

MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 3rd edition of the KSF's newsletter.

I am pleased to announce that Field Exercise "Eagle 1" was completed successfully. Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone involved in making "Eagle1" a successful story. I would also like to thank KFOR who helped in the whole planning process and support by offering a highly professional and much needed feedback about this exercise.

I sincerely hope that you will find this edition of our e-newsletter interesting and useful.

Sincerely Yours

AGIM ÇEKU

FIELD EXERCISE “EAGLE 1”

From 20th to 30th of April 2012 Kosovo Security Force conducted the field exercise “Eagle 1”. The exercise took place in the vicinities of Peja, Prizren and Gjilan and was planned as a Disaster Relief Operation based on different scenarios during which KSF had to act in support of the population of the respective municipalities. All units of KSF were conducted and trained to improve their capabilities related to their core missions such as demining or handling of hazardous material, Search and Rescue, fire fighting. Hereby each core capability was tested on the basis of a specific disaster scenario. The exercise was a follow-up of the exercise “Agile Lion 4” conducted at the end of September 2011. “Eagle 1” was planned and conducted by KSF, and KFOR assisted during the whole planning process and supported in monitoring and evaluating the exercise.



TURKEY HELPS TO GET PREPARED FOR PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

From March 22nd through April 26th 33 members of Kosovo Security Force in Turkey acquired essential knowledge needed for successful participation in peacekeeping missions. The training included establishing and securing the base; entry control procedures; crowd control; and mitigation of improvised explosive devices. KSF Commander Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati went to Turkey to follow the final phase of the training. This was the first time when members of Kosovo Security Force were trained in Turkey at the platoon level.



KSF ACTIVE RESERVE UPDATE

Reserve component of KSF responded to the official KSF call from 16.04.2012 until 04.05.2012. Except the KSF band, all other 147 members are called to act in response and in order placed in Land Force Command, Operational Support Brigade, and Fast Reaction Brigade for further training.



OPENING OF DEMINING SEASON

On the 4th of April, the International Mine Awareness Day, Demining Company of KSF opened a summer season of demining. “Mines do not select their victims and we do not select whom to help, we help each citizen of our country,” said Minister Agim Ceku addressing members of Demining Company. Although the Kosovo demining programme has been an unprecedented achievement, mines and unexploded ordnances are still a great danger for the citizens of Kosova. Unfortunately, mines have caused the death of 114 people, and 451 citizens have been injured. So far over 47 million square meters of battlefields have been cleared and thousands of mines and unexploded devices have been neutralized.



DEPUTY MINISTER OF KSF Mr. BEJTUSH GASHI REQUESTED A MEMBERSHIP IN CENTER FOR SECURITY COOPERATION RACVIAC

Mr. Gashi was invited by the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to participate in the 27th conference of RACVIAC held in Durres, Albania. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces, GB Zyber Dushku, led this meeting. Moreover, Mr. Gashi conveyed MKSF's good will to be part of this important regional organization in order to further promote regional cooperation in the field of security.

KSF HELPS TO RENOVATE CENTRE OF MOTHER AND CHILDREN CARE

On the 17th of April, renovation works were started at Rehabilitation Centre of Mother and Child in Pristina. Humanitarian Assistance Fund of United States European Command (EUCOM) financially supports the project, whereas engineers of Kosovo Security Force conduct the renovation works and renew two rooms, a hall and a bathroom. This is the first project of this kind that EUCOM is doing with the KSF. In the renovated facilities will be opened a kindergarten and its fees will be used to take care for 47 orphan children who can enjoy several activities at the Centre – singing, dancing, painting, sports, computer, English and German. Alongside these activities the Center provides the orphans with food, clothing and school materials.

CIMIC ROAD CONSTRUCTION

On the 17th of April, Kosovo Security Force started 5.5 km road repair between villages Orllan – Turuqica. Specialists of Battalion of Engineering of KSF conduct the road reconstruction. The municipality of Podujeva, where Turuqica village is situated, welcomes this project and supports it with cadastral information and other needed support. The community and businessmen of Turuqica village cover the gravel and other materials to fill and level the road.

MINISTER PARTICIPATED IN ROUNDTABLE TOWARDS NATO PROGRAMME: PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE (PFP)

On April 24 Minister Ceku participated in the roundtable organized by Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS). Minister elucidated the situation of Kosovo by saying that PFP might not be the only way for our country to become a NATO member. In 2010 at the Lisbon Summit NATO adopted a new partnership policy that deepens and broadens NATO's partnerships and increases their effectiveness. This new mechanism of cooperation perfectly suits to Kosovo's aspiring goals: deeper political and practical engagement with the Alliance; participation in NATO-led operations and missions and; preparation for NATO membership.

KSF AND EUCOM TOGETHER WITH THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD SET UP THE 2013 PRIORITIES

On the 13th of April, based on the cooperation between KSF and IOWA National Guard, a meeting was held where the 2013 priorities were discussed. The main topics were the ones about training, education and joint exercises, which will help the KSF professional development.

GENERAL CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CROATIAN ARMY VISITED MKSF

Drago Lovric who is General Chief of Staff of the Croatian Army visited MKSF on the 16 of April. He and Minister Çeku together with Lieutenant General Kastrati, discussed the great cooperation between two countries and conveyed the message of continuous cooperation in the field of security, education and regional cooperation.



KSF's Participated in Western Balkans Intelligence Chiefs Conference

April 20th until 22nd, a delegation from the Ministry of KSF participated in the Western Balkans Defense/Military Intelligence Chiefs – WEBADIC. Colonel Jahir Demaku, a Director of the Intelligence and Security Department, Colonel Ilir Qeriqi, a Director of the Department led this delegation for Cooperation and Security, and Major Ismajl Brahimi, an analyst. Col. Qeriqi held a presentation titled “KSF and the challenges.”

EUCOM, NATO, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo were institutions and countries that participated in this year's WEBADIC.



KSF TOGETHER WITH HIGH SCHOOL KIDS PLANTS MORE THAN 5000 TREES FOR THE EARTH DAY

On April 20, the Mitrovica's high school kids joined KSF in order to plant more than 5000 trees in the village of Kushtova near Mitrovica. There were more than 2 acres that went through much needed transformation.

The Deputy Minister Mr. Shemsi Veseli who symbolically planted the first tree was leading this important KSF endeavor. KSF once again shows that social responsibility is something that will always be important. Moreover, on April 22 Minister Çeku symbolically planted the first tree in the Land Force Command in Prishtina.

