REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

NEWSLETTER

July-August 2023

EJUP MAQEDONCI, THE NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

At the Ministry of Defense, on August 8, was held the ceremony of hand-over of the Minister of Defense, where the current Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, handed over his duties to the new Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci. On the occasion of the appointment, the Prime Minister of the country, Albin Kurti, wished him success in the advancement of defense and security, in the development and construction of our army.

On this occasion, former Minister Mehaj wished health and success in his work to his successor, Minister Maqedonci, expressing his conviction that the achievements of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF will be further advanced towards full fulfillment of their constitutional and legal aspirations and mission.

In this ceremony, the new Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, praised the work so far, the contribution and achievements of the Ministry during the time when Mr. Mehaj was a Minister. Minister Maqedonci affirmed that he will engage with full dedication in continuing projects, deepening good relations with our allies and strategic partners, in fulfilling the objectives and goals of the Ministry, thus developing a professional army, based on the highest standards of the armies of NATO member countries, in the service of regional peace, security and stability and beyond.

On the occasion of the taking over the duty, the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, met the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, whom she congratulated and wished him success in his work. President Osmani praised the achievements so far in the development of the Kosovo Security Force, while she emphasized the importance of further engagement in the advancement of the KSF in the full development of professional and operational capacities

in accordance with NATO standards.On the other hand, Minister Maqedonci said that considering the constitutional and legal role of President Osmani as the supreme commander of the KSF, cooperation and mutual coordination will be further intensified in the development of the army, the welfare of the soldiers and equality through the implementation of appropriate policies within the Ministry and the KSF.

After the appointment, Minister Maqedonci was congratulated by his counterparts from the Republic of Albania, Niko Peleshi, from the Republic of Croatia, Mario Banožić and the Chief of Staff of the Central Headquarters of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Major General Yousef A. AL Hnaity.

In a congratulatory letter, Minister Peleshi reconfirmed that the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Albania will continue its full commitment to support and support the Ministry of Defense and the KSF in the path of transformation, modernization and integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures. While expressing the conviction that the excellent cooperation based on mutual friendship and understanding between our two institutions will continue with the same pace and dedication, with the aim of realizing our joint projects. In the letter of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Mario Banožić, appreciates the excellent partnership that exists between the two countries based on respect and understanding. While emphasizing Croatia's strong support for Kosovo in the journey towards membership in the Euro-Atlantic organizations, as well as the development of the Kosovo Security Force through the exchange of experience, knowledge and the provision of training and military education.Minister Banožić expresses full confidence that the excellent cooperation between the two ministries will continue during the Minister Maqedonci's mandate, with the aim of strengthening regional stability as well as the further development of ties in the political, defense and economic fields.

While the Chief of Staff of the Central Headquarters of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Major General Yousef A. AL Hnaity, in his congratulatory letter, appreciated that there is a partnership between the two countries that is continuously deepening over the years. While expressing the certainty that exactly the professionalism and dedication to work of Colonel Maqedonci was the reason for his appointment as Minister of Defense.

Furthermore, he says that he is confident that the experience of the Minister Maqedonci will make him excel in this position. While wishing them health and prosperity in dealing with all current issues and challenges in the future.

- During August, Minister Maqedonci received in a meeting: the US ambassador to Kosovo, Jeffrey M. Hovenier, the ambassador of the Republic of Albania, Qemal Minxhozi, the ambassador of the United Kingdom, Nicholas Abbott, the ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, Sabri Tunç Angili, the ambassador of Finland, Matti Nissinen and the commander of KFOR, Major General Angelo Michele Ristuccia, who congratulated him on his new assignment and emphasized that the good cooperation will continue in the future, thus realizing the joint plans and objectives that have.

- Minister Maqedonci, after his appointment, invited media representatives to the conference, before whom, among other things, he disclosed the objectives and plans he has during his mandate at the head of the Ministry of Defense.

