REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

MILITARY CEREMONY IN THE "ADEM JASHARI" BARRACK IN MARKING OF THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KLA EPOPEE

Under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the Republic, Mr. Albin Kurti, and the auspices of the Government of Kosovo, under the organization of the Inter-Institutional State Council, chaired by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, in the Barracks "Adem Jashari" took place the military ceremony to mark the 24th anniversary of the KLA Epopee attended by the top state leaders, as President Osmani, Prime Minister Kurti, Speaker Konjufca, diplomatic and international military choir, representatives of the Emblematic Jashari Family, representatives and distinguished personalities from state institutions, representatives of organizations of Families of Martyrs, Invalids and Veterans KLA, institutional representatives and prominent personalities throughout the Albanian lands, etc.

After inspection of the troops lined up by President Osmani, in the capacity of the Supreme Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, accompanied by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the lined up soldiers, attendees and all citizens of the country, with their speeches addressed: President Osmani, Prime Minister Kurti and Rifat Jashari on behalf of the Emblematic Jashari Family.

Afterwards, from 12:00 to 15:00, in the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Pristina, was organized the Open Doors Day for all citizens, who had the opportunity to see and get acquainted with some of the equipment, technique and operational capacities of KSF units.

This manifestation, already traditional, has at its epicenter the commemoration and maximum honor of the Unique Battle in the History of the Liberation Wars, not only in our national history but also in world history. Commemoration and honor of the unprecedented war as well as the sacrifice of 59 members of the Emblematic Jashari Family with the Legendary Commander Adem Jashari and the entire Heroic Prekaz.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCMENT OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE ARMEND MEHAJ RELATED TO SECURITY FUND

A great willingness to donate funds to the country's security institutions, you have always expressed.
We have been working for foundation of the Security Fund for a long time, to which our citizens can contribute with financial means dedicated to country’s security.
Our security has never meant insecurity for others. On the contrary, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we were, are, and will be a security and protection for all, without distinction.

ACTIVITIES OF MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ DURING THE VISIT IN ISRAEL

Minister Armend Mehaj was hosted by Minister of Inteligence of Israel, Elazar Stern

Within the official visit to Israel, Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj was hosted in a meeting with Minister of Inteligence of Israel, Elazar Stern.

On this occasion he has thanked and expressed deep gratitude for Israeli state for general support given tou our country as well readiness for provision of support also in the defense and security field.

Both Minsiters discussed about threats and risks that violate current global security environment as well as experiences of policy oversight related to the functioning of the state intelligence component in support of national security.

In the end, they agreed to further deepen the cooperation and strengthen general diplomatic relations, with a focus on cooperation in the field of defense diplomacy.

Në fund, ata janë pajtuar për thellimin e mëtejmë të bashkëpunimit dhe forcimit të marrëdhënieve të përgjithshme diplomatike, me fokus edhe në bashkëpunimin në fushën e diplomacisë së mbrojtjes.

In addition, Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj in the course of meetings with Israeli state authorities has met with Mrs.Tamar Ziv, future Ambassador of the Israeli state to Kosovo. Minister Mehaj wish her success in her mission in our country and close cooperation for all matters with interest for both countries.

During the visit in Israel Minister Armend Mehaj took part at International Fair of Defense, National Security and Cyber, ISDEF 2022.

ACTIVITIES OF MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ DURING THE VISIT IN NORWAY

MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY, JONAS GAHR STORE

Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj together with the Prime Minister Kurti met with the Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Store. In this meeting they discussed for the achievements, support, cooperation but, also challenges and vision for the joint future in terms of our inter-states relations.

THE MEETING OF MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ WITH THE MINISTER OF OIL AND ENERGY OF NORWAY, MR. TERJE AASLAND

The Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj together with the Prime Minister Kurti had a meeting with the Minister of Oil and Energy of Norway, Mr. Terje Aasland. The delegations of the two countries discussed the energy situation created after the Russian military aggression in Ukraine. Mutual experiences were also discussed, as well as forms of cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy.

