REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

NEWSLETTER

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THE USA CONTINUES TO BE A STRONG SUPPORTER IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE KSF

The Commander of the IOWA`s National Guard, from the United States of America, Major General Ben Corell, visited the Republic of Kosovo in July where he was hosted by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, and the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. In these separate meetings, it was mainly discussed about the security situation, related to the developments within the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, as well as the work that is being done to achieve the fulfillment of strategic objectives, which are completely in function of devlopment and strengthening of our army.

It was also emphasized that the cooperation cultivated with the IOWA`s National Guard was built thanks to mutual commitment, dedication and trust. This cooperation was also highly appreciated by General Corell, who expressed his belief that this cooperation will be deepened even further.

THE COMMANDER OF THE KSF AND THE COMMANDER OF THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD VISIT THE PREPARATORY TRAININGS FOR EXERCISE "DEFENDER EUROPE 23"

As part of the visit to the Kosovo Security Force, the Commander of the IOWA`s National Guard, Major General Ben Corell, together with the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, visited Babaj of Boka and Gjakova Airport. The purpose of this visit was close monitoring of the activities that are taking place in the Land Forces Command, the First Regiment and the Second Infantry Regiment within the annual training plan and preparations for "Defender Europe 23". General Jashari and General Corell confirmed the continuation of cooperation for the purpose of professional development and fighting capacities of the KSF.General Jashari and General Corell confirmed to continue cooperation for the purpose of professional development and fighting capacities of the KSF.

THE FAREWELL CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR THE END OF DUTY OF THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE, COLONEL STEPHEN ROSE

As a sign of deep respect and gratitude for the contribution given during the service of Colonel Stephen Rose, in his duty as US Defense Attaché, in the month of July, a farewell ceremony was held at the Ministry of Defense.

On this occasion, in appreciation of his outstanding service and contribution in his role as Defense Attache, in increasing the capacities of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, Minister Mehaj decorated Colonel Rose with the Distinguished Service Medal. While, with motivation for excellent performance and outstanding professional support, during the performance of the duty, General Jashari awarded Colonel Rose the Medal for Selfless Service. Colonel Rose was highly praised for his strategic vision, leadership and dedication, which have strongly influenced the development of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. For his part, Colonel Rose expressed his deep gratitude for the service in Kosovo and the excellent cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the KSF in all areas, a cooperation which was based on complete objectivity and transparency.

USA SUPPORTS THE TRANSITION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE KSF WITH HIGH PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

The Institute for Security Governance (ISG) team from the US, headed by Dr. Keith Dunn, has visited the Ministry of Defense, on purpose provision of the professional advice.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj expressed his gratitude and high appreciation for their work, in supporting the Ministry of Defense, for the proper drafting of policies, the planning process and other instruments necessary for the effective realization of the process of transition and development of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.

MINISTER MEHAJ AND GENERAL JASHARI HOSTED THE FORMER COMMANDER OF KFOR, GENERAL ERHARD BUHLER

Minister Mehaj and General Jashari expressed their satisfaction with the visit of General Buhler, with whom they talked mainly about the security situation in the country, the region and beyond.

In these two meetings, among other things, was discussed the process of the integration of the Republic of Kosovo into NATO more specifically the process of membership in the Partnership for Peace, about the developments and processes that the Kosovo Security Force and the Ministry of Defense are going through. etc

Minister Mehaj and General Jashari have thanked General Buhler for all the support given during the time of his serving as Commander of KFOR and for the support that is still ongoing currently.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED IN A FAREWELL MEETING BRITISH GENERAL JOHNNY BOWRON

In July, Minister Mehaj hosted in a farewell meeting the British Defense Transformation Adviser in the Western Balkans, Brigadier General Johnny Bowron, accompanied by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Nicholas Abbott. Minister Mehaj expressed deep gratitude and thanks for the great role and contribution of the state, government and the British Armed Forces in the construction and overall development of our country, the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force itself.

LATVIA IS OUR IMPORTANT PARTNER IN PROCESSES OF OUR FORCE DEVELOPMENT

Minister of Defense Armend Meha on July made a phone conversation with his counterpart , Minister of Defense of Latvia, Artis Pabriks.In addition to the conversation about overall security situation , Minister Mehaj and Minister Fabriks also discussed about process of realisation of the joint activities in terms of bilateral cooperation between both Ministries and our Forces.Both of them have agreed to make intensification of engagments by both parties in further deepening of the bilateral cooperation in fields of the mutual interest.

MINISTER MEHAJ IN CEREMONY OF ASSIGNMENT OF THE NEW CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF , BG. ARBEN KINGJI

Upon invitation of Minister of Defense of Republic of Albania, Niko Peleshi, Minister Mehaj, took part at the ceremony of assigment to the duty of the new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Genersal Staff, Arben Kingji.

