



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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Kosovo's Defense Leadership Solidifies Strategic Alliance with the USA

The Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, stayed on an official visit to the United States of America, together with the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. This visit began with a meeting at the Atlantic Council, where Minister Maqedonci and Lieutenant General Jashari were hosted by Jörn Fleck, Senior Director at this think-tank. They discussed the global security situation, terrorist attacks in northern Kosovo, and the negative impact of the Russia-Serbia cooperation.

Afterwards, they were hosted at the U.S. State Department by Assistant Secretary of State, Alexander Kasanof. In this meeting, they emphasized the importance of continued support from American diplomacy for Kosovo's aspirations to integrate into Euro-Atlantic structures. They also discussed joint international missions with American troops.



The next visit was to the U.S. Department of Defense, where Minister Maqedonci and Lieutenant General Jashari were hosted by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for NATO and Europe, Alton Buland. In this meeting, they

discussed the success of bilateral activities and the transition plan, as well as the framework agreement between the two countries in the field of defense.



In the United States Congress, Minister Maqedonci and Lieutenant General Jashari were hosted by Republican Congressman from Arizona, Abraham Hamadeh. They held discussions on global security challenges and their impact on the Western Balkans and Kosovo. Minister Maqedonci informed Congressman Hamadeh about the

current developments and achievements of the Kosovo Army.

Minister Maqedonci also had a friendly meeting with Senator Joni Ernst, where he confirmed the determination of Kosovo's institutions to strengthen cooperation in the field of defense and security. The Minister emphasized the importance of the friendship and support of the United States for Kosovo.



The visit concluded with a visit to the factory "Sikorsky - Lockheed Martin", where



Black Hawk helicopters are produced, which will be part of Kosovo's air support fleet. Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari discussed options for integrating the helicopters into the inventory of the Kosovo Security Force and reaffirmed U.S. support for building preparation and strategic security capacities. Minister Maqedonci emphasized the importance of

U.S. support for peace, stability, and the development of Kosovo as a country with a Euro-Atlantic vision.

This visit confirmed the strong support of the United States for Kosovo and the commitment of both countries to strengthen relations in the field of defense and security.



KSF Receives the Green Light from the U.S. for the Purchase of Helicopters

The United States of America will assist Kosovo in building capacities for helicopters, radars, and air defense, placing our country at a new level of preparedness and strategic security. During his official visit to the U.S., Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci emphasized that the United States has once again reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the security and sovereignty of the Republic of Kosovo. “U.S. support is a key pillar for peace, stability, and the development of Kosovo as a country with a Euro-Atlantic vision. Deep gratitude to our enduring ally, the U.S., for the continuous help and trust,” said Minister Maqedonci, adding that through concrete support, this initiative not only enhances the operational capabilities of the Kosovo Security Force but also strengthens our position as a reliable partner in the region and beyond.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo Approves Allocation of 100 Hectares of Land for KSF Infrastructure Expansion



With the aim of expanding the Kosovo Security Force infrastructure for strategic military purposes, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo decided today to allocate 100 hectares of land in the Batllava region for utilization. Months ago, the KSF expropriated and took control of properties in Babaj i Bokës, Suhareka, the Cernusha hill in Mitrovica, the Llukar barracks, and the Dumnica airport. Additionally, expropriation processes have been completed at the Gjakova airport. The properties of the Kosovo Forestry Agency, specifically the “Batllava” social property with a surface area of 100 hectares, will be used to enhance the operational capacities of the KSF.

The “National Resilience - Challenges and the Way Forward” Conference



Organized by the Ministry of Defense and the NATO Advisory Liaison Team (NALT), the conference “National Resilience - Challenges and the Way Forward” was held in Pristina. The event brought together the highest state authorities and representatives of security institutions, including President Vjosa Osmani, Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Minister of Defense Ejup Magedonci, Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, and Director of the Kosovo Police, Gazmend Hoxha.



In her speech, President Osmani emphasized the importance of investing in critical infrastructure such as energy, water, transportation, and communications for national resilience. She noted the significance of international cooperation in addressing global challenges such as climate change, migration, terrorism, and cyber threats. The President highlighted the vital role of NATO and the USA in

supporting these efforts.

