



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

November 2023

NOVEMBER 27, DAY OF THE FORCE



The Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force marked November 27, the “Day of the Force” which was also the “Open Day” where many citizens and students from all the schools of the country were welcomed in all the barracks of the KSF, as in Pristina, Mitrovica, Istog, Gjilan, Prizren, Ferizaj and Pomezatin. On this festive day, equipment, weaponry, demonstrations and various activities were exhibited, which prove the capacities of the KSF.

The central manifestation was held in the barracks “Adem Jashari” in Pristina, where the highest state leaders participated, starting from the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, The Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant

General Bashkim Jashari, the Deputy Ministers of Defense, Shemsi Sylja and Adnan Redzeplari, as well as the military and diplomatic representatives of the partner countries with a mission in our country. In her speech to the media present, President Osmani emphasized that November 27 is a day when we remember the great sacrifice of our people and our Liberation Army. President Osmani added that the KSF is trained to the highest standards of NATO, which contributes not only to peace and security in the region but also beyond, serving together with the American forces, the forces of the United Kingdom and other armies allies in different countries of the world, with peacekeeping missions, thus proving that the KSF is ready to join other allied armies in the most powerful alliance in the history of mankind, the NATO alliance.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Albin Kurti, congratulating all the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo on the “Day of the Force” said that: “The KSF is the Force of our unity and pride and that this day is a day of joy when at the same time we commemorate those who sacrificed and at the same time we move towards the future with optimism when we know how safe we feel with our army”. Among other things, he emphasized that the KSF is a continuation of the KLA.





unwavering dedication and hard work they have done and continue to do for the Army and our country, deserve special thanks and endless gratitude.

The festive note for the “Day of the Force” was concluded with the concert of the Kosovo Philharmonic and the Musical Band of the KSF, conducted by maestro Dario Salvi, held at the Palace of Youth. This concert was attended by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylja, Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, Director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Hammerstein, KSF soldiers, senior officials of the Ministry of Defense, as well as the military and diplomatic representatives of partner countries with a mission in our country.

On the occasion of November 27, “Day of the Force“, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, wished all soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers good health and, in particular, professional and personal development in their careers. He emphasized that the KSF is being developed, built and professionalized, taking into account the basis of the war of the Liberation Army of our people and the way forward towards Euro-Atlantic integrations. Also, the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, on the occasion of this festive day, expressed his sincere respect for all the military and civilian personnel of the KSF, noting that their



TRIBUTE AT THE “ADEM JASHARI” MEMORIAL COMPLEX IN PREKAZ



On the occasion of the celebration of November 28, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, together with the senior heads of state and generals, officers and senior officials of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, paid homage at the “Adem Jashari” Memorial Complex in Prekaz. “November 28 marks three of the most important events of our people. The Declaration of Independence and the raising of the flag in Vlora, the birthday of the legendary commander, Adem Jashari and the public appearance of the Kosovo Liberation Army. All three events and all the protagonists of these events all their lives worked for one nation, one language and one flag. Happy November 28 everyone, let's celebrate

and work together and serve our nation together! “, said the Minister Maqedonci on this occasion.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE STATUE OF THE HERO ZAHIR PAJAZITI

On the occasion of the birthday of our national hero, Zahir Pajaziti, on November 1, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, paid tribute and placed wreaths near his statue, where he commemorated the great work of him and his fellow soldiers, Haki Zejnullahu and Edmond Hoxha. In addition, in this case, Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylja as well as officials and senior officers from the Ministry of Defense and the KSF were present. “November 1 is the birthday of Zahir Pajaziti, the spirit of the Albanian foundation for the liberation of Kosovo. Our hero, Zahir, organized and carried out actions in every part of Kosovo, because he believed that the war for liberation should be spread throughout Kosovo”, emphasized Minister Ejup Maqedonci.



MINISTER MAQEDONCI PARTICIPATING IN THE SECURITY FORUM IN HALIFAX



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, in November participated in the work of the International Security Forum in Halifax, Canada. This forum focuses on security issues that the North Atlantic Alliance and other countries that have embraced its common values are facing today. This year's Halifax Security Forum brought together around 300 international participants from the fields of security and defence, as well as politics, including former presidents, former prime ministers, defense ministers, defense chiefs, senators and parliamentarians from around the world.



