Thaçi will be going to Wells, where he will be the second officer of the KSF to conduct Combat Course for the Platoon Commander.
KFOR Chief of Staff visited Demining Coordination Center in MKSF

Thursday, 11th January 2018. Today, in Ministry for Kosovo Security Force (MKSF) stayed for an official visit Chief of Staff of KFOR, BG. Randy Powell with collaborators. He was received by Director of Demining Coordination Center, Mr. Ahmet Sallova and senior officer Agron Haziri. During meeting both parties highly appreciated up to date cooperation among the EOD Units of the KSF and the EOD of KFOR considering this cooperation as quite useful while conducting duties of the EOD. Also, it is discussed possibility to arrange a joint exercise for medical evacuation during the demining operation. On his side, KFOR Chief of Staff, General Randy Powell was pleased with progress achieved so far with demining operations and at the same time promised that the KFOR will continue to provide needed support for the KSF Units and other organizations involved in clearing of mining areas.

KSF Minister Rrustem Berisha hosted a delegation of deputies from ranges of communities

Thursday, 11 January 2018. Today, Minister Rrustem Berisha received a delegation from the communities led by Veton Berisha, deputy of the Assembly of Kosovo, Bashkim Krasniqi, Deputy Minister of the Ministry Local Government Administration (MLGA), Isa Osmani Advisor to the Prime Minister and Arlind Zogaj member of the KSF. Minister Berisha thanked the delegation for the first visit to the Ministry of KSF and at the same time informed them about the overall achievements of the KSF, the current activities as well as the plans for the development of the KSF and its transformation into the Kosovo Armed Forces. He also informed them with the KSF’s representation, emphasizing the members of the Egyptian and Ashkali communities, who with great responsibility carry out the overall tasks and are an example of cooperation and good conduct amongst the KSF.

The deputy of the Assembly of Kosovo, Veton Berisha, on behalf of the delegation that he represented, thanked Minister Berisha for the reception and congratulated him on the overall work and achievements, expressing the prospect of the formation of the Kosovo Armed Forces. During the meeting was discussed about the possibility of involving members of the Egyptian and Ashkali communities in the ranks of the KSF.

Minister Rrustem Berisha hosted Ambassador Qemal Minxhozi and MilitaryAttaché, Col. Ahmet Leka

Friday, 12 Jan 2018. Minister for Kosovo Security Force, Mr. Rrustem Berisha, today, hosted in an official meeting, Ambassador of Republic of Albania in Pristina, Qemal Minxhozi and Military Attaché of Republic of Albania, Col. Ahmet Leka accredited as resident attaché in Republic of Kosovo. Minister Berisha, on this occasion informed Ambassador Minxhozi with overall achievements of MKSF and the KSF as well thanked for excellent cooperation among the Ministry for Kosovo Security Force and Ministry of Defense of Rep. of Albania. Also, Minister Berisha spoke on the transformation process of the KSF into Kosovo Armed Forces. Minister Berisha with Ambassador Minxhozi even talked about mutual cooperation in the area of
education and training for the KSF members in Rep. of Albania and members of the Albania Armed Forces in Kosovo concerning SAR Training Center in Pomozotin and the KSF University Center where, also, study cadets form Rep. of Albania as well talked on enlargement of cooperation in all areas of joint interest. Whereas, Military Attaché, Col. Ahmet Leka congratulated for the new assignment by offering his cooperation to him and the Ministry of KSF. Ambassador of Republic of Albania in Kosovo, Mr. Minxhozi on this occasion thanked Minister Berisha, Commander of the KSF and the KSF itself for a quick respond in Rep. of Albania after flooding where they provided help to the Albania’s citizens. He mentioned that this cooperation is of interest not only of two countries but in interest of peace and security in region and wider.

**Commander of KSF took part at International Forum in Air Force Command NATO**


Attended military representatives of twenty membership countries of NATO where was discussed about the new trendies of technology firefighting, indirect fire interoperability in combating areas as well lessons learned from current operations.

On this case Commander of KSF, General Rama has thanked representatives of U. S Army for constant support and overall opportunities received by strategic partners in a good of promotion and professional development of the KSF.

**There is held a meeting “Assessment of sensitive positions from corruption phenomena threat” in Vienna**

Monday, 15 Jan 2018. In frame of project implementation process “Building Integrity in MKSF and the KSF”, in Vienna is held meeting on subject “Assessment of sensitive positions from corruption phenomena threat”, organized by Centre for Integrity in the Defense Sector- CIDS Ministry of Defense of Norway.

