



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Kosovo Defense Minister Advances Strategic Partnerships and NATO Objectives at U.S. Department of War

The acting Minister of Defense of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, was received at the U.S. Department of War by the Assistant Secretary of War for International Security Affairs, Daniel Zimmerman, during an official diplomatic visit to the United States. The bilateral meeting focused on key regional security developments, Euro-Atlantic defense cooperation, and the institutional development of the Kosovo Security Force. Discussions emphasized a shared commitment to maintaining international peace and stability. Assistant Secretary Zimmerman commended the Government of Kosovo for its increased defense investments, strategic vision for its defense industry, and ongoing military modernization efforts. Additionally, he recognized Kosovo's institutional decision to deploy KSF personnel alongside U.S. forces in global peace-support operations, as well as its sustained support for Ukraine. The delegations also reviewed ongoing strategic initiatives intended to deepen the U.S.–Kosovo defense partnership and support Kosovo's objectives toward eventual NATO membership. The bilateral relationship with the United States continues to serve as a foundational element of Kosovo's security framework and its transition toward a modern, professional military.



Kosovo Security Force Officers Appointed to International Stabilization Force for Gaza



Two senior officers from the Kosovo Security Force, Major Gentrit Idrizi and Major Labinot Lala, have been officially appointed as liaison officers to the structures of the International Stabilization Force (ISF) for Gaza. The acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, emphasized that the deployment is a direct result of Kosovo's continuous defense investments, rigorous professional development, and its steadfast security partnership with the United States and international allies. The inclusion of KSF personnel in the stabilization mission underscores growing international confidence in Kosovo's military capabilities and marks an expanding role for the KSF in global peacekeeping and Euro-Atlantic security frameworks.

Construction of the Ammunition Factory in Gjakova Has Commenced



The Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, together with Acting Prime Minister, Albin Kurti, visited the construction site in Jahoc, Gjalova, where works have commenced on the construction of the first industrial ammunition complex. This project is being implemented within the framework of approximately 140 hectares allocated by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo for the defense industry and for the construction of the first factory of this nature with “Made in Kosovo” production, on an area of 19 hectares.

In parallel with the progress of the works in Kosovo, the production of industrial machinery, laboratories, and other technical equipment is being finalized in Türkiye. Furthermore, the professional personnel engaged in this project will soon commence specialization training provided by MKE in Türkiye, within the framework of preparations for the commencement of domestic production. The factory will produce 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm caliber ammunition, marking an important step toward strengthening the defense industry, enhancing state capacities, and guaranteeing the security of the Republic of Kosovo.



The Military Financial Cooperation Agreement between Kosovo and Türkiye was signed



The acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Türkiye, Yaşar Güler, signed the Military Financial Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, marking an important step in strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries. At the signing ceremony, the Deputy Minister of Defense, Enis Kervan, as well as the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, also participated. With this agreement, the Government of the Republic of Türkiye supported the Republic of Kosovo with 200 million Turkish lira, for the purpose of strengthening the capacities of the Kosovo Security Force and advancing its institutional and professional development. Minister Maqedonci emphasized that the agreement represented a clear proof of mutual trust and of the shared readiness to deepen long-term cooperation in the field of defense and security. The signing of this agreement was carried out within the framework of the participation of the delegation of Kosovo in the international defense industry fair “SAHA EXPO 2026”, in the Türkiye, one of the most

important global events in the defense and military technology sector.



During the stay in Türkiye, Minister Maqedonci held important meetings with representatives of institutions and the defense industry. He met with Haluk Görgün, Secretary of Defense Industries of Türkiye, with whom he discussed the development of local capacities of the defense industry in Kosovo, including the ammunition factory project and the possibilities for the development of joint production projects.



