



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Kosovo and Türkiye Collaborate on Defense Industry



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, has signed the contract with Turkish state manufacturer “Makine ve Kimya Endüstrisi” (MKE). This contract sets the foundation for the establishment of Kosovo's defense industry¹. As a part of this contract, MKE will operate an ammunition factory that produces various calibers of ammunition, respecting the highest NATO standards. The contract includes the supply of production machinery, training of local staff, maintenance of the equipment for a certain period, as well as installation of modern quality testing and calibration systems. After the start of production, the factory will operate as a public enterprise and will serve as a 100% local brand. This project marks an important step towards strengthening the defense capacities of the Republic of Kosovo.

The Minister of Defense participated in the meeting of Defense Ministers of the US-Adriatic Charter member countries (A5)

At the ministerial meeting of the US-Adriatic Charter Initiative (A5), taking place in Tirana, Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, invited by his Albanian counterpart, Minister of Defense of Albania, Pirro Vengu, addressed colleagues from the countries of the region. In his address, Minister Maqedonci reemphasized the full readiness and strong aspiration of the Republic of Kosovo to become a full member of this initiative, emphasizing

Kosovo's commitment to regional security and Euro-Atlantic integration. He raised concerns about Serbia's hegemonic and chauvinistic policies, citing its refusal to take responsibility for the September 24, 2023 aggression in Banja and the November 29 terrorist attack on the "Iber-Lepenci" canal. On this occasion, the minister said that these actions of Serbia violate not only the security of Kosovo, but also create a climate of insecurity in the entire region, undermining peace and efforts for good neighborliness in the Western Balkans. Further, Minister Maqedonci emphasized that the Republic of Kosovo has fulfilled all the criteria for membership and is ready to take full responsibility, by making its contribution as a member of the US-Adriatic Charter Initiative (A5). "There is no force, no matter how aggressive in policies and brutal in actions, that can stop Kosovo's path towards Euro-Atlantic integration. For the protection of national security, for regional peace and for Euro-Atlantic integration" said Minister Maqedonci.



General Jashari signed cadet exchange agreement with Canada

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, has signed the Memorandum of Cooperation for the Exchange of Cadets between the KSF University Studies Center and the Royal Military College Saint-Jean of Canada. The signed agreement enables cooperation between the two academies through the mutual exchange of cadets within the framework of semesters and academic years. As a result, the first exchanges between the two academies will take place from the second semester of the 2024/2025 academic year. This agreement will provide opportunities for the development of KSF cadets, further advancement of the professional program "Second Lieutenant in the Armed Forces", and increased interoperability of the KSF. From the beginning of 2025, KSF cadets will have the opportunity to study for one semester in Canada and exchange experiences with their colleagues from Canada and vice versa. As a priority of the KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Jashari, providing international opportunities for the University Studies Center and cadet exchange programs aims to increase the quality of military education and the professionalism of cadets and KSF officers. The signing of this agreement is significant as it enables the culture

of cooperation in allied countries to be cultivated early in the military career as a cadet.

Kosovo's Defense Minister Maqedonci Hosted Latvian Counterpart for Official Visit



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted an official visit by the Minister of Defense of Latvia, Andris Sprūds. The official welcoming ceremony was held with state honors and was accompanied by the ceremonial platoon of the Kosovo Security Force. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed regional developments and the security situation in the country and Europe. Minister Maqedonci informed his counterpart about the situation in the north of the country following the terrorist attack on the Iber-Lepenc water canal in the village of Varage, Zubin Potok, as well as the permanent threat that Serbia poses to the security of the Western Balkans, as the only country that continues to maintain close ties with Russia. In this regard, both ministers also emphasized the importance of exchanging experiences in the field of security and defense, total defense, cooperation in advancing the common interest and promoting the values that Kosovo and Latvia share in the face of risks from autocratic regimes. The Minister expressed gratitude for the support that Latvia provided to the Republic of Kosovo in its membership in international organizations. Minister Sprūds' visit marks another important step in deepening friendly relations between Kosovo and Latvia, reflecting the mutual commitment to security and sustainable development.



