



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



# NEWSLETTER

September 2024

## National Comprehensive Defense Program Approved by Kosovo Government



The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has approved the National Comprehensive Defense Program. On this occasion, Defense Minister Ejup Maqedonci stated that, based on the government program, changes in the strategic security environment, and the goal of strengthening the defense system of the Republic of Kosovo, the National Comprehensive Defense Program has been drafted. This program is divided into specific pillars within the plan.

"As we build and develop the Kosovo Security Force in line with the Comprehensive Transition Plan, the Comprehensive Defense Program lays the foundation for preparing and educating citizens and institutions about their roles in our defense system, protecting the information space from malicious misinformation, ensuring the continuity of essential supplies and services during crises, and working on the functionality of collective shelters," emphasized Minister Maqedonci.

The Comprehensive Defense Program is based on similar systems applied in various NATO countries and enables central and local institutions, especially the citizens of the Republic and various non-governmental organizations, to have their role in the country's defense and security system. This program aims to build national resilience so that our society is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from natural disasters or armed attacks.



## KSF and Iowa National Guard: Strength in Unity



Under the partnership between the Kosovo Security Force and the Iowa National Guard of the USA, a delegation from the ING headquarters in Iowa spent a week visiting the Ministry of Defense and KSF. They conducted joint visits and meetings with the KSF headquarters to closely observe the development and achievements of the KSF in building military skills and capacities. The high-level delegation from Iowa, led by the Deputy Commander of the Iowa National Guard, Brigadier General McClintock, and the Chief of Staff of the Iowa Air National Guard, Brigadier General Stephanie Samenus, held meetings with the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari.

During the visit, the Iowa delegation was informed about the processes of planning training, operations, recruitment and retention of personnel, as well as the concept of logistical support. They were also briefed on the execution of the 3-year cooperation plan with Iowa in the fields of maneuver, development of non-commissioned officers, sustainability, cybernetics, and medicine.







Minister Maqedonci thanked the United States of America and in particular the IOWA National Guard for the exemplary cooperation with the KSF and requested that this cooperation be deepened and expanded even further. He emphasized that this visit confirms the close cooperation with the United States of America as a strategic partner and primary supporter in enhancing the skills and capacities of the KSF. The delegation continued their visit to the General Staff, the Defense Academy, the Cybernetics and

Communication Unit, and the Land Forces Command. During the visit at the Land Forces Command, they were welcomed by the Commander of Land Forces, Brigadier General Hysen Dreshaj, staff, and the Commanders of the three Infantry Regiments. They discussed the achievements and plans of the LFC and closely observed the capabilities of the infantry, which were presented to the Iowa National Guard delegation.



Additionally, during this week-long visit, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari met with Sergeant Major Matthew Strasser of the Iowa National Guard Command and his delegation. They discussed the ongoing support from the Iowa National Guard in developing the non-commissioned officer corps, a primary goal of COMKSF. General Jashari expressed gratitude to Sergeant Major Strasser for the significant role Iowa National Guard non-commissioned officers

have played in the education, training, and development of the KSF non-commissioned officer corps.

Strengthening ties with the Iowa National Guard continues to be a top priority in our international cooperation efforts.



## Minister Maqedonci and KSF Commander Attended Ukraine Defense Contact Group Meeting

Defense Minister Ejup Maqedonci and KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari attended the meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, held on September in Ramstein, Germany. During this meeting, the Republic of Kosovo has offered its third assistance package to Ukraine, continuing the support provided through the two previous packages and training for the Ukrainian military. The meeting, chaired by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, also featured participation from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who expressed his gratitude for the assistance extended to his country. The focus of the meeting was on continuing military support in the form of arms, equipment, and training for Ukraine's armed forces from coalition countries.



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The Ukraine Defense Contact Group comprises defense ministers and chiefs from over 50 countries, forming a large coalition of Ukraine supporters since the start of Russian aggression.

## Minister Maqedonci Hosted the President of the Defense Industry Agency of the Republic of Türkiye, Haluk Gorgun



cooperating with our allies," emphasized Minister Maqedonci. He added that the development of our army is and will always be aimed at maintaining peace and security, values that we have always cultivated and remained loyal to.