Below is his full speech:

Just as it was promised at the beginning of this governing mandate and during this mandate period that I will be the Minister of Defense, I will aim to achieve four objectives:

- The development of military capacities in function of the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity;

- Strengthening civil democratic oversight and increasing accountability and transparency;

- Expanding bilateral cooperation, membership in international organizations and participation in international operations;

- Maintaining essential capacities in support of civil authorities.

With a budget of 123 million euros for 2023, which is 120% more than in 2021, of which 58% has currently been spent, the investment will continue with a special emphasis in two directions: increasing professional capacities and operational of the Kosovo Security Force. What I want to emphasize is that we are currently in the process of recruiting another 612 active soldiers and 388 other members of the reserve component, which in total brings the number of soldiers recruited during the last 29 months to 2240 members that is, almost doubling the number of soldiers. But in addition to increasing the total number of soldiers, the investment in the professional training of the military will continue, through military and professional training and education. So far, eight times more has been invested in this direction than in previous governments, training over 3,000 soldiers inside and outside Kosovo. Meanwhile, 90 officers have been educated at the Center of University Studies and at the most prestigious military academies in the world. In accordance with the Comprehensive Transition Plan, as a priority during my mandate I will have the continuation of investments in the direction of increasing combat capacities and the purchase of armaments, which in relation to the previous governments, has now reached a threefold higher value. Investments will continue in more than 20 capital projects which are in various stages of implementation, as well as investments will be made in the properties of the former Gjakova Airport and in Babaj i Bokes, which will increase the tactical maneuvering aspect of the Kosovo Security Force.

In addition to investments, work will also be done on the development of the legislative aspect in accordance with the needs of our army, in order to create the appropriate legal basis for the protection of the interests of the army and the proper handling of external information, as an important asset at a time when hybrid warfare is the greatest threat to the stability of any state. Another important issue in the field of security and defense is the provision of our assistance as the Minister of Defense and as the Kosovo Security Force for MEST, in the development of the subject "Education for Security" as an elective subject for students of the class 11th, where KSF instructors will teach the theoretical part as well as the practical execution of the relevant lessons. Since our strategic goal as a state in the field of security and defense is membership in international organizations, with a special emphasis on NATO, we will be maximally engaged in expanding and deepening cooperation with the member states of this alliance but also beyond it. This is also because based on the steps with which the KSF is being developed, the success shown in international missions such as in the Middle East, in the Falkland Islands, during the intervention in Turkey, as well as the high results shown in the trainings alongside forces of the partner armies, Kosovo has proven that through the KSF, it is ready to contribute to global security issues. Consequently, to move from consumers of security to guarantors of peace and stability in the region and beyond.

AUGUST 30 - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

On the International Day of the Disappeared, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, together with other ministers of the government cabinet, paid tribute to the monument of the disappeared in Prishtina. On this commemorative day, Minister Maqedonci stated that: "The number of those who disappeared violently during the war in Kosovo is 1,617. 1617 is the number of families who feel the absence of their loved ones every day, who were unjustly and cruelly disappeared by violence by police, military and Serbian paramilitaries, led by Milosevic's chauvinistic and genocidal policy. The non-punishment of crimes and criminals by the Serbian state, unfortunately, is an indicator of

the continuation of the same denial mentality that does not coincide with reality. It is the agony that hinders forward movement, the peace that cannot be established, and the peaceful future that cannot be attained. The non-acceptance of the crimes by the Serbian government is to sentence the families of the victims to death for life. The war cannot be forgotten because those who are not among us cannot be forgotten, but we will be able to overcome it when we know the fate of the missing. Therefore, as institutions, we will never stop seeking justice. We all miss them".

JULY 2023

MINISTER MEHAJ WAS HOSTED FOR A MEETING BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, YAŞAR GÜLER

The Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj visited Turkey in July where he held very important meetings. In this official visit he was accompanied by General Hysen Dreshaj, Colonel Ali Krasniqi, Colonel Astrit Haliti, Colonel Binak Zekaj and the defense attaché and Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu. Initially, he had a meeting with the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Turkey, Yaşar Güler.

