



MKSF'S NEWSLETTER

From the Minister's Desk

Issue nr. 1. March 2012



Dear friends, welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter titled "From the Minister's Desk" Moreover, the purpose of this monthly newsletter is to inform the international community in Kosovo about the latest developments in the Kosovo Security Force. This newsletter is the first edition that will cover myriad of topics from Civil Assistance to Demining etc.

I will use this opportunity to thank the international community for all the given efforts to make our country a better place to live for all its citizens, regardless their ethnic, racial or religious affiliation.

AGIM ÇEKU

Content:

- Page 2 Minister for KSF presented the 6 objectives
- Page 3 Commander for KSF promoted to the Lieutenant General
- Page 4 KSF assists citizens during heavy snowfalls
- Page 5 Macedonian MoD visit to KSF. International Cooperation
- Page 6 KSF holds recruitment campaign for the active reserve component
- Page 7 Assisting Communities

Minister's objectives for 2012

On 19th of January Minister for KSF, Agim Çeku, held a press conference in which he presented the objectives of MKSF for 2012:

- 1. Approval of Full Operational Capability (FOC) by North Atlantic Council, maximum utilization of capabilities in accomplishment of constitutional mission and support to civil authorities and communities.**
- 2. Prepare for the FOC declaration by refinement of the values, identity, and visibility of the KSF.**
- 3. Strengthening of bilateral partnership with USA, NATO countries, EU countries, regional partners, and KFOR.**
- 4. Membership in the Adriatic Charter; participation in other regional defense structures and initiatives.**
- 5. Establishment of formal partnership relations with NATO; participate in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.**
- 6. Review the structure, mission and duties of the MKSF/KSF as a part of Strategic Security Sector Review.**



Commander for KSF promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General



On 25th of January the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga in a ceremony held in the Presidency promoted Commander for KSF Major General Kadri Kastrati to the rank of Lieutenant General. Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati was appointed as Commander for KSF on November 21, 2011 replacing the former Commander Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi.



KSF Assists citizens during heavy snowfalls

This year Kosovo faced one of the coldest and snowiest winters in the last few decades.

In January and February KSF was actively involved in clearing the roads in Kosovo (in Prishtina, Kaçanik, Lipjan, Podujevë, Shterpçë, Malishevë, Vushtrri, Fushë Kosovë, Graçanicë and other municipalities) and supplying citizens with food and other essentials.

On the 5th of February KSF rescued 50 children of “Hasan Prishtina” elementary school who were entrapped in Brezovica ski resort after an avalanche closed the roads. Members of KSF and students from University of Physical Education escorted the pupils on foot and helped them to pass 3 km to safety.

February brought a big tragedy for Kosovo. On the morning of February 11, an avalanche in the village of Restelice took the lives of ten people. Hundreds of members of KSF, police, fire fighters, and local villagers worked for several days in search for citizens buried under the snow and rubble of collapsed houses.

The tragedy in Restelice Village proved that the KSF is capable to

cope with very difficult situations and support the citizens of Kosovo. Common efforts of all involved state agencies (the Government, KSF, Police, Agency for Crisis Management, Situation Center of the Government, local municipalities) and their coordinated actions were essential for the successful search and rescue operation. The tragedy also showed unity of Kosovo citizens, their will and readiness to overcome adversity.

Outstanding efforts and professionalism of KSF in searching and rescuing victims of the avalanche were also highly appreciated by Brigadier General Francesco Diella, Chief of Military Civilian Advisory Team of KFOR. “KSF has demonstrated great professional capacity on dealing with the event and it is a result of the hard work and professional abnegation with which the KSF members have professionally collaborated during the last years with KFOR mentors,” pointed out Brigadier General F. Diella in his letter addressed to Commander of KSF Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati.

Unfortunately, another tragedy occurred on the 3rd and 4th of March when Search and Rescue Unit did find the body of a 5 year old boy in the Dobraje village near Lipjan.

