



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government
Ministria e Mbrojtjes
Ministarstvo Odbrane - Ministry of Defense



CONFERENCE KSF AND PARTNERS 2024

**Peace, Security and Partnership
Are our Common Values**

Prishtina, 1-3 October 2024



KSF and PARTNERS CONFERENCE 2024



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CONFERENCE

KSF AND PARTNERS 2024

**Peace, Security and Partnership
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“KSF and Partners 2024”- United for Defense

The Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) held the annual international conference “KSF and Partners 2024”, the 16th in a row. This conference, held in Pristina, brought together senior representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, ambassadors, defense attachés of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as other diplomatic representatives and military attachés from Kosovo's partner states.

In their speeches, Deputy Minister of Defense Shensi Sylaj and KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari emphasized the importance of international cooperation and the role of the KSF in maintaining peace and security in the region. Brigadier General Christian Nawrat, Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), praised the progress of the KSF and its commitment to international defense standards.

The British Ambassador to Kosovo, Jonathan Hargreaves, the Turkish Ambassador to Kosovo, Sabri Tunç Angılı, and the Italian Ambassador to Kosovo, Antonello De Riu, also delivered speeches expressing their support for the KSF and the importance of close partnership with Kosovo.

During the conference, thematic presentations were given by the Chief of Staff of the KSF General Staff,

Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi, Colonel Bekim Osmani, Colonel Astrit Haliti, Lieutenant Colonel Beton Retkoceri, the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Croatia, Colonel Stjepan Domjancic, and Major Shpëtim Ujkani. These presentations addressed various issues related to security and defense, including new strategies and improvements in KSF capabilities.

The “KSF and Partners 2024” conference served as an important platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between international partners and the KSF, further strengthening ties and cooperation in the field of defense and security.

The KSF and Partners Conference is a prestigious annual event that has been held annually since 2014. This conference is organized by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, with the aim to enhance the bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of defense and security. The participants on this conference are representatives from Ministries of Defense of our partner countries, Defense Attaches accredited to the Republic of Kosovo, and representatives of the international missions and organizations in the Republic of Kosovo.

Inaugural address by Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylaj:**KSF Will Continue to be a Force for Peace and Stability in the Region**

I have the honor and pleasure to thank you on behalf of the Ministry of Defense, Minister Ejup Maqedonci and on my own behalf for your participation in this important conference for the KSF and the partnership with friendly countries. This day is not just a commemoration of the dedication and tireless efforts of KSF members, but also a powerful testament of close and sustainable cooperation with international partners. The Kosovo Security Force has proven over the years its commitment to protect the freedom and security of all our citizens. Founded on the values of peace, democracy and unparalleled dedication to the country, KSF today is a symbol of national pride and our guarantee for a secure future. We are closing this year with joint successes with our partners where, in addition to our multilateral cooperation, I want to emphasize coordination and

cooperation to contribute for Ukraine's righteous liberation struggle.

During this complicated journey, we have never been alone. Our international partners have played an essential role in shaping, modernizing and strengthening our capacities. For this, our thanks go not only for the material and military aid, but also for the commitment shown to peace and stability in the Western Balkans. Through this close cooperation, the KSF today remains strong and ready to fulfill its mission as a guarantor of Kosovo's security and a contributor to international peace.

Dear friends!

Today we show not only our achievements, but also the cooperation and alliance we have built with our partners over the years. This cooperation is based on the common values of freedom, equality and

respect for human rights. These are the values that unite us and that give us the strength to stand firm in the face of any challenge.

We are aware that the path to peace and stability requires constant effort, readiness and loyalty to our highest values. And precisely these qualities are what unite the Kosovo Security Force and our partners. Through joint exercises, training, and international operations, we have built a capable, disciplined, and prepared force to meet security challenges, both at home and abroad.

As we look forward, let us be confident that the KSF, supported by its partners, will continue to be a force for peace and stability in the region. Together, we will build a safer future for everyone.

In conclusion, I want to thank every member of the Kosovo Security Force for their sacrifice, dedication and extraordinary courage. Also, the most sincere thanks go to our international partners, who have stood by us at every step of this journey. Let us continue together, committed to our common mission of peace, security and development. Together, we are stronger.





Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari:

KSF Continues Its Path Towards Building New Capabilities in Line with NATO Standards

It is a pleasure to be together once again in this important conference for Kosovo Security Force and its partners. Kosovo Security Force continues its path towards building new capabilities, investing in human resources and developing a Force that it's interoperable with its partners.

Your support until this phase has been essential for the KSF development and together we have made KSF a success story.

