



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

July 2022

251 NEW SOLDIERS ARE ADDED TO THE KSF



In the month of July to the KSF were added 251 new soldiers. The oath and certification ceremony was held in the Training and Doctrine Command. On this occasion took part Dep/Prime Minister, Bislimi, Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, Dep/Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylaj, KSF Dep/Commander, Major General, Enver Cikaqi, International military service members as well as senior officials of the Ministry of Defense, senior KSF officers, Municipal leaders, family relatives etc. In this ceremony, also, were presented names of the distinguished soldiers and instructors throughout nine – weeks of the respective course. In his speech recruits, respectively Mehaj emphasized that it was a big dream whereas, today you are the most inspirational reality that we have.

The Deputy Training and Doctrine Command, Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci, addressed the and those present, 251 young soldiers military training with Afterwards, he in their next while thanking their families for their support.



"The road to success is impossible without our allies, without the USA and NATO. We will always cultivate healthy relationships, built on the basis of sincerity and mutual trust"

Minister of Defense,
Armend Mehaj



THE 2022 GENERATION OF CADETS OF THE CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY STUDIES GRADUATED

In a special ceremony, at the “Adem Jashari” Barracks, after four years of academic studies, the 2022 Generation of cadets of the Center for University Studies “Wesley Clark” of the KSF Defense Academy graduated.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, and the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim

Jashari, dignitaries institutional, political, diplomatic, local, and international military service members, service members, and officials of the Ministry of Defense and KSF, as well as family members of graduated cadets.

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, praised this achievement, not only for the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, but also for all the citizens of the country, the state, and its institutions. He instructed the new officers to direct all the academic knowledge and professional skills acquired to the service of the force to further advance the sacred dedication to the defense of the country, respectively its freedom, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. In addition, he emphasized that all this being guided by the highest values of the military, and always remembering our glorious past and its carriers from generation to generation.

From his part, General Jashari greeted and congratulated



the new officers, assessing the success of the next increase in the contingent of KSF officers in the process of developing and increasing the military capacities of the KSF.

As part of the program, in addition to the diploma distribution, the names of the most distinguished instructor and cadet were also published. The most distinguished cadet for Generation 2022 was announced Cadet Korab Seferi, while the most distinguished instructor was announced Lieutenant Premtim Shaqiri, who accepted the medals from Minister Mehaj and General Jashari.

PRIME MINISTER KURTI VISITED THE KSF BARRACK IN PRISHTINA AND POMAZATIN



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, accompanied by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj and the Minister of Finance, Hekuran Murati, met the soldiers serving in the “Adem Jashari” Barracks and the one in Pomazatin. The deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, with the concrete tasks and commitments of the KSF to realize the planned objectives of this year, informed Prime Minister Kurti. With an occasional

speech addressed to the soldiers and officers present, Prime Minister Kurti emphasized the importance of morale, technology, weaponry, the importance of training as well as, with high priority, raising the economic and social well-being at work and family of our soldiers.



KOSOVO TOGETHER WITH ITS PEOPLE ARE INCORPORATED WITH EUROATLANTIC VALUES

On the occasion of the visit of the delegation of the North Atlantic Council to our country, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, met the Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Mircea Geoana, accompanied by the ambassadors of allies and troop contributing partners. of KFOR in our country. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj expressed to Deputy Secretary Geoana his high gratitude for the contribution of NATO and its member countries in the service of security and general development of the country, institutions and well-being of our citizens.

GERMANY CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR KSF

In the meeting between Minister Mehaj and the Commander of the Operations Command of the Joint Forces of the German Bundeswehr, Lieutenant General Bernd Schütt, they talked about the cooperation between our two countries in the field of defense and security and the plans and projects for the advancement of this cooperation in the future. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj expressed thanks and gratitude for the support from the state and the German armed forces for the security of the country as well as the construction, development and advancement of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.



