



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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Kosovo Formalizes KSF Participation in Gaza's International Stabilization Force



The Republic of Kosovo formalized the participation of the Kosovo Security Force in the International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza through a Mission Participation Agreement signed by KSF Commander Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari and ISF Commander Major General Jasper Jeffers, in the presence of the Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, and a representative of the Board of Peace. During Major General Jeffers' visit to Kosovo, discussions with Minister Maqedonci and KSF leadership focused on the KSF's contribution to the mission, operational coordination, and cooperation with international partners. Minister Maqedonci also met with James Bjorkman, the U.S. liaison officer to the Board of Peace, to discuss coordination in support of the mission. The engagement recognized the professionalism and readiness of KSF personnel to contribute alongside allies and partners to international peace and security efforts. The agreement marked an important step in advancing Kosovo's role as a contributor to international security and reflected its strategic ambition to transition from a recipient of security assistance to a provider of security.



Minister Maqedonci Advanced Regional Defense Cooperation at the CEDC Ministerial Meeting



The Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in the ministerial meeting of the Central European Defense Cooperation (CEDC) with Western Balkan partners, held in Brdo near Kranj, Slovenia. The meeting focused on regional security priorities, practical defense cooperation, and strengthening partnerships across Central Europe and the Western Balkans. Minister Maqedonci reaffirmed Kosovo's strategic commitment to European Union and NATO membership, highlighting progress in developing a professional and interoperable Kosovo Security Force. He also outlined key priorities, including completing the KSF's transition, strengthening national resilience, and developing the domestic defense industry. To advance regional cooperation, Minister Maqedonci proposed measures to facilitate military mobility during crises, improve disaster response coordination, and strengthen cooperation in the defense industry. He also proposed establishing a working group to advance the initiative for a Western Balkans Defense College, aimed at fostering professional development and trust among future military and civilian leaders. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants endorsed a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to regional security, stability, interoperability, and enhanced military mobility.



On the sidelines of the meeting, Minister Maqedonci held bilateral talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the Czech Republic, Jaromír Zůna, focusing on Defense industry cooperation, technology transfer, training, and military education. He also expressed appreciation for the Czech Republic's contribution to Kosovo's security through its participation in the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) and its continued support for Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic integration. Minister Maqedonci also met with the Minister of Defense of Slovenia, Valentin Hajdinjak, to discuss Kosovo's progress in developing the KSF's capabilities and its ambitions in the Defense industry. Minister Hajdinjak reaffirmed Slovenia's support for Kosovo's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations, as well as its readiness to deepen bilateral Defense cooperation and continue contributing to Kosovo's security through KFOR. These engagements reaffirm Kosovo's commitment to strengthening regional partnerships, advancing Defense capabilities, and contributing to peace, security, and stability in the Western Balkans and across Europe.



Kosovo and Germany Reaffirm Commitment to Strengthening Bilateral Defense Cooperation

The Republic of Kosovo and Germany continued to strengthen their bilateral defense partnership through high-level discussions and their annual bilateral defense meeting. Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci met with Germany's Ambassador to Kosovo, Rainer Rudolph, to discuss security developments and opportunities to expand cooperation in defense. Discussions focused on the development of the Kosovo Security Force, joint training and exercises, and potential cooperation in the defense industry and military procurement. During the annual bilateral meeting, representa-

tives of Kosovo's Ministry of Defense and Germany's Federal Ministry of Defense reviewed priorities for the coming year and discussed plans for joint activities. The meeting was represented by Colonel Ahmet Ajeti, Director of the Department for International Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration, and Colonel Christian Schmidt, who led the German delegation, with participation from Ministry of Defense and KSF General Staff representatives. Germany remains an important partner in the professional development of the KSF, particularly in military education, training, and exercises. Continued bilateral engagement supports the enhancement of defense capabilities, interoperability with partner forces, and Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic integration objectives.



Kosovo and Bulgaria Discuss Regional Security and Continued Defense Engagement



The Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, met with Bulgaria's Ambassador to Kosovo, Hristo Kraevski, to discuss regional security developments and opportunities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed the positive relations between Kosovo and Bulgaria and emphasized the importance of continued engagement in support of regional peace and stability. Minister Maqedonci acknowledged Bulgaria's contribution to Kosovo's security through its participation in the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR), as well as its continued support for Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic integration. As a NATO and European Union member, Bulgaria remains an important partner in advancing Kosovo's defense

and security objectives. The meeting reaffirmed the mutual commitment to deepening cooperation and strengthening regional security.

