



NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Kosovo Reaffirms Its Commitment to Ukraine and Euro-Atlantic Security



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci participated in the 35th Meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, held at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. The meeting brought together approximately 50 defense ministers from NATO member states and partner countries to discuss the latest security developments and the situation in Ukraine. Co-chaired by Germany's Minister of Defense, Boris Pistorius, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, and the United Kingdom's Minister for the Armed Forces, Dan Jarvis, the meeting reaffirmed the participants' unwavering support for Ukraine in defending its sovereignty, freedom, and territorial integrity against Russian aggression. On the margins of the meeting, Minister Maqedonci held bilateral discussions with NATO officials and defense ministers from partner countries, focusing on strengthening defense cooperation and addressing current security challenges. The Republic of Kosovo remains firmly committed to standing alongside its partners and allies in support of Ukraine, as well as to contributing to international peace, security, and stability.



KSF Successfully Concludes Its Participation in Operation Interflex



The Kosovo Security Force has successfully concluded its participation in Operation Interflex, the United Kingdom-led multinational mission dedicated to training the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Since joining the operation in early 2024, the KSF deployed five consecutive contingents of instructors and specialized personnel, demonstrating a high level of professionalism, military expertise, and interoperability while further strengthening Kosovo's reputation as a reliable contributor to international peace and security. In addition to its contribution through Operation Interflex, the Republic of Kosovo reaffirmed its support for Ukraine through active participation in international coordination forums and by providing military equipment and other assistance. The mission concluded with a closing ceremony in the United Kingdom, where members of the Kosovo Security Force received awards and certificates of appreciation in recognition of their dedication and outstanding contribution. These recognitions reflect the professionalism and commitment of KSF personnel and reaffirm Kosovo's role as a trusted partner in promoting international peace, security, and stability.



KSF Once Again Leads in Public Trust

According to the 2026 WeBalkans Regional Survey, the Kosovo Security Force holds the trust of 87.4% of citizens, once again ranking as the most trusted institution in Kosovo and the most trusted armed force among Western Balkan countries and Türkiye. This confidence reflects the ongoing investment in the development, professionalism, and modernization of the Force. The achievement is a result of the dedication of all KSF personnel, as well as the professional leadership of Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and the General Staff. The Ministry of Defense remains committed to further strengthening the KSF in line with NATO standards and Kosovo's strategic goals, continuing efforts to enhance readiness, capabilities, and cooperation with international partners.

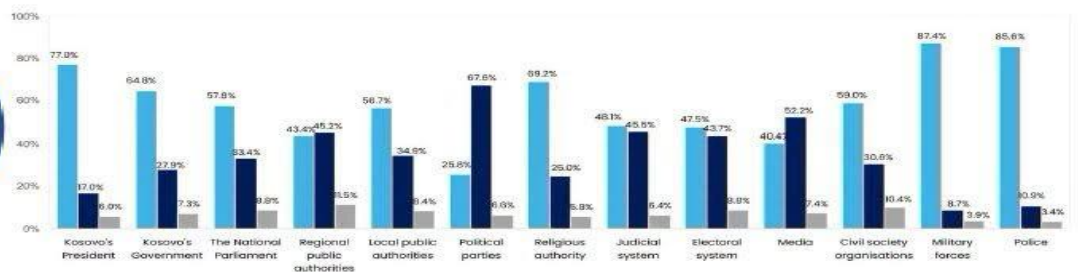
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Please tell us which is your level of trust for following institutions, organisations and systems

Tend to trust Tend not to trust Don't know



Trust levels
across key
institutions and
systems

Kosovo and Iowa National Guard Strengthen Defense Cooperation



Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci today hosted a meeting with the Deputy Commander of the Iowa National Guard, Brigadier General Mark A. Muckey. The discussion focused on opportunities to further deepen cooperation in the field of defense, including the joint use of Kosovo Security Force air infrastructure and the development of capabilities in line with NATO standards. The partnership between Kosovo and Iowa, as part of the special relationship with the United States of America, continues to be one of the most successful and sustainable defense cooperation frameworks, directly contributing to the enhancement of the Kosovo Security Force's professional and operational capabilities. During the meeting, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo reaffirmed its commitment to investing in modern military infrastructure and providing facilities that enhance interoperability with strategic partners.

