



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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The Ministry of Defense Approves the Procurement of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles “Aerovironment RQ-20 Puma” from the United States of America



The Ministry of Defense has accepted the unmanned aerial system “AeroVironment RQ-20 Puma”, procured from the United States of America through the government-to-government Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. These modern capabilities will serve to enhance the operational capacities of the Kosovo Security Force in the field of surveillance and unmanned aerial operations. Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, emphasized the significance of this development, stating that the acceptance of the unmanned aerial vehicles “RQ-20 Puma” represents an important step in enhancing the Kosovo Security Force’s capabilities in the fields of intelligence and reconnaissance. “This is a result of excellent cooperation with the United States of America, our strategic and irreplaceable partner”, Minister Maqedonci stated, among other things. Minister Maqedonci also added that this cooperation is evidence of the continued joint commitment to the development and modernization of the Kosovo Security Force, in accordance with the most advanced international standards.

Minister Maqedonci Highlights Kosovo's Defense Progress at Warsaw Security Forum



Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in the Warsaw Security Forum—one of Europe's most significant international events in the field of defense and security. Minister Maqedonci was accompanied by Chief of Staff to the Minister of Defense, Liridon Iberdemaj, and Director of the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Colonel Ahmet Ajeti. As part of the forum, Minister Maqedonci served as a speaker on the panel titled **"Connected but Protected: The Digital Pillar of Modern Democracy"**, where he emphasized the importance of comprehensive defense, the responsible use of emerging technologies, and the need to counter disinformation and hybrid threats. This year's edition of the forum focused on the multiple and complex security challenges facing Europe, including conventional threats, cyberattacks, disinformation, and hybrid warfare.





During his stay in Warsaw, Minister Maqedonci held a series of important bilateral meetings with high-level representatives from the fields of defense, security, and foreign policy from partner countries.

He met with Member of the European Parliament Michał Szczerba, whom he thanked for his continuous support for Kosovo's membership in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, his advocacy for EU enlargement, and his commitment to supporting Ukraine and strengthening Euro-Atlantic security. The meeting also included discussions on the progress of Kosovo-Poland relations and opportunities for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the future.

Minister Maqedonci also met with Zbigniew Pisarski, President of the Casimir Pulaski Foundation and Co-Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum. The Minister

expressed appreciation for the ongoing cooperation and commended Mr. Pisarski and Professor Katarzyna Pisarska for establishing and developing the forum, which has become an important platform for supporting Ukraine, enhancing European cooperation in the field of security, and advancing transatlantic relations.

As part of his participation at the Warsaw Security Forum, Minister Maqedonci also held important meetings with senior American and international military leaders. On this occasion, he met with General Tod Daniel Wolters, former Supreme Allied Commander Europe (2019–2022), and Admiral Mark Montgomery, Senior Director and Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (USA).

During these meetings, Minister Maqedonci presented the progress made in the implementation of the Kosovo Security Force's Transition Plan and discussed further strengthening of defense cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and the United States of America. He expressed his sincere appreciation to both military leaders—proven friends of Kosovo—for their valuable contributions to the development and enhancement of Kosovo's defense capacities.



Minister Maqedonci Attended CEDC Ministerial on Regional Defense Cooperation in Bratislava



The Ministerial Meeting of Defense Ministers from Central and Southeastern Europe, held within the framework of the Central European Defense Cooperation (CEDC) and Western Balkan partner countries in Bratislava, Slovakia, brought together key regional defense leaders. The event was hosted by Slovakia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Robert Kaliňák, who extended an invitation to Kosovo's Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci.

During the meeting, Minister Maqedonci highlighted Kosovo's strong commitment to the Euro-Atlantic integration path, including aspirations for NATO and EU membership. He provided an update on the development of Kosovo's defense capabilities, emphasizing their alignment and interoperability with NATO standards. The Minister underscored the government's investment in building military capacities aimed at protecting Kosovo's territory and citizens, while also contributing to regional and global peace and security. A particular focus of the ministerial meeting was cooperation within the defense industry and exploring opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration. Kosovo reaffirmed its dedication to strengthening its role in regional and broader security through sustained defense and security investments.