“By knowing well his preperation , readiness and will to serve to the country , I am convinced that the Armed Forces of Republic of Albania will mark high achievements under his professional leadership with integrity and dignity which will result with mission fullfillment for ensuring the security of the country”, pointed out Minister Mehaj , on this occassion.Minister Mehaj assured Mr.Kingji that he will be having opend-handed cooperation and support from the Minsitry of Defense and of the Kosovo Secuirty Force by working as a solely troop in the national defense and security as well as regional security and stability , our orientation in support to NATO`s Mission in full partnership with the USA and EU.

MINISTER MEHAJ IN MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF COORDINATION CENTER AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN ALBANIA, DENION MEIDANI

Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj hosted in a meeting Director of Coordination Center against Violent Extremism in Albania, Denion Meidani.On this occassion was discussed about security in the country and region as well as for possible tendencies of individuals or groups with radical behaviours who have negative impact in creation of quiet and safety environment. Among others was said that the best prevention of these deviation phenomena in society can be achieved via education and promotion of peace and co-living among all communities by respecting of everyone`s rights.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MISSING PERSONS IN THE KSF BARRACK "ADEM JASHARI", IS PERFORMED MOVIE OF FEATURE- SHORT "FERDONIJA"

This movie is produced by Gazmend Bajri and Shkurte Dauti", tells the story of Ferdonije Qerkezi, a mother which has lost husband and sons during the war in Kosovo. In his speech Minister Mehaj, mentioned that on this day are recalled horrible consequencies that the war left behind, emptiness of our families in society adding that as representative of Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo shall never be stopped seeking justice and also documenting the war events. President of Government Commission for Missing Persons, Andin Hoti, among others pointed out need to increase pressure from the international factor on serbian party saying that Serbia is the only adress for the missing persons in Kosovo. The case of mother Ferdonije is one among 1617 other cases , citizens of this country, whose absence is felt everyday by their relatives and the entire society of the country

Attended: Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, Dep/Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, BG. Naim Haziri, Ferdonije Qerkezi, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Hajrulla Çeku, Minister of Justice , Albulena Haxhiu, President of Government Commission for Missing Persons, Andin Hoti as well as other senior officials and KSF militaries.

OUR MILITARIES EXCEPT TOP SUCCESSES IN OPERATIONS, HAVE ACHIEVED ALSO THE HIGHEST PEAK OF THE FAMOUS, MONT BLANC

After several challenging days of walking , the KSF militaries Besart Ejupi, Arben Rexhepi, Fatmir Tahiri, Kushtrim Hyseni and official of the Ministry of Defense, Flamur Arifaj,yesterday have reached the highest peak in Western Europe ,in height of 4810 m.
This is the biggest success of our guys who despite selfless engagment and high professsionalism in military operations made us very proud with this more extraordinary success.

KSF REMOVES 143 EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCES

The EOD teams of the Kosovo Security Force assisted by the Kosovo Police and the Swiss KFOR EOD team removed 143 explosive ordnances from the vicinity of the Peja 2 electrical substation, in the Dardania neighborhood in Peja.
During the 2-day operation, these dangerous remains dating back to the time of the First World War, which endangered the safety of the residents, were removed. The remains were encountered during the works for the laying of electricity in the neighborhood.
The ordnances have been safely towed and will be destroyed in a controlled manner in the coming days in a secure area.

KSF FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

A safe and harmless environment from poisonous and radioactive materials is the mission of the Hazardous Materials Company (HMC) of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force. Together with our strategic partners, KFOR, NALT, they are in areas identified as a source of danger, their hard work has made it possible to identify and eliminate many substances that are a danger to the lives of citizens.
The last inspection was carried out in the "Metaliku" factory of the municipality of Gjakova, where the condition of the industrial waste repackaged at the beginning of the year by the HMC of the KSF was verified.
KSF is committed to eliminate all risks for creation of a safe environment for all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

KSF DONATES BLOOD IN SUPPORT TO THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTER

In July, the traditional humanitarian action of voluntary blood donation was carried out at the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, for the second time in a row this year. A considerable number of blood donors from the members of the Kosovo Security Force have responded to the voluntary blood donation action, in order to help the National Blood Transfusion Center and all the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo. The action for voluntary blood donation is organized based on the operational plan 2022, in coordination with the Medical Center of the Kosovo Security Force and the National Center for Blood Transfusion of Kosovo. The Kosovo Security Force, based on its mission and tasks, is ready every time to come to the aid of all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo in any situation.

KSF OFFICER IS DECORATED WITH "ARMY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" MEDAL

Kosovo Security Force Lieutenant Gzim Morina has successfully completed the "Logistics Officer Basic Course" in the United States of America, being awarded the "Army Achievement Award" medal, which is awarded to members who show high performance while having the training. This school prepares officers in the field of logistics, support with supply classes, organization of tactical convoys as well as for large-scale combat operations, providing you the opportunity to prepare for logistical support to operational units in the field. The Kosovo Security Force, within the framework of training and education supported by partners, prepares professional staff and raises its operational capacity to the highest standards of NATO armies, thus increasing interoperability with our strategic partners.