



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



# NEWSLETTER

December 2023

## 2023 WAS THE YEAR OF THE ARMY



The year 2023 for the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force was a year of successes, which has elevated our army and security to the highest levels we have ever had. The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, disclosed these successes to journalists at the conference held on the occasion at the end of the year.

Below is the speech of the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, that held at the conference:

*"The Ministry of Defense, namely the army of the Republic, from the beginning has been and continues to remain among the main priorities of the Prime Minister Kurti and our government. This is proven above all by the budget allocations that for the*

*first time reach 204 million euros or 2% of GDP, thus fulfilling one of the requirements for NATO countries.*

*The record budget allocated to the Ministry of Defense has influenced the development of our army with extraordinary steps. First of all, we have increased the human capacities within the KSF through:*

*-During this year we have recruited 627 active recruits, while since the beginning of the mandate we have recruited 1836 new members, almost doubling the total number of military personnel with an increase of 66.87%. We have supported the increase in the well-being of our members, through:*

*-The rank of the private from 422 euros to 588 (an increase of 39%). Career corporal from 465 euros to 609 (31% increase). Corporal from 489 euros to 609 (31% increase).*

*- Since the beginning of the mandate, hundreds of officers and dozens of cadets have been educated in the most popular military academies in the world, while currently 62 cadets are attending education.*

*In addition to the education of new generations of cadets, investments have also been made in the training of soldiers. Only during 2023, 580 members were trained, while since the beginning of the mandate, 3325 military personnel were trained abroad, or 4 times more than in the previous governments.*



*At the same time, we have invested in increasing combat capacities through the purchase of weapon systems. With a budget that has increased by 38% compared to 2022, 28% more has been invested in the purchase of armaments. While compared to the previous government from less than 4 million that were invested, now in this mandate we have invested 239 million euros and of course the Bayraktar drones are just one of the types of weapon systems that we already have at our disposal. All these have made the Republic of Kosovo elevate 5 places higher in the Global Army Power Index in the world, this measurement was made in the year we are leaving behind, while in the next measurements we expect to be ranked even higher.*

*-I cannot but mention the fact that during this year KSF has successfully completed the field exercise “Defender Europe 2023”, in which case a regiment has been validated. Also, our members have shown a high degree of professionalism in the search and rescue operation initiated in the case of the earthquake in Turkey, then in the joint landing operation in the Falkland Islands, while we are in the process of finalizing the agreement for joint landing with the British Armed Forces in the state of Belize.*

*-In terms of international cooperation, I must emphasize that we have signed cooperation agreements with 15 countries, while we are in the process of agreeing on MoUs with the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Finland. Also during this year we have expanded the network of military diplomacy through the accreditation of our military attachés in the Netherlands, Slovenia and Canada, while we are in the process in Switzerland and Italy. Since we highly value cooperation with our strategic partners and our goal is NATO membership, as part of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine we have provided support to Ukraine within our capacities. We are in the process of developing the agreement with USAREU-AF for the training in Kosovo of the troops of the Ukrainian army in the field of demining and elimination of dangerous substances.*

*Regarding the aspect of Kosovo's international appearance, I emphasize that the International Training Center for Search and Rescue is reaping extraordinary successes. During this year alone, this center has trained hundreds of members of partner countries such as: Albania, the United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary, Jordan, Malta, North Macedonia, Ireland, Portugal, Turkey, and finally the Netherlands, the country with which we started the stage new provision of paid trainings at ITC SR.*

### ***Realization of the 2023 Work Plan and capital projects:***

*Of the 137 activities planned in the Annual Plan of the MoD for 2023, 131 activities have been realized so far, or translated into percentage 95%. As for the Second Phase of the CTP, all the objectives of this phase have been achieved, even exceeded, and as for the capital projects, out of 15 capital infrastructural projects planned for this phase, 9 have already been realized while 6 are in the process of realization. About 95% of the planned budget for 2023 has been spent.*



*-In the legislative aspect, the Defense Strategy and the Draft Law for the Defense Intelligence and Security Agency were approved this year. At the last meeting of the government, we approved the draft law on the status of foreign military forces in the territory of Kosovo. While we are working around the concept of Comprehensive Defense. What we can say is that KSF possesses all the necessary capacities to guarantee security for citizens and protection of the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. These are just some of our achievements throughout this year. While for the next year we will continue with even greater intensity in the further strengthening of our army.*

*Thank you all for your hard work in the service of achieving our strategic objectives and goals!*



## THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE KSF COMMANDER DECORATED THE SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS OF THE MoD-KSF



As a sign of appreciation for the many years of commitment to the defense and security of the country, the exceptional work in the leadership of the Kosovo Security Force, the dedication shown in the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan and the advancement of the professional and operational capacities of the KSF, Minister Maqedonci at the end of the year, decorated the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, with a medal for “Outstanding Service”.

