REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KLA EPOPEE CELEBRATED AT "ADEM JASHARI" BARRACKS

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the KLA Epopee, a significant commemoration was held at the "Adem Jashari" Barracks. State leaders, dignitaries, and citizens gathered to honor the memory of the legendary commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), Adem Jashari, and the Jashari family.

The ceremony commenced with a drill parade by the KSF (Kosovo Security Force) squares. Notable attendees included President Vjosa Osmani, Prime Minister Albin Kurti, the Speaker of the Assembly Glauk Konjufca, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, and the KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. Also present were ministers, deputy ministers, senior officials from the Ministry of Defense, KSF generals, and other local and international authorities. Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, Chief of Staff of the KSF, reported to the President Osmani on the KSF's readiness to commemorate the KLA Epopee. President Osmani, accompanied by Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, inspected the KSF formations. The state and national anthems were performed by the KSF musical troupe, followed by a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the KLA obelisk.

President Osmani delivered a poignant speech, highlighting the superhuman sacrifice of the Jashari family during the heroic battle in Prekaz. She stated, "Whenever March 5, 6, and 7 arrive, our memories return to the pride and glory of those first 26 years. The Prekaz epopee, with its irreplaceable sacrifice, altered the course of our struggle for freedom and independence."

Prime Minister Albin Kurti echoed the significance of the KLA Epopee, emphasizing the historical context. He said: “We know our history. We value our history because it is dense in names and deeds. We honor our history because we recognize it in the entirety of society, wherever we go in the world with our history in our hearts, within every threshold in our families here and in our exile wherever it is. We are many because we carry famous names in our minds”. Speaking on behalf of the Jashari Family, Lulzim Jashari, the son of the Legendary KLA Commander Adem Jashari, who in his speech emphasized among other things: “Your weapons, and never forget this, are the continuation of the most peacful weapons in Balkans and beyond. The weapons of the ancestors were never stained with the blood of civilians but only targeted the uniform of the invaders. The weapon of the Albanian, as the peaceful weapon in the Balkans, was fired only in the name of the defense of the state and the nation, that is, only in the name of freedom, I repeat only in the name of freedom. We must preserve this great tradition and pass it on to the generations.”
The legacy of Adem Jashari and the KLA continues to inspire generations, reminding us of the unwavering commitment to freedom and independence.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND GENERAL JASHARI PAY TRIBUTE TO THE JASHARI FAMILY

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, accompanied by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Deputy Minister of Defense, Adnan Rexheplar, and the General Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Gafurr Dugolli, along with personnel from the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, solemnly paid tribute to the Jashari family and honored the memory of all those who sacrificed their lives for the nation’s freedom. Subsequently, they received a warm reception at the residence of Uncle Rifat Jashari. “To achieve freedom, we all had to be together. In addition to being united, we needed atorch to light our way. It was the KLA, it was the Jasharaj who brought us together and lit our way, leading us forward towards the liberation war, towards freedom. The dates 5, 6 and 7 March mark the greatest historical turning point of our people, mark the most sublime sacrifice for freedom and homeland, therefore they will always remain in the glorious memory of our people”, emphasized the Minister Maqedonci.

“THE EPOPEE OF DUKAGJINI”, MARKS ONE OF THE MOST GLORIOUS EVENTS AGAINST THE GENOCIDAL SERBIAN OCCUPYING FORCES

In honor of March 24, Minister Maqedonci, with the chairman of the assembly, Mr. Konjufca, and with fellow ministers, and then with generals and officers of our army, paid homage in Gllogjan where the bodies of our martyrs rest. At the Haradinaj tower, the guests were welcomed by Daut Haradinaj with whom the guests shared memories from the glorious days of resistance, perseverance, and battles of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

ITALY UNWAVERINGLY SUPPORTS KOSOVO'S EU AND NATO MEMBERSHIP

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, with an official ceremony, accompanied by the ceremonial platoon of the KSF, welcomed his counterpart from Italy, Minister Guido Crosetto to the meeting.

Also, in this meeting was the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, the director of the Directorate for Intelligence and Security, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, as well as officials and senior officers of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.

In this friendly meeting, they talked about the security situation in the country, as well as ways to expand cooperation in the field of education and military training, as well as in the field of the defense industry.

