

## MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

### From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the KSF's newsletter.

Ministry for the KSF did not take break from working hard to fulfill its objectives. Therefore, August was full of domestic and international events, visits, trainings etc. I am rather pleased how we closed the summer season.

I am proud to mention that two Second Lieutenants - Manushaqe Nura and Mimoza Budeci graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Once again, I am reassured that the future will be in good hands. Moreover, we had 30 recruits from ethnic communities graduating from the basic training. We are committed to create a modern and capable Force consisting by all ethnicities from Kosovo, and we will continue to work hard until we reach even better results in this endeavor.

Now it is time to start out with fresh energy and give our best in order to achieve our goals.

Have a pleasant reading.

Sincerely Yours,

**AGIM ÇEKU**

## MINISTER ÇEKU VISITS THE UNITED KINGDOM

From August 7 to 9, Minister Agim Çeku together with Deputy Commander KSF, Commander of Land Force Command, Major General Rrahman Rama visited the United Kingdom where they had meetings with Dr. Andrew Murrison MP, Minister for International Security Strategy, General Sir Nicholas Houghton, Chief of the Defence Staff and other officials. Minister Çeku thanked his British counterparts for the steadfast assistance that the United Kingdom provides to the KSF. During these meetings, the minister discussed Balkan regional security issues, bilateral cooperation projects between Kosovo and the U.K, the Kosovo Strategic Security Sector Review process, along with other issues. Additionally, Minister Çeku attended the graduation of two KSF members from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.



## MINISTER ÇEKU SPEAKS ABOUT KOSOVO'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT THE REGIONAL EURO- ATLANTIC CAMP "REACT 2013"

On August 28, during the Regional Euro-Atlantic Camp "React 2013" in Plav, Montenegro, Minister Çeku presented a lecture "Republic of Kosovo in the context of contemporary international relations." During the presentation Minister Çeku stressed: "We have moved to a new phase: the phase of partnerships in the region; the next and the most important phase will be the regional community. First we have stability in the region, then co-operation in the region, and then the region acting beyond its own borders in a positive way. It will make our place in the context of international relations not an experiment, not a work in progress, but a clear and final success."

Over 100 youth from 25 states participated in this year's camp, with the aim of promoting policies that encourage citizens to support the politics of regional safety and cooperation. Special focus was paid to comparative analysis, and lessons learned and experience the regional countries have gained on their way to Euro-Atlantic integration.



## LIEUTENANT GENERAL KASTRATI MEETS WITH MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH BLOTZ

On August 20, KSF Commander Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati met with Major General Josef Blotz, NATO International Military Staff Operations Director (IMS DIR). Lieutenant General Kastrati thanked Lieutenant General Blotz for NATO's assistance and briefed him about KSF's progress in developing and strengthening its capabilities. The KSF Commander also discussed the ongoing Strategic Security Sector Review; increasing regional and bilateral cooperation; profound cooperation with the Iowa National Guard; and recent successful efforts to recruit Serbs resulting in a force that more closely reflects the composition of the population of Kosovo. LTG Kastrati also discussed the extensive mine clearance activities across Kosovo; progress in achieving gender balance (8.2% female), which is in line with most NATO countries. Major General Blotz stated that NATO support to the KSF will continue in the future, and that the KFOR Mission is of a special importance as well.



## TWO FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE KSF GRADUATE FROM THE BRITISH ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY

In August Second Lieutenants Manushaqe Nura and Mimoza Budeci graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. To Manushaqe Nura and Mimoza Budeci, representing the KSF in the British Royal Military Academy was a privilege. "I had a sense of pride and responsibility for representing Kosovo in the best possible way," said Mimoza Budeci. "As a representative of Kosovo in the British Royal Military Academy, it was my great pleasure to tell all the cadets that Kosovo, after only 14 years since the war, has managed to educate officers who are able to compete with officers from other European countries," added Manushaqe Nura. The Royal Military Academy has a history of over two centuries in preparing British Army Officers. Today Sandhurst is a center for military leadership development for the British Military and also for selected candidates from the armed forces of other countries. Funding for the officers attending the Royal Military Academy is covered by the United Kingdom.



## RECRUITS FROM ETHNIC COMMUNITIES GRADUATE FROM THE BASIC TRAINING

On August 23, 30 recruits from ethnic communities (26 Serbs, 2 Bosniaks, 1 Ashkali and 1 Turk) finished their Basic Training Course at KSF Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). During the 9-week course, the recruits received theoretical and practical lessons in Communication, Land Navigation, Drill and Ceremony, HAZMAT, Fire-fighting, First Aid and Physical Fitness. Addressing the graduates, Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati said that they are role models for future KSF members and their personal example and professional achievements will encourage other young men and women from their communities to join the KSF. “Today, you stand ready to serve your country and its citizens. From now, you will be part of our force where we will develop and advance together,” said Lieutenant General Kastrati. KSF Minister Agim Çeku pointed out that the graduates have chosen a special and very noble profession – service to their fellow citizens. Kelly Degan, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Pristina at the graduation ceremony said: “Through your service, you are a strong example of a hopeful future to members of your communities. You will inspire others to serve with dignity and pride. And you will pave the way for those who follow you to be welcomed into the Kosovo Security Force.”



## U.S. CADETS HELP KSF MEMBERS TO IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH SKILLS

On August 16, a certification ceremony for 27 U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets and 66 KSF members was conducted at the KSF Training and Doctrine Command. Over three weeks, the U.S. cadets from all over the U.S. helped KSF members to improve their English skills and to build rapport as part of the U.S. military's Cultural Understanding Language Program (CULP). The U.S. cadets also visited cultural sites of Kosovo and other KSF units while performing joint humanitarian aid projects with the KSF. "This was an excellent opportunity for our U.S. cadets to cooperate with our Kosovar partners, while for KSF members to enjoy the opportunity to study and practice the English language. The training not only strengthened the cooperation between America and the KSF, but also the whole community benefited through different humanitarian projects," said the U.S. Military Attaché in Pristina, Colonel James Kott. CULP Program objectives enable KSF members and cadets to improve their level of English language by direct communication with American cadets, improve already friendly relations, and to familiarize the KSF with the training system of the ROTC program. This kind of cooperation will continue in the future.



## RAPID REACTION BRIGADE TRAINS IN TURKEY

In August 33 members of the KSF Rapid Reaction Brigade participated in a two-week training at the Turkish Infantry School in Istanbul. “Only after you have successfully passed this information to your fellow KSF members will the importance of this training be realized,” said Brigadier General Gëzim Hazrolli, Deputy Commander of Land Force Command. The two-week training program was one of the results from the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force and the Ministry of National Defense of Turkey.

