



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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KSF CONTINGENT JOINS INTERFLEX OPERATION FOR UKRAINIAN ARMY TRAINING



The Ministry of Defense held the departing ceremony of the Kosovo Security Force Contingent in the Operation INTERFLEX, which is being carried out in coordination with the United Kingdom, in support and preparation of the military personnel of Ukraine. The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, on this occasion said that this marks another success of the KSF and another achievement of the Ministry of Defense and the Republic of Kosovo, stressing that the participation of the KSF teams, within the Operation INTERFLEX, for the training and preparation of the Ukrainian military, shows the confidence that the United Kingdom, as the leader of this multinational activity, has in the dedication, integrity and professional preparation of the members of the KSF.



Meanwhile, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, expressed his gratefulness that through the excellent cooperation between the KSF and the British Army, was made possible to send this contingent of KSF soldiers as instructors in the INTERFLEX operation. He emphasized that we have an obligation to help the people of Ukraine in their efforts for freedom, just as our allies have helped us and stood by us, in the most difficult times, and that this important mission and similar missions in which the KSF is engaged, are clearly showing that day by day Kosovo is changing from a consumer of security to a contributor of peace in the world and genuine democratic values. The Deputy Ambassador of the

United Kingdom to the Republic of Kosovo, Paul O'Connor, also addressed those present at the ceremony, who expressed his satisfaction that Kosovo has supported and demonstrated full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people since the beginning of the war. This ceremony was attended by the

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, the Deputy Minister of the MoD, Shemsi Sylaj, the Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, the Deputy



Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Republic of Kosovo, Paul O'Connor, Director of NALT, Brigadier General, Ralf Hammerstein, Deputy Secretary General of the MoD, Gafurr Dugolli, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, Brigadier General Hysen Dreshaj, as well as senior officials and officers of the MoD and KSF, as well as the United Kingdom.



Operation INTERFLEX takes place in the United Kingdom and is aimed at training troops of the Ukrainian Army. The Ministry of Defense and the KSF have offered the readiness to engage instructors to assist the training process of the Ukrainian Army within this operation. This commitment of the Kosovo Security Force is in line with the position of the institutions of Kosovo in support of the people and the just war of Ukraine.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE SIGN MILITARY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



The Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Türkiye signed a Military Framework Agreement through which the deepening of military cooperation in many directions is expected. The signing of this agreement took place in Türkiye between the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci and the Minister of National Defense of Türkiye, Yaşar Güler.

The exchange of military personnel, education, joint training, investment in the defense industry, as well as

the health treatment of KSF members in Türkiye, were some of the issues that the ministers discussed, and that through the signed agreement paves the way for the process for their realization. “In addition to the cultural connection between our two countries, there is already a close cooperation in the military aspect, in order to jointly contribute to the preservation of peace and stability in the region and beyond”, emphasized Minister Maqedonci. During the official visit to the Republic of Türkiye, the Minister of





Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, was received in a meeting by the Chief of General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, General Metin Gürak. In the meeting, they discussed the security situation in Kosovo, the cooperation with the Turkish contingent of KFOR, as well as exhausted the possibilities for joint training and exercises between the forces of both countries. Among other things, it was discussed about the development of the KSF, the need to increase military capacities and the continuation of investment in armaments through G-to-G purchases, in which direction Turkish companies remain reliable and serious collaborators. Also, during this visit the minister visited the Turkish Special Forces Command, whereupon he was received in a meeting by the Commander of the Special Forces, General Ömer Ertuğrul Erbakan. During

the meeting, it was discussed about the training programs of the Turkish Special Forces that the KSF Special Forces soldiers can attend. Minister Maqedonci thanked General Erbakan for the support so far, while they agreed to continue

cooperation in order to advance the professional capacities of the KSF. In this visit, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, visited the Anitkabir Mausoleum, the place where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Türkiye, rests in peace, as well as the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Türkiye, where they met Ambassador Agon Vrenezi, who informed him about the Embassy's commitments, as well as the cooperation with the partner state - Türkiye, as an important ally of Kosovo in many fields. Minister Maqedonci thanked Ambassador Vrenezi for his diplomatic commitment, in the service of state interests.