KSF Commander Advocates for Kosovo's Full Membership at U.S.–Adriatic Charter A-5 Conference



The 28th conference was held in Tirana with the participation of Chiefs of Defense from neighboring countries and Adjutants General from National Guards across the region. Led by the Commander of U.S. European Command (EUCOM) / SACEUR, the conference was co-chaired by Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina. On the sidelines, attendees emphasized the need to boost regional cooperation to tackle common security challenges and underscored the role of civil-military cooperation in addressing multifaceted security issues. In his address, LTG Jashari reiterated the importance of Kosovo's full membership in the initiative, asserting that it would enhance peace and security in the Western Balkans. During the event, he held bilateral meetings with General Alexis G. Grynkeiwich, Commander of EUCOM/SACEUR, and with Lieutenant General Arben Kingji, Chief of the General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces.



Minister Maqedonci and Ambassador Laaksonen Discuss Enhancing Kosovo–Finland Defense Relations

Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted an introductory meeting with the new Ambassador of Finland to the Republic of Kosovo, Eevamari Laaksonen. During the meeting, they discussed the existing cooperation between Kosovo and Finland, highlighting Finland's unique strategic role in the stability, security, and Euro-Atlantic perspective of Kosovo and the wider region. It was emphasized that Finland, known for having one of the most advanced education systems and one of the best-prepared militaries in Europe, is an important strategic partner for the Republic of Kosovo. "Finland, with its outstanding education system and highly capable military, represents a crucial partner for

cooperation with Kosovo. We agreed that our excellent bilateral relations will continue to develop further," Minister Maqedonci stated.

Minister Maqedonci and General Jashari Met with U.S. ISG Team to Advance Defense Cooperation



Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, accompanied by the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, along with senior officials and officers from the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, hosted a meeting with the International Security Governance (ISG) team from the United States of America. The ISG team stayed in Kosovo to support the Ministry of Defense and the KSF in conducting a tabletop exercise (TTX) focused on the logistics

field. “Together with the ISG and KSF teams, we were briefed on the execution of this exercise. The outcomes will be thoroughly analyzed at all levels and implemented by the respective departments of the MoD and KSF,” Minister Maqedonci emphasized. The ISG team, deployed by the U.S. Government, serves in an advisory capacity and has provided outstanding support over the years in the development of both the Ministry and the Kosovo Security Force.



Strengthening Ties and Honoring Service: Kosovo Bids Farewell to UK Defense Attaché



Deputy Minister of Defense Shemsi Sylaj recently hosted a farewell meeting with the United Kingdom's Defense Attaché to Kosovo, Lieutenant Colonel Edward John Green, marking the end of his mission. Deputy Minister Sylaj expressed sincere gratitude for Lieutenant Colonel Green's dedication and valuable contributions to Kosovo's defense sector. He highlighted the important role the UK has played in supporting Kosovo's military development through training, education, and joint exercises. During his tenure, Lieutenant Colonel Green helped facilitate Kosovo Security Force (KSF) participation in training Ukrainian soldiers in the UK, a key contribution to international security efforts. His work has been instrumental in strengthening bilateral military relations and advancing

KSF capabilities.

Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari also met with Lieutenant Colonel Green to acknowledge his service and cooperation. They discussed plans for further development of the KSF, focusing on procurement, joint training, and NATO interoperability. Both leaders emphasized the ongoing commitment to deepening defense cooperation between Kosovo and the United Kingdom. Lieutenant Colonel Green expressed his gratitude for the warm partnership and reaffirmed the UK's continued support for Kosovo's defense progress.



KSF Honors the Memory of 9/11 Terror Attack Victims

In a gesture of remembrance and respect for the victims of terrorism in the United States, units of the Kosovo Security Force lowered flags to half-mast across all KSF garrisons, commemorating the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The KSF and the people of Kosovo will always stand with our friends through hardship and in celebration.



Official Visit of the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Defense to the United States of America



As part of the ongoing bilateral cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo and the Iowa National Guard, and upon the invitation of the Inspector General of the Iowa National Guard, a delegation from the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Defense conducted an official visit to the United States of America.