Attended: Ministry for KSF, General Secretary, Mr. Shkelzen Sylaj and Commander of KSF, LTG. Rahman Rama; representative from Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, meeting was attended by representative of CIDS, Mr. Sven Eriksen, subject matter.
r expert from Kosovo Mr. Florian Qehaja as well regional experts.

Minister and Commander of the KSF paying homage in honor of martyrs in Reçak

Monday, 15 January 2018. Minister Rrustem Berisha and KSF commander, Lt. Gen. Rrahman Rama together with senior staff of MKSF / KSF, today participated in the 19th anniversary of the massacre of Reçak. In the Memorial Complex they place flowers and pay homage to the cemetery honoring all the martyrs fallen for freedom. Minister Berisha and Commander of the KSF, General Rama, during the visit to the Memorial Complex, met the present citizens of Racak, to whom they expressed their condolences and, at the same time, the pride of their family members, highly appreciating the sacrifice of the fallen of Reçak. Minister Berisha among others said that "The freedom that we enjoy today and the independence of Kosovo have roots in the blood of martyrs, martyrs and all those who fall for the independent state of Kosovo".

Professional courses started at Doctrine and Training Command

Tuesday, 16 January 2018. Today, at the "Skenderbeu" barracks of the Doctrine and Training Command (TRADOC) of the KSF in Ferizaj, was held the ceremony of beginning courses for the KSF members for the academic year 2018. Attended: Deputy Minister Burim Ramadani, Commander of the KSF, Lt. Gen. Rrahman Rama, Commander of TRADOC, Brigadier General Enver Cikaqi, Deputy Commander of KFT, BG. Gezim Hazrolli, Deputy Commander of KFOR, BG. Janos Csombok, US Attaché Colonel Jeffrey Fischer and senior officers and members of the KSF.

On behalf of Minister, Rrustem Berisha, the ceremony was welcomed by Deputy Minister Burim Ramadani,
who commended the KSF for the overall achievements during 2017, expressing his commitment to advancement, establishment, training and professionalization of security institutions for all citizens of Kosovo. "Today's event is a great step for witnessing the success of the KSF. Our Ministry is in full support of each field, including support for the Training and Doctrine Command in advancing its professional work, training program and capacity building. "added Deputy Minister Ramadani. In addition to his speech, he said that "The Government of Kosovo and the MKSF are working with dedication in the successful completion of the transformation process of the KSF into the Armed Forces of Kosovo, thus offering a special value opportunity for regional security and beyond."

Albanian military attaché Colonel Ahmet Leka visited the TRADOC


At the meeting held together talking about the achievements of the KSF and the ways of cooperation and support in the future. General Cikaqi informed Colonel Leka about the challenges that have passed the TRADOC since its founding so far and for the advancement of TRADOC. He also thanked Colonel for the assistance provided by the Republic of Albania in the professional development of the TRADOC members through the provision of training and cooperation in various fields.

General Cikaqi and Colonel Leka pledged to continue cooperation and identification of the needs of both parties in the future.
**KSF Commander Participates in Command Change of US Army to Europe**

Thursday, 18 January 2018. The commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Lieutenant General Rrahman Rama, attended the changing ceremony of the commander of the US Army Command Europe, which was held in Wisbaden, Germany, whereby Lieutenant General Christofer G. Cavoli took over the task of the commander.

Lieutenant General Rrahman Rama, on this occasion met the US commander for Europe, General Curtis Scaparrotti. General Rama during the meeting informed General Scaparrotti about recent developments in Kosovo, as well as the overall progress of the KSF, with particular emphasis on the integration of members of non-majority communities in the KSF.

Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Rrahman Rama, on this occasion assured General Scaparrotti and our strategic partners that the KSF will continue to be of all Kosovo citizens, with no ethnic differences and dedicated to continue the good cooperation with KFOR and all other security institutions "

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**The KSF finds the lifeless body of Mustafa Haxhia on the Erenik River**

Friday, January 19, 2018. Today, at around 11.30am, the KSF's Specialized Search and Rescue Unit managed to find the lifeless body of 82-year-old Mustafa Haxhia, who had fallen to the Erenik River in Gjakova, on 06.01.2018.
The KSF Search and Rescue Teams, after receiving information that a person had disappeared in the waters of the Erenik River in Gjakova, engaged in the search for his body and after a search along the 9 km long river course, to find the dead body of the deceased, in the sixth kilometers of the Erenik River flow. The carcass was handed over to the Kosovo Police.

