



NEWSLETTER

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Kosovo Security Force Enhanced with Advanced Armored Vehicles from the United States

A formal handover ceremony took place in August, during which the Kosovo Security Force received new armored vehicles procured from the United States of America. The event was attended by Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, the U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Shaw, and the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. This acquisition marks a significant milestone in the modernization of the KSF, equipping the force with advanced technology and vehicles essential for fulfilling its constitutional



mandate. Minister Maqedonci highlighted that the continued support from the United States — a strategic and indispensable partner — reflects the strong friendship and cooperation between the two countries. “With unwavering dedication to Western values and the doctrine of the United States Army, we remain committed to the sustainable and progressive development of our force by adopting weapons systems aligned with NATO standards,” the Minister stated. This commitment ensures that the KSF remains a modern and interoperable force, prepared to collaborate closely with the armed forces of Euro-Atlantic alliance member states, working together to create a secure and stable future for all citizens.

Kosovo and U.S. Reaffirm Defense Partnership in High-Level Meeting



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci warmly received the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, David A. Baker, conferring the highest state honors. Delegations from both sides also participated in the meeting.

The discussions focused on regional and international security challenges, progress made since their last meeting, and notably, cooperation in co-production initiatives with the United States and the development of Kosovo's defense industry. This sector holds significant potential for growth and the enhancement of national capabilities.

Minister Maqedonci emphasized that, with the United States as a trusted partner, Kosovo benefits from strengthened security and actively contributes to the promotion of peace and stability both regionally and globally. Both Minister Maqedonci and Mr. Baker reaffirmed the strong partnership between their countries and expressed their commitment to further deepening cooperation.



Farewell Ceremony Held at the Ministry of Defense for U.S. Advisors Debbie Parker and Ronald Wilkins



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, together with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, Gafurr Dugolli, hosted a farewell meeting for U.S. advisors Debbie Parker and Ronald Wilkins.

The ceremony, attended by senior officials and officers of the Ministry of Defense, served as an opportunity to express gratitude for their valuable contributions to strengthening the Ministry's institutional capacities. Their professional and academic expertise was instrumental in drafting the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) regulations, developing procedures for implementing these processes, and enhancing specific procurement practices in

line with the most advanced U.S. standards. Minister Maqedonci also expressed deep appreciation to the U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) in Pristina for its ongoing support through advisory roles and training programs for both civilian and military personnel, aimed at enhancing the professional capacities of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). In closing, Minister Maqedonci and Secretary General Dugolli extended their best wishes for health and success to Ms. Parker and Mr. Wilkins in their future endeavors.



Deputy Minister Sylja Led High-Level Defense Delegation to Finland



A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, led by Deputy Minister of Defense Shemsi Sylja, conducted an official visit to Finland. During their stay in Helsinki, the delegation held official meetings at the Finnish Ministry of Defense. They were warmly received by Permanent Secretary Esa Pulkkinen; Secretary General of the Security Committee Petteri Korvala; senior officer Veli-Petteri Valkamo; Major Arto Rantahalvari; and Kosovo desk officer Markus Rahja. The discussions focused on opportunities to strengthen defense and security cooperation between the two countries, support for mandatory military service in Kosovo, the concept of comprehensive defense, current geopolitical developments, and the challenges and needs of the KSF on its path toward full operational capability. As part of the visit, the delegation toured several leading Finnish defense industry companies. These included Reorbit, specializing in the development of space satellites for communication and data storage; VARJO, a manufacturer of advanced military simulation and virtual reality training equipment; VTT Mikronova, a research center focused on detection and surveillance technologies for security applications; and Onyks Solutions, a company providing sophisticated anti-drone system solutions.

These visits were facilitated with the support and engagement of the Kosovo diaspora in Finland, who played a vital role in fostering contacts and building new bridges of cooperation.



Minister Maqedonci Honors Ambassador Matti Nissinen in Farewell Meeting



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci hosted a farewell meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Republic of Kosovo, Matti Nissinen, during which he expressed deep appreciation for the Ambassador's many years of dedicated service in advancing bilateral relations between the two countries. During the meeting, Minister Maqedonci conveyed his gratitude for the continued support provided by the Finnish government in building and developing Kosovo's defense and democratic capacities, as well as for Ambassador Nissinen's personal commitment to strengthening institutional cooperation. Minister Maqedonci remarked that Ambassador

Nissinen is departing Kosovo leaving a lasting legacy of cooperation and friendship, and that he will remain a lifelong friend of the Republic of Kosovo.