THE MEETING OF MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ANNIKEN HUITFELDT

Within the official visit to Norway, Kosovo`s delegation headed by the Prime MiniSter Kurti, met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Anniken Huitfeldt. On this occasion, they thanked and expressed high appreciation for the continous support of Norway in the security field as well as many other projects that have affected social –economic development of the Kosovo. The two delegations also expressed mutual interest in increasing economic cooperation and trade relations between the two countries. Their common position has been to further strengthen the full unity of the countries that share common Euro-Atlantic values, in condemning Russian aggression against Ukraine.

THE KSF COMMANDER LIEUTENANT GENERAL REALIZED AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

The KSF Commander, LTG.Bashkim Jashari from 27 February 2022 to 02 March 2022, realized an official visit to the Republic of Turkey as a part of the state delegation headed by President of Republic of Kosovo, Mrs. Vjosa Osmani.

During the visit as a part of the state delegation, General Jashari met with senior state leaders including President of Republic of Turkey, Mr. Rexhep Taib Erdoan, Head of Parliament of Turkey, Mr. Mustafa Shentop as well as many other Turkish Institutional leaders. A special meeting was conducted with Chief of Defense of the Armed Forces of Republic of Turkey, General Jashar Güler.

MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ HAD A VIRTUAL MEETING WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF MONTENGRO. Mrs. OLIVERA INJAC

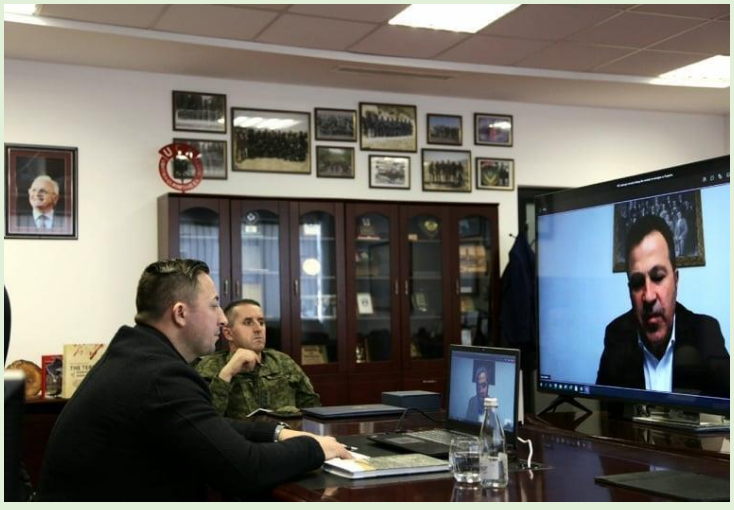
The Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj had a virtual meeting with the Minister of Defense of Montenegro, Mrs. Olivera Injac, with whom they discussed the general security situation created after the Russian military aggression in Ukraine and its reflection in our region. He also congratulated Minister Injac on the assumption of the chairmanship of the Adriatic Charter, US-A5 by Montenegro for 2022.

MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ HAD A CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF NORTH MACEDONIA, MINISTER SLAVJANKA PETROVSKA

The Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj had a conversation with the Minister of Defense of North Macedonia, Mrs. Slavjanka Petrovska, with whom they discussed the general security situation created after the Russian military aggression in Ukraine and its reflection in our region. They also discussed the activities of bilateral cooperation, as two neighboring countries, assessing that this cooperation should be continuously deepened, in the service of common interests and in the service of peace, security, and regional stability and beyond.

MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ HAD A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF ALBANIA NIKO PELESHI

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj had a conversation, through a video link with his counterpart, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Albania, Niko Peleshi. The two ministers discussed the general security situation created after Russia's military aggression in Ukraine and its reflection in our region.



Both ministers praised the commitments made so far for the successful implementation of activities planned under the bilateral cooperation plan, with special emphasis on activities planned in preparation for the US-led Defender-Europe'23 Alliance Exercise.Minister Peleshi also expressed the full support of his respective position and in general of the institutional authorities of the Republic of Albania, support which has been permanent in the past, for the aspirations of the Republic of Kosovo for NATO membership and lobbying in non-recognizing countries of the Republic of Kosovo.

MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ HAD A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OF TURKEY, HULUSI AKAR

Aiming to intensify bilateral cooperation, Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj conducted a phone conversation with Minister of National Defense of Turkey, Hulusi Akar. Both Ministers have discussed about geopolitical developments after aggression of Russia on Ukraine and its impact in the security and stability view in the region and beyond. In addition, they talked on the status of joint projects implementation and pushing forward in frame of bilateral plan in security and defense field. Among others they agreed upon intensification and joint engagement in the future into function of peace, stability and regional security and wider.By knowing important position of Turkey within North Atlantic Alliance, Minister Mehaj has thanked Minister Akar also for officially stating the support for the acceleration process of Republic of Kosovo in NATO.

LIETUENANT GENERAL BASHKIM JASHARI DISCUSSED WITH U.S MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES MILLER

Commander of the KSF, LTG.Bashkim Jashari had an important discussion with Director of Policies, Plans, Strategies, and Capacities in Europian Command of the American Forces (EUCOM), Major General Charles Miller. The two generals agreed that the KSF and the US Forces should coordinate on regional and global security, with a focus on capacity building of the KSF, as a modern force for the benefit of the security of the country and the region. In view of this, cooperation with EUCOM and the US Army in Europe will be the pillar of bilateral military relations between our two countries.

WITH A SPECIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS MARKED MARCH 8 - WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DAY

In the premises of the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Pristina, with a special organization of the Ministry of Defense, with the theme "Women, Peace and Security", was marked March 8 - the International Women's Day. This activity was organized with the participation of official and military women and girls of the KSF, as well as veterans of the KLA and the former KPC, where were present the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, Deputy/Minister Shemsi Syla, Deputy. KSF Commander, Major General Enver Cikaqi and Director of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, Commander of the Logistics Command, Brigadier General Naim Haziri and Director of NALT, Brigadier General Jörg Rüter.

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On the multidimensional theme of the festive day, with their speeches and announcements were presented; Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj, Major General Enver Cikaqi, Brigadier General Irfete Spahiu, Mrs. Fahrije Sadiku, USC cadet, Alisa Ramadani and LTC. Remzije Zeqiraj.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ARMEND MEHAJ MEETING WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR NICHOLAS ABBOTT

Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, had meeting with Ambassador of United Kingdom, Nicholas Abbott, with whom he discussed about geopolitical developments after the military aggression of Russia in Ukraine and its impact in the security and stability aspect in region. Also, they discussed on status of implementation of joint projects in terms of bilateral plan in the security and defense field.Among others, Minister Mehaj and Ambassador Abbott agreed upon intensification and joint engagementt in the future into function of peace, stability, and secuirty in region and beyond.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE ARMEND MEHAJ HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE HEAD OF CURRENT OPERATIONS, MRS ARIELLA VIEHE

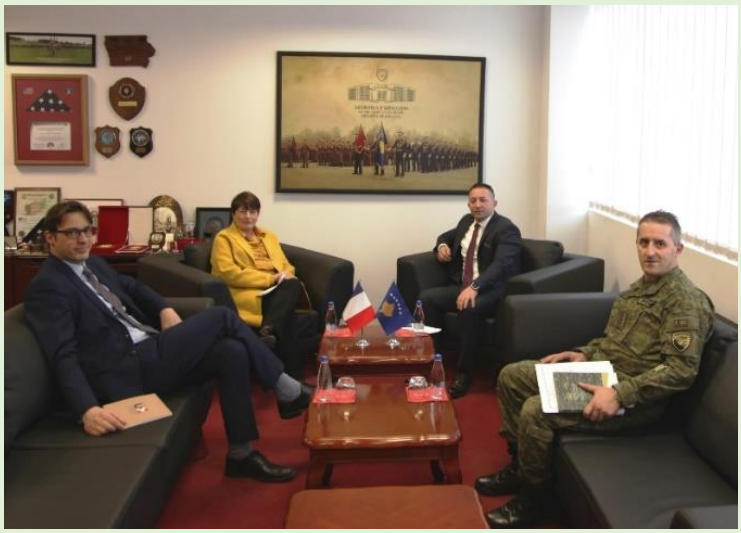
The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, hosted in a meeting the Head of Operations of the Operational Division of the NATO General Staff, Mrs. Ariella Viehe. Minister Mehaj informed Mrs. Viehe with the current developments in the Ministry of Defense and the KSF as well as plans for the future.