On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci asked for Italy's support in the processes for Kosovo's EU and NATO membership, where Minister Crosetto confirmed Italy's unsparing support. Both agreed that the Integration of the Balkans into the EU and NATO would create lasting stability and peace.

Minister Maqedonci thanked his counterpart for the support that Italy has offered to Kosovo, especially in the field of security and defense, being the country with the largest participation of troops within the KFOR mission.Likewise, the Italian delegation was informed about the support that Kosovo is offering to Ukraine, through the provision of training and the donation of tactical vehicles and ammunition that are expected to be sent soon.

CROATIA ASSURES ONGOING SUPPORT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND NATO MEMBERSHIP AND THE EC

As part of diplomatic engagements with partner countries, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci hosted a visit by Croatia's Minister of Defense, Ivan Anusic. The official reception ceremony, accompanied by the ceremonial platoon of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), took place at the Ministry of Defense facility. During this meeting, the two defense ministers and their respective delegations held the bilateral meeting.

The KSF commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi, also participated in this meeting. Syla, the Chief of Defense of Croatia, Tihomir Kundid, director of the Directorate for Intelligence and Security, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, Chief of Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, Ambassador of Croatia in Kosovo, Danijela Barisic, as well as other senior officials and military men from both countries.

In the meeting held, it was discussed about the security situation in the country and the region, the service of Croatian troops within KFOR, the defense capacities of Kosovo and the military directions, where cooperation between Kosovo and Croatia can be increased.

Minister Maqedonci emphasized that Kosovo and Croatia share a long common past as friends, allies and partners, the relations between which countries will continue to develop in accordance with our goals for peace, stability and security.

Minister Maqedonci thanked his counterpart for the support so far in the field of defense, education and training of KSF soldiers, while he asked for support for Kosovo's membership in the Adriatic Charter. On the other hand, the Croatian Minister of Defense, Anusic, emphasized that Kosovo will always have Croatia's support in the fight against terrorism, the preservation of the country's sovereignty, and also on the way to membership in NATO and the European Council.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE EJUP MAQEDONCI PARTICIPATED IN THE 20TH UKRAINE DEFENSE CONTACT GROUP MEETING

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci participated in the 20th meeting of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine in Ramstein, Germany, where he emphasized that the Republic of Kosovo remains steadfast in supporting the fair struggle of the people of Ukraine and will support it until the final victory. Minister Maqedonci informed the ministers and representatives of over 50 countries of the Contact Group about the support provided by the KSF for the training of Ukrainian troops within the framework of Operation Interflex in the United Kingdom, as well as the training for demining for Ukrainian troops, which is being carried out in cooperation with EUCOM, in Kosovo. Also, the minister informed those present about the first package of military support that will be sent to Ukraine during the next week, which consists of dozens of tactical trucks, tactical vehicles and military armored vehicles. In his speech, Minister Maqedonci announced the coordination and preparation of the second military support package, consisting of thousands of mortar shells, which will soon be sent to Ukraine, in order to support Ukrainian military units to increase their firepower indirectly.

KOSOVO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATE OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

On the 25th anniversary of the commencement of NATO attacks, Defense Minister Ejup Macedonia announced this milestone. He stated that with the admission of their parliamentary observer as an associate member state in NATO, Kosovo is beginning a new chapter. The word of Minister Maqedonci regarding this important event for our country:

"Today, on the 25th anniversary of the start of NATO's attacks, we are marking a new chapter with the news that the Permanent Executive Commission of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has decided that Kosovo, from a parliamentary observer, will be accepted as an associate member state. March 24, 1999, marked a new momentum for Kosovo and its struggle for freedom and an independent state, while today with this decision of NATO we are one step closer to fulfilling our goal as an inviolable state and for a stable Balkans. The intervention of NATO on March 24, 1999, could not but happen as it was the only form that could end the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo, stop the killings of children, women, men and the elderly, systematic rapes, persecutions, burnings and violent expulsions and with focus, therefore, March 24 is not only aligned with the people of Kosovo but also aligned with the right side of human history as an action in support of the values of Western civilization, peace, freedom, and democracy. It is regrettable that our northern neighbor, even 25 years after the end of the war, does not apologize and does not feel remorse for the genocide committed in Kosovo. State archives have never been opened, while the executors of the crimes of the Serbian state continue to walk free. While today we remember NATO's bombings as the most righteous action of this powerful military alliance, the Serbian state continues to blame NATO and justify Milosevic's genocidal actions. This speaks a lot about the same mentality that continues to exist among Serbia's rulers. We cannot bring back to life the victims, the killed of the massacres, but we are forever grateful to the members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the martyrs, and NATO that make it possible for us today to live in the independent state of the Republic of Kosovo."

