REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

# NEWSLETTER

October 2022

## MINISTER MEHAJ AND GENERAL JASHARI AT THE "AUSA 2022" ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION IN THE USA

**At the invitation of the United States Army Association (AUSA), the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, together with the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, participated in the Annual Defense Industry Conference and Fair in October AUSA 2022" in Washington.**

At the "AUSA 2022" Exposition, Minister Mehaj and General Jashari met with representatives of the well-known manufacturing companies of the American Defense industry, and were informed of the latest technological developments in this field, through informative presentations as well as panel discussion on the field of defense and security.

In the framework of the visit to USA, Minister Mehaj and General Jashari met with: Deputy Assistant Secretary of the State for European and Euro-Asian Affairs, at the same time supervisor of the policies of the Western Balkan countries, Gabriel Escobar, the Secretary of Defense for Policy, within the Department of Defense of the United States of America, Sasha Baker, the director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), James. A. Hursch, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology at the United States Department of Defense, Douglas R. Bush, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, both military advisor to the President and the Secretary of Defense, Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson.

## DIASPORA, AN IRREPLACABLE ELEMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT

During the visit to the USA, Minister Mehaj together with the delegation of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF and Ambassador Blerim Reka, met with the members of the Council of the Pan-Albanian Federation of America VATRA, the Board of the Albanian-American Civic League, businessmen and professionals of different fields. In these meetings, Minister Mehaj used the opportunity to thank them for their contribution so far and for the fact that they never forgot the nation. On this occasion, he emphasized the irreplaceable role of emigrants in the economic development of the Republic of Kosovo, but also in the important integration processes that our country is going through.

## GENERAL CIKAQI TOOK PART IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTACT GROUP ON THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, accompanied by the Chief of Staff of the Minister of Defense, Hasan Hoxha and the representative of the Republic of Kosovo for Relations with NATO, Astrit Zemaj, participated in the next conference of the Contact Group for Defense of Ukraine, which was held at NATO Headquarters, chaired by the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US Forces, General Mark A. Milley. The participation of the representatives of the Republic of Kosovo, reaffirms the strong faith that our allies have in our western democratic values and our state capacities for engagement on the common front in the defense of peace, freedom and democracy, as well as in the service of global stability and security.

## MINISTER MEHAJ RECEIVED THE PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE AND NATO POLICY OF THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, ANDREW L. WINTERNITZ

The Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj hosted the Principal Director for Europe and NATO Policy of the US Department of Defense, Andrew L. Winternitz, accompanied by the official of the Office of the US Secretary of Defense, Erica Simon, and the US Defense Attaché. Colonel Darrick Mosley, with whom they discussed the security situation in the country and the region and the current potential challenges from factors threatening peace and general stability.

On this occasion, Mr. Winternitz, praised the achievements of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, with special emphasis on the support of the US-led NATO humanitarian operation for the evacuation of Afghans, as well as the logistical support of operations to support Ukraine.

## MINISTER MEHAJ: THE VISION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO IS MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

"Women's contribution to the peace and security of the region" was addressed. In this regard, the General Inspector of the KSF, Major General Irfete Spahiu, in her speech addressed to the audience addressed the topic "Women's Contribution in the Army", stressing that the contribution of women in the army is not a quota that must be fulfilled but it is seen as an added military value, but also day by day as a necessity for operational success.

During the three-day seminar, the challenges and the future perspective for the Western Balkans in a changing European security environment, NATO's support for peace and stability in the region, governance and reform of the security sector in Kosovo, as well as parliamentary oversight on security institutions in Kosovo.

The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly organized the 102nd Rose Roth traditional seminar in October. One of the topics that was examined in this seminar was the topic "Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans, long-term challenges, new realities and future perspectives", where Minister Mehaj presented one of the main speeches in these sessions. In the speech His Excellency, Minister Mehaj, informed the participants of his strategic objectives in the development and advancement of the KSF, his goals in the field of defense diplomacy, international cooperation and engagement in the Euro-Atlantic integration processes of the Republic of Kosovo and its Government.

