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ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE 2024

Pristina, 2024

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STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE 2021-2025

Government defense policies and the advancement of the role and responsibilities of the Kosovo Security Forces, during 2024, are based on four main objectives:

1. Strengthening democratic civilian oversight, as well as increasing accountability and transparency.
2. Development of military capacities in order to protect sovereignty and territorial integrity.
3. Expanding bilateral cooperation, membership in international organizations and participation in overseas operations.
4. Maintaining and developing essential capacities for military support of civil authorities.

This annual report summarizes the main achievements of the Ministry of Defense during 2024, reflecting the commitments and priorities in fulfilling these strategic objectives.

Key Achievements of the Ministry of Defense for 2024



The Ministry of Defense, namely the Army of the Republic of Kosovo, has been and continues to be one of the main priorities of Prime Minister Kurti and our government since the beginning. This is evidenced above all by the budget allocations that for the first time reach over 2% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product), thus fulfilling one of the NATO standards.

The record budget allocated to the Ministry of Defense has influenced the extraordinary development of our army by increasing its capacities in three key aspects: the military arsenal, the numerical personnel, and their professional development through training.

We have recruited 1,971 new military personnel so far, and we are in the process of recruiting another 600 soldiers, by reaching the total number of recruits over four years to 2,571, or in comparative terms, we have managed to double the number of military personnel within one mandate.

In addition to the increase in numbers, we have also supported the increase in the welfare of KSF members through salary increases, so that the first-class soldier, from the 422 euros previously paid, now receives a salary of 616 euros. And developments did not only occur in terms of salaries, but we also invested in their professional preparation through funding for education and training.

Since the beginning of the mandate, hundreds of officers and dozens of cadets have been educated in the most renowned military academies in the world, while 4,011 military personnel have been trained abroad, which is many times more than in previous governments. At the same time, we have invested in building combat capabilities through the purchase of weapons systems.

With a budget that has tripled, approximately 319 million euros have been invested—an extraordinary increase compared to the three-year period of the previous government, which had invested less than 4 million euros in this

sector. Bayraktar drones are among the modern weapons systems now at our disposal, while payments are currently being executed for the procurement of the American anti-tank missile system, "Javelin."

A contract has also been signed with a Turkish state-owned company for the construction of an ammunition factory, which will operate as a public enterprise, producing products under the "Made in Kosovo" label.

Notably, during this period, the Basic Course for Infantry Officers by the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) was held for the first time domestically. Additionally, the KSF actively participated in 12 international exercises, including Winter Exercise, Combined Resolve, KFOR 32, 33, 34, Dynamic Front 24, Eager Lion 24, EFES 24, Vigorous Warrior 24, Dimali 24, and Defender Europe 21 and 23, during which a regiment was validated.

Furthermore, our members have demonstrated exceptional professionalism, both in the search and rescue operations following the earthquake in Türkiye and in the joint deployment operation in the Falkland Islands.

In terms of international cooperation, I must emphasize that we have signed agreements with 15 countries and are in the process of finalizing Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Finland.

Furthermore, this year we have expanded our military diplomacy network by accrediting military attachés in the Netherlands, Slovenia, Canada, Switzerland, and Jordan.

Given our strong commitment to cooperation with strategic partners and our goal of NATO membership, Kosovo has contributed significantly as part of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine. We have offered three packages of military support and have also joined the Demining Coalition, led by Latvia, within this group.

With regard to Kosovo's international presence, I would like to highlight the remarkable achievements of the International Search and Rescue Training Center. This center has successfully trained hundreds of members from partner countries, including Albania, the United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary, Jordan, Malta, North Macedonia, Ireland, Portugal, and Türkiye. Recently, with the inclusion of trainees from the Netherlands, we initiated a new phase of providing paid training at the ICS&R.

Through dedicated efforts, we have not only met but also exceeded the objectives set for the Second Phase of the Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP).

In the legislative domain, we have adopted the concept of Comprehensive Defense. Considering the significant changes in war strategies and interference in states aimed at destabilization—becoming increasingly hybrid in nature—and the growing frequency of cyber-attacks, we established the State Training Center for Cybersecurity.