As KSF Commander, I have continuously coordinated with our partners to push forward our major projects since this is essential for our way forward.

I have continuously stressed that we train, educate and co-deploy only with NATO countries and this is a sign of our seriousness towards our strategic focus, the membership in the most important military alliance in the world.

While we prepare to enter into the last phase of the Comprehensive Transition Plan, we are also entering a complex phase of developing new capabilities and sustaining existing ones. We have also started our plans for the post-CTP period based on the Long-Term Development Plan.

We will also complete this phase together because global security has never been more challenged. We have to be ready to fulfill our constitutional and legal mandate and support the Alliance in response to regional and global security challenges.

Therefore, it is essential that we continue to have your support so that together we can increase our readiness and interoperability capabilities to react in a timely manner.

Only through this we can be ready to serve in peace and prevent wars.





**The Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT)
Brigadier General Christian Nawrat:**

NATO Remains Fully Committed to Play Its Part In Supporting Security And Stability In Kosovo And Across The Region

It is difficult to overstate the importance of this conference. Coordination remains vital to ensuring the effective delivery of support to the Civilian Structure Overseeing the KSF and the KSF.

For the work of the NALT it is very important to maintain close and reliable relations based on trust with our counterparts in the security organisations in Kosovo.

I also highlight the importance of our close relations with internationals in providing support to these organisations. I hope that this conference allows us to commit to greater coordination based on a common understanding throughout the next year.

NATO remains fully committed to play its part in supporting security and stability in Kosovo and across the region, especially against the backdrop of tensions that we all are aware of.

The NALT is one of NATO's two pillars of this support. As directed by the North Atlantic Council, our work helps the Civilian Structure overseeing the KSF to develop the much needed policies. Our work also supports the KSF, particularly the National Guard, to develop capabilities to support

civilian authorities in responding to crises.

We work within this mandate and there is still much for us to do. By providing our advice as a multinational team based on the original KSF mandate, we play a unique role among the various internationals supporting the KSF.

Over the last year, we have seen the threat posed to Kosovo by natural emergencies, including flooding and forest fires. The KSF has been instrumental in responding to these crises. The Search and Rescue International Training Centre has international renown for providing top-level training and is planned to be a stepping stone for further regional cooperation.

It is very important that Kosovo maintains these capabilities. As the KSF grows, the need for effective sustainment functions increases. It is not enough to have a capability if you cannot sustain it. The transition process should not neglect or overwhelm the maintenance of core force-sustainment functions.

Civil emergency response, like any other KSF capability, depends on having both the necessary



people and the necessary resources. I believe that we all, KSF and internationals alike, have a responsibility to ensure that the capabilities we develop can be maintained. When developing and maintaining a capability, human resources and logistics are a priority and not an afterthought.

The NALT plays our part in advising on these issues. On human resources, my team is capable of advising on recruitment, retention, training, career path development, and occupation specialism regardless of touching a military or a civilian post.

I also have a specific advisor dedicated to offering expertise on logistics, as well as advisors able to cover topics related to logistics such as budget and legal affairs.

Logistics and human resources are not the only areas of NALT advisory support. Allies remain keen for us to support KSF efforts to field a force able to provide opportunities to individuals regardless of gender or ethnic background. It is important that residents of Kosovo feel that they are all represented in the KSF. NATO welcomes progress towards a more inclusive KSF.

I have civilian and military specialists ready to advice on strategies to improve inclusivity. My own view is that the most successful strategies are developed by listening to the individuals most affected. It is also important to consider retention as much as recruitment.

With growing professionalism of the KSF we see the need to finalize the structure of the Institution providing Civilian Oversight. We have multiple advisors in various fields that are assisting with this endeavor and supporting the development of the required strategies and policies, which are the core of such an entity.

The NALT is ready to do more on all the issues I have spoken about today. However, the demand

signal must come from all our counterparts. Over the last year, my team has worked closely with the KSF. You will have seen advisors working at a range of levels on a daily basis – from the Civilian Structure overseeing the KSF, HQ KSF, TRADOC, the National Guard with its Search and Rescue International Training Centre as well as the Logistics Command.

I like to see my advisors engaging directly with their counterparts. I have directed them to spend as much time as possible away from our offices in Camp Film City, to seek opportunities for direct engagement. However, we rely on our counterparts to take advantage of this. To succeed, an open and constructive relationship is key. Without this relationship, our efforts may be fruitless.