GENERAL JASHARI TOOK PART IN THE EUROPEAN ARMY CONFERENCE



At the invitation of the Chief of Staff of the Army of the United States of America, General James McConville, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, has participated in the Conference of European Armies (CEA 2022), in Garmisch, Germany. General Jashari, in a meeting with General McConville, thanked the American army and the USA for the continuous support for the state of Kosovo and the Kosovo Security Force. The KSF continues to be developed based on American doctrine, training, and equipment, which facilitates interoperability between the two armies and joint training. General Jashari and General McConville agreed to increase and strengthen cooperation between the two armies. In addition, during this conference,

General Jashari also met the Commander of the American Army for Europe and Africa, General Darryl Williams, where, in addition to substantive discussions, he thanked him and expressed his high gratitude for the vital and irreplaceable support provided by the American Army for Europe and Africa for KSF in all aspects.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG - ALSO VERY IMPORTANT IN THE FUNCTIONALIZATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR THE KSF



thanked the German side for the contribution, stressing that the experience of the German Bundestag, as in other spheres, is also very important in the functioning of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the KSF.

While in the meeting between General Jashari and Dr. Högl, a series of issues related to the importance of this function as well as its role in advancing the rights of the military and the processes related to them were discussed. On her part, Dr. Högl offered future support by providing workshops, advice and practices for the best possible functioning of this mechanism.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces of Germany, Eva Högl visited the Ministry of Defense, where she was received in separate meetings by Minister Armend Mehaj and the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. Initially, in this meeting with Minister Mehaj, the process of realizing the concept of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Kosovo Security Force was discussed. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj



THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT DONATED A NEW DONATION TO KSF IN THE VALUE OF 405 THOUSAND EUROS



A donation from the Federal Republic of Germany, which includes trucks for the KSF driving school, the value of which is 405 thousand euros, was made last month to the Ministry of Defense. On this occasion, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, in a meeting with the non-resident German defense attaché in Kosovo, Lieutenant Colonel Franz-Josef Nolte, expressed his gratitude for the support of the German state for all the achievements of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF so far.



THE ITALIAN MILITARY MEDICAL INSPECTORATE SUPPORTS THE MEDICAL SECTOR OF THE KSF

In the framework of the Italy-Kosovo bilateral plan for 2022, the delegation from the Ministry of Defense of Kosovo, led by the director of the Department of Medicine in the Ministry of Defense, colonel Dr. Xhevdet Tahiraj, participated in an expert meeting, held in Rome, with the theme: “Finalization of a technical agreement in the field of military health”. In particular, with the support provided by the 4th Health Unit “Bolzano”, the team had the opportunity to visit a “Basic Role2” structure (military health structure), recently taken over by the Logistics Command of the Italian Army, evaluating its functionality and special aspects.



THE TURKISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DONATED A CONTINGENT OF MILITARY SNOW CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS TO THE KSF



The Ministry of National Defense of Turkey, in the framework of bilateral cooperation, has given a donation containing a contingent of military snow camouflage uniforms for the needs of the tactical maneuvering units of the KSF. The acceptance-handover ceremony was attended by officers from both sides headed by the Turkish Defense Attaché, Colonel Çağdaş Akif Kahraman and by the Head of the Supply and Transport Sector of the Ministry of Defense, Lieutenant Colonel Rexhep Hoxha. The support of the Republic of Turkey and its Ministry of Defense is very important in the development process of the KSF.

US DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY DONATES TO THE KSF COMPANY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The next donation in the amount of about 75 thousand dollars, includes the special vehicle for transporting personnel and specialized equipment for interventions in operations against dangerous substances. Similar donations in addition to training support, DTRA will continue in the future for the further development and advancement of chemical, atomic, biological, and radiological defense capacities.



THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CONTINUES WITH NEXT SUCCESSES



At the Government meeting, held on July 20, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, presented three draft laws to amend/supplement the laws of the Ministry of Defense, the Kosovo Security Force and the Service in the Kosovo Security Force, which after they were approved with complete unanimity.