Macedonian Minister of Defense pays visit to Kosovo



On the 21st of February Macedonian Defense Minister Fatmir Besimi visited the Ministry for KSF. During the visit Fatmir Besimi met with Minister for KSF Agim Çeku, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati and other MKSF and KSF officials. Both ministries signed an Agreement of Bilateral Cooperation, which aims continuation of mutual cooperation between the KSF and Macedonian Ministry of Defense in various fields, such as field of security, defense and health training and joint contributions supporting

peace in the region. Macedonian Ministry of Defense offered education for four KSF cadets; they will participate in the military academic and field training summer camp in Krivolak along with cadets from several regional countries.

International Cooperation



Turkish International Cooperation and Development Administration (TIKA) Donates Turkish Language Laboratory

In January the KSF Training and Doctrine Command organized a ceremony on the occasion of the inauguration of a Turkish language laboratory donated by the TIKA. The donated laboratory is among the most sophisticated laboratories and will significantly facilitate the learning process for the Turkish language. So far more than 70 officers and NCOs have finished military courses and

several cadets currently are at the Military Academy of Turkey.

Denmark donates books

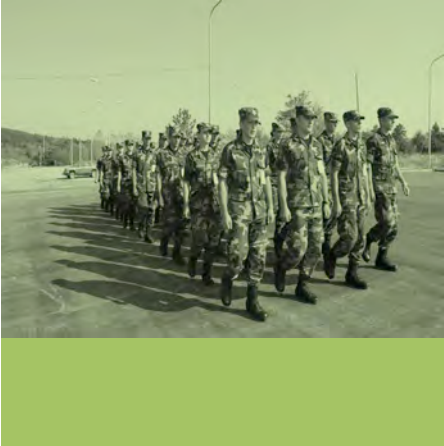
The Royal College of Denmark Defense supplied KSF Library with around 600 books in English that members of KSF can use for their professional needs.

Kosovo signs a SOFA agreement with the US

On February 18th a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) was signed between Kosovo and the United States. The SOFA agreement defines the legal status of the US military in the territory of another nation, it provides the legal framework within which American military and U.S. Department of Defense personnel, who are not

part of the NATO mission, will operate in Kosovo. On that basis, these personnel will be working with members of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) to further develop the KSF's capacity to perform its four core missions of Fire fighting, Search and Rescue, Hazardous Material Disposal, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal. The signed SOFA delineates the rights and responsibilities between the US and host governments regarding criminal and civil jurisdiction, tax and customs matters, entry and exit of personal property, and resolving damage claims.

KSF holds Recruitment Campaign for Reserve Component



In order to attract citizens to join Reserve Component of KSF, in February KSF held an information campaign for recruitment of new members in Reserve Component. The motto of the information campaign was “Become a member of KSF Reserve! Become a part of us!” During this period the mobile teams of KSF circulated in cities and villages in order to increase awareness of citizens and spark interest in citizens. The following specialities are available in the KSF reserve: Administration, Medical, Communications, Civil Protection, Engineering, Force Police, Instructor, Security/Intelligence, Logistics and General Duties. The KSF Reserve Component shall have 800 members. There are 800 reserve posts, of which around 140 are currently filled. As of the 28th February, more than 2000 individuals have requested application forms, and 230 completed applications have been returned.

Assisting Communities



The Community Affairs Office in cooperation with CIMIC and Coordination Center for Demining during December, January and early February has successfully implemented the plan of activities for the education of children - mine awareness in elementary school communities.

During this period in 15 out of 20 schools that was planned to have the lectures were conducted. This is due to the bad weather conditions and emergency situation.

In total there were 638 pupils that went through this awareness program. Therefore, 546 out of 638 were Serb community, 50 Bosnian and 42 Turks.

During these classes the children have shown a great interest and respect for the KSF.

KSF is also continuing to offer medical assistance for the Serbian community in Dragoljevac near Istog.

