

## MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

### From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the KSF's newsletter.

As the general public knows by now, international cooperation was one of my main objectives when I took the present position as a Minister of KSF. Therefore, I can say that we are surely getting closer to fulfill this objective in a timely manner. In the articles below you will read about my visit to George C. Marshall European Center in order to attend an important conference titled "The future of U.S.- European Relations." Furthermore, a highly important MOU was signed between our Ministry and the Latvian Ministry of Defense. We had a visit by the U.S. Ambassador, and visit by Commander of the Turkish Land Forces and of course as always we are also working hard in deepening cooperation with Iowa National Guard.

Have a pleasant reading,

## MINISTER AGIM CEKU ATTENDS A CONFERENCE “ THE FUTURE OF U.S.-EUROPE RELATIONS”

In September, Minister Agim Ceku attended a conference titled "The Future of U.S.-European Relations" at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. The conference attendees included 25 distinguished alumni, from 17 nations, representing almost every Marshall Center resident course over the last 14 years. The purpose of the conference was to allow the distinguished alumni an opportunity to exchange information to facilitate the development of US - European Relations by providing a forum for sharing U.S., German and international perspectives on security issues, and enable greater understanding of shared security challenges.

## U.S. AMBASSADOR TRACY JACOBSON VISITS THE MKSF

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Tracey Ann Jacobson, Ambassador of the United States of America in Prishtinë/Priština, paid a visit to the MKSF where she met Minister Agim Ceku and Commander of the KSF Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati. Minister Ceku thanked the United States for all the support provided to the KSF stressing that the United States has been a critical partner in helping to stand up the KSF. “With strong support from the United States we are developing the Kosovo Security Force as trusted, beneficial and capable force,” said Minister Ceku. Ambassador Jacobson confirmed continuing support of the United States for the KSF. This was the first visit of Ambassador Jacobson to the MKSF since she assumed the Ambassadorship in Prishtinë/Priština.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF LATVIA

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Janis Sarts, State Secretary of Ministry of Defence of Latvia, visited Kosovo to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Security Cooperation with the Ministry for Kosovo Security Force. Latvia joins a number of other countries with similar agreements, including the UK (2009), Lithuania (2009), the Netherlands (2009), Albania (2010), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2010), Montenegro (2010), and Croatia (2012).



## DEEPENING COOPERATION WITH IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, Minister Agim Ceku held a meeting with Commander of the Iowa National Guard, Major General Timothy Orr. Minister Ceku thanked the Iowa National Guard for its contribution in training the KSF personnel and helping to increase KSF capacities. In September a team from the Iowa Army National Guard visited for a week of training with the KSF. The training covered planning processes, staff planning, readiness reporting, staff co-ordination and synchronization, 2013 guidance development and establishment of priorities, followed by workshops and breakout groups.



## KSF COMMANDER MEETS WITH CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ALBANIAN ARMED FORCES

On the invitation of the Chief of Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces Major General Xhemal Gjunkshi, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati paid a two day visit to Albania. During the meeting with Genral Gjunkshi enhanced cooperation in education, bilateral trainings, and other topics were discussed.



## COMMANDER OF THE TURKISH LAND FORCES VISITS THE MKSF

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, General Hayri Kivrikoglu, Commander of the Turkish Land Forces, held a meeting with KSF Commander Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati. In the joint meeting, Lieutenant General Kastrati stressed the excellent cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Defence based on the signed Memorandum of Understanding between both ministries. Lieutenant General Kastrati informed the Turkish delegation about the results achieved in training, education, and set goals for 2013.



## KSF RAPID REACTION BRIGADE COMPLETE TACTICAL COURSE OF SMALL INFANTRY UNITS

From August 27 until September 14, 52 KSF members of Rapid Reaction Brigade completed Small Unit Leadership Course. The three week training event provided KSF junior officers and non commissioned officers with a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of small unit security force leadership and planning. Major areas of concentration were: Troop Leading Procedures, Small Unit Planning, Small Unit Leadership, Small Unit Field Training, and team-work. Each student was evaluated on his mastery of the course content, his willingness to work as a member of a team, as well as his leadership abilities while planning and conducting small unit operations in a field environment.



## CADETS GIVE OATH

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 12 cadets, who were selected from 3,500 other competitors, gave oath. During the ceremony Minister Agim Ceku told the cadets that they are beginning a life that differs from the life they had until now and that they have chosen profession that requires very high professionalism, excellent skills, loyalty and dedication. “Throughout your career, you will be faced with difficult tasks, however, feelings of pride after successfully completed mission, sense that you serve your country and people, respect and trust of your subordinates will help to overcome difficulties and hardships,” said Minister Ceku. Their studies will be conducted at the prestigious American University in Kosovo.



## MKSF INFORMS ABOUT KSF'S CIVIL-MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the MKSF Office for Community Affairs made a presentation on "KSF in the Communities". The presentation, attended by Municipality representatives and the local diplomatic community, focused on what has been achieved, and future plans for civil-military co-operation. The conclusions were that areas requiring further attention are infrastructure, health, education and capacity building.

The goal of the MKSF is to make the KSF trusted, beneficial and visible throughout Kosovo and among all ethnic communities. One of the ways to achieve this is by carrying out civil-military projects that aim to improve the living conditions of Kosovo citizens, regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliation.



## KSF DEVELOPS A ROAD IN JUNIK/ JUNIK MUNICIPALITY

KSF Engineering Battalion specialists are continuing to develop the road in Junik/Junik Municipality that was started in June. The KSF supports the road development with manpower and machinery (widening, leveling and gravelling), whereas fuel and gravel is provided by the Municipality. The whole length of the road is 7 km and it is planned to be finished in November. Junik/Junik Municipality is among the most recent established municipalities in Kosovo and the government's priority is to support their development.

