

## MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

### From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the KSF's newsletter.

The activities of the last month are a proof that hard work pays off. Therefore, we have to continue to work hard until we reach our goal of becoming a NATO member, which ultimately leads to a safer Kosovo and sustainable peace in the region. On my last visit to Brussels, high NATO and EU leaders reassured me that the KSF would receive a full support on its road towards future development. Moreover, they also acknowledged our readiness to take part in all regional activities that promote more effective cooperation.

I will also mention that the Training and Doctrine Command does a great job in educating our members to be better professionals. The series of courses where 41 non-commissioned officers were certified on topics such as Military Leadership, NCO Development Concept, Internal management and many other important training topics, is just another example of TRADOC excellence.

Have a pleasant reading.

Sincerely Yours

AGIM ÇEKU

## MINISTER ÇEKU MEETS WITH NATO AND EU LEADERS

On May 25, Minister of the Kosovo Security Force (MFSK), Agim Çeku, and Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati, paid a visit to NATO Headquarters in Brussels. Minister Çeku met with Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow and member nation permanent representatives, reporting on the progress made by the KSF and providing recommendations for continued relations between NATO and the KSF. Deputy Secretary Vershbow and the permanent representatives congratulated the KSF for its success and appreciated Minister Çeku's suggestions for KSF's participation in NATO schools and for a NATO special representative to the region. Çeku also met with Catherine Wendt, Head of Unit for Kosovo at European Commission, DG Enlargement and Maciej Popowski, Deputy Secretary General for the European External Action Service reporting on past participation in EU missions and KSF's capabilities for disaster response.



## MINISTER ÇEKU PARTICIPATES IN THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE “ADRIATIC AND IONIAN SECURITY CHALLENGES

On May 28 – 29, Minister Agim Çeku participated in the regional conference “Adriatic and Ionian Security Challenges” held in Tirana, Albania. The aim of the conference was to discuss the perspectives of the Western Balkan countries on Adriatic and Ionian security challenges and learn more about best practices and experience from other regions. During his speech, Minister Çeku emphasized the need for a more coherent attitude and practice in regional security. “We are more effective if we work together – our efforts are not added together, but multiplied, and we immediately become a much more attractive and responsible partner for NATO and the European Union. Together, we can do more with less, avoiding duplication and competition,” said Çeku.





## LIEUTENANT GENERAL KASTRATI MEETS WITH STATE SECRETARY OF THE SWEDISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CARL VON DER ESCH

On May 8, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati and State Secretary of the Swedish Ministry of Defense Carl von der Esch visited Germia Park, where Swedish soldiers from the EOD Company of Göta Engineer Regiment and KSF EOD specialists have been clearing the park from mines and other unexploded ordnances. Lieutenant General Kastrati thanked the Swedish Government for the help provided to the KSF in conducting mine clearance in Germia Park, and especially for the remote-controlled armored excavators essential for successful completion of the demining works in the park. The guests were informed that 2,000 square meters have been cleared since April, with 15 cluster bombs, 3 hand grenades and other explosives identified, and 110 trucks of debris had been removed.





# UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO KOSOVO AND COMKSF VISIT KSF DEMINERS IN GJILAN

On May 2, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati and United States Ambassador to Kosovo Tracey Jacobson made a visit to Doberqan village in Gjilan Municipality. Since the beginning of April, KSF deminers have been clearing the area from mines and other unexploded ordnances that have remained from the last war in Kosovo. The clearing of this area started in 2012, with over 1700 square meters cleared so far. Ambassador Jacobson commended the excellent work of the KSF deminers, stating, “The USA and the U.S. Embassy are very proud of your courageous and dangerous work.” Lieutenant General Kastrati pointed out that the KSF EOD Company has cleared over 70,000 square meters in three years and destroyed thousands of unexploded ordnances. Currently, 54 minefields and 44 suspected minefields remain in Kosovo.





## CIVIL PROTECTION REGIMENT HOLDS A FIELD EXERCISE “SPRING 2013”

On May 28 - 31, 209 members of the Civil Protection Regiment of the KSF participated in the field exercise “Spring 2013”. The main goal of the exercise was to test the readiness, responsiveness and capabilities of different units. The exercise was important especially for the newly formed Task Force which also took part in real operations throughout a year and will take part in two regional field exercises - “Shared Resilience” in the Republic of Macedonia and “Joint Reaction” in the Republic of Albania.



## KSF DELEGATION VISITS THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Within the framework of the bilateral agreement signed between the MKSF and Ministry of Defense of Germany for 2013, a MKSF delegation visited the Planning Directorate of the German Ministry of Defense in May. The MKSF delegation, led by Haxhi Shala, director of the Directorate for Policy and Plans, was informed about the general reforms that are taking place in Bundeswehr and the planning process in the German Ministry of Defense. Both sides agreed on further cooperation on expert level.





## 29 MEMBERS OF KSF ARE CERTIFIED IN WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS MAINTENANCE

On May 10, Land Force Commander Major General Rrahman Rama and Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy Joe Preston participated at the ceremony where 29 KSF members were certified after completing a two-week training for managing ammunition storage. Major General Rama thanked the UK government and instructors for their input in increasing the professional capabilities of the KSF. Colonel Will Smallwood also mentioned that tasks as managing ammunition storage or similar, are equally important as every other task within the KSF.





## TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND CERTIFIES 41 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

On May 25, the Basic NCO Course certification ceremony for the first class of 2013 was held at the KSF Training and Doctrine Command in Ferizaj. The course included theory and practice in Military Leadership, NCO Development Concept, Internal Management, Lecturing Techniques, Drill and Ceremony, Physical Fitness, among other topics. Lieutenant Colonel Di Marcio, NATO mentor for TRADOC, said that the commitment of TRADOC instructors to deliver the training courses should be commended, and he encouraged the certified members to share their knowledge with colleagues in KSF units. Several KSF members were honored for their distinguished achievements, with Sergeant Ramë Klinaku proclaimed the most distinguished instructor of the course.



## NINETY-TWO KSF MEMBERS ARE CERTIFIED AFTER "FORCE GENERATION" TRAINING

On May 14, 92 members of KSF Rapid Reaction Brigade were certified after completing a four-month training on "Force Generation", led by Turkish KFOR instructors. The key training topics were weapon assembly and disassembly, movement formations, navigation, marching, camp set up, patrolling, and others. At the certification ceremony, Turkish instructors awarded certificates of appreciation and gifts to KSF members who were distinguished during the four-month training, as well as thanked the Rapid Reaction Brigade's command for the excellent cooperation during the training.

## THE KSF SUPPORTS ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED IN THE WEEK OF PEOPLE WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

On May 25, in Prizren the week of people with muscular dystrophy was marked with different activities. Around 50 KSF members participated in this activity by helping people with special needs to reach the city's castle and enjoy the beautiful view of the city. After reaching the castle, many balloons were released with messages for the society about needs of people with muscular dystrophy. Later on, KSF members, along with other representatives of different humanitarian organizations and civil society, Turkish KFOR and representatives of the Swiss Liaison Monitoring Team, participated in the competition organized in the town's art gallery. Organizers of the manifestation appreciated KSF's cooperation and support that the KSF is continuously providing for people with muscular dystrophy.

