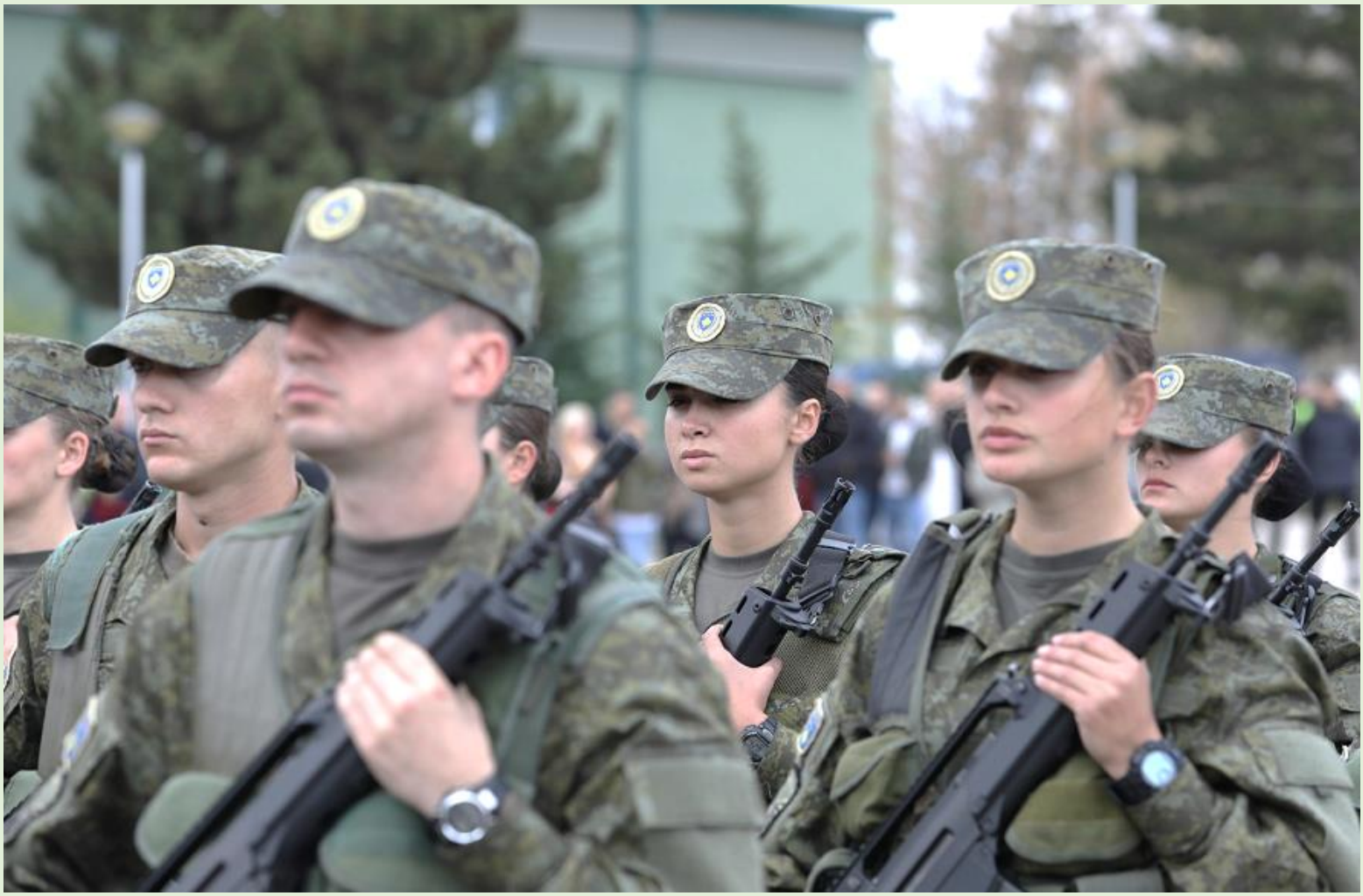
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

NEWSLETTER

December 2022

A NEW VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT IS ANNOUNCED FOR RECRUITMENT OF 612 ACTIVE SOLDIERS AND 388 MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT



After the successful completion of the recruitment of the contingent of 840 young soldiers, in the month of December the next vacancy announcement was announced for the recruitment of 612 active soldiers and 367 members of the reserve component and with this the previous recruitment plan was exceeded.

The Ministry of Defense, to all interested parties, has guaranteed a fair and transparent process, in full applicability of the procedures and criteria where the best of the best will be selected.

The Ministry of Defense welcomes applications from all, encouraging girls and women and all young men and women regardless of ethnicity.