Also, the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, received Brigadier General Muckey and his delegation in a separate meeting, as part of continued high-level engagement. Lieutenant General Jashari expressed appreciation for the Iowa National Guard's sustained support in the development of KSF capabilities, describing the partnership as a "success story." He also briefed the delegation on recent developments within the KSF and its role in ensuring national security and contributing to regional stability. Both sides highlighted the significant progress achieved in the modernization, training, and interoperability of the KSF through ongoing cooperation with the Iowa National Guard. The meetings reaffirmed the strong and strategic nature of the partnership, underscoring its importance for regional stability and long-term defense cooperation.



Deputy Minister Gegë Lleshi Attended ASDA 2026 Conference in Zagreb



Deputy Minister of Defense Gegë Lleshi, together with a delegation from the Ministry of Defense, participated in the ASDA 2026 International Defense and Security Conference in Zagreb, Croatia. The conference brought together representatives of state institutions, armed forces, the defense industry, and security experts to discuss the latest developments in defense technologies, innovation, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and the future of modern military capabilities. The event also provided an important platform for exchanging experiences and strengthening international cooperation. As part of the official program in Croatia, the delegation visited the city of Vukovar, where they toured the Memorial Hospital, the Memorial Museum, and other historical sites, and paid tribute to the victims of the Homeland War by

laying flowers at the Memorial Cemetery. The visit offered an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made in defense of freedom and the shared historical experiences of Croatia and Kosovo. On the margins of the conference, Deputy Minister Lleshi met with Croatian Homeland War veterans, including veterans of Albanian origin, expressing appreciation for their contribution to the defense of democratic values. The delegation also met with five Kosovo Security Force cadets studying at Croatian military education institutions and visited the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Zagreb, where discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing defense relations between Kosovo and Croatia. The visit reaffirmed the Ministry of Defense's commitment to strengthening partnerships with allied countries, enhancing professional defense capabilities, and promoting the shared values of peace, security, and democracy.





Honoring the Legacy of Hero Ilir Konushevci

On the anniversary of the birth of our national hero, Ilir Konushevci, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci paid tribute by laying flowers at his bust at the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Pristina, honoring the life, legacy, and sacrifice of one of Kosovo's most distinguished heroes. Ilir Konushevci was among the founders of the Kosovo Liberation Army and one of the key figures in organizing the struggle for Kosovo's liberation. Through his dedication, courage, and patriotism, he made an outstanding contribution to the fight for freedom and the liberation of the country. His legacy continues to inspire present and future generations, reminding us that freedom is a value earned and defended through sacrifice. On the anniversary of his birth, we honor the memory of Ilir Konushevci with profound gratitude and deep respect for his lasting contribution and enduring legacy.

Minister Maqedonci Attended the Decoration Ceremony Honoring Commander Adem Shehu

On the occasion of Kosovo Liberation Day, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci attended the ceremony during which Commander Adem Shehu was awarded the Order of Freedom, conferred by Acting President Albulena Haxhiu. Minister Maqedonci praised Commander Shehu for his outstanding contribution to Kosovo's liberation, highlighting his leadership in organizing and commanding the fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army. As Commander of the 153rd Brigade of the Llap Operational Zone, Adem Shehu played a significant role in the organization of military operations,



the protection of civilians, and the struggle for Kosovo's freedom. Having joined the liberation war from southern Albania, Commander Shehu remains a symbol of sacrifice, patriotism, and dedication to the national cause. Minister Maqedonci emphasized that the Order of Freedom is a well-deserved recognition of his lifelong commitment to the liberation and freedom of Kosovo.