In addition, Minister Mehaj notified her linked to the close cooperation having with NATO Liaison Advisory Team (NALT) as well-expressed high appreciation for the so far support in developing of all processes in the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.
Minister Mehaj with Mrs.Viehe discussed on geopolitical developments after the military aggression of Russia to Ukraine. The Minister Mehaj, in addition to excellent cooperation pointed out the very significant role of the NATO with KFOR operation into function of peace, security and regional stability and wider.
For the official engagements of the country's institutions, Minister Mehaj informed Mrs. Viehe also with the current state strategy in function of Kosovo's integration processes in NATO.

NETHERLANDS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER IN THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY FIELD

Minister of Defence, Armend Mehaj today hosted in a meeting Dep/Ambassador of Netherland in Kosovo, Mr.Peter van der Bloemen, with whom they discussed current geopolitical developments in Europe after military aggression of Russia in Ukraine as well as their impacts in the security aspect and regional stability and beyond.
In addition, they discussed on deepening bilateral cooperation between both Ministries of Defence as well as better coordination in realisation of activities projected in the year 2022, as of Bilateral Plan which was signed today.
Among others, Minister Mehaj requested from Dep/Ambassador, Van der Bloemen the Support of Netherland as one of the founder countries of North Atlantic Alliance with objective acceleration of our membership process of Republic of Kosovo in NATO.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ARMEND MEHAJ HOSTED THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE MARIE CHRISTINE BUTEL



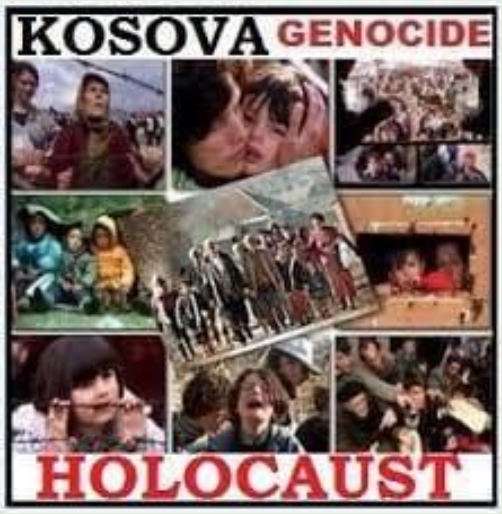
The Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of France in Kosovo, Marie Christine Butel. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj and Ambassador Butel discussed the new geopolitical developments after the Russian military aggression in Ukraine and their impact on our region.
He also informed the ambassador of the interest in deepening bilateral cooperation with France in the field of defense and security, in the service of common interests, as well as peace, security and regional stability and beyond. Minister Mehaj also reiterated Kosovo's goals for Euro-Atlantic integration, seeking the support of France, as a very important country of the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHKIM HAS HOSTED THE MILITARY-CHAPELANS OF THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

The KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted in a meeting the delegation of military-chaplain of the Iowa National Guard led by Major Jeremy Taylor.
On this occasion, General Jashari, expressed his gratitude to the delegation from IOWA for all the support so far in all areas of development of capabilities and operational capacities of the KSF. He also, among other things, emphasized his objective for the development of the KSF Chapel component, highly appreciating the support of the IOWA National Guard Chapel in this regard.

MINISTER MEHAJ REACTED AFTER HOMAGES AND STATEMENTS FOR WAR CRIMINAL MILOSEVIC BY THE SERBIAN MINISTER ALEKSANDAR VULIN

At the time when the entire democratic world is experiencing crimes of the Russian forces on the people of Ukraine, Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vulin paid homages and praised the "heroism" of the "Balkan Butcher" and war criminal Slobodan Milosevic. Vulin insulted all those victims, innocent civilians, in the Recak Massacre, which means that he insulted all the victims of the genocide ordered by his "hero", denying the genocide of Serbian criminal forces against the Albanian people of Kosovo, for which was also intervened by the alliance of democratic countries in 1999.