Our primary goal through this Center is to equip security institutions with the necessary skills and knowledge to withstand and respond effectively to any such threats.

I can state with complete confidence that the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) possesses all the essential capacities to ensure the security of its citizens and safeguard the territorial integrity of the Republic of Kosovo.

Ejup Maqedonci,
Minister of Defense

Advancing International Cooperation and Enhancing Security in 2024

During 2024, a series of significant diplomatic and official meetings were held at the Ministry of Defense, further strengthening international relations and cooperation with partner countries.

Among the most notable visits of the year were the reception of the Minister of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany, Boris Pistorius, and the official ceremony with the Italian Minister of Defense, Guido Crosetto. Additionally, the visit of the Croatian Minister of Defense, Ivan Anušić, and the accompanying official ceremony at the Ministry of Defense premises marked another key event.

Throughout the year, Minister Ejup Maqedonci held several high-profile meetings, including one with the Head of the Department for Foreign Relations of the Chief of the General Staff of Türkiye, Brigadier General Omer Nafiz Gülmezoglu, and another with the United Kingdom's Special Envoy for the Western Balkans, Lord Stuart Peach.

Other important engagements included a meeting with the Chief of Operations at the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, Major General Subutay Adas, and the visit of Albania's new Minister of Defense, Pirro Vengu, accompanied by his delegation. Minister Maqedonci also welcomed NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations, Thomas Goffus, and met with NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Operations, Burcu San. Additionally, he held discussions with the NATO Joint Force Commander in Naples, Admiral Stuart B. Munsch, and the new KFOR Commander, Major General Enrico Barduani.

Further key visits included those by Türkiye's Minister of National Defense, Yaşar Güler, and the Chief of General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, General Metin Gürak. The year concluded with the official visit of Latvia's Minister of Defense, Andris Sprūds, which was another significant highlight.

Across these meetings, various topics were discussed, including security, challenges, achievements, and efforts to strengthen Kosovo's cooperation with NATO and partner countries.



Key International Activities and Meetings of the Minister of Defense in 2024

During 2024, the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, undertook several significant trips and held high-level meetings abroad. At the beginning of the year, at the invitation of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Finland, he visited Finland, where he was warmly received by the Minister of Defense, Antti Häkkinen. At the Budapest Security Forum, Minister Maqedonci met with his Hungarian counterpart, Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky.

A key milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the UK's Minister of the Armed Forces, Leo Docherty. This agreement aims to enhance bilateral cooperation in the defense sector and support Kosovo's aspirations for NATO membership. During the Warsaw Security Forum, Minister Maqedonci and Prime Minister Albin Kurti met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense, Celeste Wallander, and Ambassador Michael Carpenter to underline the importance of Kosovo's integration into NATO.

In Qatar, Minister Maqedonci held productive discussions with key Qatari leaders from the Military Industry sector, including Barzan Company representatives, as well as with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of Qatar, Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah. These meetings focused on exploring cooperation opportunities within the defense industry.

Minister Maqedonci also participated in the Adriatic Charter Forum (A5), where crucial topics related to regional security and collaboration among Western Balkan countries were deliberated.

Further, Minister Maqedonci, alongside President Vjosa Osmani and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, attended the International Security Forum in Halifax, Canada, upon the invitation of Canada's Minister of National Defense, Bill Blair.

Additionally, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, paid an official visit to the United Kingdom in July at the invitation of Air Vice Marshal Nigel Maddox, CBE. During this visit, the delegation from the Ministry of Defense and the KSF visited the Royal Air Force base in Swanwick to gain insights into the UK's air command and control system.



Kosovo associate member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

As of May 27, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has granted the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo the status of an associate member of NATO. As a result, Kosovo now has the privilege of proposing and contributing to any issue addressed by the NATO Assembly.

This decision brings Kosovo one step closer to full membership in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, a development that will undoubtedly affect the stability of the Balkans.