Kosovo's Defense Minister and Croatian Counterpart Discuss Strategic Partnership



As part of meetings with counterparts from partner countries, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted a visit by the Minister of Defense of Croatia, Ivan Anušić, along with his delegation. The meeting was held in the spirit of the deep friendship that exists between the two countries in

general, and the excellent relations in the field of defense and security in particular. Minister Maqedonci informed his Croatian counterpart about the general security situation in the country, with particular emphasis on the northern part of the country, following the terrorist attack on the water canal in the village of Varage, in the municipality of Zubin Potok. During this meeting, a number of important issues for both countries were discussed, including the education and training of military personnel, the development of defense capabilities, and cooperation on joint projects. The Republic of Croatia is one of Kosovo's strategic partners, while the excellent relations between the two countries are based on history, values, and a common future.



Minister Maqedonci Participated in Celebrations Honoring 112th Anniversary of Albanian Armed Forces



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, attended the concert organized in honor of the 112th anniversary of the founding of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. At this special event, Minister Maqedonci had the pleasure of expressing his warmest congratulations to the Minister of Defense of Albania, Pirro Vengu, and to Lieutenant General Arben Kingji, for this important anniversary, which symbolizes the history and dedication of the Albanian Armed Forces in the service of the country and the region.



- During his visit to Albania, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, held a meeting with the cadets and officers of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), who are studying at the Faculty of Defense and Security, as well as attending various courses for the development of their military careers. In this meeting, the Minister expressed his pride in the dedication and commitment of the Kosovo military personnel in acquiring knowledge and skills, which will be put to service in the development of the Kosovo Army. The Commander of the Armed Forces Academy, Brigadier General Bardhyl Nuredinaj, informed the Minister about the study programs and praised the high level of discipline and performance of the

KSF's cadets and officers. Minister Maqedonci also visited the KSF trainees who are attending the Commando Course at the Special Operations Regiment of the Armed Forces of Albania (AFRA). The Minister was informed by the Commander of the Land Force, Major General Ilir Xhebexhia, about the development of the course and the high performance, motivation and professionalism that the Kosovo military are showing during this training.

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, also visited the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania to congratulate the Chief of Staff, Arben Kingji, on his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General. During this visit, the Minister praised the work and dedication of Lieutenant General Kingji, who has achieved great success both in leading AFRA and in increasing cooperation and interaction with the Army of the Republic of Kosovo. Furthermore, Minister Maqedonci also wished Lieutenant General Kingji further success in fulfilling his high duties in the service of regional security and peace.



Minister Maqedonci Highlighted Women's Role in Military at Kosovo Workshop



Within the framework of the Regional Center of Excellence for “Women, Peace and Security” in Kosovo, a workshop was held on increasing the participation and role of women in the military. The event was attended by the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the Director of NALT, Brigadier General Christian Nawrat, officials and military personnel of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, as well as international institutions. During his speech, Minister Maqedonci, among other things, emphasized that women have proven themselves in times of war by showing that predetermined gender roles are meaningless; when it comes to the homeland, gender restrictions disappear. He emphasized that the Ministry of Defense has made maximum efforts to include women in the Kosovo Security Force, including providing education in the most prestigious military academies and active participation in military training and activities.