Likewise, Minister Maqedonci and the Commander of the KSF, General Jashari, distributed medals to the senior military leaders of the KSF. Minister Maqedonci awarded the medal for “Outstanding Service”, while General Jashari awarded the “Commander” medal for senior military leaders.

These medals are awarded in recognition and appreciation for tireless work and dedication in meeting the objectives of the MoD and KSF. At the end, the two leaders congratulated the senior military for the medals and wished them good work in achieving the priorities and fulfilling the objectives in the following years, conveying the messages of thanks for the contribution of each military and civilian in fulfilling the constitutional and legal mission of the MoD-KSF.





## THE USA IS OUR MAIN STRATEGIC PARTNER



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, in December conducted an official visit of several days to the USA, where during his stay there he held important meetings in the Department of Defense and the Department of State.

On this occasion, he met with the Assistant Secretary of the Department of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, James O'Brien, the Assistant Secretary of the US Army for Technology, Logistics and Military Acquisition, Douglas R. Bush, the Deputy

Secretary of Defense, Sasha Baker, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Celeste A. Wallander, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe and NATO, Lisa Sawyer, Senator Joni Ernst, as well as other senior Defense Department officials.

In a meeting with the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, James O'Brien, minister Maqedonci reiterated that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the institutions and the entire people of Kosovo are firmly committed to the path towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

For his part, Assistant Secretary O'Brien reiterated the support of the United States of America for Kosovo's membership in the Adriatic Charter, the Partnership for Peace Program and NATO.



In the meeting with the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Sasha Baker, bilateral military relations, the transition plan, opportunities for increased cooperation in terms of training and joint exercises, as well as consultations about the bilateral defense plan that will be discussed at the beginning of the year, were discussed. 2024.

Deputy Secretary Baker expressed deep gratitude for Kosovo's contribution to the stability of the Western Balkans region as well as the support that Kosovo is giving for the righteous struggle of the people of Ukraine against Russian aggression.





Meanwhile, in the meeting with the friend of Kosovo, Senator Joni Ernst, minister Maqedonci expressed his deep gratitude for the contribution of the USA in each stage of the construction of the state of Kosovo, emphasizing that it will be continued in the deepening of the excellent cooperation that already exists.

As part of the official work activities, minister Maqedonci, accompanied by senior MoD officials, visited the Consulate of the Republic of Kosovo in New York, where they were hosted by Ambassador Blerim Reka. Also, during this visit, they met with the leadership of the Albanian-American Law Enforcement Association, where they had a fraternal and very

constructive discussion, during which they talked about developments in the field of defense, security and law enforcement, the commitment of compatriots in US law enforcement institutions, as well as cooperation opportunities.



The chairman of the association and the members of the

presidency expressed their full readiness to support the institutions of Kosovo and pledged to promote as effectively as possible the achievements of the security and law enforcement institutions of Kosovo in the law enforcement community in the USA.

Meanwhile, during the visit to the headquarters of the Pan-Albanian Federation of America “Vatra”, Minister Maqedonci was hosted by the chairman Elmi Berisha and the management staff of the Federation.

During this impressive meeting, I expressed my deep gratitude to President Berisha and the members of the “Vatra” Federation for the extraordinary commitment of the Vatra Federation

for supporting the national cause in all historical moments of our nation.

Minister Maqedonci concluded his official visit to the USA by paying tribute at the cemetery where the martyrs of freedom, Yll, Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi, rest in New York.

“The father of the three Bytyqi martyrs, Agron Bytyqi, can never get rid of the feeling of missing his three sons, but it is comforting that their lives were short in years but immortal in

weight, their heroism with glory will always be

remembered”, said minister Maqedonci on this occasion.

After the tributes, minister Maqedonci together with the president Gani Shehu and the members of the Atlantic Association, heir to the Atlantic Battalion of the KLA, held a conversation, always with a central theme for our country and the possibility of the contribution of the Atlantic Association in support of our institutions.