Czech Republic Strengthens Defense Engagement with Kosovo Through New Attaché Accreditation



The accreditation of Lieutenant Colonel Martin Kaczur as the new Defense Attaché of the Czech Republic marked a further step in strengthening defense relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the Czech Republic. During the accreditation visit to the Ministry of Defense, Lieutenant Colonel Kaczur met with Colonel Ahmet Ajeti, Director of the Department for International Cooperation, and Major Vilson Musaj. Discussions focused on opportunities to deepen bilateral defense cooperation and expand engagement between the respective defense institutions. Colonel Ajeti welcomed the newly appointed Defense Attaché and reaffirmed the Ministry of Defense's commitment to maintaining close

cooperation with Czech defense institutions. The engagement underscored the importance of sustained institutional dialogue in advancing bilateral relations and strengthening defense cooperation.

Annual U.S.–Kosovo M2M Workshop Prioritizes KSF Modernization and Operational Readiness

The Annual Military-to-Military (M2M) Workshop in Kosovo reaffirmed the strong defense partnership between the Republic of Kosovo and the United States, highlighting the important role of the Iowa National Guard in advancing bilateral cooperation. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss shared priorities and identify concrete steps to further develop the Kosovo Security Force's capabilities and interoperability with allied and partner forces. Addressing the workshop, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci stressed the importance of translating joint commitments and plans into tangible results. "Together, we are building a more capable, professional, modern, and interoperable Force alongside our partners. Our focus remains clear: to turn our joint plans into concrete actions and elevate our partnership to a new level," he stated. The workshop reaffirmed Kosovo's and the United States' shared commitment to strengthening defense cooperation and advancing the KSF's capabilities in line with common security priorities.



Minister Maqedonci Discussed Regional Security Priorities with the European Council on Foreign Relations

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci met with a delegation from the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) to discuss security developments in Kosovo and the Western Balkans. Discussions focused on efforts to strengthen Kosovo's defense capabilities and its continued commitment to European Union and NATO integration. Minister Maqedonci also emphasized the importance of a consistent European approach to addressing actions by Serbia that undermine stability in Kosovo and the wider region. The meeting underscored the importance of coordinated European engagement, accountability, and sustained international cooperation in supporting long-term peace and stability in the Western Balkans.



Tribute to the Victims of the September 11 Terrorist Attacks



Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, together with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, and the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Albulena Haxhiu, paid tribute at the "Kosovo Remembers" memorial plaque in the courtyard of the Government and Assembly buildings, commemorating the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York, United States. The Kosovo Security Force also honored the victims by lowering flags to half-mast at its barracks

across Kosovo. This act of remembrance expressed solidarity with the American people, the victims' families, and all those affected by the attacks. The anniversary serves as a solemn reminder of the threat terrorism poses to peace, security, freedom, and democratic values. Relations between Kosovo and the United States are built on enduring friendship and a longstanding partnership, strengthened over the years, particularly during the most challenging times. Through these commemorations, the Republic of Kosovo reaffirmed its unwavering solidarity with the American people and its commitment to international peace, security, and shared democratic values.



KSF Commander Advanced Regional Security Cooperation at the Adriatic Charter A5 Conference

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, participated in the Adriatic Charter A5 Conference in Zadar, Croatia, which brought together senior military leaders from the Western Balkans under the leadership of the Commander of U.S. European Command, General Alexis G. Grynkeiwich. Discussions focused on regional security challenges, military cooperation, and strengthening interoperability.



On the sidelines, Lieutenant General Jashari held bilateral meetings with General Grynkeiwich, General Peter K. Scott of NATO's Allied Joint Force Command Naples, and Major General Stephen Osborn of the Iowa National Guard to discuss capability development, operational coordination, and further cooperation. Addressing the conference, Lieutenant General Jashari outlined Kosovo's vision for regional security and called for the Republic of Kosovo to be granted full membership in the Adriatic Charter. He highlighted the KSF's development and readiness to contribute to international missions as important elements of Kosovo's commitment to regional and Euro-Atlantic security.

