



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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BRIGADIER GENERAL CHRISTIAN NAWRAT: THE NEW DIRECTOR OF NATO ADVISORY AND LIAISON TEAM



At the Ministry of Defense in April was held the ceremony of accepting and handing over the duties of the director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), where the director, Brigadier General Ralf Hammerstein, who has led the NALT since March 2023, handed over the task to his successor, Brigadier General Christian Nawrat. The Prime Minister Kurti emphasized that cooperation with dedicated people, such as General Hammerstein, is an important experience for all of us. "His unwavering commitment to raising standards within our security institutions has left an indelible mark and legacy which we must continue to exalt", he said.

The Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, evaluating the work of

General Hammerstein, said: "Our main strategic goal is the membership of the Republic of Kosovo in NATO. Therefore, our main priority is building the professional and operational capacities of the KSF in accordance with NATO standards".



Speaking about the results of General Hammerstein's work, the minister Maqedonci emphasized that through his commitment, General Hammerstein has provided an important contribution to increasing the effectiveness of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, giving input in every process that helps to fulfill of the high standards required for NATO membership. During the ceremony,

The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the Deputy Minister of Defense Shemsi Sylaj, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, officers and senior officials of the Ministry of Defense/KSF and NALT, as well as other guests. Special guests at this ceremony were the Head of Current Operations, Operations Division of the NATO General Staff, Ariella Viehe, KFOR Commander Major General Özkan Ulutaş and KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Federico Bernacca.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI WELCOMED UK'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS, LORD STUART PEACH



The Minister of Defence, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the United Kingdom's Special Envoy for the Western Balkans, Lord Stuart Peach, accompanied by Ambassador Jonathan Hargreaves.

In this meeting, the security situation in the country and the region, the development of the KSF, as well as the Interflex operation that is being developed in the United Kingdom, with the participation of the KSF troop, were discussed.

The Minister Maqedonci expressed his gratitude for the continuous support that the United Kingdom has offered to Kosovo in matters of security, preservation of territorial integrity, especially with the addition of its troops within KFOR, after the terrorist and paramilitary attack on September 24 last year in Banjska.

On this occasion, the Minister Maqedonci emphasized the unwavering commitment to maintaining stability and fulfilling our goal as a country for membership in NATO and the EU.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DONATES MULTIPURPOSE TRUCKS TO KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE



A donation ceremony was held at the ‘Adem Jashari’ barracks in Pristina, where the Kosovo Security Force graciously received five multifunctional trucks from the Federal Republic of Germany. This generous contribution will significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the KSF.

The handover ceremony was marked by the presence of esteemed figures, including Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, KSF Commander General Bashkim Jashari, and the German Ambassador to Kosovo, Jörn Rohde as well as local and international officials and senior officers.

Regarding this activity, in his speech, Minister Maqedonci emphasized: “It is a special pleasure and honor that today I accept the next donation of the Federal Republic of Germany, military trucks of the company Rheinmetall MAN, in the amount of 2.7 million euros, which will affect in raising the logistical and operational capacity of the Kosovo Security Force”.

Furthermore, he emphasized that the support with military vehicles for the KSF is only one of the areas where Germany contributes significantly to the defense and security of our country.



At the end of his speech, the minister warned that soon the agreement of understanding between the two countries will be signed and that Germany will appoint a resident attaché in Kosovo, with the aim of advancing the army to the level of NATO standards, to contribute to peace and security in the country, region and beyond.

While, in his speech, the ambassador of Germany, Mr. Rohde said: "I want to reiterate that the relations between Kosovo and Germany are excellent and we have a close cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, especially in the field of security. Soon we will sign a Memorandum of Understanding and through the deputy military attache of

Germany we will have permanent representation in Kosovo".