PRIME MINISTER ALBIN KURTI VISITED THE KSF ON THE NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo Albin Kurti, together with the Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and other dignitaries have visited the “Adem Jashari” Barracks to wish the military personnel a good year. Prime Minister Kurti has congratulated the members of the KSF on the New Year, wishing them health and happiness, as well as reiterating the commitment of the Government of Kosovo to unsparingly support the development of the defense capacities of our country.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI RECEIVED IN A MEETING THE COMMANDER OF KFOR, MAJOR GENERAL ÖZKAN ULUTAŞ

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted the KFOR commander, Major General Özkan Ulutaş, with whom they discussed current and important topics for the country, in particular the security situation. On this occasion, Minister Maqedonci expressed his gratitude for the contribution of KFOR to the



security of the country and beyond, in particular for the increase of patrols on the border line with Serbia, after the situation created at the end of September last year. Also, in this meeting, the minister Maqedonci informed the KFOR commander about the current processes that the Ministry of Defense and the KSF are going through. Both interlocutors expressed the importance of cooperation between the two institutions, in which case the KFOR commander emphasized that he is satisfied with the level of cooperation he has with the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, within the framework of their mandates as well as with all other security institutions in the Republic of Kosovo. They agreed to continue contacts and mutual coordination on issues of common interest, within the framework of current developments and their impact on the security environment.

MINISTER MAQEDONCI RECEIVED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN NATO AS WELL AS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN KOSOVO, NICHOLAS ABBOTT

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, received the representatives of the United Kingdom in NATO, as well as the ambassador of the United Kingdom in Kosovo, Nicholas Abbott, who for several years with his excellent work served to increase the cooperation of the Republic of Kosovo with United Kingdom in the field of defense and security. In the farewell meeting with Ambassador Abbott, minister Maqedonci thanked him for the continuous and very important support that the United Kingdom has given to Kosovo in building the capacities of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, as well as especially for the contribution to the lifting of visas for the civilian and military personnel of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. The minister emphasized the fact that the British state has been and is an ally of Kosovo in the construction, development and advancement of our country, as well as the preservation of democratic values and that Ambassador Abbott will remain a lifelong friend of the Republic of Kosovo.



THE TRAINING ORGANIZED BY ODC AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS SUCCESFULLY COMPLETED



More than 30 participants from the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, as well as from the security agencies in the country, participated in the training, entitled “Management of purchases, contracts and life cycle management”. The five-day training was organised by the Institute for Security and Governance (ISG) and International Defense Acquisition Resource

Management (IDARM).

The focus of the workshop was to examine the fundamental concepts and challenges associated with managing acquisition projects in the defense field. Participants have critically reviewed, engaged and applied various detailed elements of project management as an integral part of the project. Also, project cycle phases and key decision points were discussed and addressed, including the identification of project goals and products, budget and technical aspects, as well as the organization of a series of exercises in working groups to develop the concepts presented in the scenarios.

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE KOSOVO PHARMACISTS CHAMBER HAVE SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



The Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Pharmacists Chamber have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which aims to develop close cooperation between the two institutions, based on their organizational functions.

This memorandum was signed by the commander of the Medical Regiment OF KSF, colonel Xhevdet Tahiraj and the chairman of the Kosovo Pharmacists Chamber, Kadri Bytyqi. On this occasion, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, was present. Through this agreement, among other things, cooperation between the Ministry of

Defense and the KSF, namely the Medical Regiment and the Kosovo Pharmacists Chamber is foreseen for the improvement of the position of pharmacists in military institutions and the advancement of pharmaceutical services in the Ministry of Defense and subordinate her bodies. Also, the KSF will start preparations for the creation of new cadres of special military specializations of pharmacists, who exercise their activity within the Kosovo Security Force.

THE TABLE EXERCISE “KAMENICA 2024” WAS HELD

In the hall of the Municipal Assembly of Kamenica, a table exercise was carried out in the field of natural disasters and other disasters. At the request of the mayor of the Municipality of Kamenica, Kadri Rahimaj, the exercise was planned and carried out by the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. The Mayor of the Municipality participated in this exercise together with the directors of the directorates and all the representatives of other institutions and organizations, who are members of the Municipal Committee for Protection and Rescue (Emergency Headquarters). On this occasion, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, was also present at the exercise. This table exercise, titled “Kamenica 24”, was a flood scenario. The main objective of the exercise was: Testing the plans, procedures, protocols, agreements and memoranda of the Municipality of Kamenica, for the management of natural disasters and other disasters, focusing on risk assessment, scenarios for exercises, shelters and evacuation and shelter plans as well as in the management of shelters, taking into account the provision of basic living conditions to citizens affected by floods.