THE MINISTER MAQEDONCI HOSTED THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF TÜRKIYE, BRIGADIER GENERAL ÖMER NAFIZ GÜLMEZOGLU

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, along with the KSF Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, and other distinguished MoD/KSF officials and officers, hosted a meeting with the Head of Foreign Relations for the Turkish General Staff, Brigadier General Ömer Nafiz Gülmezoglu. The meeting was also attended by esteemed officials and senior officers from Türkiye. Minister Maqedonci thanked General Gulmezoglu for the unsparing support of the Republic of Türkiye through all phases of Kosovo's state building, especially in the field of defense and security, and expressed the strong will for the further continuation of this close cooperation between both countries. For his part, General Gulmezoglu thanked Minister Maqedonci for the friendly reception and noted that Türkiye will always support Kosovo in achieving its strategic goals. Also, General Gulmezoglu affirmed that the Republic of Türkiye is interested and engaged in maintaining peace and stability in Kosovo and in the region and that this is best proven by the presence of Turkish troops within KFOR.

KSF Conducted Military Dialogue Meeting with Turkish Armed Forces

Following the meeting at the Ministry of Defense of the RKS of the head of the Department for Foreign Relations within the General Staff (GS) of the Armed Forces of Türkiye Brigadier General Ömer Nafiz Gülmezoglu with the Minister of Defense Mr. Ejup Maqedonci, the working teams from KSFGS and AF of Türkiye under the leadership of the Chief of Staff of the KSFGS, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, continued the meeting in the premises of KSFGS.

In this meeting, the cooperation so far between the KSF and the Turkish Armed Forces was discussed, with special emphasis on M2M military cooperation. General Qeriqi thanks General Gulmezoglu for the assistance of the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish Armed Forces in the development and professionalization of the KSF.

The meeting for the military dialogue between the KSF and the AF of Türkiye was planned within the framework of the Bilateral Plan and the purpose was to control the implementation of the bilateral plan for 2024 and define the way forward in the cooperation report for 2025.

INAUGURATION OF THE STATE TRAINING CENTER FOR CYBER SECURITY

The inauguration ceremony for the State Training Center for Cyber Security was held at the 'Adem Jashari' KSF Barracks in Prishtina. Attended prime Ministerof Republic of Kosovo Albin Kurti, the Minister of Defense, Ejup, Maqedonci participated in this inauguration, KSF commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Peter Hammerstein, the ambassador of the United Kingdom in Kosovo, Jonathan Hargreaves, as well as officials and senior officers of the MoD/KSF as well as international partner countries.

In his speech, addressed to the attendees of this ceremony, Prime Minister Kurti emphasized that he is pleased to mark an important moment in the path that Kosovo is following towards a safer cyber space, adding that the inauguration of this Center represents a commitment, dedication and significant achievements in this regard.

"The past year has been a year of progress for many of our initiatives and policies in the field of cyber security. The trainings that will be held in this Center will address the essential objectives for the development of human capacities for cyber security and the creation of collective awareness of cyber risks", said Prime Minister Kurti.

Meanwhile, the Minister Maqedonci announced that the State Training Center for Cyber Security will offer training in order to raise awareness of risks in the field of cyber security, will improve professional skills and help raise the cyber security levels of institutions. government, operators of essential services and providers of digital services, to achieve the capacities for the protection of critical infrastructure in the country. Likewise, the Minister Maqedonci thanked Prime Minister Kurti, the Embassy of the United Kingdom and the Embassy of the USA, who enabled the realization of this project of high state interest.

The curriculum for the State Training Center for Cyber Security, which constitutes an essential element in the implementation of the national Cyber Security Strategy, has been designed with the support of the Embassy of the United Kingdom and implemented by the Geneva Center for Governance of the Security Sector (DCAF) with local and international experts.

Through the implementation of this curriculum, this Center constitutes a new important pillar of the country's security protection.

