



Kosovo

International Relations Committee

“The Whole of Iowa for the Whole of Kosovo”

Heather Jones

Executive Director, Iowa Sister States

LTC Jeff Erickson

Director, State Partnership Program

Consulate General Xhavit Gashi

The Republic of Kosovo Consulate



SPP Partners in the "Whole" project

Iowa Sister States Program:

<https://www.iowasisterstates.org/>



OUR MISSION: ISS is a volunteer driven organization dedicated to connecting Iowans with the world community. Our mission is to provide international programs that promote the interests of Iowans abroad. We do this by facilitating and hosting exchange programs between Iowa and our Sister States.

HOW WE BENEFIT IOWA

- We provide Iowans (in all sectors) with opportunities statewide to connect with the international community via the sister state relationships.
- We host themed programs in various areas including: agriculture, law, business, culture, education, and many others.
- We facilitate exchange programs to host incoming delegations, as well as out-bound.
- We facilitate specific scholarship opportunities for Iowans to study in Iowa's sister states, as well as host students to attend Iowa-based colleges and universities.
- We facilitate missions to our sister states that are open to all that support citizen diplomacy and are looking for new ways to engage the international community.

In the years following the fall of the Soviet Union, many of the former Soviet Republics and newly independent nations of Eastern Europe sought to strengthen their security ties with the United States. The US military stepped in to advise and assist these new nations in transitioning their armies into citizen-based units that were subordinate to and supportive of civilian government authority. The citizen-soldiers of the National Guard were a natural choice for this mission as, at the time, the Russian government was extremely wary of the presence of western forces operating on the Russian border--the Guard was perceived as a less threatening presence with a more clearly defined mission that included training and support in areas such as disaster management. In 1992, traveling contact teams made up of Army Guard and Reserve members provided non-lethal assistance and education engagement events, focused on building these democratic military institutions. Reserve Component personnel were chosen because they represented a less aggressive footprint than Active Duty forces might have. From this early initiative, the program has now grown to 68 partners spanning all six Geographic Combatant Commands.

Beginnings

The fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of the republics located beyond the old Iron Curtain represent a potential power vacuum in Eastern Europe, 1991-92

General Colin Powell and John Shalikashvili leaders recognizing that a non-threatening presence should visit Eastern Europe and impress upon the nations formerly behind the Iron Curtain the advantages of civilian rule over military and how to address larger problems existing at this stage

NATO was paying attention to Eastern Europe, and SECDEF Dick Cheney outlined goals for the United States to achieve in improving socioeconomic conditions. Three points stood out: 1) to help to build democracy through appropriate military roles for European militaries; 2) to pursue humanitarian assistance 3) developing a capability to participate with other institutions in strengthening crisis management

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Iowa Sister States Updates



- Feb 2019 – Three separate delegations
 - Two from Ukraine and one from Japan
- April 2019 – working on our Citizen Diplomacy Summit
- May 2019 – Delegation to Kosovo (May 5-12)
- June 2019 – Kosovo students come to Iowa for camp style experience
- July 2019 – Iowa students go to Kosovo for TOKA camp
- Summer 2019 – Japan students come to Iowa
- October 2019 – World Food Prize
- November 2019 – Tentative Iowa Delegation to China



State Partnership Program Goals



- Demonstrate military subordination & support to civil authority
- Assist in development of democratic institutions & open market economies

- Promote political stability
- Project U.S. humanitarian values
- Fully supports SECDEF, COCOM and Ambassador plans
- Vehicle for security cooperation
- Mil-Mil, Mil-Civ and Civ-Civ



Program Goals include:

- Demonstrate military subordination and support to civil authorities
- Assist in the development of democratic institutions and open market economies
- Promote political stability
- Project US humanitarian values among others

Additionally, the program aims to support several areas of interest to the US government, such as:

- helping prevent failed states and creating stable regions
- improving the capabilities of partner nations to protect their citizens
- strengthening relationships to facilitate access and interoperability
- improving cultural awareness and skills among U.S. military personnel
- fostering the integration of reserve and active component forces into a "total force"

All activities are coordinated through the U.S. Embassy's country team, the partner State, and other agencies as required, to ensure the program is tailored to meet both U.S. and country objectives.

All activities must support the Theater Campaign Plan (TCP) as well as individual U.S. Mission plans in the countries where they operate.

