



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



# NEWSLETTER

October 2023



## **“KSF AND PARTNERS 2023” KOSOVO IS OUR COMMON SUCCESS**



The Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the KSF, on September 26, held the annual international conference “KSF and partners 2023”, with the motto “Kosovo is our common success”.

The leading panel of the conference was attended by: the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the Deputy Ministers of Defense, Shemsi Syla and Adnan Redzeplari, the Deputy Secretary General of the MoD, Gafurr Dugolli, the director of Department for Intelligence and Security, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, Inspector General of the KSF, Major General Irfete Spahiu, Chief of Staff of the General Staff,

Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, Director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Peter Hammerstein, Chief of KFOR Headquarters, John Bozicevic, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kreshnik Ahmeti, senior officers and attachés of the KSF, as well as ambassadors, defense attachés and other diplomatic and military representatives of all countries partner of the Republic of Kosovo. On this occasion, Minister Ejup Maqedonci thanked the attendees for participating in this



conference, where he emphasized that the Republic of Kosovo, the Ministry of Defense and the KSF are determined to continue and increase cooperation with partners, to shape the path towards integration in the Euro-Atlantic institutions and in NATO and that the role of partners in this direction is not only important, but fundamental and decisive. He emphasized that the importance of such cooperation in achieving operational success was recently demonstrated in the northern part of our country, where on September 24, organized paramilitary terrorist groups, encouraged and supported by Serbian institutions, carried out a terrorist attack against Kosovo Police, with the aim of capturing the ground

and destabilizing our country.

While in his speech, the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, said that without the support of friendly countries, the KSF would not have the achievements it has if it were not for the continuous support from allied countries through training, education and equipment. General Jashari emphasized that the recent attack of September 24, as well as security developments in the world, are clear indicators that the KSF must always be ready to carry out its constitutional and legal mission. General Jashari reiterated that the support of partner countries remains key at this stage, both in terms of capacity building and in our efforts for PfP membership and our ultimate goal, NATO membership.



The American ambassador in Kosovo, Jeffrey Hovenier, the ambassador of Türkiye in Kosovo, Sabri Tunç Angili, the ambassador of Germany in Kosovo, Jorn Rohde, the deputy ambassador of Britain in Kosovo, Jacob Webber, the chief of staff of of KFOR, Brigadier General John B. Bozicevic and Director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Peter Hammerstein also addressed the audience with their speeches.



The objectives of the “KSF and partners 2023” conference are to inform the partner countries about the strategic goals and objectives and the development plan of the KSF 2024-2026, the synchronization of bilateral activities with the partner countries, the increase of bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as the information for the achievements of MoD/KSF during 2023. In the framework of the “KSF and partners 2023” conference, in addition to the planned work activities, guests from the partner countries had the opportunity to visit the Demining Unit of the KSF and the archeological park-Ulpiana.



## THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO REMAIN A STRATEGIC PARTNER FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, in October received with high military honors the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Türkiye, Yaşar Güler and his delegation. The Turkish Minister of Defense, in his official visit, was received in separate meetings, first with the Minister of Maqedonci and then with the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. Also, after the closed meetings, a meeting was held between the high delegations of both countries. At the media conference, the minister

Maqedonci welcomed his counterpart and thanked the Republic of Türkiye for all the help it has offered to the state of Kosovo throughout every stage of development. Furthermore, Minister Maqedonci emphasized that: “The Republic of

Türkiye has been and continues to remain a strategic partner for the Republic of Kosovo and that the cooperation between our countries is built on strong pillars of principles and mutual trust, therefore it will continue as such deepen and will definitely be stable over time”. In this aspect, with particular emphasis, Minister Maqedonci has asked Minister Güler for support for the membership of the Republic of Kosovo in the Partnership for Peace Program and has emphasized the importance of our membership in NATO, as a path that guarantees the stability of the Western Balkans. For his part, Minister Yasar Güler emphasized that the cooperation between our two countries is deepening every day and that the



Minister Yasar Güler emphasized that the cooperation between our two countries is deepening every day and that the



Republic of Türkiye is making great efforts to integrate Kosovo into the Euro-Atlantic organizations. “We support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kosovo, unification with the Euro-Atlantic institutions and its membership in international organizations”, emphasized Minister Güler, continuing with the promise that the duty of the KFOR Commander will be carried out with complete neutrality and transparency. While General Jashari thanked Minister Güler for the continuous support of the Ministry of Defense of Türkiye and the Armed Forces of Türkiye for the development of the KSF, in the field of education, training, equipment and capacity building. General Jashari and Minister Güler confirmed that cooperation will continue and deepen further through bilateral agreements, trainings, exercises and other joint activities.

