



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

June 2025

Kosovo Security Force Welcomes 350 New Soldiers



At a military ceremony held on June 27, 350 new recruits took the oath and, as of today, will serve in the ranks of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Present at this significant event were Acting Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylaj, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, KSF Deputy Commander Major General Enver Cikaqi, Secretary General, Gafurr Dugolli, as well as KSF generals, officers, non-commissioned officers, local and international personnel. Also in attendance were the families and friends of the new recruits. On this occasion, Minister Ejup Maqedonci congratulated the new soldiers and emphasized the significance of their decision to serve under the emblem of the KSF uniform—a duty that is both honorable and demanding.



In a time marked by both global and local security challenges, the development of military capabilities remains essential. Minister Maqedonci expressed his conviction and pride in the progress made, stating that the Kosovo Army is now stronger, better equipped, and more prepared than ever before. He highlighted the presence of advanced weapon systems and the unwavering courage and dedication of the young men and women who serve the Republic of Kosovo. He also extended his best wishes to the new soldiers and reaffirmed that investments in the defense sector will continue.



Kosovo and the USA Strengthen Strategic Partnership in the Field of Defense



As part of an official visit, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci and KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari held high-level meetings at the United States Department of Defense, marking an important step toward deepening bilateral cooperation in the field of defense.

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During the meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary for NATO and Europe, David Baker, strategic priorities for the upcoming period were discussed, including the completion of the third phase of the KSF Comprehensive Transition Plan, the development of the defense industry, and the enhancement of operational capabilities through joint projects. In this context, U.S. support for Kosovo in building a modern and interoperable force alongside its allies was reaffirmed. Minister Maqedonci emphasized that the United States remains the key strategic partner of the Republic of Kosovo in defense consolidation and in supporting regional and global security and stability.

Symbolic Visit to Arlington: An Honor for Sacrifice and Shared Values

To honor the historical ties and shared values of freedom and peace, the Kosovo delegation began their visit to the United States with a solemn ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Minister Maqedonci and Commander Jashari laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, commemorating fallen American soldiers and expressing gratitude for their contribution to the defense of global freedoms.



KSF Demonstrates Professionalism and Interoperability in “Defender Europe 25”

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) demonstrated high levels of commitment and professionalism during its participation in the multinational exercise Defender Europe 25, establishing itself as a key actor in promoting regional security and cooperation. Within the framework of this exercise, Kosovo successfully organized Distinguished Visitors’ Day, welcomed high-level national and international dignitaries, and contributed to several partner countries through units deployed abroad.



The central event in the Republic of Kosovo began at Gjakova Airport, where the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted high-ranking guests, including government officials, diplomats, and international military leaders. They visited the Tactical Command Post of the U.S. Army's 28th Infantry Division, where developments related to the exercise in the Western Balkans were presented, along with the international cooperation among forces deployed in Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece, and Kosovo.



During the visit to the Exercise High Control, attending dignitaries were closely acquainted with the role of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) as host, as well as its commitment to providing logistical support to allied forces deployed in the country.

At the Babaj Bokës training range, the Land Force Command and other KSF units conducted tactical demonstrations in coordination with international allies. The 2nd Infantry Regiment displayed a high level of professionalism, discipline, and operational interoperability in simulated combat support scenarios.



KSF also Present in Albania, with an Engaged Contingent

In addition to its engagement in Kosovo, the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, also participated in the Distinguished Visitors' Day in the Republic of Albania, marking the conclusion of the "Defender Europe 25" exercise. He was hosted by the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA), Lieutenant General Arben Kingji, with whom he discussed the progress of the exercise and the level of cooperation between AFRA and the KSF.

During the visit, General Jashari met with the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) contingent deployed in Albania—which included the mortar platoon, evaluators, and staff officers—and was briefed on their activities. He commended the personnel for their dedication and emphasized the strategic importance of multinational engagement.