Below you will find the full speech of Minister Maqedonci:

“Since times of war, it was precisely women who proved that predetermined gender roles are meaningless, that when it comes to the homeland, all gender restrictions disappear, and patriotism becomes the only driving force to withstand everything. For me as a former soldier, the expression ‘If you want peace, you must prepare for war’ holds true. Therefore, the Ministry of Defense has made maximum efforts over the years to include women in the Kosovo Security Force and prepare them professionally through education in the most prestigious military academies in the international arena, but also through active participation in military training and activities. Currently, around 10% of the Kosovo Security Force are women soldiers. They are engaged at all levels of the Force’s structure, in the General Staff and in the Commands. This would not be any different, as the legal provisions that regulate the organization and functioning of the KSF are based on the principles of equality and inclusivity. To eliminate all obstacles, based on ‘Regulation No. 05/2022 for the care of KSF Before, During and After Return and Care for Their Families During the Mission Abroad’, we will initiate the family support project, emergency day care for the children of soldiers on a mission abroad, and re-evaluation of duties for young mothers. We are focused on giving even more voice to information campaigns about the opportunity for the development of a military career, with the image of the female soldier at the center. But we will also continue to engage in eliminating obstacles that in any form stagnate the advancement of women’s positions in the Force. Women soldiers today operate in better conditions, due to continuous work and efforts to improve the conditions they have faced over the years. This includes open recruitment procedures, equal pay for equal ranks for both genders, and the guarantee and implementation of the Law on Maternity Leave and Parental Leave. All of these measures taken, and the efforts to further increase them will not be halted, are a driving force and encouragement for the integration of women in the military.”



The issue of national security is our shared responsibility, of both women and men in general, and there is no doubt that women are fully capable of carrying out all the tasks for which they have the will to engage.

The issue of national security is our shared responsibility, of both women and men in general, and there is no doubt that women are fully capable of carrying out all the tasks for which they have the will to engage.

Kosovo's Defense Minister and KSF Commander Honor U.S. Ambassador Hovenier



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, held a farewell meeting with the Ambassador of the United States of America, H.E Jeffrey M. Hovenier. On the eve of the conclusion of his diplomatic mandate, Minister Maqedonci awarded Ambassador Hovenier with the medal for Distinguished Service. During this heartfelt meeting, Minister Maqedonci and Ambassador Hovenier discussed the productive cooperation between the Government of Kosovo and the United States, particularly in the fields of defense and security. "The United States of America is a key ally and partner of the Republic of Kosovo, both traditionally and historically," emphasized Minister Maqedonci on this occasion. From his side, Lieutenant General Jashari, while expressing special gratitude to Ambassador Hovenier, emphasized the importance of the commitment and strategic support that Ambassador Hovenier has provided for the development of the Kosovo Security Force. He appreciated the close and continuous cooperation that has helped strengthen the capacities of the KSF and improve its operational capabilities.

During this meeting, the future development of the KSF was also discussed, as well as the goals of advancing bilateral military relations, focusing on the areas of development for the KSF's capacities and other areas of joint interest.

In these meetings, Ambassador Hovenier thanked Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari for their cooperation, professionalism, and their engagement in improving the relations between the two countries.



The KSF contingent returned from Operation "Interflex"

The second contingent of the Kosovo Security Force has returned to Kosovo, after successfully completing the six-month period in Operation "Interflex," an operation carried out in the United Kingdom. In the letter of appreciation from the Commander of the United Kingdom's Army Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel RA Smith, the professionalism and cooperation of the KSF contingent were highly valued. The KSF team has been excellent; their professional approach, tireless dedication to supporting the Training Delivery Unit in all areas has been impressive. With this success, they have made your nation proud, while for us, it was a privilege and pleasure to work with them. The KSF contingent was integrated into one of the two British companies in the Training Delivery Unit, supporting the planning and delivery of training for military personnel from the Ukrainian Armed Forces.



The KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, and German Chief of Defense, General Carsten Breuer, sign agreement in the field of defense and security



The Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, during his official visit to Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, was hosted by the Chief of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany, General Carsten Breuer. During this important visit, General Jashari was hosted in a bilateral meeting by General Breuer where they discussed global and regional security challenges and both generals emphasized the importance of increasing military cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries. On this occasion, General Jashari and his German counterpart signed a bilateral agreement in the field of defense and security between the two Ministries of Defense. The agreement ensures Germany's support for

Kosovo in providing assistance to the KSF in support of its participation in international organizations. The agreement also details areas of cooperation between the two armed forces, focusing on exercises, training, participation in international organizations, technical and logistical support, as well as many other areas of common interest. The KSF's relations with its strategic allies are extremely important for its strengthening and development, and in line with this, Germany will continue to play a key role in building defense capacities.



The Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Besim Gashi, is honored with a prestigious award from the Bundeswehr

During the end-of-year ceremony organized by the Ministry of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo in Berlin, Lieutenant Colonel Besim Gashi, was honored with recognition for his achievements by the Bundeswehr authorities. This prestigious award is a testament to his outstanding performance and dedication in carrying out the mission's duties. This achievement represents an excellent example of professionalism and dignified representation of the Republic of Kosovo in the international arena.

Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari Hosted Farewell Meetings for German Military Attaché

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted a farewell meeting for the military attaché of the Federal Republic of Germany, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Palkowitsch.

During this meeting, Minister Maqedonci highly praised the service and contribution of Lieutenant Colonel Palkowitsch in the implementation of the bilateral plan with the German Armed Forces, the support for the advancement of the capacities of the Kosovo Security Force, and the deepening of cooperation between the two states. In recognition of his dedicated commitment, the Minister honored the Lieutenant Colonel with a certificate of appreciation. Minister Maqedonci also wished Lieutenant Colonel Palkowitsch success in his new assignment and expressed the gratitude of the Kosovo institutions for his contribution.





The Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, also expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Palkowitsch, acknowledging his continuous support in the development of joint activities between the KSF and the German army. The newly appointed German Attaché for Kosovo, Lieutenant Colonel Marc Abendroth, also attended the meeting. Minister Maqedonci welcomed and wished success to Lieutenant Colonel Marc Abendroth in his new assignment, emphasizing the importance of continuing close cooperation with Germany. During the meeting, the goals of advancing bilateral military relations were discussed, focusing

on the areas of developing KSF capacities and other areas of common interest.

The Bilateral Cooperation Plan for 2025 is signed between Kosovo and Italy



The delegation of the Ministry of Defense conducted an official visit to the Republic of Italy, during which the Bilateral Cooperation Plan for 2025 was signed at the Italian Ministry of Defense Headquarters in Rome. The signing ceremony, held with official protocol, was carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Defense by the acting director of the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration (DICEAI), Lieutenant Colonel Beton Retkoceri, and by the representative of the Italian General Defense Staff, Colonel Mattia Zuzzi. The plan defines the main activities of military cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Italy, laying the foundations for the expansion and intensification of cooperation in the future. The Kosovar delegation at this ceremony also consisted of the Bilateral Cooperation Officer and Desk Officer for Italy at the Ministry of Defense, Edona Abazi Zylfijaj, and the representative from the KSF General Staff, Major Faton Bekteshi. This development represents a significant step towards strengthening the excellent relations between Kosovo and Italy, paving the way for deeper and more successful cooperation in the defense field.

Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylja Focuses on Enhancing Security and Infrastructure Cooperation Across Kosovo

Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, held a series of important meetings to emphasize the significance of protecting critical infrastructure and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation in Kosovo.



In a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Public Enterprise “Trainkos,” Agron Statovci, they discussed the management and protection of critical transportation infrastructure, particularly focusing on the security of Kosovo’s railway network. The discussions included the identification of risks, the preparation of emergency plans, and protective measures for railway infrastructure against various threats. Deputy Minister Sylja expressed the readiness of the Ministry of Defense to provide training and assistance to the “Trainkos” staff, ensuring a quick and effective reaction in emergency situations. This cooperation helps strengthen the security of the

transportation infrastructure and protect the strategic interests of the Republic of Kosovo.

