

## MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE



### From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the KSF's newsletter.

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for General Drews and his staff for doing such a great work in helping MKSF achieve its goals. Their legacy will be long remembered and cherished by all of us.

August was one of the most successful months in the field of international affairs for our Ministry. Our visit to the USA was one of the most successful official visits there. We are also proving that regional cooperation is the only way for us to achieve regional peace. Creating and maintaining good relations with different MoD such as Macedonian MoD can help us achieve this goal. We are thankful that we are able to use one of the best Military Field Exercise Training Centers (KRIVOLAK) for our capacity building training.

In addition, the KSF was very active in assisting communities where our promptness, professionalism and highly trained members were needed in order to make our citizens lives easier.

I wish you a pleasant reading.

Sincerely Yours

## MINISTER CEKU AND COMMANDER KASTRATI VISIT THE USA

In the middle of August Minister Agim Çeku and Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati travelled for one-week official visit to the United States of America. Minister Agim Çeku and the KSF delegation initially visited Washington where they had meetings at U.S. State Department and U.S. Defense Department. During the meetings with senior U.S. administration officials it was assured that the USA will remain committed to the further development of the KSF. After Washington, the delegation travelled to Des Moines, Iowa for a State Partnership Program conference between the State of Iowa and the Republic of Kosovo. During the Conference Minister Ceku presented a lecture “The Kosovo Security Force; Regional/International Engagement and the Road Ahead”, whereas Lieutenant General Kastrati provided information on the current development and capabilities of the KSF.



## EXHUMATION WORKS IN ZHILIVODA CONCLUDED

On August 2nd, after two years of investigating a suspected mass grave in Zhilivoda in the municipality of Vushtrri, exhumation was finally concluded. The exhumation began on August 31, 2010 and was conducted by EULEX and assisted by the KSF. According to EULEX statement, there is no evidence to support the claims that Kosovo Serb victims had been buried there.

This was largest exhumation site inspected to date; the site consists of seven thousand square meters and twelve coal mines that were connected by underground tunnels. Because of the size of the area, the EULEX Department of Forensic Medicine was logistically supported by the KSF, which used heavy machinery to dig 30 metres underground to where the alleged mass grave was suspected of being located. The underground excavations took twenty-four weeks during 2011 and 2012 and entire location was examined.

Thirteen years after the end of the war in Kosovo, 1,700 of the 6,019 people who were reported missing to the International Red Cross by their families are still unaccounted for.



## KSF ASSISTS LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN EXTINGUISHING WILDFIRES

In August the KSF several times intervened in extinguishing the fires caused by the high temperatures and dry conditions in Decan, Isniq, Korreticë, Cernushë, and the Koritnik Mountains. Members of the KSF had to extinguish the massive fires in these areas that are almost impossible to access. During the wildfires more than 100 hectares of woods in Decan burned, including over 6 hectares in the mountain Bellese and several hectares in the vicinity of the Decan Monastery.



## KSF CONTINUES REMOVAL OF MINES

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati, alongside with officials from the British and U.S. embassies paid a visit to Koshare. They visited KSF's explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team that is clearing the region of unexploded ordnances. EOD specialists are currently engaged in Hajvali, municipality of Prishtina, Halilaq, municipality of Fushë Kosovë, Ferizaj, and several battlefields, e.g., Koshare, Belenicë and others. As a consequence of the last war in Kosovo, 114 citizens have lost their lives and unexploded ordnances have injured 440.



## KSF REMOVES RUINS IN THE VILLAGE OF NEKOFC

In August the Engineering Unit of the KSF removed ruins of a former school that was destroyed during the last war in Kosovo in NekoFc village, municipality of Drenas, In total 2066 cubic meters of waste (over 170 trucks) was removed. Commander of Operational Support Brigade, Colonel Ilaz Dërguti, promised that in the future the Engineering Company will engage in humanitarian projects in order to help Kosovo citizens.



## DRAGASH MUNICIPALITY APPRECIATES THE KSF FOR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE DURING THE AVALANCHE

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, mayor of Dragash Municipality Lulzim Rifaj met with Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati to present a letter of appreciation for KSF's outstanding assistance during the natural disaster in Restelicë last February. During the ceremony, the citizens of L.Rifaj expressed their gratitude for KSF's professionalism during the search and rescue operation, which resulted in saving the life of a five-year-old girl.



## TWO CADETS OF THE KSF TO ATTEND A TRAINING IN THE UK

In August two female cadets of the KSF - Manushaqe Nura and Mimoza Budeci – went to the United Kingdom in order to attend 11 month long training for officers at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst. The training is the result of an official invitation of the British Government and it is the first time that two females from Kosovo will study in Sandhurst. The Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst is one of the oldest and most prestigious military academies and each year provides around 600 new officers for the British Army, together with a small number of foreign students that have been selected.



## FAREWELL CEREMONY HELD IN HONOR OF THE END OF TOUR FOR KFOR COMMANDER R PROVIDED ASSISTANCE DURING THE

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, the farewell ceremony in honor of KFOR Commander, Major General Erhard Drews, was organized by the Ministry for KSF. Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati, Commander of the KSF, decorated Major General Drews with the medal of “Distinguished achievement” for excellent performance for exceptional support to the KSF. Major General Drews in his speech stressed that the KSF is building its reputation as a professional force through leadership, high standards and quality training. He pointed out that Kosovo has made great achievements in improving the lives of its citizens and that the KSF is part of this progress.



## NEW WATER RESERVOIR IN POMOZATIN BARRACKS

In July Pomazatin Barracks received a new water reservoir. Previously, the water supply to the barracks came from the municipality approximately 15-20 hours during the week. In order to provide the Barracks with sufficient water a new water reservoir system consisting of two enclosed water storage tanks was installed. The project was financed by the Donor Program and cost over 170 000 EURO.





## KSF USES MACEDONIAN'S TRAINING CENTER FOR ITS CAPACITY BUILDING

From the 26th -29th of August, a KSF contingent took part in exercise "Crisis Response 2012" that was held in the Krivollak Training Center in Macedonia. The aim of the exercise was to practice mobilization, displacement and border crossing, command and control, HAZMAT training, Search and Rescue operations, NBC protection and decontamination skills. This was the first deployment of the KSF outside of the country for this type of exercise which was monitored by Iowa National Guard.



## FIRST 52 KSF MEMBERS RETIRED

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, at the barracks of the KSF Land Force Command a ceremony was organized on the occasion of the retirement of 52 KSF members. Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati, in his speech stressed contribution of the retired members of the KSF and appreciated their dedicated and committed service. Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati, decorated the newly retired members with the Medal for Service for their exceptional contribution in developing the KSF.