Minister Mehaj first congratulated Mr. Güler on his new position as Minister of Defense, then they discussed the continuation of the excellent cooperation so far with the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Turkey and the deepening of this cooperation.

This cooperation will continue in the field of education, training and education of our army. The partnership built in good faith by both parties is strong and beneficial for both our countries, the two ministers emphasized.

It was also discussed about the support of the Republic of Kosovo for membership in the Peace Program, about the importance of our membership in NATO, for joint missions and other agreements that will open new areas of cooperation. The country-to-country agreements that have been signed so far have proven to be very successful.

Strengthening our military to protect the country and serve peace is our main goal.

MINISTER MEHAJ MEETS THE EXECUTIVE CHIEF OF THE COMPANY FOR "BAYRAKTAR" DRONES PRODUCTION

Minister Mehaj held an important meeting with the chief executive of the company for the production of drones "Bayraktar", Haluk Bayraktar. Minister Mehaj thanked Mr. Bayraktar for the reliable and principled cooperation that the company for the production of drones has with the officials of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo. Also, during the meeting, other areas of cooperation were discussed to increase the defense capacities of the Kosovo Security Force.

"The purchase of Bayraktar drones has been one of the biggest investments we have made in our military in the last year, thanks to the commitment of our government and our priorities as the Minister of Defense. The equipment of our army for defense purposes will continue to be our priority in accordance with NATO standards", emphasized Minister Mehaj.

MINISTER MEHAJ MEETS THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

During the official visit to Turkey, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, held an important meeting with the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Gambia, Sering Modou Njie and the Chief of the Defense Staff, General Yankuba Drammeh.

In the meeting between the two ministers, the development of cooperation and relations in the field of defense was discussed, being coordinated for the signing of the cooperation agreement and the development of joint trainings in areas which our armies need more.

"Embracing democratic values made us closer to each other in difficult times and made cooperation easier. All our activities, which may take place in the future, will be in accordance with the values and principles of NATO and coordinated with our partners," emphasized Minister Mehaj.

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, MINISTER MEHAJ MET THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, HALUK GÖRGÜN

For this meeting, Minister Mehaj estimated that: "Increasing our capacities in the field of defense is one of our priorities to which we have attached special importance.

The meeting with the president of the defense industry of the Republic of Turkey, Haluk Görgün, state-by-state acquision from the Republic of Turkey have been productive, faster and safer, therefore our cooperation in this aspect will continue in the future.

"Our purchases will always be in coordination with our partners and according to NATO standards. Our army is being equipped with the latest weaponry technology for defense purposes", emphasized Minister Mehaj.

MINISTER MEHAJ MET THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF NORTH MACEDONIA, SLAVJANKA PETROVSKA

Within the frames of the visit to Turkey, Minister Mehaj met the Minister of Defense of the Republic of North Macedonia, Slavjanka Petrovska, whom he thanked for the cooperation in the field of security as well as for the support in the processes of fulfilling our obligations for membership in the mechanisms international.

Both ministers agreed that in the field of training and education we will continue to work together, according to the plan agreed between the two ministries. Good neighborliness and partnership between the Republic of Kosovo and North Macedonia will continue to be at the highest levels.

THE KSF COMMANDER TOOK PART IN THE CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SPP)

The Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, at the invitation of General Daniel R. Hokanson, Head of the US National Guard Bureau, participated in the conference marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the State Partnership Program (State Partnership Program-SPP) of the National Guard, in Washington DC.

The National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) is a US Department of Defense program managed by the National Guard Bureau that connects the United States with partner countries around the world. This program aims to support the security cooperation objectives of the geographic combatant commands with the respective countries around the world. Currently, the program has about 100 partner countries from all over the world, and Kosovo among them, counts a special success story of partnership with the Iowa National Guard.

