

## MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

### From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the KSF's newsletter.

A few weeks ago we celebrated our fifth year of independence, the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, where the KSF paraded together with the Kosovo Police and the Agency for Emergency Management. I want to thank the general public for showing up and giving us tremendous support. I also want to thank the international community in Kosovo for their honest contribution to peace so we could enjoy freedom and relish our progress together.

I do strongly believe that communication shapes the world and is a powerful tool in making better world. Thus, a very special Thank You goes to EUCOM and their highly professional staff led by Colonel Edward Thomas for showing us how to become better communicators.

Have a pleasant reading.

Sincerely Yours

AGIM ÇEKU

## THE KSF PARADES IN HONOUR OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) alongside the Kosovo Police and the Agency for Emergency Management paraded in the center of Prishtina in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Republic of Kosovo's independence on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. The KSF was represented by the Rapid Reaction Brigade, the Operational Support Brigade, the Ceremonial Platoon, the KSF Music Band and cadets. "The KSF, with its dedication and high sense of responsibility, is one of the most respected institutions of Kosovo. The KSF, being a professional and efficient force, holds a key position in laying the foundations of a stable and peaceful democratic force which carries in itself a glorious past, stable present and a secure future, in accordance with the vision of the Republic of Kosovo as a state built upon the principle of equality and freedom for each citizen," said President Atifete Jahjaga during her speech. Deputy Ambassador of the United States in Kosovo, Kelly Degnan, stressed that over the past five years, the KSF, the Kosovo Police, and the Agency for Emergency Management have all played a vital role in providing safety and security for all of Kosovo's citizens. These institutions have demonstrated that Kosovo can be a contributor to security, at home and in the region. "Do not underestimate the importance and significance of this achievement," said Ms. Degnan.



## MINISTER ÇEKU ATTENDS THE MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

In early February, Minister Agim Çeku participated in 49th Munich Security Conference. Heads of government, defense officials, foreign ministers, high level security experts and representatives of think tanks from across the world presented topics on current security issues. The delegates discussed the changing geopolitics of energy, the euro crisis, the future of the EU, the emerging powers, global governance, the future of European defense, security and stability in Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus's and cyber security. The escalating situations in Syria, Mali and Iran were also analyzed. Over the past decades, the Munich Security Conference has become the major security policy conference worldwide. Each year it brings together senior figures from around the world to engage in an intensive debate on current and future security challenges.

## STRATEGIC SECURITY SECTOR REVIEW IN PROGRESS

With the help and assistance of the U.S. Defense Institution Reform Initiative, a Strategic Security Sector Review (SSSR) has been underway since March 2012. The goal of the SSSR is to identify Kosovo's current security environment and potential security risks to determine which security capabilities are required over the next five years. The SSSR is looking across the range of institutions providing for the security of Kosovo to develop the five-year plan. The SSSR is being conducted in accordance with principles of openness, transparency, and a whole of government approach to develop a comprehensive program with involvement from all ministries and government security institutions. The SSSR will benefit the entire population of Kosovo as well as regional partners. In June 2013 the SSSR is expected to reach initial conclusions then additional work will identify and develop the required security capabilities.

## MAJOR GENERAL TIMOTHY ORR PAYS VISIT TO KOSOVO

On February 20, the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force welcomed the visit by Major General Timothy Orr, commander of the Iowa National Guard. General Orr was a distinguished guest of Commander of KSF Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati at the Independence Day parade. During his visit, General Orr was briefed on the latest developments of the KSF, especially in the areas of education, training, professional development and operational readiness. Leaders of the Operational Support Brigade briefed him on their capabilities, and reviewed their equipment and training programs with him. Demonstrating his commitment to the future of the KSF, Major General Orr also offered encouragement to KSF cadets, and spent an hour answering their questions. During his visit, General Orr expressed particular admiration for the KSF's professional achievements and willingness for mutual cooperation in years to come.



## ÇEKU: CAPACITY BUILDING WILL BE DONE IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OUR PARTNERS

On February 19, Minister Agim Çeku gave an extensive television interview to KTV in which he stated that Kosovo is committed to the Ahtisaari Plan which states that it shall develop strategies for a full transfer of security responsibilities to Kosovo authorities over time. “Kosovo is in the process of building its institutions, agencies, capabilities and capacities to protect itself and its citizens; these efforts are being done in coordination with and support of the international community. We believe that Kosovo’s security institutions are increasingly ready to take on full responsibility for the security in Kosovo. This will not be a quick process, capability building takes time and we do not want to rush into things,” stated Çeku. He also pointed out that there will be no surprises to anyone, Kosovo’s security sector’s further development will be completely transparent and coordinated in close cooperation with international partners. “They [NATO] will have one more country that could contribute to NATO operations, they will have one more force built according to their standards to provide stability in the region, and one more force to contribute to NATO-led operations,” said Çeku. When speaking about Kosovo’s Strategic Security Sector Review, Çeku said that “we are very transparent with this review process that we are conducting; we are building a force for good, for the benefit of our country, for the benefit of the region.”

## LIEUTENANT GENERAL KASTRATI MEETS WITH LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSEPH LENGYEL

On February 25, Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati met with Lieutenant General Joseph Lengyel, Vice Chief of the U.S. National Guard Bureau. COMKSF Kastrati appreciated the help that the U.S. is providing the KSF in building up its capabilities, training KSF personnel and advising the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force. He also emphasized the benefits of the intensive cooperation with Iowa National Guard and briefed the American delegation on the progress of the Strategic Security Sector Review. Lieutenant General Lengyel promised that the existing cooperation between the National Guard and the KSF will continue.



## TURKISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE VISITS KOSOVO

On February 8, Minister Agim Çeku met with Turkish Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz for an official visit. In the meeting they discussed cooperation between both countries and Turkish support of the KSF. Minister Yilmaz pointed out that the Turkish state remains a strong supporter of Kosovo. “Kosovo and Turkey share common principles and values in regard to Euro-Atlantic area. Kosovo’s aspiration is to join NATO therefore we appreciate Turkey’s strong support on our path toward this goal,” said Çeku. Turkey is already facilitating KSF’s readiness for peacekeeping missions by offering KSF members essential knowledge for successful participation in peacekeeping missions. So far 114 KSF members have completed their training in Turkish military academies; currently, 14 members are being trained including six cadets.



## EUCOM CONDUCTS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS TRAINING FOR THE MKSF AND THE KSF STAFF

From February 11 to 13, strategic communication and public affairs specialists from U.S. European Command (EUCOM), U.S. Defense Information School (DINFOS) and American Forces Network Europe (AFN) conducted three days of training in the fields of strategic communication and public affairs for the leadership of the MKSF, KSF and public affairs personnel. The training consisted of two main parts: consultation and training. The training included classroom discussion on communication strategy, theory and practical discussions on message development. The sessions included on-camera media training to help personnel polish their ability to carry the story of the KSF. The experts shared their best practices for ensuring an effective communication strategy across the MKSF and the KSF and offered advice on how to be increasingly effective in telling the story of the KSF. "It is very clear to us that the KSF has done many things exceptionally well. This is evidenced by the fact that the KSF is the most respected security institution in Kosovo. Your people are dedicated, smart and passionate about their mission and that comes through loud and clear. The KSF is undoubtedly a force for good in the region and leading the way in securing Kosovo's bright future," said Colonel Edward Thomas, EUCOM Director of Public Affairs. He pointed out that the KSF is a force committed to securing Kosovo's future. "The KSF is for all people - it's multi-ethnic and professional; the KSF is committed to transparency; and the KSF promotes stability nationally, regionally and beyond," stressed Colonel Thomas.