Further, he specified that the purpose of this donation is to support the initial capacities of the Transport Company of the Logistics Regiment. In March of this year, the Ministry of Defense purchased from its own budget 10 trucks of the brand "Rheinmetall MAN", the same as those that were donated today by the Federal Republic of Germany.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI PARTICIPATED IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION MINISTERIAL



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in the Ministerial of Defense Cooperation of Central Europe (Central European Defense Cooperation, CEDC) and partner countries of the Western Balkans (WB), which took place in Budapest, Hungary. On this occasion, the minister once again confirmed the strategic orientation of the Republic of Kosovo for membership in the EU and NATO and asked for support of the countries participating in this format, for the realization of these aspirations of our country, to enable us to make the greatest contribution for peace and security in the region and the world. In his address, Minister Maqedonci also reiterated the importance of

supporting Ukraine in its just struggle for the preservation of sovereignty and the protection of territorial integrity, while at the same time he informed those present about the country's contribution to support Ukraine, in accordance with its capacities and resources. our country. Also, the minister Maqedonci emphasized the fact that those responsible for the September 24 terrorist attack in Banjska i Zveçani continue to be free and unpunished for the act committed.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI MET HIS HUNGARIAN COUNTERPART, MINISTER OF DEFENSE KRISTÓF SZALAY-BOBROVNICZKY



On the sidelines of the Security Congress that was held in Budapest, Minister Maqedonci met his counterpart Szalay-Bobrovniczky. During the meeting, they discussed the general security situation and their impact in the Western Balkans, with particular emphasis on the attack in the north of the country and the policies aimed at destabilizing the Balkans. As two democratic states that believe in Western values, the possibility of deepening bilateral cooperation in the field of defense was also discussed, while the goal of Kosovo to be a member of the European Union and NATO was reiterated by the Minister Maqedonci

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, EJUP MAQEDONCI, ATTENDED THE BUDAPEST SECURITY FORUM

As part of the official visit to Hungary for participation in the Central European and Western Balkans Defense Cooperation Ministerial, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in the Budapest Security Forum, which was held for the first time in the Hungarian capital. The Minister Maqedonci, together with the Minister of Defense of Montenegro, Dragan Krapović, was part of the panel that discussed the topic "Central Europe and the Western Balkans in the new European security architecture". In his speech, the minister expressed his position, stressing that the strategic orientation and aspiration of the Republic of Kosovo for membership in NATO and the EU has no other alternative.

Further, the Minister Maqedonci informed about the development of the capacities of the Kosovo Security Force and the way forward, based on the General Transition Plan, as well as the needs in accordance with recent developments in the general security environment. During his stay in Budapest, the Minister Maqedonci also met with the Minister of Defense of Hungary, Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky. With the Hungarian counterpart, in addition to the general security situation and their influence in our region, they also discussed the possibilities of deepening bilateral cooperation in the field of defense.



MINISTER MAQEDONCI ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY”

During the session of the International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci underscored the indispensable contributions of women in the armed forces, advocating for their continued empowerment and participation.

Below is his full speech:

The active participation of women in peace and security matters is fundamental to achieving enduring stability. Given that women constitute over half of our nation's population, their involvement in crisis management and the sustainable development of our forces is not merely important—it is essential.

Consequently, the increase in the number of women members in the army would contribute not only to strengthening the role of women but also to the strengthening of the army, because in general, and especially in our country, they have been and are a key factor and determinant of major changes.

At the moment we speak, the percentage of women in the KSF is somewhere close to 10%, and they are engaged in all links of the structure of the Force, both in the General Staff and in the Command, respectively in: the Command of the Land Forces, the Command of National Guard, Logistics and Doctrine and Training Command. The Inspector General is General Irfete Spahiu, and even the Defense Academy is led by a woman, Major Mimoza Budeci.

We are focused on giving even more voice to information campaigns about the possibility of developing a military career, with the image of the military woman at the center. But we will also continue to engage in the elimination of obstacles that in any form stagnate the advancement of the position of women in the Force.

In this direction, we are very determined that the composition of the recruiting and selection boards reflect a gender perspective, as a balanced and representative presence.

