



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

September 2022

THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “KSF AND PARTNERS 2022” WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL



Under the organization of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the KSF, the annual international conference “KSF and partners 2022” was held over two days. Led by the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integrations of the Ministry of Defence, the conference has realized the main goal and the foreseen objectives.

After the opening session with the participation of the highest authorities of the Ministry of Defense, KSF, NALT and KFOR, as well as ambassadors and senior diplomatic officials in our country, the conference on the first day continued in the session of presentations on the transition process, defense policies, international cooperation, as well as operational readiness.





The second day of the conference continued with the realization of bilateral meetings with the authorities of the partner countries separately, where the scale of realization of the annual bilateral cooperation plans was analyzed and evaluated. In continuation of these meetings, the main issues for the coordination and synchronization of the bilateral plans for the following one-year period, as well as the projections for the mid-term period, were discussed. In addition to work activities, for guests



from partner countries, the organizers of the conference have taken care to offer them, the opportunity to make Institutional visits such as the one at the International Training Center for Search and Rescue in Pomazatin as well as cultural visit to the National Museum of Kosovo. According to the chairman of the organizational council of the conference, Lieutenant Colonel Beton Retkoceri, the “KSF and Partners’ 2022” conference, both by the local and international authorities, but also by the participants of the partner countries, has been evaluated at the highest level in terms of organization, also in the content.



UNITED KINGDOM – KOSOVO SIGNED A JOINT STATEMENT FOR CO-DEPLOYMENT OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN MILITARY MISSIONS

The Minister for the Armed Forces and Veterans, James Heapey at the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland hosted the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, during his official visit to the United Kingdom.

This meeting, in addition to confirming the support of the United Kingdom in our goals for NATO integration, also preceded our cooperation plan for the following years. In the framework of this cooperation, a joint statement was signed between the ministers for the joint co-deployment of the KSF with the British Army in the missions where the United Kingdom engages with its military troops. The joint declaration for joint co-deployment is a very big achievement of the Republic of Kosovo that strongly reconfirms the full reliability of the United Kingdom and its Government in our Ministry of Defense and the capacities of our forces.

MINISTER MEHAJ WAS HOSTED AT THE GERMAN BUNDESWEHR BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE CHRISTINE LAMBRECHT

In September, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, made an official visit to Germany, where his counterpart, the Minister of Defense, Christine Lambrecht and her staff at the Ministry of Defense of Germany - Bundeswehr, hosted him. On this occasion, in addition to the discussion about the new geopolitical situation and the challenges in the current security environment, the two ministers also discussed the level of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense as well as the areas to further deepen cooperation between the two respective ministries.

On his side, in addition to expressing gratitude for the great support in the building and development of the KSF, Minister Mehaj reiterated his deep gratitude for the German investments in our country as well as for the very valuable contribution of the military troops of the German forces in the KFOR operation in the security of the country and our citizens.

On her side, Minister Lambrecht expressed gratitude for the support of the NATO humanitarian operation by the KSF for the evacuation of Afghans, the support of the people and the Government of Ukraine and the sanctions against Russia, and offered support for our vision for NATO membership.



KOSOVO AND MONTENEGRO SIGN DEFENSE COOPERATION MEMORANDUM



The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, in September met his counterpart from Montenegro, Minister Rasko Konjevic, with whom he signed a cooperation memorandum at the level of the two Defense Ministries.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj emphasized that with the signing of this Memorandum of Cooperation, the continuity of cooperation between the two countries, at other levels, with joint activities and commitments is

proven.

Minister Mehaj, in his speech to the media, said that: “Through this agreement, the scope of cooperation in the field of defense will be extended, which will have a manifold impact on the benefit of security,

stability and democracy between our two countries as well as our region in general”. Further, Minister Mehaj said that the continuous deepening of this cooperation will enable to easily manage and effectively face the threats, risks and challenges in the regional, continental and global security environment.