At the Biza training range, alongside AFRA, the U.S. Army, and forces from North Macedonia and Croatia, the KSF demonstrated excellent readiness, successfully conducting mortar firing exercises. The deployment of KSF units within multinational brigades in the region showcased increased interoperability with allies and the development of capabilities for joint operations in diverse environments.

KSF Leadership Strengthened Defense Cooperation with U.S. Generals During Defender Europe 25

As part of the activity, Commander Jashari hosted a meeting in Kosovo with Major General Michael E. Wegscheider, Commander of the 28th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, and Major General Stephen Osborn, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard. They discussed recent developments, cooperation within the framework of Defender Europe 25, support for the validation of ROL 1 Team 2, as well as joint training planned at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). In conclusion, all participating dignitaries highly appreciated the role of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) as a reliable and committed partner in the regional security architecture, emphasizing that Defender Europe 25 was not only a military exercise, but also a clear demonstration of the KSF’s readiness, interoperability, and professionalism on the international security stage.



The Combat Engineers Platoon Participated in the Multinational Competition “Unity Day” in the Republic of Croatia

As part of the field exercises Defender Europe 25 and Immediate Response 25, the multinational competition “Unity Day” was held in the Republic of Croatia. The Combat Engineers Platoon of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) participated with two teams, both of which delivered outstanding performances and achieved remarkable success in this challenging competition. The event tested the teams’ physical,

technical, and collaborative skills, with the Kosovo teams securing first and third place among 15 participating teams from Croatia, Germany, Slovenia, and Kosovo.

KSF Strengthens Interoperability Through Training at U.S. Joint Readiness Training Center



The Kosovo Security Force marked a historic milestone on its path toward full operational standards through participation in rotational training at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Johnson, Louisiana, USA. This training took place within the framework of the KSF's strategic partnership with the Iowa National Guard, serving as a clear demonstration of Kosovo's commitment to building a modern and interoperable force alongside international allies. JRTC is one of the U.S. Army's most prestigious training platforms, where units train in realistic and tactical environments designed for complex multinational operations. Through advanced simulations and the use of opposing forces, KSF personnel tested and strengthened their readiness in scenarios that replicate real battlefield challenges.

Meetings with the U.S. Security Leaders



During his visit to the United States, Kosovo Security Force Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari held a series of meetings with senior U.S. military leaders. At the Pentagon, he was hosted by Lieutenant General Joseph 'JS' McGee, Director of Strategy, Plans, and Policy at the Joint Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces. During the meeting, the KSF's contribution to the Defender Europe 25 exercise, as well as its preparations for training at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), were highly appreciated. General McGee reaffirmed the Pentagon's support for peacekeeping missions and the continued development of the KSF's capabilities. Lieutenant General Jashari also met with

General Steven S. Nordhaus, Chief of the U.S. National Guard Bureau, and Major General Steven Osborn, Commander of the Iowa National Guard, at the JRTC headquarters. They commended the professionalism and dedication of KSF personnel and emphasized the importance of sustaining mutual strategic cooperation.

Message to the Troops on Distinguished Visitors Day

On the occasion of Distinguished Visitors Day (DV Day), General Jashari visited the KSF personnel deployed at JRTC, where he delivered an encouraging speech and expressed gratitude to the members for their dedication and discipline demonstrated in this multinational environment. He recognized the participation at JRTC as one of the most significant achievements in the force's history. The General emphasized that their noble mission has become a reality thanks to the continued support of their American partners.



Conclusion of the Visit with Appreciation and Strengthened Partnership

At the conclusion of the visit, the KSF Commander was hosted by the JRTC Commander, Brigadier General Jason A.



Curly, who briefed him on the outstanding performance of KSF personnel and the positive evaluations from the training staff. Lieutenant General Jashari thanked General Curl for the center's support and professionalism and also toured the JRTC training ranges and facilities. This participation at JRTC represents a strategic achievement for the KSF and a tangible demonstration of its partnership with the United States of America, reaffirming Kosovo's commitment to active contribution in international security and peacekeeping missions.