Military women today operate in better conditions, due to the work and continuous efforts to improve the conditions they have faced over the years, be it through open recruitment procedures, equal pay for the same rank for both sexes, guaranteeing and implementing the Law on Maternity Leave and Parental Leave, as well as the Law on Protection of Breastfeeding, enabling them paid holidays and breaks.

All these measures taken, and for the increase of the same, we

will not stop the efforts, are impetus and encouragement for the integration of women in the army. This is because women have proven that they are fully competent to perform all the tasks for which they have the will to commit.





During the Forum for Women, Peace, and Security, the Defense Minister, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Canada, Adriatik Kryeziu, had a meeting with Rebecca Patterson, a member of the Canadian Senate. They were accompanied by Jonathan Berkshire Miller, the director of the Macdonald Laurier Institute, and Robert Baines, the president of the Canadian NATO Association. Maqedonci expressed his gratitude to his Canadian counterparts for their support of the Republic of

Kosovo, particularly in the field of defense. He emphasized the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force's desire to further expand this cooperation.



During the Forum for Women, Peace, and Security, Defense Minister Ejup Maqedonci had a meeting with Ambassador Kate Marie Byrnes, the Foreign Policy Advisor at the US European Command. The US Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Jeffrey Hovenier, also attended the meeting. In the meeting was discussed the implementation of the bilateral plan with the USA, the cooperation with the European Command of the USA, the development of the KSF into a professional army, as well as the next steps for Kosovo's membership in NATO. The minister thanked Ambassador Byrnes for EUCOM's support so far in advancing the professional capacities of the KSF, as well as the excellent

cooperation that exists in the current joint mission for the training of Ukrainian troops in the field of demining. Minister Maqedonci emphasized that maintaining peace and stability is essential and that all parties should be engaged for this.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI HOSTED THE FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA IN A MEETING

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the former Minister of Defense of the Republic of South Africa, at the same time a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, Lindiwe Nonceba Sisulu. They discussed about the areas in which Kosovo can cooperate with South Africa, especially in the defense industry, where Africa ranks among the first in the list with the greatest development in this direction.



KSF AND EUCOM TRAIN THE 1ST GROUP OF THE UKRAINIAN CONTINGENT IN THE DEMINING FIELD



The six-week training of the first group of Ukrainian personnel in the field of EOD was carried out by KSF instructors, in cooperation with the European Command of the United States of America (EUCOM).

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the Ambassador of the United States of America in Kosovo, Mr. Jeffrey M. Hovenier, EUCOM representatives, as well as senior domestic and international officials and officers.

In his speech to the audience, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci emphasized that "the Republic of Kosovo stands firmly alongside the United States of America and other democratic countries in support of the just struggle of the people of Ukraine against the unprovoked and unjust Russian aggression". While the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, after greeting those present and congratulating the trainees on the successful completion of this course, added: "Our people better than anyone else understand the importance of your fight against the aggressor and the high price that freedom has. Therefore, we are dedicated side by side with our allies to help the people of Ukraine in their efforts for freedom, just as our allies have helped us and stood by us in difficult times, where even today we are continuing the journey together". The KSF Commander also thanked the instructors from the KSF and EUCOM for the professionalism shown in the training of the Ukrainian contingent in the field of EOD. At the same time, he thanked the USA for its continuous support in the professional development of the KSF. Those present were also greeted by the American Ambassador in Kosovo, Jeffrey M. Hovenier, who expressed gratitude and happiness for this success. "I am honored to be with you today, where we are marking an extraordinary achievement of the completion of this course, which once again marks Kosovo's commitment and determination to defend the state of Ukraine from Russia's brutal attack". The Kosovo Security Force in coordination with international allies will continue to offer its contribution, with human and logistical capacities to help Ukraine in its goal to ensure peace.





KSF COMMANDER LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHKIM JASHARI ATTENDED VIRTUAL DEFENSE CONTACT GROUP MEETING FOR UKRAINE

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, participated in the virtual meeting, the 21st in a row, of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine, led by the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin III.