In this operation were also engaged the Emergency Directorate of the Municipal Assembly of Gjakova, Kosovo Police, a medical emergency team of the Gjakova hospital and the firefighters of Gjakova.

**KSF evacuates pupils from Prevalla**

**Sunday, 21 January 2018.** After assessing and reviewing the Brezovica area for any possible isolated people or blocked by snow, KSF crises reaction liaison unit has received additional information regarding a group of students walking on foot towards the Prevalla. Around 22:00hrs 19 students, from Gjakova were identified. These students stranded were supported by KSF unit, who provided transportation for them from Prevalla to Gjakova. This group of students were rejoined with their families in Gjakova around 03:00hrs in the morning. This operation was carried out by members of crises reaction liaison unit of KSF operation support brigade.

**A US command delegation visited KSF demining coordination center**

A delegation of US command in Europe lead by colonel Chuck Crosby and captain Mark Hall, was for a visit in the demining coordination center in the ministry for Kosovo Security force. Delegation was hosted by the director of this center Mr. Ahmet Sallova and high official Agron Haziri.

In this occasion, director Sallova briefed guest on the progress achieved in terms of cleaning areas with mines and unexploded ordinances in the republic of Kosovo, about the actual demining assets and resources, as well as plans ahead for cleaning the remaining areas. Furthermore they discussed about challenges and the way ahead of demining operations.
**Blood donation activity commences in KSF**

**Wednesday, 24 January 2018.** In line with the 2018 action plan of Directory for Plans and Polices, respectively department for civil-military cooperation and MKSF Medical Department, and in coordination with national blood transfusion center in Kosovo, today, here in the Ministry for Kosovo Security Force commenced humanitarian blood donation activity. Many KSF members and civilians of MKSF responded positively to this call.

The KSF already has a tradition of organizing humanitarian actions for voluntary blood donation, with the motto "a drop of blood for the salvation of a life".

Among the first respondents to this humanitarian action was Deputy Minister of MKSF, Burim Ramadani and many senior officers and civil staff of the Ministry.

Deputy Minister Ramadani on this occasion said: "The KSF always responds not only to organized blood donation but also whenever there is a need and individual calls for assistance including blood donation."

The humanitarian action on blood donation within the KSF is carried out in two stages within the year.
Wednesday, 24 January 2018. Minister of Kosovo Security Force Rrustem Berisha and commander of Kosovo security force Lt General Rahman Rama spoke highly and decorated with medal Major Jodi Marti, officer for bilateral affairs from ODC, after successful completion of her duty in MKSF. Minister Berisha thanked Major Marti for her two-year work and commitment to the Kosovo Security Force and appreciated her dedication in raising the professionalism of members of the KSF, its impact on the donations given to the KSF, and in advancing co-operation with Iowa. General Rama in his speech said that the purpose of this cocktail was our thanks to Jodi Marti’s work and contribution for Kosovo and especially for the KSF. Even the motto "All of Kosovo all of Iowa" means that everything that has to do with Kosovo has to do with Iowa too. The best bilateral cooperation we have is that with Iowa, thanks to the tireless work of US officers, where part of them is no doubt Major Jodi. Thanks Jodi. Wishing you success in the future. You are part of our history", said General Rama, citing also cooperation not only in the field of security but also in other areas. General Rama awarded Jodi Marti a "medal for selfless service". Major Jodi Marty expressed her satisfaction for the whole organization that the minister and the commander had prepared for. She underlined that the key to this good cooperation is the constant interest in working together.
Semestral training 2018” is conducted

Monday, 29 January 2018. The cadets of the University Studies Center held semester training for 2018.

According to preliminary planning, USC cadets have been divided into two groups:

The first group: Fourth generation cadets - generation 2018, have conducted visits to KSF units to closely inform about the mission, structure, tasks, training, organization and operation of these units. This visit through the units of the KSF was very welcome and fruitful for cadets who are on the verge of graduation and promotion as Force officers.

Second group: Including cadets of three other generations, who have implemented in practice those knowledge they learned during the last semester of academic year 2016/2017 at USC. Based on the USC curriculum, cadets were trained and assessed according to their level; first year cadets were trained and tested mainly on tactical movements and team-level operations; those of the second year are advanced up to the team level; while third-year cadets were trained and valued mainly in drafting Operational Commands through the implementation of the troops leading procedures at the level of the platoon.