It is also vital to maintain open and constructive relationships with our international colleagues. Many of the issues I have discussed cut across all our lines of effort, regardless of our respective mandates or priorities. We would welcome suggestions from our international colleagues on how to coordinate our activities on these issues to minimise duplication of effort and maximise delivery. Our intention is to complement your work. We are willing to support where we can, for example on issues such as PPBE. I have a specific advisor tasked to enhance coordination with and between the KSF and our international colleagues. I urge you to engage with him on a regular basis.

I also thank those NATO Allies and Partners for their direct support to my team. We are very fortunate to have so many experienced personnel working for us. I strongly urge you to continue to fill these positions in the future. I am always happy to discuss potential staffing opportunities with you or your colleagues.





The UK Ambassador to Kosovo, Jonathan Hargreaves:

The UK Is Proud of the Role We Have Played, Since the Very Beginning of the KSF

Congratulate the KSF on this gathering and annual demonstration of the ongoing support of international friends and partners in ensuring that Kosovo has its own security capability able to provide safety and security to its citizens, in line with UNSCR 1244, and to play its part in security in Europe.

The UK is proud of the role we have played, since the very beginning of the KSF - and indeed before - in ensuring that the KSF are capable, professional, inclusive and accountable. We are proud of the role we have played, and continue to play, in NATO's mission here, which remains essential for the region's stability. We are glad that we continue to be able to contribute to the very important of the NALT, as well as our support to the KSF and MoD.

We are proud of all those who have trained and been educated in the UK, including some outstanding participants - particularly female officers - and winners of awards at Sandhurst, our army college.

Four students are attending Sandhurst this year, and in December the 30th KSF officer will be graduating. Two KSF officers graduated from our staff college, along with a range of other officers attending UK training at different ranks.

We were also proud that The KSF deployed a section to Belize, along with the British Army led by a

Sandhurst graduate officer on Exercise MAYAN WARRIOR. During the training and exercises the KSF section proved invaluable as a reconnaissance force and acted as the lead recce force in the final exercise.

This year we have been particularly proud of the cooperation we have with the KSF on supporting Ukraine, in joint recognition of their vital role in stability in Europe.

The KSF have deployed sections of instructors to UK in support of Op INTERFLEX delivering infantry training to Ukrainian forces. The KSF are currently on their second rotation of support where their teams deploy for approximately 5 months at a time. I am delighted that the Minister for Defence has stated an ongoing commitment to this support.

The KSF has very notable achievements under its belt. Of course the KSF are still on a journey towards the capability and role to which they aspire. We aim to accompany you in delivering on your comprehensive transition plan, adapting to the threats of the future. We admire the professionalism and determination with which you are undertaking this journey. And we commend and support the Ministry's efforts at close, apolitical civilian oversight. We will continue to be proud to support you in close co-operation with the other partners.



The Ambassador of Italy to Kosovo, Antonello De Riu

Italian Forces Have Supported the Professionalization of KSF

It is a great honor to be here today, as we celebrate this important annual gathering hosted by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, aimed to strengthening both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in defense and security sectors.

Since 1999, Italy has made a significant contribution in terms of personnel and resources to NATO's most important foreign mission, helping to create the necessary security environment for post-war reconstruction.

A quarter of a century has passed, but our commitment to Kosovo remains steadfast even today, considering that Italian troops represent the largest national contingent with approximately 1,065 personnel deployed in the KFOR mission, with experts on the ground providing insights into best practices and helping to enhance Kosovo's capacity across various sectors.

Additionally, beginning October 11, an Italian general will take the lead for the 14th time, alongside the active involvement of a Military Attaché while stationed in Skopje, and an officer serving as an Advisor to the Kosovo Minister of Defense.

Through training and assistance programs, Italian forces have also supported the establishment of local institutions and the professionalization of Kosovo's security forces, promoting more stable and accountable military governance.

Italy has also worked to foster dialogue among different ethnic communities through numerous cultural and social initiatives carried out by both the Italian Army and the Embassy, which have contributed to building bridges between the Albanian and Serbian populations, essential for peaceful coexistence.

There are encouraging signs for expanding bilateral cooperation between Italy and Kosovo in 2025, which already includes around 20 activities conducted each year. These initiatives take place both in Kosovo and Italy, involving approximately 2 to 300 participants from Kosovo.

In December 2024, the fifth bilateral meeting, known as "Staff Talks," will be held in Rome, during which the activities for 2025 will be established.