KSF Commander Congratulated General Breuer on His Election as NATO Military Committee Chair

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, congratulated General Carsten Breuer on his election as Chair of the NATO Military Committee, wishing him success in this important leadership role. General Jashari highlighted the significance of NATO leadership in advancing Alliance priorities, strengthening international partnerships, and supporting peace and security in the Western Balkans. He also emphasized General Breuer's experience and familiarity with Kosovo and the region as valuable foundations for continued cooperation and Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.



Kosovo, Albania, and Croatia Explored Further Special Operations Cooperation

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, met with the commanders of the Special Operations Regiment of Albania and the Special Operations Forces Command of Croatia to discuss cooperation, training, and capability development. The discussions emphasized the value of joint exercises, professional exchanges, and closer coordination in strengthening interoperability and operational capabilities. The planned “Valor Shield 2026” exercise was also discussed as an opportunity to further develop cooperation among the participating forces. Lieutenant General Jashari underscored the importance of regional partnerships in supporting the continued professional development of the KSF and strengthening defense cooperation with Albania and Croatia.



Kosovo and the Iowa National Guard Advanced Their Strategic Defense Partnership



The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted a delegation from the Iowa National Guard led by Brigadier General Justin T. Wagner, Chief of Staff of the Iowa Air National Guard. Discussions focused on the continued development of the KSF and opportunities to further strengthen bilateral military cooperation. The engagement reaffirmed the importance of the longstanding partnership between the KSF and the Iowa National Guard, particularly in areas of mutual interest, professional development, and the exchange of expertise.

Throughout the week, Iowa National Guard specialists from various units engaged with the KSF in a range of activities, sharing experience and strengthening institutional cooperation. This ongoing partnership continues to support the development of KSF capabilities and reinforce defense ties between the Republic of Kosovo and the United States.

Kosovo Welcomed the Next Generation of Future KSF Officers



Seventeen cadets of the Class of 2030, including one from the Republic of Albania, took the oath of service, marking the beginning of their officer education and training at the Kosovo Security Force's University Studies Center. The ceremony marked an important milestone in their professional development and reaffirmed their commitment to serving the Republic of Kosovo with honor, responsibility, and professionalism. Their training represents a continued investment in developing the next generation of KSF officers and strengthening the Force's professional capacity.



A Historic Milestone for the University Studies Center

For the first time in its history, a cadet from the University Studies Center (USC) is beginning a semester at Norwich University in the United States on a scholarship. This milestone reflects the USC's commitment to advancing military and academic education and expanding international learning opportunities for its cadets. The achievement also highlights the vision of KSF Commander Lieutenant General Jashari and USC Commander Major Budeci in strengthening military education and professional development. It represents an important investment in the next generation of KSF officers and an opportunity to showcase Kosovo's cadets on the international academic stage.



KSF Captain Graduated with Distinction from the U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course

A Kosovo Security Force captain, identified as Captain E.V., completed the U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, receiving the Distinguished Honor Graduate title. The intensive qualification program, conducted from January to September 2026, focused on leadership, small-unit tactics, and the planning and execution of special operations. The achievement highlighted the professional development of KSF personnel through advanced international military education and supported the Force's efforts to develop specialized capabilities and interoperability with the U.S. Armed Forces and other partners.

Kosovo Officer Recognized as International Distinguished Graduate at U.S. Army Infantry Course

Lieutenant Etnik Kastrati completed the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) in the United States, receiving the International Distinguished Honor Graduate award in recognition of his performance. The course covered infantry leadership, tactical planning, weapons employment, land navigation, and unit training. Lieutenant Kastrati's achievement marked an important milestone in his professional development and reflected the KSF's continued investment in officer education through training opportunities with international partners.



KSF and Turkish Armed Forces Conduct Joint Search and Rescue Training

As part of its cooperation with the Turkish Armed Forces, the Kosovo Security Force conducted joint training in urban search and rescue, mountain search and rescue, and K9 operations. The training aimed to enhance participants' professional knowledge and skills, strengthen cooperation between teams, and facilitate the exchange of practical experience in search and rescue operations. The programme included theoretical and practical exercises covering search and rescue techniques in damaged buildings, operations in mountainous terrain, the deployment of K9 search and rescue dogs, and coordination and response procedures in emergency situations. The training contributed to enhancing professional capabilities, operational readiness, and interoperability with partner teams in the field of search and rescue.