MINISTER MEHAJ WAS HOSTED WITH HIGH MILITARY HONORS AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF FINLAND

At the invitation of his counterpart, the Minister of Defense of Finland, Antti Kaikkonen, the Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj, together with the delegation comprised of General Gëzim Hazrolli, General Irfete Spahiu, as well as the political advisor, Liridona Gashi, paid an official visit in Finland. After the reception with high military honors, a meeting was held between the two ministers where they discussed the current geopolitical situation, the chain effect that Russian aggression has on the decision of Ukraine and Finland to apply to NATO, as well as the importance of expanding this alliance with the aim guaranteeing stability and peace. Also, the two ministers discussed the areas in which they will cooperate in the future, with special emphasis on the education and training of new military cadres, as well as the realization of joint winter exercises.

As part of the official visit to Finland, Minister Mehaj together with his delegation visited the University of National Defense, where he was received by its rector, General Mika Kalliomaa. On this occasion, they talked about the increase of cooperation in the field of education of new military cadres of the Army of the Republic of Kosovo at this University as well as the education system of the Finnish defense in general. They also agreed that next year to begin with the first groups of soldiers to continue with the other generations.

With this, the expansion of new partnerships and bilateral cooperation is being strongly continued as one of the main strategic objectives of the Ministry of Defense.

Moreover, during this official visit, Minister Mehaj together with the high delegation visited the International Center for the Prevention and Combating of Hybrid War, Hybrid CoE, part of which are 32 member states of the European Union and NATO. With the members of the secretariat of this center and its leader, Rasmus Hindren, Minister Mehaj discussed about the hybrid war that Russia is currently applying in many directions, through Serbia and in the Balkan region.

Subsequently, the two delegations agreed to begin cooperation in the exchange of information and analysis of hybrid threats, finding a strategy for protection and prevention of such activities that violate the democratic values of the states.

THE VISIT OF THE GERMAN CHIEF OF DEFENSE, A CONFIRMATION OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRIES AND FORCES OF THE TWO PARTNER COUNTRIES

The Chief of Defense of Germany, General Eberhard Zorn in December was hotested with the highest military honors by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. During this visit, the opportunity was used for the German side to officially hand over to the KSF, a donation of specialist protective clothing against explosive devices for the Demining/EOD teams of the KSF.

Also, General Zorn was hosted by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, who expressed his thanks and gratitude for the support so far in general and the donation given on the occasion of this visit.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj emphasized that the friendship with the Federal Republic of Germany flows naturally as a link from the past that continues to deepen with the continuous cooperation between the two countries, evidence of which is the continuous help we receive from this country, as well as today we accepted the donation of demining equipment.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED FOR A THE MEETING THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CROATIAN ARMY, ADMIRAL ROBERT HRANJ

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, accompanied by the deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, as well as his delegation, welcomed the Chief of Staff of the Croatian Army, Admiral Robert Hranj, with the accompanying delegation.

In addition to the discussion about the high level of bilateral cooperation, this meeting also discussed the current geopolitical situation after the Russian aggression in Ukraine, the impact on the security environment in the Balkans, as well as the importance of cooperation between the allied states of this region to fight hybrid attacks.

In this meeting, Minister Mehaj informed Admiral Hranj about the advancements of the KSF, as well as the function that the Agency for Security Intelligence will have, through which the cooperation between the states in the management of important information in terms of security will increase.

They also discussed about the signing of the SOFA agreement, the joint landing of the forces of both countries, as well as the importance of supporting our friendly country Croatia, in the process of joining the Partnership for Peace Program, as a path to membership in the family of large Euro-Atlantic, in NATO.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF 2022, PRESIDENT OSMANI AND GENERAL JASHARI VISIT THE COMMAND OF THE LAND FORCES

At the conclusion of 2022, the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, accompanied by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, visited the barracks of the KSF, "NATO Soldiers" in Istog and addressed you soldiers of Kosovo with the annual speech. President Osmani thanked all the members of the KSF for their selfless service to the country and also thanked the strategic partners for the continuous support they have given in building and maintaining the capacities of the KSF.

In her speech, President Osmani emphasized the readiness of the KSF to contribute to peace and security in the region and anywhere in the world.

During the visit, Presidential Decorations were distributed to distinguished military units and soldiers who served and contributed to the establishment and advancement of the KSF with the highest standards.

The Land Forces Command demonstrated its capabilities through an improvised scenario for urban warfare, where the attendees saw military actions with combat vehicles.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO IS ALWAYS FULLY COMMITTED TO REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PEACE AND STABILITY

This was the main message of the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, during his speech at the Central European and Western Balkan Defense Cooperation Initiative Forum (CEDC+WB) held in Vienna before the counterparts of the Central European and Western Balkan countries.