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## MINISTER MAQEDONCI TOOK PART IN THE MINISTERIAL OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION INITIATIVE OF CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE WESTERN BALKANS



In December, Minister Maqedonci participated in the Meeting of Defense Ministers of the Central European Defense Cooperation (CEDC) initiative, the countries of the Visegrad Group (V4), as well as the countries of the Western Balkans.

This was the first meeting that took place in this extended format and is aimed at developing discussions on current security challenges resulting from the impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine as well as current developments in the Middle East.

During his speech at this meeting, minister Maqedonci underlined the

importance of supporting Ukraine in its just struggle for the preservation of sovereignty and the protection of territorial integrity, while at the same time he informed those present about the country's contribution in support of Ukraine, according to its capacities and resources of our country.

Minister Maqedonci also brought to attention once again the strategic orientation of our country for membership in the EU and NATO and asked for the political support of the countries participating in this format for the realization of these aspirations of the Republic of Kosovo, to enable our greater contribution to peace and security in the region and the world. In the framework of participation in the ministerial initiative of the Defense Cooperation of Central Europe and the Western Balkan countries, the Minister of Defense had separate meetings with the Slovenian Minister of Defense, Marjan Šarec, with the Czech Defense Minister Jana Černočová, as well as with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Croatia, Ivan Anušić.

In these meetings, in addition to discussions on the global security situation and the impact on our region, minister Maqedonci and his counterparts from the respective countries also discussed bilateral relations in the field of defense.

In particular, minister Maqedonci thanked his Croatian counterpart for all the support provided to the Kosovo Security Force over the years, stressing that the Republic of Croatia is among the partners with the greatest contribution to the construction and development of defense capacities. our country.





## THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CONTINUES CLOSE COOPERATION WITH KFOR AND THE NATO ADVISORY AND LIAISON TEAM



Minister Maqedonci hosted the Head of Current Operations Division of the NATO International Staff, Ariella Viehe.

In this meeting, there was a discussion regarding the current developments in the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, as well as plans for the future, the security situation in Kosovo, where Minister Maqedonci emphasized the fact that the deployment of Serbian military troops around the border with Kosovo constitutes constant threat to the stability of the Balkans, and that such moves by Serbia must be treated seriously by NATO as well.

Minister Maqedonci affirmed the continued commitment of coordinating close cooperation as Minister with KFOR

and the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT). He reiterated that our objective is membership in NATO, so that the KSF can offer an active contribution to missions to maintain stability and peace.

## SLOVENIA SUPPORTS KOSOVO FOR MEMBERSHIP IN EURO-ATLANTIC ORGANIZATIONS



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Defense of Slovenia, Marjan Sarec, who was accompanied by the Ambassador of Slovenia to Kosovo, Minca Benedejcic, and other members of his delegation. In this meeting also participated, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, the Chief of Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, the Director of Defense Policies, Faruk Geci, the Director of the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Colonel Sylejman Cakaj, the advisor to the minister, Liridona Gashi and sergeant major of KSF, Bedri Zuka. Initially, the topic of this

meeting was the security situation in the country and beyond, where on this occasion, Minister Maqedonci emphasized that the attack of September 24 is worrying due to the fact that behind it, are the state structures of Serbia, therefore he said that it should be dealt with more attention as an action that openly shows the tendency to destabilize the country, consequently the Western Balkans.

In addition to the security situation, minister Maqedonci informed his Slovenian counterpart of all the KSF's progress so far, the capacities and willingness to deepen cooperation with the Slovenian forces, through joint training and missions, as well as other military activities. that can be developed beyond the bilateral plan. Also, minister Maqedonci expressed Kosovo's position regarding the war in Ukraine and the clear goal we have as a country for membership in the EU, A5 and NATO. On this occasion, he asked his counterpart for Slovenia's support in Kosovo's journey to membership in Euro-Atlantic organizations. For his part, Minister Sarec guaranteed the indisputable support of the Slovenian state for Kosovo and also expressed his willingness to further deepen the existing cooperation between the two countries.





## 325 NEW SOLDIERS ARE ADDED TO THE KSF



At the end of December was held the ceremony of certification for 325 new soldiers of the Kosovo Security Force.

In this ceremony, that was held at the “Skënderbeu” barracks in Ferizaj, took part the President of the country Vjosa Osmani, Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylaj, Deputy KFOR Commander General Federico Bernacca, international soldiers, as well as senior officials of the Ministry of Defense, senior officers of the KSF, municipal

leaders and family members of the young soldiers.