- In the framework of this Forum, Minister Maqedonci held a meeting with the Minister of National Defense of Canada, Bill Blair. The two counterparts discussed issues related to current security challenges. Minister Maqedonci thanked his Canadian counterpart for the help given to Kosovo in all stages of state building, and expressed the will to deepen bilateral cooperation in the field of defense. The joint conclusion of the two ministers was that the bilateral cooperation in the field of defense and security between the two countries should be further deepened through the signing of a cooperation agreement.
- Also, the Minister Maqedonci has held bilateral meetings with the Minister of Defense of Estonia, Hanno Pevkur, as well as with the Minister of National Defense of Lithuania, Arvydas Anušauskas. In the meeting with his Estonian counterpart, cooperation in the field of security and defense and the possibility of signing a bilateral cooperation agreement in the future were discussed, among other things.
- Meanwhile, in the meeting with the Minister of Defense of Lithuania,



Arvydas Anušauskas, it was also discussed about joint efforts to provide



assistance to Ukraine within the demining coalition of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine. They also agreed on the deepening of cooperation between the two countries in the field of defense, with special emphasis on the field of mutual education and training. In both meetings, minister Maqedonci received support for Kosovo's membership in the Euro-Atlantic structures.



■ On the second day of participation in the International Security Forum in Halifax, the Minister Maqedonci held a joint meeting with the group of Senators from the United States of America, Jeanne Shaheen from New Hampshire, Petter Welch from Vermont and Mike Rounds from Dakota South. Minister Maqedonci first expressed his gratitude for the irreplaceable contribution of the United States of America in all phases of the state-building of our country, as well as thanked the senators for their commitment in support of Kosovo. Among the topics discussed was the security situation in Kosovo, especially in the north of the country, after the events of the September 24 terrorist attack in Banjska, in which case the Minister Maqedonci

informed the senators about the findings after the said attack. The Minister expressed the position of the Republic of Kosovo that the political solution through dialogue is the best option for the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, while emphasizing that the international community must do more to demand responsibility from the destabilizing actors in the region.

- At the end of the second day of participation in the International Security Forum in Halifax, Canada, the Minister Maqedonci met the friend of Kosovo, the head of the foreign affairs committee of the United Kingdom parliament, Alicia Kearns. On this occasion, the minister thanked Mrs. Kearns for her unsparing commitment to present the truth about Kosovo and the threats that come to our country from organized terrorist and paramilitary structures, supported by the state institutions of Serbia. In this meeting, Mrs. Kearns pledged to maximize engagement and use her influence to support the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force in building and developing defense capabilities.



MINISTER MAQEDONCI PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING OF THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE USA-ADRIATIC CHARTER (A5)



The meeting discussed the current security situation in the global arena, as well as the new challenges and security implications of the countries of our region and beyond.

Minister Maqedonci in his address emphasized the extraordinary importance of regional cooperation in order to face the new

security challenges, which come as a result of the malicious approach of regional and global actors. Also, he emphasized once again that the Republic of Kosovo expects a clearer and tougher reaction from the international community against the actions of terrorist groups supported by the state structures of Serbia, and emphasized the determination of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the security institutions to preserve of sovereignty and protection of territorial integrity of the country, always coordinating with international partners. At the end, the minister requested the support of the member countries for the full membership of the Republic of Kosovo in the US-Adriatic Charter (A5), as a regional initiative to open up opportunities for other regional initiatives and our Euro-Atlantic route.



THE MINISTER MAQEDONCI WAS HOSTED FOR A MEETING BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY, GUIDO CROSETTO

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, has been on an official visit to Italy in November, at the invitation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Italy, Guido Crosetto. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed the current situation in the Western Balkans, the importance of continued cooperation between the two states in the field of defense, to contribute to peace and stability in the Balkans and beyond. On this occasion, Minister

Maqedonci thanked Minister Crosetto for the support and contribution that Italy has given in Kosovo, through military and security forces, as part of KFOR and EULEX. In this meeting with his Italian counterpart, minister Maqedonci emphasized that Kosovo's goal is clear. *“Our commitment to join Euro-Atlantic organizations reflects the democratic, pro-Western values we embrace as a country. We are determined that alongside our strategic allies, Kosovo will be a guarantor of security in addition to its consumer”*, he emphasized.

- Within the framework of the official visit, the Minister of Defense was hosted in a meeting by the Chief of the Defense Staff of Italy and the future chairman of the NATO



Committee, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone. On this occasion, the parties discussed the current geopolitical situation, the development of the KSF, bilateral cooperation with Italy in the field of defense and our aim as a country for NATO and EU membership. The Minister Maqedonci thanked the Italian admiral for the excellent cooperation so far and for the continuous support that Italy has provided through KFOR and EULEX troops. For his part, the Admiral expressed high appreciation for the way the terrorist attack in the north of the country was managed, and also showed the will and full readiness to support Kosovo on the way to membership in the Partnership for Peace Program. Both agreed that maintaining

stability in the Balkans and beyond is a priority, while coordination with our strategic partners is the link that guarantees this.

