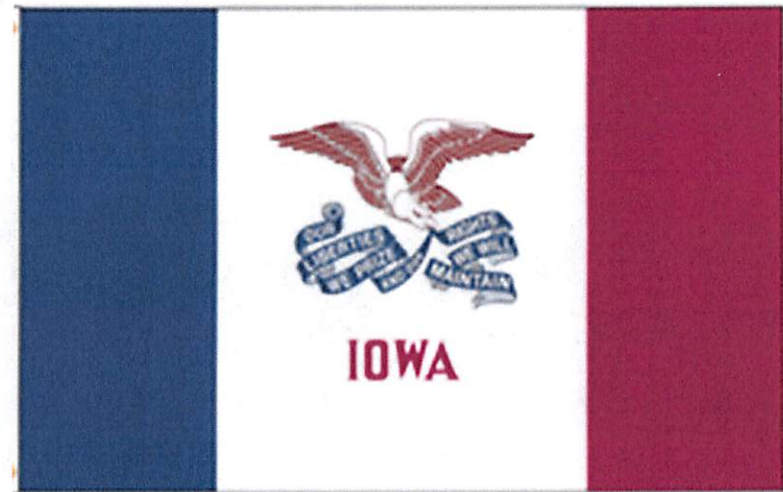




State Partnership Program  
The Iowa National Guard  
and Kosovo Security Force

---

# Agenda



- Kosovo Overview
- State Partnership Program (SPP) Overview
- Benefit of SPP relationships
- Iowa and Kosovo partnership
- Why security cooperation matters

# Official Name: Republic of Kosovo

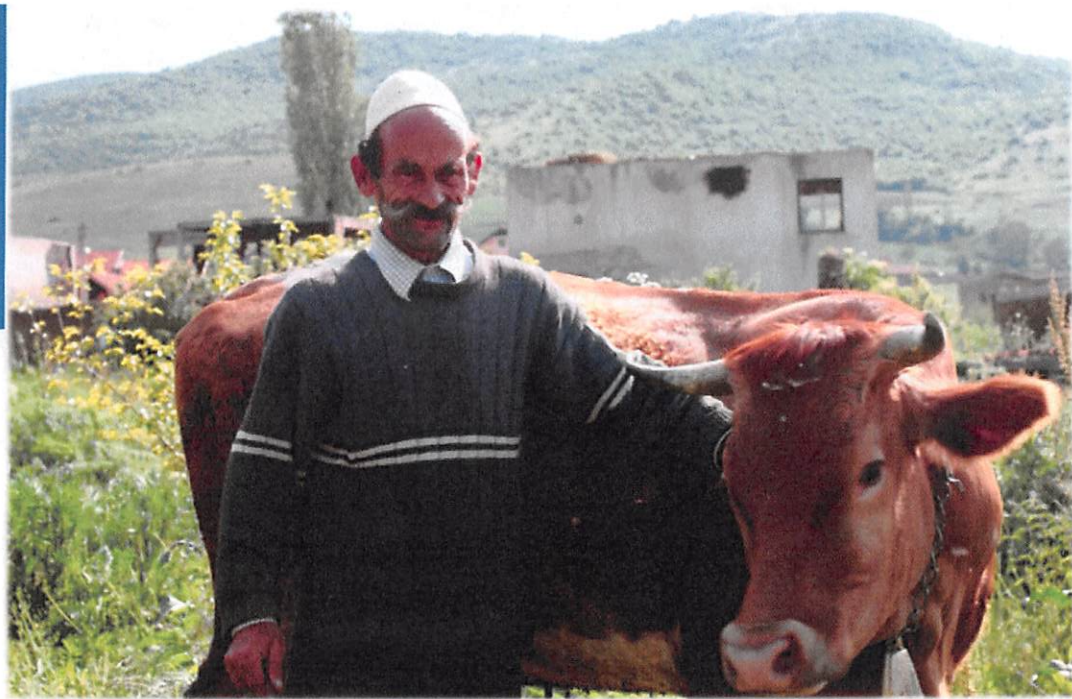
## Geography

- Area: 10,887 square kilometers (4,203 square miles), slightly **smaller than Connecticut**
- Capital: Pristina
- Terrain: Varied
- Climate: Temperate