On this occasion, President Vjosa Osmani, among other things, emphasized in her speech: “I am proud that you wear the uniform of our forces, I am proud that you are heirs of the Kosovo Liberation Army and I am proud of the first step you took in the Training and Doctrine Command touching your dream to become soldiers of the KSF and starting your journey full of challenges in defense of our beloved homeland, the Republic of Kosovo”.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Albin Kurti in his speech, among other things emphasized that our Army is growing and will continue to develop, because every legal restriction that prevents this has been removed. “As always, our people

do not lack young men and women like you who want to serve the country, who wear the uniform of the Kosovo Security Force with honor and pride and are ready whenever and wherever to guarantee the safety of citizens and protect with their lives the entire territory of Kosovo”. At the end of the ceremony, recognition and awards were given to the most distinguished soldiers.





## DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA AND GENERAL JASHARI HOSTED THE DEFENSE ATTACHÉ OF THE UNITED KINGDOM



The former Defense Attaché of the United Kingdom, Lt. Col. Mathew Walker, completed his mandate in Kosovo in December, in which case he was hosted for a farewell meeting by the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lt. Gen. Bashkim Jashari.

Deputy Minister Sylja thanked Lieutenant Colonel Walker for the contribution made during his mission, in the framework of bilateral military cooperation with the forces of the United Kingdom, which is of great weight for our development processes. He expressed the highest gratitude and appreciation for the service with dedication and commitment throughout the one-year period of his

service in our country.

At the same time, Deputy Minister Sylja welcomed the new attaché, lieutenant colonel Edward Green, who was also present at the meeting. They promised that the good cooperation will continue in the future, in the realization of plans and objectives in the field of security and defense.

Meanwhile, the KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, thanked Lieutenant Colonel Walker for his service as an attaché who managed to push forward many projects, exercises and joint activities. During the 2020-2023 period, among many other achievements, he also managed to coordinate the participation of the KSF in deployments to the Falkland Islands, the continuation of education for the members of the KSF in the United Kingdom, the organization of collective training in Kosovo, the participation in Cambrian Patrol, as well as many other bilateral activities. At the end of the meeting, General Jashari decorated Lieutenant Colonel Walker with the “Selfless Service” medal for his dedication, commitment and continuous support for the Kosovo Security Force, thus contributing to the deepening of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense and security.



## MINISTER EJUP MAQEDONCI HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA IN KOSOVO, GEORGE SCHNETZER

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the Austrian ambassador to Kosovo, George Schnetzer, in a meeting today, whom he thanked for the continuous support that Austria has offered to Kosovo in various fields, such as in the economy, education and above all in the field of security and defense, as part of KFOR troops. In the meeting held, minister Maqedonci informed the Austrian ambassador about the security situation in the country and also the progress that KSF has achieved in the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan.

Both agreed to continue cooperation and deepen the excellent relations between the two states, in order to fulfill the goal of maintaining peace, stability and protecting Western values.





## THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO SIGNED THE BILATERAL PLAN WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF AUSTRIA

The Bilateral Plan was signed within the margins of the Central European and Western Balkan Defense Cooperation initiative, held in Prague, Czech Republic. The Director of the Department of International Cooperation, Colonel Sylejman Cakaj from our side as well as his Austrian counterpart signed the bilateral plan for 2024 within which joint trainings and activities will take place.

## THE BILATERAL PLAN IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY BETWEEN KOSOVO AND ITALY IS SIGNED

At the Ministry of Defense in December, a bilateral meeting was held in the field of defense and security between the Department for International Cooperation of the MoD and representatives of the Armed Forces of Italy. On this occasion, the Bilateral Plan of activities for 2024 was signed, a plan which will provide professional and advanced training for both the staff of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. This bilateral plan was signed by the director of the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integrations of the MoD, Colonel Sylejman Cakaj and the head of the branch for International



Cooperation, Colonel Mattia Zuzzi. Likewise, the Italian delegation was hosted at the meeting by the Director of Defense Policies, Faruk Geci, where during this meeting the security situation in the Republic of Kosovo and the region was discussed, as well as the need to increase cooperation between the Ministries of Defense and the armies of two countries. At the end of the meeting, the parties agreed that in the future the fields of cooperation will be expanded with other activities of mutual interest.



## DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA MET WITH THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO IN BERLIN, AMBASSADOR FARUK AJETI

During the official visit to Germany, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, was hosted in a meeting by the charge d'affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Berlin, Ambassador Faruk Ajeti and his staff, the Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Besim Gashi and the Police Attaché, Driton Vrajolli. Their discussions focused on expanding cooperation with the German state, a strategic partner and a close ally that has repeatedly expressed its willingness to help advance our institutions. The main focus was on promoting exchanges and projects that help in education, training, equipment supply and further support in areas affecting common security interests.