General Jashari, together with Major General Stephen Osborn, Commander of the Iowa National Guard and the delegation from Kosovo, had the opportunity to hold a series of important meetings regarding cooperation and activities within the SPP.

General Jashari and his counterpart from Iowa met with Lieutenant General Steven Basham, Deputy Commander of EUCOM and Ambassador Kate Byrnes, Advisor for Foreign Policy at EUCOM. General Jashari took the opportunity to thank the USA and EUCOM for the continuous support for Kosovo and the KSF, and informed them about the successes and achievements shared with our partner, Iowa. General Jashari confirmed the readiness of the KSF to participate in joint missions with the American army and in other activities and training in order to maintain and develop the skills of interaction with the partner forces. General Basham and Ambassador Byrnes, thanked General Jashar and General Osborn, and confirmed EUCOM's willingness to support and support the Kosovo Security Force.

Also, COMKSF met Brigadier General Andrew Camacho, Deputy Commander of the Texas National Guard and his delegation. The meeting was used to welcome the troops from Texas to Kosovo, and to confirm the readiness of the KSF for continued cooperation.

THE LAW ON EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH KSF WAS APPROVED IN THE AMERICAN SENATE

The US Senate has approved the law which enables the expansion of the existing authority of the Department of Defense in providing support to Kosovo through the intensification of joint exercises, as well as the training of the Kosovo Security Force as part of multilateral exercises. This law has contributed to the deepening of cooperation in the military field with the American army.
An important role for the approval of this law has been given by Senator Shaheen with her direct engagement in securing this provision.
Lasting peace in the region and beyond can only be ensured through sincere cooperation and partnership.

KSF AND IOWA WITH JOINT ACTIVITIES

The Kosovo Security Force, in the framework of the partnership with the Iowa National Guard, was part of the Distinguished Visitors Day of the JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Center) Training Rotation, Fort Johnson, Louisiana, USA, where part of the units of the Iowa National Guard, there were also six members of the 1st Land Forces Regiment (R1K), who shared their experiences in this important activity of the US Army.
R1K is twinned with the 133rd Infantry Battalion of the Iowa National Guard, since 2022 and until now various military activities have been carried out in both countries and this was the next activity which further deepened the cooperation between the two units, and that will continue with training and other activities in the future.

THE 14TH VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CONTACT GROUP ON THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE WAS HELD

This meeting was attended by the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, the deputy commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi and the Chief of the Minister's Cabinet, Hasan Hoxha.
During this meeting led by the Secretary of Defense of the United States of America, Lloyd Austin, the Minister of Defense of Ukraine, Oleksii Reznikov announced on the latest developments of the war on the ground and also on the requirements on the necessary capacities and the continuous support that should be offered to Ukraine, a country that has been fighting stoically against Russian aggression for more than a year.
On this occasion, Minister Mehaj emphasized that Ukraine is staying strong because on its side it has the indisputable right and support of the countries that see Ukraine's war as their own battle, because the violation of freedom there is a danger to peace everywhere.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE BELGIAN DELEGATION OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, together with MP Driton Hyseni, at the same time head of the delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and General Naim Hazir, received the Belgian delegation of this assembly, consisting of: Peter Buysrogge, Theo Francken and Philippe Courard.

On this occasion, Minister Mehaj informed the attendees about the stage we are in regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan, the advancement of the KSF in terms of professional and operational during the last two years, with special emphasis on the work of extraordinary of the International Search-Rescue Training Center, which functions within the National Guard Command of the KSF in Pomozatin.

