



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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Kosovo Security Force Celebrates Graduation of the 2025 Class of Cadets

In a solemn and dignified ceremony held at the “Adem Jashari” Barracks in Pristina, the Kosovo Security Force marked the graduation of the 2025 class of cadets. The event opened with a formal report to senior leadership and was attended by a wide range of military and civilian officials, representatives of Kosovo’s institutions, as well as members of the diplomatic and international community. Eighteen cadets successfully completed a rigorous four-year academic and military training program at the Center for University Studies of the KSF’s Defense Academy, in cooperation with the American University in Kosovo. This milestone not only signifies the beginning of their professional careers as military officers but also reflects the continued investment of the KSF in developing competent, disciplined, and well-educated leaders committed to upholding the values of service, integrity, and national defense.



Kosovo Cadets Graduate from Albanian Armed Forces Academy

At the invitation of the Albanian Minister of Defense, Pirro Vengu, Acting Minister of Defense of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, attended the official graduation ceremony of cadets at the Armed Forces Academy of Albania.

Among the graduates were five cadets from Kosovo who successfully completed their studies and are set to continue their service as officers within the Kosovo Security Force. Minister Maqedonci expressed his gratitude to Minister Vengu for the warm hospitality and the strong inter-institutional cooperation between the two countries. Thanks to the support of Minister Pirro Vengu and the Chief of the General Staff, General Arben Kingji, the number of Kosovo cadets attending this prestigious academy will be quadrupled in the upcoming academic year, marking a significant step in enhancing Kosovo's military education and training.



Belgium Officially Recognizes Kosovo's Defense Attaché in Brussels

A significant step in advancing bilateral defense cooperation was marked in July, as Belgium officially recognized the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo in Brussels. This development was announced during a joint press conference held in Brussels by the Acting Minister of Defense of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, and Belgian Minister Theo Francken. The recognition strengthens institutional ties and enhances Kosovo's representation within Euro-Atlantic structures. Minister Maqedonci expressed deep appreciation for Belgium's consistent support since Kosovo's declaration of independence in 2008. He highlighted the importance of this decision in the broader context of Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic path.



“We are deeply grateful for Belgium's unwavering support since 2008. The recognition of our Defense Attaché in Brussels is not only symbolic but also a concrete step that reflects the deepening of our bilateral relations. In the Western Balkans, Belgium will always find a reliable partner in Kosovo,” stated Minister Maqedonci. Minister Francken emphasized the historical and strategic dimensions of the Kosovo–Belgium partnership. He referred to the recognition as a “logical step” in strengthening defense cooperation and reaffirming Belgium's commitment to stability in the Western Balkans. “Kosovo plays a central role in the region, and our collaboration—both through KFOR and diplomatic channels—reflects our shared commitment to peace and security,” said Minister Francken. This recognition marks an important milestone in Kosovo's international defense diplomacy and opens new opportunities for practical cooperation in the security sector between the two countries.

Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu Appointed as Non-Resident Defense Attaché to Slovenia



Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu of the Kosovo Security Force has officially assumed the role of non-resident Defense Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo to the Republic of Slovenia. During his visit to Ljubljana, Colonel Zejnullahu was warmly welcomed by the Ambassador of Kosovo to Slovenia, Mr. Valdet Sadiku. In their meeting, they discussed the main areas of cooperation that will be prioritized within the framework of the Defense Attaché's diplomatic mission. Colonel Zejnullahu also held his first official meetings at the Ministry of Defense of Slovenia and the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces. These engagements laid the groundwork for strengthening security and defense ties between Kosovo and Slovenia, two countries with longstanding friendship and shared values. Although

based in the Federal Republic of Germany, Colonel Zejnullahu will now also cover Slovenia in his responsibilities as Defense Attaché. His accreditation marks an important step forward in deepening bilateral defense cooperation and enhancing Kosovo's institutional presence abroad. The Ministry of Defense extends its sincere appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Besim Gashi, the first Defense Attaché to Slovenia, for his dedicated work and contribution in establishing and strengthening the defense relationship between the two countries.