GENERAL JASHARI MEETS THE CHIEF OF DEFENSE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, GENERAL CARSTEN BREUER

The commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, together with the accompanying delegation from the KSF, were received in a working meeting at the Ministry of Defense in Berlin by the Chief of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany, General Carsten Breuer. The two counterparts discussed the general security situation in Kosovo, the region and beyond, they also emphasized the



importance of increasing military cooperation between the armies of the two countries. Lieutenant General Jashari thanked his German counterpart for the continuous support that the German state and in particular the Bundeswehr has given and is giving to the development of the skills and capacities of the KSF. The two chiefs of defense agreed on the deepening of cooperation between the two countries and on this occasion General Jashari invited General Breuer for an official visit to Kosovo.



THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND KSF RECEIVED A DONATION FROM GERMANY

At the International Search and Rescue Center of the KSF in Pomezat, the ceremony of accepting and handing over the donation from the German state to the Ministry of Defense and the KSF was held. In this ceremony, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci and the commander of the National Guard of the KSF, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, accepts the donation from the German ambassador to Kosovo, Joern Rohde. This donation

worth about 500,000 euros includes two trucks for hazardous materials management operations. On this occasion, the Minister Maqedonci thanked Ambassador Rohde for the continuous support from the Federal Republic of Germany that he offers for the development of the Kosovo Security Force. For his part, Ambassador Rohde emphasized that the German state is interested in raising the institutional capacities of the Republic of Kosovo and the Ministry of Defense in particular. By the end of this year, it is expected that the donation received from the Federal Republic of Germany will reach the value of three million nine hundred thousand euros.





THE MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND GENERAL JASHARI HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA, GENERAL KINGJI

In the meeting was discussed the current security situation, as well as the possibility of deepening bilateral cooperation between the forces of both countries in several military fields. On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci expressed deep gratitude to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, for their special contribution to the development and advancement of the operational skills and capacities of the KSF, especially in the field of education and training. Also, he reiterated

the extraordinary importance of the support from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Albania and the AFROA, as a NATO member state, given the great experience in the Euro-Atlantic integration process, as well as in the establishment and development of military operationality in general. For his part, General Jashari thanked General Kingji for the visit and expressed his gratitude for the tireless efforts of Albania for the support given to the further development and advancement of the KSF and the alignment of the armies of both countries. Meanwhile, General Kingji in this meeting offered Albania's unconditional support for Kosovo's membership in regional initiatives. The interlocutors agreed to continue this close cooperation to guarantee the protection of national interests.

MINISTER EJUP MAQEDONCI HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF ALBANIA, PETRIT MALAJ



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, accompanied by the Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylja, welcomed the new ambassador of Albania to the Republic of Kosovo, Petrit Malaj, with whom he talked about the current developments in our country, the excellent relations between the two countries, but and the possibilities of deepening and concretizing them further in the field of defense. Congratulating Mr. Malaj on his new assignment at the head of the diplomatic mission of Albania in Pristina, Minister Maqedonci estimated that his

appointment to the position of ambassador will give a new impetus to this cooperation, which is of mutual interest to both countries. After thanking the ambassador for the institutional support so far, the Minister Maqedonci said that the intensification of bilateral relations between the two states, apart from the diplomatic aspect, is our obligation to the nation. For his part, the ambassador Malaj confirmed that he will be committed to strengthening cooperation between Tirana and Pristina.





ALBANIAN AIR FORCE OPENS DOORS FOR KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE PILOTS

In the framework of cooperation in the field of defense between Kosovo and Albania, KSF pilots have started to follow the theoretical and practical refresher program of helicopter flights at Farka Air Base, mandatory for crews to maintain flight reflexes. Minister Maqedonci expressed his gratitude for the willingness and commitment of his counterpart from Albania, Minister Niko Peleshi, to increase cooperation and support the KSF in building new capacities.