This training was carried out in the Training and Training Commands of the Doctrine and Training Command in Ferizaj, under severe weather conditions and low temperatures, in order to provide the best physical, mental and professional preparation of the Cadets Corps of USC.
Cooperation with our partners from MNB-E, Bondsteel this time was excellent. They provided cooperation in the planning and practical implementation of medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) by helicopter. This was a new and very welcome experience for most USC cadets.

Brigadier General Kirk E. Van Pelt
Assistant to General Staff of the Arkansas National Guard visits TRADOC


On this occasion, General Cikaqi informed the US delegation with the mission, duties and achievements of the TRADOC as well as the current cooperation with the US military, with special emphasis on US soldiers in Bondstill.

KSF and KFOR inaugurated the restored bridge over the Sitnica River in Mitrovica

Tuesday, 30 January 2018. The Minister of the Kosovo Security Force, Mr. Rrustem Berisha, Commander of the KSF, Lt. Gen. Rahman Rama, KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci as well as local leaders and other citizens participated in the reopening ceremony of the bridge over the Sitnica River in Mitrovica, after carrying out the works for repair and reconstruction of the KSF Battalion of the KSF in cooperation with KFOR.

On this occasion, Minister Rrustem Berisha said that the Kosovo Security Force is witnessing more and more of its capacities within its mission is ready and able to plan and realize in its entirety infrastructure projects that facilitate life of citizens as well as enable the free movement of people, vehicles and goods throughout the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.
KFOR Commander Major General Salvatore Couci said that the KSF is a force of all citizens of Kosovo, and that we are proud of their work and the professionalism shown. Among other things, he said: "Just like in this joint operation, KFOR will continue to support the KSF in developing its capacities within the mission it currently has. The KSF has demonstrated high professionalism in operations such as this, concluding that, in the bridge on the Sitnica River in Mitrovica, a total of 15 members of the KSF worked with junior equipment and 9 vehicles, from 24 January to 29 January. The main commitment was the installation of the bridge floor, 45.72 meters long, 4.20 meters wide, as well as performing the technical inspection of the bridge for each metal element located therein, so that the repaired bridge adhere to the standard in coping with the weight of 50 tons.

The KSF has facilitated the lives of citizens and has enabled the free movement of passengers and vehicles with bridge construction and other humanitarian projects in Kramovik, Deçan, Krushe e Vogel of Klina, on the Drini i Bardhë river, Mitrovica and other locations in Kosovo, and with this has proved its professionalism, readiness and dedication to prove in action the investment that the people of Kosovo are doing for the institutions and they turn them through security and investment in work.

Minister Berisha meets Norwegian expert Eriksen

Wednesday, 31 January 2018. Minister of the Kosovo Security Force, Mr. Rrustem Berisha received today in the meeting, Mr. Svein Eriksen from the Ministry of Defense of the Kingdom of Norway. In the meeting was discussed the cooperation between the two ministries, which started in 2012 and the results of this cooperation, especially in the drafting of the Integrity Plan for the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force. Minister Berisha and Norwegian expert Mr. Eriksen also expressed readiness to continue cooperation in the field of security and defense by carefully identifying the areas that the Ministry of KSF and KSF will consider as priority, in which they will focused support from Norway.

The meeting was also attended by the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister, Mr. Jashari Ramadani and the Director of the Kosovo Center for Security Studies, Mr. Florian Qehaja.

KSF police carry out training in Bondsteel

Wednesday, 31 January 2018. Within the framework of cooperation between the KSF and KFOR, for two weeks in the Camp Bondsteel, the Kosovo Security Force Police conducted the training "Law
Enforcement in Military Police”. This training was conducted by US Military Police instructors. The training started on January 15 and ended yesterday on 30.01.2018. The training focused on topics: Traffic Accident Response and Accident Investigation; Traffic bans; highly hazardous traffic prohibitions etc.

This training and other trainings that have been carried out by US Army instructors are the result of cooperation between the two countries.

At the end of the training, American instructors were welcomed by Deputy Commander of the Land Forces (KFT), Brigadier General Gezim Hazrolli, who thanked for the assistance provided to the professional development for members of the KSF. On this occasion, General Gezim Hazrolli gave appreciations forms for the instructors engaged in this training.