Among other things, Minister Mehaj emphasized that the relevant forum was an excellent opportunity for all the countries of the Western Balkans to share our interests and goals, being together in maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and beyond.

Within the framework of participation in the Forum for Cooperation of Central Europe in the field of defense, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj met his counterpart, also the host of the forum, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Austria, Klaudia Tanner.

On this occasion, Minister Tanner expressed her evaluations regarding the advancements of the Army of the Republic of Kosovo, the pro-European stance regarding the Russian aggression against Ukraine, as well as the readiness to cooperate in the field of defense, through joint training between the forces of both states.

During the proceedings of the CEDS+ Forum, Minister Mehaj held a fraternal meeting with his counterpart, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Albania, Niko Peleshi.

On this occasion, the two ministers shared their satisfaction with the joint successes during this year, pledging to increase cooperation in the field of education and joint military exercises in the coming year, with a focus on strengthening the readiness for operational interaction according to the concept "Smart Defense".

During the work of this Forum, Minister Mehaj met the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Croatia, Mario Banozic.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj reiterated that the friendship with the Croatian state dates back to early times.

"As two countries with a similar past, we understand very well the seriousness of the current geopolitical situation and the importance of the cooperation of the European states in the field of defense, with special emphasis on the Western Balkans, where the trends of Russian influence are clearly visible" he said.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IN KOSOVO, DANIJELA BARISIC

Following the meetings with the diplomatic and military representatives of the partner countries, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, hosted the ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Kosovo, Danijela Barisic.

On this occasion, Ambassador Barisic reiterated that Croatia, as a friendly country of Kosovo, will continue to help and support the Ministry of Defense and the KSF in all areas and components in order to fulfill complete success their goals.

And for his part, Minister Mehaj once again expressed to Ambassador Barisic his deep gratitude to the Republic of Croatia for the support of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF so far, valuing the support in the field of education and ongoing trainings, as well as the experience of the Croatian forces in the field of peacekeeping missions, the defense industry and other specific fields.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE GERMAN PARLIAMENTARIAN, DR. CHRISTOPH PLOB AND THE AMBASSADOR OF GERMANY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, JÖRG ROHDE

During the meeting between Minister Mehaj, the German parliamentarian, Dr. Christoph Plob and the German ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Jörg Rohde, the current geopolitical situation, Russian influence in the Balkans and recent developments in the Republic of Kosovo were discussed. Also, there were discussions about the advancements of the army in raising professional and operational capacities, the willingness we have continuously expressed to provide support in international operations, for the transportation of Afghans, as well as the training of Ukrainian soldiers in the field of demining, search and rescue and elimination of dangerous substances.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj emphasized once again that our goal is membership in NATO and the EU, in which journey we seek the support of each friendly country, including the Federal Republic of Germany.

THE COMMANDER OF THE KSF, VISITED THE BONDSTEEL CAMP

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, at the invitation of the Commander of the Eastern Command of KFOR, Colonel Chris Mabis, visited the Bondsteel camp where he met with the Commander of the National Guard of the State of Indiana, Major General R. Dale Lyles.

General Jashari thanked General Lyles for the contribution of the troops of the National Guard of Indiana that they are giving in their mission in Kosovo. Also, the good cooperation between the KSF and the National Guard Bureau was discussed at the meeting and they pledged to increase cooperation in the future.

SECURITY FORUM 2022- "RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN KSF, CHALLENGES AND ALTERNATIVES"

At the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Prishtina, a Security Forum was held with the theme "Recruitment and retention of human capital in the KSF, challenges and alternatives", organized by the Center for University Studies - Defense Academy of the KSF.
The Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, Commander of the Center for University Studies, Major Albian Ajvazi, Professor of RIT, James Myers, as well as other local officials and officers participated in the opening of this International Forum.
In his speech to the attendees, Deputy Minister Syla, the topic addressed in this Forum is of great importance for the Ministry of Defense and the KSF since human resources are the central pillar, are the most valuable asset of society and are an essential factor for building an army.
While the deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi said that the Center for University Studies is one of the most successful stories of the KSF and that the officers who graduated from this Academy make an extraordinary contribution to the KSF and the Ministry of Defense and represent with dignity high the country and our army wherever they appear abroad.