Deputy Minister Sylja also met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Water Supply Company “Gjakova” JSC, Hasan Krasniqi, focusing on protecting critical water supply infrastructure and strengthening capacities for managing emergency situations. The discussions centered on the challenges related to the security of water supply systems and the necessity of designing sustainable strategies for prevention and protection against various threats. “The security of water supply is a key priority, not only to guarantee uninterrupted services to citizens but also to protect this vital infrastructure from any potential risk,” stated Deputy Minister Sylja. This commitment demonstrates the dedication of our institutions to strengthening security and stability in the service of the citizens of Kosovo.



During a working visit to RWSC “Hidromorava” JSC, Deputy Minister Sylja met with the Chief Executive Officer, Ymer Salihu. They discussed the importance of managing and protecting critical water supply infrastructure, as well as the need for inter-institutional cooperation to guarantee the uninterrupted functioning of these systems. The Deputy Minister also visited the lakes of Përlepnica, Livoq, and Badovc, key points for water supply in the region. He assessed the strategic importance of these resources for sustainable supply and stressed the necessity of protecting them from various risks. These activities represent an important commitment to strengthening cooperation and ensuring sustainable services for citizens.



Deputy Minister Sylja held a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Post of Kosovo, Nora Rraci, to discuss the role of this public enterprise in the security and functionality of critical communication infrastructure. During the meeting, the importance of facing current challenges and the need to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation were emphasized, especially in the field of identifying threats and drafting emergency plans for the protection of the postal network. Another important topic was building capacities to cope with extraordinary situations and guarantee

the continuity of important services for citizens. Mrs. Rraci presented her team's commitments to modernize the postal network and improve operational processes, underlining that postal infrastructure remains an essential pillar for public services and the country's economic development. Deputy Minister Sylja stated that this meeting was an excellent opportunity to identify the next steps towards ensuring the sustainability and improvement of the critical infrastructure of the Kosovo Post, in the service of our citizens and institutions.



During his official visit to Telecom of Kosovo, Deputy Minister Sylja was received by the Chief Executive Officer, Burbuqe Hana. They discussed the strategic importance of critical communication infrastructure and its key role in national security. The focus of the conversation was on the identification and assessment of risks that could compromise the functionality of the national network, the drafting of emergency plans to deal with

extraordinary situations, and ensuring the continuity of services in cases of crisis. Deputy Minister Sylja emphasized the importance of cooperation between the Ministry of Defense and Telecom of Kosovo to strengthen defense capacities and guarantee the uninterrupted functioning of the telecommunications infrastructure. Ms. Hana shared her team's vision and commitment to modernizing the network and ensuring sustainability, emphasizing the commitment to providing quality services to all citizens of Kosovo.

Deputy Minister Sylja also visited the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), where he was received by the executive director, Genc Metaj, whom he congratulated on taking on his new position and expressed his support for his success in this important role. They discussed the importance of preparing for and responding to emergency situations as a key component of national security. The necessity of coordination in assessing risks, drafting emergency response plans, and ensuring the continuity of critical services in the event of unforeseen challenges was also emphasized. Mr. Metaj shared his commitment to building EMA's capacities and to effective coordination with other institutions for emergency management. Deputy Minister Sylja stated that the visits to the country's critical infrastructures, such as lakes, water supply systems, energy networks, and telecommunications, reinforce the importance of close cooperation with EMA to ensure the protection and functionality of these key resources.



A Meeting of the Management Board was held at the Ministry of Defense



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, led the meeting of the Management Board of the Ministry of Defense, the highest executive meeting that enables the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force to coordinate activities and decisions for the following months and years. This meeting is of particular importance, as it was held following the adoption of the PPBE Regulation (Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution), a key document for the effective planning and implementation of resources. It also comes at a key moment for the KSF, which is the transition from Phase Two to Phase Three of the Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP), a process that represents the further advancement of the Force's capabilities and responsibilities. The meeting discussed strategic priorities and concrete plans to ensure the fulfillment of the KSF's mission and vision in accordance with new developments and the country's defense objectives.

