

## APPENDIX C

### Kosovo Security Force

#### Overview



The Kosovo Security Force (Albanian: *Forca e Sigurisë së Kosovës*, Serbian: *Kosovske Bezbednosne Snage*, KSF) is an emergency response force charged with conducting crisis response operations in Kosovo and abroad and civil protection operations in Kosovo. Its main tasks are operations in the areas of Search and Rescue, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Firefighting, and Hazardous Material Disposal. However, it is also equipped with light weaponry, and the Kosovo government plans to transform it into an army. The Commander of the KSF is Lieutenant General Rahman Rama.

In March 2008, the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) started preparations for the formation of the Kosovo Security Force. According to guidance laid out in the Ahtisaari Plan, the security force is permitted to carry light weapons and the Government of Kosovo and the international community planned to bring the force in line with NATO standards. The admission and the training of personnel began in early June, when NATO experts arrived in Kosovo to guide the process, and from early December 2008, enlisting of candidates between 18–30 years old began. The law states that the strength should be 2500 persons with a reserve of 800.

#### History

In 2008, the North Atlantic Council authorized NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) to supervise the dissolution of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and to supervise and support the stand-up of a multi-ethnic, civilian-controlled Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Planning of the stand up of the Kosovo Security Force was initially done through the selection process for all the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) members that had applied for the Kosovo Security Force. The process was led by NATO in full coordination with the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force.

KFOR coordinates with EULEX and the Kosovo Police as third responder to security events as well as with other international institutions to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic, and secure Kosovo. U.S. KFOR's area of responsibility encompasses a number of significant Kosovo Serb enclaves in Kosovo. It has made a concerted effort to build confidence in local communities, supporting local infrastructure improvements such as building a new community center and reaching out to local leaders in person and on Serb radio and TV.

The KPC was deactivated on January 20, 2009, and officially dissolved on June 14, 2009. On 19 January 2009, based on the legal competencies, according to the Law on the Ministry for the KSF and the Law on the Kosovo Security Force, the KSF Minister Mr. Fehmi Mujota mandated the KSF Commander Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, to activate the KSF. Kosovo Security Force officially started its work on 21st of January 2009 at 00:01hrs and this date is also considered as the date of KSF establishment. The standing up of the KSF is a historical act and marked a new reality in Kosovo. The KSF began the selection of 1,400 KPC members to join the KSF. KFOR began the process of organizing, training, and equipping the new force, as well as recruiting multi-ethnic personnel to join the KSF. On 02 February 2009 the first contingent of KSF started training at the Kosovo Center for Public Safety, Education and Development, in Vushtrri. The Kosovo Security Force finished its basic training and in September 2009 KFOR and NATO declared it [and its ministry] had reached Initial Operational Capability. Then it began

working on the achievement of Full Operational Capabilities during 2012. In the year 2011, KFOR announced that KSF had reached a satisfactory standard. While NATO had yet to decide on full operational capacity, KSF continued to develop and work diligently to build capabilities and professionalism.

On December 9, 2008, the EU rule of law mission, EULEX, reached initial operating capability by deploying more than 1,000 police, judges, prosecutors, and customs officers throughout Kosovo. As EULEX ramped up, UNMIK ended its police role in Kosovo and scaled back its presence drastically, as directed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. EULEX reached full operational capability in April 2009.

At the KSF Doctrine and Training Command in Prishtina, 44 senior officers were solemnly certificated in the ranks of Lieutenant Colonels and Majors on 27 April 2009. Their training had lasted 5 weeks and was led by KFOR officers. On 24 June 2009 the solemn oath of the first generation of 106 KSF recruits from civil society was made after the basic training. On this occasion they were issued certificates for accomplishment of the basic course. And on 07 July 2009 Minister for the KSF, Mr. Fehmi Mujota, issued to the KSF Generals the certificates of decree from the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu. Certificates were issued to: Major General Rrahman Rama, Deputy Commander of KSF and Commander of Land Forces Command, Major General Kadri Kastrati, Director for Operations, Brigadier General Nazmi Brahimaj, Commander of the Rapid Reaction Brigade, Brigadier General Zymer Halimi, Head of the Operation and Training Department, Brigadier General Imri Ilazi, Commander of the Operational Support Brigade, Brigadier General Enver Cikaqi, Commander of Doctrine and Training Command. At the KSF Center for University Studies, the first generation of the KSF cadets has graduated 07 August 2009. Minister of the KSF, Mr. Fehmi Mujota, KSF Commander, Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi and other senior KSF officer participated in the graduation ceremony.

At the KSF National Training Center in Ferizaj, Exercise "Agile Lion 1" was conducted 3-5 September 2009. The exercise was planned, organized, supervised and assessed by KFOR experts, with the objective of demonstrating the level of readiness and training of KSF members. The main elements of the exercise were demonstrated in the presence of a significant number of senior state personalities, KFOR Commander and KSF Generals as well as the media. The main elements of the exercise were: search and rescue, demining, firefighting and exercises with hazardous materials. The level of organization and commitment of the KSF members during the exercise was very high. The joint assessment of the exercise was that it was successful.

Exercise "Agile Lion 1" was assessed by NATO as a significant achievement. Partly based on the results of this exercise and the positive assessment, KFOR initiated the process of declaring that the KSF had achieved Initial Operational Capability. NATO declared that KSF has achieved Initial Operational Capability on 15 September 2009, based on the success of exercise "Agile Lion 1", the professionalism of KSF as well as eight months of training.