The commander of the KSF, General Jashari once again expressed the readiness of the KSF to support Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. The meeting focused on continuing military assistance to the armed forces of Ukraine. The member states of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine, including

Kosovo, reaffirmed their unconditional support for Ukraine, which continues to face the fight against Russian aggression.

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO KOSOVO EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR KSF'S ROLE IN TRAINING UKRAINIAN TROOPS VIA OPERATION INTERFLEX



General Jashari informed Ambassador Hargreaves about the achievements of the KSF on the way to the development of capacities for mission fulfillment. Furthermore, General Jashari thanked the ambassador for the cooperation so far and the key role that the United Kingdom has played in the professionalism of the KSF.

Part of the discussions focused on the security situation in the country, region and beyond, as well as its impact on global security. Meanwhile, Ambassador Hargreaves thanked GLT Jashar for the KSF's contribution to the training of Ukrainian troops through the Interflex operation in Great Britain.

Both agreed to continue the current cooperation and find new forms of cooperation in the future.

DEFENSE MINISTER EJUP MAQEDONCI, HOSTED IN A MEETING THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CDU/CSU PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, PATRICIA LIPS

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the vice president of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, Patricia Lips, as well as the accompanying delegation, consisting of the advisor of the parliamentary group for European policies, Michael Vorlander, the German defense attache in Kosovo, lieutenant colonel Oliver Palkowitsch, the counselor at the German Embassy in Pristina, Sebastian Leuschner, as well as the head of the Office of the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung Foundation for Kosovo and North Macedonia, Daniel Braun.

In this meeting, the minister informed the German delegation about the security situation in the country and the challenges we are currently facing as a country, while he reiterated the commitment of our country to be a factor of stability in the region and beyond.

He thanked the German friends for the continuous support of the German state in all fields, especially in the field of defense, expressing the belief that this cooperation will deepen even more.



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KSF PARTNERS WITH KFOR AND GLOBAL DEMINING GROUPS TO MARK APRIL 4TH, INTERNATIONAL MINE AWARENESS DAY



KSF together with KFOR and the international organizations for demining that operate in Kosovo marked the 4th of April - the International Day for mine awareness. Present at this ceremony were the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, the Commander of the National Guard of the KSF, Brigadier General, Naim Haziri, the advisor to the Minister of Defense, Hajriz Sejdiu, as well as the Director of the Coordinating Center for Demining in the MoD, Ahmet Sallova. Officials of the US and Japanese embassies were also present at this event.

On this occasion, Deputy Minister Sylja thanked the participants for their valuable work, noting that the constant presence of mined areas and other unexploded ordnance in the areas affected by them not only poses a danger to the lives of the residents, but also makes it difficult their economic situation, due to the non-use of these agricultural lands and mountainous areas. Meanwhile, Brigadier General Naim Haziri thanked all those present for their successes in cleaning the areas to create a safe environment for living and avoiding accidents from mines or other explosive devices. The director of the Coordinating Center for Demining in the MoD, Mr. Sallova presented the progress achieved, where since 1999 over 63 million square meters have been



cleared and 96 thousand mines and unexploded explosive devices have been found. He asserted that KSF demining units and other organizations involved in clearing hazardous areas, the NPA and the HALO Trust, are restoring and creating a safe environment in the current endangered areas, enabling normal life to develop. During this activity, all the organizations present presented the equipment and informed the attendees about the progress achieved so far. This day is marked in 60 countries of the world, affected by mines and explosive devices, to increase the awareness of the danger from mines and other explosive devices.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI HOSTED THE CZECH REPUBLIC DELEGATION



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the delegation from the Czech Republic, headed by the vice president of the Senate of the Czech Parliament, Tomas Czernin, as well as the chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense, Pavel Fischer, accompanied by the ambassador of the Czech Republic in Kosovo, Bohumil Mazánek.

During the meeting, the security situation in the country was discussed, as well as the directions in which the cooperation between the two countries

can be deepened.