When a minister of a government of a state that aspires to the European Union honors and glorifies the deeds of a criminal, it should be an alarm for the policy-making and decision-making circles of the EU and the entire western democratic world. This is his next orchestrated provocation, which means a threat to Kosovo, Bosnia and Croatia and their people's victims of Milosevic's crime in Serbia, who, in addition to Vulin, has also been praised by the current President of Serbia, Vucic.

Western peace, security, stability, and democracy are dim with such primitive, inhuman, and anti-civilizational mindsets and approaches. This diabolical approach does not bother the Republic of Kosovo and its people who never forget, because its Freedom and Independence are already a powerful reality, and that the state of Kosovo naturally stands on the basis of Euro-Atlantic values. It is the last moment to line up on the right side of history, to apologize, to condemn Serbian criminals, as well as not to live with false myths and minds sick of hatred.

MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ HOSTED IN MEETING THE KFOR COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL FERENC KAJÁRI

On this occasion, Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj expressed to General Kajari, gratitude for the KFOR mission in the service of the country's security and its great impact on regional security. On his part, General Kajari expressed his satisfaction with the achievements of the Ministry of Defense so far, as well as the high level of cooperation so far between KFOR and the KSF. Among other things, both interlocutors have expressed full readiness to continue this cooperation in the service of local security and stability, as well as regional and beyond.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE ARMEND MEHAJ PAID HOMAGES TO MARTYR`S MEMORIAL COMPLEX IN GLLOGJAN

Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj accompanied by Dep/Minsiter Shemsi Sylaj, the KSF Commander, LTG.Bashkim Jashari, as well as from the senior generals and officers of the KSF took part in memorial manifestation in marking of 24th anniversary Dukagjini Epopee. In the memorial complex of martyrs in Gllogjan are paid homages in honor of the fallens for freedom following visit in the Haradinaj`s family.

LT. GEN. JASHARI HOSTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENSE ISSUES

In the KSF General Staff, Commander of the KSF, Lt. Gen. Bashkim Jashari, hosted members who informed them about the activities implemented during 2021 in the framework of the mandate and legal and constitutional tasks, as well as the Comprehensive Transition Plan.
In addition, General Jashari, accompanied by the staff of the General Staff, informed the members of the committee about the objectives of the KSF for the next mid-term.
From their part, the members of the relevant committee praised the leadership of General Jashari and the work of the KSF, and expressed commitment to support his vision for fulfilling the objectives and legal and constitutional mandate of the KSF.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING CENTER IN THE EVE OF OBTAINING THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE AT THE WORLD LEVEL

The UK International Rescue Center (UKISAR) has sent 18 members of their Disaster Assessment Response Team (DART) to an 8-day exercise in Kosovo. DART is the first disaster response team before the main response team that arrives at the scene. The relevant training for the staff of the International Training Center for Search and Rescue of the KSF (ITCSR) was conducted with a similar scenario for the first response to the disaster. On this occasion, UKISAR introduced the Certificate of Recognition for ICRC, one of the final steps in obtaining international accreditation of ICRC as a search and rescue training center worldwide.

DEPUTY MINISTER SHEMSI SYLA HOSTED IN A FAREWELL MEETING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NALT CHRISTIAN BOATSWAIN

Dep/Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla hosted in a farewell meeting Dep/Director of NATO Liasion Advisory team Kosovo (NALT), Mr. Christian Boatswain.
On this occasion, on behalf of Minister Mehaj, Dep/Minsiter Syla awarded a gratitude to Mr. Boatswain with motivation for the great role and contribution in support to local staff and so far achivements of Ministry of Defense and the KSF. Mr. Boatswain, on his side expressed his great impression for all four –years period with leaders of Ministry of Defense and his engagement with NALT.