KSF AND AFRoA EXCHANGE THEIR EXPERIENCES

In the framework of the advancement of cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, a delegation of the KSF visited AFRoA. The delegation headed by Colonel Ahmet Ajeti, leader of the Doctrine Center at TRADOC, where he was received in separate meetings by the Acting Commander of the AFRoA Academy, Colonel Bardhyl Nuredinaj and by the Director of the Military Scientific Research Institute, Colonel Ulsi Rexhaj and the management staff of the Institute. During the two-day visit, experiences were exchanged and new areas of mutual cooperation were discussed between the two armies with a focus on the advancement of the professional development of soldiers in the training centers of the AFRoA and the KSF.



MINISTER MAQEDONCI DECORATED THE OWNER OF THE “BAYKAR” COMPANY, HALUK BAYRAKTAR, WITH A MEDAL FOR “DISTINGUISHED SERVICE”



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, accompanied by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylaj, welcomed the owner of the “Baykar” company, Haluk Bayraktar, as well as the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, Sabri Tunç Angili. Minister Maqedonci said that the cooperation with the company “Baykar” has become the headline of military technology and discussed the next projects in which it will be invested, agreeing with Mr. Bayraktar that this cooperation should be expanded beyond purchases. While General Jashari in this meeting stated that through the products purchased by the “Baykar” company, the KSF can now exercise its mission at

the level that guarantees territorial defense and security. For the willingness and readiness that this company and the Republic of Türkiye have shown for cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the Minister Maqedonci decorated Mr. Bayraktar with “Distinguished Service” medal.

THE DUTCH TEAM IS CERTIFIED FOR URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE AT THE KSF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING CENTER



In this ceremony, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylja, the Deputy



Ambassador of the Netherlands, Roland Goldberg, the Commander of the National Guard of the KSF, Brigadier General Naim Haziri and the director of the Search and Rescue Center, John Doone, as well as officials and senior officers of the MoD and the KSF. At the opening of the ceremony, Prime Minister Kurti emphasized that this training is part of a global network of activities that enable us to respond quickly to the unexpected and, by doing so, save lives. He said that Kosovo's commitment to partnership and its determination to contribute to common solutions is essential. He added that he is proud of the world-class skills being developed at Pomozatin, skills that are vital

to our country and our partners as we prepare for the roles that lie ahead of us in the global arena. Meanwhile, the deputy ambassador of the Netherlands, Roland Goldberg, expressed his gratitude for the hospitality of the Dutch search and rescue

team, who emphasized that this exercise is very useful for further cooperation between the two countries, in raising the capacities of both parties for building readiness to respond to emergency situations. Last year, the Search and Rescue Training Center of the KSF provided training for nearly 3,000 people, among whom, in addition to our citizens, hundreds of other foreign partners from Albania, Great Britain, Italy, Hungary, Jordan, Malta, North Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Türkiye, Netherlands, etc.



DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE MILITARY DELEGATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF SWITZERLAND

In November, at the Ministry of Defense a visit was paid by a military delegation from Ministry of Defense of Switzerland, headed by Colonel Markus Schefer, and the commander of the recruitment of the Swiss Armed Forces, colonel Thomas Keller. This delegation was hosted by the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Gafurr Dugolli, the director of the Department of International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration in the Ministry of Interior, Colonel Sylejman Cakaj and the director of the Directorate of Human Resources,



Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci. In this meeting, the achievements of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF were discussed, where both parties expressed their readiness for cooperation opportunities between the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force with the Armed Forces of Switzerland, mainly in the field of research - rescue, recruitment methods, career management and readiness system. Besides the meetings held at the Ministry of Defense, this delegation visited the medical center of the KSF and the International Search and Rescue Center of the KSF.

THE COMMANDER OF KSF HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE COMMANDER OF KFOR



Within the framework of cooperation with KFOR, the commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received the KFOR commander Major General Özkan Ulutaş in a meeting. COMKSF first welcomed General Ulutaş and congratulated him on the assignment of COMKFOR. On this occasion, General Jashari informed the Commander of KFOR, about the plans, current commitments of the KSF, and future development plans. The generals also exchanged discussions about security developments in the country and the region. General Jashari and General

Ulutaş confirmed the willingness to continue and increase the mutual cooperation between the KSF and KFOR, and pledged that this will be a function of security and peace in the country and beyond.