Minister Maqedonci thanked the Czech delegation for the unsparing support that the Czech Republic has offered to Kosovo in the process of visa liberalization and integration into the European Union, and especially for the contribution of Czech troops within KFOR. Together we defend European values.

BEST SOLDIER 2024

The closing ceremony for the international competition "Best Soldier 2024" was held at the "Skënderbeu" Barracks in Ferizaj. After many tests and challenges that the 51 competitors passed during the one week, the highest results were achieved by OR3 Sead Veseli from the 3rd Infantry Regiment (R3K) who won first place and at the same time was declared the "Best Soldier 2024" by the KSF, OR3 Lavdim Ibishi R3K was ranked second, while the third place went to OR2 Endrit Shartolli R1K.

While in the ranks of internationals, the first place was



won by the non-commissioned officer from Jordan, WO Mohammed Yousef Ahmad, who was also declared "the best international soldier 2024", followed by Sergeant Salameh Maddallah Salameh, who was also ranked second from Jordan, while the third place went to the non-commissioned officer from Montenegro, OR2 Zoran Marijanović.

The closing ceremony of the best soldier competition was attended by the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, the Commander of the Doctrine and Training Command, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, Sergeant Majors of the KSF and partner countries, as well as officers and non-commissioned officers of KSF, and international partners and the region.



Deputy Minister of Defense Mr. Sylja thanked the participants in the competition of the best soldier 2024, and on this occasion emphasized that "this event has become a tradition and year after year it is culminating in results, and not only have we won in the fields we deal with and face every day but also in many other aspects of approach, association, creation of societies to recognize cultures and traditions and to materialize them in common values in the common mission

we have".

The "Best Soldier 2024" competition was organized by the sergeant majors of the KSF Commands and units, under the direction of the KSF Commander Bedri Zuka, sergeant major. Contestants from Kosovo, the United States of America, Albania, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Jordan, Canada and Latvia participated in the "Best Soldier 2024" competition. The participants competed in the following disciplines: physical test, shooting with long and belt weapons, land navigation, crossing the reliability range, grenade throwing, first aid, terrain observation and marching. The participation of contestants from the armies of the partner countries and the region in this competition proves the high degree of cooperation with the partner countries, which the KSF has created with discipline, dedication and professionalism.



MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND GENERAL JASHARI HOSTED THE BILATERAL OFFICER FOR KOSOVO WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR PLANS OF THE UNITED STATES COMMAND FOR EUROPE, IN A FAREWELL MEETING



On this occasion, for the contribution given in the coordination of over 150 joint military activities, the increase of military cooperation between the United States of America and Kosovo, which has also influenced the development of the KSF, the minister decorated Major Erickson with a medal for Distinguished Service. The Minister Maqedonci, at the end of the mission in Kosovo, wished Major Erikson success in her new task and

mission.

Also, the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, awarded the medal for "Selfless Service" to Major Erickson, thanking her for her dedication in coordinating hundreds of activities between the Iowa National Guard and the Kosovo Security Force as and between the two states in general.



MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND GENERAL JASHARI BID FAREWELL TO GERMAN MILITARY ATTACHÉ LT. COL. FRANZ JOZEF NOLTE



On this occasion, for his service and the contribution given to the advancement of the capacities of the KSF, through the implementation of the bilateral plan with the Armed Forces of Germany and the deepening of cooperation with this country, the Minister Maqedonci decorated him with the Medal for Distinguished Service.

The Minister extended his best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel Nolte for his new assignment, and also to his successor, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Palkowisch, who is the first resident attaché in Kosovo, appointed by the Federal Republic of Germany. Also, the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari,

thanked Lt. Col. Nolte, who during his service as attaché managed to push forward many projects, exercises and joint activities. During the period 2021-2024, among many other achievements, he also managed to coordinate the continuation of education for members of the KSF in the Federal Republic of Germany, the organization of training in Kosovo, the donations of the armed forces of Germany to the KSF, as and many other bilateral activities.