With all the professionalism shown by the members of the KSF in every mission and training alongside the armies of partner countries, the Kosovo Security Force is ready to contribute to NATO missions with the Republic of Kosovo as its member, therefore the topic of discussion, among others, was the support we need for membership in the Partnership for Peace Program, and in addition to deepening cooperation with Belgium in the military field through the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Belgian state, as well as the appointment of the defense attaché in this country.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED IN A MEETING THE DIRECTOR OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE PROGRAMS OFFICE FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MIKE SMITH

Initially, in this meeting, Minister Mehaj thanked Mr. Smith and his team for the visit, expressing gratitude for the support provided through advisers from various fields in the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, as well as informing him of the achievements in the Comprehensive Transition Plan, international cooperation, our aim towards membership in the program for partnership of peace and NATO. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj announced that he has paid special attention to the role of bilateral advisers from the US, such as the adviser for PPBE, Joe Duncan and the former adviser for Legislative Liaison with the Assembly, Katherine Barton. In this meeting, Minister Mehaj also requested from the State Department for support with other capacities of advisers, with special emphasis in the field of human resources and military intelligence.

THE LAW ON THE DEFENSE AGENCY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY PASSED IN FIRST READING

In the month of July, in the session of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, the Draft Law for the Defense Agency for Intelligence and Security passed the first reading, thus marking an important step in the field of defense and security of the country.

This Agency will exercise its activity inside and outside the territory of the Republic of Kosovo with the aim of supporting the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) in the field of detection, counterintelligence and security related to threats or risks of possible for the performance of their constitutional and legal mission.

THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE INITIATIVES FOR THE CONNECTION OF TWO COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, IN THE FIELD OF MILITARY TRAINING, TECHNIQUE AND SCIENCE

At the 151st meeting of the Government, with the proposal of the Ministry of Defense, initiatives were approved for the conclusion of two Cooperation Agreements between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Turkey, in the military field of training, technology and science.

These agreements include the exchange of personnel, material, equipment, information and experience in the field of defense, participation in joint peacekeeping operations.

Education in military academies and colleges; in war academies; in military medical academies and other health institutions.

THE KSF COMMANDER RECEIVED IN A MEETING THE COMMANDER OF KFOR

Within the framework of cooperation with KFOR, the commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received the KFOR commander, Major General Angelo Michele Ristuccia.

COMKSF informed the Commander of KFOR about the developments in the KSF, the following commitments and activities, as well as about bilateral and multilateral cooperation with partners. General Jashari and General Ristuccia also discussed the cooperation between the KSF and KFOR, and pledged that the cooperation will continue further, for the benefit of security and peace in the country and the region. Part of the discussion between the two generals was the current security situation in the country and beyond.

316 NEW RECRUITS COMMENCED THE BASIC TRAINING AT TRADOC

At the Training and Doctrine Command in Ferizaj, 314 new KSF recruits have commenced the basic training. On this occasion, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj with his associates visited the Training and Doctrine Command to see the progress and progress of this process, where he was received by the Commander of the TRADOC, Brigadier General Jeton Dreshaj, who informed him of the program of training, the conditions and the high commitment that new recruits have. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj expressed that: “It is an honor and pride to see the commitment of the new generations being trained to serve the country”**.**

KSF OFFICER ACHIEVES HIGH RESULTS IN THE "RANGER COURSE" IN THE USA

Among the 250 military applicants, the KSF officer, Lieutenant Ylli Dalladaku, has successfully completed one of the most challenging courses in the US Army, the "Ranger Course".

The "Ranger" course includes three phases, which are: tactics leadership, mountain terrain and swamp terrain, which follow the progressive training methodology starting from basic knowledge to the most sophisticated ones.

Previously, the KSF officer graduated with high marks from the Basic Course for Infantry Officers.

Lieutenant Dalladaku will continue his service in the Kosovo Security Force, where he will transmit the knowledge gained from this course to the members of the KSF.

KSF CADETS STUDYING IN AFRA VISIT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

Our cadets who study in the Armed Forces of Albania visited the Ministry of Defense in July, where they were received by Minister Mehaj. Since the bilateral agreement between Kosovo and Albania, a total of nine cadets are now studying at the Academy of the Armed Forces of Albania - Faculty of Defense and Security (Military Science) representing the Republic of Kosovo. Among these students, in the second year there are four cadets who are expected to graduate in 2024, as the first generation from Kosovo, while in the first year there are five cadets.