Kosovo Joins the Demining Coalition for Ukraine

The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, together with the Minister of Defense of Lithuania, Laurynas Kasčiūnas, signed a joint agreement in Brussels, officially recognizing Kosovo as part of the Demining Coalition for Ukraine.

Through this agreement, Kosovo has become the 17th member state of the coalition, which is dedicated to supporting Ukraine by providing specialized training in the field of demining—a commitment made as part of the Contact Group for Ukraine.

Additionally, as part of the Contact Group for the Defense of Ukraine, the Republic of Kosovo has donated a total of 30 tactical and non-tactical vehicles to the Ukrainian armed forces.

This milestone marks a significant step forward in strengthening Kosovo's international presence and highlighting its contribution to global security.



KSF Participates in Operation Interflex to Train Ukrainian Military Personnel

In January 2024, the Ministry of Defense held the launch ceremony of the KSF Contingent in Operation INTERFLEX, carried out in coordination with the United Kingdom to support and prepare Ukrainian military personnel.

The second KSF contingent successfully completed its six-month deployment in the "Interflex" operation and returned to Kosovo in December. During their assignment, they were integrated into one of the two British companies within the Training Delivery Unit, contributing to the planning and execution of training programs for servicemen from the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Throughout this operation, the KSF team showcased exemplary military skills and unwavering discipline, making a significant contribution to capacity building and enhancing global security.

Kosovo's participation in the "Interflex" operation underscores its steadfast commitment to international peace and stability and highlights its dedication to strengthening cooperation with allies.



Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Türkiye Sign Military Framework Agreement

In January, the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Türkiye signed a Military Framework Agreement, which is anticipated to strengthen military cooperation across various sectors. The agreement was signed in Türkiye by the Minister of Defense of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Minister of National Defense of Türkiye, Yaşar Güler.

Key topics discussed during the signing included the exchange of military personnel, education, joint training, investment in the defense industry, and the provision of health treatment for KSF members in Türkiye. The agreement lays the foundation for initiating and implementing these commitments.



Historic Agreement Between Kosovo and Germany on Defense and Security Cooperation

On December 17, the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, and the Chief of Defense of Germany, General Carsten Breuer, signed a significant agreement in the field of defense and security.

This agreement formalizes Germany's commitment to supporting Kosovo by providing political, military, and legal assistance to the KSF, facilitating its participation in international organizations. It also outlines key areas of cooperation, including joint exercises, training, involvement in international organizations, technical and logistical support, and various other shared interests.



KSF Demonstrates Outstanding Success in the 'EFES 2024' Exercise in Türkiye

The KSF contingent achieved outstanding success during the military exercise "EFES 2024" held in Izmir, Türkiye. This large-scale exercise brought together 45 countries, over 12,000 troops, and showcased the most advanced weaponry of the Turkish defense industry. Kosovo was represented by a delegation that included the First Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, and Brigadier General Hysen Dreshaj.

The closing ceremony of the exercise was attended by President Erdoğan, along with high-ranking delegations from participating countries. The KSF demonstrated exceptional professional training, effective collaboration with Turkish commando forces, and successfully accomplished the complex objectives of the exercise.

Additionally, the delegation visited the arms exhibition hosted by Turkish defense companies and held meetings with prominent figures from the defense industry.



The International Conference "KSF And Partners 2024" Strengthens International Cooperation and Regional Security

The annual international conference "KSF and Partners 2024," organized by the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, brought together senior representatives from the Ministry, ambassadors, and defense attachés from partner countries.

The event featured impactful speeches by the Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylaj, the KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, as well as ambassadors and NATO representatives. These presentations emphasized the importance of international cooperation and celebrated shared successes.

The conference also included thematic sessions delivered by senior KSF officers and military attachés from partner nations, focusing on achievements and addressing challenges in both regional and global security.



Kosovo and Türkiye Sign Agreement to Establish Ammunition Factory

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo has signed a contract with the Turkish state-owned manufacturer "Makine ve Kimya Endüstrisi," marking a significant step toward establishing a domestic defense industry. Under this contract, an ammunition factory will be established to produce ammunition of various calibers in compliance with NATO standards.

