



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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Defender Europe 25 – Advancing Kosovo’s Security and International Cooperation



The multinational exercise Defender Europe 25, which began on May 26 and continued until June 9, included the Immediate Response phase, designed to enhance interoperability among allied forces and test operational capabilities in a multinational environment. To mark the start of the exercise, institutional leaders of the Republic of Kosovo and the leadership of the Kosovo Security Force visited the personnel engaged in this major international operation. President Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, accompanied by Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, visited the Tactical Post Command of the 28th Division of the U.S. Army, the Main Exercise Control, and the Tactical Camp.

Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci also participated in the visit, highlighting the importance of international cooperation and the pivotal role of the KSF as the host of this exercise. During the visits, institutional leaders received briefings on the level of interoperability between KSF units and international partners, particularly with the 28th Division of the U.S. Army, which played a strategic role in ensuring regional security. They underscored that this exercise presented an outstanding opportunity to advance the KSF’s operational capabilities and strengthen strategic alliances with NATO partner countries.





Defender Europe 25, one of the largest military operations on the European continent, marked a significant milestone in enhancing Kosovo's security forces' operational readiness in a multinational setting. This exercise, organized by the United States Army for Europe and Africa, marked the KSF's third consecutive

participation, demonstrating its growing capacity for large-scale operations and close collaboration with strategic partners. Through Defender Europe 25, the Kosovo Security Force reaffirmed its status as a reliable and prepared institution, ready to integrate into international collective security operations.

KSF and EUCOM Sign the Cooperative Agreement on Interoperability and Communications Security



In a significant step toward strengthening security and technological interoperability, the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, and the Director of EUCOM J6, Major General John Phillips, signed the Cooperative Agreement on Interoperability and Communications Security (CISMOA). This agreement represents a key milestone in enhancing cooperation between the KSF and United States European Command (EUCOM), enabling the exchange of secure information, the utilization of

advanced defense technology, and the improvement of the KSF's operational capabilities. During the meeting, General Jashari expressed his gratitude to General Phillips for the ongoing cooperation and the support EUCOM has provided in the development and modernization of the KSF. Discussions focused on the growing threats posed by cyberattacks and the critical importance of communication security and information protection in modern military operations. General Phillips commended the KSF for its continuous progress in strengthening its capabilities and its dedication to regional and global security. The signing of CISMOA marks a significant advancement in enhancing the KSF's reliability and operational integration with strategic allies, positioning the force as a key player in international security and stability. EUCOM will continue to play a vital role in strengthening Kosovo's defense and preparing the KSF for contemporary security challenges. This development reaffirms Kosovo's commitment to fostering close cooperation with international partners, solidifying the Kosovo Security Force's role as a crucial actor in the global security architecture.

Honoring Major General Gezim Hazrolli's Dedication to Kosovo's Defense



The Ministry of Defense hosted a formal retirement ceremony for Major General Gezim Hazrolli, who served as the Director of the Intelligence and Security Directorate. On this occasion, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci presented a certificate of appreciation in recognition of Major General Hazrolli's professionalism and contributions throughout his years of service. He thanked him for his dedication and successful fulfillment of his mission, emphasizing his pivotal role in the development and organization of the Kosovo Security Force. Following this, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari honored Major General Hazrolli with the Career Medal for his outstanding performance and successful completion of his career. This recognition reflects his unwavering commitment and professionalism in advancing defense and security capabilities. The retirement ceremony was also attended by distinguished guests, including Deputy Minister of Defense Shemsi Sylaj, Deputy Commander of the KSF Major General Enver Cikaqi, Secretary of the Ministry of Defense Gafurr Dugolli, Inspector General of the Ministry of Defense Major General Irfete Spahiu, Military Advisor to the President Brigadier General Dr. Sefer Isufi, and Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) Brigadier General Sven Lange. Officers, non-commissioned officers, and senior officials from the Ministry of Defense and the KSF were also present, all expressing their gratitude for Major General Hazrolli's tireless efforts and long-standing dedication to the defense and security of the country. At this important milestone, he received heartfelt wishes for success in the next chapters of his life journey, leaving behind a strong and invaluable legacy for Kosovo's defense institutions.

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci and Secretary General Gafurr Dugolli Honored Retired Ministry of Defense Officials



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, Gafurr Dugolli, hosted retired officials of the Ministry of Defense in a ceremony where they expressed gratitude for their valuable contributions. As a sign of respect and appreciation for their tireless service as members of the KLA, KPC, KSF, and officials of the Ministry of Defense, certificates of appreciation were awarded in recognition of their commitment to advancing the country's defense objectives. During the ceremony, the dedicated work of the Head of the Career Management Sector, Kosum Kosumi, the Community Affairs Officer, Major Muharrem Asllani, and the Codification Officer, Jahir Sejdiu, was

formally acknowledged. With deep appreciation for their contributions, they were wished a peaceful retirement, good health, and success in all of life's future endeavors.