# People

- Nationality: *Adjective*--**Kosovo national**.
- Population (April 2011 census): **1.7 million**.
- Ethnic groups: **88% ethnic Albanians**, 7% ethnic Serbs, 5% other (Bosniak, Gorani, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Turk, and Croat).
- Languages: **Albanian** (official), **Serbian** (official), Bosnian and Turkish (official only in municipalities of Prizren, Pec, Dragas, Pristina, and Gnjilane where significant numbers of these minorities reside).
- Religion: The **majority ethnic Albanian** population, as well as the Bosniak, Gorani, and Turkish communities, and some of the Roma/Ashkalia/Egyptian communities are adherents of **Islam** (96%). 1.5% are **Serbian Orthodox** (predominantly Serbs). Approximately 2% of ethnic Albanians are **Roman Catholic**.
- Education: *Adult literacy rates* (2007 est.)--**91.9%** (men 96.6%, women 87.5%). *Enrollment* (2003 est.)--**96%** of children ages 7-15 enrolled in primary school.
- Health: *Infant mortality rate*--**23.7/1,000**. *Total fertility rate, births per woman* - (2.9. *Life expectancy* - **75 years**).



# Kosovo History

- Conquered by Rome 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C.
- Christianized 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries A.D.
- Center of the medieval **Serbian empire** during which many important Serb religious sites constructed.
- Part of the **Ottoman empire** for more than 4 centuries.
- Reacquired by Serbia during the First Balkan War in 1912-13.
- Incorporated into **Yugoslavia** after WWII.
- Became an **autonomous province** of Serbia, possessing rights **nearly equal** to the six constituent Socialist Republics of Yugoslavia.



# Conflict, Intervention, Independence

- **Conflict** – Serb Nationalism, loss of autonomy, peaceful resistance, KLA, brutal police and military crackdown, civilian atrocities.
- **NATO intervention** – 78 Day NATO military campaign to halt the violence.
- **UNSCR 1244** – Authorizes KFOR Peacekeepers and UNMIK, sets limits on autonomy
- **Ahtisaari Plan** – Retrenched and clarified UNSCR 2144 (2007): set steps toward full independence
- **Independence** – declared 17 February 2008
  - immediate US recognition.
  - 109/193 countries recognize Kosovo's independence (March 2022)