On that occasion, it will also be important to assess the effects of the changes to the current Memorandum of Understanding, particularly the



addition of "areas of cooperation in defense and security" to support the Ministry of Defense and the KSF in their transformation, modernization, and integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

However, the current geopolitical challenges, such as the malicious influence of the Russian Federation in the region and tensions with Serbia, require an adaptation of KFOR's strategies through a more flexible and responsive approach. This is essential to address these new threats, and the robust posture adopted by KFOR since last year, with a substantial increase in personnel and resources dedicated to border control, has proven crucial in reducing the risk of escalation.

At this regard, I would also like to acknowledge that during the attack on Kosovo's sovereignty and security in the north on September 24, carried out by an armed group of paramilitary attackers, the KSF and the MoD displayed professional maturity. They upheld their reputation as reliable security

partners by avoiding provocative rhetoric and refraining from actions that could have led to further escalation.

Stability cannot, however, be achieved solely through military presence, and dialogue among the concerned parties is more than just a political imperative, notwithstanding the lingering tensions and mistrust among them, that impede tangible progress. Only through a consistent and coordinated commitment from the international community can we ensure that the efforts made so far are not in vain, but translate into lasting stability and shared prosperity.

In this context, NATO and KFOR, along with QUINT and EU members, are fully supporting the EU-facilitated discussions aimed at finding lasting solutions to unresolved issues.

I am optimistic that, with continued patience, persistence, and a collaborative approach from all parties involved, these challenges can be overcome.





The Turkish Ambassador to Kosovo, Sabri Tunç Angılı:

Türkiye Strongly Supports Kosovo's Vision for Euro-Atlantic Integration and NATO Membership

As a Balkan country, Türkiye thinks that maintaining security in Kosovo is critical in order to achieve lasting stability across our region. NATO, both through KFOR and also through bilateral cooperation of some allies, contribute significantly for a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

Türkiye is glad to do its share by developing defense cooperation with KSF as well as assuming the KFOR Commandership last October.

We have deep rooted bonds with all Balkan nations including Kosovo. These bonds define our policy towards the Balkans. In our view, strong and independent Kosovo reinforces peace and stability across the region. That is the main reason of our continued support to Kosovo Security Force within the NATO framework and on the basis of our bilateral agreements.

In this respect, we will always remember the sacrifice and professionalism displayed by the KSF search and rescue team in saving lives within the earthquake region of my country. This shows us all

that enhancing capacity of KSF is good not only for Kosovo but for its partners as well.

Agreements on Military Financial Cooperation (latest in 2019) between Türkiye and Kosovo play crucial role for our support to Kosovo Security Force through military grants. So far, Türkiye has provided more than 14 million US dollars worth military equipment to Kosovo Security Force.

As it is known, the Military Framework Agreement was signed on January, 2024. Every year roughly 60 KSF members are receiving military trainings in Türkiye. More than 500 KSF staff, including first military doctors and helicopter pilots of Kosovo, have already received trainings in Türkiye in that regard. Additionally, hundreds of KSF staff have been trained by Turkish military training teams in Kosovo. Agreement of Military Health Cooperation between Türkiye and Kosovo (2014) paved the way for 50 KSF personnel and their families to receive medical treatment in Türkiye every year.

We are also pleased with the ongoing high-level visits between our Defence Ministries and military authorities. This helps us to strengthen our defence cooperation.

Türkiye strongly supports Kosovo's vision for Euro-Atlantic integration and NATO membership as its strategic goal. We also wish to see full

normalization between Kosovo and Serbia through the dialogue process.

Türkiye would always be a reliable partner for Kosovo in its state building efforts and achieve its goal of integration into the Eur-Atlantic structures.



Defense Attaches of the Republic of Kosovo Participating in the Conference



KSF military representative in USAREUR-AF - Major Mentor Ibrahim;

Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Croatia-Lieutenant Colonel Shpend Zogaj;

Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Albania- Colonel Enver Hoti;

Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Netherlands- Colonel Enver Voca;

Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in USA-Colonel Sylejman Caka;

Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Türkiye- Colonel Bekim Zejnullahu;

Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in Germany-Lieutenant Colonel Besim Gashi;

Defense Attaché of Republic of Kosovo in the United Kingdom-Colonel Agron Bajrami.

