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Dear Friends,

On December 9, International Anti-Corruption Day, we feature news from two of the largest corruption watchdogs in the country: Transparency International – Bulgaria, which just released its local government ranking for 2022, and the Anti-Corruption Fund, whose Red Line Awards honored journalists investigating abuses of power.

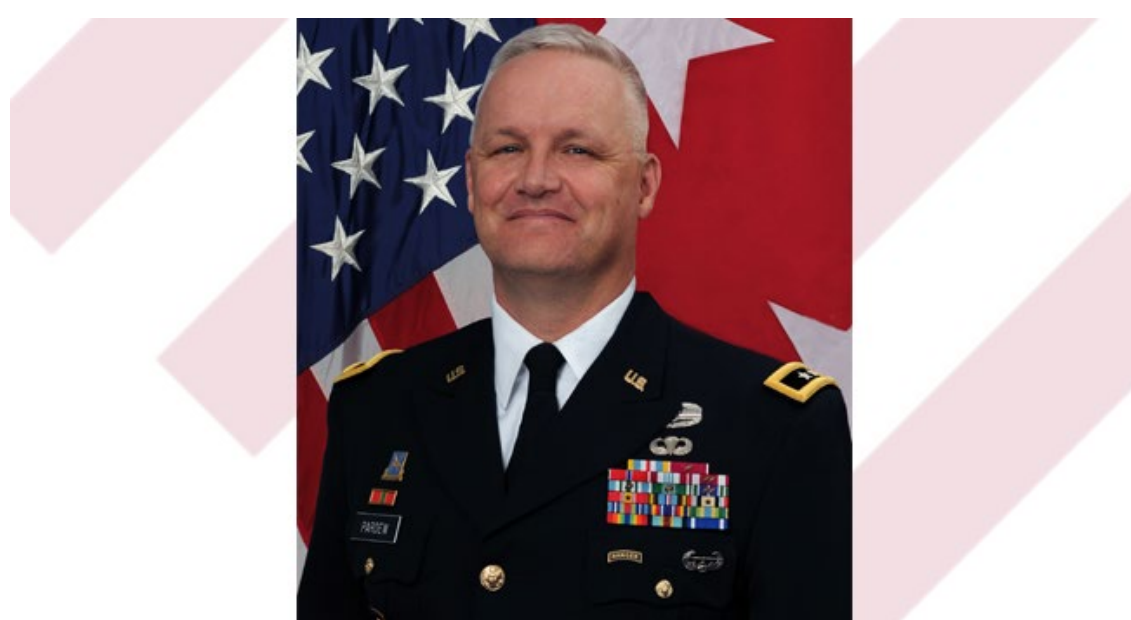
According to the ACF's newest board member, US Army Major General (Ret.) Paul H. Pardew, "corruption is like dust in the air. You don't see it unless you shine a light on it."

The 14 projects we financed two years ago through [the good local governance RFP](#) do just that – shine a light on corrupt practices and demand accountability and better services from local government. While their work made no headlines, these initiatives show that Bulgarian citizens are waking up to the fact that they are a crucial part of the checks and balances on government. Moreover, they are using various tools to fulfill their watchdog role.

As an ABF partner from Kaspichan pointed out, "How active we all are determines how taxpayer money is spent and whether it is invested in a better environment for all."

Today we honor the awardees as well as the growing number of citizens who keep a vigilant watch on power. This is what democracy is about.

This newsletter is your guide to developments in our community, so make sure you [subscribe to stay in the know](#).



Major General (Ret.) Paul H. Pardew Is ACF's Newest Board Member

Wishing to continue his late parents' legacy of friendship and support for democratic processes in Bulgaria, Major General (Ret.) Pardew accepted an invitation to join the board of the Anti-Corruption Fund in an advisory capacity.

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ACF Recognizes Bulgarian Journalists for Anti-Corruption Work

For the third year, the Anti-Corruption Fund's Red Line Awards honored journalists with special contributions in the fight against corruption in Bulgaria.

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Kalin Slavov, Transparency: Integrity Is Becoming a Value Here

Transparency International – Bulgaria's Local Integrity System Index encourages government accountability by ranking municipal institutions' performance.

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Warm greetings from,

Your friends at the America for Bulgaria Foundation

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