The agreement covers the supply of production machinery, the training of local staff, equipment maintenance, and the installation of advanced systems for quality testing and calibration. This initiative represents a crucial milestone in strengthening Kosovo's defense capabilities.



Advancements in Kosovo's Defense Strategic Documents for 2024

The Department for Policy and Strategy (DPS) at the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force has had an eventful year, marked by numerous significant activities and achievements. The DPS diligently monitored and harmonized strategic documents and defense policies, preparing and finalizing several key documents, including the priorities of the Minister of Defense for 2024 and 2025, the Long-Term Development Plan, and the Policy Statement for the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework 2025–2027.

In the domain of development and analysis, the DPS produced 14 detailed papers containing analyses and recommendations on pivotal topics such as Russian threats to NATO and the EU, advancing Kosovo's integration into NATO, global military spending, and NATO reports. Additional analyses covered conflicts in the Middle East, the arms race in the Balkans, and the application of artificial intelligence in the military sector.

The DPS also played a vital role in monitoring and harmonizing the implementation of defense policies with strategic documents, contributing significantly to the country's security and defense capabilities. Through its analytical work and collaboration with various institutions, the DPS has been instrumental in shaping and executing defense policies and security strategies for Kosovo.

From November 19–21, 2024, as part of activities within the framework of the Adriatic Charter (A5), the Deputy Director of the Directorate for Policy, Azem Smajli, participated as an observer in the Conference of Directors for Defense Policy.

This participation underscores the Ministry of Defense and the KSF's commitment to becoming active contributors to this initiative. Such involvement is expected to strengthen regional security and, notably, advance the development and professionalism of our institution.



The DPE's Strategic Role in Shaping Defense and Security Policies

By drafting strategic documents and providing professional insights and recommendations, the Department of Planning and Evaluation has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of defense policies and security strategies in 2024—a year marked by remarkable achievements and a steadfast commitment to the security and strategic advancement of the country.

In addition, the DPE accomplished a number of significant milestones last year, contributing to the creation and oversight of strategic plans for the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF).

As part of these efforts, the DPE coordinated the drafting of the Ministry's Plan for 2025, which was aligned with the annual strategic objectives of the Minister of Defense. Moreover, the Work Plan for the Government of the Republic of Kosovo was prepared, in accordance with the Government Program 2021–2025.



Strengthening Kosovo's Defense Diplomacy and Promoting International Integration

During 2024, the Ministry of Defense successfully achieved a key objective by expanding its diplomatic network of defense attachés. With the approval of Kosovo's request for the accreditation of a KSF defense attaché to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kosovo's military diplomacy network has grown significantly.

Currently, Kosovo is represented by defense attachés in 12 countries, including four resident attachés and eight non-resident attachés. Seven Resident defense attachés are stationed in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia, Albania, and Türkiye. Non-resident attachés serve in Slovenia, Canada, and, as of this year, the Swiss Confederation. By the end of 2024, new attachés were appointed to Italy and Japan.

For the first time, a KSF Military Representative was deployed to the US Army Europe and Africa Command (USAREUR-AF) and to the RACVIAK Center in Croatia, marking a milestone in Kosovo's efforts to strengthen its international presence. Kosovo continued to work towards membership in international organizations, including through a joint meeting between Kosovo and Albania. Bilateral plans for 2025 were finalized and signed with the U.S. state of Iowa, Türkiye, Italy, Austria, and Germany, while draft plans were forwarded to other partner nations.

In the realm of international cooperation, notable progress has been made. Kosovo signed cooperation agreements with 15 countries, and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are currently in negotiation with the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Finland.



Ministry of Defense Budget Raised to €208 Million for 2025

According to Budget Circular 2025/02, which defines the final budget limits, the Ministry of Defense's budget for 2025 is set at €207,940,243.00.

The preliminary budget execution for the Ministry of Defense from January to December 2024 amounts to €169,791,544.42, representing 96.93% of the total approved budget of €175,175,119.59.