The unique civil-military nature of the National Guard allows active participation in a wide range of security cooperation activities, such as:

- emergency management and disaster response
- border and port security
- leadership and NCO development
- medical capacities
- economic security
- natural resource protection
- peacekeeping operations
- counter trafficking
- counter proliferation
- counter terrorism



Non Traditional Partnering – Iowa & Kosovo



- SPP Theme: *“The Whole of Iowa for the Whole of Kosovo”*
- Objectives:
 - Build on existing programs and exchanges – Consider Iowa First!
 - Recruit public/private partners to champion whole of society approach
 - Governor & Hometown Mayors
 - Iowa Sister States
 - College & Universities
 - Business/Industry/Trade Groups
 - Ag Business and Commodity groups
- Bring people together, show appreciation and share the spotlight



We developed an outreach strategy to identify potential partners.

We identified existing programs targeting Kosovo and pitched Iowa as a potential resource provider.

When and where possible we reached out to natural allies, such as the Governor’s office, Hometown mayors and international outreach groups like Iowa Sister states.

We called on colleges and universities to encourage them to get involved.

We included business/industry and trade groups as potential partners interested in doing business in the region.

And of course, we looked to the Iowa agricultural sector as a natural partner in the development of this vital sector in Kosovo.

We did this by bringing people together, educating them about Kosovo and its challenges, and being willing to share the spotlight and credit with those who were willing to get involved.



Seize & Create Opportunities



- Theme: *“Build Support one event at a time”*
- Significant Events:
 - State Partnership Program 2011
 - Signing of Sister State Agreement, July 2013
 - Consulate of Kosovo Established in Des Moines 2016
 - Stone Castle Wine is imported for sale in Iowa 2017
 - Over 110 Iowans, both military and civilian, visit, and perform various engagements in Kosovo May 2018
 - US Embassy 4th of July party has Iowa State Fair Theme 2018





We seized and created opportunities to build support for our whole of society approach.

We identified events that could assist us in building interest in Kosovo and our unique relationship with this developing country.

Each year since the partnership began, MG Orr highlights what we are doing in Kosovo and invites officials from Kosovo to be his guests during his annual national guard update to the Governor and State Legislature.

When the president of Kosovo visited Iowa, we developed a diverse agenda that allowed her to meet and interact with Iowans, highlight business, economic and trade opportunities, and learn more about what Iowa has to offer.

We took full advantage of NGB's offer to help host a LDESP seminar in Iowa focused solely on expanding the state partnership program between Iowa and Kosovo. Working with the US Embassy and the government of Kosovo, we brought nearly 35 Kosovars to Iowa for this three day seminar, including uniform, government and civilian personnel. In addition to Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, we invited state and local government and city officials, college and university educators, health care and law enforcement professionals, business, trade and economic development experts and agricultural, veterinary and farm experts to participate in the seminar.

We worked with the City of Johnston, where our national guard headquarters is located, to develop a sister city relationship with the Kosovo Security Force minister's hometown of Peja, KOS. In April of 2013, the Peja Mayor lead a delegation from his city to sign a sister city agreement with the Johnston Mayor

In July 2013, the Iowa Governor visited Kosovo as part of a international trade visit to Italy and Germany, where he signed a formal sister state agreement with the president of Kosovo, making it Iowa's ninth sister state.

We have a tentative commitment from the Prime Minister of Kosovo and the Kosovo Ambassador to eventually open up a trade/consulate office in the state.



Seize & Create Opportunities



- Theme: *"Build Support one event at a time"*
- Whole of Iowa/Whole of Kosovo engagements:
 - English as a second language program grant to Iowa State University, July 2013
 - Kosovo Exchange Student program grant to Iowa Sister States, 2014-15 Academic year
 - International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program DOJ ICITAP, Jan & June 2014 – Iowa Department of Public Safety
 - EUCOM Disaster Preparedness Assessment and implementation June 2013, Mar 2014 & Sep 2014 – Sioux City Fire Department & Iowa Emergency Management Division
 - Open World Visits, Business/Education (Jan 2014) & Judicial (Oct 2014)
 - Sports Exchange grant through US Embassy (2015), ISS, Iowa AAU, Character Counts
 - Embassy Sponsored KOS Ag visit to Farm Progress Show, August 2014



Let me give you some specific examples of how this whole of society approach is working.

In the summer of 2013, the US Embassy in Pristina, provided a \$100,000 grant to Iowa State University to provide 8 Kosovar high school English Teachers with a three week in-depth English as a Second language program and visit to New York, Washington DC and Iowa.