Minister Maqedonci hosted a meeting with the delegation from the U.S. state of Iowa



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci hosted part of the delegation from the U.S. state of Iowa, Ms. Hollie Zajicek and Ms. Jaki Livingston, at the Ministry building. During the meeting, they discussed opportunities to deepen and expand cooperation in various fields with the state of Iowa, with which Kosovo has enjoyed a successful 14-year partnership. Minister Maqedonci emphasized the importance of this cooperation and expressed his commitment to continue strengthening the partnership in the interest of progress and building bridges of friendship between the two countries.

Minister Maqedonci held a meeting with the KFOR Commander, Major General Enrico Barduani



Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, held a meeting with the KFOR Commander, Major General Enrico Barduani. During the meeting, they discussed the security situation at both regional and global levels. Both parties highly valued the participation of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) in the inter-institutional exercise Golden Sabre 25, conducted jointly by the KSF, KFOR, and the Kosovo Police, and organized by the NATO mission in Kosovo. They noted that the exercise contributed significantly to strengthening cooperation between the Ministry of Defense and KFOR.

On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci expressed his readiness to continue mutual coordination on matters of common interest, particularly in light of current developments and their impact on the security environment.

KSF Participated in the “Golden Sabre 25” Exercise



The Kosovo Security Force participated in the joint exercise Golden Sabre 25, organized by the NATO mission in Kosovo. The involvement of KSF's specialized units in an exercise of this nature represented an important step in advancing inter-institutional cooperation between KFOR, KSF, and the Kosovo Police. This activity, which brought together around 600 participants from various partner and allied countries, was designed to strengthen interoperability and to test readiness and coordinated response to

crises in a complex operational environment. The KSF's engagement in this multinational context, alongside the specialized capacities of the National Guard, stood as clear evidence of the advancement of institutional capabilities in carrying out key tasks related to supporting civil authorities and in alignment with NATO standards.

Farewell Meetings Held with Croatian Defense Attaché Concluding Mission in Kosovo



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci and KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari held farewell meetings with the Croatian Defense Attaché to Kosovo, Colonel Stjepan Domjančić, who is concluding his diplomatic mission. Minister Maqedonci thanked Colonel Domjančić for his contribution to the development of the KSF and for strengthening cooperation between the two forces. In the same spirit, General Jashari acknowledged his professional dedication and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for the support provided during the KSF's transformation process. Colonel Domjančić expressed his gratitude for the fruitful cooperation and continued support from Kosovo's institutions, emphasizing the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Acting Minister Maqedonci Met UK Bilateral Advisor to Discuss Progress on Defense Cooperation



Acting Minister of Defense, Mr. Ejup Maqedonci, hosted British Lieutenant Colonel Mike Butler, the United Kingdom's bilateral advisor assigned to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo. During the meeting, the progress of joint activities being carried out within the framework of the bilateral cooperation plan between the two countries was discussed, with special emphasis on Operation "Interflex," which represents the Kosovo Security Force's most significant current commitment abroad. Minister Maqedonci thanked the United Kingdom for its continued

support and strong partnership in building our defense capabilities.

Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, received in a meeting the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Kosovo, Hiroyasu Tanigaki



This meeting reflects the close relations between Kosovo and Japan, as well as the commitment of the two countries to strengthen cooperation in areas of common interest. Kosovo and Japan share similar views on global geopolitical circumstances and support democratic and human values. As a key partner of Japan in Southeast Europe, Kosovo continues to work

to expand cooperation with this friendly country.

Director of Defense Policy at the Ministry of Defense, Faruk Geci, graduated from the National War College in Washington



Director of Defense Policy at the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Faruk Geci, has successfully completed studies in Strategic Logic at the National War College in Washington, one of the most prestigious institutions in the field of security and defense. With his graduation as a Master of Science in National Security Strategy, Mr. Geci has gained in-depth knowledge in the development of defense policies and strategic decision-

making in global environments. This success marks an important step not only for his career but also for strengthening the strategic capacities of the Republic of Kosovo in the field of security and defense.

