REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

# NEWSLETTER

May 2024

## KOSOVO UPGRADED TO NATO ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS

Effective May 27, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has granted the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo the status of a NATO associate member. As a result, Kosovo now has the privilege to propose and provide input on any matters addressed by the NATO Assembly.

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci highlighted that this decision brings Kosovo one step closer to full membership in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, a development that will undoubtedly impact the stability of the Balkans.

## MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SCHWARZ ATTENDED DEFENSE CONFERENCE “DEFENSE 24"

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, along with Deputy Prime Minister Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz and the rest of the delegation from the Ministry of Defense, participated in the “Defense 24” Conference, which was held in Poland. During the conference, Minister Maqedonci had productive meetings with the Polish Minister of Defense and Lithuania’s Deputy Minister, Žilvinas Tomkus. They discussed new forms of cooperation between their countries and the continuation of joint efforts within the Group for the Protection of Ukraine, as part of the Demining Coalition.

Also, during the conference Minister Maqedonci had a meeting with Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, the Minister of National Defense of Poland. Minister Maqedonci briefed his Polish counterpart on the security situation in Kosovo and the broader region. He expressed concern about Serbia’s militarization, particularly the presence of 48 Serbian army and gendarmerie bases along the border with Kosovo. Additionally, he raised suspicions that terrorist groups might be receiving support from Serbian security structures, potentially destabilizing Kosovo and the Balkans. Given the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its implications for European security, Minister Maqedonci reaffirmed Kosovo’s unwavering support for Ukraine within its state capacities. Both ministers agreed on the importance of establishing defense cooperation between Kosovo and Poland.

Within the margins of the “Defense 24” conference, Minister Maqedonci, also had the opportunity to meet the Deputy Minister of Lithuania, Žilvinas Tomkus, the Deputy Minister of South Korea, Sung IL, the former Minister of Defense of Poland, as well as the Member of Parliament, Mariusz Błaszczak.

With the deputy minister of South Korea, they discussed the forms of how to establish military cooperation between Kosovo and South Korea, with special emphasis on the defense industry. While with the Deputy Minister of Lithuania, they discussed new forms of cooperation between the two countries and also the continuation of cooperation within the Group for the Protection of Ukraine, as part of the Demining Coalition.

Also, Minister Maqedonci visited the stations of the manufacturing companies of the defense industry, which presented the latest technology products.

On this occasion, he emphasized that in the last three years it has been invested in increasing the capacities of our army many times more than in the previous fifteen years. “We will continue the investment in accordance with the operational plan, requirements and needs of the Kosovo Security Force”, said the minister, adding that from 2025, the third phase of the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan will begin.

**MINISTER MAQEDONCI PARTICIPATED IN PANEL DISCUSSION ON "STABILIZATION MISSIONS AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR PEACEKEEPING"**

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci participated in the discussion panel titled "Stabilization Missions as an Instrument for Maintaining Peace" during the "Defense 24" conference. In his speech, he emphasized the indispensable role of NATO member states and their successful intervention in Kosovo, which aimed to halt the genocide and liberate the country.

Here is the full speech delivered by Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci during the discussion panel:

*"Kosovo as an independent state with the greatest economic growth in the Balkans, the most visible development in media freedom, freedom of speech, is a success story of the NATO mission, but unfortunately we cannot say that the risk no longer exists in the Balkans.*

*While the Russian aggression is taking place in Ukraine, the extension of Russia in the Balkans, Serbia, the same country that caused the war in 1999 in Kosovo, continues to have an aggressive approach to Kosovo.*

*The attack in Banjska in September of last year proved that the same hegemonic mindset continues to exist among Serbia's ruling leadership.*

*The terrorist groups of the attack in Banjska were financed by the Serbian government institutions, as well as parallel institutions and smuggling groups in the north of Kosovo, with the primary goal of destabilizing the state of Kosovo.*

*The deployment of three of the four brigades of the Serbian Army near the border with Kosovo, with around 48 military bases, is a concern for us, as is the fact that this country with a hostile approach continues to invest in the acquisition of offensive weapons systems.*