In the framework of this Seminar, among others, the topic:

## THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF NATO VISITED THE KSF

**During their stay in Kosovo, the participants of the 102nd Rose-Roth seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, headed by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, Ruxandra Popa, visited the Doctrine and Training Command of the Kosovo Security Force in Ferizaj. They were received by the Chief of Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, accompanied by the Deputy Commander of the KDS, Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci. On this occasion, General Dreshaj presented to the audience the vision and achievements of the KSF, and discussed the challenges and threats in the region and beyond, as well as the achievements of the KSF based on the 10-year transition plan, the creation of capacities defense with the new mandate of the KSF.**

## DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA HOSTED THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF NATO, BURCU SAN

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, accompanied by the Inspector General of the KSF, Major General Irfete Spahiu, hosted in a meeting the new appointee to the position Deputy Assistant to the Secretary General of NATO, Burcu San, accompanied by the director of NALT, Brigadier General Joachim Hoppe.

In this meeting, they talked about the general situation in the country, region and beyond, the Comprehensive Transition Plan of the KSF, international cooperation, the integration of non majority –community and the increase in the number of women and girls in the KSF. The Deputy Assistant to the General Secretary of NATO, Burcu San, emphasized that she is satisfied with the progress achieved in the development of the Ministry of Defense and KSF and with the good cooperation with KFOR.

## KSF AND ARMY OF NORTH MACEDONIA HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

In the framework of bilateral cooperation, in October, Minister Mehaj met the Minister of Defense of North Macedonia, Slavjanka Petrovska.

On this occasion, the two ministers discussed the areas in which we can cooperate, with special emphasis on cooperation in training and joint exercises between the armies of the two countries.

Also, Minister Mehaj reminded his counterpart, Minister Petrovska, that the KSF is ready to offer training to the North Macedonian army in the field of search and rescue, for which we have extremely prepared capacities, while the North Macedonian side will exchange with us the experience of internal reformation along the journey in the process for membership in the Partnership for Peace Program, in which we aim for the Republic of Kosovo to be a member.

Also important discussions were the agreement on cooperation in the process of integrating women into the army, the exchange of the most successful practices, the education of female officers and their training, as well as other issues of common interest.

## THE SECURITY STRATEGY OF KOSOVO FOR THE YEARS 2022-2027 APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT

In the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, on October 24, the Kosovo Security Strategy was presented, through which strategic document direction is given to our institutions in the unification of policies that will have a direct impact on the security of every citizen and the maintainance of peace in general.

The continuous investment in the KSF through the increase of the budget by more than 52%, has enabled the supply of modern weapons as well as the advancement in the professional training of our soldiers, while the implementation of this document will increase even more our defense capacities and vigilance as it concerns the security situation in our country but also beyond these borders, because our strategic goal is membership in NATO and the EU.

Coordination between institutions, the contribution of citizens to the Security Fund, together with the support of our strategic allies, are the unparalleled synergy for concrete results, a democratic, secure and capable state to guarantee the people's well-being and to contribute to peacekeeping missions everywhere.

## KOSOVO AND GERMANY ARE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj and the Commander of the KSF, General Jashari in October welcomed the German Deputy Chief of Defense, General of the Bundeswehr, and Lieutenant General Markus Laubenthal with his delegation, where they informed him about the security situation in our country and region, then for the development processes in the Ministry of Defense and KSF, with a focus on the dynamics of the implementation of the second phase of the transition, simultaneously seeking the further advancement of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense.On his side, General Laubenthal, among other things, evoked his memories during the service within the KFOR mission in our country, between 2002-2003, expressing his impressions of the positive developments in the consolidation of Kosovar institutions, as well as expressing his full support for the advancement of bilateral cooperation in the future as well.

The German Republic has made a special contribution in the framework of bilateral cooperation, sharing their experiences with the KSF, at the level of experts for specialized fields.

## BIALTERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN KSF AND AFRoA TO BE DEEPEN EVEN IN OTHER MILITARY AREAS

Chief of Staff of Armed Forces of Repiblic of Albania (AFRoA) , Brigadier General, Arben Kingji, with the high delegation of the AFRoA was hosted with highest military honors bt the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and the KSF high delegation. On this occasion General Jashari expressed high gratitude for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania under leadership of the General Kingji for his special contribution in developemnet and advancement of the skills and capacities of the KSF particularly in the education and training area.