During this friendly meeting, they discussed the close cooperation in the field of defense between our two countries. Special attention was given to investment in the defense industry. "The Republic of Türkiye has continuously made an extraordinary contribution to building the capacities of the Kosovo Security Force, a contribution for which we are grateful. We will continue to enhance our army's capacities by





## KSF Attended 27<sup>th</sup> US-Adriatic Charter (A5) Chiefs of Defense Conference

The 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Chiefs of Defense of the US-Adriatic Charter Initiative (A5), comprising Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia, has concluded its proceedings. Participants included General Christopher G. Cavoli, the Commander of the US European Command and the American Forces in Europe;



the Commander of the NATO Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy; and the Adjutants General from the respective countries of the US National Guard Partnership Program. Brigadier General Mark Kappelmann represented the Iowa National Guard, while Kosovo and the KSF, on behalf of Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, were represented by Deputy Commander Major General Enver Cikaqi. Both generals presented a shared vision for participation in the Adriatic Charter (A5), discussing ongoing cooperation and future plans.



A joint statement was approved during the conference, reaffirming the commitment to stand united against Russia's illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. This war has disrupted peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and severely impacted regional and global security. "We condemn, in the strongest terms, Russia's flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and the effects of Russia's war on the world," the statement read. "We salute the Ukrainian people for their courageous resistance and express our sympathy and condolences for their losses and suffering."

The joint statement emphasized, "We are committed to achieving a just and lasting peace that upholds the principles of the UN Charter, particularly sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. Our collective support for Ukraine underscores our mutual understanding that cooperation with allies and partners is vital to our ability to respond to current and future challenges."



## Deputy Minister Sylja Hosted the Leader of The American-Jewish Committee, Avital Leibovich



During their meeting, they discussed the general situation in the country and the global security environment, expressing a shared commitment to security and sustainable stability in the region and beyond.

They also highlighted the strong cooperation between the two countries, particularly in defense, with Deputy Minister Sylja emphasizing that this partnership, rooted in a long history of friendship, demonstrates both nations' dedication to peace and security, shared democratic values, and resilience in facing global challenges.

Both parties agreed on the importance of increasing communication and mutual visits among institutional representatives. At the end of the meeting, Mrs. Leibovich thanked Deputy Minister Sylja and the people of Kosovo for their support of the Israeli people in facing current challenges. Deputy Minister Sylja, in turn, thanked her for her many commitments to Kosovo and expressed hope for a swift end to the war and the restoration of peace in the region.

## Honoring Our Heroes: A Tribute to Kosovo Police Sergeant Afrim Bunjaku



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, together with Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo Glauk Konjufca, and other high-ranking state representatives, paid tribute at the grave of Kosovo Police Sergeant Afrim Bunjaku, who fell on September 24, 2023. On this anniversary, Minister Maqedonci stated: "Heroes like Sergeant Bunjaku, despite being physically separated from us, remain spiritually and mentally engraved forever in the memory of our people and the history of our homeland, as if carved in stone. Afrim's heroism transcends the momentary, becoming an eternal testament to patriotism and the sacrifices our people have made across generations, even when it meant sacrificing life itself. Such figures never die, and our gratitude for him will live on with our people. Glory to the hero, Afrim Bunjaku!"



## 20 New Cadets Sworn In at the Center for University Studies – Class of 2028



A military ceremony was held at the "Adem Jashari" barracks in Prishtina to swear in 20 new cadets of the Class of 2028. The event was graced by high-ranking officials, including Defense Minister Ejup Maqedonci and KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, along with generals, officers, non-commissioned officers, and the cadets' proud families. The 20 cadets are set to embark on a rigorous four-year academic journey, combining theoretical and practical military training in line with the standards of advanced Western military academies.





## Minister Maqedonci Attended Ceremony Honoring General Christopher Cavoli as 'Doctor Honoris Causa'



At the invitation of the European University of Tirana, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in a special ceremony where the Supreme Commander of NATO and the American Forces in Europe, General Christopher Cavoli, was honored with the title "Doctor Honoris Causa."

"For the commander's invaluable contribution to the preservation of international peace and security through strategic leadership, commitment to transatlantic cooperation, and especially the attention that the NATO Alliance has paid to Europe, General Cavoli will always be regarded as a friend of the Albanian people," stated Minister Maqedonci on this occasion.