## KSF PARTICIPANTS TOOK PART IN URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING HELD IN SWITZERLAND



In addition to search and rescue teams from the United Kingdom, Spain and France, five members of the National Guard International Search and Rescue Center KSF, at the invitation of the United Kingdom International Search and Rescue Team, and with the approval of The United Nations Search and Rescue Team participated in the training organized in Switzerland, where for five days in a row they developed urban search and rescue training.

Our KSF members once again showed a high degree of professionalism thus proving the extraordinary potential that exists within ITC SR to become an internationally

recognized Center in the field of search and rescue, with Kosovo as the host country.

## THE COMMANDER OF THE KSF HAS PRESENTED A GRATITUDE FOR THE KSF WIND ORCHESTRA



On the occasion of the celebration of the “Day of the Force”, the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force presented a gratitude for the KSF Wind Orchestra, as a sign of gratitude and thanks for the contribution made to the KSF.

In an organized ceremony, the deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, presented the gratitude on behalf of the COMKSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, where on this occasion he congratulated the members of the Orchestra for their commitment to raising a positive image for the KSF .

## THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, KSF AND EMA HELD THE TABLETOP EXERCISE NAMED “GJILANI 23”

The Ministry of Defense, the Kosovo Security Force and the Emergency Management Agency have held the tabletop exercise “Gjilani 23”, which aimed to test the plans, procedures and protocols of the municipality of Gjilan, for the management of natural disasters and other disasters. with special emphasis, during the earthquake disaster. This the exercise was carried out at the request of the Municipality of Gjilan, after the first visit made to this municipality by the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja and his team, in which case military support was offered to the civil authorities and the issues of emergency preparedness, for the management of natural disasters and other disasters.

At the end of the exercise, an after-action analysis was held, where the advantages and shortcomings of the municipality of Gjilan were drawn, in order to successfully manage any type of natural disaster or other disaster.





## KSF OFFICER WINS “BEST STUDENT” AWARD AMONG SEVERAL PARTICIPATING STATES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



The officer of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant Dritëro Bajrami won the “Best Student” award at the ITC Instructor Training Course in the Czech Republic, among 30 student officers and NCO’s from several participating countries around the world. The training was planned and led by the British Military Advisory Team (BMAT), and included different activities from leadership, training of instructors for peacekeeping operations and other tasks, which affect the raising of the professional skills of KSF members. In addition to Lieutenant Bajram, three NCO’s of the KSF as well as officers and NCO’s from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Malta, Slovakia and Ukraine were part of this training. In the Czech Republic and in Kosovo from The British

Military Advisory Team (BMAT) has trained over 60 KSF members , officers and NCO’s.



## KSF OFFICER COMPLETES “INTERNATIONAL COURSE FOR “STAFF SERVICE” IN GERMANY

The officer of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Major Besnik Hasani has completed the “International Course for Staff Service/Admiral Staff 2023 (LGAI 2023)” at the Bundeswehr Leadership Academy in Hamburg, Germany. The course was designed to prepare senior officers, to operate at the national and international level, in order to be ready to face situations where flexibility and knowledge of complex problems of the strategic plane are required, and the application of methods of solutions in the plane operational. During the realization of the course, Major Besnik Hasani showed maximum commitment and high professional preparation by properly representing Kosovo, and in particular the Kosovo Security Force in the international environment.

## THE TRAINING “TRAIN THE EOD TRAINERS 3 PHASE 1” HAS SUCCESFULLY COMPLETED

In order to support and prepare new professional training staff for the Demining Company, teams of American instructors from EUCOM and Golden West have conducted the “Train the EOD Trainers 3 Phase 1” training. The closing ceremony of the training was held in the presence of the commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, the Commander of the Civil Defense Regiment, Lt. Col. Gëzim Sada, the Head of the ODC Office at the American Embassy, Lt. Col. Ryan Conley and EUCOM representatives. On this occasion, the two parties expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation so far, also General Haziri in his speech thanked the American representatives for the unsparing support they are giving in order to develop and increase the professional capacities of the Kosovo Security Force.