Defense Minister Maqedonci Discussed Military Education Initiatives with Sam Houston State University Representatives



Representatives of Sam Houston State University from Texas, United States of America, Major General David Glaser and Dr. Sharmistha Self, were hosted in a meeting by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci. They discussed opportunities for cooperation in the field of education for the military. "During this governing mandate, an enormous amount has been invested in the education of our military, a necessary investment to raise our army to the highest levels," emphasized Minister Maqedonci. He added that the meeting with Major General Glaser was special ** also** due to the fact that he has served in the Republic of Kosovo with KFOR peacekeeping forces, to guarantee peace and security in our country for all citizens.

KSF Commander Participated in Change of Command Ceremony for US Army in Europe and Africa

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, at the invitation of the Commander of the US Forces in Europe (EUCOM), General Christopher G. Cavoli, paid an official visit to the US Army Command for Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) in Wiesbaden, Germany. During the visit, General Jashari participated in the change of command ceremony for the US Army Europe and Africa



Command, where General Darryl A. Williams handed over the command to General Christopher T. Donahue. General Jashari thanked General Williams for his continued support of the Kosovo Security Force and its development. Both generals agreed that the bilateral military relationship between Kosovo and the United States is ever stronger. General Jashari also had an introductory meeting with General Donahue and congratulated him on assuming his duties as Commander of the US Army for Europe and Africa. The generals agreed that bilateral cooperation will continue through joint bilateral exercises, training, and activities. Military cooperation and increased interoperability between the KSF and the US Army for Europe remain a priority for the KSF Commander in line with the development and modernization of the Force



KSF and KFOR Leaders Focus on Strengthening Ties



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted a meeting with the Deputy Commander of KFOR, Brigadier General Cahit Irican. General Jashari informed General Irican about developments in the Kosovo Security Force, engagements, training, and other ongoing activities. They also discussed the current security situation in the country and beyond. General Jashari and General Irican further discussed cooperation between the KSF and KFOR and pledged to enhance their cooperation, which would benefit security and peace in the country and the region.

Brigadier General Qeriqi Discussed Enhanced Cooperation During Visit to German Territorial Defense Command

Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, along with his colleagues, visited the German Territorial Defense Command, where he was received by the senior leadership staff of this command. The Territorial Defense Command of the German Army has primary responsibility for the country's territorial defense against external threats. Following the reception, the parties were informed about the current efforts to strengthen mutual capacities, the challenges they are facing, and the assessment of the security situation in both regional and global contexts. General Qeriqi, on behalf of the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, thanked the German side for the continuous support that the German state has provided and continues to provide for the KSF. The possibility of increasing cooperation was also discussed, especially in the areas of joint training and exercises. At the end of the visit, the bilateral staffs agreed to increase mutual cooperation. Germany has been one of the partners that has continuously supported the KSF in building capacities on their path forward.



KSF and Iowa Collaborate on Joint Plan for 2025-2027



Within the framework of the partnership between the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and the Iowa National Guard, United States of America, a delegation from the KSF participated in the Planning Conference for the coordination of training and activities for the years 2025-2027. The conference focused on the following lines of effort: Maneuver, Logistic Support, Personnel, Communication and Cybernetics, Medicine, and the Non-Commissioned Officer Channel and Leader Development. The conference was held in Iowa, USA, based on the instructions and commitments of the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, and the Commander of the Iowa National Guard, Major General Stephen Osborn. The delegation from the KSF was led by the Chief of G3/7 KSFGS, Colonel Astrit Haliti, and included G1GS, G4GS Sergeant Major of the KSF, and LFC personnel. During this activity, the training and joint activities plan for the years 2025-2026 was updated, and the year 2027 was also included, in support of the Comprehensive Transition Plan.