He emphasized that while the world faces a crisis, Kosovo will continue to stand alongside the NATO Alliance and Commander Cavoli in the mission to defend Ukraine, offering unwavering support within its available capacities.



## KSF Celebrated Certification of Fourth Ukrainian Trainee Group



At the Demining barracks in Prizren, a certification ceremony was held for the fourth group of trainees from Ukraine, who attended six weeks of EOD 1/2 training conducted by instructors from the KSF Demining Company and American instructors from EUCOM. During these weeks, the trainees were educated on explosive devices, specialized equipment, and procedures for safely disposing of explosive devices. The group of trainees will return to Ukraine to support their units in eliminating explosive device threats. Deputy Commander of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force, Colonel Skender Hoxha, attended the certification ceremony. He congratulated the trainees on

completing the training and spoke about the importance of their training and the noble role of their mission.



## Ukrainian Medical Delegation Visited Kosovo Security Force



In the framework of cooperation with Ukraine, a medical delegation from Ukraine, in coordination with the Chamber of Doctors of Kosovo, visited the Kosovo Security Force. The delegation was welcomed by KSF Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, and Commander of the Logistics Command, Colonel Mehmet Lladrovci. On behalf of KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, General Qeriqi informed them about the support provided by the Republic of Kosovo and the KSF thus far, and expressed readiness for future support for Ukraine, in coordination with allies. The visit continued to the medical regiment, where the delegation observed the skills and capacities of the KSF and exchanged experiences in military medical support operations.

## The Inspector General, Major General Irfete Spahiu, Visited the Defense Inspectorate in the Republic of Croatia



In the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Croatia, the Inspector General, Major General Irfete Spahiu, with her team, Colonel Lulzim Deliu and Lieutenant Colonel Ramiz Bytyqi, at the invitation of the Defense Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia, have made an official visit to the Defense Inspectorate in Republic of Croatia. On this occasion, Major General Spahiu was received by the Defense Inspector, Lieutenant General Sinisha Jurković and his team. Also, during this visit, Major General Spahiu was received by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of Croatia, Ivan Anušić, with whom they discussed the possibilities of support from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia for increasing the capacities of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. Afterwards, the teams of the

Inspectorate General and the Inspectorate of Defense held a meeting, where presentations were made by both sides about the responsibilities and duties of the two Inspectorates and discussions were held on the possibility of support for increasing the capacities of the Inspectorate General in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo. In the framework of this visit, Major General Spahiu and her team visited the city of Vukovar, where they paid homage and respect to those who fell during the war for the liberation of Croatia.



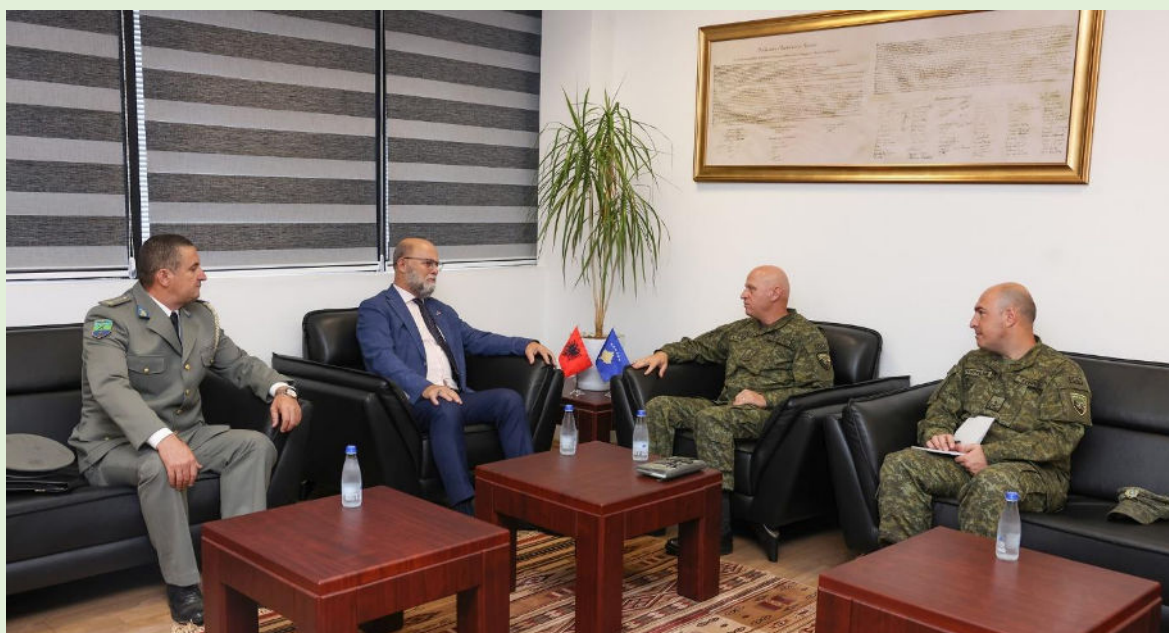
## The Minister Of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, Hosted the Team of The American Institute For Security Governance