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force Welcomed the German Chief of Defense on an Official Visit



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received the German Chief of Defense, General Carsten Breuer, with full military honors during an official visit. During their joint meeting, the KSF Commander welcomed General Breuer and briefed him on the latest developments and achievements of the Kosovo Security Force, emphasizing areas of bilateral cooperation and joint activities. In turn, General Breuer congratulated General Jashari on the successes and professionalism demonstrated by the KSF, recognizing its role in ensuring a safe and stable environment. He also pledged continued support from the German forces to the KSF in line with its objectives. The discussion focused on deepening concrete cooperation in key security and defense fields, including the education and training of KSF members at German military institutions, as well as organizing joint training and exercises in the future. The current security situation in Kosovo and the region was also addressed, with both sides sharing insights and assessments on the importance of international cooperation for maintaining long-term stability and peace in the Western Balkans and beyond. General Breuer's visit marks an important milestone for the KSF, reinforcing the strategic partnership with Germany and its support for the continued development of the Kosovo Security Force.



Commander of the Kosovo Security Force Conducted an Official Visit to the Republic of Albania

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, paid an official visit to the Republic of Albania at the invitation of his counterpart, Lieutenant General Arben Kingji, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA). Upon arrival, General Jashari was received with full military honors by the Chief of Defense of AFRA. The meeting continued with discussions between the two sides, during which General Kingji welcomed him and provided an overview of the achievements of the Albanian Armed Forces. In response, General Jashari congratulated General Kingji on AFRA's advancements under his leadership, highlighting its role in



ensuring regional security and stability. At the conclusion of the meeting, the two generals explored joint activities and opportunities to further cooperation between the armed forces, with a focus on peace, security, and interoperability. As part of the visit, General Jashari also met with the Minister of Defense of Albania, Pirro Vengu. During their meeting at the Ministry of Defense, Minister Vengu provided insights into the successes and challenges faced by the Ministry and AFRA, as well as their role within NATO. General Jashari congratulated Minister Vengu on AFRA's achievements and expressed appreciation for the support provided in developing joint training and activities. Additionally, General Jashari and his delegation visited the Air Base in Kuçovë, AFRA, where they were briefed on ongoing investments and modernization efforts at the facility. This visit represented a significant step in strengthening bilateral cooperation, reinforcing commitments to enhancing joint military capacities.

The KSF Commander Hosted the British Military Advisors

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, held a farewell and introductory meeting with the British military advisors, Lieutenant Colonel John Hunter and Lieutenant Colonel Mike Butler. General Jashari expressed his deep appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Hunter, commending his contributions as a military advisor and his ongoing support for the KSF. He then welcomed Lieutenant Colonel Butler, wishing him success in his new role as a military advisor. During the meeting, the KSF Commander discussed his objectives for force development and the planning of bilateral cooperation, including training, exercises, equipment, and joint activities. Lieutenant Colonel Hunter praised the KSF's significant progress, highlighting the professionalism of Kosovar military personnel. At the conclusion of the meeting, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, with a focus on advancing the KSF's military capabilities to fulfill its mission. This meeting marked an important moment in the ongoing cooperation between the KSF and its British partners, reinforcing efforts to strengthen operational capabilities and align the force with international standards.



Strengthening Academic and Military Cooperation Between Kosovo and the United States



The Commander of the Center for University Studies, Major Mimoza Budeci, concluded an official visit to the United States, where she was hosted by senior military and civilian leaders at Norwich University in Vermont and the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. This visit marked an important step in expanding the horizons of academic and military cooperation. The meetings were held in the spirit of inter-institutional collaboration, exploring opportunities for an advanced partnership between the KSF Military Academy and American academic and military institutions. Discussions focused on cadet and academic staff exchanges, joint training programs, and initiatives to advance military education in line with international standards. All

parties expressed their commitment to building bridges of cooperation that will enhance the capabilities and professionalism of the next generation of military leaders. These meetings represented a significant step toward strengthening ties between the Center for University Studies and prestigious military and academic institutions in the United States. As part of this visit, Major Budeci was an honored guest at the Norwich University graduation ceremony, where she emphasized the importance of cooperation in the education and development of future military leaders.

Brigadier General Andreas Pfeifer Visited the Kosovo Security Force



Brigadier General Andreas Pfeifer, Director of Operations at the Joint Operations Command of the German Bundeswehr, paid an official visit to the Kosovo Security Force. The KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, welcomed General Pfeifer to the meeting, expressing gratitude for the Bundeswehr's ongoing support in strengthening the KSF's capabilities. During the discussion, General Jashari outlined his objectives for the force's development in fulfilling its constitutional and legal mission, while General Pfeifer commended his leadership and vision in advancing the KSF's operational capabilities. Following this, the two generals explored joint activities and opportunities to further cooperation between the two armed forces, emphasizing the importance of peace, security, and interoperability. As part of the visit, General Pfeifer toured the General Staff and various KSF

units, where he was briefed on the force's planning, investments, training, education, operations, and other key activities. This visit represented an important milestone in strengthening bilateral relations and advancing cooperation between the KSF and the German Bundeswehr, with a shared goal of enhancing operational capabilities in alignment with international standards.