Starting this fall, four high school students from Kosovo will come to Iowa for 9 months to live with host families and attend Iowa high schools as part of State department sponsored student exchange program.

In June of this year, two of our law enforcement professionals from the Iowa Department of Public Safety, traveled to Kosovo to provide counterterrorism training to Kosovo Police Service personnel through a department of justice funded program.

We have sent firefighters and emergency management SMEs to Kosovo and hosted business, education and agricultural groups in Iowa through such organizations as the Congressional Open World program

Iowa Sister states plans to work with its partners to apply for a sports themed grant to conduct exchanges focused on using sport for social change.

And the US embassy brought a Kosovo agricultural group to Iowa last month to participate in US farm progress show and attend meetings with local agricultural groups and businesses.

This fall, Iowa will host a group of five Kosovar Judges as part of an Open World delegation visit to Iowa for a Rule of Law themed event. They will make a presentation to Drake law students, spend a day learning about Iowa law courts at the Supreme Court Building and observe Iowa legal proceedings at the Polk County Court house.

All of these events were conducted using "other people's money". No NGB or EUCOM security cooperation funding were used in these programs.

The Iowa National Guard was a partner but never had the lead role in any of these non security sector engagements.



Non Traditional Partnering – Iowa & Kosovo



- Objectives:
 - Build a “Whole of Society” relationship between the State of Iowa & Republic of Kosovo
 - Tap into State’s history of citizen diplomacy
 - Strategic: Russia (Khrushchev - 1959) & China ([Xi Jinping](#) – 1985/2012)
 - Humanitarian: Tai Dam of Vietnam (1975)/Bosnians (1990s)
 - Leverage community support for Iowa National Guard
 - Citizens want to support their Soldiers & Airmen/SPP is another way to do so
 - Ensure US Embassy & State Department Support initiative



During his first visit to Kosovo, MG Orr quickly realized there was significant potential to expand this relationship beyond traditional Mil2Mil partnering.

Kosovo, as a newly independent country, recently coming out of conflict, had and continues to have significant development needs. It has a young, dynamic population but is hampered by high unemployment.

Much of its agricultural and industrial base was destroyed or consumed during the conflict.

Development of Kosovo’s security sector is important but so is the development of its economic, agricultural, educational, health care and many other sectors.

Iowans, with their rich history of citizen to citizen diplomacy, would be a natural fit and great allies in helping incorporate these other sectors into the overall relationship.

Iowa citizen diplomats have played significant roles in both strategic and humanitarian diplomatic events from the visit by Premier Krustschchev to an Iowa farm in 1959 to hosting the current President of China in Iowa 29 years ago when he was a low level agricultural government administrator from the Habi province. So moved by his experience living with an Iowa farm family for three weeks back in the 80s, he included Iowa as a stop on his first official visit to the US after being selected as the next president of China.

Additionally, Iowa has a history of welcoming displaced refugees including large groups from Southeast Asia (Tai Dam) and the Balkans (Bosnia)

Iowa, like so many states, is incredibly supportive of its National Guard. Iowans are always willing to assist our Soldiers and Airmen when asked. Getting involved as citizen diplomats to assist the Guard in its efforts in Kosovo was well received.

US Ambassador to Kosovo William Dell and his successor, Tracy Jacobson, saw the value of supporting this whole of society approach and have been invaluable partners in making this relationship work.



SPP Partners in the "Whole" project



- State of Iowa Government
- Iowa Sister States Program:
<https://www.iowasisterstates.org/>
- City Governments
- Universities
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Schools
- Non-Profit Organizations
 - Churches
 - Sports organizations
 - Community interest organizations
 - Philanthropic Organizations
- Local and International Businesses
- Individual Volunteers





In the years following the fall of the Soviet Union, many of the former Soviet Republics and newly independent nations of Eastern Europe sought to strengthen their security ties with the United States. The US military stepped in to advise and assist these new nations in transitioning their armies into citizen-based units that were subordinate to and supportive of civilian government authority. The citizen-soldiers of the National Guard were a natural choice for this mission as, at the time, the Russian government was extremely wary of the presence of western forces operating on the Russian border--the Guard was perceived as a less threatening presence with a more clearly defined mission that included training and support in areas such as disaster management. In 1992, traveling contact teams made up of Army Guard and Reserve members provided non-lethal assistance and education engagement events, focused on building these democratic military institutions. Reserve Component personnel were chosen because they represented a less aggressive footprint than Active Duty forces might have. From this early initiative, the program has now grown to 68 partners spanning all six Geographic Combatant Commands.