## **MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND GENERAL JASHARI ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP FOR THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE**



Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari, accompanied by Kosovo's ambassador for relations with NATO, Astrit Zemaj, participated in the following meeting of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine, which took place in October at the NATO headquarters in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov. For the first time, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, addressed the participants, who expressed the gratitude of the people of Ukraine to the ministers and chiefs of defense present for the assistance provided to his country. The focus of the meeting was the continuation of the provision of military assistance

in weapons, equipment and training to the armed forces of Ukraine from the countries of this coalition. The Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine is the meeting format of the ministers and chiefs of defense of over 50 countries of the world that make up the large coalition of supporters of Ukraine, since the beginning of the Russian aggression.

## **THE COMMANDER OF NATO'S ALLIED JOINT FORCES COMMAND, ADMIRAL STUART B. MUNSCH VISITED THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE**



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received in a meeting Admiral Stuart B. Munsch, commander of the NATO Allied Joint Forces Command in Naples, accompanied by the outgoing commander of KFOR -it, Major General Angelo Michele Ristuccia. In this meeting, the issue of security in the country was discussed, where Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari expressed deep gratitude for the work, dedication, role and importance of KFOR in Kosovo, stressing that maintaining security in the Republic of Kosovo is of interest for all. In particular, they expressed gratitude for NATO's support in maintaining peace and stability in the country, after the aggression and terrorist attack on Kosovo on September 24. Minister

Maqedonci also emphasized the dedication of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo for peace and stability as well as the steadfast determination on our Euro-Atlantic path. Also, in this meeting, the willingness to deepen the inter-institutional cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of the KSF and KFOR, in the service of the security of all the citizens of our country, was reconfirmed.

## **MINISTER MAQEDONCI AND GENERAL JASHARI RECEIVED IN A MEETING THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO FOR OPERATIONS, THOMAS GOFFUS**



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, have received the Assistant Secretary General of NATO for Operations, Thomas Goffus, accompanied by the director of the Division of Operations and Planning of the International Military Staff in the meeting. NATO Headquarters, Major General Ulf Haeussler and Director of the NATO Advisory Liaison Team (NALT) Brigadier General Ralf Peter Hammerstein. The topic of this meeting was the issue of security in the country, in particular the situation created in the north of Kosovo as a result of the last attack. On this occasion, minister Maqedonci thanked Mr. Goffus for his

visit and NATO's commitment to providing peace and stability in the country, as well as emphasized the need to overcome the challenges presented together with international partners, as well as the need to strengthen the rule of law. Also, minister Maqedonci expressed the determination of our country for the Euro-Atlantic orientation, towards the values of the western countries, for close cooperation with NATO in making an active contribution to regional and global security.



## KSF PART OF THE “AUSA 2023” ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND FAIR IN THE USA



At the invitation of the United States Army Association (AUSA), on behalf of COMKSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Chief of Staff of the General Staff, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi participated in the annual defense industry conference and fair “AUSA 2023” in Washington DC. Within the conference sessions and the annual fair, General Qeriqi met with the representatives of the most well-known manufacturing companies of the American Defense industry, respectively military equipment, where he was informed about the latest



technological developments in this field through informative presentations as well as panels discussion on the field of defense and security. General Qeriqi, as part of the conference, also met the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), James Hursch, and the representative from the US Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC), Colonel Singleton, where they discussed the process of cooperation and purchases from The USA, where the goal of COMKSF is for the Army of the Republic of Kosovo to be equipped with the most modern military weapons, ready to face all security challenges. This visit was very important in the development process of the Kosovo Security Force and strongly expresses our very close partnership with the USA, in the field of defense.

## MINISTER MAQEDONCI RECEIVED FOR A MEETING THE NEW COMMANDER OF KFOR, MAJOR GENERAL ÖZCAN ULUTAŞ

The central topic of the meeting between minister Maqedonci and General Ulutaş was the security situation in the country, the intensification of border patrolling by KFOR troops, resulting in the attack of September 24, as well as the increase of cooperation with the Kosovo Security Force on defense issues.

“Protecting the border means increasing the level of security, closing illegal roads and fighting criminal groups by the Kosovo Police.

This cooperation between the Kosovo Police, KFOR, KSF provides security and stability for all citizens and our country”, emphasized Minister Maqedonci.

