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PORTUGAL

In 2006, Portugal deployed in operations and maintained in standby a total average of 1,175 land forces personnel, of which 830 in the context of NATO and 345 in the context the UN (i.a. UNOTIL/UNMIT in East Timor, UNIFIL in Lebanon, UNMIK in Kosovo) and the EU (ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR and EUSEC in RD Congo and EU support to AMIS II in Sudan).

Portugal is participating in the full range of NATO operations. Since Aug 99 Portugal has contributed a total of 2,686 personnel to NATO operation in Kosovo. Portugal is sustaining a Manoeuvr Battalion which is a KFOR Tactical Reserve (274 personnel in 2006), and also six personnel in KFOR HQ. In ISAF, since Aug 05, Portugal is sustaining a Quick Reaction Force (a Company with 150 personnel plus 7 personnel of the Tactical Air Control Party), which has been employed in Kabul and in the South and East of Afghanistan, 3 personnel in ISAF HQ and, also, 2 personnel in Regional Command HQ. Portugal will be contributing, in 2008, to the training of the Afghan National Army (through NATO Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams) as well as one C-130 for airlift. Since Feb 05 several officers and NCOs have been engaged in NATO Training Mission in Iraq/NTM-I (in 2006 one Team of 8/6 personnel was sustained in this mission). Portugal is also engaged in Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR (OAE) and in Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1). In 2006, in OAE, one FFGH (Vasco da Gama Class) with a 207 personnel was employed, one FS (João Coutinho class) was on standby role and one Maritime Patrol Aircraft Squadron performed weekly missions over the Mediterranean Sea. Also in 2006, two military medical teams have participated in the NATO relief operation to assist casualties and mitigate human suffering in the wake of the earthquake in Pakistan. Since Jan 04 (NRF 2), Portugal is contributing to all the NRF rotations; during 2006, on both standby periods, Portugal engaged 945 personnel to NRF 6 and 7 [NRF 6: 1 Airborne Battalion (650), 1 TACP (6), 1 EOD (06); NRF 7: 1 SOF Group (75), 1 FFGH (200), 1 C-130H (4) and NBQ JAT experts (4)]. Portugal also participated in NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission in 2007, with four aircraft F-16s.

Concerning contributions to other international operations, Portugal has been sustaining, since Oct 06, in Lebanon, an Engineering Company (141 elements) as also some personnel in the UNIFIL HQ. It has also been contributing to EUFOR ALTHEA, having notably sustained in 2006 one Battalion and two Liaison and Observation Teams (it has to be noted that Portugal had uninterruptedly contributed to security in BiH over the last decade with a total of 7,808 personnel). From July 06 to Dec 06, one C-130 (with the crew and maintenance personnel), one Reach Back/Ops/Intel team and one SOF maritime Task Unit were deployed in EUFOR/ RD CONGO, where the contribution currently takes place in the framework of EUSEC. Portugal is participating in EUFOR TCHAD/RCA. It is also involved in EU Battle Groups (1st semester 2008 and 1st semester 2009).

In addition, Portugal is committed to several defence and security cooperation programmes within the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), also promoting and participating in joint exercises with those other seven countries.

For more information on Portuguese Armed Forces, see: www.mdn.gov.pt

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