This record-breaking budget has significantly accelerated the development of Kosovo's army, enhancing its capabilities in three key areas: strengthening the military arsenal, increasing personnel numbers, and advancing professionalism through comprehensive and specialized training programs.



Commitment to transparent communication and increasing the credibility of the KSF

The maximum commitment of the PRO to professional and transparent communication with the public has continued with high intensity during 2024. The Ministry of Defense has presented all public and media activities with an extraordinary commitment and high professionalism. This transparency has been key to keeping citizens informed and engaged with important developments and reforms in the field of defense and security.

Based on the annual analysis of the Public Relations Office's activities, 2024 has been a successful year for the Public Relations Office in its efforts to communicate effectively and transparently with the public.

By organizing media conferences, social media posts, media releases and videos, as well as recruitment campaigns, the PRO has proven its commitment and professionalism in every aspect of public communication, which have contributed to the continued building of a sustainable and positive image of the Ministry and the KSF.

In a survey for the Western Balkans conducted by the International Republican Institute, 67% of respondents rated the Kosovo Security Force as the most trusted institution in Kosovo. Citizens of the Republic of Kosovo expressed full confidence in the Kosovo Security Force. This result reflects the commitment of the members of our military, guided by the principles of transparency and full accountability of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force in fulfilling their objectives.

According to this survey, the Kosovo Security Force enjoys the greatest credibility out of all the armies of the Western Balkan states.



Achievements and Efficiency in Coordinating Activities for the Ministry of Defense and KSF

With full efficiency, the Protocol Unit has executed a demanding schedule of activities, which included coordinating and organizing visits from international authorities to the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). The Unit has played an active role in hosting key events, including the deployment ceremony of the INTERFLEX contingent, the preparation of the program and agenda for the 16th anniversary of Independence, and the inauguration of the State Cyber Security Training Center, among others.

In the second half of the year, the Protocol Unit contributed to the success of the KSF and Partners 2024 Conference by organizing the necessary arrangements for the participation of leaders from the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, as well as foreign ambassadors.

Other notable activities included military visits and the handover ceremony of duties by the director of NALT, which further underscored the Unit's commitment to excellence throughout the year.



Significant Progress in Humanitarian Demining Efforts in Kosovo

In 2024, humanitarian demining operations successfully cleared a total of 1,557,638 square meters of land and neutralized 590 explosive devices. Demining activities in Kosovo began on March 18 and concluded on November 22, 2023. KSF units conducted operations in three primary locations: Ferizaj Freedom Park, Cvilen, and Muradema.

In addition to area clearance, the KSF carried out Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operations, intervening in 321 cases, destroying 158 explosive devices, and superficially inspecting 453,315 square meters.

The Demining Coordination Center (DCC) demonstrated its unwavering dedication to protecting citizens' lives and ensuring a safe, mine-free environment. It closely collaborated with the KSF, KFOR, and international organizations such as Norwegian People's Aid and Halo Trust.

In 2024, the Strategic Mine Action Plan for the Republic of Kosovo 2025–2030 was officially approved. This plan outlines the strategic direction of Kosovo's Mine Action Program from January 2025 to December 2030.

Additionally, mine risk education has played a crucial role in raising public awareness and promoting safety across communities.



Annual Review of the Procurement and Contracts Department's Efficiency

The Procurement and Contracts Department of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) successfully addressed requests in compliance with Kosovo's public procurement laws and regulations. The planned activities comprised 49 supplies, 24 services, and 18 construction projects. Procedures were finalized for 108 activities, while some requests were returned for further completion.

In total, 82 contracts were signed, with 11 additional activities currently in progress. Over the reporting period from January 1, 2024, to December 24, 2024, a total of 624 purchase orders were issued, amounting to €91,880,240.84.



Legal Initiatives and Strategic Agreements

As part of the Government's Legislative Program for 2024, the Legal Department prepared draft laws for the ratification of military agreements and the amendment of existing laws, which were processed and approved by the Government.