On his side, General Kingji expressed readiness for the bilateral cooperation between both our Forces to deepen further more in other military areas that impact in upgrading of the KSF new caapcities.After meeting between General Jashari and General Kingji as well as two respective delegations, General Kingji was hosted in a separate meeting , also , by the Minister of Defense. Armend Mehaj.On this occasion, Minister Mehaj expressed deepen gratitude thanktitude to General Kingji for the Republic of Albania for fraternal support provided in periods of buildings, development as well as in so far achievemnets of the country as well as the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.

## AMONG THE 107 INTERNATIONAL ARMY TEAMS, KSF WINS A SILVER MEDAL FOR PERFORMANCE IN THE MILITARY COMPETITION

Every day, the Kosovo Security Force is showing a high level of professional preparation through the successes they are achieving in various international competitions. Recently, the Kosovo Security Force team managed to get the silver medal in one of the most prestigious military competitions in the world 'Cambrian Patrol 22' which took place in Great Britain.
In this competition, KSF members showed exceptional performance during 48 hours of training in the Black Mountains of Wales, together with 80 British teams and 27 teams from other international countries. The KSF's performance has also been praised by the United Kingdom's Defense Adviser, Lt. Col. John Hunter, as a clear demonstration of the commitment and high standards that the KSF has met.

## COMPANY 1A OF THE FIRST REGIMENT OF THE KSF LAND FORCES DEMONSTRATED HIGH PROFESSIONALISM IN THE LIVE FIRE FIELD EXERCISE

In the framework of the exercise plan of the KSF units, in October the KSF members from the 1st Regiment, Company 1A carried out the field exercise with operational firing (LFX), held in Babaj of Boka. This final demonstration with the "Company on the attack" scenario was demonstrated with high professionalism. The exercise was carried out over a period of more than three weeks, where during this period firing with live ammunition was carried out at the team, squad, platoon and company level, including firing with all infantry weapons, calibers from 5.56 mm to 40 mm.
The demonstration was followed closely by the Chief of Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, the military advisor to the Minister of Defense, Colonel Hamdi Pollomi, deputy. Commander of the Land Forces Command, Colonel Hysen Dreshaj, as well as other KSF Officers and Non-commissioned officers.

## DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE POLICY, FARUK GECI ATTENDS THE ADRIATIC CHARTER ANNUAL MEETING, USA-A5

Under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Defense of Montenegro, in OCTOBER the annual meeting of the initiative, the Adriatic Charter, US-A5, was held at the level of the directors of defense policies.
In this meeting, the Ministry of Defense was represented by the director of the Directorate for Defense Policy, Faruk Geci.
The main focus of the meeting was the concept of the revitalization of the Adriatic Charter as well as the level of regional cooperation within this initiative.
In his presentation, Director Geci reconfirmed the commitment of the Republic of Kosovo, respectively the Ministry of Defense to provide the full contribution within the framework of regional cooperation in the field of security and defense as well as reiterated the request for membership with full status of Kosovo in this initiative.
Among other things, in this meeting, the majority of member states of the Adriatic Charter re-enforced the Open Door policy of this initiative, and within it the request for membership of the Republic of Kosovo in this initiative.
According to the concept and format of the Adriatic Charter, USA-A5, the next meetings will continue at the level of defense ministers and foreign ministers in November and December of this year.

## TREES WERE PLANTED ATE THE "ADEM JASHARI" BARRACKS, TO MEMORIALIZE ALL THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE FIGHTING NATION OF THE KLA

In the space around the Obelisk of the Nation's Martyrs, in the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Pristina, in October, the planting of saplings began in the symbolism of all the heroes and martyrs of the nation - KLA fighters.
In the act of planting the first saplings, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, officers and senior officials of the KSF and the Ministry of Defense, as well as a large number of military and students of secondary schools in the country.
With this project, which will continue, it is planned to plant one sapling for each hero and martyr of the KLA warrior nation.

## DEPUTY MINISTER REDZEPLAR PARTICIPATED IN FORUM OF THE 12th "TO BE SECURE -2BS"

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Adnan Redzeplar, accompanied by the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Defense, Hasan Hoxha, participated in the 12th Forum "To be secure -2BS", which is one of the main political conferences and security in Southeast Europe, organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, which took place in Budva.

The Forum has marked twelve years of its efforts to influence, change and shape new and tactical thinking and to provide answers to current regional and global challenges.

The 2BS Forum has also highlighted several broad themes that present a challenge to current regional and global security frameworks and has raised particular concerns across the Euro-Atlantic community to re-analyze and re-launch common goals and joint efforts to strengthen and secure a sustainable future for the region of Southeast Europe and beyond.

