



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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"Our objective and commitment for transparency and full accountability, to the oversight institutions and our citizens, is and will be the starting point of every engagement", Minister Mehaj

In the "Adem Jashari" Barracks, on the 22nd of January, the candidates' interview test for active KSF soldiers was conducted with great success.

To follow the progress of the testing process, the premises where the testing took place were visited by members of the Parliamentary Committee on Security and Defense and the Committee on Budget and Finance, led by committee chairman, MP Beke Berisha.

In the meeting with them, Minister Mehaj and senior officials of MoD and the KSF shared positive impressions of the well-prepared and implemented process. They expressed deep gratitude for all the personnel engaged in this very significant process.

Our objective and commitment is for full transparency and accountability in front of the supervising institutions and our citizens. This is the core principle for all of our activities.





Welcoming the new U. S Ambassador in Kosovo, Jeffrey M. Hovenier

During the month of January, Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj hosted the new Ambassador of the United States of America in Kosovo, Jeffrey M. Hovenier, welcoming him as he begins his new diplomatic assignment in Kosovo. Minister Mehaj also expressed his deep gratitude to the United States for its irreplaceable support for Kosovo in the construction, development and overall advancement of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. "So far the support by the USA has been vital in development of interoperable operational abilities and capacities with allied forces of partner countries and NATO members. A key achievement was the first participation of a KSF contingent in a mission abroad alongside American military forces." Both agreed to further intensify bilateral cooperation between the two partner countries in the realm of defense and security serving regional peace and stability.



The Czech Republic and Republic of Kosovo reconfirmed their close cooperation in the defense field in a meeting between Minister Mehaj and the Czech Ambassador, Pavel Bilek.

In addition to talks on current security issues in the country, region, and the world, during this meeting the two also discussed the forms of cooperation between the two ministries and forces in areas of common interest.



Our military women and girls – our pride!

KSF Officer, Lieutenant Liridona Baftjari-Jashari, in graduation ceremony of Staff Officer Course, at Land Warfare Institute in Istanbul was recognized as the best international student.

Lieutenant. Baftjari-Jashari entered in the history of this Institute as the first international officer to be recognized in this special way!



Visit to the MoD of the deputies of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, members of the Committee for National Security

Our inter-institutional cooperation and exchange of experiences, at the parliamentary committee's level is an additional value of our very close fraternal relations. Parliamentary oversight is a strong instrument of civil democratic control of our modern forces and a clear demonstration of the doctrine and principles of Euro-Atlantic values. This was reconfirmed during the meeting of Minister Mehaj with the MP's of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, members of the National Security Committee.



Minister Mehaj visits the Special Operations Regiment of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania

Minister Mehaj together with Minister Peleshi and General Begaj visited the Special Operations Regiment of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania where was conducted the graduation ceremony of the 13th Basic Course of Special Forces. Among the trainees, KSF servicemen also graduated in this ceremony. On this occasion as a sign of gratitude and thanks for the fraternal and professional support. Minister Mehaj presented the Medal for Distinguished Service to the Commander of the Special Operations Regiment, Col. Arben Z., and Commander of the Commando Battalion, LTC. Pëllumb H., and to the Commander of the Special Forces Battalion, LTC. Ajeta J. The special operations capacities of our forces are very important in the current complex challenges of the security environment.



The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, on 21st January also approved the draft law on ratification of Agreement between the Republic of Kosovo and Republic of North Macedonia on status of militaries of both countries during temporary stay in their territories.

Through this agreement, our common vision is being crowned, as neighbors and partners, for the implementation of the "Smart defense" concept in the service of the common interest and beyond.



The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo also on 21st January approved the law on amending and supplementing of the Law on Humanitarian Demining.

With specialized demining capacities as a national asset coordinated by our Demining Center, now we have our appropriate legal framework to meet our full mission in very particular operations.



Among the strategic objectives of Minister Mehaj, this year also, in addition to modernization of forces is the promotion of staff-command and tactical maneuvering cadre. The current education of our 14 officers is also in this process in the Command and General Staff Course in the Academy of Armed Forces in Albania. From the assessment by the leaders of the respective Course, their performance and interest in curriculum acquisition is of a high level.



Twenty-five members of the Second Regiment of Infantry during the month of January successfully completed very challenging training in demonstration of abilities in mountainous condition and terrains. This following success was achieved in support of our friends, the U. S servicemen.





Within the cooperation with U. S Army, from 10th January is being conducted the mountainous training provided by American KFOR. Part of this training are members of the second Regiment of Infantry (R2K), respectively 2A Company that soon will begin the validation process. During this training our members will have the opportunity to learn rock climbing techniques, evacuation of victims in steep terrains and crossing water barriers via rope bridges. All these activities have trained our members to operate in rocky mountainous areas which make up a large part of the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.

In the 38 anniversary of fall of heroes, Rexhep Mala and Nuhi Berisha, Minister Mehaj together with Prime Minister of Republic of Kosovo Albin Kurti, Dep/Minister Sylja and Dep/Commander of the KSF, MG. Enver Cikaqi, have visited the first regiment of Land Forces of the Kosovo Security force in the "NewBorn" barracks in Gjilan.

"Building the army is our common task and with the greatest dedication we will work on modernizing the army with equipment, weapons, service conditions, as well as providing opportunities where soldiers can show their skills," said. Minister Mehaj on this occasion.

