

MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 4th edition of the KSF's newsletter.

We had a successful month filled with various activities ranging from important visits, trainings, CIMIC activities and recruitment campaigns.

MKSF is interested in expanding regional cooperation beyond conventional security affairs. In this spirit, we have organized a conference with Macedonian MoD regarding their experience in minority employment.

I would like to thank you for your interest and wish you a pleasant reading.

Sincerely Yours

AGIM ÇEKU

KFOR-KSF HELICOPTER CIVILIAN EVACUATION TRAINING

On 30th of May, in the KSF' "New Born" camp based in Gjilan, the American KFOR trained members of KSF by using a helicopter. There were 34 members of the search and rescue regiment and 13 members of the communication unit that participated in this training.

Few of the training topics are: medical evacuation, taking a patient with the helicopter, preparing the terrain for a helicopter landing etc.

At the end of the training, members of KSF were certified by KFOR about operations that include civil evacuation in case of natural disasters.



ALBANIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE VISITS MKSF

On 11th of May, the Albanian MoD Mr. Arben Imami and other high-ranking officials from the Albanian MoD visited Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force.

Minister Ceku, COMKSF Kadri Kastrati, Dpt. Ministers Veseli, Gashi and Filipovic welcomed Minister Imami. The Kosovan Ambassador in Albania Mr. Sylejman Selimi was also part of the welcome delegation on this occasion.

The purpose of this visit was to reassure the very successful collaboration between Albanian MoD and MKSF in the fields of security, health, and training in order to promote the joint contribution for the regional peace and stability



ITALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE VISITS THE MINISTRY OF KSF

On May 14th, Italian Minister of Defense Giampaolo Di Paola visited the MKSF. Minister Agim Çeku and Commander of the KSF Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati informed the Italian delegation about development of the KSF, achievements, objectives and challenges. Minister Çeku expressed his gratitude for Italy's unlimited support for Kosovo, in particular for the KSF. Minister Giampaolo Di Paola said that Italy would continue to engage with its presence in Kosovo and to assist it.



NATO Donates Medical Equipment

Basing on the agreement between Kosovo and NATO of the donation of equipment for stand up of the Kosovo Security Force, in May the KSF Medical Company received medical equipment. The donated equipment, among which are sleeping cots, first aid kits, surgical instrument and supply sets, medical equipment sets, sick call field tents and other items, is aimed to enhance the Medical Company's overall capabilities.



The KSF supports Persons with Disabilities

On May 26th, a rally to raise awareness about people with disabilities was held in Prizren. The rally started in the central square of the town and continued up the hill to Prizren Fortress. Members of the KSF supported participants of the rally by helping to push or carry wheelchairs and offering any other assistance.

THE KSF SUPPORTS THE CAMPAIGN “CLEAN UP KOSOVO”

On May 24th, sharing the country’s goal of passing on to future generations a safe and clean environment, members of the KSF joined the campaign “Clean up Kosovo”. During the clean up works seven barracks and their surrounding territories were cleaned. Moreover, the KSF also actively supported many municipalities all over Kosovo in their clean up activities, working together with thousands of volunteers to make the country a place everyone enjoys and is proud of. While visiting Dragolevac village

Minister Ceku said that the village is a good example of cooperation with Kosovo institutions and urged all citizens of Kosovo that clean up action needs to be continued and turned into daily work habits.



THE KSF HOLDS RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN FOR CADETS

The KSF has started an information campaign for recruiting new cadets. The motto of the information campaign is “Be Cadet of the KSF! Be an Officer of Kosovo!”

Selected candidates will undergo a four-year study at the Centre for University Studies and the American University in Kosovo. Basing on the bilateral agreement signed between the MKSF and Macedonian Ministry of Defense, three cadets from minority communities will be educated in Military Academy of Macedonia.



KSF's Divers are Certified

From 16th until 28th of May, Search and Rescue Unit completed successfully diving training where at the end 17 members of KSF were certified.

The Royal Dutch Marine conducted the training in the Albanian Military Marine base in “Pashaliman” in Vlora.



THE KSF RECONSTRUCTS CONNECTING ORLLAN AND TURUQICA

On May 25th, an opening ceremony for the reconstructed road connecting Orllan and Turuqica villages was held. Engineering Battalion of the KSF repaired 5.5 km thus improving living conditions of villagers as well as access to a local school. “CIMIC projects are very important since they bring us closer to the people of our country and support them in their needs,” stressed Minister Ceku.



MKSF Informs about Importance of Integrating Gender Perspective into CIMIC Operations

On May 17th, Office for Community Affairs of the MKSF, teamed up with members of KFOR, presented a joint briefing on integrating a gender perspective into Civil-Military Operations. The focus of the seminar was on ensuring that the needs of 100% of the population are considered when conducting humanitarian assistance operations. Special attention was paid to unintended effects of operations and key to this is encouraging an open dialogue with the local population. It was stressed that the dialogue must include not only the official leaders of the communities but also the informal leaders including women, who make up 50% of most populations and often are not in official leadership roles. During the briefing KSF's approach to CIMIC operations was highlighted as well as how the KSF ensures that the whole population is considered early on in the planning of an operation.



The MKSF and the Macedonian MoD Exchange Experience in the Field of Employment of Communities

On May 29th, experts of the Ministry for KSF and the Macedonian Ministry of Defense held a working meeting to exchange experience in the field of employment of communities. During the meeting the Macedonian delegation was informed about the mission and duties of the MKSF and the KSF, accumulated experience in inclusion minorities in the MKSF and the KSF and recruitment process of Kosovo communities

Bundestag Defense Comitee

On 2nd of May, the German Bundestag's Defense Committee led by Mrs. Susanne Kastner and other representatives of the same Committee visited Ministry of KSF.

During this visit, Minister Çeku together with COMKSF Kadri Kastrati Dpt. Minister Veseli and other high-ranking MKSF officials did express the gratitude for the German Government and its people for the unconditional support towards Kosovo and KSF in specifics.

Mrs. Kasnter also was interested in the latest KSF's development and in the overall security situation in Kosova.