Luxembourg Reaffirms Support for Kosovo During Ministerial Visit



The Acting Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, welcomed the Minister of Defense of Luxembourg, Yuriko Backes, in an official meeting held in Pristina. The visit marks another important moment in strengthening bilateral relations and identifying new areas of cooperation in the field of defense and beyond. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed opportunities for expanding collaboration, with particular focus on areas where Kosovo seeks

additional support. The delegations of both ministries were also present, contributing to constructive dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Minister Maqedonci expressed sincere appreciation for Luxembourg's longstanding support to Kosovo, especially through development projects that have positively impacted the lives of citizens. He also extended special thanks to the Luxembourg troops serving in the KFOR mission as part of the Benelux Contingent, recognizing their valuable contribution to peace and security in the region. Both ministers affirmed their shared commitment to deepening defense cooperation and reiterated support for Kosovo's aspirations toward Euro-Atlantic integration, including its efforts to join the Council of Europe and other international organizations. This high-level meeting reflects the strong partnership between the two countries and the mutual interest in enhancing



Defense Dialogue Deepens Between Kosovo and Switzerland



The Acting Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the Federal Chancellor and Minister of Defense, Civil Protection, and Sport of Switzerland, Mr. Martin Pfister, in an official meeting held in Pristina. Minister Maqedonci was accompanied by the Acting Deputy Minister, Shemsi Sylaj, and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, Gafurr Dugolli, while Minister Pfister was joined by a Swiss delegation. In his remarks, Minister Maqedonci emphasized the important role of the Kosovar diaspora in Switzerland as a vital bridge connecting the two countries and contributing significantly to the strengthening of bilateral relations and national development.

Discussions during the meeting focused on advancing cooperation in areas such as military training and education—key components in enhancing the operational capabilities of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Minister Maqedonci also presented an overview of the achievements of the KSF over the years, underlining the importance of Kosovo's path toward NATO and EU membership as pillars for ensuring long-term peace and security in the Western Balkans. Both ministers expressed readiness to further deepen defense cooperation and reaffirmed their joint commitment to a more secure and stable regional future.



Kosovo's Commitment to NATO Standards Highlighted in Meeting with Ireland



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci received Ireland's Minister for European Affairs and Defense, Thomas Byrne, in an official meeting held in Pristina. Minister Maqedonci was joined by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, Gafurr Dugolli, and senior officials from the ministry, while Minister Byrne was accompanied by a high-level Irish delegation. The meeting served as a platform to reaffirm the close bilateral relations between Kosovo and Ireland, with a focus on expanding cooperation in the field of defense. Minister Maqedonci informed his counterpart about the steady progress of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), emphasizing the country's dedication to aligning with NATO standards across all areas—including doctrine development, professional military training, and compatible defense systems. Minister Maqedonci also reiterated Kosovo's unwavering support for Ukraine's just struggle, underscoring Kosovo's role as a responsible and reliable partner in the Western Balkans, and a committed ally of Ireland in the region. In addition, he conveyed sincere gratitude to Minister Byrne and the Government of Ireland for their continued support—especially through the presence of Irish troops serving in the KFOR mission, which remains vital to peace and stability in Kosovo. Both ministers expressed a shared commitment to further strengthening defense cooperation, underlining that mutual security can only be achieved through partnership and unity.



Minister Maqedonci Pays Tribute at Operation “Storm” 30th Anniversary



At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the Republic of Croatia, Ivan Anušić, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci participated in the official commemoration ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of Operation “Storm” (“Oluja”)—a pivotal moment in Croatia’s liberation and journey toward independence. As part of the events, Minister Maqedonci attended the military parade of the Croatian Armed Forces held in honor of this historic milestone. In his remarks, he reflected on the shared history between the Albanian and Croatian peoples, forged through



resilience in the face of oppressive regimes during the wars of the former Yugoslavia. “Kosovo and Croatia are two allied states committed to peace in the region, because Albanians and Croats are two friendly peoples who believe in democracy and good neighborliness. We do not forget the past, and therefore we will work together to ensure it does not repeat itself,” Minister Maqedonci stated. Operation “Storm,” conducted from August 4 to 7, 1995, was a decisive Croatian military campaign that led to the dissolution of the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina. The operation played a key role in bringing the Croatian War of Independence (1991–1995) to an end. Notably, many Albanians took part in Operation “Storm,” fighting alongside Croatian soldiers and contributing to Croatia’s liberation and its emergence from the shadow of a Serbia-dominated Yugoslavia. The presence of Minister Maqedonci at this important commemoration highlights the enduring ties and strategic partnership between Kosovo and Croatia, built upon shared values and a common commitment to peace, freedom, and regional stability.

High-Level Meeting Between Kosovo and Italian Defense Leadership to Enhance Bilateral Military Cooperation

Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, together with Kosovo Security Force Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted Lieutenant General Giovanni Maria Iannucci, Commander of the Italian Joint Operations Command, in a high-level meeting aimed at reinforcing defense cooperation between Kosovo and Italy. The discussions focused on the current security situation in Kosovo and the wider region, highlighting the critical importance of deepening bilateral cooperation. Particular emphasis was placed on collaboration in the defense industry and military training. Minister Maqedonci expressed gratitude



for Italy's steadfast support, especially its significant troop contribution to the KFOR mission, where Italy holds the largest contingent. Lieutenant General Jashari briefed General Iannucci on the latest developments and accomplishments of the Kosovo Security Force, underscoring the value of joint training programs held in Italy. Both parties concluded the meeting with a firm commitment to continue and expand cooperation across multiple areas of mutual interest, thereby contributing to greater stability and peace in Kosovo and the Western Balkans.