KSF ARSENAL EXPANDED WITH ADDITION OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL MILITARY TRUCKS MADE IN GERMANY

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, together with Prime Minister Albin Kurti and the commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari,closely saw the fleet of multifunctional military trucks. RheinMetall MAN HX2, 8X8 which have been added to the army's arsenal. Out of a total of 15 trucks, 10 were purchased with the state budget, while five were donated. Minister Maqedonci emphasized that these trucks are among the most modern, multi -functional, designed for logistical and tactical operations. “The new features of this pure military truck are very impressive. Thanks to various assistance systems, HX2 offers soldiers and the civilian environment greater safety in the daily use of vehicles and guarantees significantly more protection in the cabin”, said Minister Maqedonci, adding that fleet management in these trucks also becomes more simple and more efficient, while the overall configuration enables the transport of ammunition in difficult terrain. The Kosovo Security Force is increasingly equipped to guarantee the fulfillment of its constitutional mission.

DEFENSE MINISTER EJUP MAQEDONCI ATTENDED REOPENING CEREMONY OF KUCOVO MILITARY AIR BASE IN ALBANIA

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, described this as a historical event that will give another geostrategic character to Albania and the Balkans in general. “This base, which will serve as a tactical and operational air base, constitutes the biggest investment of Albania and the NATO alliance, as the collective defense asset in the most threatened security decade. Since the Kosovo Security Force, in accordance with the Comprehensive Transition Plan, will also increase its air capacities, we hope that Albania will continue building a modern air fleet”, emphasized Minister Maqedonci. Further, he added that the Albanian nation is always on the right side of history, therefore this base, as well as all military capacities, will only be in the function of peace. Through the Kucova airbase, the security situation in the Balkans will now be seen from a different view, certainly more consolidated than ever the cooperation between NATO member states and our neighbors who want stability.

PRESIDENT OSMANI CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE KSF

In honor of International Women's Day, March 8, in the premises of the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Pristina, a festive ceremony was held, where women and military girls of the KSF, veterans of the KLA and KPC were present. as well as Ministry of Defense officials. Attedned Minsiter Maqedonci, deputy minister Shemsi Syla, the deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, as well as officers and senior officials of the MoD and the KSF. Initially, President Osmani greeted the women and girls present on this occasion, emphasizing that: "There is no greater pride than sharing our common achievements with our soldiers. I believe that it is precisely your uniform that symbolizes the greatest achievements of gender equality in our Republic. Each of us knows how difficult your presence is, and the fact that the number of women in the army is increasing every day is the greatest proof that we have succeeded", adding that we also remember all those women and girls who are not among us, and which became a symbol of resistance, war and commitment to freedom and equality. Highly appreciating the contribution of official and military women and girls in the Ministry of Defense and KSF, Minister Maqedonci said that International Women's Day marks the continuous efforts of society for gender equality but also the successes that women have achieved historically. Furthermore, Minister Maqedonci emphasized that the month of March for the Albanian nation is related to our resistance for freedom, where at each stage of our people's journey for independence, the women of this country have given priceless contributions.

The Ministry of Defense is committed to guaranteeing professional development for each member of the KSF, whether male or female, beyond the participation rate. The implementation of democratic policies based on meritocracy and civilian supervision are intended to support the academic and professional advancement of women in the army so that they are never discriminated against.

SOLDIERS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA AND THE KSF ARE CERTIFIED IN THE ITCS&R

In the premises of the National Guard, the Minister Maqedonci took part in marking the successful completion of the joint training of the members of the HAZMAT unit of the KSF and the CBRN unit of the Forces of the Republic of North Macedonia with the Agency for the Reduction of Threats Defense (Defense Threat Reduction Agency, DTRA), US Marines CBIRF and the Iowa National Guard's (71st Civil Support team).

