



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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Kosovo Security Force Welcomed a New Generation of Officers



The Kosovo Security Force welcomed 12 newly commissioned officers following the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2026 at the University Studies Center, held at the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Prishtina. The ceremony was attended by Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, Acting President of the Republic of Kosovo Albulena Haxhiu, Acting Prime Minister Albin Kurti, senior officials from the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, representatives of NATO's Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), and international military partners. Following the oath of office, the graduates were commissioned as Second Lieutenants and officially joined the Kosovo Security Force. Their commissioning reflects the Ministry of Defense's continued investment in building a professional, modern, and capable force while underscoring the importance of military education in preparing future leaders dedicated to Kosovo's security and defense.



Ten KSF Officers Graduated from the Armed Forces Academy of the Republic of Albania



Another milestone in the professional development of Kosovo Security Force personnel was marked as 10 KSF officers graduated from the Armed Forces Academy of the Republic of Albania as part of the Class of 2026, further strengthening the military education cooperation between Kosovo and Albania. The graduation ceremony, which was attended by Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci at the invitation of the Minister of Defense of Albania, Ermal Nufi, marked the completion of the academic and military program for 67 newly commissioned officers, including 10 officers from the Republic of Kosovo. The graduates successfully completed their education in accordance with NATO standards, strengthening their knowledge and skills in leadership, operational planning, decision-making, and military management. Their achievement reflects Kosovo's continued investment in developing professional military personnel and enhancing the capabilities of the Kosovo Security Force. Throughout 2026, hundreds of KSF personnel participated and continued to participate in education, training, and professional development programs at Albanian military institutions, further strengthening the strategic partnership and shared commitment to advancing defense capabilities.



Kosovo Defense Leadership Recognized the Contribution of U.S. Defense Attaché Colonel Ashley J. Berg



Acting President of the Republic of Kosovo Albulena Haxhiu, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, and Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, honored U.S. Defense Attaché Colonel Ashley J. Berg upon the completion of his mandate in the Republic of Kosovo. During the official ceremony, Acting President Haxhiu awarded Colonel Berg the Presidential Military Medal in recognition of his distinguished contribution to strengthening defense cooperation and the strategic partnership between Kosovo and the United States. Acting Minister Maqedonci presented him with the Distinguished Service Medal in appreciation of his outstanding support for advancing the capabilities of the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, while Lieutenant General Jashari awarded him the Selfless Service Medal for his commitment to the

professional development and operational advancement of the Kosovo Security Force.

Throughout his tenure, Colonel Berg played an important role in supporting the modernization of the Kosovo Security Force, the development of defense capabilities, military education, professional training, and the expansion of bilateral defense cooperation between Kosovo and the United States. The Kosovo defense leadership expressed its appreciation for Colonel Berg's dedicated service and reaffirmed the importance of the enduring partnership with the United States, as well as its commitment to continuing close cooperation with the newly appointed U.S. defense representatives.



Kosovo Accredited Its First Defense Attaché to Belgium



The Republic of Kosovo accredited its first Defense Attaché to the Kingdom of Belgium, marking an important step in strengthening defense diplomacy and bilateral cooperation. Lieutenant Colonel Faton Bektashi officially began his assignment, assuming responsibility for representing Kosovo's defense interests and supporting cooperation with Belgian defense institutions. The accreditation established a permanent defense representation in Belgium and contributed to enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of defense and security. It also created additional opportunities for institutional coordination, professional cooperation, and the exchange of expertise between the defense institutions of the two countries. The Ministry of Defense expressed its appreciation to the authorities of the Kingdom of Belgium for their cooperation throughout the accreditation process and reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening the defense partnership between the two countries.

Lieutenant Colonel Agron Murati Accepted the Position of Defense Attaché to the Republic of Croatia

Lieutenant Colonel Agron Murati officially assumed the position of Defense Attaché of the Republic of Kosovo to the Republic of Croatia. His appointment marks another important step in strengthening defense cooperation and the strategic partnership between Kosovo and Croatia. In his new role, Lieutenant Colonel Murati will work to enhance bilateral defense relations, promote institutional cooperation, and advance shared security interests between the two countries.



Minister Maqedonci Held a Farewell Meeting with the Czech Republic's Non-Resident Defense Attaché to Kosovo

Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci held a farewell meeting with Colonel Radim Jonas, the Czech Republic's Non-Resident Defense Attaché to Kosovo, upon the completion of his four-year mandate. Minister Maqedonci thanked Colonel Jonas for his professionalism and valuable contribution to strengthening defense and security cooperation between Kosovo and the Czech Republic. He praised his dedication to advancing bilateral relations and noted that the cooperation established during his tenure provides a strong foundation for further collaboration between the two countries. The Minister wished Colonel Jonas continued success in his future professional responsibilities and expressed confidence that the partnership between the two defense institutions will continue to grow.