While the Minister of Defense of Montenegro, Rasko Konjevic, said that through this memorandum, the roads are opened for an even better cooperation, stressing that Montenegro will support Kosovo in realizing its aspirations towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

The cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and Montenegro will extend from the exchange of professional experiences of staff, academic and specialist centers and to engagements in mutual support with operational capacities, in case of emergencies.

“Montenegro as our friendly country, appreciating the commitment of the Republic of Kosovo, the Ministry of Defense and the KSF in support of NATO missions, will also offer support in the process of realizing our goal of membership in the Program and the Partnership for Peace, as a path towards our membership in NATO”, Minister Armend Mehaj.



GENERAL JASHARI: KOSOVO TO BECOME A FULL MEMBER OF THE ADRIATIC CHARTER



KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, at the invitation of his Montenegro's counterpart General Brigadier General Lazarevic and co-organized by the US Forces Europe Command (EUCOM), headed by General Christopher Cavoli, participated in the Conference of Chiefs of Defense of



the Adriatic Charter - USA in Budva, Montenegro. Major General Benjamin Corell, Commander of the National Guard of IOWA's, Kosovo's partner state, also participated in the conference.

During the conference, General Jashari gave a speech where he presented the capacities and development of the KSF, highlighting its achievements and development based on the Western doctrine. General Jashari officially asked his counterparts that Kosovo become a full member of the Adriatic Charter.

The conference continued its work where, in its context, the commander of the KSF held bilateral meetings with the partner states. On this occasion, the commander of the KSF with his delegation held a bilateral meeting with the American delegation headed by General Cavoli, Commander of the American Forces for Europe (EUCOM). During the meeting, General Jashari thanked General Cavoli for the support that the USA as a strategic partner is offering to Kosovo and the KSF on an ongoing basis.

KSF COMMANDER CONDUCTED MEETINGS WITH COUNTERPARTS FROM THE USA-ADRIATIC CHARTER A5

On the A5 Chiefs of Defense Conference, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari conducted bilateral meetings with the members of this mechanism in September. First, General Jashari met with the Deputy Chief of Defense of Croatia, Lieutenant General Jurkovic, then with the Chief of Defense of Montenegro, Brigadier General Lazarevic, with his Macedonian counterpart, Lieutenant General Gjurchinovski, and with the Chief of Defense of Albania, Brigadier General Kingjin. In these meetings, General Jashari informed his counterparts on the achievements and

professionalism of the Kosovo Security Force as well as on its goals in further development for integration into NATO. The meetings with the bilateral parties served to discuss the deepening of cooperation between the parties in the following years, with special emphasis on regional cooperation and the path of integration into NATO. Security challenges and Russian influence in the region were also key topics of the discussions. In all bilateral meetings, General Jashari was accompanied by the Commander of the IOWA National Guard, Major General Benjamin Corell, thus confirming the strategic alliance between the KSF and the United States of America.



KOSOVO IS A SMALL COUNTRY, BUT A BIG-HEARTED US ALLY IN THE UKRAINE DEFENSE CONTACT GROUP



The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, together with the Ministers and Chiefs of Defense of over 50 US allied states, under the organization and leadership of the American Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III, accompanied by General Enver Cikaqi and Colonel Sylejman Cakaj, has participated in the fifth consecutive meeting of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj emphasized that the Republic of Kosovo is determined and committed to the maximum, alongside our irreplaceable ally, the USA, in defense of Euro-Atlantic values such as: peace, freedom and democracy, for Ukraine and all freedom-loving countries and peoples and peace-loving in the World.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS OUR MOST RELIABLE ALLY



The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj and the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, have hosted in separate meetings the Commander of the V Corps of the American Army Forces, Lieutenant General John Kolasheski.

In these meetings, which

were in the spirit of continuous cooperation, it was discussed about the advancement that has been made in the army, the readiness of the two sides to participate in joint peacekeeping missions, the education of our cadets in American academies, etc.

It was also discussed about the multinational exercise “DEFENDER EUROPE 23”, the participation of the KSF in this exercise and the preparations that are being made within this exercise. Among other things, the generals also discussed the security situation in Europe, with special emphasis on the Eastern Side and the Balkan region.