*The interests of Serbia and Russia are mutual, dated since the 18th century.*

*An unstable situation in the Balkans would serve both Russia in the continuation of the war with the aim of annexing Ukraine, and Serbia in feeding the illusory idea of creating Greater Serbia.*

*It is obvious that Serbia is much closer to eastern policies than western ones, therefore it is very important to continue the presence of NATO troops in Kosovo, as long as we do not have clear signs of reflection on the part of Serbia and its entire democratization".*

## MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND UNITED KINGDOM ARMED FORCES MINISTER LEO DOCHERTY SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, together with the Minister of the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, Leo Docherty, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo and the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This agreement further strengthens the excellent bilateral cooperation in the field of defense between our two countries. It includes coordination to support the integration of the Republic of Kosovo into NATO, joint exercises and training implementation, as well as support and training for international operations and military missions. Additionally, the exchange of experiences in other fields is a key component of this collaboration.

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo expresses gratitude to the United Kingdom for its unwavering and continuous support in developing our country's defense capacities.

## MINISTER MAQEDONCI WAS HOSTED AT THE MEETING BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITY AND DEFENSE EXPORTS DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, MARK GOLDSACK

The official visit to the United Kingdom, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, started with the meeting at the Department of Exports of Security and Defense of the United Kingdom, where he met with the director of this institution, Mark Goldsack and his staff, with whom they held fruitful discussions regarding the possibilities of future cooperation.

The ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo in London, Ilir Kapiti, as well as the defense attaché in the United Kingdom, Colonel Agron Bajrami, were also present at this meeting.

"The United Kingdom continues to be a special strategic partner in the development of the military capacities of our country", emphasized the Minister Maqedonci. During the official visit to the United Kingdom, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, was received at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in London by Ambassador Ilir Kapiti and the Embassy staff. At this reception, compatriots were also present, whom the Minister Maqedonci informed about the developments in the field of defense and security, as well as about the support that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is giving to the building of the army and defense capacities of our country.

## MINISTER MAQEDONCI VISITED THE CONTINGENT OF THE KSF ENGAGED IN OPERATION INTERFLEX

During the official visit to the United Kingdom, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, visited the KSF contingent engaged in Operation Interflex. In the framework of this operation, many partner countries of the United Kingdom commit their training capacities that together with the British Army, tactically train the Ukrainian military for the defense

of their country from Russian aggression. Minister Maqedonci emphasized on this occasion that the engagement of KSF instructors in this operation is an indicator of the excellent level of cooperation with the United Kingdom in the field of defense and security, as well as the fulfillment of the objectives of the Republic of Kosovo for continuous support of Ukraine in the fight against Russian aggression.

## MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND GENERAL JASHARI PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSEQUENT VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP FOR THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, together with the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, participated in the next virtual meeting of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine. In the meeting led by the Secretary of Defense of the United States of America, Lloyd Austin, discussed the current situation in Ukraine, and the military assistance that countries should continue to provide to Ukraine and its people facing the Russian aggressor. Kosovo stands with Ukraine because it is with the right, the freedom of the people and the indisputable sovereignty of the states.

## MINISTER OF DEFENSE, EJUP MAQEDONCI, HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE COMMANDER OF KFOR, MAJOR GENERAL ÖZKAN ULUTAŞ

The Minister expressed his gratitude for the KFOR troops and his appreciation for the high level of cooperation so far with the Kosovo Security Force, in the function of the country's security. On this occasion, Major General Ulutaş emphasized that he is satisfied with the achievements of the Ministry of Defense so far, as well as the willingness to continue mutual coordination on issues of common interest within the framework of current developments and their impact on the security environment.

## THE COMMANDER OF THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHKIM JASHARI HOSTED IN A FAREWELL MEETING THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF KFOR, BRIGADE GENERAL BOZICEVIC

The commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted in a farewell meeting, Brigadier General John Bozicevic, Chief of Staff of KFOR. In this meeting also participated the The incoming KFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Arthur Garffer. COMKSF thanked General Bozicevic, who during his service in KFOR managed to coordinate and synchronize the activities between KFOR and KSF. COMKSF also thanked General Bozicevic for the professional cooperation between the two institutions and his role in maintaining peace and stability. At the end of the meeting, General Jashari congratulated General Garffer on his new position as KFOR Chief of Staff and offered the cooperation of the KSF, in the framework of maintaining peace and security in the country.