Following the approval of three key laws for the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), the department continued to monitor and align sub-legal acts with the newly enacted legislation. This included initiating procedures to amend relevant acts outlined in the 2024 legislative plan.

One of the department's primary activities in 2024 was the drafting of a concept document for the Ministry of Defense, which proposed a new law to address areas not covered by existing legislation. This document was processed for approval and will be carried forward as an objective for 2025.

Additionally, during 2024, the Legal Department worked on drafting concept documents for the Reserve Component of the KSF and the domain of the KSF Inspector General.



Approval of the National Program for Comprehensive Defense by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has approved the National Program for Comprehensive Defense, modeled on similar systems implemented in various NATO countries. This program empowers central and local institutions, citizens of the Republic, and non-governmental organizations to actively contribute to the nation's defense and security system.

Its primary objective is to enhance national resilience, ensuring that society is equipped to withstand, respond to, and recover from natural disasters or armed attacks.



Promoting Human Rights and Gender Equality in the Ministry of Defense

The Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, in addition to enhancing operational capacities, place a strong emphasis on respecting and advancing human rights. The institution actively supports the cultivation and development of the culture and identity of minority communities and has fulfilled its obligation to employ persons with disabilities.

In 2024, the Human Rights and Gender Equality Unit within the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force made notable strides in upholding human rights and promoting gender equality. Gender equality has been integrated into the Ministry's Defense Strategy and policies, as well as into the curricula of the Doctrine and Training Command. Additionally, the Human Rights and Gender Equality Network has been established across all units of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force. The Basic Training Center has also incorporated gender equality into its training programs for new recruits.

At present, women and girls comprise approximately 28 percent of the Ministry of Defense's staff, contributing across all departments and units. Within the Kosovo Security Force, women represent around 10 percent of personnel, with plans to increase this percentage in the future. Women in the military actively contribute to all structures of the Kosovo Security Force.



Achievements in Implementing the Strategy for Minority Community Integration in the Ministry of Defense

In 2024, the Community Affairs Unit successfully implemented the Strategy for the Integration of Minority Communities, showcasing its effectiveness as a vital tool for fostering a more integrated and united society. The Ministry of Defense welcomed new employees from minority communities, enhancing diversity and inclusion within the institution.

The contributions of these new employees have significantly improved the functionality and efficiency of both the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force. This year stands as a remarkable example of what can be achieved when institutions and communities work collaboratively toward a more inclusive and promising future.



Progress in the Kosovo Security Force's Professional Development and Equipment Modernization

In 2024, the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) made significant progress in professional development and the modernization of its equipment. A key example of this advancement is the inclusion of Bayraktar drones in the KSF arsenal, with payments currently underway for the procurement of the American-made anti-tank missile system "Javelin."

An important milestone during the year was the appointment of the Standardization Board and the approval of the Annual Standardization Plan for 2025. Furthermore, the Department for Transformation, Modernization, and Standardization (DTMS) finalized and approved the Regulation on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) on July 2, 2024, and established working groups to oversee its implementation.

Through these initiatives, DTMS has played a pivotal role in coordinating, evaluating, and managing the transformation, modernization, and standardization processes within the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force. These efforts align with the Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP), ensuring that the KSF is equipped with cutting-edge technology and prepared to address future challenges effectively.



Recruitment Progress in the Kosovo Security Force: 346 Recruits Accepted in 2024 and 390 Candidates Under Evaluation

In 2024, the first generation of recruits comprised 346 individuals. Meanwhile, a second cohort of 390 candidates is set to undergo medical examinations and basic training, following a decision by the Minister of Defense.

The Directorate of Human Resources has carried out its activities in alignment with the strategic objectives and the annual work plan. These tasks encompass recruitment, qualification, education, compensation, and the provision of support to personnel throughout their service and upon their release.