At the end of the meeting, General Jashari decorated Lieutenant Colonel Nolte with gratitude for his dedication, commitment and continuous support for the Kosovo Security Force, thus contributing to the deepening of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense and security.



SLOVENIAN NALT ADVISOR WAS AWARDED WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

The Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci hosted in a farewell meeting the adviser of the NATO Liaison Advisory Team for Support of Operations from the Armed Forces of Slovenia, lieutenant colonel Vesna Gerzina.

On this occasion, for her service and the contribution given to the plan for the restructuring of the Ministry of Defense, the Minister Maqedonci has decorated Lieutenant Colonel Vesna Gerzina with a Medal for Distinguished Service.



DEFENSE MINISTER EJUP MAQEDONCI AWARDS MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO ITALIAN ADVISOR COLONEL DI GIROLAMO

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci hosted the bilateral advisor from the Italian Armed Forces, Colonel Mario di Girolamo, in a farewell meeting.

On this occasion, for his service and contribution to the development of the capacities of the KSF, the Minister Maqedonci decorated Colonel Mario di Girolamo with the Medal for Distinguished Service, wishing him success in his new task and mission.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CEMETERIES OF CIVILIANS IN GJAKOVA KILLED BY THE PARAMILITARY, MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES OF SERBIA



On the 25th anniversary of the massacre in the first district of the city of Gjakova, Minister Ejup Maqedonci, together with other state leaders, remembered the civilians killed by the paramilitary, military and police forces of Serbia. On this anniversary, Minister Maqedonci emphasized that "the sixty people killed are no longer among us, but we will remember them forever and we will not stop seeking justice for them". In this neighborhood, civilians of different ages from 2 to 75 years old, old men, women, men and children, were shot and burned alive by the Serbian criminal regime. The Human Rights Watch witness says that in the house

of the Vejsa family, the completely charred bodies of nineteen members of the Vejsa, Hoxha, Haxhiavdija, Caka, Gashi families were found, who were wrapped in a blanket and buried in three graves. To this day, none of the identified, superiors of the Serbian army and police as suspects for committing this crime has been brought to justice, while the mothers, sisters and other relatives of the victims anxiously await the day when justice will be decided.

KSF ORGANIZED THE "INTERNATIONAL CADET WEEK"

The Kosovo Security Force welcomed the cadets from the military academies of Canada, North Macedonia, Albania, the United States of America and Türkiye and held the international cadet week, organized for the first time by the Defense Academy of the KSF.

On the opening day of the international week, the commander of the Center for University Studies, Major Mimoza Budeci, greeted the cadets, where she emphasized that the organization of this week is a great achievement of the KSF, where the international cadets will have the opportunity to get to know the education system military that the Security Force has raised over the years.

During this week, the cadets had the opportunity to exchange their military experiences through sports activities, hiking and cultural visits to different places in Kosovo, which enabled the cadets to get to know each other's cultures, the educational system in the military academies, as well as Albanian culture and tradition. The Kosovo Security Force is committed to raising the highest level of military education, through various activities that enable the creation of interoperability between countries.



DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA WELCOMED HIGHER COURSE TRAINEES FOR SECURITY AND DEFENSE MEETING



The Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, accompanied by the director of the Directorate for Intelligence and Security of the MoD, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, hosted the participants of the Higher Course for Security and Defense from the College of Defense and Security of Albania. Deputy Minister Sylja welcomed them and then informed them about the processes and challenges that the Ministry of Defense and the KSF are going through, the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan of the KSF, etc. Also, Deputy Minister Sylja spoke about the security situation in the country, region and beyond, as well as its impact on global security. Meanwhile, the Commander of the Defense and Security College,