Bundestag Delegation Reaffirms Support for Kosovo's Security Efforts

Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci welcomed a delegation from the German Bundestag, consisting of Members of Parliament Tilman Kuban and Dr. David Preisendanz. During the meeting, Minister Maqedonci provided an overview of the current security situation in Kosovo and the wider region, addressing the challenges and efforts made to preserve stability amid a complex and evolving global security environment. He also presented the capabilities and development of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), underlining its dedication to safeguarding the territorial integrity of the Republic of Kosovo and the safety of its citizens. Minister Maqedonci expressed his sincere gratitude for Germany's continuous support to Kosovo, including the significant contribution of German troops within the NATO-led KFOR mission. He welcomed the Bundestag's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of defense and security, emphasizing the importance of partnership between countries that share democratic values and common strategic interests.



Minister Maqedonci Participates in International Defense Industry Fair in Istanbul



new ammunition factory that will enhance the KSF's logistical capabilities and self-sufficiency. Additionally, Minister Maqedonci met with Prof. Dr. Haluk Görgün, Head of the Presidency of Defense Industries of Türkiye, where they reviewed the modernization of KSF capabilities and successful procurement projects with Turkish companies, including plans to expand cooperation with firms such as Baykar. Minister Maqedonci described his participation at IDEF as an excellent opportunity to observe cutting-edge technological innovations that can strengthen Kosovo's defense capabilities, while reaffirming the vital importance of close international cooperation to enhance national and regional security.

Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci took part in the International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF) held in Istanbul, one of the most prominent events in the field of defense and security. The fair gathered defense ministers from NATO member states and international partners. During the event, Minister Maqedonci held meetings with representatives of leading military equipment manufacturers to strengthen cooperation and explore opportunities for equipping the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) with modern and efficient technology. As part of his visit, Minister Maqedonci met with Türkiye's Minister of National Defense, Yaşar Güler, to discuss the current geopolitical landscape, progress within the KSF, and Türkiye's ongoing strategic support. A key topic of discussion was Kosovo's future role in regional stability, especially following the operationalization of a



Minister Maqedonci Hosts Japanese Foreign Affairs Advisor Toshihiro Minohara



Kosovo's role as a reliable partner to Japan in Southeastern Europe.

Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci held a meeting with Toshihiro Minohara, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Professor of International Relations and Security Studies at Kobe University. The discussion centered on current geopolitical developments and global security challenges. Both parties exchanged views on shared interests and explored opportunities to deepen bilateral cooperation in defense and foreign policy. Minister Maqedonci highlighted his personal connection with Japan and the common democratic, humanistic, and sustainable values that unite the two countries. He expressed his commitment to strengthening

KSF Delegation Participates in Bundeswehr Medical Exercise in Germany



At the invitation of Lieutenant General Dr. Ralf Hoffmann, Commander of the Central Medical Service of the Bundeswehr, a delegation from the Kosovo Security Force participated in the medical information and training exercise (ILÜ) held in Feldkirchen, Germany. The delegation, led by Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci, Colonel Dr. Xhedet Tahiraj, RSM Ilir Rama, and accompanied by NALT Medical Advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Helmut Bedö, had the opportunity to observe firsthand the development of the Bundeswehr's medical capabilities through presentations and demonstrations across all levels of care, from ROLE 1 to ROLE 4. Throughout the visit, the delegation held meetings with senior leaders from the German and NATO military medical systems. Discussions focused on advancing KSF's medical capabilities,

including the development of an advanced ROLE 1 concept tailored to KSF, the planned validation of KSF's medical readiness in 2026 in Kosovo, participation in the multinational



exercise "VIGOROUS WARRIOR 2026" in Estonia, the implementation of internal train-the-trainer programs, and future bilateral cooperation in the field of military medicine. The KSF delegation also visited several training and support centers in Kümmersbruck, Weiden, and Grafenwöhr, gaining insights into modern infrastructure and advanced practices in military medical training and treatment. This visit reaffirmed the KSF's commitment to building modern and interoperable medical capabilities aligned with NATO standards, as well as the strong and ongoing support from strategic allies toward enhancing Kosovo's defense health system.