CHILDREN OF DOWN SYNDROME KOSOVO HAVE CONDUCTED ACTIVITY WITH THE KSF MILITARIES

On the eve of the World Down Syndrome Day, the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the KSF, in the "Adem Jashari" Barracks have organized a reception for the children of the Down Syndrome Kosova center. The children together with the service members have realized various activities of sports, artistic and socializing character, where the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj was also present.

At the end of the activity, the Minister expressed gratitude to them as a sign of high appreciation of their performance, as he emphasized that the gratitude that we shared is not only for the commitment shown in the implementation of activities but also in the message they always convey the great role that the dedicated parents and teachers play, the institutions, who enable these children to use their full potential and live independently as the rest of society.

The Ministry of Defense and the KSF, we are committed that all citizens of Kosovo, regardless of the challenges and needs they may have, to develop a dignified life in our country, and in this regard, we will serve and be their first collaborators.

PARLIEMENTARY COMITTEE ON FOREIGN POLICY FROM ALBANIA VISITED MINSITRY OF DEFENSE

In a two-day visit in our country in Kosovo, delegation of Committee for Foreign Policy of Republic of Albania headed by President, Mrs. Mimi Kodheli has visited Ministry of Defense.On this occasion; they were hosted by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj and senior staff of the Minsitry. In this meeting was discussed for cooperation level and concrete plans so far between both countries in the security and defense field.
President Kodheli, concurrently vice-president of Parliemenatry Assembly of NATO was styrogly committed to provide support from her position in Kosovo`s intentions in the euro-atlantic process of integration and lobbying to non-recognizing countries, NATO members, Among others issues discussed from both parties is evaluated need for an increased approach and coordination by both our goverments in the new geopolitical context, as well potential challenges that violate our security environment and region in general.

MINISTER MEHAJ CLOSELY INSPECTED THE ACTIVITIES DURING THE FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES "PHOENIX ALFA"

Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj has closely inspected implementation of the projected activities during the field exercise “Phoenix Alfa", conducted by the Second regiment of the Land Force Command of the KSF in Training Range Babaj Bokes. On this occasion, in addition to visit in post-command, Minister Mehaj accompanied by Dep/Commander of the Land Force Command, Col. Hysen Dreshaj has visited also members in the training demonstration.

On his part, Minister Mehaj, in his address to the engaged military, congratulated all by appreciating the commitment and confirmation of the high level of discipline and professionalism for achieving tactical operational capabilities for the realization of the mission and specific tasks of the Land Forces. "Minister Mehaj, among other things, emphasized that" Phoenix Alfa "is the next proof and strong confirmation that the military operational capabilities and capacities for the protection of the territorial integrity of the country are at the level of development and readiness in full accordance with our strategic goal”.

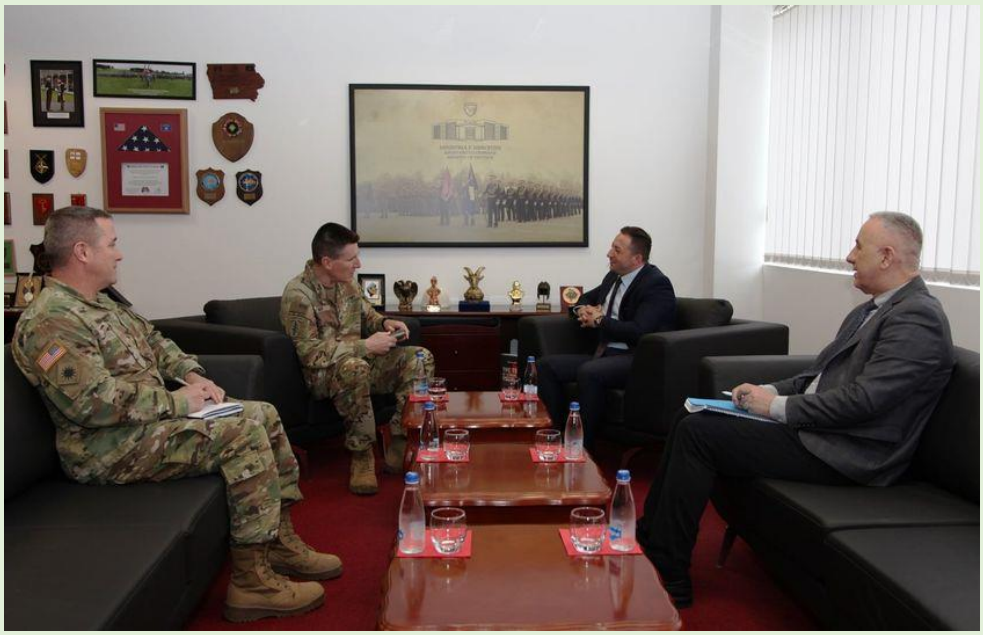
MINISTER OF DEFENSE, ARMEND MEHAJ HAS WATCHED CLOSELY THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES AT THE TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMAMND

Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj has visited Command of Training and Doctrine (TRADOC) in the KSF barrack “Skënderbeu” in Ferizaj. He was hosted by the TRADOC Commander, BG. Irfete Spahiu who accompanied Minister Mehaj in the inspection of the training activities currently conducted in the TRADOC centers. The focus of the visit was to get acquainted with the planned training process respectively Sniper and Leader Advanced Course.

THE KSF NCO WAS RANKED IN THIRD PLACE IN SKIING RACE "WINTER CAMP SLOVENIA 2022"

Two NCO’s, Besart Kasumi and Flamur Kajtazi took part in International Camp "Winter Camp Slovenia 2022", in a race of 44 militaries from the NATO member countries. After completion of the winter, camp among various activities was skiing race in the discipline of big slalom in alpine skiing. In a very big competition, Sergeant Besart Kasumi from the International Search and Rescue Training Center (ISRTC) took the third place.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH KFOR AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL



Today in the meeting with the Chief of General Staff of KFOR, Brigadier General John P. Maier, we discussed the security situation in the country and the region. From the joint assessment, the security situation in the country is good, as well as the level of cooperation and that at the general institutional level. The Ministry of Defense has full focus on fulfilling the constitutional mission and legal duties of the KSF in the service of security and stability in the country and the region.

GOOD AND CONTINUOUS COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND CIDS FROM NORWAY

The Norwegian Center for Integrity in the Defense Sector (CIDS) continues very important projects aimed at supporting the achievement of objectives in strengthening the integrity framework and good governance in the Ministry of Defense. In the meeting with the Senior Advisor of CIDS, Svein Eriksen and the Director of CIDS for Kosovo, Florian Qehaja, was discussed about the process of realization of projects that are in full compliance with our aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration.

MINISTER ARMEND MEHAJ HAS PRESENTED ONE –YEAR KEY ACHIEVMENTS OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DURING HIS LEADERSHIP

The Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj held a Press Conference to present the key achievements of the Ministry of Defense during the one-year period of his governance as Minister of Defense. On this occasion, he mentioned the achievements in the functional areas of the Ministry with figures and facts, as well as the completed reforms and those in progress. Afterwards, Minister Mehaj answered the numerous questions of the journalists present, whom he finally thanked and expressed his gratitude and high appreciation for the professional and objective coverage of all his activities, the Ministry and the KSF in general. In the end, Minister Mehaj reminded them that the work on the principle of transparency and accountability to the media and our citizens will continue as always and invited the media for full cooperation in the future.

DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE POLICIES, FARUK GECI ATTENDED MEETING ADRIATIC CHARTER

Director of Defense Policies in Ministry of Defense, Faruk Geci, took part in initiative meeting Adriatic Charter A5-USA, at the level of Directors of Policies and those of foreign affairs where our country currently has observer status. Meeting is held in Budva of Montenegro which formalized the beginning of the presidency of this regional initiative from this country.

In this meeting, Kosovo was also represented by our Ambassador to Montenegro, Ariana Zherka-Hoxha. During the working sessions, participants discussed current political and security challenges, with a particular focus on the situation in Ukraine, as well as its impact on the security environment in the region. The representatives of Kosovo in their exhibitions have clearly emphasized in this meeting, the request for membership of our country with full rights, in this initiative, as an imperative of the time for effective regional cooperation. Strengthening cooperation in the field of defense and further joint contributions are among the key objectives of the Charter in the future.