KSF DEPUTY COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL ENVER CIKAQI HOSTED IN A FAREWELL MEETING THE KFOR DEPUTY COMMANDER, BRIGADE GENERAL JOZSEF SZPISJAK

General Cikaqi thanked General Szpisjak for his service and the cooperation they had as two security institutions during the period of service in Kosovo, hoping that the cooperation will continue with his successor, Brigadier General Frederik Bernacca, who was present at the meeting. The Kosovo Security Force cooperates closely with KFOR and all security institutions in the country, to provide a safer environment for the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

KSF COMMANDER ATTENDED THANKSGIVING LUNCH AT CAMP BONDSTEEL

On the occasion of Thanksgiving Day, the KSF Commander, Lt. Gen. Bashkim Jashari stayed at Camp Bondsteel for a celebratory lunch. General Jashari was accompanied by the US Ambassador in Kosovo, Mr. Jeffrey Hovenier, the Chief of Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, the Defense Attaché, Colonel Darrick Mosley, the Commander of ASG-Balkans, Colonel Terry Saul and the Commander of the Eastern Regional Command, Colonel Ross Walker. On the occasion of this special holiday, as one of the oldest traditions of American culture, COMKSF had the opportunity to have lunch with Ambassador Hovenier as well as with the American military, highlighting the service to the homeland and to Kosovo for the benefit of peace and security. In the end, General Jashari emphasized that “This is a special holiday for the American people and we express our gratitude that because of their duty, the military celebrates it away from their families. We are always grateful for these sacrifices.”



GENERAL QERIQI HOSTED FOR A MEETING COLONEL MARKUS SCHEFER, CHIEF OF MILITARY COOPERATION FROM THE SWISS ARMY

Chief of Staff at the General Staff, General Ilir Qeriqi presented to Colonel Schefer the achievements of the KSF and expressed readiness for deepening the cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Swiss Armed Forces.

Colonel Schefer thanked General Qeriqi for the reception and confirmed the readiness of the Swiss Army for the possibility of cooperation in joint activities between the two forces.



THE LECTURE ON THE TOPIC “FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP” WAS HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

In the premises of the Ministry of Defense, within the framework of the workshop organized for the civilian staff of the leadership of the Ministry of



Defense, a lecture was held by the German professor prof.dr. Klaus Schweinsberg, on “Fundamentals of Leadership”. Present at this workshop were the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the Deputy Ministers of Defense, Shemsi Sylja and Adnan Redzeplari, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Gafurr Dugolli, the director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Hammerstein, as well as the directors of the directorates and departments of the MoD.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE HEAD OF EULEX, GIOVANNI PIETRO BARBANO



The topic of discussion of this meeting was the security situation in Kosovo, with special emphasis on the north of the country. “Of course, the terrorist attack of September 24 caused concern to everyone, but it was managed in an extremely professional manner by the Kosovo Police, and we both agreed on this,” said the Minister Maqedonci, and on this occasion thanked the head of EULEX for the support provided to the Kosovo Police during this time, through the presence of EULEX in the north, which has contributed to the stabilization of the situation. At the end of the meeting, the Minister Maqedonci, and the head of EULEX agreed that guaranteeing security for all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo is a common interest of

both parties.

THE COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD RECEIVED THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EUROM

The Commander of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force, Brigadier General Naim Haziri with the staff have been waiting at the meeting, Mark Veneris from the Humanitarian Mine Action Program Manager from the American Army for Europe (EUROM) and his team of instructors who are carrying out the training for EOD 3, the first phase in the KSF Demining Company. General Haziri informed them of the achievements of the KSF, and in particular of the National Guard, thanking them for the continuous contribution that the teams from EUROM have given and are giving to increase the capacities of the KSF in all areas of development. On this occasion, I express my gratitude to him and all members of the Guard for the opportunity offered in the professional development for the demining company of the KSF.



MINISTER MAQEDONCI HOSTED FOR A VISIT THE AMBASSADOR OF BULGARIA, HRISTO GUDJEV ON VISIT



During the meeting, Minister Maqedonci and Ambassador Gudjev were focused and talked about the security situation in the country, but also the deepening of cooperation in the field of defense. Minister Maqedonci has emphasized the determination in our journey towards NATO and EU membership, to contribute to stability and peace alongside our strategic partners, and we certainly see Bulgaria



among the allied states. For his part, the ambassador expressed his readiness for cooperation, stressing that Kosovo has always had the support of Bulgaria, serving as part of the KFOR and EULEX missions, but also as diplomatic missions supporting the integration of Kosovo in the Euro-Atlantic organizations.