The delegation was led by Major General Irfete Spahiu and accompanied by Colonel Bryant, NALT advisor. The delegation also included Colonel Ramiz Bytyqi, Major Vilson Musaj, and Warrant Officer Jeton Ramadani. During the one-week visit, the team was hosted by Major General Stephen Osborn, Commander of the Iowa National Guard. A dedicated working meeting was held between Major General Osborn and Major General Spahiu to discuss institutional collaboration and best practices in oversight and inspection.

The visit began with an official welcome from the General Inspectorate team of the Iowa National Guard, led by Colonel Peters and Lieutenant Colonel Mosby. Following the opening remarks, both parties delivered presentations, which were followed by a training session on the Command Inspection Program (CIP). This training served as preparation for a joint inspection conducted on September 13–14 by the 185th Training Regiment.

The delegation also carried out an informational visit to the Air Forces of the Iowa National Guard, where they received detailed briefings on the structure's mission, responsibilities, and capabilities. During the visit, the Kosovo delegation participated in the Best Warrior Competition ceremony, where three members of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) were among the competitors. The delegation also visited the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, where Major General Spahiu personally addressed the veterans housed there. Another significant visit took place at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge, providing the delegation with deeper insights into the military history and legacy of Iowa. At the conclusion of the visit, the delegation of the General Inspectorate visited the Consulate of the Republic of Kosovo in Des Moines, where they engaged in discussions on further strengthening cooperation between Kosovo institutions and American partners.



Ministry of Defense Hosted Workshop on Drafting Kosovo's National Resilience Strategy



The Ministry of Defense in cooperation with the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) and other strategic partners, hosted a workshop focused on the development of the National Resilience Strategy. The event followed the “National Resilience” conference held in January 2025 and aimed to further advance inter-institutional cooperation in support of implementing Kosovo’s national resilience framework.

The workshop was formally opened by Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylaj, who emphasized that building national resilience was a strategic necessity in addressing the diverse challenges of the modern era, including natural disasters, health emergencies, and complex security threats. He highlighted that an effective response to such challenges required a coordinated, whole-of-government approach and strong collaboration with international partners. He also stressed the importance of developing a sustainable model to ensure rapid response and effective societal recovery.

The event brought together key stakeholders, including Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, Mr. Gafurr Dugolli;



NATO expert, Ms. Beaudine Verhoek; Military Advisor to the President of Kosovo, Brigadier General Dr. Sefer Isufi; as well as representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Kosovo Security Council, line ministries, and other national and international institutions. During the workshop, participants discussed the importance of harmonizing the inter-institutional legal framework, addressed the need for improved coordination mechanisms, and agreed on the establishment of a Working Group responsible for drafting the National

Resilience Strategy. In his closing remarks, Secretary Dugolli expressed his gratitude to all attendees for their contributions and reaffirmed the importance of this process in strengthening Kosovo’s national response capabilities to future crises. He also noted that such efforts directly support the advancement of collective security at both the national and regional levels.

Kosovo Enhances International Defense Cooperation at DSEI UK 2025

An official delegation from the Ministry of Defense of Kosovo and the Kosovo Security Force, led by the Director of the Department for Policy and Strategy, Azem Smajli, participated in the International Defense and Security Exhibition DSEI UK 2025, held in London from 8 to 13 September 2025. The delegation attended at the invitation of the United Kingdom



Ministry of Defense. Accompanying the delegation was the bilateral advisor from the United Kingdom to the Ministry of Defense, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Butler. This exhibition is one of the largest and most prestigious events globally in the

defense industry sector, bringing together over 1,600 manufacturers and advanced technology providers from around 70 countries. The event featured exhibitions and presentations of military systems and equipment, advanced security technologies, intelligent cyber defense solutions, military transportation, air and naval systems, and many other areas that contribute to the modernization and strengthening of national defense capabilities. The United Kingdom Ministry of Defense hosts this major event every two years, aiming to enhance international cooperation in defense, promote innovative technologies, and foster strategic partnerships between states and industry. In addition to participating in the exhibition, the delegation held important official meetings with representatives from the UK Ministry of Defense, prominent British companies, and other international manufacturers. Discussions focused on the strategic needs and projects of the MoD and KSF, opportunities for cooperation and support in the defense industry, and the provision of professional assistance to advance military capabilities and acquire modern equipment. During their stay in London, the delegation, accompanied by the Defense Attaché to the United Kingdom, Colonel Agron Bajrami, visited the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo, where they were received by Ambassador Ilir Kapiti. This visit marked an important step in strengthening cooperation between Kosovo and the United Kingdom, contributing to enhancing the country's security and defense capabilities and opening new prospects for the development of the defense sector.