## THE COMMANDER OF THE GUARD HOSTED FOR A VISIT THE DIRECTOR OF NALT

Commander of the KSF National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri welcomed the Director of NALT, Brigadier General Christian Nawrat. General Haziri informed General Nawart about the operations that the Guard is carrying out and thanked him for the donations of the German state that they have given to the KSF, where they visited them. General Nawart offered his support for maintaining and increasing the capacities of the KSF in general and the National Guard in particular.

## THE FIRST VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION SESSION WAS HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND KSF

The first session of voluntary blood donation was held in the Ministry of Defense and KSF during the month of May. This activity was developed in the framework of the cooperation between the Ministry of Defense and the KSF with the National Center for Blood Transfusion of Kosovo. This humanitarian action, which saves lives, has been joined by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci together with his cabinet, civilian and military staff of the MoD/KSF, as well as international staff working in the Ministry of Defense. Voluntary blood donation is an activity planned twice a year in the Ministry of Defense and KSF. Also, the members of the KSF are always ready to respond to the requests of the National Center for Blood Transfusion of Kosovo, in specific cases.

## MINISTER EJUP MAQEDONCI HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE DEPUTY OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG, PETER BEYER

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the member of the German Bundestag, Peter Beyer, whom he informed about security developments and the destructive role of Serbia for peace and security in Kosovo and the Western Balkans. They also discussed about the development of the Kosovo Security Force in recent years, within the Comprehensive Transition Plan. At the same time, the minister requested that the assistance and partnership with Germany be further deepened. "Cooperation with Germany as a NATO member state is essential for the development of our army, but also for peace and security in the country and the region", said Minister Maqedonci.

## A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE J-4 OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA WAS HELD

In the framework of bilateral cooperation, according to the joint bilateral plan, on May 14 and 15, 2024, a bilateral meeting was held in Kosovo between the J-4 leaders of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Croatia.

The Croatian delegation was led by Brigadier General Jozo Matković, head of the Directorate of Logistics in the GS of the Croatian armed forces. The delegation was received by the director of the Support Directorate, Zijadin Bajçinca and from the director of the Department for Logistics and Infrastructure of the Ministry of Interior, Colonel Imer Avdiu.

The focus of the visit was in the field of logistics. The function and system of Logistics at the Strategic, Operational and Tactical level was presented by the MoD. During the visit, in addition to the Ministry of Defense, the Department of Logistics at GSKSF was visited, as well as the Logistics Command. While the Croatian delegation from the point of view of logistics has disclosed its experiences regarding the criteria and requirements that must be met for membership in NATO. Also, the Croatian delegation shared its experiences in the landing of troops for various missions, as well as the management and standardization of equipment. In the end, both parties agreed that mutual cooperation in the field of logistics in support of common goals is necessary and fruitful for both parties, and therefore should continue in the future.

During this visit, the Croatian delegation was led by the Chief of the Logistics Directorate at the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, Brigadier General Jozo Matkovic. He was received at the meeting by the Chief of Staff of the General Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi together with colleagues Colonel Imer Avdiu and Colonel Arsim Shaqiri. The two generals in the framework of bilateral cooperation talked about the possibilities of cooperation between the two armies and agreed on the exchange of experiences not only in the field of logistics but also in other functional areas with the aim of developing skills and capacities for interoperability and NATO standards -s.

- In addition, the delegation from the Croatian army was hosted for a meeting by the Acting Director, Commander of Logistics, Colonel Lladrovci. The Colonel Lladrovci received at the meeting the delegation from the Croatian Army led by the Chief of the Directorate of Logistics of the General Staff Brigadier General Jozo Matkovic.

Col. Lladrovci, on behalf of COMKSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, thanked General Matkovic for the continuous contribution provided by the Armed Forces of Croatia to the development of the KSF. General Matkovic expressed his gratitude for the welcoming he received in Kosovo and specifically in the Kosovo Security Force. During the meeting, a presentation was made about the Logistics Command on its history, capacities and the way forward. The continuous deepening of cooperation with the Croatian army is evidence of their readiness to support the capacity building of the KSF.

## THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE THE MOST RELIABLE INSTITUTION IN KOSOVO

In the survey for the Western Balkans of the International Republican Institute, the Kosovo Security Force is the most reliable institution in Kosovo. In this survey, the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo have answered that they have full confidence in the Kosovo Security Force. According to this survey, it appears that the Kosovo Security Force enjoys the greatest credibility of all the armies of the Western Balkan states. The commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, expresses his gratitude to the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo for their trust and appreciation towards the KSF. He also thanks the KSF staff for their contribution to this collective achievement. General Jashari emphasizes that this faith of the people must be rewarded with work, dedication and service with dignity to the country.

## SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION OF THE KSF IN THE "EFES 24" EXERCISE

In the " Efes 24" exercise, held in Izmir, Republic of Türkiye, the KSF Contingent has managed to successfully achieve the training objectives, which were planned for the first phase, to continue with the second phase in it, which envisages more complicated operations with the air force and in cooperation with the Turkish commando forces. The exercise includes mission groups, where the participants act as part of a Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF), and the main objective of the exercise is to exchange military expertise, improve interaoperability and understanding between partner countries and agencies that are part of the exercise.

Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla accompanied by the Commander of the LFC, Brigadier General Hysen Dreshaj, the defense attaché in Türkiye, Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu, as well as the delegation from the KSF soldiers, visited the military base in Türkiye, where "EFES 2024" Exercise took place. On this occasion, Deputy Minister Syla was warmly received by the commander of this camp, Colonel Ismail Ibishi, who informed them about the course of the exercise and more broadly about the contingent of our soldiers from the Third Regiment of the Land Forces. The colonel in this meeting said the best possible words about the discipline, successes, professionalism and readiness that the KSF soldiers have shown throughout this exercise. Then, as part of this official visit to Türkiye, they visited the camp of KSF soldiers, where they were received by the commander of the KSF contingent in Türkiye, Major Ali Krasniqi, who informed them in detail about the exercise, the objectives of his, the interoperability with the participating armies, as well as the challenges for the entire exercise.

He also mentioned the warm and very friendly welcome from the Turkish military, as well as the ideal care and conditions. As for our soldiers, Deputy Minister Syla congratulated them on the successes achieved which make us all proud. This exercise, which was carried out in three dimensions: from land, air and sea, is expected to be finalized the day after tomorrow and which will be conveyed by the representatives of the 45 countries that have participated, where 50 countries present on the "D" day, with the commitment of more than 12 thousand troops and with the use of the most sophisticated weapons of military technology of the Turkish state.

**MINISTER MAQEDONCI ATTENDED THE TABLE "STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY", ORGANIZED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN KOSOVO (ACCK)**

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, at the invitation of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo, participated in the round table with the topic "Strengthening partnerships for national security". Discussions focused on the global security environment, security in the Western Balkans region and the need for the development of the defense industry in the country in order to face future security challenges. In a conversation with the executive director of ACCK, Arian Zeka, as well as other members of this chamber, the Minister Maqedonci emphasized that "the development of the defense industry is one of the basic prerequisites for completing the defense infrastructure of a country. Especially for our country and the time in which we are facing regional and global security challenges". Further, the Minister Maqedonci added that the cooperation with the private sector is one of the important elements for the development of the defense capacities of the country and a potential partner for the development of the defense industry of our country.

## THE TEAM COMPRISED OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND KSF VISITED THE MUNICIPALITY OF KLLOKOT

The team composed of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, led by Deputy Minister of Defense Shemsi Syla, based on the military support mission for the civil authorities and according to the annual plan, today made a visit to the Municipality of Kllokot. At the meeting, in addition to the deputy mayor of Kllokot, Hasan Zeneli, were also the police commander at the Kllokot Station, the Chief of Operations at the Kllokot Station and the commander of the Professional Fire and Rescue Unit from the Municipality of Vitia. The parties discussed emergency preparedness, in the management of natural disasters and other disasters, taking into account the cycle of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Deputy Minister Syla offered support to the deputy mayor of Kllokot in emergency planning, training of response units as well as the establishment, training and certification of volunteer teams in Urban Rescue Search, Mountain Rescue Search, Water Rescue Search, first medical aid, etc. Both parties agreed and pledged for a stronger cooperation between them in the future.