The KSF Delegation Visited the Non-Commissioned Officers School in Germany

A delegation from the Kosovo Security Force's Doctrine and Training Command visited the Non-Commissioned Officers School of the German Army's Land Forces in Delitzsch, Germany. The visit was conducted within the framework of the bilateral plan between the KSF and the German Army. Initially, the DTC personnel were welcomed by the School Commander, Colonel Schnebelt, and his staff. They were briefed in detail on the German NCO education system, lecture methodology, and observed practical training sessions firsthand. The visit aimed to exchange experiences as well as to establish and strengthen cooperation between the schools. At the conclusion of the visit, the participating parties committed to deepening their cooperation in the future.



KSF Officer Completes ‘Ranger School’ Training in the USA



Second Lieutenant Vesa Ibrahimović has successfully completed one of the most challenging trainings in the USA, becoming the first international female to graduate from Ranger School. Ranger School is one of the U.S. Army's most difficult and prestigious training programs, designed to develop leadership and tactical skills for officers at the small-unit level. The course challenges participants physically, mentally, and emotionally through intensive training across three phases: Darby, Mountain, and Swamp.

During the training, participants prepare to lead complex operations in diverse terrains and tactical conditions, including ambush missions, long-range patrols, and detailed company-level planning. The program is conducted with minimal logistical support, sleep deprivation, continuous physical exertion, and high psychological pressure — all aimed at developing endurance and decision-making under stress. In this graduation cycle, out of 148 participants who successfully completed the course, only three were women.

KSF Officer Graduated from the Defense Academy in Croatia



Lieutenant Colonel Shpend Zogaj has successfully graduated from the War School (Ratna Škola “Ban Josip Jelačić”) at the Defense Academy Dr. Franjo Tuđman in the Republic of Croatia. This institution represents the highest level of military education in Croatia, designed to prepare senior officers and civilian officials for strategic duties in defense and security at both national and international levels. The program features an advanced and comprehensive curriculum covering key areas of strategic thought and action, including theory of strategy, international relations, geopolitics and geostrategy, national and international security, defense policy, the art of warfare, military strategy and operations, as well as leadership and

strategic communication.

KSF Officer Graduated in the USA

Lieutenant Colonel Gëzim Sada has successfully graduated from the United States Army War College. The War College aims to educate and develop leaders at the strategic level, focusing on the application of land combat power, national security policies, and long-term planning. After one year of study at this prestigious institution, Lieutenant Colonel Sada earned a Master's degree in Strategic Studies. Special thanks are extended to our strategic partner, the United States of America, for supporting the professional development of the Kosovo Security Force across all fields.



KSF Non-Commissioned Officer Certified in the United Kingdom

Non-Commissioned Officer Qendrim Berisha from the Kosovo Security Force successfully completed the International Ammunition Technician Course in the United Kingdom and was selected as the top international student, receiving the “Comera Cup” among international students from Ghana, Estonia, and Kuwait.

The course is conducted in three modules. In the first module, participants are prepared with general knowledge of ammunition, covering topics such as the chemical composition of ammunition, manufacturing, identification, and understanding various calibers up to mortars, mines, and anti-tank rockets like Javelin, NLAW, etc. The second module includes the planning and decision-making processes for the construction of ammunition depots based on international regulations and doctrines, inspections, as well as types of cross-border transport. The third module covers both practical and theoretical aspects of ammunition disposal.

KSF Officer Graduates from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

Major Gëzim Osmani has graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC), earning a Master's degree in Operational Studies from the U.S. Army's Army University.

The CGSC/KKSHP aims to prepare military leaders in operational planning, critical thinking, and leadership for joint and multinational operations. Our force is growing every day, enhancing its professional and technical capacities—thanks to the discipline and dedication of each soldier. We also express our gratitude to our strategic partners for the opportunities they have provided the KSF in education, training, and professional development.