Defense Attaches from Partner Countries

ALB



Beqir Tafilaj
Colonel
Defence Attache

CRO



Stjepan Domjančić
Colonel
Defense Attaché

GER



Oliver Palkowitsch
Lieutenant Colonel
Defense Attaché

NL



**Lieutenant Colonel
Jurgen Flischerman**
Defence Attache

TUR



Adem Turk
Colonel
Defence Attache

USA



Ashley Berg
Colonel -Defense Attaché

Jonathan Shaw
Lieutenant Colonel
U.S. Army Attache

UK



Edward Green
Lieutenant Colonel
Defense Attaché

FRA



Valery Sens
Colonel
Defense Attaché

ITA



Cristian Margheriti
Colonel
Defense Attaché

CAN



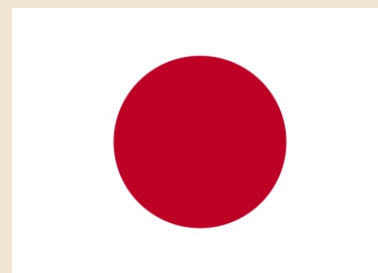
Julien Richard
Colonel
Defense Attaché

CZECH



Radim JONÁŠ
Colonel
Defence Attaché

JPN



Iwasaki Tomofumi
Colonel
Defence Attaché





Presentations During the Conference



Lieutenant Colonel Liridon Poroshtica
Lead Organiser and Moderator
of the Conference



**Kosovo Security Force
Development and Current
and Future Operations**
Brigadier General Ilir Qeriqi
Chief of Staff of the KSF
General Staff



**International Defense
Cooperation**
Lieutenant Colonel Beton Retkoceri
Acting Director of Department for
International Cooperation and Euro-
Atlantic Integration



**MoD / KSF Transition
process and way ahead**
Colonel Bekim Osmani
Director of the Department
for Transformation and
Modernization at the MoD



**Colonel Astrit Haliti Chief
of G3/7 General Staff**



**The Defense Attaché of the
Republic of Croatia, Colonel
Stjepan Domjančić**

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS


UK Sep 2021


USA SPP 2011


GER Oct 2012


JOR Dec 2020


ALB May 2021


LTU Nov 2009


MKD Apr 2022


NL Dec 2009


CRO Dec 2021


TUR Dec 2009


MNE Sep 2022


LTV Nov 2021


SVN June 2013


HUN June 2016


ITA Sep 2018


KUW Oct 2021



REGIONAL INITIATIVES



NATO Parliamentary Assembly



Regional Cooperation Council



US-ADRIATIC CHARTER



RACVIAC

CEDC+Western Balkans

Associate Member

Member

Observer

Participate in permanent basis

Participate in permanent basis



KSF – KFOR COOPERATION 2024



- HAZMAT Inspections
- EOD Operations



Supporting Ukraine



- The Republic of Kosovo, as a member of the Contact Group for Ukraine, donated equipment worth approximately 3 million euros until September 2024.
- Together with EUCOM, we are training hundreds of Ukrainians in demining operations in Kosovo.
- Alongside our British Allies, as part of Operation "Interflex", KSF is training Ukrainian units.
- The Republic of Kosovo is a member of the Demining Coalition for Ukraine.
- The Government of Kosovo has decided to donate a fleet of vehicles to Ukraine.
- Kosovo made long-term commitment to continuing our support.

Cultural Activities during “KSF and Partners 2024”

As part of the “KSF and Partners 2024” Conference, distinguished guests from partner countries had the unique opportunity to explore the historic city of Prizren. This visit included a tour of the Prizren League, a site of immense cultural and historical significance. The League of Prizren, established in 1878, was a pivotal Albanian political organization that played a crucial role in the national awakening and the defense of Albanian territories during the Ottoman Empire.

During the visit, guests were able to immerse themselves in the rich heritage of Kosovo, learning about the League's efforts to unite Albanians and resist partition among neighboring Balkan states. The tour provided a deeper understanding of the region's history and its enduring impact on contemporary defense and security collaborations. This cultural experience not only highlighted the historical ties but also reinforced the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in maintaining peace and security.





The Working Group that Organized the 2024 KSF and Partners Conference

The “KSF and Partners 2024” Conference was meticulously organized by a dedicated working group comprising key members from the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Their efforts were supported by a team of dedicated professionals who managed logistics, communications, and security arrangements.

The collaborative efforts of this working group ensured that the “KSF and Partners 2024” Conference was a significant platform for international defense cooperation, highlighting

Kosovo's commitment to global security partnerships.

This team was led by senior officials, including:

From left to right: Driton Ramaj, Lieutenant Col. Bexhet Shala, Edona Zylfijaj Abazi, Col. Elton Vjeshta, Lieutenant Col. Liridon Poroshtica, Dafina Myrtaj.

Col. Bekim Osmani, Venera Sokoli, Col. Sefer Shyti, Kimete Beqiri, Major Bujar Ferizi.





KSF and PARTNERS CONFERENCE 2024

1 - 3 October 2024
Prishtina, Kosova

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