Brigadier General Ylli Pulaj, expressed gratitude for the hospitality and informed Deputy Minister Sylja and the other participants that in the 14th course for defense and security, there are participants from the main security institutions in Albania, participants from Kosovo and other partner countries, such as Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Türkiye, Georgia, Greece and Italy. General Pulaj indicated that the purpose of the course is to improve the qualities and skills of civilian and military personnel, in military and strategic matters, emphasizing that the participants in the course are given the opportunity to benefit from the best experiences from Albania and NATO partner countries. During this visit, the Commander of



the Defense and Security College, Brigadier General Ylli Pulaj, was hosted by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, who expressed gratitude for the cooperation so far and the key role played by the Defense College of the Republic of Albania in the professional development and military education of the KSF personnel. Also, this delegation visited the Command of the Land Forces, where they were hosted by the Chief of Staff of the KFT, Colonel Valdet Berisha, whom he thanked for the support they are giving in the development, education and professionalism of the officers of the Kosovo Security Force. An informative briefing with the tasks, work and engagement of the Ground Forces based on the Kosovo Security Force Mission was presented to the attendees. During this visit, lecturers and students from FARSH visited the premises of the Doctrine and Training Command. On this occasion, the commander of the KDS, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj with the command group announced and talked to the students of the Command Course and the General Staff of the FARSH about the achievements and capabilities of the KDS, threats and dangers and the role of military



leadership in the face of global and regional security challenges.

DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA VISITED THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAMUSHA, ARTANA AND RANILLUG



Under the leadership of Deputy Minister of Defense Shemsi Syla, a joint team from the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) carried out an official visit to the Municipalities of Mamusha, Artana, and Ranillug. The visits were part of ongoing mission to provide military support to civil authorities, in line with the annual operational plan. In all three official visits, it was discussed about the emergency preparedness in the management of natural and other disasters, taking into consideration the emergency management cycle: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery after disasters. Among other things, Deputy Minister Syla offered cooperation and support to the three municipalities in the drafting of basic documents such as the risk assessment, the local emergency operational plan, the exercise plan, training and certifications for the response and volunteer units of the municipalities at the Search and Rescue International Training Centre in Pomozatin, as well as planning and implementation of exercises, with special

emphasis on table exercises. The parties agreed that such visits and cooperation should be intensified and materialized with tangible results in the field of natural and other disaster management.



ONGOING PARTNERSHIP: ITALIAN CARABINIERI ADVANCE TRAINING OF KSF'S MILITARY POLICE UNITS

In cooperation with the mobile training team from the Italian Carabinieri, the Military Police of the Kosovo Security Force in April carried out "Crowd Control Training". The participants were trained in theoretical and practical aspects in crowd control as well as the organization and formations of operation in different environments and situations. The participants were also challenged in the aspects of the use of tactical equipment and the acquisition of new tactics by the instructors of the Italian Carabinieri in order to increase operational readiness, interoperability with partners and benefit from new skills in accordance with European standards. The cooperation and exchange of experiences with Italian mobile teams contributes to the professional development of the KSF Military Police, making the tasks and mission of the Military Police to be carried out in the most efficient way.



KSF ACHIEVES SUCCESS IN BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION IN IOWA



With the invitation from the National Guard of Iowa, of the United States of America, members from the Kosovo Security Force, OR5 Agron Bojku and OR3 Emir Ahmetaj participated in Best Warrior competition where they showed high performance representing Kosovo in the best way. In the category of soldiers OR3 Emir Ahmetaj was ranked the fourth, while OR5 Agron Bojku in the category of non-commissioned officers ranked the fifth.

Twenty Soldiers

competed to be named Best Warrior and Best Noncommissioned Officer in the 2024 Iowa National Guard Best Warrior Competition April 4-7, 2024, at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

Soldiers from across Iowa and competitors from Kosovo completed tests of physical endurance, mental toughness, leadership abilities, as well as analytical and decision-making skills. Events included an Army Combat Fitness Test, obstacle course, medical tasks, land navigation, radio operations, weapons systems dismemberment, a stress shoot and more.

This was also the fourth year that competitors from Kosovo participated, in keeping with the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. Kosovo and Iowa have been state partners since 2010.

The partnership with Iowa is one of the most successful partnerships that has created opportunities to train and share experiences together.



KSF OFFICER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES US RANGER TRAINING

Lieutenant Egzon Elshani has successfully completed the most challenging training organized by the US Army Ranger.