During this year, ten more cadets were selected who are expected to start their studies in October of this year, in three different directions.

KSF MEMBERS WERE CERTIFIED IN ARTILLERY AND COMBAT ENGINEERING

In the framework of the cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA), the Functional Course for "Artillery" and "Combat Engineering" was realized, where this training lasted three weeks and was realized in the practical and theoretical part. The training was carried out at the Training Center of the Land Forces Command, by artillery instructors and Combat Engineering with the aim of professional preparation of KSF members.

The Chief of Staff of the Land Forces of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, the attaché of the Republic of Kosovo in Albania, instructors, officers and non-commissioned officers of the AFRA participated in the certification ceremony.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED IN A MEETING THE BILATERAL ADVISOR OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, COLONEL MUSTAFA PAMUK

Minister Mehaj, in a meeting with the newly appointed bilateral advisor of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkey, Colonel Mustafa Pamuk, discussed the cooperation in the military field with the Turkish Forces, the implementation of the Bilateral Plan, the restructuring of the Ministry of Defense, as well as the importance of approval and implementation of two agreements with the Republic of Turkey in the field of training, academic education and exchange of experiences. In this meeting, Minister Mehaj emphasized that as our partner state and as a close collaborator within the NATO Liaison Office, we will continue our commitment towards the advancement of the KSF and the security of the country.

MINISTER MEHAJ HOSTED IN A FAREWELL MEETING THE BILATERAL ADVISOR OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARCEL LIETSCH

During the month of July, Minister Mehaj hosted in farewell meetings the bilateral advisor of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, Lt. Col. Marcel Lietsch and the military attaché of the Netherlands, Lt. Col. Erik Verbeek. Minister Mehaj thanked Lt. Col. Lietsch for his service and contribution to advancing the capacities of the KSF, the advisory role in the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan, the restructuring of the Ministry of Defense, and the realization of the bilateral plan with the Armed Forces of Federal Republic of Germany.
Also, Minister Mehaj thanked Lt. Col. Verbeek for his service and his contribution to advancing the capacities of the KSF through the implementation of the bilateral plan with the Armed Forces of the Netherlands and the deepening of cooperation with this country.

THE RETIREMENT CEREMONY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ESTREF URUQI WAS HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

At the Ministry of Defense, the ceremony of following the retirement of the lieutenant colonel of the KSF, Estref Uruqi, was organized on July, where colleagues from the Ministry of Defense and his family members were present.
On this occasion, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Syla Syla, thanked Lieutenant Colonel Uruqi for the performance and professionalism shown during the performance of his duties and the contribution made to the development and advancement of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.

THE JORDANIAN ARMY IS TRAINED AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING CENTER OF THE KSF

In the framework of cooperation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a team of the Jordanian army has carried out Urban Search and Rescue training at the International Training Center for Search and Rescue (ITCSR), of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force, in Pomozatin.

For three weeks, the training was carried out in the theoretical and practical part, where 10 soldiers from Jordan and 5 from the KSF attended the training to prepare with basic and advanced knowledge on the topics: Opening and Safety of roads to victims through breackages and cuts, providing first medical aid, evacuating victims, etc.

The realization of trainings at ITCSR is evidence of the high level of professionalism of the trainers of this center, as well as of the excellent cooperation we have with our strategic partners in the exchange of experiences and capacity building.

IN A SOLEMN STATE CEREMONY ORGANIZED AT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THREE MEMBERS OF THE KSF HAVE GRADUATED

The members of the KSF, Major Bashkim Ademi and Major Fatlum Demiri have successfully completed the Command and General Staff College in Turkey and have successfully completed the Defense and Security Studies Master of Arts Program). Also, Captain Albana Koznik has successfully completed the Career Course for Captains.

All the members of the KSF, in addition to the dedication and exemplary discipline shown, have achieved excellent results and shown extraordinary success throughout this period of time by presenting Kosovo, especially the KSF, in the best possible way. About 120 officers from 18 different countries of the world participated in these two courses. The Command and General Staff College and the Captain's Career Course aim to educate, train and develop future leaders. Capable and competent officer to perform duties responsibly and to lead with honor and loyalty every time and every place.