Personnel Status

Active military personnel: 3,930 (78.69%), male 90.92%, female 9.08%

Reserve military personnel: 115 (3.93%), female 12.17%, male 87.83%

Cadets in training: 135, female 14.2%, male 85.18%

Civil staff in the KSF: 114 (21.93%), female 12%, male 78.07%

Civil staff in the Ministry of Defense: 127 (59.06%), female 33.07%, male 66.93%



Kosovo Security Force University Studies Center's Annual Achievements and Cadet Exchange Partnership with Canada

In 2024, the Kosovo Security Force University Studies Center (USC) achieved notable successes. A total of 42 cadets were recruited, with 20 accepted into the USC, five in Germany, three in Türkiye, ten in Albania, one in Croatia, three in the United Kingdom, and one at West Point, USA.

Currently, 135 cadets are undergoing training, including 63 at USC, three in the United Kingdom, nine in Germany, four in Croatia, three in the USA, 25 in Albania, and 28 in Türkiye.

In December 2024, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for a Cadet Exchange between the Kosovo Security Force University Studies Center and the Royal Military College Saint-Jean of Canada. This agreement will facilitate a mutual exchange of cadets starting from the second semester of the 2024/2025 academic year, contributing to the professional growth of KSF cadets and enhancing their interoperability with Canadian counterparts.



Key Achievements of the Department of Career Management and Verification in 2024

Throughout the year, the Department of Career Management and Verification conducted verification procedures for 77 officials and members of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) through the Agency of Protection for Classified Information (APCI). These verifications were categorized into the following levels: 5 officials for the "Top Secret" level, 53 for the "Secret" level, and 19 for the "Confidential" level.

Additionally, the Department completed background checks for 28 cadet candidates who successfully passed the process. For eight other candidates who had previously undergone background checks, decisions were prepared and issued to finalize their background verification.



Donations and Capacity Building for the Kosovo Security Force

- During the 2024, the Ministry of Defense received a number of donations from international partners and private donators, contributing to the strengthening of the capacities and equipment of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). These donations include various equipment that are of a great importance for the operations and training of the KSF.

The United States of America has donated various equipment for KSF, including communications equipment, Hazmat and EOD equipment, training and administrative inventory, and pallet marking equipment, with a total value of approximately \$3.2 million, over 30 thousand euros, and over 4 thousand pounds.

The Federal Republic of Germany has donated military trucks to the Kosovo Security Force with a total value of approximately 2.45 million euros.

The Republic of Türkiye has donated the "Vuran" equipment with a total value of approximately 1,3 million dollars.

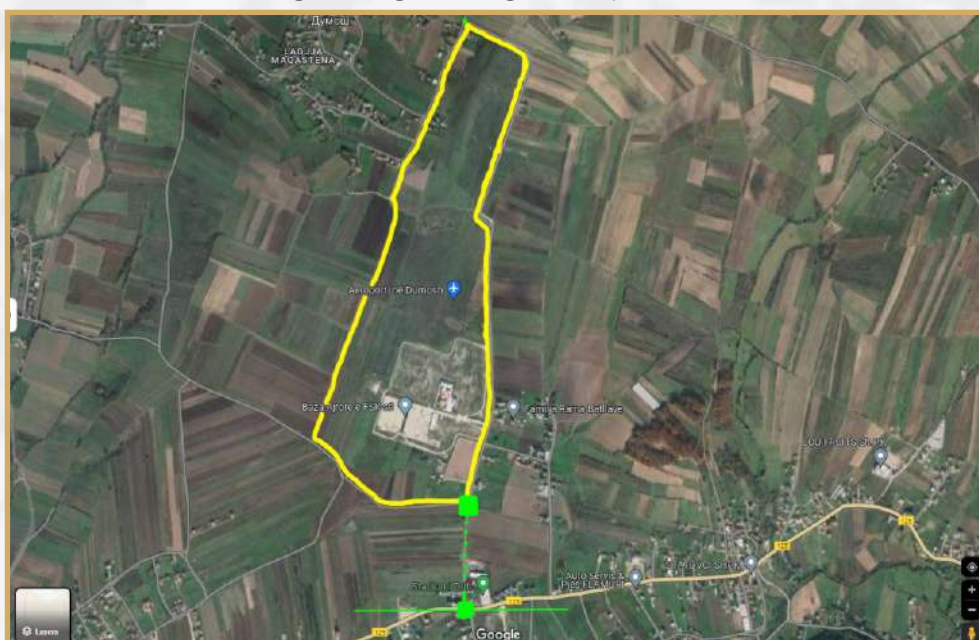


Ministry of Defense and KSF Assume Management of Dumosh Airport Properties

Starting from November 2024, the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) have taken over the management of the properties of Dumosh Airport as strategic points for improving the country's defense and security. The deployment of KSF soldiers at Dumosh Airport in Podujevë is an important development for security and stability in the region.