The KSF EOD Unit began its first humanitarian de-mining action 12 July 2010, which meant the disposal of unexploded ordnances that presents a hazard to the civilian population. With a symbolic controlled detonation by the Minister for the KSF, the EOD Unit started its performance in the premises around houses of village Milaj. This is an important activity since the company is certified and trained in line with international standards and it is the first time that this unit had taken over the responsibilities for de-mining and EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) activities. The KSF de-mining units started their work at a total of six locations of Kosovo.

The Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force conducted the first recruitment campaign for its Reserve Component on 15 September 2010. 10-11 November 2010. The largest field exercise “Agile Lion 3” took place in November 2010 and 850 members from different institutions were involved. The purpose of this exercise was to prove the reaction abilities of the KSF during crisis and natural disasters as well as to demonstrate coordination abilities of inter-institutional actions at the state level.

At the beginning of October 2010, the basic training for weapons started for all members of the KSF. The training was carried out by KSF instructors who were previously certified by the instructors of HECKLER&KOCH and GLOCK companies. KSF members attending the training at TRADOC in Ferizaj use NATO standard weapons - GLOCK pistols and HECKLER&KOCH weapons.

In order to increase of the readiness, building up of the response/reaction unit at home and abroad, it's been established the model company (Company A) in the RRB, the first battalion in Gjilan, which started training in January 2012 and was completed in April 2012. Training is carried out under the previous program and the same based company specialized teams of the SR and MKAB have deployed in polygon of Krivolak for crisis response/reaction training. While the company's second model in Istok (Company 2 A) in the second battalion, occurred in the establishment phase, is therefore in the preparatory phase and the plan began training in January 2013 and completed in April 2013.

In 2009, NATO decided to begin downsizing KFOR, through a conditions-based assessments of an improved security and political situation in Kosovo. KFOR completed the first phase of downsizing in early 2010, bringing troop levels to approximately 10,000. Based on the improving security situation in Kosovo, in March 2011 KFOR completed the second phase of downsizing, bringing troop levels to approximately 6,200, plus a temporarily-deployed operational reserve force.

### **Ethnic Minorities**

#### Kosovo Security Force's Standard-bearer

Ethnic minorities of Kosovo are encouraged to enrol in the Kosovo Security Force with the Republic of Kosovo’s Constitution requiring the intergeneration of ethnic-minority communities into the Kosovo Security Force. In April 2013, 179 (8.2%) of the Kosovo Security Force's military personnel came from minority backgrounds with the rest being ethnic Albanians.<sup>[15]</sup> In May 2014, Kosovan President Atifete Jahjaga noted to the United Nations Security Council that 9% of the KSF were from minority communities. In April 2015, it was reported that there were 42 Serbs currently serving in the Kosovo Security Force.

| KSF Minorities |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Ethnicity      | Amount |
| Turks          | 54     |
| Bosniaks       | 49     |
| Ashkali        | 30     |
| Egyptians      | 20     |
| Serbs          | 16     |
| Croats         | 5      |
| Romani         | 3      |
| Gorani         | 2      |

## **Kosovan Armed Forces**

### Members of the Kosovo Security Force

On 5 March 2014, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi declared that the Kosovan government had decided to establish a Defence Ministry and by 2019, officially transform the Kosovo Security Forces into an Army which meets all the standards of NATO states with aim in joining the alliance in the future. The new Army will have a €98 Million annual budget and will be 5,000 strong with another 3,000 reservists, which will be composed of land forces, a national guard, logistics and training commands. Kosovo's Security Forces Minister Agim Çeku stated that the Kosovo Armed Forces' mission will be "to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kosovo, its people and their property and protect the interests of the Kosovo Republic". Kosovo's ambassador to Turkey, Avni Spahiu, stated that the "decision to establish an army has been taken in consultation with NATO and our partners... [and] the army will have a defensive character as Kosovo has no territorial aspirations". On 28 May 2014, President Atifete Jahjaga told the United Nations Security Council that the creation of the Kosovan Armed Forces would be a long process, requiring the support and participation of all ethnic communities in Kosovo; she added that its purpose would be to contribute to overall security in the Balkans and called on all ethnic communities to take part in the process. In November 2014, Agim Çeku stated that the Kosovo Army was running behind schedule "because of the delay in the constitution of the Kosovo parliament" but the decision to transform the Kosovo Security Force into an Army will be confirmed "at one of the first sessions upon its constitution"; he also noted that this transformation enjoys nationwide support and he doesn't expect any complaints from the political opposition.

### **Mission statement**

A member of FSK with Kosovo's flag at a military parade in the Netherlands

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) is a new, professional, multi-ethnic, lightly armed and uniformed Security Force that is subject to democratic, civilian control. Its mission is to conduct crisis response operations in Kosovo and abroad; civil protection operations within Kosovo; and to assist the civil authorities in responding to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Such duties will include search and rescue operations; explosive ordnance disposal (de-mining and UXO removal); the control and clearance of hazardous materials; fire-fighting; and other humanitarian assistance tasks. The KSF will represent and protect all the people of Kosovo.

### Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force: Mission Statement

The Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force (MKSF) is responsible for exercising civilian control over the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), including management and administration. It comprises a mixture of civilian and KSF personnel and is accountable, through the Prime Minister, to the Kosovo Assembly.

The mission of the MKSF, which is also the highest level KSF Headquarters, is to formulate, implement, evaluate and develop the policies and activities of the KSF within a framework of democratic governance and in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Kosovo.