Prime Minister Kurti expressed the significance of the conference in building a future where all citizens feel protected, as the country prepares for NATO membership. He stressed that strengthening resilience is a national responsibility, but Kosovo's efforts will also bolster the Alliance as a whole. Kurti mentioned the importance of the National Response Plan in meeting the requirements for national resilience. The conference continued with panel discussions and thematic presentations on the transition process, defense policies, international cooperation, and operational readiness. The second session of the conference included presentations from representatives of institutions such as KSF, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Health, and others on national resilience and civil preparedness from their perspectives.

The main goal of the conference was to explore innovative strategies, share best practices, and strengthen cooperation in addressing common challenges. The conference aimed to foster dialogue and build bridges between different perspectives to identify the most effective ways to enhance national resilience in all its dimensions: security, economic, social, environmental, and institutional.



Commander of KSF Attended Ukraine Defense Contact Group Meeting



At the invitation of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, attended the latest meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, held at the Ramstein Air Base in the Federal Republic of Germany. The meeting was co-chaired by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Ukraine's Minister of Defense Rustem Umerov. To highlight the importance of this coalition and to address Ukraine's 2025 requests, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also attended the meeting. In his address, he thanked the coalition countries for the assistance provided through the Contact Group. General Jashari also had a meeting during this forum with General Christopher Cavoli, Commander of U.S. Forces for Europe. Both reiterated the importance of bilateral and

multilateral cooperation in the service of Euro-Atlantic peace and security. Kosovo continues to support Ukraine through the training of Ukrainian combat forces in the field of demining and has frequently donated equipment, vehicles, and large-caliber ammunition. The Ukraine Defense Contact Group is a format for meetings of defense ministers and chiefs from over 50 countries worldwide, forming the large coalition of supporters of Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian aggression.

KSF Leadership Met with Contingent for Operation "INTERFLEX"



The Commander of the KSF, together with the Minister of Defense, hosted a meeting with the KSF contingent that will participate in the "INTERFLEX" Operation. The Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant Bashkim Jashari, together with the Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, hosted a meeting with the KSF contingent that will participate in the "INTERFLEX" Operation, which will take place in the United Kingdom to train Ukrainian troops. On this occasion, the COMKSF

wished success to the KSF contingent during the execution of this operation and, at the same time, urged them to demonstrate professionalism, dedication, and discipline in order for the contingent to represent the Kosovo Security Force and the Republic of Kosovo as best as possible. Operation "INTERFLEX" is a multinational operation aimed at preparing and training the Ukrainian army in their fight to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity against Russian aggression. During this six-month operation led by the United Kingdom, our personnel, along with military members from other countries, will be engaged as instructors in training the Ukrainian Armed Forces in various combat tasks.

Strengthening Cyber Defense through Kosovo-US Cooperation



Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci hosted a meeting with Major General John Phillips, the Director of Communications and Cybernetics of the United States European Command (EUCOM). This visit was part of the bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and the United States in the field of information security and communication. One of the key outcomes of this cooperation is the anticipated Agreement on Communication Interoperability and Security, which is in its final stages of negotiation.

Minister Maqedonci expressed his gratitude for the unwavering support that EUCOM has provided in the development of the Kosovo Security Force's (KSF) capacities, particularly in the areas of communication and cyber defense. He emphasized that this cooperation will continue to strengthen in the future, ensuring

sustainable progress and development for the KSF.

Similarly, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari also met with Major General Phillips and briefed him on the progress made by the KSF in the fields of communication and cyber defense. They discussed potential cyber threats and the importance of enhancing cooperation in this critical sector for the development of the armed forces. Major General Phillips highlighted the importance of collaborating with the KSF on information and communication security and praised Lieutenant General Jashari for the exceptional achievements in the development of the KSF. Both generals agreed to deepen their cooperation in the field of communication through the upcoming Agreement on Communication Interoperability and Security. The relationship between the KSF and its strategic allies, including EUCOM, is essential for the empowerment and development of the force. EUCOM will continue to play a crucial role in enhancing Kosovo's defense and security capabilities.