MINISTER OF DEFENSE EJUP MAQEDONCI HONORS THE ADVISOR FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION, THOMAS NIBLOCK

On the occasion of the end of the service of the Advisor for Strategic Communication in the Ministry of Defense, Thomas Niblock from the USA, the Minister of Defense organized a farewell ceremony. On this occasion, he thanked Mr. Niblock for his contribution to the Ministry of Defense through the provision of his professional and academic experience in the

field of strategic communication. Also, the Minister Maqedonci expressed high gratitude and thankitude to the American Office for Defense Cooperation (ODC) in Prishtina, as well as the US Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization (USA Army SATMO) for their continuous support with advisors and training for civilian and military staff, with the aim of professional development of the personnel of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force.



KSF MEMBERS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED JUDO TRAINING



One year after the initiation of the agreement with the Judo Federation, within the framework of the “Kosovo, state of judo” program, members of the Kosovo Security Force successfully completed training in this sport, under the leadership of head coach Driton Kuka and the elite judokas of Kosovo. In the training, KSF members have acquired the skills of self-defense, judo techniques and close combat. Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajrulla Çeku participated in the certification ceremony. Minister Maqedonci said that the certification of the first group is a historic, extraordinary moment that embodies the spirit of unity, dedication and common vision for the growth of our state.



KSF OFFICERS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE POLICE STAFF AND COMMAND TRAINING FROM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

The training of Police Staff and Command was intensive training in the field of leadership and management. Program focused on preparing leaders in commanding positions to increase success and achieve goals through innovative and contemporary forms. The 10-week training focused on planning policies, organizational behavior, budgeting, interpersonal communication and resource allocation.

KSF OFFICER ACHIEVES HIGH RESULTS IN THE “VIRBUS UNITIS 2023” COMPETITION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Lieutenant Emir Vllasa, participant from Kosovo in the Military Crossfit competition “Virbus Unitis 2023” which was held in the Republic of Croatia, in the very challenging competition where participants were various units of the security sector, military, police, special intervention units, naval forces, fireman, guard, etc., achieved high results, ranking second in the category in which he was a participant. The race was individual and divided into categories based on age and gender, officer Vllasa in the 35-40 year old category, managed to collect points and rank in second place and was awarded the “Silver Medal”.



CROATIA TRAINS KSF MILITARY POLICE



Within the framework of the bilateral cooperation plan with the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Defense of Kosovo at the “Croatia” Barracks in Zagreb, a squad of the Military Police of the KSF (PU) attended the “MP Electroshock Stun Gun Training and MP Drug Test Training”. The training was led by the instructors of the

Croatian Military Police and met all the objectives and goals within the framework of professional training for members of the MP of the KSF. At the KSF certification ceremony, the Defense Attaché in the Republic of Croatia was Lt. Col. Shpend Zogaj, who, on behalf of the KSF Commander, thanked the Croatian Army for the help it is providing in professional development and the excellent cooperation it has with the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia in all areas of development.

KSF MILITARY POLICE AND ITALIAN CARABINIERI EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES

In the framework of raising the capacities of the Military Police of the Kosovo Security Force, a MP team of the KSF has carried out a joint activity with the Italian



Carabinieri “ITA 12” in order to exchange military experiences between the two countries. The activity carried out in Gorizia, Italy, comes as a result of genuine inter-institutional cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of Kosovo and Italy, an experience which helps the Military Police of the KSF in performing their duties based on the laws and regulations in force for the Kosovo Security Force.

CADET UKAJ GRADUATES FROM THE MILITARY ACADEMY OF THE GERMAN ARMY



After three years of intensive studies at the military academy of the German army, Cadet Edison Ukaj successfully completed his education. In a ceremony organized at the embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Berlin, senior officials of the Bundeswehr presented the diploma to cadet Ukaj, who will serve as an officer of the Kosovo Army from today.

From a chance word Dep/Ambassador Valëza Oruqi and Kosovo Defense Attaché in Germany Lt. Col. Besim Gashi thanked the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Ministry of Defense and the Bundeswehr for their contribution to the preparation of professional military personnel of the Kosovo Security Force.

KSF COMPLETES DEMINING OPERATIONS FOR 2023

The Demining Company of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force has successfully completed the minefield and battlefield clearance operations for 2023. On the occasion of the completion of the demining operations at the training ground in Babaj Boka, the operation of disposal of explosive devices was organized by



the EOD teams of the KSF in cooperation with the EOD teams of the American, Romanian and Finnish KFOR. The commander of the NG, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, congratulated and thanked the EOD teams of KSF and KFOR for the extraordinary work in eliminating explosive devices that endanger the lives of citizens. The Demining Company will continue with its tasks until the final cleaning of any surface contaminated with mines and explosive devices throughout the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.