

## MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

### From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the KSF's newsletter.

Last month was characterized by celebrations that have both historical and modern characteristics. The former represents an important day for all the Albanians regardless of where they are, while the later represents the first ever event officially named the "FORCE DAY." This important event for MKSF and now hopefully for the general public as well, represents the celebration of peace and a vision for a safer future. It is a day where ideas about regional collaboration are reinforced and where alliances are celebrated.

Finally, winter knocked on our doors. Let us hope that last year horrific tragedies will not be repeated and let us be aware of the beauties but also the hazards that winter brings.

Have a pleasant reading,

Sincerely Yours

AGIM ÇEKU

## THE FORCE DAY

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, Ministry of KSF celebrated one of the most important days officially named “FORCE DAY,” an event that embraces all-important virtues for what KSF stands for. It is a day where KSF celebrates its existence, and where messages for peace and co-existence are sent to the public. This event was characterized by a large number of public visit to the actual site (“Adem Jashari” camp), and by highly motivational speeches by the President of the Republic of Kosovo Mrs. Atifete Jahjaga, the Prime Minister Mr. Hashim Thaçi, COMKSF Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati and a very special speech by a very special guest, Rear Admiral Mark Montgomery. The dancing ensemble “Shota” entertained the public. However, the crescendo of this event happened when the KSF troops held a parade in front of the guests and the general public. KSF also for the first time promoted the new uniform that is also known as an “Urban” uniform which if looked closely it is full of pixels that represent the modern technological era.



## INAUGURATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE COMPANY

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the KSF inaugurated the new Search and Rescue Company in the Civil Protection Regiment located in Pomozatin. This company will now have the tasks and responsibilities of full spectrum rescue services to support the civil authorities, to include Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), water, fire, and mountain rescue. Through a combined effort of the KSF, bilateral partners, and NATO, the KSF will continue development of this capability not only to support the Kosovo civil authorities, but also act as a regional provider of rescue services. In doing so, the KSF will fill a vital role in the region by providing a deployable Heavy Rescue USAR Task Force to support regional earthquake disaster response. This USAR Task Force will be developed in line with United Nations International Search and Rescue Guidelines, and will be equivalent to other international teams. The unique service will put the KSF in the lead in the region in this capability and facilitate KSF contribution to international exercises, such as those with the EU, NATO, or regional partners. In addition, this effort will culminate with the establishment of a regional training centre located at KSF TRADOC in Ferizaj, which will host regional training programs to elevate the national capacities of other countries in the region.



## THE MKSF ORGANIZES DISCUSSIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the MKSF organized a meeting with civil society representatives, independent experts, foreign embassies in Kosovo and regional defence attachés. During the first part of the event the main focus was on the process of Strategic Security Sector Review, implementation of ethnic community policy in the MKSF and the KSF and community projects conducted by the KSF. The second part of the event was aimed to discuss and share views and opinions about such issues as reform of Kosovo's security sector, parliamentary oversight, transparency, democratic civilian control, regional cooperation – issues that have been addressed in Feasibility Study for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Kosovo, recently presented by the European Commission. Representatives of civil society pointed that the MKSF has made a noticeable progress in enhancing transparency and openness of its activities and encouraged to make further steps in this direction. It was also agreed that the scrutiny of the security sector by the parliament needs to be further enhanced and that the MKSF needs to continue its focus on integration of representatives of ethnic communities in the KSF thus promoting multi-ethnic security force. It is planned to continue the dialogue with civil society in a format of further meetings and debates.



## COMMANDER KASTRATI HOLDS MEETING WITH MILITARY ATTACHÉS

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati met with military attachés accredited in Kosovo. Commander Kastrati thanked military attachés for the contribution of their countries in strengthening and developing the KSF. During the meeting Security and Cooperation Department of the MKSF informed about recent multilateral activities and plans for the following few months, Policy and Plans Department presented achievement of objectives for 2012 and objectives for 2013, whereas Operations and Training Department informed about KSF requirements in the training field. After the formal meeting military attachés attended the Kosovo's Ethnological Museum.



## THE KSF COMPLETES THE SEASON OF DEMINING

In November the KSF EOD Company completed the demining season of 2012. Since April, the KSF EOD Company cleared 163,417 square meters destroying 750 items of unexploded ordnance and mines. Clearance works by KSF demining teams were conducted in Ferizaj, Belince, Dule, Hajvalia, Dobercane, Harlica and Koshare. Each year, specialists of the KSF EOD Company deliver mine risks education at schools and public information on threats that remain in the country. Continuing the tradition, during the winter the KSF EOD Company along with refresher training will conduct mine risk awareness lectures at several schools of Kosovo.



## KSF ASSISTS CITIZENS

In November a KSF Engineer Unit supported the residents from the village of Llaush with machinery for the levelling and widening of the road of a distance of 500m in the village. This road connects the neighborhoods of Geci, Lani and Bekteshi.

In November a KSF Engineer Unit also supported the residents from the village of Gremnik from Klina Municipality. In Gremnik KSF engineers levelled and widened the road of a distance of 150m.

From the 25<sup>th</sup> until 28<sup>th</sup> of November, the KSF supported the Cyclists Club "Prishtina" with a Medical Team and an Ambulance. The club was marching to Albania, the city of Vlora, in honor of the 100 anniversary of Albania's Independence.