An important topic in this meeting was the current geopolitical situation, the impact of the war in Ukraine, the help that the army of the Republic of Kosovo is providing in terms of the transportation of humanitarian aid, the acceptance of refugees and the right stance that the state of Kosovo has shown in regard to Russian aggression and the tendency to destabilize the Balkan region.



THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD STRONGLY SUPPORTS KSF



In the framework of the cooperation of the Iowa National Guard and the Kosovo Security Force, a military team from IOWA during the month of September visited the KSF, with the aim of helping to upgrade the professional capacities of KSF members.

On this occasion, in the “NewBorn” barracks of the First Infantry Regiment in Gjilan, a joint workshop was held between the KSF and the Iowa team with ASV combat-tactical vehicles.

In this workshop, where members of three infantry regiments were trained, the focus was on weapon systems, tactics, techniques and advanced ASV operating procedures, in which case KSF

members benefited from the experiences of American military instructors. The IOWA's National Guard is always providing unstinting support in training and continuous cooperation in building the operational capacities of the Kosovo Security Force.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF KSF PARTICIPATION IN WELL-KNOWN MULTINATIONAL TRAINING “SABER JUNCTION 2022”

The contingent of our Forces has successfully completed the participation in the well-known multinational Exercise “Saber Junction 2022”, held at the military training area of the American forces-Hohenfels, in Germany.

The KSF contingent, together with 4,400 military troops of the US forces as well as its allies and partners, have successfully executed offensive and defensive operations during the annual multinational exercise “Saber Junction 2022”. The Saber Junction 2022 exercise promotes regional stability and security, strengthens partner capabilities, enables the US to field the most modern equipment for all missions, and builds interoperability and cooperation among NATO allies and partners.



12 NEW CADETS ADDED TO THE KSF



In the KSF Barracks, “Adem Jashari”, in Pristina was held the swearing-in ceremony of the twelve new cadets of the KSF Defense Academy, Generation 2026, was held. Attended: Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, the Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, senior officials and military personnel of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, as well as officials and international militaries.

Congratulating the cadets on this special day in their lives, Minister Mehaj emphasized that for the next four years they will prepare for a career of professional excellence in the service of the country, as an officer in the Army of the Republic of Kosovo.

“I ask you that for the next four years you will achieve the appropriate military, physical and moral development and be shaped into leaders with character as the main goal and this will make us all very happy and proud”, said the Minister on this occasion. “After four years, you will be ready to join international exercises and operations in the service of regional peace, security and stability and beyond, side by side with your colleagues from the partner forces”, said Minister Mehaj, among other things.

For his part, the deputy commander of the USC, Captain Alban Ajvazi briefed about the history and achievements of the USC and the goals for the future in the education of the cadets of this generation and the generations that are currently studying at this Center.

BASIC TRAINING OF THE 308 NEW RECRUITS HAS COMMENCED AT TRADOC

In the “Skënderbeu” Barracks in Ferizaj, in the Doctrine and Training Command, the Basic Training Center in September has welcomed and proceeded to commence the third generation basic military training for 2022.

For nine weeks, the 308 new recruits will undergo training that aims to prepare them physically, mentally and professionally to be able to line up as soldiers in the military formations within the KSF structure.



FIRST SPECIALISTS FOR AIR ATTACKS ADDED TO THE KSF



Along with Iowa National Guard cadets, our two Airmen successfully completed the Air Assault and Reconnaissance Course. This highly challenging course tests strength, agility, endurance, confidence and ability to perform at altitude during combat operations. Deep thanks and appreciation to our partners, the Iowa National Guard for this great opportunity, as well as all the support over a decade.

