

MINISTRY FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

From the Minister's Desk



Dear friends, welcome to the 9th edition of the MKSF's newsletter.

Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force is continuing to work hard in order to achieve its objectives by the end of the year. I would also like to mention that our Ministry is very active in several fields such as international cooperation, helping communities make their lives easier, gender equality activities and regional cooperation.

I hope we will have more warm days in order to fully enjoy important events during this month.

Have a pleasant reading.

Sincerely Yours,

AGIM ÇEKU

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BETWEEN GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND MINISTRY FOR THE KSF

On 26 October, Minister Agim Çeku paid an official visit to Germany. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany and the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force was signed aiming to enhance and intensify the bilateral co-operation between both countries. Among other issues, the delegations discussed the establishment of German language laboratory in the Training and Doctrine Command in Ferizaj and accreditation of the KSF Attaché in Berlin. During the stay in Germany Minister Çeku also attended meetings at the German Parliamentary Defence Committee, the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior, and participated in a panel discussion with former COMKFOR, General Dr. Klaus Reinhardt on future developments in Kosovo.



MINISTER ÇEKU PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO LATVIA

At the end of October, Minister Agim Çeku and Land Force Commander Major General Rrahman Rama visited Latvia after signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force and the Ministry of Defence of Latvia on Security Cooperation in early September. During the visit, Minister Çeku met Minister of Defence Artis Pabriks and Chief of Latvian Armed Forces Major General Raimonds Graube to discuss current and further bilateral cooperation between both countries and share experience regarding Latvia's defence reform and integration in NATO. The Kosovo delegation also visited Land Force Infantry Brigade, National Defence Academy, Recruiting and Youth Guard Centre, Explosive Ordnance Disposal School and Language School.



REAR ADMIRAL MONTGOMERY VISITS THE MINISTRY FOR KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

On the 11th of October, Rear Admiral Mark Montgomery, Deputy Director of Plans, Policy and Strategy of United States European Command (EUCOM), visited the Ministry for the KSF, where he met Minister Agim Çeku. Minister Çeku briefed the Admiral on the progress and achievements made by the KSF and the ongoing Strategic Security Sector Review. During the visit, Rear Admiral Montgomery confirmed the continuous support of EUCOM in training and educating members of the KSF.



COMMANDER OF THE KSF PARTICIPATES IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE ADRIATIC CHARTER

In October, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati participated in the 16th Conference of the Adriatic Charter; the regional initiative was held at the Chiefs of General Staff level. Participants of the conference discussed regional security issues and regional cooperation through joint projects aimed to build sustainable capacities. It was stressed that the conference is significant indicator of fruitful cooperation of the A5 countries in the regional context. At the end of the meeting a Joint Statement was signed.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL KASTRATI IN MONTENEGRO DISCUSSES FURTHER COOPERATION IN SECURITY FIELD

From 25 – 26 October, Lieutenant General Kastrati paid a two day visit to Montenegro where he held meetings with Chief of Staff of the Army of Montenegro Vice-Admiral Dragan Samardzic and other officials. The main topic of the discussions was further and deeper cooperation between the KSF and Montenegro discussing future joint training opportunities.



THE ROYAL MARINES BAND TRAINS KSF MUSIC BAND

In October, musicians of the Royal Marines Band of the U.K. provided a one week intensive training for the KSF Music Band. During the training, KSF musicians increased their repertoire by learning several new marches as well as learned how to play while marching. “Musicians of KSF Music Band are technically very good, they are very capable and keen to learn, therefore in a short period of time fantastic progress was made,” concluded Band Colour Sergeant Steve Bacon of the Royal Marines Band. “Music helps to build relationships beyond language barriers, and this was the first step of a long term relationships between the Royal Marines Band and the KSF Music Band,” stressed Warrant Officer Bandmaster Martin Grace. The newly acquired skills will be demonstrated on the 26th of November during a parade at Land Force Command. KSF Music Band comprises almost 40 musicians most of whom are professionals and have long term music careers.



THE KSF PARTICIPATES IN THE TRADITIONAL MARCH OF THE DANISH CONTINGENT

In October eight members of Crisis Response Liaison Unit of the KSF took part in the traditional march organized by the Danish Contingent (Dancon) of KFOR. This time about 600 multinational service members had gathered in order to join the march. The Dancon March is a tradition for Danish soldiers wherever they are stationed, and has been held every year since 1972. It consists of approximately 26 kilometer of trail, the terrain varying based on the area in which the march is held. Dancon Marches have been held in Kosovo since Danish soldiers became involved in KFOR in 1999.



KSF CONSTRUCTS A FAMILY HOUSE

In October, a KSF Engineer Unit finished building a house for the Haziri family in Istog. The construction of the house lasted two months and was carried out by seven KSF engineers. During the construction works KSF engineers demolished the old house, removed gravel and built a new house for the four family members of the Haziri family. The project was accomplished with strong support of the municipality of Istog which provided the construction materials. In the key handover ceremony Haki Rugova, mayor of Istog municipality, stressed that KSF's support was essential for the accomplishment of the project.



KSF DEEPENS A WATER CHANNEL AND PLACES A BRIDGE

In October, in the village of Verbovc, Drenas municipality, a KSF Engineer Unit fixed the bed for a water channel. During the implementation of the project KSF engineers deepened the channel for about 100 m and removed the earth. They also laid concrete pipes that were financed by Drenas municipality, thus making a bridge for the safety of students and citizens of the area. Three members of a KSF Engineer Unit with KSF machinery carried out the project.

GENDER WORKING GROUP HOLDS A SERIES OF MEETINGS

On 30 October, the Gender Working Group had its fifth and final working group meeting in TRADOC, to discuss the development of best practices for implementing human rights and gender equality in the KSF. Community Affairs and Human Rights Unit at the Ministry of the KSF, supported by the Gender Officer at the Land Forces Command, chaired all working group meetings. All units of the KSF have appointed members to the Gender Working Group to provide valuable input to the discussions. At the end of the meeting members of the Gender Working Group expressed their wish to continue to work with Human Rights and Gender Equality topics. In 2011, Human Rights and Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan for the Ministry of the KSF were approved. The policy is based on national and international legislation related to human rights and gender equality.



CIMIC PROJECTS, OCTOBER, 2012

KSF projects throughout Kosovo Municipalities