Second Place for KSF Service Member at Iowa's Best Warrior Competition



Three members of the Kosovo Security Force participated in the Best Warrior Competition 2027 in Iowa, United States, within the framework of the longstanding partnership with the Iowa National Guard. The four-day competition tested participants' physical endurance, mental resilience, and military skills. KSF service member OR3 Ismail Ahmeti reached the final stage and secured second place, demonstrating professionalism and commitment. The participation provided an opportunity to assess individual capabilities, exchange experience, and further strengthen military cooperation between the KSF and the Iowa National Guard.

"Racing Wolf 2026" Tests Combat Readiness, Tactical Skills, and Teamwork

The Land Forces Command concluded the annual "Racing Wolf 2026" competition at the "NATO Soldiers" Barracks in Istog, bringing together 20 KSF teams to test their physical endurance, tactical proficiency, and teamwork. The competition featured military challenges, including a 1.6-kilometer run, an obstacle course, HMMWV movement, ammunition transport, pistol shooting, hand grenade throwing, and casualty evacuation. The Second Infantry Regiment (K2B2) secured first place, followed by the KSF Military Police in second and the Second Infantry Regiment (K2MB) in third.



KSF Enhances Interoperability During "Saber Junction 26" in Germany



A Kosovo Security Force infantry company from the Third Land Forces Regiment participated in the multinational exercise "Saber Junction 26" at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. The contingent trained alongside the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade, specifically the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The exercise involved multinational planning, coordination, and field training, providing KSF personnel with an opportunity to operate alongside U.S. and partner forces in a demanding training environment. The Commander of the Land Forces Command, Brigadier General Mehmet Lladrovci, accompanied by Command Sergeant Major Naim Smakolli, observed the contingent's participation during Observation Day. The exercise contributed to strengthening the KSF's operational readiness, command and control, and interoperability with allied and partner forces.

Third Infantry Regiment Assessed Tactical Readiness During “Wolf Awakening”



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The Third Infantry Regiment conducted the “Wolf Awakening” field exercise to assess the operational readiness of squads within its Weapons Company under simulated combat conditions. The exercise involved tactical scenarios designed to evaluate maneuvering, coordinated responses, and individual and collective performance in varied terrain. It also provided an opportunity to identify areas for improvement and consolidate lessons learned. The activity supported the regiment’s efforts to strengthen unit readiness, tactical coordination, and operational effectiveness.



TRADOC Advanced Specialized Training Through the Advanced Sniper Course

The Kosovo Security Force’s Doctrine and Training Command (TRADOC) conducted an Advanced Sniper Course to develop personnel’s skills in observation, reconnaissance, and mission-related information gathering. The training included instruction and practical assessments in mission planning, precision shooting, fieldcraft, camouflage, concealment, observation, and target identification. The course formed part of the KSF’s ongoing efforts to strengthen specialized professional skills, discipline, and operational capabilities in line with its training objectives.

11.

Kosovo Strengthened NCO Leadership Through Advanced Professional Training



The Doctrine and Training Command (TRA-DOC) successfully concluded the Advanced Leader Course, Generation 18–2026, at the Non-Commissioned Officer School (NCOS). The course focused on strengthening leadership capabilities, tactical proficiency, and professional readiness for personnel preparing to serve as squad leaders and platoon sergeants within the Kosovo Security Force. Training covered military leadership, operational planning, communication, decision-making, and the application of tactical procedures through a combination of classroom instruction and practical exercises. The course also benefited from the participation of instructors from the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, who delivered professional instruction and shared their expertise from September 21 to 25, 2026. Their contribution supported the exchange of

experience and strengthened professional cooperation between the two institutions. The completion of the course underscored the KSF's continued commitment to developing capable, professional, and effective non-commissioned officers, whose leadership remains essential to operational readiness and the Force's long-term development.

Iowa National Guard Partnership Advances HMMWV Technical Training and Maintenance Expertise



The Kosovo Security Force advanced its technical and maintenance capabilities through specialized HMMWV vehicle maintenance training conducted at the SMAR facility at Gjakova Airport, with support from the Iowa National Guard. The training combined practical instruction and the exchange of expertise in vehicle inspection, diagnostics, maintenance, and repair, focusing on transmission, fuel, and electronic systems. Particular emphasis was placed on developing KSF instructors' capabilities to facilitate the transfer of knowledge across the Force. The activity supported the KSF's efforts to improve maintenance efficiency, strengthen technical self-sufficiency, and sustain mil-

itary-to-military cooperation with the United States through the Iowa National Guard partnership.