KSF and Iowa National Guard Leadership Discuss Strategic Cooperation and Future Plans



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received Major General Stephen Osborn, the Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, in an official visit. General Jashari briefed General Osborn on KSF's current operations, the validation preparation process, and lessons learned from joint training at JRTC. Meanwhile, General Osborn expressed satisfaction with past cooperation and plans for future initiatives. They lauded the cooperation under the State Partnership Program between Kosovo and Iowa—as a success story that has progressed further

through joint planning on a three-year timeframe. General Osborn thanked KSF leadership for the warm welcome, praised the noticeable progress of KSF, and reaffirmed his support for Kosovo's strategic objectives and further development of operational capabilities. According to the joint agenda, LTG Jashari and MG Osborn were scheduled to participate in the Adriatic Charter A-5 Conference in Tirana.

KSF Participated in the International Exercise “Saber Junction 25”

At the invitation of the United States Army, the Kosovo Security Force deployed a contingent to join U.S. partner nations in the field exercise “Saber Junction 25,” held in Hohenfels, Federal Republic of Germany. The exercise aims to test and evaluate the readiness of Infantry Brigade Combat Teams and other units, demonstrating professionalism and interoperability with partner nations. The KSF participated with an Infantry Company and a CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) squad, showcasing its capabilities and commitment to working alongside allied countries.



The KSF Engineer Regiment and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania Conducted Joint Training

Instructors from the Kosovo Security Force's Engineer Regiment conducted training on the construction of "Mabey Johnson" military bridges for engineers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA). This training was organized under bilateral agreements between the two armed forces in areas of common interest, focusing on developing and advancing military capabilities. The Defense Attaché of AFRA, Colonel Beqir Tafili, together with the Commander of the KSF Engineer Regiment, OF-4 Agron Xhekaj, visited the troops during the training, emphasizing the importance of mutual support and cooperation between the two forces.



Joint Training Advances Mountain Search and Rescue Capabilities of KSF and AFRA

As part of bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Albania, the KSF's International Training Center for Search and Rescue conducted advanced mountain search and rescue training involving personnel from both the KSF and AFRA. The training took place in challenging terrain—at the Guri i Plakës rappelling tower, the Mountain House in Prizren, the "Panorama" Via Ferrata, and Lake Jazhinica. Participants were trained in rope handling, alpine climbing and rappelling techniques, mountain navigation, first aid and trauma management under difficult conditions, and the evacuation of wounded personnel from steep terrain. This training marked an important step in improving KSF's capability to respond to mountainous rescue situations and strengthened interoperability between the two forces.



KSF and AFRA Strengthen Logistics Cooperation



As part of the logistic cooperation between the KSF and AFRA, a delegation from the AFRA Support Command—led by Brigadier General Aleksandër Pando—visited KSF’s Logistics Command. They were hosted by Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci, Deputy Commander of the Logistics Command, who briefed the delegation on achievements, challenges, capacity development, organizational structure, logistical and medical support activities, and ongoing developments in these fields. They also toured the heavy vehicle maintenance service to observe upkeep capabilities firsthand. During the visit, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation and advancing logistic

and medical capabilities through bilateral plans and exchange of experience and best practices.

Strengthening Strategic Partnership: KSF Visits German Bundeswehr Officer School

As part of bilateral cooperation between Kosovo and Germany, a delegation from the Doctrine and Training Command—composed of Colonel Nevzad Asllani, Lieutenant Colonel Bashkim Hamdiu, and Captain Ylli Dalladaku—conducted an official visit to the Bundeswehr Officer School in Dresden, Germany. The delegation received detailed briefings on the school’s organizational structure, programs, and infrastructure. They also met with the Commander of the Officer School, Brigadier General Stephan Willer, who expressed strong support for the education and training of KSF officers. During the visit, the delegation met with KSF cadets currently studying at the school and toured cultural and historical sites related to the Bundeswehr’s development and military history. This visit further



strengthens cooperation between the two officer schools and opens opportunities for expanding collaboration in military education and the exchange of professional experience. The ongoing commitment to development and cooperation reinforces the strategic ties between the KSF and the German Armed Forces.