KSF DEPUTY COMMANDER RECEIVED TURKISH CONTINGENT COMMANDER

The deputy commander of the KSF, major general Enver Cikaqi, received for a meeting the commander of the Turkish contingent, Colonel Sabri Gökhan Karamürsel. General Cikaqi has thanked Colonel Karamürsel for his visit and has highly appreciated the contribution of the army and the Turkish state for the help it has given and is giving to the KSF, in raising operational and technical capacities, General Cikaqi and Colonel Karamürsel pledged to the continuation of cooperation as two security institutions for the benefit of peace and security in the country. In the meeting also took part discussions on the possibility of cooperation and exchange of experiences between the KSF and the Turkish contingent serving in Kosovo.



THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE KSF, RECEIVED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, today hosted the representatives from the United Kingdom accredited to NATO, Mr. Robert Oorthuysen – Dunne, and Kai Bilimoria the adviser Mr. Ben Lucy, the United Kingdom Military Attaché in Kosovo Colonel Edward Johan Green and Lieutenant Colonel Steve Forrest. General Cikaqi has thanked for their visit to the Kosovo Security Force, expressing the high regard for the help that the United Kingdom has given in all phases of Kosovo's development, and in particular for the KSF, which has continuously supported the KSF with training, education, education, joint missions, and recently the Interflex operation.



BRIGADE GENERAL ILIR QERIQI HOSTED IN A FAREWELL MEETING MAJOR DANIEL MCCARTHY, LIAISON OFFICER OF KFOR WITH KSF

General Qeriqi thanked Major McCarthy for his service during the time he was on duty as KFOR's liaison officer with KSF, who contributed to the coordination between KSF and KFOR. The meeting was also attended by the newly appointed liaison officer Major Richard Hampson, to whom General Qeriqi wished welcome and success in his new assignment. On behalf of the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General



Bashkim Jashari, General Qeriqi decorated Major McCarthy with the “Selfless Service” medal for his dedication and commitment to the coordination between KSF and KFOR.

KSF PART OF THE EUCOM CONFERENCE

The Chief of Staff of the KSF, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, together with the Sergeant Major of the COMKSF Bedri Zuka, have participated in the EUCOM conference with the partner states of the SPP State Partnership Program, at the American Base in Ramstein. The purpose of this conference was to align the objectives of the State Partnership Program in support of the strategy of the American Command for Europe (USEUCOM), with a focus on the synchronization and raising of skills, the alignment of capacities in support of the strategy. On this occasion, General Qeriqi had a bilateral meeting with Brigadier



General Chris A. McKinney from the US European Command, where he presented the vision and areas of cooperation of the KSF and the Iowa National Guard, the development of capacities based on planning and the direction of given by COMKSF Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and General Osborn, also General Qeriqi presented the development of the KSF capacities, the way forward and thanked the American European Command for the support given to the KSF. General McKinney showed his admiration for the development of the capacities and results that the KSF is achieving, and expressed the willingness to support and advance cooperation within the framework of the Partnership Program and the US European Command.

KSF-IOWA NATIONAL GUARD PARTNERSHIP

According to the instructions from the commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and Major General Stephen E. Osborn IOWA Guard, and within the framework of the Partnership between the KSF and the IOWA National Guard, the joint workshop for the design of the training plan and joint activities for the next 3 years, according to the lines of effort. The organized workshop was carried out by the staffs of the two forces under the leadership of the Operations and Training Department of (G3/7 KSFGS and J3 IOWA), thus establishing an agenda for the realization of many joint,



training, educational activities in the exchange of experiences and the establishment of partnerships that the Kosovo Security Force has with the Iowa National Guard. At the end of the workshop, the final briefing was held for the Chief of Staff of the GS, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, on this occasion General Qeriqi expressed his thanks for the tireless work that the US is doing in order to increase the capacities of the KSF, as well as congratulate all the participants for this activity, their work and commitment with high commitment throughout the week, as well as emphasized the great importance of this three-year planning for the development of the skills and capacities of the KSF in fulfilling the mission.

THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF KFOR VISITED THE NATIONAL GUARD OF KSF



Deputy Commander of KFOR Brigadier General Federic Bernacca and Deputy Director of NALT, Paul Shewry was received by the Commander of the National Guard Brigadier General Naim Haziri where they were informed about the operational intervention and training capacities of the National Guard. During the meeting, special focus was on the cooperation between the KSF/National Guard and KFOR in the fields of crisis response as well as the orientation of future cooperation in order to provide a safer environment for the citizens of Kosovo. On this occasion, they visited the Search

