



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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Kosovo Enhances Defense Capabilities with U.S. Support



At the Ministry of Defense, a framework contract has been signed with the American company AM General, one of the world's leading manufacturers in the defense industry. The contract provides for the acquisition of modern mobile artillery systems, specifically the HUMVEE Hawkeye 105mm Mobile Howitzer (MHS). In addition to the artillery systems, the agreement includes modern support vehicles, spare parts, maintenance services, and specialized training for the operation and sustainment of these capabilities. This strategic investment marks a new phase in the development of the Kosovo Security Force, significantly enhancing its long-range direct fire capabilities. The agreement represents an important step toward strengthening Kosovo's defensive capacities and building a modern, professional, and interoperable force in close partnership with strategic allies, thereby contributing to national security and long-term regional stability.



Minister Maqedonci at the U.S.–Adriatic Charter (A5) Ministerial



The Acting Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in the U.S.–Adriatic Charter (A5) Ministerial held in Sarajevo, at the invitation of his counterpart, the Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zukan Helez. During the Ministerial, Minister Maqedonci took part in the plenary session, where he reaffirmed Kosovo’s commitment to strengthening national resilience and regional cooperation. He emphasized Kosovo’s whole-of-government approach, aligned with NATO standards, to addressing crises, cyber threats, and hybrid challenges. The Minister also highlighted security risks posed by state actors, referring to the 24 September 2023 terrorist attack in Banjska and the continued support provided to the perpetrators, which undermines regional stability. On the margins of the Ministerial, Minister Maqedonci held a bilateral meeting with the Principal Director for NATO and Europe at the U.S. Department of Defense, Alton Buland. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral defense cooperation, advancing joint projects, including defense industry development through cooperation and co-investment, and exploring opportunities to increase Kosovo’s contributions to international missions. The meeting reaffirmed the United States as a key strategic partner in the development of Kosovo’s defense capabilities. Minister Maqedonci also met with the Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zukan Helez. The two ministers exchanged views on enhancing bilateral and regional defense cooperation, underlining the importance of regional partnerships in promoting long-term security and stability. In addition, during his stay in Sarajevo, Minister Maqedonci attended the official ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Kosovo Defense Attaché Accredited to the Czech Republic



The Defense Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo to Germany, Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu, has been accredited as the first non-resident Defense Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo to the Czech Republic. During his inaugural visit, Colonel Zejnullahu was accompanied by the Ambassador of Kosovo to Prague, Ms. Albesjana Iberhysaj-Kapitaj. In the course of this visit, meetings of particular importance were held with the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Miroslav Hlavač. Additional official meetings took place at the General Staff of the Armed Forces with Colonel Jan Husak and his staff, as well as at the Ministry of Defense with Ms. Simona Alt-

schulova, Director of International Cooperation. This visit marks an important step toward strengthening and expanding defense cooperation and partnership between the Republic of Kosovo and the Czech Republic.

Minister Maqedonci Held Virtual Meeting with NATO Official Ariella Viehe



The Acting Minister of Defense, Mr. Ejup Maqedonci, held a virtual meeting with Ms. Ariella Viehe, Chief of Current Operations in the Operations Division of the NATO General Staff. During the meeting, Ms. Viehe was briefed on current developments within the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, as well as on strategic plans for the future. Minister Maqedonci emphasized that Kosovo and the KSF aim to increase their contribution to the maintenance of stability and peace through cooperation with KFOR and the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), continued investments in the defense sector, and the further enhancement of the KSF's professional capabilities.

Kosovo Strengthens Defense Cooperation with Lithuania



The Acting Minister of Defense, Mr. Ejup Maqedonci, and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, jointly hosted the Chief of Defense of the Republic of Lithuania, General Raimundas Vaikšnoras, during his official visit to the Republic of Kosovo. During the meetings, both Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari expressed their gratitude for Lithuania's contribution within the framework of KFOR and for its continued support to Kosovo's security. Views were exchanged on the regional security situation, highlighting the importance of ongoing bilateral cooperation in defense and addressing challenges across Europe. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening defense cooperation, exchanging professional experiences, and strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries. The meetings also underscored the necessity of continued support from partners, particularly Lithuania, in advancing the development, professionalization, and operational capabilities of the Kosovo Security Force.



The Commander of the KSF hosted a meeting with the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted a meeting with the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, Lieutenant General Arben Kingji. Initially, General Jashari thanked General Kingji for his leadership in commanding the AFRA, as well as for the support and fraternal assistance provided to the KSF. Likewise, the current developments in the field of security and the role of the Kosovo Security Force in ensuring the security of Kosovo, as an important contributor to the maintenance of regional stability, were discussed. During the meeting, both generals highly appreciated the progress of the KSF in the field of development and modernization, as well as the performance of our troops in interoperability during multinational activities.