Ranger School is the Army's most difficult course and the primary training in small unit leadership and tactics. The Ranger Course is a highly challenging mental and physical training that develops functional skills directly related to units whose mission is to engage the enemy in close combat and direct combat.

Rangers are the military's best trained, most skilled, and prepared to serve and lead soldiers in their next duty station.

The United States of America is supporting the KSF in building professional military capacities in all areas of development, the KSF will always be a reliable partner and offer its capacities for the benefit of peace and security in the world.



CADET OFFICER ENDRITA BRAHIMI EARNS PRESTIGIOUS COMMANDER'S BADGE AT ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

This accolade is reserved for officer cadets who demonstrate remarkable dedication and make significant contributions throughout their training. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Cadet Endrita! The achievements of Kosovo's officers and non-commissioned officers in international education, training, missions, and competitions stand as a testament to the KSF's growth, driven by the dedication of its members. These successes underscore our steadfast path towards NATO integration

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE INSTRUCTORS TRAINED KSF



At the premises of the Doctrine and Training Command (DTC), the "Train the Trainers" Course for Reconnaissance Instructors by the British Training Team and two KSF Instructors was successfully completed. DTC Commander General Dreshaj during the ceremony thanked the Troop Commander of the Light Dragoon Regiment (LDR) Lt. Col. Jon Harris for the support, training and

preparation of KSF Unit Instructors. The Reconnaissance Course is one of the most challenging courses in the British Army, so KSF members showed endurance, physical and mental strength and teamwork to become a Reconnaissance Instructor. The increase in capacities and the development of professional skills by partners is making the KSF stable and ready to fulfill its mission and tasks.

ENHANCING SECURITY EXCELLENCE: KSF AND CROATIAN MILITARY POLICE CLOSE DEFENSE TRAINING INITIATIVE



Under the Bilateral Cooperation Plan, the Kosovo Security Force's Military Police, in collaboration with the Croatian Military Police's mobile close defense training team, conducted a "Close Defense Training" program. This specialized training encompassed techniques and tactics essential for the escort and protection of VIPs. Participants received instruction in advanced weapon-handling techniques applicable to a variety of scenarios, emphasizing swift and accurate maneuvers. Croatian instructors presented the trainees with realistic and complex scenarios designed to hone their rapid response capabilities in urgent situations. Throughout the training, a tailored approach was adopted to enhance each participant's individual

competencies. The successful execution of this training has significantly contributed to the professional growth of the KSF Military Police. It has fortified the participants' proficiency in executing close defense operations, managing high-risk situations, and fostering collaborative interactions with the Croatian Military Police.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: KSF'S REGIMENTAL ADVANCEMENTS WITH TURKISH MILITARY EXPERTISE



In the framework of cooperation with the Turkish Army, the Third Infantry Regiment (R3K) successfully completed training with the 81mm Mortar, led by instructors from the Turkish contingent. The training aimed to enhance military capacities at the regimental level and improve interoperability in the field of fire support for light infantry.



During the closing ceremony, Colonel Sabri Gökhan Karamursel, the commander of the Turkish contingent, expressed satisfaction with the cooperation and the opportunity to enhance the operational capabilities of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Lt. Col. Ilir Beqiri, commander of R3K, extended gratitude to the Turkish contingent for their continuous support and expressed hope for ongoing collaboration in joint training and other cooperative efforts.

In April, sniper training was also conducted for members of the Second Infantry Regiment, with instructors from the Armed Forces of Türkiye leading the sessions. Additionally, the Ground Forces Command of the first and third regiments contributed to the development of professional combat capacities and provided education on the safe use of weapons, including the 60mm Mortar and HAR-66.

The unwavering support from our partners, aligned with the comprehensive transition plan, continues to enhance the capacities of the KSF. These trainings and the exchange of experiences directly contribute to improved interoperability with our partners. The Kosovo Security Force remains reliable and stands ready to contribute to

regional and global peace and security.