Six KSF Cadets Graduate in Türkiye

At the Turkish Military Academy, six Kosovo Security Force cadets—Adrian Ukiqi, Fatlind Neziri, Getoar Berisha, Hamdi Hasani, Shefit Tahiri, and Dardane Mehmeti—successfully graduated. Through dedication, professionalism, and high discipline, the cadets completed a rigorous five-year program that combined military training with civilian academic education. The curriculum included intensive field exercises, advanced military knowledge, and the development of leadership, strategy, and management skills. In addition to theoretical and academic studies, the cadets underwent advanced field training at the Izmir military camp, where they received instruction in tactics, combat operations, and real-world situation management. A significant part of their training was the successful completion of the Commando Course at Isparta's prestigious 'Dağ Komando Okulu,' renowned for its challenging elite forces program.



Over the course of these five years, the new officers acquired comprehensive knowledge in both military and academic fields, preparing them to assume active roles in the missions and responsibilities that lie ahead within the KSF. This achievement not only represents individual success but also stands as a testament to the strong partnership between Kosovo and Türkiye in military education and development.

Joint Diving Training Between KSF and Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania



Based on the bilateral cooperation agreement between the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, the Search and Rescue Company of the Civil Protection Regiment conducted joint diving training at the Diving Center in Pashaliman, Vlora, Republic of Albania. The purpose of this training was to maintain, develop, and enhance professional knowledge and skills in diving across various depths and operational conditions, while sharing experience and best practices between members of the two armed forces. This joint activity highlights the importance of deepening cooperation between the military institutions of Kosovo and Albania, reflecting their mutual commitment to strengthening and improving specialized capabilities for conducting maritime operations in accordance with high international standards.



KSF Officer Cadet Graduates from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Officer Cadet Fatlind Imeraj graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. The graduation ceremony was presided over by General Sir James Hockenhull on behalf of His Majesty King Charles III. The one-year training program at Sandhurst prepares officers to serve in various positions within the armed forces, focusing on fundamental military principles, leadership, tactics, and operations. Officer Cadet Fatlind Imeraj is the 32nd cadet from the KSF to complete this prestigious program. The Kosovo Security Force was represented at the ceremony by Colonel Ahmet Ajeti, Colonel Ali Krasniqi, KSF Attaché to the United Kingdom Colonel Agron Bajrami, as well as representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo, Ms. Arta Qehaja and Mr. Ilir Bytyqi. Special appreciation was extended for the United Kingdom's continued support in the development and education of Kosovo's officers.

Captain Albion Svrkaj Completes Prestigious Maneuver Captain's Career Course in the USA

Captain Albion Svrkaj successfully completed the Maneuver Captain's Career Course at the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) in the United States of America. This prestigious course prepares leaders to assume responsibilities as company commanders and staff officers, with a focus on



combined arms operations at the tactical level. Captain Svrkaj demonstrated dedication and discipline, successfully completing evaluations in command procedures, unit training management, and the military decision-making process.



Lieutenant Fitim Kahrmani Graduates with Distinction from Basic Field Artillery Officer Course in the USA

Lieutenant Fitim Kahrmani successfully completed the Basic Field Artillery Officer Course at the Fires Center of Excellence in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, United States of America. This training aims to prepare officers to operate effectively on the battlefield, make timely decisions, and conduct operations under combat conditions. Lieutenant Kahrmani was honored with the "Distinguished Honor Graduate" recognition, awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional academic and professional achievement.

Two Officers Graduate in Türkiye

Non-Commissioned Officers Arian Sylá and Elhami Hazimi successfully completed the officer transition program and were commissioned as Second Lieutenants after one year of studies at the ‘Maltepe’ Training School in Izmir, Türkiye, which is part of the Military Academy under the command in Ankara. The program included basic, academic, and practical training designed to prepare them for officer roles in the army. This training was made possible through a bilateral agreement between the Kosovo Security Force and the Republic of Türkiye. At the closing ceremony, Kosovo’s Military Attaché to Türkiye, Lieutenant Colonel Meriman Suka, congratulated the new Second Lieutenants on their success.



KSF Conducts Training at the AFRA Naval Base

The Kosovo Security Force’s National Guard International Search and Rescue Training Center (ISRTC) carried out refresher diving training at the Naval Base of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania in Pashaliman, Vlora. The training aimed to maintain and further develop existing capabilities, while also enhancing new skills to improve efficiency in maritime operations. Participants received instruction in search and rescue techniques in aquatic environments, navigation, as well as the planning and execution of diving operations. This training represents a vital component of the ongoing preparation and professional development of search and rescue teams, ensuring their readiness to respond effectively to any situation both within Kosovo and internationally.