KSF Participated in "Cyber Unity 25" Exercise



The Kosovo Security Force (KSF), with its Cyber Team, participated in the "Cyber Unity 25" exercise, demonstrating exceptional skills and high-level leadership during this multinational exercise organized by NATO. This activity aimed to strengthen cooperation and preparedness against advanced cyber threats, as well as to exchange experiences and enhance international capacities. The KSF Cyber Team showcased both technical and strategic abilities. On the technical side, they demonstrated high proficiency in identifying and managing complex cyber incidents, setting high standards for teamwork and technical expertise. Strategically, the team displayed excellent leadership and managerial skills in cyber crisis scenarios, making the right

decisions under pressure and ensuring effective coordination between tactical actions and strategic objectives. This exercise highlighted the importance of international cooperation in the fight against cyber threats. The KSF Cyber Team represented Kosovo with professionalism, dedication, and high dignity. Their performance in this activity not only reflects the preparedness and commitment of the Kosovo Security Force but also strengthens Kosovo's position as an active contributor to global cyber security.

Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylja and Major General Enver Cikaqi Participated in Memorial Ceremony for the Victims of the Reçak Massacre

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Reçak Massacre, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, accompanied by the Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Major General Enver Cikaqi; the Chief of Staff at the General Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi; the Commander of the KSF Doctrine and Training Command, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj; and other KSF officers, participated in the memorial ceremony to honor the memory of the victims of this severe tragedy that shocked the world and marked a historical turning point for Kosovo. On this occasion, they paid homage



and laid wreaths at the Memorial Complex in Reçak, in honor of the 45 innocent civilians who were killed and massacred. With their presence, they expressed deep respect for the innocent victims of this massacre and their enduring solidarity with their families.

“Remembering Reçak remains a symbol of the sacrifice and commitment of our people for freedom and dignity,” emphasized Deputy Minister Shemsi Sylja. He emphasized that the Ministry of Defense and Kosovo Security Force, as heirs of the values of resistance and freedom, will continue to be dedicated to maintaining peace, security, and the remembrance of our history.

Inaugural Captain's Career Course Launched at Officer School



Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, together with the Director of NALT, Brigadier General Christian Nawrat, visited the Officer School, which, within the framework of the Defense Academy of the Doctrine and Training Command, has begun the implementation of the Captain's Career Course for the first time. The purpose of the Captain's Career Course is to develop knowledge in the Military Decision-Making Process for leadership at the company level in operational environments, focusing on tactical,

technical, and leadership skills. The course is designed to prepare officers with leadership capabilities, tactical and operational expertise, knowledge in specialized branches, joint operations, as well as staff officer expertise, thus fulfilling the goals and objectives of the Kosovo Security Force to increase the capacities of the Command of Doctrine and Training.



Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci Participated in Oath-Taking Ceremony of Command Course Cadets in Albania

At the invitation of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Albania, Pirro Vengu, Minister Maqedonci today participated in the oath-taking ceremony of the cadets of the Command Course, held at the Special Operations Regiment in Zallher. The soldiers from Kosovo, after successfully completing this highly challenging course, will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained to the development of the Kosovo Security Force and the defense of the country. Together for a more prepared and stronger army.

Kosovo and the Netherlands Sign Bilateral Defense Plan 2025

The Bilateral Defense Plan for 2025 was signed at the Ministry of Defense between the Republic of Kosovo and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The plan was signed by Lieutenant Colonel Liridon Poroshtica, a representative from the Department of International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration, and the Defense Attaché for Kosovo from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Lieutenant Colonel Jurgen Fleischmann.



KSF Contingent Participated in "Winter EX 2025"

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Contingent has joined partner forces in the international exercise "Winter EX 2025," led by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF). The KSF is participating in this exercise as part of bilateral cooperation and the invitation received from TAF. The "Winter EX 2025" Field Exercise is a multilateral activity with broad participation from partner countries, security agencies, and governmental and non-governmental organizations of Turkey, focusing on operational and tactical aspects in extreme weather conditions and within the territorial borders of Turkey.



The participation of the KSF in the exercise aims to enhance and advance the operational and professional capabilities of the units, as well as to improve interoperability in joint operations with partners.

The Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Hosted Meeting with Deputy Commander of Allied Joint Force Command in Naples



Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (COMKSF), hosted a meeting with Lieutenant General Peter K. Scott, Deputy Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command in Naples (DCOM JFCNP). General Jashari briefed General Scott on the regional security situation, the KSF's achievements under the Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP), and the development of KSF's operational capabilities. General Jashari highlighted the KSF's international contributions to peace and security, including their support for Ukraine in the "INTERFLEX" operation and EOD training. Both generals agreed to strengthen cooperation between the KSF and KFOR. General Scott congratulated General Jashari for his work and commitment in the development and professional advancement of

the KSF.