## AGENDA FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING CHANGE IN THE SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

Under the organization of the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, the forum "Women, Peace, Security" was held, with the theme "Agenda for Women, Peace and Security, under the constant light of changes in the security architecture".

Minister Mehaj, who was present at this conference, emphasized that the integration of women in the security sector is undoubtedly an important issue, because it is an illusion to believe that we will have stable stability without the involvement of half the population, without the involvement of women.

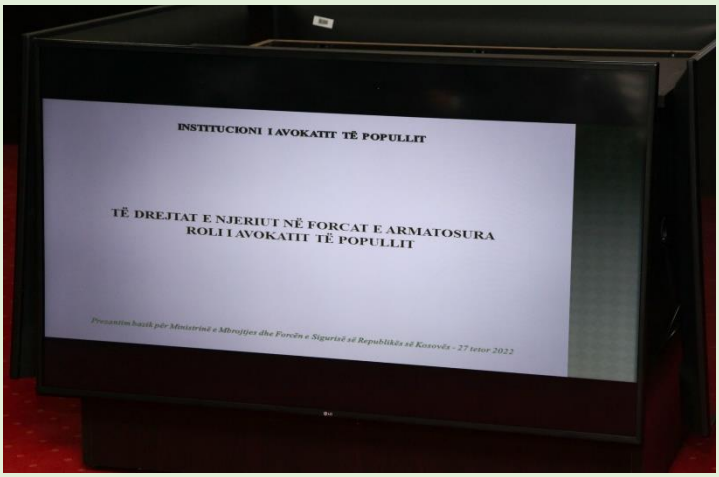
While on the second day of the Forum, the Inspector General of the KSF, Major General Irfete Spahiu, presented on the panel of the session with the topic "Women as security providers challenge gender stereotypes in the security sector". On this occasion, General Spahiu, from her perspective as a military leader with 24 years of experience, presented the commitment of the political and military authorities of our country for the qualitative implementation of UN Resolution 1325 within the framework of the KSF, giving her perspective for the need to provide equal opportunities for women and men in the pursuit of peace and security. Also, General Spahiu recalled that despite the stereotypes, starting from her example and that of her KSF military colleagues, women can overcome operational challenges, achieve treatment and equal opportunities to achieve effectiveness, alongside their male colleagues, to treat security challenges.

## EULEX MISSION DONATED VEHCILES TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

Within the framework of inter-institutional cooperation, EULEX donated to the Ministry of Defense a donation that included four vehicles. At the beginning, the Minister of Defence, Armend Mehaj, hosted the head of the EULEX Mission, Lars Gunnar Wigermark, whom he thanked for the donation, at the same time expressing his gratitude for the good cooperation between the two institutions. Then, on behalf of the EULEX mission, Mr. Wigermark, and on behalf of the Ministry of Defense, the General Secretary, Avdylkader Muçaj, signed the certificate of acceptance and delivery of the relevant donation. The Ministry of Defense is committed to cooperation and coordination of activities with all local institutions and international authorities in Kosovo, for the benefit of all citizens without distinction.

## "HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARMED FORCES - THE ROLE OF THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE"

In the Ministry of Defense, a presentation was held by the institution of the Ombudsman for officers and officials of the Ministry of Defense, with the topic: "Human Rights in the Armed Forces - The Role of the Ombudsman". On this occasion, the deputy of the People's Advocate, Majlindë Sinani Lulaj and the director of the Department for the Investigation of Complaints, Tafil Rrahmani, before the officials of the Ministry of Defense, in their presentation addressed the topics related to human rights, with a focus on the forces of armed and their defense. Among other things, the topic of the Ombudsman, the scope and supervision of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, was elaborated.The Human Rights within the Ministry of Defense and the KSF are addressed in high priority policies and instruments, which will also culminate with the functionality of the Parliamentary Commissioner of the KSF.



**THE PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRISTINA VISIT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE**

Minister Mehaj expressed his great gratitude to the educators and pedagogues of the schools and all the wonderful students for the visit and the special gift, the poem "Homeland" by our great writer, Naim Frashër.

*"With our mission, we commit to the maximum that the children of our country and all children everywhere in the world grow up, develop and live in complete peace and security"*, Minister Mehaj emphasized on this occasion.