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SPP Partners in the "Whole" project

Kosovo Consulate Des Moines



- We bring Kosovars and Iowans together in the fields of Agriculture, Education and Economic Development, Sports and Cultural Exchanges.
- We expand our cooperation on a local level.
 Sister City Partnerships:
 Johnston - Peja
 Norwalk - Vushtrri
 Fort Dodge – Gjakova
 Des Moines- Prishtina
- Why Iowa?



On January 29, 2016, the Republic of Kosovo officially opened a consulate office in Des Moines, Iowa. This historic event occurred for many reasons beginning with the strong bonds formed between Kosovo and Iowa through the deployment of several hundred Iowa National Guard Peacekeepers to Kosovo over the last decade.

Our office brings Kosovars and Iowans together. We foster cooperation in the fields of Economic Development, Agriculture, Education. Economic Development:

Economic Development: We have facilitated visits for business leaders from both sides to create business opportunities. Business representatives and leaders that have been to Kosovo to foster business cooperation include the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Director of Iowa Economic Development Authority Debi Durham, Iowa Association of Business and Industry and business leaders from Kosovo to Iowa as well. We have facilitated visits for Kosovars to participate in business conferences in Iowa to gain skills which they will take back to their businesses and communities.

Agriculture: We have worked with FFA to create exchange programs for students and teachers. Last year we had students and teachers go to Kosovo through FFA and we are working to bring teachers and students from Kosovo from five cities to Iowa this April.

We have also worked with the **World Food Prize and Global Youth Institute**, two years in a row to create exchange programs for two pairs of students and teachers to participate in the programs. This is the third year we will continue with this program.

We have established long term relationships with **Iowa State University** in the field of Agriculture as well as the **Iowa Department of Agriculture**. Previous Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Bill Northey has visited Kosovo and we continue the same great relationship with Secretary Mike Naig.

Education: MoU's with DMACC, Drake, UNI, University of Iowa, Iowa State University. They have all offered 15 percent discount scholarships for Kosovo students.

DMACC - 10 free tuition scholarships. A major partner of the Consulate. Working on opening a campus Kosovo.

Drake University: Teach English in Kosovo Program, J- Term Class.

University of Iowa: Evaluation of the Education System Kosovo.

Sister-City partnerships:

Following the Whole of Iowa for the Whole of Kosovo approach, we wanted to expand our partnership on a local level as well:

Finalized Sister City Partnerships:

Johnston- Peja

Norwalk – Vushtrri

Fort Dodge – Gjakova

Des Moines – Iowa

Working on: Gjilan - Souix City, Ames Podujeva.

Why did Kosovo choose Iowa? Very simply - we feel there is opportunity for cooperation here. Over the last several years, Iowans, including government officials, business leaders, educators, and many others have visited Kosovo. They have offered advice, listened to our economic, institutional and educational development goals and marveled at how far the Republic of Kosovo has come since it declared its independence in 2008, eight short years ago.

We have offices in Washington D.C and New York, but in Iowa, when we opened our office doors, your global citizens knocked on our doors and asked how they could help. After we added the civilian sector to the military one, we became a successful model for other countries to follow.



Whole of Iowa/Whole of Kosovo Events



- IGOV Office call/Photo w/KYEP students, 21 MAY
- ISS/SPP meeting with Rep Zach Nunn, 21 MAY
- Iowa National Guard Diversity Day participation, 21 MAY
- 2015-16 KYEP ISS limit to 1 student, Johnston schools, Host family - Michelle & Mitch Poss
- Kosovo Documentary, Luke Hartwath, travel to Kosovo 20 June – 20 July
- Johnston Rotary looking for HA project to complete with Peja Rotary
- Potential Sister City relationship Ft. Dodge, IA/Gjkova, KOS
- Kosovo education group in SEP 2015
- Open World visits
- UoI Law School Center for Human Rights, Whole of Iowa/Whole of Kosovo Conference, Fall 2015
- Desire to continue Law Enforcement Exchanges between IDPS and DOJ ICITAP – Kosovo
- Kosovo Consulate: President Jahjaga signed decree for the opening of Consulate in Des Moines, pending US State Department approval



Questions?