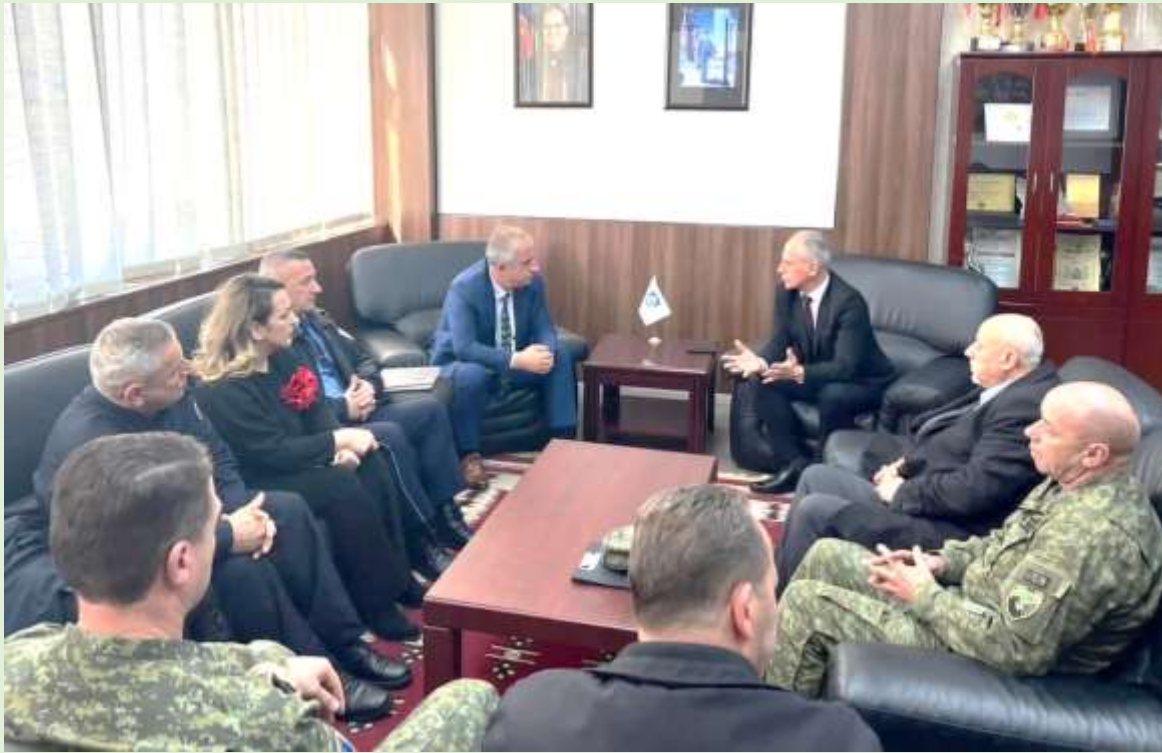
and Rescue International Training Center of the National Guard, where they were welcomed by the Director of this center, John Doon, who informed the participants of the capacities and training spaces that this center offers for the training of National and International Security Institutions in search and rescue fields including mountain, urban and water search and rescue.

THE "HARR 66" TRAINING IS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

In the framework of the cooperation with the Turkish army, the “HARR 66” training, carried out by the instructors of the Turkish army, has been completed at the training ground in Babaj Bokës. The one-week training was aimed at increasing the combat capacities of the KSF personnel, from the Regiment of The Second of the Ground Forces (R2K), where as part of the training plan, real shooting was also carried out to test the skills acquired from the training.



THE DEPUTY MINISTERS OF DEFENSE VISITED THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SUHAREKA, PRIZREN AND DRAGASH



The Deputy Ministers of Defense, Shemsi Sylaj and Adnan Rexhepaj, together with the team from the Ministry of Defense, have visited the municipality of Suhareka, the municipality of Prizren and Dragash. The purpose of the visit was to deepen cooperation and military support for civil authorities, as the second mission of the Kosovo Security Force in the field of managing natural disasters and other disasters.

Discussions took place with the mayor of the

municipality of Suhareka, Bali Muharremaj, the mayor of the municipality of Prizren, Shaqir Totaj and that of Dragash, Bexhet Xheladini, on the provision of support of the Ministry of Defense in the field of planning, according to the emergency management cycle. Also, during the meetings, the issues of evacuation, the number of shelters and their condition were discussed. On this



occasion, they were offered unreserved support from the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, including training and certification at the International Center for Urban Rescue Research in Pomezan, the center of the KSF and the National Guard, already among the best in Europe and in the world. The mayors of the municipalities and the deputy ministers of Defense pledged for a permanent cooperation in the field of crisis management, natural disasters and other disasters.