Minister Mehaj emphasized that the approval of these draft laws ensures the creation of a modern legal basis for the Ministry, the Forces and our own military, advancing and strengthening our determination as a serious aspirant for membership in NATO and

other international security mechanisms. Also the next success is the approval of the final proposal-decision for expropriation in the public interest of immovable properties located within the location of the former Airport of Gjakova, for the needs of the realization of the infrastructure projects of the Ministry of Defense, in the cadastral areas Bec, Trakaniq and Janush of the Municipality of Gjakova. The Government of Kosovo with the approval of the final decision on expropriation creates opportunities for the beginning of the implementation of the projects planned by the Ministry of Defense and through expropriation enables the realization of the rights of the owners of the properties for expropriation.



GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN MILITARY OPERATIONS

As a continuation of the bilateral cooperation with the Italian army, the Ministry of Defense held a seminar on “Gender Perspective in Military Operations”, supported by the Gender Policy Section of the Personnel Division of the General Staff of the Italian Forces. During this seminar, it was discussed about the importance of strengthening the role of women within the army, institutions that have a direct impact on maintaining stability, peace, and security, and through this assistance that the army can provide in peacekeeping missions with special emphasis on assistance to women. Given that women make up over 50% of the population in Kosovo and in the world, the involvement of women in crisis management, their engagement in peacekeeping missions is indispensable.



US INDEPENDENCE DAY WAS CELEBRATED BY RUNNING IN THE HUMANITARIAN MINI MARATHON “RUN FOR AUTISM 2022”

In the boulevard of Prishtina, in celebration of the 4th of July - the Independence Day of the United States of America, under the organization of the NGO “Replay Peace”, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, together with KSF soldiers, the country's police, civil society activists, children and citizens of different ages, ran together in the Humanitarian Minimarathon “Run for Autism 2022”. “I am proud of our soldiers who today had the largest number of participants from other institutions in this humanitarian and festive activity”, said Minister Mehaj on this occasion.





MINISTER MEHAJ PARTICIPATED IN THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE “MUNICIPAL COOPERATION BETWEEN IOWA AND KOSOVO”

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, has participated in the conference on “Municipal cooperation between Iowa and Kosovo”, organized by the Ministry of Local Government Administration. Wishing our partners from IOWA, Minister Mehaj, among others emphasized that the State Partnership Program, led by the Iowa National Guard, has

started with the long-term goal of establishing and expanding the partnership with the KSF, which has helped Kosovo in promoting and cooperating in the field of regional security. As one of the many results of this cooperation, in 2021, the KSF landed with the Iowa National Guard in support of the peacekeeping operation in Kuwait, as part of the Combined Joint Task Force in Operation Inherent Resolve.

14 KSF MAJORS GRADUATED IN COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COURSE IN THE AFRoA'S ACADEMY



In a special ceremony, held in the auditorium of the Ministry of Defense, after one year of studies, 14 officers of the KSF, alongside 50 brothers and sisters, counterpart officers of the AFRoA, graduated from the Command and General Staff Course. This ceremony was attended by the Commander of the Armed Forces Academy Brigadier General Albert Mullai, the Dean of the Faculty of Defense and Security, Colonel Flamur Hadushi, the Military Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo in Albania, Lieutenant Colonel Enver Hoti, directors of the AFA, department heads, lecturers and AFA support staff. On behalf of the trainees of the KSF, one of the most distinguished trainees, Major Leonora Gjinovci, who is the first female officer from the KSF who graduated from the Command and General Staff Course at AFA, addressed those present with welcoming words of the Republic of Albania. The success of our officers is an added value for the KSF in function of increasing the professional capacities of the personnel for staff and command tasks.

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND PRISHTINA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WITH MEMORANUDM OF UNDERSTANDING

Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, in meeting with General Director of Pristina International Airport “Adem Jashari”, Gokmen Arитай, signed off Memorandum of Understanding through which Ministry of Defense is released from all payments for cargo destined for the supply of the KSF, which are transported through the lines of this airport. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj emphasized that such agreements facilitate the achievement of our goal of a professionally prepared army according to the NATO Standards.

FAREWELL MEETINGS IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



US military attaché in Kosovo, Major Bret Wisecup



NALT Senior Advisor for Strategy and Plans, Lt. Col. Jennifer Stevenson



Italian military adviser, Colonel Giuseppe Levato



Italian military adviser, Colonel Giuseppe Levato