BMATT Supports the KSF

The United Kingdom, with its British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT), has conducted the "Training Designer and Management Course" with personnel from the KSF training sector and personnel who will participate in the "Interflex" operation. The training aimed to prepare personnel to analyze, design, and conduct various trainings of interest to the Force. It focused on understanding the process of training requirements and their analysis, demonstrating the



procedures learned to design training in specific phases, demonstrating the application of training, and confirming that the training is being conducted according to standards. The United Kingdom has continuously supported the building of human capacities, with the aim of increasing the professionalism and capacities of the Kosovo Security Force.

Instructor Course with BMATT Team Completed at Training and Doctrine Command



At the TRADOC, the "Instructor Course" conducted by the BMATT Team together with the Basic Training and Recruitment Center (BTC) within the TRADOC has been completed, certifying 27 new Instructors who have joined the KSF Instructor Corps. The "Instructor Course," based on the BMATT program, combines theoretical and practical components and aims to prepare and certify Instructors for the training of KSF units by providing trainees with new knowledge for the successful implementation of courses and training in the KSF. To congratulate the members of the Force on the completion of this course, the certification ceremony was attended by the Commander of the TRADOC, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, the British Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Green, and the British Advisor to COMKSF, Lieutenant Colonel John Hunter.



KSF Organized Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Forum 2024



The KSF Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Forum has concluded its work. The forum aimed to strengthen the role of NCOs and advance the NCO education system. The forum was opened by the KSF Sergeant Major, Bedri Zuka, followed by an address from the Commander of the Doctrine and Training Command, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, who greeted the participants on behalf of the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. In his speech, General Dreshaj emphasized that the development and advancement of the NCO corps in every army is of particular importance. A strong and well-

educated corps will advance the force towards stronger armies. He also thanked the partners for their continuous support, highly appreciating the work and commitment of the senior NCOs of the KSF for their dedication in advancing the NCO corps with the standards of the KSF's partner countries, with a focus on the Iowa National Guard, KFOR, and NALT, which have continuously assisted this process with the aim of exchanging experiences, cooperating, and strengthening the KSF. Participants in this forum included the team from Iowa, United States of America, led by CSM Straser, SRGM Bailey, KFOR CSM Pizzola, NALT CSM Muhic, Sergeant Major of the Eastern Regional Command SRGM Zarkavy, and Sergeant Majors of the KSF units. Challenges and Management of Military Patrols Within the framework of cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Türkiye, experienced instructors conducted theoretical and practical training in the professional preparation of KSF soldiers in "Border Patrols." The training included practical demonstrations in the field, identifying risks during patrols, resolving problems that arise during patrols, and their management.

KSF Members Enhance Skills with Mortar Training in Croatia

In the framework of military cooperation between Kosovo and Croatia, members of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) have successfully completed specialized training on the use of 60mm and 120mm mortars. During this intensive training, KSF members were trained in the maintenance and efficient use of mortars, and gained knowledge about the tasks within the mortar team, thereby increasing their skills in the field of defense to contribute to building Kosovo's security capacities. An important part of the training involved working with the Fire Control Center, where participants were trained to accurately calculate the various factors that affect the trajectory of the projectile, thereby improving operational effectiveness. The Kosovo Security Force is committed to the development and advancement of its members, ensuring they are prepared to face any challenge that arises.



KSF Concluded 'Symbol of the Wolf' Training



The traditional and most challenging training conducted by the Kosovo Security Force, organized by the Land Forces Command, "Symbol of the Wolf," concluded with the awarding of certificates to the participants who successfully completed the challenges. The purpose of this training is to prepare members in various tasks such as physical preparation, specialized training, shooting and maneuvers with live ammunition, military planning and tactics, survival, and leadership.



First Generation of Combat NCO Course Graduated at TRADOC

The "Combat Non-Commissioned Officers Course" Generation 01-2024 has been completed at the Doctrine and Training Command (TRADOC). The course follows a curriculum based on the US Army's NCO education system model, which aims to prepare senior KSF NCOs for headquarters duties, planning, and conducting successful operations. For the first time, TRADOC has begun implementing this career course for senior non-commissioned officers within the framework of capacity building and doctrine development.