## KSF OFFICERS COMPLETED THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN THE USA WITH HIGH RESULTS



The officers of the Kosovo Security Force have managed to complete the international training in the United States of America with high results, being awarded with the “Best International Student” and “Distinguished Honor Graduate/Diplomatic Medal” awards. Lieutenant Betim Osmani has completed the “Basic Course for HAZMAT Officers” where he has shown a high level of skills and dedication in achieving success, which made him declared the “Best International Student” while Lieutenant Florint Fetiu has successfully completed the training “Finance and Comptroller Basic Officer Leader Course” and highly appreciating

his commitment and contribution in this field, he was awarded the “Distinguished Honor Graduate/Diplomatic Medal” award. The Kosovo Security Force continues to take care of the dedicated development and improvement of the skills of its personnel through international cooperation, the success of second lieutenants Osmani and Fetiu emphasizes the high level and preparation of KSF members and also reinforces the image of the Security Force of Kosovo on the international stage.



## SECOND LIEUTENANT GENTRIT MEHMETI SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE RECONNAISSANCE COMMANDERS' COURSE AND THE ISTAR MODULE

Second Lieutenant Gentrît Mehmeti successfully completed the Reconnaissance Commanders Course and the ISTAR module. The 8-week course challenges trainees to multiple series of tests, ensuring they are ready and prepared to lead as commanders of reconnaissance units.

## KSF WAS PART OF MILITARY TRAINING “FEKENI 23” IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

A company of the Third Regiment of the Ground Forces of the Kosovo Security Force has joined the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania in the joint exercise “Fekeni 23” which was carried out at the military training ground in Biza of the Republic of Albania.

The purpose of this exercise was to test the capacities of the infantry in winter conditions, the terrain and the conditions of the training ground in Biza enable the realization of the objectives and the testing of the acquired skills and capacities of the units participating in the exercise.







## ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC MEDAL FOR KSF

The officer of the Kosovo Security Force, Captain Shpend Hajdini, has successfully completed the “Adjutant General Captains Career Course” training in the United States of America, being awarded the “Diplomatic Medal”, as the international student with the highest results in the course. The training and education that KSF members attend in the USA and other friendly countries contribute to the professionalism and development of the capacities of the Kosovo Security Force.

## SOLDIERS FROM ALBANIA VISITED THE KSF

A delegation of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania headed by Colonel Besim Bala, Commander of the Center for Professional Education of NCO's (CPEN) with his staff have made a two-day visit to the Kosovo Security Force. Initially, they were hosted at the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), in Ferizaj by the Commander, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, who informed them of the achievements of the TRADOC, challenges and objectives for the future, he also



thanked the Colonel for the support continuous that is being given to the KSF, in the professional development of non-commissioned officers and officers. The visit continued to the National Guard where they were hosted by the commander, Brigadier General Naim Haziri and were informed of the capacities of the Guard, and the opportunities offered by the Guard with the International Training Center for Search and Rescue (ITCSR), also General Haziri offered all the support and the capacities of the Guard for the AFRA, in the professional development of the Search and Rescue of the AFRA. The visit was carried out within the framework of the cooperation that the Kosovo Security Force has with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania in the field of protection and exchange of experiences for the benefit of peace.



## COMKSF HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE RIT PRESIDENT

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted the President and the delegation of the Rochester Institute of Technology (AUK) in Kosovo, Dr. Kamal Shahrabi. During the meeting they talked about the excellent cooperation between the two institutions since 2005, where hundreds of officers have been trained by KSF in this institution of higher education. COMKSF expressed its thanks for the contribution given to the education and preparation of the cadres in a professional manner and with high academic achievements which they have witnessed over the years.



## NALT HOSTED A SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI-MEETING

The KSF members that in the past went to Germany, took part in educational/vocational training at German military institutions. To enliven and strengthen the connections they build there, Brigadier General Hammerstein, Director NATO Advisory and Liaison Team, informed them about new developments and changes within the policy and structure of the Bundeswehr. As the Bundeswehr in the future is facing new challenges, as does the



KSF, General Hammerstein reviewed the significant changes the KSF underwent since 2000. Underscoring the pivotal role that the cooperation between NALT, KSF and the MoD played in the last years, General Hammerstein laid out the basis, current structure and the ongoing activities of the NALT-Team.

## THE END OF THE YEAR 2023 MARKED ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

Lieutenant Veton Berisha and Lieutenant Ajdin Saramati, officers of the Kosovo Security Force successfully completed one of the most challenging trainings of the British Army, the “Platoon Commanders Battle Course”.

The course was aimed at training and building tactical skills for infantry middle leaders, with high mental and physical characteristics.