THE U.S YOUNG STUDENTS VISITED MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

In frame of cultural visit in our country, the U. S students of the Danish Institute of foreign studies (DIS) visited Ministry of Defense. On this occasion, they were hosted by Director of Defense Policies, Mr. Faruk Geci, who informed them on current achievements as well vision of Minsitry of defense for the future in the context of security and defense.
In accordance with the DIS model Copenhagen for providing practical learning opportunities as well as through study tours integrated into courses, Mr.Geci also informed them about the vision of Ministry of Defense in the geopolitical context and current situation after the Russian aggression in Ukraine, as well as reflecting in regional, continental, and global security environment.

DEP/MINISTER SYLA HOSTED REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATION BALKAN SUNFLOWERS KOSOVA IN FRAME OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PREVENTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Dep/Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, accompanied by Political Advisor of Communities, Asllan Kryeziu and Chief of Community Affair Unit, Mrs. Lejla Behluli, within the framework of International Day for prevention of racial discrimination hosted officially representatives of the organization Balkan Sunflowers Kosova. This organization deals primarily with issues of the rights and interests of minority communities.

On this occasion, Dep. Minister Syla reminded the guests that the Kosovo Security Force is a professional force of all its citizens, which in its ranges has members from different communities, equal citizens of the Republic of Kosovo. The Ministry of Defense with its legal and administrative mechanisms, offers full security and guarantee against all forms of discrimination not only racial, remains committed to respecting all rights, as well as the principle of equal opportunities and equal conditions for all.

MAJOR GENERAL ENVER CIKAQI HOSTED TODAY THE GENERAL INSPECTOR OF ITALIAN MILITARY MEDICINE, BG. DR. CLAUDIO ZANOTTO

In the framework of official visit of delegation from General Inspectorate Command of Italian Military Medicine in Ministry of Defense, Dep/Commander, MG.Enver Cikaqi, MG.Enver Cikaqi, hosted the head of the delegation, Brigadier General Dr. Claudio Zanotto. During the meeting, General Cikaqi was accompanied by the Director of the Department of Medicine at the Ministry of Defense, Dr. Xhevdet Tahiraj, and the Chief of Cabinet of the KSF Commander, Colonel Ilir Qeriqi. He, among other things, informed General Zanotton about the status of capabilities and operational capacities of the medical component in the KSF, and asked for their support for the further advancement of standard levels of military medical care, as well as other areas. The two generals shared the same position, that all issues be addressed in a concrete cooperation plan in order to be successfully realized in the near future.

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MILITARY MEDICINE INCREASES BETWEEN ALBANIAN ARMED FORCES AND KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

In terms of bilateral cooperation between the KSF and the AFoRA, Director of Medical Affairs in Ministry of Defense, Col.Dr. Xhevdet Tahiraj had a two-day visit in the Republic of Albania. Director Tahiraj was hosted by Director of the Health Inspectorate, Col. Dr. Elton Reso. In this meeting was talked about having opportunity to enlargen cooperation in the military medical field as well as signing a Protocol of Cooperation between both relevant services.

KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE PART OF INITIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE FOR TRAINING "DEFENDER EUROPE 23"

In Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina was realized hte Initial Large-Scale Exercise Planning Conference chaired by US Army Europe (EUCOM) Command and US Army Europe and Africa (USAEUR-AF), "Defender - Europe '23", which will take place during May and June 2023 in the Balkan and Black Sea region.

In this conference, our country was presented by the Head of the Operations and Training Department of the KSF General Staff, Colonel Ejup Maqedonci, and the Chief of Operations of the First Infantry Regiment, Major Gëzim Osmani.

The conference was attended by around 300 troops from 28 NATO and Partner countries. The Republic of Kosovo will be among the host countries of this large Exercise and the Kosovo Security Force will participate with a large number of personnel and units.