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, along with KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and KSF Chief of Staff Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, welcomed the team from the American Institute for Security Governance (ISG) for a meeting. They discussed the restructuring of the Ministry of Defense and the recruitment of new soldiers and officers, in line with the Ministry's plan and the Minister's objectives.

KSF officers and civilian staff, together with ISG members, held joint meetings and activities to generate ideas for concepts and strategic documents that will guide the future development of the Ministry of Defense and KSF. Professional advice from ISG is a valuable asset for building the ministry's future based on practical values and principles.

## Lieutenant General Jashari Hosted Albanian Ambassador and Defense Attaché



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, today received the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Petrit Malaj, and the newly appointed Defense Attaché, Colonel Beqir Tafili. COMKSF informed Ambassador Malaj and Colonel Tafili about the KSF's achievements, plans, and development towards becoming a professional and NATO-interoperable force. Special emphasis was placed on the excellent

cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. COMKSF congratulated the new Defense Attaché on his appointment in the Republic of Kosovo and expressed the desire to continue and strengthen the close cooperation between the two countries.



## Brigadier General Naim Haziri's Retirement Ceremony



praised General Haziri's dedication and commitment to state-building, emphasizing, "General Haziri is the best example of unsparing commitment over three decades, from the KLA, KPC, to the KSF, in establishing and advancing security institutions in the country." In his speech, Brigadier General Naim Haziri expressed gratitude to all those present at the ceremony and thanked everyone he had the opportunity to work with during his 32 years of service on the road to liberation and state-building.

The Commander of the National Guard of the KSF, Brigadier General Naim Haziri, retired, and the official ceremony was held at the "Young Europeans" Barracks in Pomozotin. Minister Maqedonci spoke about General Haziri's contributions over the years, appreciating his role both during the war and in various command positions within the KSF. The minister recalled the early days of the war alongside hero Zahir Pajaziti, stating, "Today we cannot shake the hand of the hero Zahir Pajaziti, but we have the opportunity to shake the hand of a fellow soldier, the friend of Zahir's ideal, General Naim Haziri."

Deputy Commander Major General Enver Cikaqi also





## Ministry of Defense Marked International Day of Bosniaks

In honor of the International Day of Bosniaks on September 28, a round table was held at the Ministry of Defense. The event was attended by the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, Deputy Minister of Defense, Adnan Redzeplari, Director of NALT, Brigadier General Christian Nawrat, as well as officials and soldiers from the Bosniak



community within the Ministry of Defense and the KSF.

In his speech, Minister Maqedonci extended holiday wishes to all officials and soldiers of the MoD and KSF from the Bosniak community. He emphasized that the KSF is a multi-ethnic force built on the principles of inter-ethnic understanding, readiness, and a steadfast commitment to strengthening the defense capacities of Kosovo.

Deputy Minister of Defense, Adnan Redzeplari, addressed his compatriots, emphasizing the need for greater representation of the Bosniak community in the KSF. "We, Bosniaks, should be more present in the KSF, better trained, and ready to defend Kosovo and protect the heritage of freedom for which many have sacrificed their lives. The forces of evil never rest," he stressed.

Brigadier General Christian Nawrat, Director of NALT, stated that the success of any security organization partly depends on reflecting the contributions of all the communities they serve. "NATO supports efforts to increase the representation of non-majority communities in Kosovo's security organizations. It is essential for all communities in Kosovo to see themselves represented in these security organizations, as this builds trust and encourages cooperation," said General Nawrat.