Kosovo, Albania, and Türkiye Collaborate on Advanced Urban Disaster Response Training

Within the framework of cooperation with Albania and Türkiye, the “Advanced Urban Search and Rescue” training was conducted at the KSF’s International Training Center for Search and Rescue. The participants included personnel from

the Armed Forces of Albania, the Armed Forces of Türkiye, and the KSF. The training covered topics essential for responding to natural and man-made disasters: planning rescue operations in urban settings, teamwork in rescue missions, using specialized equipment, employing protective gear, delivering first aid in urban disaster scenarios, and more. This initiative continues the vital cooperation aimed at improving urban emergency response capabilities and enhances interoperability among Kosovo, Albania, and Türkiye.



Commander of Kosovo Security Force Meets with SATMO Commander to Strengthen Cooperation



Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, recently held a meeting with Colonel Thomas Melton, Commander of the U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization (SATMO). General Jashari welcomed Colonel Melton and expressed his appreciation for the valuable support and dedication of the SATMO teams in developing and advancing the KSF. He also commended the significant



achievements and professionalism demonstrated by KSF personnel during joint activities with SATMO. The meeting reviewed past cooperation, including SATMO's support in building training capacities and validating KSF units as part of the Force's development plan. They also discussed a three-year roadmap of joint activities, underscoring SATMO's crucial role in enhancing KSF's training and capabilities. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of SATMO's continued assistance in advancing the professionalism and operational readiness of the Kosovo Security Force.

KSF Enhances Operational Capabilities Through Joint Mortar Training with U.S. and Albanian Forces



With support from the U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization (SATMO), the KSF continues advancing its operational and combat support capabilities.

In coordination with SATMO and the Albanian Armed Forces, a tactical mortar firing exercise was conducted in Biza, Albania. The training included theoretical and practical sessions focusing on mortar operations, infantry mortar leadership, and forward observer training. Participants were trained in safe mortar handling, target engagement, firing



procedures, communication between fire elements and units, and exchanged experiences and best practices with international trainers and advisors. This cooperation boosts KSF professionalism and contributes to regional security and stability through synchronized training and ongoing collaboration with partners.

KSF Participated in “International Military Cooperation” in The Hague

Lieutenant Colonel Liridon Poroshtica represented Kosovo at the “International Military Cooperation” training in The Hague, Netherlands, among participants from 22 countries. Due to his leadership qualities, he was selected to lead the participants and delivered a speech at the certification ceremony, thanking the organizers for the invitation and cooperation extended to Kosovo. His participation underscored Kosovo’s contribution to international training, exercises, and conferences, aiding the advancement of the KSF at the global level. The ceremony was led by Admiral Smitt, Director of the Directorate for International Cooperation at the Netherlands’ Ministry of Defense.



KSF Officer Graduates from U.S. Air Defense Artillery Course

Enis Cikaqi has successfully completed the "Air Defense Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course (ADA BOLC)" at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, USA, becoming the first officer from Kosovo to graduate from this program. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our officers, who proudly represent the Republic of Kosovo in international military training programs. Their participation and success in these specialized courses not only enhance the individual skills of the officers but also bring valuable experience to the development and strengthening of the Kosovo Security Force’s capabilities. The Kosovo Security Force remains committed to supporting our officers in their professional development and advancing the standards of national defense and security.



KSF Officer Becomes First International Graduate of U.S. Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course

Lieutenant Colonel Çlirim Gërguri has successfully completed the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course (EBLOC), becoming the first international officer in EBLOC history to qualify and participate in the Sapper Ranger Train-up. He was awarded the prestigious “IMO Ironman Award” for outstanding leadership and management of tasks, field training, excellent marksmanship, and academic performance. Successfully completing the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course is a significant achievement both individually and institutionally. The Kosovo Security Force remains committed to supporting our officers in their professional development and advancing the standards of national defense and security.