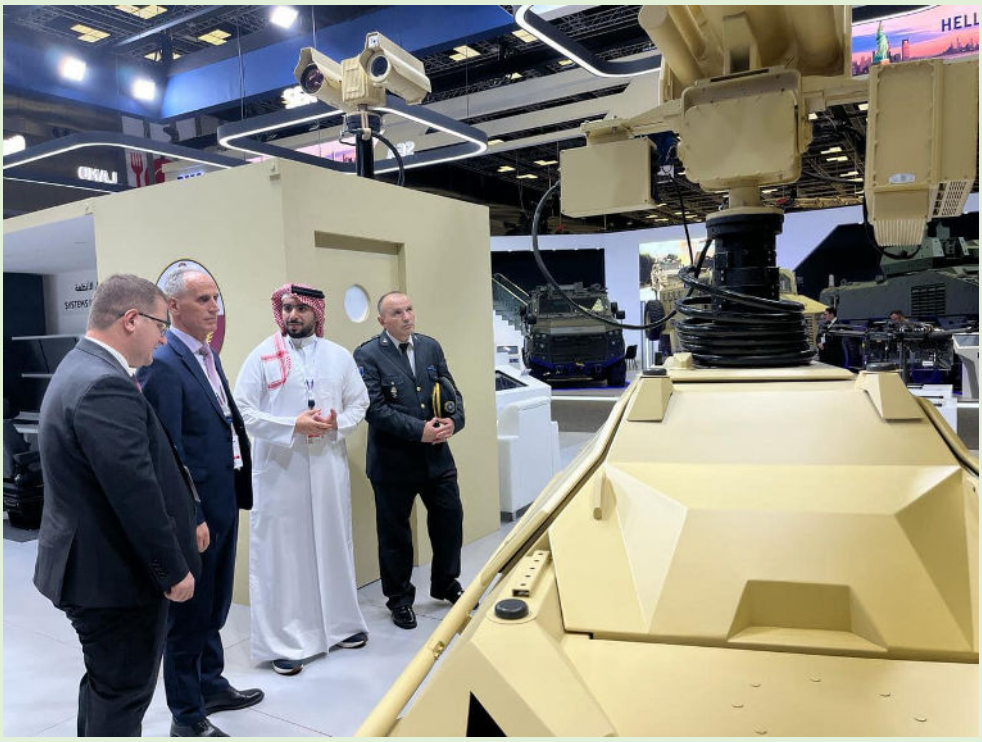
During this training that took place at the International Training Center for Search and Rescue in Pomozatin, the units of the Civil Defense Regiment, the Hazardous Materials Company exchanged experiences with the members of the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia on the capacities, the way of operating in the field as well as the use of specialized equipment . Also, during this exercise, our members and the members of the Republic of North Macedonia were tested in simulations organized by American instructors. The simulations were varied and complex, covering all fields, chemical, biological and radiological.

This training was a very good opportunity for our members to exchange different experiences, operations, real interventions and many years of experience on the part of the participating members and instructors.

DIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORATE OF DEFENSE POLICIES, FARUK GECI, HAS HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE OFFICIALS FROM THE DEFENSE POLICY DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF GERMANY

In this event, where the activity " Staff Talks ", strategic level topics on security and defense policies between the Republic of Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Germany were addressed. Also, talks were held on the current situation in the country and the region, the potential for increased cooperation and joint commitment in this regard.

DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA ATTENDED THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENT 'DIMIDEX' IN DOHA



Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, who was accompanied by the delegation of the Ministry of Defense, at the invitation of the Qatari authorities, participated in the large international manifestation in Doha "DIMIDEX" (Doha International Maritime Defense Exhibition & Conference), held from March 4-6, 2024.

On March 4, the central meeting was held with all the delegations of the participating countries (USA, Great Britain, France, Türkiye, China, Iran, Japan, etc.). Next, the big exhibition of the most modern and advanced technologies of all types of weaponry was opened.

On this occasion, Deputy Minister Syla and his delegation visited the fair, accompanied by our ambassador to Qatar, Fuad Morina. A special meeting was organized by Abdullah Hassan Al-Khater, chief executive of the company " Barzan Holdinks " which leads the defense industry of Qatar. In a very warm and friendly atmosphere they agreed on bilateral cooperation in the field of defense industry.

Likewise, Deputy Minister Syla also met with many representatives of the most well-known companies in the defense industry, where they discussed the possibility of cooperation with common interest.

Next, the delegation also visited the embassy of Albania and North Macedonia, where they were warmly received by Nuri Domi and Shaban Jashari, heads of the embassy offices.

As part of this visit, the deputy minister was received by the Turkish ambassador to Qatar, dr. M. Mustafa Goksu, the president of the Defense industry of Türkiye, prof.dr. Haluk Görgün, at the closing evening meeting with representatives of 30 defense industry companies, under the organization of the Turkish embassy.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI RECEIVED JOURNALISTS FROM UKRAINE FOR A MEETING

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci hosted journalists from Ukraine, who are sheltered in Kosovo, as a result of the war in their country. He expressed his satisfaction for this special meeting with Ukrainian journalists, for whom Kosovo has become their second home. The minister emphasized that although far from their homeland, Ukraine, Ukrainian journalists through their articles continue to expose and defend the undeniable truth of the unprovoked invasion of the Russian Federation on Ukraine.