## KSF Commander Hosted Defense Attachés Meeting

The commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted defense attachés from the Republic of Kosovo accredited in partner countries worldwide. General Jashari briefed them on the KSF's developments over this dynamic year and discussed general areas of cooperation with respective countries. The defense attachés then



reported, one by one, on specific areas of cooperation, education and training, and the further development of bilateral relations with the countries where they are accredited. Finally, COMKSF outlined the objectives for 2025 and urged the attachés to further develop bilateral cooperation plans, in line with COMKSF's goals of fostering a professional and interoperable force with NATO countries.



## Building Future Relations-Farewell Meeting with Italian Attaché Colonel Stefano Angioni

Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the KSF, hosted a farewell meeting for Colonel Stefano Angioni,



the outgoing Attaché of the Republic of Italy accredited in Kosovo. Also in attendance were the newly appointed Attaché of Italy for Kosovo, Colonel Cristian Margheriti, and the Italian Bilateral Defense Adviser, Colonel Giovanni Ventura. The minister and COMKSF thanked Colonel Angioni and the Italian team for their contributions to advancing KSF's capabilities and bilateral military relations. Both sides agreed to further enhance their cooperation and focus on military capacity development.

## General Jashari Welcomed New Turkish Military Attaché



Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, held an informative meeting with Colonel Adem Turk, the newly appointed Military Attaché of the Republic of Türkiye accredited in Kosovo. General Jashari congratulated Colonel Turk on his new role as the resident attaché in Kosovo. COMKSF discussed its objectives related to the development of the Force, as well as plans for training, exercises, equipment, and other joint activities. The meeting highlighted the excellent cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Türkiye, and the goals for advancing bilateral military relations between the two countries.

In conclusion, both parties agreed to further develop their relationship by focusing on enhancing the military capacities of

the KSF to fulfill its mission.

## KSF National Guard Delegation Visited Albania

Senior representatives of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force, led by Commander Brigadier General Naim Haziri, paid an official visit to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. During this visit, the KSF delegation was received at the Ministry of Defense by the General Director of Defense Policies, Gjergji Methoxha, and the Chief of General Staff, Major General Arben Kingji. They also met with the Commander of the Ground Forces, Major General Ilir Xhebexhia, and the host of the visit, Deputy Commander of the Support Command, Colonel Shkëlqim Çela.





## KSF Cadet Okan Kahraman Graduates from Prestigious Turkish Military Academy



Kosovo Security Force cadet Okan Kahraman has successfully graduated from the Land Military Academy of the Military Forces of the Republic of Türkiye after four years of study. The academy is renowned as one of the most prestigious military institutions in the world. At the graduation ceremony, which included 988 cadets, 72 of whom were international, the President of the Republic of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, along with family members of the graduates and local and international guests, were present.

Newly graduated Lieutenant Okan Kahraman will now join the Kosovo Security Force, bringing with him new experiences gained during his four years of study. The Kosovo Security Force deeply values its cooperation with the Republic of Türkiye, especially the support provided for the establishment and advancement of the KSF in all areas.

## Ready for Challenges

Instructors from the Turkish army conducted theoretical and practical training on the use of the HAR-66 Antitank system, preparing and training Kosovo's non-commissioned officers and officers. The aim was to raise professional military capacities to the standards of developed countries, thereby creating interoperability with partners for the benefit of global peace and security. This training was conducted as part of the ongoing cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Türkiye, which continuously contribute to the professional development and advancement of the KSF.



## Lieutenant Islam Bajramaj Excels at US Infantry Officers Course

Lieutenant Islam Bajramaj has successfully completed the Basic Course for Infantry Officers (IBOLC) in the USA. This course is designed to prepare officers in the techniques and tactics to direct and lead a platoon. In addition to American soldiers, participants included soldiers from Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Thailand, South Korea, Uruguay, Singapore, Lebanon, and Hungary. Due to his outstanding performance, Lieutenant Bajramaj received the Best International Student Award (International Honor Graduate Student), earning a place on the Commander's List.