KSF Commander Participates in the 32nd U.S. Army Europe and Africa Conference of European Armies



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, participated in the 32nd Conference of European Armies (CEA), held in Wiesbaden, Germany, at the invitation of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Randy Alan George. The conference brought together chiefs of defense from over 40 countries and focused on the central theme: “Building Readiness for Global Deterrence.” Discussions emphasized the importance of strategic foresight, international cooperation, and collective readiness in addressing evolving global security challenges. Key topics included enhancing interoperability, improving real-time data usage for strategic military analysis, and strengthening joint operational capabilities. The participation of the Kosovo Security Force in this high-level forum underscores Kosovo’s growing role as a credible and committed partner within the international security architecture, as well as its continued efforts to contribute to peace, stability, and defense cooperation at the global level.

The United Kingdom Supports the Kosovo Security Force



The British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT) has successfully completed its resident training program at the Doctrine and Training Command (DTC). This training focused on preparing and certifying qualified instructors in line with modern military education standards. The certification ceremony was attended by the British Ambassador to Kosovo, Mr. Jonathan Hargreaves; the Commander of the Doctrine and Training Command, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj; as well as officers and non-commissioned officers from various KSF units. This collaboration highlights the Kosovo Security Force’s ongoing commitment to strengthening its professional capacities according to international standards, and underscores the sustainable partnership between Kosovo and the United Kingdom.

KSF Officer Graduates with Distinction in the United States



Second Lieutenant Qendrim Imeraj has successfully completed the Basic Officer Leadership Course for Infantry at the "Manoeuvre Center of Excellence" Infantry School in Fort Benning, Georgia, USA. For his exceptional performance throughout the course, Second Lieutenant Imeraj was honored with the title "Distinguished Honor Graduate", an award given to students who demonstrate top performance across all training components. This achievement reflects not only his personal commitment and excellence but also

highlights the high caliber and professionalism of KSF officers who continue to succeed in prestigious international programs. The Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course is a core training program for infantry officers, providing advanced instruction in platoon- and company-level ground operations, leadership and decision-making under stress, intensive physical conditioning, field logistics and resource management, as well as communication and command skills in joint and multinational operations.

KSF Officer Graduates in the United States with Prestigious International Award

Captain Shkëlqim Raci of the Kosovo Security Force has successfully completed the Captain Career Course in Logistics at the U.S. Army Sustainment University, held at Fort Lee, Virginia. In recognition of his exceptional academic and professional performance, Captain Raci was honored with the "Distinguished International Honor Graduate" award — one of the highest recognitions granted to international students attending the course. This achievement highlights not only Captain Raci's individual excellence and dedication but also reflects the high standards and professionalism of the Kosovo Security Force, whose members continue to represent the Republic of Kosovo with distinction in international military education programs.



The KSF pilot's complete refresher helicopter training at the Army Aviation School in Isparta, Republic of Türkiye



Within the framework of cooperation with the Republic of Türkiye, officers Major Afrim Zabeli, Captain Atdhe Hasani, and Captain Krenar Voca have successfully completed refresher helicopter training at the Army Aviation School in the city of Isparta, Republic of Türkiye. This training was not just a technical update – it was a further reinforcement of the responsibility they carry on their shoulders every day. During the training, our pilots developed and enhanced their skills through practical flights, including

emergency and tactical flight scenarios. They also had the opportunity to exchange professional experiences with their colleagues from the Turkish Armed Forces, demonstrating the high standard that the KSF represents in every international engagement. The Republic of Türkiye has continuously contributed to the development of the KSF's capacities in various fields, and on this occasion, its ongoing support in strengthening our air capabilities is evident. Through such cooperation, we enhance interoperability with our partners and strengthen the foundations of a modern, capable, and prepared military.

Official Visit of the KSF Delegation to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania



As part of ongoing military cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA), a delegation from the KSF Logistics Command, led by Deputy Commander Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci, conducted an official visit to the Support Command and its subordinate structures within AFRA. During the visit, the delegation held meetings focused on logistics and medical cooperation. In the logistics field, they were welcomed by the Commander of the Support Command, Brigadier General Aleksander Pando and his staff. In the medical field, the delegation was received by the Deputy Commander of the Land Forces Command, Brigadier General Vehbiye Kuti, along with the Acting Director of the Health Inspectorate of AFRA, Lieutenant Colonel Marinela Mjeda. Throughout the

visit, the KSF delegation was provided with comprehensive insights into the structure, logistical capacities, and medical capabilities of the Albanian Armed Forces. The discussions also focused on identifying new opportunities for cooperation and experience-sharing, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to further strengthen the collaboration between the two armed forces.