CONTINUOUS TRAINING FOR MAXIMUM READINESS IN THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY



The first regiment of the Land Forces Command of the Kosovo Security Force has conducted the “Iron Platoon” field exercise in Babaj Boka in Gjakovë. The purpose of the exercise was to train the platoons of Company 1B in different combat scenarios at the platoon level with live ammunition (Live Fire Exercise LFX-Platoon Level), where the participants had the opportunity to practice target attack tasks at the platoon and infantry platoon level in defense. The exercise was conducted within the annual training plan, where the platoons showed excellent performance in the execution of the mission and planned tasks in accordance

with the doctrinal standards in force. The representative teams of the KSF and the AF of the Republic of Albania are being trained together prior to the deployment to the United Kingdom, where they will participate in the most famous international military patrol exercise/competition “Cambrian Patrol 2022”.

THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT OF THE KSF SOLDIER - THE SPIRIT OF TRIUMPH IN THE FACE OF EACH CHALLENGE

At the “NATO Soldiers” Barracks of the Land Forces Command in Istog was held the traditional competition “Wolf Racer 2022”. The main purpose of this competition was the demonstration of military skills at the team level, both in physical and mental preparation, as well as in operational skills at the level of team cooperation, in various tactical combat maneuvers. This competition reflects the physical preparation of the participants and teamwork where motivation is evaluated, the ability of military skills is reflected, energy management as well as maintaining the ability to triumph.



READY FOR “CAMBRIAN PATROL 2022”



The representative teams of the KSF and the AF of the Republic of Albania train together prior to the deployment to the United Kingdom, where they will participate in the most famous international military patrol exercise/competition “Cambrian Patrol 2022”.

THE CONNECTION OF BONDSTEEL CAMP TO THE KOSOVO ELECTRIC GRID SYSTEM IS INAUGURATED



In September, the Bondsteel camp was connected to the electricity grid system of Kosovo. This important event will help prepare Camp Bondsteel for the future by greatly reducing the use of polluting diesel generators. The Prime Minister Albin Kurti, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, the US Ambassador, Jeffrey Hovenier, and many other dignitaries were present at this ceremony.

In addition to Bondsteel’s commander, Colonel Matt DiNenna, his superior, Major General James Smith, was also present at the ceremony. The strong presence of the Government is proof of Kosovo’s deep commitment to our NATO partners and to our main ally, the United States of America.

DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “CYBER PROTECTION AND SECURITY - SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE”



With the official invitation of the official authorities of the well-known Israeli platform “Improvate”, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylaj, on behalf of the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, has participated in the International Conference “Cyber Defense and Security - Southeast Europe” in Bulgaria.

In the main session of the conference, Deputy Minister Sylaj delivered his speech before a wide audience, among whom were dignitaries and high official authorities of the countries of Southeast Europe, among them the special guests, the famous Garry Kasparov as a member of the Improvate Board Advisors and ex-President of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev.

This conference was considered very important in the spectrum of the joint commitments of the countries of Southeast Europe and allies within the framework of new measures and contemporary systems offered by the Israeli defense industry in the face of the threats and risks of the

security environment from cyber attacks. During the two-day conference, Deputy Minister Sylaj was accompanied by the ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo in Bulgaria, Delfin Pllana, and the KSF officer, Captain Genti Koçinaj.

MINISTER MEHAJ DECORATED THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF NALT, AEMAL BAHADUR WITH THE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

At the end of the six-year mission of the Chief of Staff of NALT, Aemal Bahadur, Minister Mehaj awarded him the “Distinguished Service” Medal, with motivation for his dedication and devotion to support the Ministry of Defense and the KSF in their efforts.

Minister Mehaj also expressed appreciation for his cooperation during the in Kosovo. The awarding of the special farewell Film City Camp, Mehaj accompanied by Shemsi Sylaj and Deputy KSF, Major General the host of the NALT, Brigadier together with the Chief Brigadier General John



to upgrade capacities. expressed the deepest unparalleled support and six-year period of service

medal took place in a ceremony organized at the attended by Minister the Deputy Minister, the Commander of the Enver Cikaqi, received by ceremony, the director of General Joachim Hoppe, of Staff of KFOR, B. Bozicevic.