## Strengthening Military Police Cooperation: KSF's Official Visit to Germany

As part of the bilateral plan with the Military Police of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Military Police, led by Commander Lt. Col. Besnik Selimi, made an official visit to Hanover. The "Experts Talk" focused on developments, challenges, plans, and bilateral cooperation between the two Military Police forces. The visit included a trip



to the First MP Regiment in Berlin, where KSF MP members are undergoing advanced specialist training. For over a decade, the KSF Military Police has been enhancing its capabilities through advanced training at the Military Police School in Germany and in Kosovo, with support from mobile teams and German instructors.

## KSF Part of The “Dimali 24” Field Exercise In Albania

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation and the invitation accepted by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, a contingent of the Kosovo Security Force was part of the Field Exercise “Dimali 24”. This exercise was planned and organized by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Southern Infantry Regiment of the AFRA and focused on further increasing the



interoperability of the structures participating in the exercise in a multinational and complex environment. The participation of the KSF in the military exercise “Dimali 24” served to further increase the interoperability, cooperation and exchange of experiences between our forces.

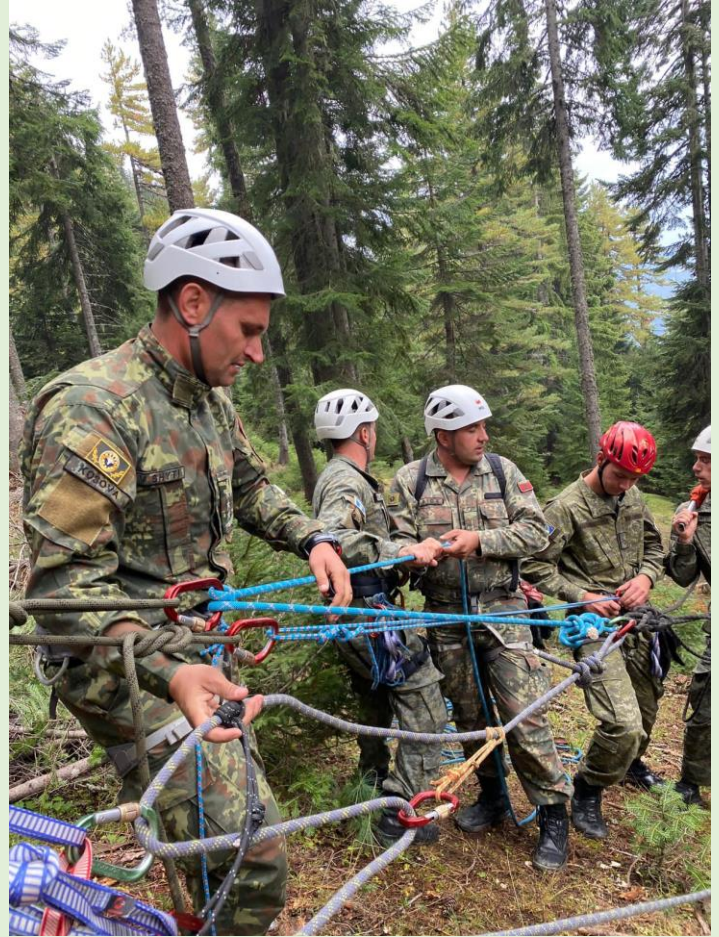


## Soldiers from Albania Trained at SARITC



In the framework of the cooperation with the Republic of Albania in the Search and Rescue International Training Center (SARITC), the training, the basic level and the two-week advanced training for Mountain Rescue Search, have been completed. Participants in these trainings were members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA) as well as members of the Kosovo

Security Force (KSF). This collaboration with AFRA has increased our joint capabilities for mountain rescue operations. The deputy commander of the National Guard, Colonel Skender Hoxha, congratulated the participants of both teams, asking them to continue to raise their professional skills and distribute them to other members, in order to be as prepared as possible to help citizens when and where they are required.



## Successful Completion of Tactical and Combat Courses at Training and Doctrine Command

Combat Leader Course, Level II Communication Course, Observer and Controller Course, Infantry NCO Basic Course and Junior Leader Course conducted by the British Mobile Advisory and Training Team (BMATT). The KSF is being professionalized in all military fields through education, training and courses conducted by the instructors of the Training and Doctrine Command.

