

Kucova officials celebrate school renovation

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KUCOVA, Albania — Deborah Jones, U.S. Embassy Tirana, Charge' d' Affaires, Army Lt. Col. Martin Perryman, Head of the Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), and Mr. Charles Brady, U.S. European Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program Manager, joined local authorities in a dedication ceremony marking the completion of a U.S. financed humanitarian assistance project in the town of Kucova.

Director of the school, Ms. Thomai and Perryman cut a ceremonial ribbon to officially re-open the school. Following cheers and applause, attendees walked through the school to see the improvements made. Brady and Army Lt. Col. McCall from EUCOM, attended the event as a sign of partnership with the Republic of Albania; particularly the town of Kucova and its citizens.



KUCOVA, Albania — A basketball court donated by the SKE Group for the children of Kucova. U.S. European Command's humanitarian assistance program assisted with renovating the entire interior and exterior of the school. The town of Kucova is the home of a projected NATO support base and this school will improve the town's ability to better educate children and absorb projected increases of Albanian troops stationed in this area. (Department of Defense photo)

The renovation of the school was the main project in the school's revitalization efforts. The interior of the building was completely renovated. All floors, walls, stairs, electricity, ventilation system and plumbing were refurbished. The exterior was also repaired. The roof, walls, doors, and windows were re-done as well as new front steps.

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"This school is of great significance not only for this neighborhood but also for the entire town of Kucova," said Mr. Kurti, Mayor of Kucova.

"I am very impressed with the school and its renovations. It brings hope to the pupils as they be resume classes in this new facility. We anticipate that the student body will expand as a result of these improvements," said Thomai.

"It is my wish that this school be able to help the children of Kucova for many decades and produce the educated, enlightened adults that will lead Albania in peace and prosperity as part of Europe and the World." said Perryman.

The opening ceremony was broadcast throughout the country on four national TV channels, and newspapers.



EUCOM, U.S. Embassy fund renovation of the Bregu i Lumit health center in Albania

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U.S. Embassy Albania

BREGU I LUMIT, Albani — The U.S. Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) Lt. Col. Martin Perryman, joined local authorities in a dedication ceremony Oct. 15 marking the completion of renovations of the Health Unit in the District of Shkodra here.

The United States European Command, through the U.S. Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation, renovated the Health Center in Bregu i Lumit, District of Shkodra at a cost of \$450,000.00. This renovation was made possible through ODC Humanitarian Assistance funds. Renovation of the Health Center is as a part of an integrated approach to promote a sustainable health care system in Albania.

The renovation provided the Health Center with a new roof, interior and exterior walls and floors. Inside the building, ceramic tiling flooring as well as new restroom facilities were completely renovated. The project will provide the Albanian people in the Bregu I Lumit area access to improved medical care.

The United States Office of Defense Cooperation has been providing humanitarian assistance to Albania since 1999. Projects have included providing supplies, rebuilding schools and medical facilities, and developing water systems for the people of Albania.



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BREGU I LUMIT, Albania — Army Capt. Derek Enz speaks at a dedication ceremony here, Oct. 15. The United States European Command, through the U.S. Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation renovated the Health Center in the District of Shkodra. (Photo by Robert Manga)