## THE COMMANDER OF THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHKIM JASHARI DECORATED LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN FORREST WITH A MEDAL

The commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received in a farewell meeting, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Forrest, of the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom who was on mission in Kosovo in the capacity of Advisor to the Commander of the KSF, for the period August 2023 - May 2024. Lt. Col. Forrest thanked COMKSF for the opportunity created to offer its support and expertise to the KSF in order to increase the combat capabilities of the KSF. While COMKSF thanked him for his dedication, commitment and continuous support in increasing the collective and individual trainings that take place in Kosovo and Britain for the Kosovo Security Force

At the end of the meeting, General Jashari decorated Lieutenant Colonel Forrest with a “Selfless Service” medal for his dedication to advancing bilateral cooperation and increasing the capacities of the KSF.

## 15 KSF CADETS GRADUATED AT THE BACHELOR’S LEVEL AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KOSOVO

Fifteen KSF cadets graduated at the bachelor's level at the American University of Kosovo, whose professionalism will serve the development of our army. The Minister of Defense, Ejup, Maqedonci participated in the graduation ceremony, accompanied by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. In this case, Minister Maqedonci congratulated the cadets for their academic achievement in the civil studies program, wishing them to always carry out their noble duty for the protection of the homeland.

## THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE KSF COMMANDER VISITED THE USC CADETS IN GJAKOVA REGION WHERE THE FIELD EXERCISE "ADVANCED CAMP 2024" WAS TAKING PLACE

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci accompanied by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and the Chief of Staff of the GS Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, visited the cadets of the Center for University Studies (USC) in the field exercise "Advanced Camp 2024" that took place in the Gjakova region. The delegation was received by the Commander of the USC, Major Mimoza Budeci, who informed them of the activities, achievements, readiness and high morale of the cadets displayed in all the activities carried out within the "Advanced Camp" which is also the culminating assessment exercise for cadets, where their operational and tactical skills are assessed in the field. The Minister and the commander of the KSF congratulated COMUSC, Maj Budeci and the staff for the organization, commitment and results achieved and emphasized that this is an important moment to conclude the final evaluations of the cadets for this academic year. The University Study Center offers cadets an education program that prepares them to serve as officers with high military, academic and operational values after graduation. Through their continuous training in various areas such as strategy, tactics and crisis management, cadets develop a broad vision to understand and face the most complex challenges of the defense spectrum.

Cadets are a valuable source of strength and security, serving as an inspiration and example to all.

## "LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL EDUCATION" SEMINAR WAS HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

Within the framework of the activities from the bilateral cooperation plan for 2024, the one-week seminar "Leadership development and civic education" was held in the premises of the Ministry of Defense, organized by the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration of the MoD and by the military of the German army.

On this occasion, the director of the Human Resources Directorate of MoD, Ismet Mecinaj, in his welcoming speech for those present, thanked the German side for the cooperation and continuous support for the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. During the seminar, topics such as: internal leadership, personality development, military laws and order, educational measures were addressed, which were lectured by the German military, lieutenant colonel Friedrich von Bismarck as well as Lt. Col. Wolf Gunther Halama. Participants in this seminar were members of different leadership levels, starting from Ministry officials and soldiers, soldiers from the General Staff of the KSF and soldiers from subordinate commands of the Headquarters. The seminar aimed to show that leadership development and civic education in the military are integral components, designed to create effective leadership, ethically based and socially responsible personnel.

At the same time, civic education ensures that soldiers understand democratic principles, human rights and their civic responsibilities, fostering a sense of duty beyond military obligations.

## THE ONE-WEEK SEMINAR ON "AQCUISITION, PLANNING, MARKET RESEARCH AND COST ANALYSIS" CONCLUDED AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

At the Ministry of Defense, a one-week seminar on "Acquisition, planning, market research and cost analysis" was completed, with trainers from the Institute for Security and Governance (ISG), International Defense Acquisition Resource Management (IDARM) and the Office for Cooperation Military at the American Embassy (ODC).
This seminar was attended by members from the Ministry of Defense, the KSF, as well as from other security agencies. The focus of the workshop was to examine the fundamental concepts and challenges associated with managing acquisition projects in the defense field. In this workshop, the participants critically reviewed and applied various, detailed elements of market research as an integral part of the project. This workshop provided an overview of the fundamental concepts and challenges associated with procurement planning, market research, and cost and price analysis.