On this occasion, he thanked the KFOR commander for all the support that Türkiye has offered to Kosovo throughout the various periods of state building, and especially in



increasing the capacities of our army. Both agreed on strong cooperation, frequent meetings and regular communication between the Ministry of Defense and KFOR.

- Also, in October, minister Maqedonci welcomed the commander of the Turkish KFOR contingent, Sabri Gokhan Karamursel, where they discussed many topics related to security and defense issues, of interest to both sides. In addition, the meeting discussed the security situation in the country, as well as the training of KSF members, which are continuing to take place in Türkiye. “Türkiye is our ally country with which we have excellent cooperation in many fields”, emphasized Minister Maqedonci.



## KSF CONDUCTED STABILITY OPERATIONS IN THE “IRON WOLF” FIELD EXERCISE



The Kosovo Security Force has carried out the field exercise “Iron Wolf” within the annual plan of activities, with the aim of testing and validating the capacities of the first Regiment of Ground Forces for Stability Operations. Stability operations are carried out with the aim of returning to normal conditions in the areas where operations occur in natural disasters but also in other



conflicts and contain medical control of the population in the affected areas, operations and humanitarian aid, food, water, clothing and other things necessary as well as handing over the area to local civil authorities to manage the situation after stability operations. The “Iron Wolf” field exercise started with the Military Decision-Making Process at the Regimental level, continued with the academic week and from 25-27.10.2023 the field exercise is being carried out at the military training range in Babaj i Bokes and Gjakova Airport from the United

Operations Center with the participation of all unions that were part of the planning. The entire process of carrying out the “Iron Wolf” field exercise was directed and led by the deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi. The implementation of the field exercise was closely visited by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the director of NALT, Brigadier General Ralf Peter Hammerstein, who highly appreciated the work and dedication of the members of the KSF, providing their support in fulfilling the KSF mission.



## KOSOVO AND ESTONIA READY TO START COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, received the member of the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia, Kristo Enn Vaga, who is also a member of the National Defense Committee, as well as a member of the Estonia-Kosovo friendship group of the Estonian Parliament. The main topic of the discussions at the meeting were various aspects of the security situation in the Republic of Kosovo, regional and global. On his part, Mr. Vanga, conveyed the message about the readiness of the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Estonia for the start of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense. Deputy Minister Sylja thanked him for the support provided and confirmed the

readiness and willingness of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo for the fastest initiation of cooperation between our countries in the field of defense.

## MINISTER MAQEDONCI RECEIVED IN A MEETING THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION IPA PROJECT FOR URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, today hosted the representatives from the European Union's IPA Project for urban search and rescue, David Norlin and Roger Valberg, where they discussed possible cooperation and support in further increasing the capacities for the International Training Center of Search and Rescue (ITCSR) in Pomezat.

In this meeting, Minister Maqedonci emphasized that this Center is one of our most important capacities that provides training for many partner countries. Also, the Commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, accompanied by the Director of

the International Search and Rescue Center, John Doone, have hosted representatives from the European Union's IPA Project for urban search and rescue, David Norlin and Roger Valberg, General Haziri, informed them of the mission of the National Guard with a focus on search and rescue capacities and ITCSR, and with a focus on cooperation opportunities and possible support for the establishment and further development of this center which is successfully preparing cadres from around the world for to carry out the noblest mission of searching and saving human lives anywhere in the world.



## SOLDIERS FROM JORDAN AND ALBANIA ARE CERTIFIED AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE OF KSF

In the framework of the cooperation with Jordan and Albania, an army team from Jordan together with an army team from Albania and members of the Kosovo Security Force have carried out the three-week training of Search and Rescue in the mountains, at the International Training Center for Search Rescue (ITCSR), of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force. It is the third time that Jordanian troops participate in Search-Rescue training at ITCSR. Present at the certification ceremony were the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, the Commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, the director of ITCSR, John Doone, the American advisor to the Ministry of Defense, Thomas Niblock, as well as officers and soldiers of the KSF. On this occasion, Deputy



Minister Sylja highly appreciated the trilateral cooperation of the armies, expressing readiness for the expansion and advancement of this cooperation in other areas of common interest. At ITCSR, world center-level



trainings are carried out for international and local staff, including the Kosovo Police and other local security institutions. The International Training Center for Search and Rescue of KSF continues the professional training of members from different countries of the world.

## THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF KSF, MAJOR GENERAL IRFETE SPAHIU HAS VISITED THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC LEADERSHIP IN KOBLENZ, GERMANY



The Inspector General of the KSF, Major General Irfete Spahiu, with a KSF team, has conducted an important visit to the Center for Internal Leadership (Zentrum Innere Führung-ZiF) in Koblenz, Germany, where they were received by the commander of the Center, Major General Markus Kurezyk and his team. This visit was aimed at advancing cooperation and exchanging experiences in the field of leadership and military training between the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundeswehr) and the Kosovo Security Force. Our delegation had the opportunity to see first-hand the practical training, lessons and methodologies used at this Center to improve the skills and competences of the Bundeswehr military leaders. During this visit, the leadership of ZiF confirmed their willingness to deepen cooperation with the KSF in the field of security, leadership and training.



## THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND KSF CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE MUNICIPALITIES IN PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS

In the framework of the activity for military support for the civil authorities, the Deputy Minister of Defense Shemsi Sylja, accompanied by senior officials of the MoD and the KSF, during the month of October visited the municipalities of



Gjilan, Podujeva, Vushtrri and Kamenica. During these meetings, Deputy Minister Sylja offered the military resources that will be used to help the municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo in promoting the general well-being of the community. This assistance will include public works, education, training and construction projects. During such visits, which will also continue with other municipalities, the importance of public affairs in the planning and implementation of successful military support operations will be emphasized, as well as the lessons that can be learned from military assistance previously provided for operations. of civil authorities. Military support for



civilian authorities is based on the Law on the Ministry of Defense, the Law on Supplementing the Law on the Ministry of Defense and the Law on the KSF and its mission. Based on these legal documents, the Emergency Support Functions of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force have been drafted, within the National Response Plan, which aim to assist the authorities and civil institutions in response operations to natural disasters and other events. Through this assistance, the legal considerations related to the engagement of military forces in support of civil authorities have been reviewed and implemented.

## KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE AND THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM COINTINUE TO HAVE CLOSE COOPERATION



about the achievements of the KSF and thanked him for the close cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, especially in the field of professional development through training and education in the United Kingdom as well as through mobile teams in the country.

### NCO OFFICERS OF KSF VISIT AFRA

In the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation plan, the School of Non-Commissioned Officers of the KSF has visited the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. The KSF delegation had a visit to the Professional Education Center for Non-Commissioned Officers (PECNCO), where the next steps were discussed. for bilateral cooperation, including the alignment of training programs for non-commissioned officers. Part of the visit were also the Instructors and Trainees of the Sergeant Major Course, who made the Battle Study Visit to the “Gjergj Kastrioti” National Museum in Krujë. On this occasion, the KSF delegation also visited the Ground Forces Command and the Special Operations Regiment, where they were informed about the training, developments and achievements of these units.

Chief of Staff at the General Staff, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, together with the heads of G-3/7 and G-5/8, received in a meeting the representative for Kosovo from the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom, Thomas Evans and the Attache of UK Defense in Kosovo, Lieutenant Colonel Mathew Walker. General Qeriqi informed them



### MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM KOSOVO, ALBANIA AND JORDAN ARE TRAINED FOR MOUNTAIN RESCUE SEARCH

In order to increase the level of knowledge and professionalization in the field of Mountain Rescue Search, at the International Rescue Center (KSFC) at the Barracks "Young Europeans" in Pomozotin was held the closing ceremony of the training "Search for Rescue in The Mountains" attended by military personnel from Kosovo, Albania and Jordan. Part of the ceremony were the Deputy Minister of Defence, Shemsi Sylja, Commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, Deputy Commander of the GK, Colonel Skënder Hoxha, director of the SAR International Training Centre Kosovo, John Doone, officers and NCOS, and the participating states in the training. SAR International Training Centre Kosovo is carrying out basic and specialized training for local and international structures, enabling the preparation of professional cadres to face the challenges of rescue efforts anywhere in the world.





# DIPLOMATIC MEETINGS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO



The Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia,  
Danijela Barisic



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden  
in Kosovo, Jonas Westerlund



Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Montenegro  
in the Republic of Kosovo, Bernard Çobaj



The Ambassador of the Netherlands,  
Carin Lobbezoo



The Ambassador of the Republic of France  
in Kosovo, Olivier Guerot



The Ambassador of North Macedonia,  
Shpresa Yusufi



The Ambassador of the Republic of Albania in Kosovo,  
Qemajl Minxhozi



Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in the  
Republic of Kosovo, Keisuke Yamanka