

BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATIONS IN 2008

Belgium is a strong believer in an effective multinational approach to the promotion of peace and stability and to security problems. The Belgian military contribution to this approach reflects this ambition.

In general, the Belgian Security and Defence Policy is focussed on a five axis approach, through UN, EU, NATO, OSCE, bilateral and national contributions. In 2008, these contributions were put into practice through participation in multiple operations and activities:

- Contribution to the promotion of stability and peace in Europe with the participation,
 - o In KFOR with ONE Manoeuvre Company and TWO Liaison and Monitoring Teams in KOSOVO (with an average of around 215 military in zone) and a limited participation in EU operation ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina, that ended in September 2008.

- Contribution to the instauration of the authority of the democratic Afghan government and the stabilisation effort of Afghanistan with the participation in NATO operations in Afghanistan (ISAF):
 - o Protection of Kabul International Airport with a Force Protection Detachment (around 270 military).
 - o Assuring the functioning of Kabul International Airport as a lead nation (around 60 military) till October 08.
 - o Participation in German led Provincial Reconstruction Teams, mainly in KUNDUZ (around 20 military).
 - o Providing CAS missions in support of ISAF with FOUR F16 and around 100 military deployed in KANDAHAR Air Field starting from 01 Sep 08.

- Contribution to restoring and maintaining stability in the Middle East with the participation in UN operation UNIFIL in South Lebanon with:
 - o an Engineer Company (in construction and demining roles) as well as with a Role 2 Field Hospital, including their own force protection and support elements (total of around 350 military).
 - o ONE Frigate (BNS LEOPOLD 1), with onboard helicopter Alouette III, integrated in UNIFIL MTF from 01 Sep 08 till 07 Dec 08 in order to conduct maritime interdiction and surveillance Ops.

- Contribution to the enhancement of the stability and peace of the African continent through:
 - o A direct and indirect participation in UN and EU peace support or security operations:
 - deploying observers or staff officers (UNMIS, EUSEC, MONUC),

- contributing to the operation EUFOR TCHAD/RCA from Feb 08 on, with a multifunctional detachment (Field Accommodation Unit, a Special Operations Task Group and a Joint Support Detachment, total around 80 military) to contribute to restoring and maintaining a safe and secure environment in the eastern part of TCHAD and the NE of RCA.
 - Logistic support in zone to BEN contingents participating in IVORY COAST (ONUCI) and DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (MONUC) and EUSEC, with several teams (around 20 military).
 - Support to the stabilization efforts through a Military Partnership Program with the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (average of 35 military during the year)
- Participation with staff officers in headquarters commanding several of aforementioned operations (around 30 military).
- Delivering support to NATO Allies by participation in several NATO naval demining operations in the Baltic Sea (around 90 military).

The total number of Belgian personnel participating in operations during 2008 amounts to 4761, representing an average of almost 1200 Belgian military in operations at any given time and a participation of more than 20% of all deployable military personnel.

Of these 4761, 50% (some 2401 military) participated in NATO operations, 34% (some 1641 military) in UN operations, 9% (some 446 military) in national and bilateral operations and 6% (some 273 military) in EU operations.

Additionally, Belgium maintained some 260 military (land-, air-) personnel on stand by for EUBG (2st semester 2008), some 200 Airmen for its contribution to both NRF 10 (1st semester 2008) and 11 (2nd semester 2008), 1000 (land-) personnel and 50 Sailors for NRF 11. Belgium also participated in the United Nations Stand-By Arrangements System (UNSAS) and held 300 to 500 military in stand by.

At any time, Belgium is also maintaining capabilities in stand-by for national purposes, inter alia : for non combatant evacuation operations (minimum 550 military), demining teams, TWO F16 aircraft for the safety of the airspace, specialized capabilities for humanitarian relief (B-FAST) and TWO helicopters for search and rescue and naval capabilities for maritime security tasks.

Further information and updates on the Belgian military contribution to operations can be found on www.mil.be.