## KSF TRAINS FOR "VURAN" COMBAT VEHICLES

In the framework of the cooperation with the Turkish army, and with the aim of increasing the combat capacities of the Kosovo Security Force, the training for the safe and efficient use of "Vuran" combat vehicles was carried out by the instructors of the Turkish army. The Kosovo Security Force, based on the development plan, is raising its capacities with the support of international partners, thus creating interoperability and rising to the highest standards of NATO armies.

## KSF PART OF THE "VIGOROUS WARRIOR 24" FIELD EXERCISE

In the framework of cooperation with strategic partners and with the invitation from the NATO Center for Excellence and the invitation of the USAir Force in Europe, the Kosovo Security Force with a Contingent from the Medical Regiment of the Logistics Command has joined the forces since April 28 allies in the "Vigorous" field exercise Warrior 24".
This activity, organized and directed by NATO, was carried out in the Republic of Hungary as the host country of this exercise.The KSF contingent was joined in this exercise by medical personnel from the Iowa National Guard of the United States of America who, together with members of the Medical Regiment, were part of the training audience and part of the high control of exercise (HICON). During the implementation of the exercise, the field ROL1 team of the Medical Regiment of the KSF, in addition to being part of this exercise, at the same time, the assessment for the revalidation of the field ROL1 team was made, an assessment which was carried out by the assessment team from the Center of Excellence for NATO medicine.

## KSF EXERCISES WITH ARTILLERY AT THE MILITARY RANGE IN BIZA, ALBANIA

The Command of the Land Forces has carried out training at the military training ground in Biza of the Republic of Albania, in cooperation with the company's instructors, Aselsan and BMC and in coordination, cooperation and support from the Command of the Land Forces of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. This exercise was combined by acting with direct and indirect fire, interaction with artillery weapons and Vuran combat vehicles. The purpose of this exercise is to increase the fighting capacities of the KSF, the interoperability between the armies, the exchange of experiences with the aim of maintaining global peace and security.

## TWO CADETS FROM KOSOVO GRADUATE AT WEST POINT

Cadets Andrin Vuthaj and Vesa Ibrahimi, after four years of rigorous and challenging study, have successfully completed the most prestigious academy in the world West Point of the United States of America. At the graduation ceremony, in addition to family members and many guests, the president of the USA, Joe Biden who congratulated the new graduates. The newly graduated cadets will join the Kosovo Security Force, thus bringing new experiences, which they gained during the four years of study.
For distinguished performance during his studies, cadet Vuthaj graduated with high honors (Magna Cum Laude).

## CADET ALBIN BYTYÇI GRADUATES FROM THE US AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Cadet Albin Bytyçi, after four years of rigorous and challenging study, has successfully completed the most prestigious air force academy in the world, the Air Force Academy Point of the United States of America. At the graduation ceremony, in addition to family members and many guests, the vice president of the USA, Kamala Harris, was present as a guest of honor. Harris, who congratulated the new graduates. The newly graduated cadet Albin Bytyçi will join the Kosovo Security Force, thus bringing new experiences, which they gained during the four years of study.

## KSF OFFICER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRAINING AT THE DEFENSE ACADEMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Lieutenant Colonel Fatlum Demiri has successfully completed the “Defense Diplomacy Course” in the Defense Academy of the Republic of Croatia “Dr. Francis Tudjman “ in Zagreb. Lieutenant Colonel Demiri, in addition to the dedication and exemplary discipline shown, has achieved excellent results and has shown extraordinary success throughout this period of time by presenting Kosovo, especially the KSF, in the best possible way. 20 officers from four (4) different European countries participated in this course. The “Defense Diplomacy Course” aims to prepare officers of the Major - Colonel ranks for military-diplomatic tasks, tasks in military missions, as well as tasks related to international and protocol activities.

## THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE COMMANDER OF THE KSF VISITED THE SAPP UNIT

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, and Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi visited the unit, Unmanned Air Systems (SAPP) at Gjakova Airport. The delegation was initially briefed by the leadership of the unit, who informed them of the capacities, activities, achievements and readiness to carry out all the activities within the framework of their mission.

Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari congratulated the staff of the SAPP unit for their commitment in carrying out their tasks and activities. They also expressed their commitment to the further development of this capacity based on the objectives of the MoD and the KSF.

## KSF PART OF THE 17TH NCO OFFICER CONFERENCE

In the Republic of Albania, the 17th Conference of Non-Commissioned Officers of the Commands of the European Land Forces was held, which took place from 06-09 May 2024, under the direction of the American Command for Europe and Africa (US Army Europe and Africa ), and the Armed Forces. The conference discussed the best practices for the development of the non-commissioned officer's role, the lessons learned from the current conflicts that pose a threat to common security, the exchange of experience and the strengthening of relations between the participating countries.

The Kosovo Security Force was represented by the sergeant major of the KSF Commander, Bedri Zuka, who presented to the audience the best practices for the development of non-commissioned officers in the Kosovo Security Force.

## SECOND GROUP OF UKRAINIANS COMPLETE SECOND LEVEL OF EOD TRAINING

In the KSF barracks “Lidhja e Prizrenit“ in Prizren, the EOD Level 2 training completion ceremony for the second group of the National Police and Emergency Service of Ukraine was held. This group was trained for 6 weeks in the methods of eliminating the dangers from explosive devices by the instructors of EUCOM and the Demining Company.

On behalf of the KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, General Haziri congratulated the trainees and instructors for the successful completion of the course. The importance of the KSF's contribution to the training of the Ukrainian security forces in the noble mission of saving human lives was also emphasized, transferring the experience gained during the removal of unexploded ordnance in Kosovo to the Ukrainian personnel.

KSF with its capacities will continue to provide support together with American allies for Ukraine in the training of additional personnel for work in minefields and the removal of explosive devices in Ukraine as well as in other relevant fields.

## DELEGATION FROM ITALIAN ARMED FORCES VISITED THE KSF NATIONAL GUARD

A delegation from the Italian Armed Forces, led by lieutenant colonel Marco Mascari, pilot instructor, stayed at the International Training Center for Search and Rescue (ITCSR).

The visit was carried out based on the bilateral plan of cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Italy in order to inform and inform about the capacities, infrastructure and conditions of training offered by, ITCSR and opportunities for cooperation in the future. The Italian delegation was received by the Commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, in which case the delegation was informed about the mission, achievements and future planning of the units of the National Guard of the KSF, and the opportunities offered by the ITCSR for the training and preparation of personnel for Search and Rescue, at the same time he expressed his willingness to provide these capacities and the expansion of cooperation for the future with the teams from the Italian Armed Forces, to share their knowledge with the members of the KSF.

## KSF PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXERCISE “EAGER LION 2024”

The Kosovo Security Force, together with 23 countries from around the world, was part of the international exercise “ Eager Lion 2024” carried out in the territory of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, led by the US Army's Central Command and the Jordanian Armed Forces. The purpose of the exercise was to exchange military expertise, improve interaction and understanding between partner countries and other agencies that were part of this exercise. The KSF contingent deployed in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has successfully fulfilled all the training objectives set within the multilateral exercise, where it has performed the tasks within the exercise with participation in the High Control of the Exercise (HICON); Conducting Special Operations in different areas as well as observing exercise activities in the field of Cybernetics (CYBER) and Weapons of Mass Destruction (CBRNE). KSF's participation in such exercises raises the professionalism of personnel in various military fields and in multinational environments, thus creating trust and interoperability with partners.

## THE SENIOR OFFICER OF THE KSF HAS FINISHED THE ADVANCED COURSE FOR SECURITY AND DEFENSE

Colonel Avni Kiqina has successfully completed the Security and Defense Advanced Course at the College of Security and Defense of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA). This is the highest military career course that is organized every year by the Security and Defense College of the AFRA, where NATO member states and partner countries participate. In the highest course of the military education system of AFRA, a wide range of topics oriented towards the current dynamics of security, politics, international relations, the new concepts of NATO, as well as the nature of conflicts of the XXI century are treated.