Minister Maqedonci Participated in the Distinguished Visitors' Day of Exercise "Combat Power 26" in Croatia



At the invitation of Croatia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Ivan Anušić, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci participated in the Distinguished Visitors' Day (DV Day) of the multinational exercise *Combat Power 26* at the Slunj Military Training Area in Croatia. The exercise brought together more than 3,000 Croatian troops alongside military personnel from allied and partner nations, including the United States, Italy, Slovenia, Albania, Portugal, Montenegro, Romania, Georgia, and Kosovo. The Kosovo Security Force participated with a contingent of 45 personnel, including an infantry platoon and logistical support teams. Throughout the 11-day exercise, KSF members demonstrated a high level of professionalism, discipline, and interoperability, successfully operating alongside allied forces in demanding operational scenarios.

An important contribution of the KSF was its organic field-feeding capability, providing food support during the exercise. This reflected the continued development of KSF logistics, increased operational self-sustainability, and the force's growing institutional maturity.



Commander of the KSF Participated in the USAREUR-AF Change of Command Ceremony



At the invitation of Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and Commander of the United States European Command (EUCOM), General Alexis G. Grynkewich, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari participated in the Change of Command Ceremony of the United States Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF), where General Christopher T. Donahue concluded his tenure. On this occasion, Lieutenant General Jashari expressed his appreciation for General Donahue's leadership and his continued support for the development of the Kosovo Security Force, particularly in strengthening its operational capabilities and expanding cooperation between the two forces. General Donahue thanked Lieutenant General Jashari for his participation and highlighted the excellent cooperation achieved through joint training, exercises, and other activities that have strengthened interoperability and partnership between the KSF and USAREUR-AF. During the event, Lieutenant General Jashari also met with counterparts from NATO partner countries and with Major General Christopher Norrie, Deputy Commander and Acting Commander of USAREUR-AF. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation, enhancing defense capabilities, and contributing to regional security, stability, and lasting peace.

KSF Continued Preparations for Deployment to the International Stabilization Force Mission

Following the decision of the Government and the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo to deploy the Kosovo Security Force to the International Stabilization Force (ISF) mission in Gaza under the Board of Peace framework, preparations for the deployment of the KSF contingent continued in close coordination with the ISF Headquarters. During the reporting pe-



riod, four KSF personnel joined the ISF Headquarters, where they assumed staff positions supporting the planning, coordination, and execution of the mission. The remaining members of the contingent completed all required operational and logistical preparations and stood ready for deployment. Following final coordination with the ISF Headquarters, they were scheduled to deploy to Gaza to begin carrying out their duties as part of the mission. The deployment marked Kosovo's first contribution to the ISF mission and reflected the country's continued commitment to international peace and security efforts, as well as its readiness to contribute alongside international partners to regional and global stability.

Strengthening Kosovo–UK Defense Cooperation



During July, Acting Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci and Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, held separate meetings with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Kosovo, Jonathan Hargreaves, reaffirming the strong defense partnership between Kosovo and the United Kingdom. Minister Maqedonci and Ambassador Hargreaves discussed the regional and international security environment, the importance of close coordination with strategic partners, and opportunities to further strengthen bilateral defense cooperation. The Minister expressed his appreciation for the United Kingdom's continued support for Kosovo and its defense sector, emphasizing

the value of the long-standing partnership between the two countries. In a separate meeting, Lieutenant General Jashari briefed the Ambassador on the Kosovo Security Force's recent achievements, ongoing activities, and future development plans. The discussions also focused on professional military education, training, leadership development, and enhancing the operational capabilities of the KSF. Both meetings reaffirmed the shared commitment to expanding defense cooperation, strengthening military capabilities, and working together to address common security challenges in support of regional peace, security, and stability.



Deputy Minister Gegë Lleshi Met with U.S. Delegation to Strengthen Defense Industry Cooperation



Deputy Minister of Defense Gegë Lleshi met with an international delegation led by Dr. Edward Plantholi and comprising American experts and investors. Minister of Industry, Entrepreneurship, Trade and Innovation Mimoza Kusari-Lila also participated in the meeting. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in the defense industry, enhancing the capabilities

of the Kosovo Security Force, promoting advanced technologies, and encouraging strategic investment. Deputy Minister Lleshi reaffirmed the Ministry of Defense's commitment to developing Kosovo's defense industry and fostering long-term partnerships that support technology transfer, knowledge exchange, and sustainable investment. He emphasized that the modernization of the Kosovo Security Force remained one of the Ministry's strategic priorities. The meeting also explored opportunities for collaboration in advanced technologies, digital transformation, quantum technologies for defense, and other areas of mutual interest.

Official Visit to Israel Advances Defense Cooperation

The Director of the Department for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Defense, Colonel Ahmet Ajeti, paid an official visit to Israel, where he participated in the Herzliya Conference and held a series of meetings with senior Israeli counterparts. Organized with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Israel, the visit focused on expanding bilateral defense cooperation and addressing shared security challenges. During the visit, Director Colonel Ahmet Ajeti met with retired Major General Amos Gilead, Executive Director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy, and Boaz Bismuth, Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee of the Israeli Parliament. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral defense cooperation, enhancing institutional ties, and advancing dialogue on issues of shared security interest.