DEPUTY MINISTER SYLA HOSTED THE CHIEF OF NALT ADVISORS, COLONEL KERRY DAVIS, IN A FAREWELL MEETING

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla, hosted the Chief of NALT advisers, American Colonel Kerry Davis, in a farewell meeting.
In this meeting, Deputy Minister Syla expressed his gratitude and high gratitude for his one-year engagement within the NATO advisory team, in the Ministry of Defense, with high professional commitment and for providing much-needed advice to the local staff of the Ministry of Defense from his long experience as a military leader.
Also, Deputy Minister Syla emphasized that the role of the NATO advisory team in general and the Department of Defense and the US armed forces is vital in the development and integration processes of the Ministry and our forces.

OUR PILOTS COMPLETED WITH HIGH SUCCESS THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL REFRESHMENT PROGRAM OF HELICOPTER FLIGHTS AT THE ALBANIAN AIR FORCE BASE

At the Farka Base of the Air Force of Albania, our pilots of the KSF Aviation Unit, completed with high success the theoretical and practical refresher program of AB-206 helicopter flights, with the aim of maintaining individual flying skills and the operationality of our unit.

Raising the air capacities of the security institutions of the Republic of Kosovo is necessary for the successful implementation of joint inter-institutional operations, as well as joint operations in crisis management with the forces of Albania and the forces of other regional partner countries on the concept of "Smart defense". At the time when we are in the process of increasing air capacities, this program is very important for regenerating the operational skills of our pilots.
Gratitude and high appreciation for the support from our brothers and sisters of the Air Force of the Republic of Albania.

THE SUCCESSES OF OUR OFFICERS' CADETS CONTINUE AT THE MILITARY ACADEMIES IN GERMANY

At the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Berlin, with the organization of Ambassador Dr. Faruk Ajeti and the Defense Attaché, Lt. Col. Besim Gashi, the graduation ceremony was held for Agon Berisha, specialized in military IT, and Uran Jahiri, specialized in military logistics.
Special guests and present were Colonel Christian Schmidt, Director of the Department for International Cooperation in the Bundeswehr and Captain of the Naval Forces, Markus Brueggemeier from the Ministry of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany who distributed the diplomas.
Also in this ceremony, Ambassador Ajeti congratulated officer Art Sahiti who successfully completed the career course for Company Commander and was promoted to Captain.
Our bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Germany is at an excellent level in the field of security and defense.

KSF WITH PLANNING OFFICER FOR EXERCISES IN THE AMERICAN ARMY FOR EUROPE AND AFRICA (USAREUR-AF)

As a result of a close cooperation of Kosovo with the USA, respectively of the Kosovo Security Force with the American Army, KSF for the first time, there is a Planning Officer for exercises in the American Army for Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) with based in Wiesbaden, Germany.
The officer assigned to this task for the first rotation for the six-month period is Major Vegim Krelani, from the General Staff of the KSF.
This cooperation will serve as an extraordinary opportunity for the KSF, in function of advancing the partnership and interoperability between our Force and the US Army.

KSF NCO'S ARE CERTIFIED IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

In the framework of the bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Albania and the professional development of the KSF soldiers, at the Professional Training Center for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) in Zall Herr of the Republic of Albania, together with 40 non-commissioned officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (FARSH), 5 non-commissioned officers of the KSF were also certified in the advanced non-commissioned officer course.
The objective of the training program for a period of 8 weeks was the career advancement of non-commissioned officers to the position of deputy platoon commander, providing theoretical-practical knowledge for platoon management, the levels calculated with them, as well as in terms of training as managers and leaders. near the KSF regimental commands.

KSF IS TRAINED AT THE MILITARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In the framework of the bilateral cooperation with the United States of America and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the members of the FSK (Hazardous Materials Company) have conducted training at the Military Research Institute (Military Research Institute) in Vyskov, Republic of the Czech Republic.
The training "Live Agent Training" aims to train members for operations against chemical warfare agents, and the purpose of the training is to increase the confidence of members for protective clothing, equipment, detection and decontamination of various chemical warfare agents such as Sarin, Mustard, Lewisite and Vx.
As a sign of gratitude for the Institute of Military Research, the Commander of the KSF, Lt. General Bashkim Jashari, awarded a decoration to the director of the Institute, Mr. Jindrich Dvorak.

THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE REALIZES THE FORUM OF SENIOR KSF NCO'S

The purpose of this forum was the development and advancement of the non-commissioned officer choir of the KSF, the exchange of experiences between the non-commissioned officers of the KSF, the IOWA National Guard, NALT, the Eastern Regional Command, as well as the support of the American Embassy in Kosovo.

The forum was also visited by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, as well as the Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, who highly appreciated the importance of this forum, emphasizing the need for cooperation and coordination of common objectives, in order to achieving the required standards for the development of the non-commissioned officers' choir and the role that the non-commissioned officers have in fulfilling the mission of the KSF.