At the same time, the importance of the support of the AFRA for further development of the KSF was emphasized, particularly in the fields of education, training and the exchange of experiences, thereby further advancing bilateral cooperation. At the conclusion of the meeting, the generals reaffirmed that the deepening of cooperation between the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania and the Kosovo Security Force remains a national strategic priority. In this context, the strengthening of defense capacities was assessed as essential for ensuring regional security and stability.

Minister Maqedonci Bids Farewell to Italian Bilateral Adviser

The Acting Minister of Defense, Mr. Ejup Maqedonci, hosted a farewell meeting with the Italian Bilateral Adviser to the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, Colonel Osvaldo Ceroni, on the occasion of the completion of his mission in Kosovo. On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci expressed his appreciation to Colonel Ceroni for his valuable contribution to the development of the KSF's capabilities. He highlighted that during this period, a team of cadets from the Kosovo Military Academy also participated in the 23rd Armed Conflict Law Competition for Military Academies. The Minister thanked Colonel Ceroni for his role in strengthening bilateral cooperation and wished him success in his future role and mission.



KSF Special Operations Complete Intensive Training in Belize



skills, tactical movement, and effective operations under extreme conditions, testing both physical endurance and mental resilience. On this occasion, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, congratulated the contingent for their professionalism, determination, and teamwork demonstrated throughout the rigorous exercises.

As part of the preparatory program for operations in challenging environments, members of the Kosovo Security Force Special Operations, in cooperation with the United Kingdom Armed Forces Parachute units, successfully completed intensive training in the tropical jungles of Belize. The training focused on survival



KSF Elite Forces Excel in “Wolf Symbol” Training



The elite “Wolf Symbol” training was successfully completed after three intensive weeks filled with continuous challenges. This selective training was aimed at testing and enhancing the professional, physical, and mental capacities of the participants. The final exercises lasted 72 uninterrupted hours, during which the trainees conducted patrols of over 70 kilometers with full military equipment. In the final phase, they successfully executed the assigned mission, the attack demonstrating a high level of professionalism, determination, as well as excellent teamwork. The successful completion of this training confirms the high level of preparedness and readiness of the personnel, as well as the continuous commitment to enhancing operational and professional capacities.



KSF Officer Graduates in the United States

Captain Ymërdin Hasani graduated from Civil Affairs Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, USA, at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. Captain Hasani was awarded the Military Achievement Medal, which is presented to personnel who have demonstrated outstanding performance during training.

This specialized training focuses on preparing officers for cooperation with local communities, assessing civilian needs, and coordinating projects that support stability and development in operational areas.

Through this course, captain Hasani has gained advanced knowledge in managing civilian situations, coordinating with local institutions and partner organizations, as well as in building bridges of cooperation between the military forces and the civilian population. Captain Hasani will apply the knowledge he has acquired in the service of Kosovo, directly contributing to the development and strengthening of Civil Affairs capabilities within the Kosovo Security Force.

The KSF Conducted the Non-Commissioned Officers Forum



The Kosovo Security Force has conducted the “KSF Non-Commissioned Officers Forum,” with the aim of strengthening professional cooperation and exchanging experiences between non-commissioned officers and junior officers. The official opening of the forum was conducted by the Commander of TRADOC, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, who emphasized the importance of the role of non-commissioned officers in building a professional force, serving as the main pillar for the accomplishment of the KSF’s tasks and mission. The forum was led by the KSF Sergeant Major, Bedri Zuka, who reiterated his and the non-commissioned officers’ commitment to enhancing the KSF’s capabilities at all levels. Furthermore, during this forum, the importance of the impact of cooperation with the Iowa National Guard on the development and professional education of KSF non-commissioned officers was emphasized. Participants in this forum included KSF non-commissioned officers from all levels, who had the opportunity to discuss various topics related to the development of the non-commissioned officer corps, the building of trust and flexibility in leadership, relations between non-commissioned officers and officers, etc. Participants in this forum also included representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the Armed Forces of Albania, the Iowa National Guard, NALT, ASG Balkan, among others. The KSF is committed to the advancement and further development of the non-commissioned officer corps as the main pillar of the force for the successful execution of its constitutional and legal mission.

Students are made aware of the risks posed by pyrotechnic devices

The Kosovo Security Force, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, within the framework of the annual plan, conducted awareness lectures topic “The Risk of Pyrotechnic Devices” for students of Lower Secondary Schools in the Republic of Kosovo. The purpose of these lectures is to inform and raise awareness among students about the consequences and risks caused by the use of pyrotechnic devices, especially during festive periods. KSF personnel are presenting examples, safety rules, and ways in which children and young people can avoid incidents that could result in serious injuries during the use of these devices. The KSF remains committed to its mission of ensuring the safety of citizens and raising awareness among young generations on issues affecting public welfare and health.