FAREWELL MEETING WITH THE COMMANDER OF KFOR, GENERAL KAJARI

On the ending of the mission assignment, today the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj and the Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, hosted the KFOR Commander, Major General Ferenc Kajari, in a farewell meeting.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj and General Cikaqi thanked General Kajar for his successful leadership during his mandate, as well as KFOR’s continuous contribution to the country’s security and its great role in security and stability in the region.

Motivated by the excellent cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the great contribution to the advancement of the KSF’s capabilities,



Minister Mehaj decorated him with a Certificate of Appreciation, while General Cikaqi, on behalf of the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, decorated him with Medal for selfless service. Meanwhile, in a meeting with the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the two generals discussed the cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the KFOR mission in Kosovo, as well as the security situation in Kosovo and the region. They agreed to continue coordination of activities as two key security institutions in our country. In the end, General Jashari thanked General Kajari for the service of her soldiers in the KFOR mission.

ABOUT ONE THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS OF KSF AND MoD DONATED BLOOD IN SUPPORT OF THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTER

In September, the traditional humanitarian action of voluntary blood donation was held at the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, for the second time this year.

In order to provide assistance to the National Blood Transfusion Center and all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, the invitation for voluntary blood donation, along with the officials and military, was also answered by the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, as well as the American adviser to the Minister Mehaj, Thomas Niblock.

Over the course of two weeks, about a thousand KSF soldiers from all barracks and officials of the Ministry of Defense have donated blood.



THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CELEBRATED SEPTEMBER 28 - THE NATIONAL DAY OF BOSNIANS

Under the organization of the Cabinet of Minister Mehaj and the Office for Community Affairs of the Ministry of Defense, today was marked September 28 - the National Day of Bosnians. Attended: Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, Deputy Minister of Defense, Adnan Redzeplari, Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, as well as officials and soldiers of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF from the Bosnian community.

On this occasion, Deputy Minister Sylja on behalf of the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, delivered a speech, congratulating all the attendees and the citizens of the Bosnian community on this day, as well as emphasizing that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo within its program, as well as the Ministry of Defense, within its strategic and operational objectives, has as its main focus increasing number and integration of young men and women from the ranks of non-majority communities in the KSF.



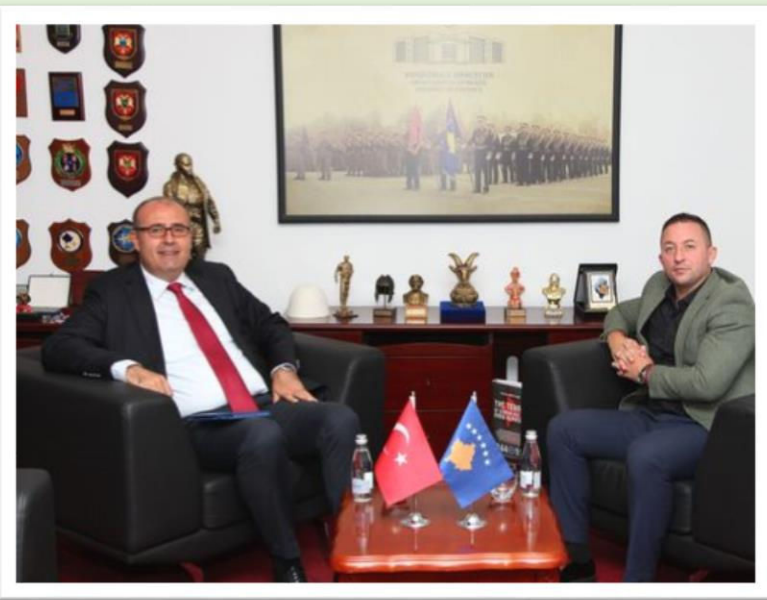
DIPLOMATIC MEETINGS AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



- Minister Mehaj with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden in Kosovo, Jonas Westerlund.



- Minister Mehaj with the Ambassador of Finland in Kosovo, Matti Nissinen.



- Minister Mehaj with the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Kosovo, Çağrı Sakar.



- Minister Mehaj with the Non-resident Ambassador of Canada in Kosovo, Alan Bowman.