KSF Participated in International Exercise "Combined Resolve 25"



The Kosovo Security Force participated with a contingent in the international exercise "Combined Resolve 25," which was held at the U.S. military base in Hohenfels, Germany. This exercise aimed to test and assess the readiness of NATO combat units, as well as prepare partner countries for joint operations and interoperability. The KSF joined the exercise at the invitation of the U.S. Army, aiming to enhance professionalism, strengthen interoperability with partner countries, and increase readiness to operate in a multinational combined environment. Additionally, participation in "Combined

Resolve 25" offered the opportunity to exchange experiences with the military forces of NATO countries and other participating partner states. This engagement reflected the KSF's commitment to contributing to security and stability at the international level, as well as advancing operational capabilities to the highest military standards.

U.S. European Command Donated Shooting Range to KSF



As part of the cooperation with the United States of America, the acceptance of the shooting range in Babaj of Bokës, Municipality of Gjakova, has been completed—a valuable donation from the U.S. Army Europe Command. This range, equipped with modern technology and licensed for use, has successfully passed the necessary inspections and

tests, providing safe conditions for the development of shooting activities with firearms. This project is a testament to the close cooperation and support of the U.S. Army for the development of the security and defense capabilities of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Based on the objectives of the Minister of Defense and the directives of the Commander of the KSF, in Babaj of Bokës, the opening of roads by the KSF's Military Engineering Regiment has been carried out and continues to be executed. This is part of the overall investments for the ranges that will be built this year and in the future. Additionally, other investments have been made from the Ministry of Defense/KSF budget in the construction of bridges and supporting infrastructure. These investments are planned to continue throughout this year and in the coming years. Furthermore, for the construction of these ranges, we have received support from our strategic partners, specifically the United States through EUCOMIT and the U.S. Army Europe and Africa, coordinated by the Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) at the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo. The range will be used by the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and U.S. forces for the development of training and other shooting activities, ensuring that KSF personnel and their partners are prepared and trained to face security challenges.



KSF's Partners Support Enhancement of Operational Capabilities

As part of the cooperation with the Turkish Armed Forces, aimed at enhancing operational capabilities, Turkish army instructors conducted sniper training at the Ground Forces Regiment of the Kosovo Security Force.



KSF Trained GIZ Personnel



At the International Training Center for Search and Rescue, First Aid Training was successfully conducted for members of the international and local personnel of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit" (GIZ), including participants from Kosovo and North Macedonia. This intensive training focused on life-saving techniques, emergency response, and practical first aid skills, aiming to increase the participants' preparedness for handling critical situations. During the five days of training, participants had the opportunity to practice various rescue and first aid techniques in realistic scenarios, strengthening their professional skills.

KSF Officers Graduate from Defense and Security College in Albania



As part of the cooperation with the Republic of Albania, six officers of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) have successfully completed their training at the Defense Academy of the Defense and Security College in the Basic Staff Officer Course (BSOC) in Albania. This course prepares battalion staff officers, providing knowledge at the brigade level and training officers in decision-making processes and troop management. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania continuously support the professional development of KSF military personnel, strengthening global security and defense.

Ministry of Defense Celebrates Retirement of Public Relations Director-Ibrahim Shala



The Ministry of Defense held a ceremony to honor Ibrahim Shala, Director of the Public Relations Office, upon his retirement. Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci expressed deep gratitude for Shala's dedication and contribution to Kosovo's state-building and the positive image of the Ministry and the KSF. He presented Shala with a certificate of appreciation. "Thanks to his tireless commitment, Director Shala has made an extraordinary contribution to strengthening and building the positive image that the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force enjoy today, leaving an indelible legacy for future generations. I thank Director Ibrahim Shala for his distinguished service and wish him a peaceful and well-deserved retirement," emphasized Minister Maqedonci.

Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, also presented an appreciation on behalf of the KSF Commander.

Colleagues and family members attended the ceremony to wish Shala a peaceful and well-deserved retirement, acknowledging his lasting impact on the Ministry and the KSF.