KSF and the Albanian Armed Forces Train for Joint Operations



Within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Albania, the International Search and Rescue Training Center of the National Guard of the Kosovo Security Force conducted the “Basic and Advanced Urban Search and Rescue” training, with the participation of military personnel from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania and the KSF. The training covered topics related to the preparation and qualification of trainees for response to natural and man-made disasters, planning, the execution of individual duties as search and rescue personnel in an urban disaster, teamwork in rescue operations, the use of appropriate equipment, the application of rescue techniques, the provision of first aid in urban disasters, and other related topics. This training is a continuation of important cooperation efforts aimed at enhancing capabilities for response to urban emergency situations and strengthens interoperability between our two countries.



Lieutenant Colonel Fatbardha Osaj Appointed as Defense Attaché to Albania

Lieutenant Colonel Fatbardha Osaj, an officer of the Kosovo Security Force, has officially assumed duty as the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo to the Republic of Albania, based in Tirana. This appointment marks an important institutional milestone, as Lt. Col. Osaj is the first woman to serve as Defense Attaché in Albania, reflecting the commitment of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force to professionalism, meritocracy, and equality in international representation. In her role, the Defense Attaché will contribute to strengthening defense and security cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Albania, as well as advancing the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Ministry of Defense Delegation Conducts Official Visit to Albania



A delegation from the Human Resources Directorate of the Ministry of Defense conducted an official visit to the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania in Tirana to exchange experiences and best practices in human resources management. Led by Colonel Arife Halili, the delegation held meetings with counterparts from the Albanian Ministry of Defense, the Personnel Recruitment Center, and the General Staff, focusing on recruitment policies, personnel management, and professional development. During the visit, the delegation also met with senior leaders of the Albanian Armed Forces, including the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, the Director of the General Staff, the Commander of the Armed Forces Academy, and the Deputy Commander of

the College of Defense and Security. In addition, they met with Kosovo Security Force cadets and personnel attending military education and career courses in Albania. The delegation also observed recruitment practices and participated in the Career Fair in Tirana. Both sides praised the strong bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening professional ties and exchanging best practices in support of defense institution development.



Lieutenant Colonel Ilir Beqiri Begins Duty at the Embassy of Kosovo in London

Lieutenant Colonel Ilir Beqiri of the Kosovo Security Force has commenced his duty at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in London, where he will contribute to strengthening defense and security cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and the United Kingdom. His appointment reflects the Ministry of Defense's commitment to further advancing the strategic partnership with the United Kingdom, one of Kosovo's key allies in the field of defense and security. The Ministry of Defense extends its best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel Beqiri for a successful mandate and continued contribution to enhancing bilateral cooperation, professional exchange, and shared defense interests.

KSF Commander Hosts UK Defense Attaché

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted the newly appointed Defense Attaché of the United Kingdom to Kosovo, Lieutenant Colonel Denise McMahon. General Jashari congratulated Lieutenant Colonel McMahon on her appointment and reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening the longstanding cooperation between Kosovo and the United Kingdom. During the meeting, the two officials discussed the KSF's development, ongoing bilateral cooperation, and future plans in the areas of training, exercises, equipment, and other joint activities. Lieutenant Colonel McMahon commended the KSF's progress and professionalism, expressing the United Kingdom's readiness to continue supporting the Force's development. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral defense cooperation, with a focus on enhancing the KSF's military capabilities in support of its mission.



Deputy Minister Kervan and NALT Director Discuss Defense Cooperation

Deputy Minister of Defense Enis Kervan hosted a meeting with the new Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), Brigadier General Thomas Schulte-Borghoff. The meeting focused on the cooperation achieved to date and the importance of close coordination between the Ministry of Defense and NATO, with particular emphasis on current security developments and continued capacity building. The Republic of Kosovo remains committed to strengthening its partnership with NATO, advancing defense standards, and further enhancing the professionalism of its defense institutions.



