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Press release

Preparation for Exercise “Balkan Hawk” started

Commander KFOR invites KSF to take part

Commander KFOR General Erhard Bühler in his Headquarters in Pristina today (17th May 2011) has given order to start the preparations for the next Joint Exercise “Balkan Hawk”. This Exercise is an integrated training operation of several security forces in Kosovo to be professionally prepared to provide a safe and secure environment for all people in Kosovo including crowd and riot control and rescue operations.

The exercise will take place at the end of June 2011. Balkan Hawk exercises take place regularly and are traditionally conducted by units of KFOR and forces of EULEX and the Kosovo Police (KP).

Because of the integration of elements of rescue operations General Bühler has invited yesterday Minister of the KSF Agim Ceku and Commander of the KSF General Sylejman Selimi the KSF to take part in the integrated exercise Balkan Hawk and to bring in its core capabilities such as demining (EOD), Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), Search and Rescue (S&R) or fire fighting. This will be a further opportunity to train integrated planning, communication and operation of all the forces responsible for the safety and for disaster relief in Kosovo. Thus it will increase the efficiency of all those who are responsible for the public order and the welfare of the people.

The basic scenario of the next exercise Balkan Hawk will consist of the protection of a specific place against violent demonstrations and any other threats including the coincidence with natural disasters.

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