The forum was organized and led by KSF Sergeant Major Bedri Zuka and Iowa National Guard Sergeant Major Joseph Hjelmstad.

THE COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN REGIONAL COMMAND, COLONEL MARBIS, VISITED THE TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND (TRADOC)

On the occasion of the informative visit, the deputy commander of the TRADOC, Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci thanked for the cooperation and continuous support that the Eastern Command gives to the TRADOC, and on this occasion the achievements and challenges faced by the KDS were presented the trainings that take place in TRADOC, and the objectives for the future. Colonel Marbis along with his staff, Lieutenant Colonel Brody and Sergeant Major Brown, thanked TRADOC for the reception and organization, and offered support in all areas in which their unit has the capacity to support the KSF.

Support from the Bondsteel Camp has never been missing for the KSF, and in particular for the TRADOC, where all the units that have served within the Eastern Command over the years have cooperated with the TRADOC, developing trainings, seminars and also activities social among themselves.

KSF'S INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING CENTER WAS A REAL SUCCESS STORY EVEN DURING 2022

Despite the challenges, ISRTC in 2022 carried out 53 trainings with 1845 training participants, of which 1200 were from other local institutions and partner countries.

This extraordinary success was achieved thanks to the dedication and commitment of its professional staff, to whom he expressed great gratitude.

Current evaluations of credible international search and rescue bodies and organizations confirm that our Center has the best training structure for CRC in Europe.

Our main goal for 2023 is to create a training center with more specialized personnel and training facilities for search and rescue.

THE “WOLF SYMBOL” TRAINING WAS SUCCESSFULLY REALIZED

Survival in battle, patrolling, observation, shooting and operating in day and night conditions were the challenges of the “Wolf Symbol” training successfully carried out by our soldiers.

BILATERAL DEFENSE PLAN FOR 2023 BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA IS SIGNED

After a joint work between the two delegations, in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of North Macedonia in December, the bilateral plan in the field of Defense was signed between the ministries of defense of Kosovo and North Macedonia for the year 2023.

With official protocol, the bilateral plan was signed by the Director of Defense Policies of the Ministry of Defense, Faruk Geci, and the Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Lt. Col. Biljana Nikolovska.

The bilateral plan contains the main activities in the field of defense which will be carried out between the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Kosovo Security Force.

KSF WIND ORCHESTRA PART OF THE STATE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ALBANIA AND THE FORMATION OF FARSH

The KSF Orchestra, together with Orchestras from NATO countries, the USA, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, France, North Macedonia, Italy, Albania, have participated in numerous organizations that the Albanian state has organized to celebrate the 110th anniversary of Albania's Independence and the founding of Forcava tê Aramtosura, where performances by Wind Orchestras were organized in many cities of Albania.

Thus sending a message of peace to the whole world, the joint concert of the participating orchestras entitled “Together for Peace” dedicated to the war in Ukraine was organized in the Palace of Congresses in Tirana.

KSF IS ASSESSED TO BE THE MOST RELIABLE SECURITY INSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE YEAR 2022

The Kosovo Center for Security Studies (KCSS) confirmed that the Kosovo Security Force this year also turned out to be the most reliable security institution in the country for the citizens of Kosovo, with an even higher level than other years, with 83 percent of civic credibility.
This result is a reflection of the proper implementation of the objectives with high commitment, guided by the principle of transparency and full accountability of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force.

ON THE EVE OF THE END-YEAR HOLIDAYS, MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTRY

On the eve of the end-year holidays and at the end of the work for 2022, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, accompanied by the deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi and the General Secretary, Avdylkader Muçaj, held the traditional end of the year conference for the media.
At this conference, the achievements of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF for 2022 and the objectives for the following year were presented to the journalists present. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj emphasized that the year we are leaving behind was a year of strong development of our military capacities. Wishing them a Happy New Year 2023, Minister Mehaj thanked the journalists present for their cooperation and professional reporting, for correct and objective coverage, believing that such professional work will continue in the future.

MINISTER MEHAJ'S END-YEAR RECEPTION FOR THE STAFF OF THE MOD AND FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTNER STATES IN OUR COUNTRY

On the eve of the end of the year holidays, as a sign of gratitude, Minister Mehaj has organized a meeting with the employees of the Ministry of Defense. Meanwhile, in another special meeting, Minister Mehaj hosted ambassadors, defense attachés, NALT officers, former ministers, former commanders and deputies, with whom we share values and a common vision to contribute to the preservation of peace and stability of the country but also beyond, realizing our goal of membership in NATO, the journey towards which we see inextricably linked with our friends.