Additionally, the acceptance of Camp Casablanca in Suharekë has been completed.

Based on the Action Plan for 2024, the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure has carried out a series of important activities, including the draft Procurement Plan for the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and KSF for 2025, the development of the cash flow plan for 2024, and the final report for analysis, evaluation, and advice regarding the logistics system.



Inauguration of the State Cybersecurity Training Center

In March, the inauguration ceremony of the State Cybersecurity Training Center was held at the KSF base.

This Center, a vital new pillar in the nation's security framework, is designed to provide training aimed at raising awareness of cybersecurity risks. It seeks to enhance professional skills and improve the cybersecurity readiness of government institutions, essential service operators, and digital service providers, thereby strengthening the capacity to protect the nation's critical infrastructure.

The curriculum for the State Cybersecurity Training Center, a key component of the national cybersecurity strategy, was developed with the support of the Embassy of the United Kingdom. Its implementation was carried out by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in collaboration with local and international experts.



Advancing Medical Services through Collaboration Between the Ministry of Defense and Kosovo Security Force

In the cooperation with the National Blood Transfusion Center, voluntary blood donation drives have been organized within the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), ensuring continuous support with blood products and logistical assistance for the Center. In January, the Department of Medicine signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the MoD and the Kosovo Pharmacists Association.

In terms of international cooperation in medical field, the referral of patients for medical treatment to GATA-Ankara in Türkiye has continued. Meanwhile, under agreement with the Psychosocial Center for trauma Therapy, five members of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) have completed a two year training in trauma therapy.



Improvement of Security and Information through security projects for the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF)

In order to implement security policies and achieve the objectives of the Ministry of Defense for 2024, the Directorate of Intelligence and Security has worked on the development, review, and implementation of strategic documents for the field of intelligence and security. The level of security and information has been improved through security projects for the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), while cooperation with local and international security and intelligence institutions has been ongoing. Bilateral agreements has been signed, contacts have been expanded with three new countries, including meetings with partners from Albania, Croatia, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Germany, Austria and Slovenia.



Improvement of internal control mechanisms in the Ministry of Defense

During 2024, the legal framework in the field of defense has been improved and advanced through drafting of two directives and a concept for the activity of the Inspector General. Transparency and institutional accountability have been increased to ensure integrity and credibility through the drafting of annual plans and reports, including 12 monthly plans, the National Development Plan (NDP) 2025-2027 monitoring and inspecting reports.

Improvement of internal control mechanisms, including unannounced inspections and investigations to assess the implementation of recommendations given by the Inspector General and the Minister of Defense, has been a key component. Inter-institutional cooperation has continued with other institutions, and new units have been established with a focus on monitoring recommendations related to the operational readiness of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF).

Modernization and standardization have been achieved through inspections related to the implementation of defense programs, preventing abuse and mismanagement. The General Inspectorate has deepened its partnership with the United States and expanded bilateral cooperation to contribute to international operations and exchange experiences in inspections.



Effective management of documents and archiving in the Ministry of Defense

The Department for Document Management and Archiving has successfully completed all planned activities as well as those that arose from additional requests. The Main Protocol Book has processed 4,877 documents, and 4,011 documents were processed in the Incoming Protocol Book. The Office for Classified Information Management handled 713 documents, bringing the total to 9,601 documents. The Translation and Proofreading Office completed 53 simultaneous translations and 249 translated documents, totaling 1,343 pages, and also proofread 41 documents, amounting to 659 pages.





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