Challenges and Management During Military Patrols

Within the framework of cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Türkiye, experienced instructors conducted both theoretical and practical training in the professional preparation of KSF soldiers in "Border Patrols," performing practical demonstrations in the field, identifying risks during patrols, resolving issues that arise during patrols, and managing them.

KSF Raises Awareness on Pyrotechnic Safety in Schools Across Kosovo

As part of its annual activities, the Kosovo Security Force, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, is holding lectures on "The Danger of Pyrotechnic Devices" for students of Lower Secondary Schools in the Republic of Kosovo. The KSF Demining Training Teams aim to raise students' awareness of the dangers that pyrotechnic devices can pose during their use, especially now that we are on the eve of the end-of-year holidays. The Kosovo Security Force is committed to increasing the level of security in all areas, and in this case, it seeks cooperation with parents to reduce incidents that may occur during the use of these devices.



Turkish Teams Train the KSF



Within the framework of cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Türkiye, specialist training in the use of infantry weapons—"Automatic Weapon Training" and "Sniper Training"—has been successfully completed. The purpose of the training is to

increase the professionalism of members and capacity of the infantry. The Armed Forces of Türkiye, within this cooperation, have continuously contributed to the professional and technical development of the KSF.

KSF Officers and Officials Complete Training at Defense Resources Management Institute in the USA



Agron Durmishi, Major Shpëtim Dragobuzhda, and Major Gentrit Idrizi have completed training in the field of International Defense Management at the Defense Resources Management Institute (DRMI) in Monterey, California, USA. DRMI is an academic program of the Defense Security Cooperation University (DSCU), within the framework of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), sponsored by the US Secretary of Defense. This program aims to develop analytical decision-making skills in the fields of Strategic Planning, Programming, and Budgeting of defense, with a

particular focus on the following areas: use of analytical methods, including problem formulation, uncertainty management, risk management; defense markets, contracting, performance management and budgeting; concepts and techniques for assessing financial costs, cost-benefit, and effectiveness analyses; multi-year budgeting for defense programs and strategic program recommendations for defense. This training enables participants to provide an environment for the comparative exchange of ideas regarding defense security management in particular and national security in general.

KSF Officer Received Honor Award in the USA

Second Lieutenant Vedat Shatri has completed the Engineering Officer Basic Course (EOBC) with high results in



Missouri, United States of America, receiving the Honor Award, an recognition given for high academic achievement. This course focuses on preparing officers for their duties as military engineering leaders up to the company level, providing them with the knowledge and necessary skills for leadership, operations management, and planning.

KSF Officers Graduate in the USA



Captain Çlirim Morina and Captain Bardhyl Dugolli have successfully completed the Maneuver Captain Career Course (MCCC) at the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) in the United States of America. This prestigious course prepares leaders to assume responsibilities as company commanders and staff officers, focusing on combined arms combat at the tactical level. Our captains demonstrated high levels of commitment and skill, successfully passing rigorous assessments in command procedures, unit training management, and the military decision-making process. Through their dedication, they have shown extraordinary skills in battlefield thinking, effective communication, and caring for soldiers and their families.

Officer Cadet Lirijona Bajraktari Graduated from Sandhurst

Lirijona Bajraktari has graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. The one-year training at Sandhurst prepares officers to serve in various positions in the Armed Forces. This year's graduation brought the total number of graduates from the Kosovo Security Force at this Academy to 30 officers. The ceremony was led by General Sir Patrick Sanders, on behalf of King Charles III. Special thanks to the United Kingdom for their support in the development and education of officers from the Republic of Kosovo.



KSF Officer Graduated in Germany

Major Kadri Berisha has successfully graduated from the two-year training course for General Staff Officers at the Command and Staff Academy of the General Staff at the Ministry of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany (Führungsakademie Bundeswehr). Senior officers from 33 different countries across 5 continents participated in the training. The training prepares participants to face security challenges, the military planning and decision-making process, and military leadership and management.