Portuguese Contribution to Peace in Kosovo Honored in Lisbon

As part of an official visit to Portugal, the Director of the Department for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Defense, Colonel Ahmet Ajeti, participated in activities organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Lisbon to mark Kosovo Liberation Day. During his visit, Colonel Ajeti took part in a series of commemorative events and official meetings aimed at honoring the contribution of Portugal and other international partners to peace and security in



Kosovo, while also strengthening military cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and the Portuguese Armed Forces. At the Military Museum in Lisbon, a photographic exhibition dedicated to the service of Portuguese soldiers in Kosovo was officially inaugurated. The event brought together senior diplomats, military officials, and other distinguished guests. During the ceremony, speakers paid tribute to Portugal's valuable contribution to maintaining peace, stability, and security in Kosovo. Colonel Ajeti, together with the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Portugal, Edona Maloku Bërdyna, laid a wreath at the Memorial of Warriors in honor of the Portuguese soldier who lost his life while serving in Kosovo. As part of the visit, Colonel Ajeti also held a bilateral meeting with Colonel Simões de Azevedo, Head of the Cooperation Division of the Portuguese Armed Forces. The two officials discussed concrete steps to further strengthen bilateral defense cooperation and expand collaboration between the Kosovo Security Force and the Portuguese Armed Forces.

Ministry of Defense Delegation Visits Berlin to Strengthen Defense Cooperation with Germany



As part of bilateral defense cooperation, a delegation from the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo conducted an official visit to the Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany in Berlin from 23 to 25 June. The Kosovo delegation, led by the Director of the Department for Policy and Strategy, Azem Smajli, held a series of meetings with senior German defense officials headed by Colonel Nils Heiko Hutter, Head of the Department for Eastern Europe, Asia, and Oceania. The discussions focused on the global and European security environment, support for Ukraine,

the development of the Kosovo Security Force, NATO-related developments, and opportunities to further strengthen bilateral defense cooperation. The Kosovo delegation expressed its appreciation for Germany's continued support and reaffirmed its commitment to deepening the strategic partnership, advancing the KSF in line with NATO standards, and contributing to regional and international peace and security.



KSF and U.S. Army Support Emergency Preparedness in Drenas

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF), in cooperation with the U.S. Army CMSE team and the Municipality of Drenas, conducted a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) to strengthen institutional coordination and emergency response capabilities. The exercise brought together representatives of local and central institutions to simulate a flooding scenario in the Municipality of Drenas, testing coordination, decision-making, communication, and resource management during emergencies. The activity enhanced interinstitutional cooperation, identified areas for improvement, and contributed to strengthening preparedness for coordinated and effective responses to future crisis situations.

KSF Strengthens Cyber Defense Capabilities Through International Exercise “Combined Adriatic Cyber Endeavour 2026”

A Kosovo Security Force (KSF) cyber security team, together with the Iowa National Guard, participated in the international exercise “Combined Adriatic Cyber Endeavour 2026” held in Zagreb, Croatia. The exercise focused on strengthening cyber defense capabilities, interoperability, and cooperation among regional and U.S. partners through realistic scenarios involving the detection, analysis, and response to cyber threats. During the exercise, the KSF–Iowa team addressed complex cyberattack scenarios and enhanced its capabilities in incident response, information sharing, and operational coordination. This marked the first time the KSF team led the combined KSF–Iowa team in an exercise of this scale, with Iowa National Guard personnel supporting in an advisory role.



KSF Delegation Visits AFRA Support Command to Strengthen Cooperation

As part of military cooperation between the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania (AFRA), a KSF delegation visited the Support Command and its subordinate units. Led by the Deputy Commander of the Logistics Command, Colonel Valdet Berisha, the delegation held meetings with Brigadier General Aleksandër Pando and his staff, focusing on logistics, training, civil emergencies, and the enhancement of operational capabilities. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange experiences, learn about AFRA’s support structures and capabilities, and further strengthen interoperability and partnership between the two forces.

KSF Advances Professional Development Through International Military Education and Training

The professional development of Kosovo Security Force (KSF) personnel continues through participation in prestigious international military education programs, strengthening leadership, operational capabilities, and interoperability with partner countries.



