

## **THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

The proportion of the Slovak Republic military contribution to international operations and missions was changed in 2008 in favour of NATO-led operations. At the end of 2008, the Slovak Republic deployed 551 soldiers of which 313 were in three NATO-led operations, 199 in two UN-led missions and 39 in one EU-led operation.

With the clear intention to enhance the solidarity in the Alliance, the Slovak Republic has focused on increasing its contribution to the NATO-led ISAF operation in Afghanistan. Until June 2008, the Slovak military contingent in Afghanistan consisted of roughly 70 soldiers (multifunctional engineering unit and staff officers). Subscribing to the top priority of NATO the Slovak Republic decided to substantially increase the mandate for its contribution to the ISAF operation to 246 personnel with additional deployment specifically in the south of Afghanistan. The Slovak Republic deployed officers to the Regional Command-South Headquarters and Netherlands-led OMLT and PRT. During 2008 and 2009 two guarding units were deployed to Uruzgan in Tarin Kowt and Deh Rawood and another one to the Kandahar Air Field.

The Western Balkans region still remains the priority of our foreign policy; therefore the Slovak Republic is seriously committed to the NATO operation in Kosovo. One mechanized company as a part of Multinational Task Force Centre and some staff officers in total with 138 soldiers are currently on the ground. Slovakia deployed additional two transport helicopters and appropriate support personnel to the operation in the first half of 2008. Slovakia contributes to the structure of the NATO HQ in Sarajevo as a part of the Security Sector Reform effort.

The Slovak Republic contribution to the EU-lead operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina consisted of one guarding unit and staff officers at EUFOR HQ in Sarajevo in 2008. At the beginning 2009, the Slovak authorities approved deployment of two transport helicopters and appropriate support personnel to the operation with operational duties since beginning of March till the end of May 2009. The Slovak Republic provided 72 soldiers to the ALTHEA operation in the March 2009. The Slovak Republic has also actively participated in the UN missions; specifically in UNFICYP with 196 soldiers and in UNTSO with several military observers. Other contribution to the UN missions was the presence of 95 Slovak military personnel in UNDOF mission at the Golan Heights until the half of the June 2008.

The overall contribution of the Slovak Republic to the international operations and missions was 638 soldiers as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

Slovakia contributed to NRF rotation with mechanized battalion and national support element in the first half of 2008. This contribution has represented the first significant contribution of Slovakia to the NRF made so far. We have prepared a detachment of 24 personnel for stand-by readiness of NRF rotation scheduled for the second half of 2009. The Slovak Republic intends to participate with following combat and combat support capabilities such as two mechanized infantry companies with appropriate national support element (up to 786 persons), RSOM team and cargo truck company (up to 100 persons), EOD platoon and staff officers in some NRF rotations within the upcoming years.

The Slovak Republic is preparing up to 440 soldiers for the EU BG formed together with the Czech Republic, which will be on standby phase in the second half of 2009. Furthermore, we plan to participate in the EU BG led by Poland together with Germany, Latvia and Lithuania with roughly 300 military personnel in the first half of 2010.

To the multinational military police battalion formed in cooperation with Poland, the Czech Republic and Croatia, the Slovak Republic contributes with platoon of military police and staff officers. The Slovak Republic maintains its contribution up to 200 stand-by military personnel to the multinational engineer battalion formed together with Romania, Hungary and the Ukraine for disaster relief in the Tisa river region.

For further information see [www.mod.gov.sk](http://www.mod.gov.sk).