Minister Maqedonci Hosted a Meeting with the Head of the Mission of the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Kosovo, Eric Dietz

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci met with Eric Dietz, Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Kosovo, to discuss new opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, particularly in areas where Kosovo needed support. During the meeting, Minister

Maqedonci expressed his deep gratitude for Luxembourg's ongoing investments in Kosovo, which, through development projects, had significantly contributed to improving the quality of life across various sectors. He also reaffirmed his commitment to expanding cooperation in additional fields, highlighting the importance of Luxembourg's support for Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic integration, its membership in the Council of Europe, and other international organizations.



KSF Commander Hosted a Meeting with the KFOR Commander

Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, hosted a meeting with Major General Enrico Barduani, Commander of KFOR, and Brigadier General Dr. Sven Lange, Director of the NATO Advisory Liaison Team (NALT). During the meeting, General Jashari briefed General Barduani on key developments within the KSF, including training, exercises, operations, and other force activities. They also analyzed the current security situation at both the local and regional levels. At the conclusion of the meeting, the generals reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation between the KSF and KFOR, emphasizing their dedication to enhancing security and stability in Kosovo and the wider region.

Kosovo Cadets Showcase Excellence at the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition



Cadets from the University Study Center participated for the first time in the prestigious international Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at West Point, USA. This milestone provided an opportunity to showcase their military skills, confront real-world challenges, and operate as a cohesive team. Throughout this extraordinary experience, the cadets navigated demanding scenarios that required determination, skill, and quick decision-making. They also had the chance to learn from international peers and build valuable connections with participants from around the world. Sandhurst proved to be far more than a competition—it served as a platform for cooperation, shared values, and strengthened friendships among military academies. Their participation marked a significant step forward, inspiring and motivating them for future challenges.

University Study Center Participated in the “Eagle Strike 2025” Exercise



As part of international military training cooperation, cadets from the University Study Center of the Kosovo Security Force participated in the Eagle Strike 2025 exercise, held in Rreth-Greth, Albania, under the leadership of the New Jersey National Guard from the United States. Also taking part in this training were cadets from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA) Officer Training Course and officer candidates from the New Jersey National Guard, fostering cooperation, leadership development, and interoperability among partner forces. During the exercise, cadets engaged in realistic tactical-level

scenarios, including military planning, maneuvering through challenging terrain, and overcoming water obstacles, ensuring comprehensive preparation to tackle complex challenges in future operations.



Kosovo Cadet Arlind Shefkiu Graduates from West Point

Cadet Arlind Shefkiu from the Kosovo Security Force successfully graduated from the prestigious U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The graduation ceremony, attended by cadets from across the democratic world, featured U.S. President Donald Trump, who addressed the cadets and attendees. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of education at West Point and the responsibilities awaiting the new leaders as they embark on their military careers. He also congratulated them on their hard work, dedication, and successful graduation. Following his graduation, Cadet Shefkiu will continue his service in the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), contributing to its strengthening and development in accordance with the highest standards of partner countries. He will also share the knowledge he gained with fellow KSF members, supporting their professional growth and the advancement of the force.

Cadet from Kosovo Graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy

Cadet Enderon Vuthaj from the Kosovo Security Force successfully graduated from the United States Air Force Academy, Class of 2025. The Kosovo Security Force continued to strengthen its ranks with personnel trained at some of the world's most prestigious military academies. Enderon Vuthaj spent four years completing his professional education alongside cadets from around the world at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Following his graduation, he joined the ranks of KSF officers, contributing to the development and advancement of the Kosovo Security Force and supporting efforts to promote peace and security in the region and beyond, standing shoulder to shoulder with Kosovo's international partners.



KSF Commander Hosted Delegation from the Military Scientific Research Institute of AFRA



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted a high-level delegation from the Military Scientific Research Institute of the Armed Forces Academy of Albania as part of ongoing cooperation with the KSF's Doctrine and Training Command. During the meeting, Lieutenant General Jashari emphasized the critical role of the institute in advancing military scientific research, describing it as essential for the modernization of armed forces. He highlighted the importance of collaboration in security and defense, focusing on building advanced and joint capabilities. At the conclusion of the meeting, both parties agreed to continue and deepen cooperation in military research and joint professional activities.

KSF Officers Graduated from the Military Academy in Croatia

Colonel Valdet Berisha and Major Shpëtim Ujkani graduated from the "Defense Diplomacy Course" at the Defense Academy of the Republic of Croatia "Dr. Franjo Tuđman" in Zagreb. This course was attended by 20 officers from four regional countries. Our officers achieved excellent results and demonstrated great success, representing Kosovo especially the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) in the best possible way. The "Defense Diplomacy Course" aims to prepare officers ranked Major to Colonel for military-diplomatic duties, roles in military missions, and tasks related to international and protocol activities. Additionally, four KSF officers completed other courses in Croatia: Captain Ismail Sekiraga and Sergeant Rron Rafuna attended the "United Nations Military Observer" course, while Sergeant Korab Seferi and Junior Sergeant Mendim Muçiqi completed the "Basic Intelligence Course." Cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, a friendly state of Kosovo, is opening doors to support the Kosovo Security Force in building professional capacities across all areas of development.