The Minister also held a meeting with Lord Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Defense of the United Kingdom, where they discussed the advancement of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense, training, capacity development, and the enhancement of military interoperability. Within the framework of “SAHA EXPO 2026”,

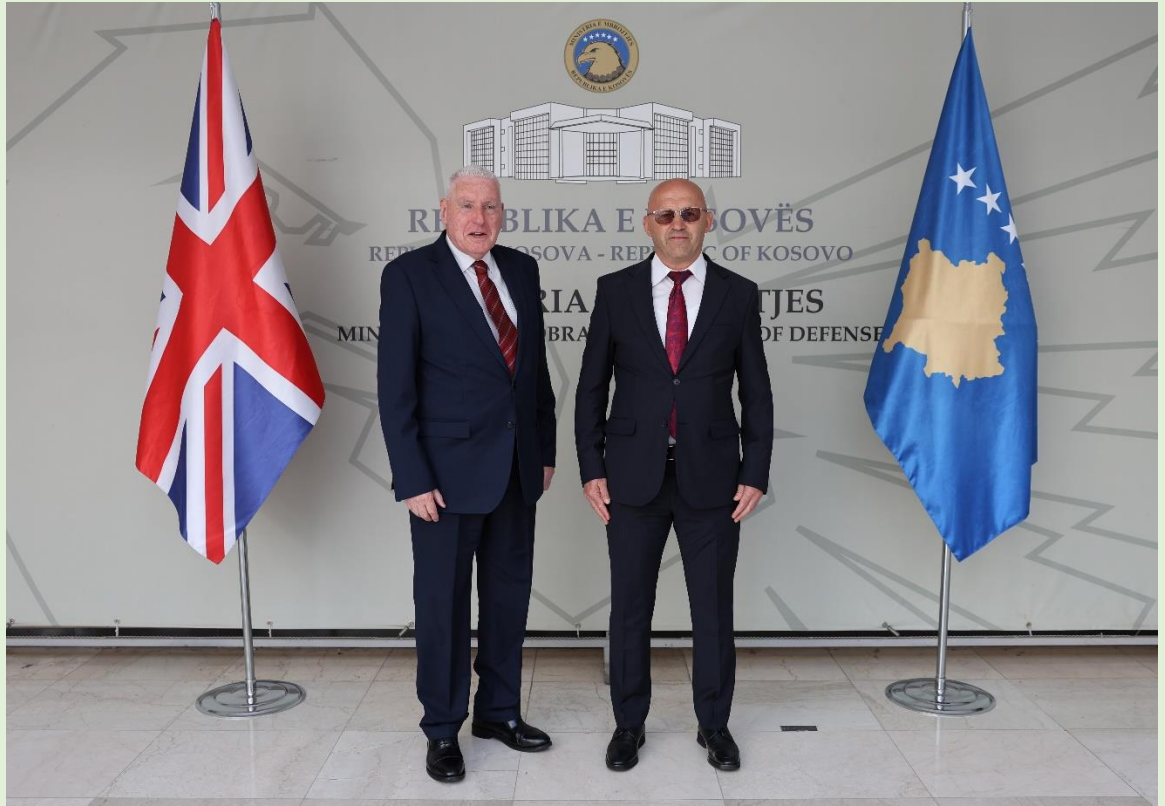
Minister Maqedonci and the delegation of the Ministry of Defense also visited the participating companies of the defense industry and were closely acquainted with the most advanced technological developments and the opportunities for strategic partnership.

The Commander of the KSF, Bashkim Jashari, also participated in the fair, where he held meetings with the leaders of the armed forces and the defense industry, with the focus on the modernization of the capacities of the KSF, training, equipment, and international cooperation. The participation of the Republic of Kosovo in “SAHA EXPO 2026” and the agreements reached within its framework demonstrated Kosovo’s commitment to the development of modern defense capacities, the strengthening of strategic partnership, and the advancement of regional security and stability.