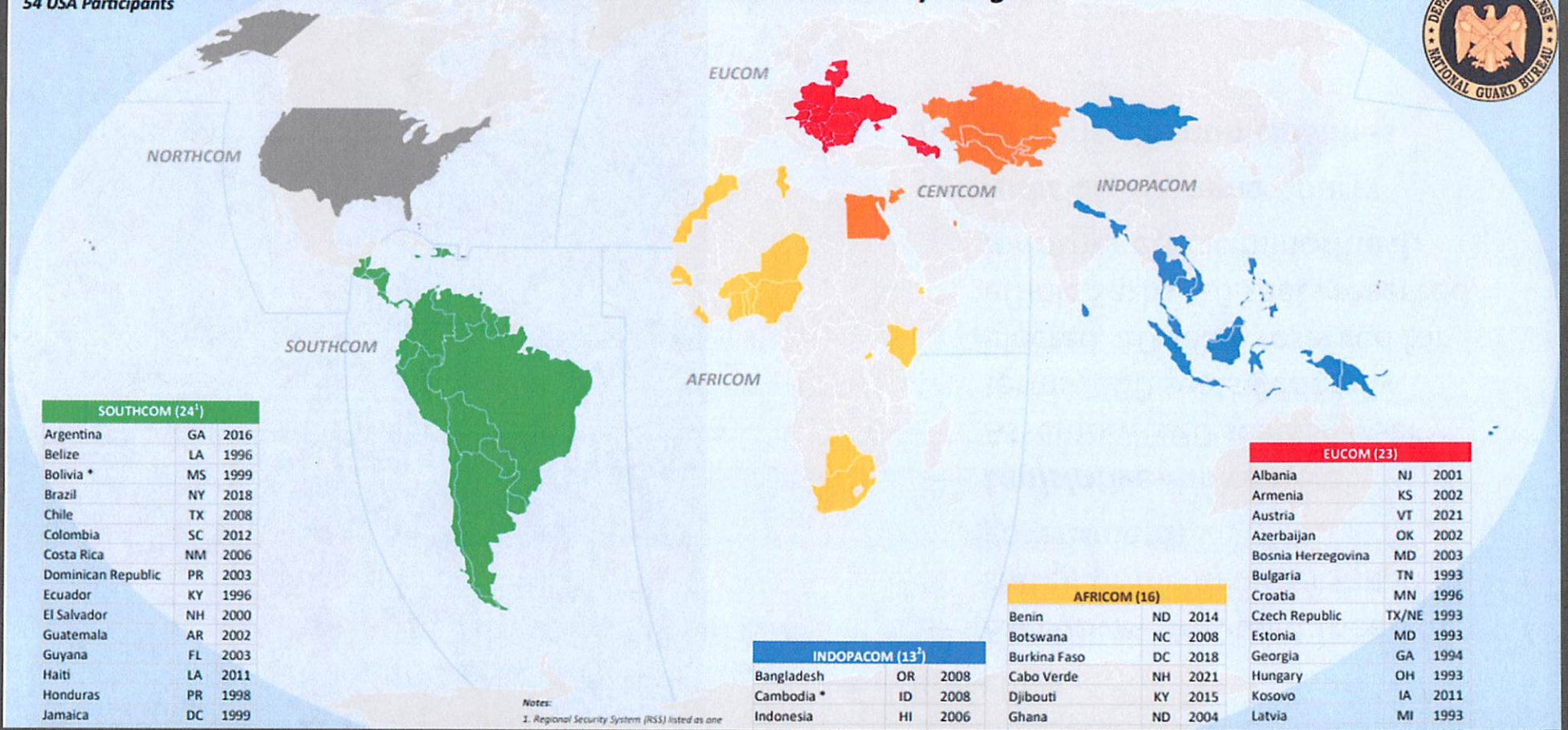


# Government

- Type: **Republic**
- Constitution: The Kosovo Assembly approved the constitution on April 9, 2008. It came into force on June 15, 2008.
- Branches:
  - **Executive**--president (head of state); prime minister (head of government)
  - **Legislative**--unicameral Assembly (120 seats, 4-year terms; 100 seats generally elected, 10 seats reserved for ethnic Serbs, 10 seats reserved for other ethnic minorities).
  - **Judicial**--Supreme Court
- Subdivisions: **38 municipalities**

93 Partner Nations (85 Partnerships)  
54 USA Participants

## National Guard State Partnership Program



## National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program

- National Guard sponsored security cooperation program in support of US National security objectives
- Program objectives
  - Promote US access
  - Enhance military capabilities
  - Improve interoperability
  - Enhance the principles of responsible governance
- 85 partnerships supporting all geographic commands





## Benefit of SPP Relationships

- TAG has direct influence on Chief of Defense and real-time access to US Embassy
- Increase partner's military capability and readiness through mentorship and exercises
- Enhance regional stability by reinforcing ethics, law of war, human rights and institution building
- Provide timely and relevant situational awareness to state and Department of the Army

# Iowa and Kosovo Partnership



- Iowa National Guard selected as Kosovo's partner in 2011
- Army and Air engagements support EUCOM theater priorities
- Focused lines of effort
  - Maneuver
  - Sustainment and maintenance
  - Military medicine
  - NCO development
  - Cyber defense
- IANG empowered Kosovo Security Force to grow from security consumer to security provider, increased regional stability
  - 5 KSF deployed with IANG units to Kuwait in FY21 (logistics, maintenance)
  - 6 KSF medics preparing to deploy to Poland with IANG in FY22
- Maneuver partnering strategy - Infantry Battalions

# Why Security Cooperation Matters

- Increases US national security globally
- Builds US interoperability for conflict response
- Basing and access
- Tool for diplomacy and de-escalation





## Questions and Answers