Lieutenant Colonel Vegim Krelani Graduates with High Distinction from the U.S. Army War College

After one year of studies, KSF officer Lieutenant Colonel Vegim Krelani successfully graduated with high distinction from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, earning a Master's degree in Strategic Security Studies. Lieutenant Colonel Krelani was recognized for his outstanding academic performance, reflecting the professionalism and dedication of KSF personnel in advancing defense and security capabilities.

KSF Officers Complete the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

KSF officers successfully completed the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) program conducted by the United States Army.



Major Mimoza Budeci successfully completed the CGSC program conducted by the United States Army in Germany with distinguished academic results. During the program, Major Budeci was recognized for her high level of professionalism and dedication and was selected as a group leader, demonstrating strong leadership and cooperation skills in a multinational academic and military environment.

Major Naim Zyberaj successfully completed the CGSC at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, one of the most prestigious military education institutions in the world. He graduated alongside more than 951 officers from over 90 countries, enhancing his capabilities for command and staff duties in complex operational environments.



Major Getoar Rexhepi successfully completed the CGSC Intermediate Level Education (ILE) program at the 7th ILE Detachment of the United States Army in Germany. The program contributed to the development of advanced skills in operational planning, leadership, and cooperation within joint, multinational, and interagency environments.



KSF Officer Major Vilson Musaj Successfully Completes the International Military Cooperation Course

Kosovo Security Force officer Major Vilson Musaj successfully completed the International Military Cooperation Course (IMCC) held in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The course brought together participants from 20 countries and provided an important platform for exchanging professional experiences, advancing knowledge, and strengthening international cooperation in the field of defense and security. During the program, Major Musaj was selected as class leader, representing participants throughout the course activities. At the graduation ceremony, he delivered the closing remarks on behalf of the course participants. The successful participation of KSF personnel in international education and training programs reflects their professionalism and commitment to continuous development, while contributing to the strengthening of defense capabilities and cooperation with international partners.



KSF Sergeant Major Participates in NATO Senior Enlisted Leaders Conference



KSF senior enlisted leader OR-9 Ilir Rama participated in the 22nd International Senior Enlisted Leaders Conference (ICC 2026) held at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. The conference brought together senior enlisted leaders from NATO structures, partner countries, and military institutions to discuss security challenges, strategic priorities, and lessons learned from international operations. During the conference, OR-9 Rama presented the vision of the Commander of the KSF for the development of non-commissioned officers within the Force.



KSF Officer Graduates from Military Police Course in the United States

Kosovo Security Force officer, Lieutenant Arijanit Elshani, successfully graduated with high distinction from the Military Police Basic Officer Leader Course, which was conducted in the United States of America. Throughout this professional military program, Lieutenant Elshani demonstrated a high level of professional knowledge, leadership skills, and continuous dedication to fulfilling the required duties and standards. In recognition of his outstanding performance, he was honored with the prestigious “Honor Graduate” and “Iron Man” awards, which are presented to officers who distinguish themselves through outstanding academic achievement, discipline, physical endurance, and exceptional dedication throughout their training. This success represents a significant personal achievement for Lieutenant Elshani, as well as evidence of the professionalism and high level of preparedness of Kosovo Security Force personnel at the most prestigious international military institutions.

KSF Noncommissioned Officer Sets National Record in Athletics

Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Noncommissioned Officer OR-3 Leon Thaqi from the 1st Infantry Regiment achieved fourth place in an international competition held in Germany, setting a new national record in the 600-meter event with a time of 1 minute and 17 seconds. Leon Thaqi is a professional athlete who regularly competes in track and field events, including the 400m, 600m, 800m, and 1600m disciplines. Representing the Athletics Federation of Kosovo, he has participated in international competitions, achieving outstanding results and currently holding the best performance among Kosovo athletes in the 600-meter event. His achievement reflects the dedication, discipline, and excellence of KSF personnel, demonstrating their ability to contribute both through military service and by proudly representing Kosovo in international sporting competitions.