Kosovo and United Kingdom Reaffirm Defense Partnership During High-Level Visit

Kosovo's Deputy Minister of Defense, Gegë Lleshi, hosted a bilateral meeting with the United Kingdom's Minister of State for Defense, Lord Vernon Coaker. The British delegation included the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Kosovo, Jonathan Hargreaves. The high-level meeting was also attended by the Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Major General Enver Cikaqi, alongside senior military officers and defense officials. Discussions focused on evaluating current security cooperation and reaffirming the strategic partnership between Kosovo and the United Kingdom. Key agenda items included the professional development of the KSF through British-led training and military education programs, as well as enhanced coordination on broader regional security issues. Deputy Minister Lleshi emphasized that continuous UK support remains vital for boosting KSF operational efficiency and advancing Kosovo's integration into Euro-Atlantic security architectures. The delegations further addressed shared strategic priorities, including sustained support for Ukraine, the ongoing role of the NATO-led KFOR mission, and new opportunities for deepening operational cooperation between their respective defense institutions. Deputy Minister Lleshi reaffirmed Kosovo's commitment to eventual NATO membership and its readiness to contribute to international peacekeeping operations alongside global partners. Both parties concluded the meeting by agreeing on concrete steps to further expand the bilateral defense relationship in support of regional peace and collective security.



Kosovo Deputy Minister of Defense Conducts First Official Visit to Albania

Kosovo's Deputy Minister of Defense, Gegë Lleshi, conducted his first official visit to the Republic of Albania to meet with senior institutional and military officials. During the visit, Deputy Minister Lleshi was hosted by Albania's Minister of Defense, Ermal Nufi. The two leaders discussed strengthening bilateral defense and security cooperation, advancing joint strategic projects, and enhancing institutional coordination in response to regional security challenges. The Kosovo delegation also held a working meeting with the Chief of the General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces, Major General Arben Kingji. Discussions focused on increasing military interoperability and aligning defense capabilities in accordance with NATO standards. The official itinerary included engagements with leadership from Albania's military intelligence structures, Cyber Command, and military educational institutions. Deputy Minister Lleshi also met with Kosovo Security Force (KSF) cadets and students currently training at Albanian military academies, emphasizing professionalism and dedication to national service. The visit concluded with both nations reconfirming their defense ties and shared commitment to bolstering regional peace and Euro-Atlantic security.



Kosovo Defense Leadership Hosts USEUCOM Brigadier General Chris A. McKinney



The acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, held separate bilateral meetings with Brigadier General Chris A. McKinney from the United States European Command (USEUCOM). The discussions focused on deepening bilateral defense cooperation and advancing Kosovo's specialized military capabilities. During the meeting with Minister Maqedonci, the leaders evaluated the current security environment in the Western Balkans, the development of Kosovo's domestic defense industry, ongoing military procurements, and strategic defense sector projects. Both officials underscored the critical role of the United States as Kosovo's primary strategic partner in enhancing national defense capacities. In a subsequent session, Lieutenant General Jashari outlined the KSF's institutional achievements to Brigadier General McKinney, highlighting the final phase of the Comprehensive Transition Plan and strategic milestones aimed at NATO membership. The leaders reviewed existing initiatives between the KSF and USEUCOM, emphasizing the intent to scale up collaborative operations and joint exercises. Notably, both delegations commended the upcoming integration of the KSF into global security architectures, specifically reviewing the force's contribution to the International Stabilization Force (ISF) for Gaza, where the first KSF deployment contingent is prepared to transition. The high-level meetings concluded with a mutual reaffirmation to further modernize the KSF through sustained U.S. strategic support.

Minister Maqedonci Receives NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Partnerships Kevin Hamilton

Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted a meeting with the Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Partnerships at NATO, Kevin Hamilton. During the meeting, the commitment of the Republic of Kosovo to Euro-Atlantic integration and the strengthening of the strategic partnership with NATO and allied states was reaffirmed. Likewise, discussions were held on the further development of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), the modernization of capacities in line with NATO standards, the increase of defense investments, as well as the importance of the continued presence of NATO and KFOR in maintaining peace and stability in the Western Balkans. Kosovo remains committed to contributing increasingly to regional and international security, transitioning from a consumer of security to an active contributor to peace and stability.