"As a country that has gone through the war, we understand the pain it brings, but we are also deeply convinced that in the end the right will win, the people of Ukraine will win. Their victory is the victory of everyone who believes in the values of democracy, it is the victory of every people who have sacrificed a lot for freedom", said the Minister Maqedonci, adding that Kosovo will continue unsparing support for Ukraine within all the their capacities.

Minister Maqedonci confirmed that the first package of military support will be launched this week, while the second package, consisting of thousands of mortar shells, is being prepared.

KSF COMMANDER VISITED IOWA - GENERAL JASHARI AND GENERAL OSBORN DISCUSSED JOINT ACTIVITIES IN STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

At the invitation of the commander of the Iowa National Guard, Major General Stephen Osborn, the KSF commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and his delegation have been on an official visit to Iowa, USA.

On the first day of the visit, General Osborn received General Jashari in a bilateral meeting where they discussed the joint activities within the State Partnership Program between the two forces as well as the goals for the advancement of activities based on the medium-term cooperation plan. The two generals agreed to further develop the program in the areas of maneuver, logistics, cybernetics, medicine, and the development of the non-commissioned officer corps.

Also, during this visit, several presentation sessions were held on the recruitment and development of human capacities, on readiness and modernization. Both delegations had the opportunity to exchange experiences and practices from the two respective countries.

On the second day of his visit, General Jashari and his delegation were received by the deputy governor of Iowa, Mr. Adam Gregg . During the meeting, General Jashari thanked Mr. Gregg for the continuous support that the state of Iowa is giving to Kosovo in general and the KSF in particular. COMKSF had the opportunity to inform him about the achievements of the KSF, and the way forward in the development of new capacities. The deputy governor expressed his satisfaction with the level of cooperation and the achievements, and expressed his willingness to continue deepening the cooperation at the highest possible level.

The KSF delegation also visited the Kosovo Consulate in Iowa, where they were received by the First Secretary of the Consulate, Mr. Fatmir Rrahmanaj . He presented the work of the consulate and their engagement in coordinating and synchronizing joint activities in the field of defense and diplomacy.

In continuation of the official visit to the USA, General Jashari and the KSF delegation participated in the Annual Conference of the Commanders of the National Guard. In this conference, the way forward and long-term planning in the development of capacities in accordance with global security developments were presented.

In a special session, General Jashari addressed the attendees where he announced and presented the medium-term focus of cooperation and at the same time thanked them for their support and cooperation in the journey of the Force towards modernization. The attendees addressed questions about cooperation opportunities and the way forward.

At the end of the sessions of the annual meeting, the annual solemn dinner was held where General Jashari was invited in honor of the commander of the Iowa National Guard, Major General Stephen Osborn. General Jashari had the opportunity to meet with the governor of the state of Iowa, Mr. Kim Reynolds.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI HOSTED BRIGADIER GENERAL BOGDAN PIDANTY AND COLONEL ZBIGNIEW TOMALAK FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS OF POLAND AT THE MEETING

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci hosted in a meeting the head of the Department of Foreign Military Affairs of the Ministry of Defense of Poland, Brigadier General Bogdan Pidanty and the head of the Central European Branch of the Department of Foreign Military Affairs of Poland, Colonel Zbigniew Tomalak, with whom they discussed the activities in which the two countries can cooperate. Minister Maqedonci affirmed that Poland is one of the countries with which the increase of military cooperation is aimed and expressed his high appreciation for the support that Poland is offering to Ukraine in this difficult confrontation with the Russian aggressor.

"Related to the common values of the EU and the fight for peace, security and stability, we will advance the bilateral relations between our countries", said the Minister Maqedonci , who also emphasized the readiness of support with the training of KSF demining training teams.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI RECEIVED THE SENIOR ADVISOR FOR STRATEGY AND PLANS OF THE NATO LIAISON OFFICE, LT. COL. PHILLIP LEAHY, IN A FAREWELL MEETING

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci hosted in a farewell meeting the senior advisor for Strategy and Plans of the NATO Liaison Office, Lt. Col. Phillip Leahy, who wished him success in his new task and mission. On this occasion, for his service and the contribution made in the field of strategy and plans, the advancement of the capacities of the KSF in this direction, the minister decorated Lieutenant Colonel Phillip Leahy with the Distinguished Service Medal.