Commander Jashari Met with the Deputy Ambassador of Germany to Kosovo



Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, met with the Deputy Ambassador of Germany to Kosovo, Christian Böttcher, and Tilmann Scherf of the German Federal Foreign Office. Lieutenant General Jashari expressed his appreciation for Germany's longstanding support in the establishment and development of the Kosovo Security Force, emphasizing its important contribution throughout every stage of the force's development. The meeting focused on the KSF's ongoing development, future priorities, and the regional security environment. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral military cooperation and addressing common security challenges through continued partnership.

Deputy Minister Enis Kervan Welcomed TİKA's Coordinators in Kosovo

Deputy Minister of Defense Enis Kervan welcomed Fulya Aslan, Coordinator of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) in Kosovo, upon the completion of her mandate, and her successor, Mehmed Taha Doğan. The meeting reviewed TİKA's projects and activities in Kosovo and explored opportunities to further strengthen institutional cooperation, particularly in the fields of defense and security. Deputy Minister Kervan thanked Ms. Aslan for her valuable contribution during her tenure and wished her continued success in her future responsibilities. He also welcomed Mr. Doğan, reaffirming the Ministry of Defense's commitment to further expanding the strong partnership between the institutions of Kosovo and Türkiye.



KSF Participated in the "Golden Sabre 2026" Exercise



The Kosovo Security Force participated in the joint exercise *Golden Sabre 2026*, led by KFOR at Camp Vrellë, which tested the response of Kosovo's security institutions to a range of emergency scenarios. The exercise evaluated operational procedures, communication, and interagency coordination to enhance readiness and improve crisis response capabilities. The KSF contributed National Guard Search and Rescue, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), and medical units, which demonstrated a high level of professionalism, readiness, and operational capability throughout the exercise. Other participating institutions included KFOR, the Kosovo Police, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), and EULEX, highlighting the importance of coordinated action in addressing complex emergencies.



KSF Officers Strengthen Professional Development Through International Military Education

Kosovo Security Force officers successfully completed advanced military education programs at prestigious military institutions in the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Türkiye, and Germany, further strengthening their leadership skills, professional expertise, and operational capabilities. At the Doctrine and Training Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, KSF officers successfully completed the Advanced Officer Course and the General Staff and Command Course. These programs enhanced their skills in leadership, operational planning, and command, preparing them to contribute effectively to decision-making processes in complex security environments. In the Republic of Türkiye, Lieutenant Colonel Besim Gashi and Lieutenant



Colonel Arben Avdyli graduated from the Joint War College of the National Defense University. The program focused on strategic-level leadership, planning, and decision-making, further supporting the development of senior officers capable of operating in multinational environments. In Germany, Major Bujar Ferizi successfully completed the Lehrgang Generalstabs-/Admiralstabsdienst International (LGAI) program at the Bundeswehr Command and Staff College in Hamburg. The 17-month program focused on strategic planning, military leadership, multinational co-operation, and international security, bringing together officers from 36 countries. The



successful completion of these programs represents an important achievement in the professional development of KSF personnel and demonstrates the Kosovo Security Force's continued commitment to developing capable leaders in accordance with NATO standards and strengthening interoperability with allied and partner forces.



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KSF Officers Enhance Command and Staff Capabilities Through UK Advanced Course

Two officers of the Kosovo Security Force, Major Afrim Xhelili and Major Besnik Thaqi, have successfully completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the United Kingdom Defence Academy in Shrivenham. As part of the programme, both officers also earned a Master's degree in Defence Studies from King's College London. The Advanced Command and Staff Course is designed to develop mid- and senior-level officers for command and staff responsibilities at the operational and strategic levels. The programme provides participants with advanced knowledge and skills in planning and conducting complex military operations, working with government institutions and international partners, and applying national power instruments in support of peace and security. The course brought together more than 240 participants from the United Kingdom and 47 countries worldwide. The



successful completion of this prestigious programme by KSF officers reflects Kosovo's continued commitment to developing a professional, capable, and interoperable force in line with the highest international standards.

KSF Personnel Expand Operational Skills Through Specialized Training Abroad



Kosovo Security Force successfully completed specialized training programs in partner countries, further enhancing their operational skills and professional capabilities in key areas. KSF personnel completed advanced diving training at the National Diving Center of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, strengthening their capabilities in underwater operations, search and rescue missions, and specialized maritime tasks. In the United States, Second Lieutenant Kushtrim Fazliu successfully completed the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course (EBOLC), a professional program focused on developing leadership, tactical, and technical skills for military engineering operations. During the course, he achieved outstanding results and received the Distinguished Honor

Graduate and Iron Man Award recognitions.

In Japan, Major Driton Haxhiaj completed the Peacekeeping Operations Contingent Commander Course, organized by the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Training and Research Center. The program enhanced his knowledge and skills in planning, coordinating, and leading multinational peacekeeping operations. The successful completion of these specialized programs reflects the Kosovo Security Force's continued investment in developing professional expertise, strengthening operational readiness, and increasing interoperability with allied and partner forces.