Acting President Evaluates Kosovo Security Force Progress and Defense Modernization



Acting President of the Republic of Kosovo, Albulena Haxhiu, held strategic meetings with Acting Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, to review the ongoing development of national defense capabilities. During the sessions, Minister Maqedonci outlined recent defense sector milestones, including increased budgetary investments, the expansion of active military personnel, and specialized officer education at international military academies. The leadership reviewed the regional security environment, Kosovo's expanding contributions to international peacekeeping operations, and the strategic path toward NATO accession. Lieutenant General Jashari briefed the Acting President on the final phases of KSF transition planning, modern equipment acquisition, and tactical interoperability goals. The executive meetings concluded with a shared institutional commitment to ensuring the KSF evolves into a fully capable force aligned with Euro Atlantic defense structures.



Major General Enver Cikaqi Represents Kosovo at Conference of European Armies

The Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Major General Enver Cikaqi, participated in the Conference of European Armies 2026 held in Germany. This prominent conference is a key high level event organized by United States Army Europe and Africa, bringing together senior generals and military leaders to coordinate international security and defense cooperation. Top military officers, land force commanders, and representatives from European partner and allied nations utilized the platform to address pressing security challenges across Europe and the wider region. The strategic initiative focuses on fostering defense cooperation and strengthening institutional relationships among European armies.



Kosovo Security Force Special Operations Debuts at SOF Week 2026



Special Operations forces from the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) participated for the first time in the international Special Operations Forces (SOF) Week 2026 conference. The prominent defense industry and military event was organized by the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in Tampa, Florida. The KSF Special Operations delegation joined representatives from 74 partner and allied nations. During the event, the delegation engaged in high-level bilateral discussions with key leadership from the global special operations community. Notable engagements included meetings with the Commander of USSOCOM, Admiral Frank M. Bradley, and the Commander of Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR), Lieutenant General Richard E. Angle. The deployment of the KSF delegation to this strategic forum underscores the ongoing professional development of Kosovo's specialized units. It further highlights their expanding role within international security networks and Euro-Atlantic defense cooperation frameworks. SOF Week serves as a critical global platform designed to strengthen international partnerships, facilitate the exchange of tactical and operational insights, and drive the modernization of global special operations capabilities.

Kosovo Security Force and German Armed Forces Complete Joint Search and Rescue Training

The International Search and Rescue Training Center hosted the Basic Urban Search and Rescue Training program with participation from both the Kosovo Security Force and the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany. This joint initiative highlights the continuous defense cooperation between Kosovo and Germany in building specialized professional capacities. The active participation of German personnel facilitated tactical experience exchange, enhanced interoperability, and advanced shared training standards. Throughout the course, participants developed critical skills in urban search and rescue operations including technical search techniques, tactical rescue procedures, safety protocols, and multi agency coordination during complex urban disaster response scenarios.



The High Course of Security and Defense has been completed in the Albanian Armed Forces



Within the framework of cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania and the objective of the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force for the enhancement and professional advancement of KSF personnel, Colonel Ali Krasniqi has graduated from the High Course of Security and Defense in the Republic of Albania, which aims at the strategic preparation of military and civilian leaders. In this strategic-level course, participants were from Albania, NATO member states, and international partners, strengthening cooperation, leadership, and the shared vision for security and defense.

The Center for University Studies participates in the forum “International Humanitarian Law” in Italy

The Center for University Studies, for the second time, took part in the forum “International Humanitarian Law” in Sanremo, Italy. This international activity brings together cadets from various military academies around the world to exchange their knowledge and skills in International Humanitarian Law. The Center for University Studies remains committed to supporting cadets in participating in initiatives that advance knowledge, experience, and the most dignified representation of the Kosovo Security Force in the international arena.