The role of the NATO advisory body, in consolidating the KSF in safe steps and conforming to the standards of NATO member states, is irreplaceable. The minister also added that the cooperation with all the advisors of the NATO Liaison Office is excellent, so it will be the same with the successor of Lieutenant Colonel Leahy.

DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA VISITED THE MUNICIPALITY OF VITIA

Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, with his team, within the framework of fulfilling the mission of military support for the civil authorities, has visited the Municipality of Vitia. He was received by the deputy mayor of Vitia Municipality, Hasan Alia, with his associates. The topic of the meeting was the provision of support by the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force to the Municipality of Vitia in the management of crises, natural disasters and other disasters, throughout the entire cycle of emergency management such as: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from disasters natural and other disasters. At the end of the meeting, both sides pledged to increase cooperation in emergency planning, with special emphasis in the field of training and exercises.

THE TABLE EXERCISE “ SHTIMJA 24” WAS CONDUCTED

According to the mission, military support for civil authority, at the request of the Mayor of Shtime, Qemajl Aliu and with the coordination of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, a table-top exercise with a Flood scenario was held in Shtime. The mayor of the municipality, the deputy mayor of the municipality, the directors of the directorates, the police commander, the commander of the professional firefighting and rescue unit, the secretary of the red cross, representatives of the hydroregion and a representative of the KPC pensioners' association participated in this exercise., KSF and “Elita” sympathizers. The purpose of the exercise was to test the policies, plans, procedures and agreements of the Municipality of Shtime, for the management of natural disasters and other disasters and in the case of this exercise, the management of floods.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL JASHARI HOSTED LIEUTENANT GENERAL FERRARA FOR A VISIT

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari received the Italian delegation led by Lieutenant General Vito Ferrara, General Inspector of the Inspectorate of Military Medicine of the Italian Army.
During the meeting, among other things, the possibilities of cooperation between the two armies were discussed, especially in the field of military medicine with special focus on the field of training and specializations, the exchange of medical personnel, and other relevant fields. Both sides agreed on further cooperation, including opportunities for cooperation in the field of military medicine in the mechanisms led by the Italian Armed Forces.
The purpose of the Italian delegation's visit is to establish cooperation in the field of military medicine between the two armies, which is based on the bilateral plan between our two countries.

KSF GENERALS ENVER CIKAQI AND GËZIM HAZROLLI MET THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

KSF Generals Enver Cikaqi and Gëzim Hazrolli met the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA) and lectured at the "Higher Security and Defense Course" in Albania.
The Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Major General Enver Cikaqi and the Director of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security in the Ministry of Defense, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, visited AFRoA yesterday where they met with the Chief of Staff there, Major General Arben Kingji and discussed for Security issues that are of common interest to both parties.
On this occasion, General Cikaqi and General Hazrolli, as guests of honor for the participants of the "Higher Security and Defense Course" (HSDC-14) program, lectured on the topics: "Security environment in Kosovo - case study" and "Institutionalization of cooperation in security - the case of Kosovo".
During the visit, Major General Cikaqi and Major General Hazrolli were received in a special meeting by the commander of the Defense and Security College, Brigadier General Ylli Pulaj, as well as they met closely with Colonel Avni Kiçina, which is part of HSDC-14, as well as the officers from the Kosovo Security Force who are being educated in the Republic of Albania.
The cooperation of the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania is being developed with the aim of professional development and interoperability between the two armies.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HYSEN DRESHAJ RECEIVED AFROA LAND FORCES COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL ILIR XHEBEXHIA

In the premises of the Command of the Land Forces (LFC), the Commander of the LFC, Brigadier General Hysen Dreshaj hosted the delegation from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (FARSH) led by the Commander of the Land Forces of the AFRoA, Major General Ilir Xhebexhia. General Dreshaj informed General Xhebexhia of the achievements and challenges of the LFC, the increase of combat capacities, they also discussed the possibilities of cooperation between the two forces with a focus on joint training and exercises. The generals expressed their readiness for a cooperation in areas of common interest, in capacity building and their contribution for the benefit of both countries and the general interest for the benefit of peace in the region and beyond.

DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE KSF VISITED SOLDIERS FROM KOSOVO AND NORTH MACEDONIA UNDERGOING TRAINING BY AMERICAN INSTRUCTORS

At the "Young Europeans" barracks in Pomozotin, for two weeks, the joint training with participants from Kosovo and North Macedonia in the field of hazardous materials, led by Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), US Marines CBIRF and 71st Civil Support Iowa National Guard Team from the United States of America.

The training included the theoretical part and practical work in materials management, focusing on prepared scenarios, where participants demonstrated their skills and abilities to choose problems and identify hazardous materials and their management. Participants were trained in work techniques, tactics and procedures, taking samples to identify substances, including all chemical, biological and radiological fields, also experts in the field from the USA and Kosovo shared their experiences in solving problems with substances dangerous.

The Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, accompanied by the Commander of the National Guard of the KSF, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, visited the participants in the training, where they saw closely the working conditions and the progress of the training. On this occasion, General Cikaqi thanked the DTRA instructors, for their work, commitment and contribution over ten years in building the capacities of the KSF Hazardous Materials Company, helping both professionally and with equipment. specialized . The deputy commander also highly appreciated the participation of the military from North Macedonia, stressing that this cooperation is quite important considering the same dangers that Kosovo and North Macedonia go through, and such trainings help to increase interoperability between the two countries for operation with the same standards of action.

The continuous support from the American Embassy in Kosovo through DTRA, has made it possible for the members of the KSF to raise their professional capacities, and to be ready to react in the management of hazardous materials not only in Kosovo but wherever required by Kosovo's partner states.

THE KSF NATIONAL GUARD WAS VISITED BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Commander of the KSF National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri received the ambassador of the United Kingdom in Kosovo, Mr. Jonathan Hargreaves. General Haziri and the staff informed the Ambassador about the achievements, challenges, operational and training capacities of the National Guard, also General Haziri thanked for the continuous assistance that the United Kingdom has given to the KSF, and in particular to the National Guard.

During the meeting, the special focus was on the cooperation so far between the KSF/National Guard and the United Kingdom, the contribution to the increase of operational capacities specifically the response to disasters, cooperation in the future with the aim of providing a safer environment for the lives of citizens. The Ambassador has visited the International Training Center for Search and Rescue (ITCSR) of the National Guard where he saw closely the capacities of this center and on this occasion the donation donated by the Embassy of the United Kingdom to the ITCSR, which includes specialist equipment, was accepted. for Rescue Search - Water, which is the third donation to ITCSR from the Embassy of Great Britain.

THE KSF OFFICER GRADUATES IN THE USA

KSF officer Xhemajl Mziu has successfully graduated from the Maneuver Captain's Career Course at Fort Moore, United States of America.
Career Captain Education prepares officers for leadership, future company commanders prepared and trained for leadership tasks, troop training and efficient planning to be able to lead the company towards the accomplishment of tasks to ensure peace where it will in the world.
The Kosovo Security Force, every day is raising human capacities with the highest standards of schooling and education in the most prestigious schools and academies in the world, all this is being done thanks to the continuous support of our strategic partners at every stage of development and our upgrading are with us.

KSF AND AFROA TRAINED BY US EUCOM INSTRUCTORS

In the framework of the cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, the Training Center of the Support Command has carried out training on ammunition management and Physical Security, with trainees from the Kosovo Security Force and the Albanian Armed Forces, in the framework of the standardization of knowledge according to NATO procedures, under the continuous support of US EUCOM through the Company " Golden West".

KSF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER RANKS THIRD IN 'WINTER CAMP' COMPETITION

Staff Sergeant Berat Babaj from the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), has managed to rank third in the " Winter " training and competition Camp " which was held in the Pokljuka camp in Slovenia, with the participation of 20 NATO countries and other international partners, where 36 military personnel from participating countries took part.
For two weeks, theoretical and practical topics were carried out focusing on: Skiing, Using equipment in winter conditions, Finding a victim after an avalanche, Orientation in nature in winter conditions, etc.
At the end of the training, a competition was held between the participants (biathlon race) that included: ski launch, ski walking, long distance shooting while moving.
The participation of the military from Kosovo in various international trainings and competitions side by side with our allies is an indication that the KSF is rising to the standards of NATO countries, thus creating interoperability with our partners in every field.