"BATTLEFIELD CASUALTY EVACUATION" TRAINING IS REALIZED

In the framework of cooperation with NALT, Iowa and KSF, the "Battlefield Casualty Evacuation" training was carried out by US Army instructors from the Iowa National Guard from Camp Bondsteel.

Participants of this training were soldiers from the National Guard and the Medical Regiment of the KSF, where they carried out practical training focused on practical and interesting topics such as first aid for victims after an incident and evacuation of victims, setting up a collection point of victims, providing triage/first aid, evacuation of victims by helicopter, etc.

THE COMMANDER OF THE KSF, LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHKIM JASHARI HOSTED FOR A MEETING THE COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH LAND FORCES, LIEUTENANT GENERAL RALPH WOODDISSE

General Jashari thanked General Wooddisse for the continuous support in the development of the KSF and increasing its capacities, while General Wooddisse expressed gratitude for the readiness of the KSF to support the United Kingdom in its efforts to increase security in Europe and beyond wide. The meeting discussed the security situation in the region and Europe, while the Generals agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in training, education and other areas of common interest that contribute to strengthening the capacity to provide security to both countries.

THE KSF LAND FORCES COMMAND HAS CARRIED OUT THE TRAINING "USE AND MAINTENANCE OF INFANTRY WEAPONS"

The training was carried out within the framework of the cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Turkish army, where the participants gained knowledge on the use and maintenance of several types of light and heavy artillery weapons of different calibers as well as hand grenades.

During the training, the participants, in addition to the theoretical preparations, also demonstrated the skills in using and shooting weapons at specific targets with all types of weapons that they learned in the training.

The dedication shown by the members of the KSF and the instructors from the Turkish Contingent have made the members of the KSF achieve a high level of professionalism and skill in the safe use of Infantry weapons.

17 KSF OFFICERS GRADUATED IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

The College of Defense and Security in the Republic of Albania has organized the graduation ceremony of the trainees of the Command and General Staff Course and the Senior Officer Course. In his welcome speech, the Deputy Commander of the College of Defense and Security, Colonel Emeror Hajdarasi, praised the commitment and seriousness shown by the students, academic staff, and support staff, showing values and achieving high results at the end of the academic year. While the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Major General Kingji, appreciated the work of the management and teaching staff during the academic year from the College of Defense and Security and congratulated the trainees for the achievements. He especially thanked the trainees from the Kosovo Security Force who chose the College of Defense and Security for their studies.

The programs of these two courses provided the necessary knowledge for planning and conducting combat operations in a complex and ambiguous operational environment related to national security, the ability to make fair decisions and give accurate advice in cases where it is considered the use of military force.

In this ceremony, 43 trainees of the Command and General Staff Course (GGSC), 14 of whom are KSF officers, and 18 of the Senior Officer Course (SOC), have graduated, 3 of which are KSF officers.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, ARMEND MEHAJ, HOSTED TODAY FOR A MEETING THE ACTIVIST OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, NUFRI LEKAJ AND THE NORWEGIAN JOURNALIST PAL S. REFSDAL The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, today, hosted in a meeting the activist of the national issue, Nufri Lekaj and the Norwegian journalist Pal S. Refsdal.

Also present at this meeting were the Deputy Commander of the KSF, Major General Enver Cikaqi, the Inspector General of the KSF, Major General Irfete Spahiu, the director of the Directorate of Intelligence in the Ministry of Defense, Major General Gëzim Hazrolli, the Commander of the National Guard, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hasan Hoxha, as well as political advisors of Minister Mehaj.

As a sign of respect for their unexampled commitment to the Albanian national issue, Minister Mehaj thanked Mr. Lekaj and Mr. Refsdal for the fair and dignified representation and reflection of the liberation war in Kosovo.