

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. OVERALL NUMBERS

The Czech Republic has a population of 10.3 million inhabitants. In 2008, the armed forces military personnel strength was 25,177; the target number 26,200 is to be reached by the end of 2009. As for the Usability initiative, from the land force strength of 12,440, the number of deployable personnel reached 5,813 (47.4%), and the number of sustainable personnel was 1,000 (8%). The Czech Republic intends to gradually increase the deployability of its land forces with the aim of reaching 60% in 2014.

2. RESOURCES

The defence expenditure share on GDP was 1.43% in 2008 (2.1 billion EUR). Expenditure on operations went up representing 4.6 % of defence expenditure in 2008 (92.8 MEUR). The minimum of 4% of defence expenditures spent on operations will be maintained in the following years. The Czech Republic's share on NATO civilian and military budgets represented 0.88%.

3. OPERATIONS IN 2008

In the first half of 2008, CZE deployment averaged 890 land force personnel, of which 785 were land forces in NATO-led operations, and 105 in non-NATO operations. In the second half of the year, the deployment averaged 965 land force personnel, of which 845 were land forces in NATO-led operations, and 120 in non-NATO operations.

- The Czech Republic has maintained its military presence in the Western Balkans region having for most of the year 430 personnel in the field. Contribution to KFOR continued within Multinational Task Force-Centre and included deployment of a reserve company of 120 personnel three times, each time for a period of approximately 1 month. Czech Republic also participated in operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 4 officers served in HQ EUFOR in Sarajevo until June 2008.
- In Afghanistan, the Czech Republic contributed to both ISAF and Enduring Freedom operations. In the framework of ISAF, the mandate was up to 415 members of Czech armed forces. In March 2008 Czech Republic established a PRT in Logar, manned in 2008 with up to 200 soldiers. The contribution at the Kabul International Airport of up to 120 persons included leading role in the CBRN area, Field Hospital and Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team that provided training related to the gift of 12 helicopters to the Afghan National Army. Further, a Special Operations Group of the Military Police (up to 35 persons) was serving in the South of the country and in the Logar province until October 2008. Also from July 2008 a contingent of up to 80 personnel assisted the NLD-led Task Force in Uruzgan province. Czech Republic also contributed up to 100 personnel to Operation Enduring Freedom.
- The Czech Republic has continued to contribute to the stability of Iraq. CZE provided three military instructors for NTM-I in Baghdad. Until June 30, up to 100

persons protected a British base in the South of the country within the Multinational Forces – Iraq (MNF-I). From July 1, up to 20 men provided training to instructors of the crews of T-72 main battle tanks and BVP-1 infantry fighting vehicles.

- In 2008, Czech Republic committed two officers to EUFOR TCHAD/RCA operation in Chad and Central African Republic.
- In addition, up to 13 military observers were serving in UN peacekeeping missions.

Operations – Further Ambitions

The Czech Republic plans to slightly increase the current level of its contributions to NATO operations. As the ongoing armed forces transformation achieves its further steps, the Czech Republic will strengthen the qualitative aspects of its contributions:

- In Kosovo, CZE intends in 2009 to maintain the level of presence as in 2008, that is up to 430 personnel plus a reserve company of up to 120 personnel.
- In Afghanistan, a Provincial Reconstruction Team of up to 275 personnel will continue to operate in the Logar province. Presence on KAIA airfield will also continue. CZE plans to deploy three medium transport helicopters under ISAF in 2009. The overall involvement in ISAF mission is mandated to increase to 480 personnel in 2009. Also, up to 100 personnel will continue to operate within Operation Enduring Freedom.
- The Czech Republic will also deploy its Gripen aircraft to conduct the NATO Air Policing mission over the Baltic States for four months in 2009.

4. STANDBY FORCES

The NATO Response Force represents an important vehicle driving Czech Armed Forces transformation. In 2008, the Czech Republic contributed to the NRF rotations with a wide range capabilities, the most significant contributions being transport company with 100 personnel within the NRF-10 rotation and MANPAD Battery with 200 men within the NRF-11 (total contribution to the rotation being 343 men).

In line with its active involvement in the ESDP, the Czech Republic will act as the lead nation of the CZE-SVK EU Battlegroup in the second half of 2009 – the Czech part will consist of up to 1,800 personnel. The Czech Republic has also offered forces for the UN Standby Arrangement System.

NRF Ambitions

For the future NRF rotations, the Czech Republic intends to provide significant contributions of balanced capabilities. The major ambition with regard to the NRF is that all types of deployable units, declared in the national response to the NATO Defence Planning Questionnaire, should be gradually committed to the NRF. The Czech Republic plans to respect the (informal and not consensually agreed) 1.45 %

share of the overall NRF personnel strength over the following six years (approx. 362 personnel on average per NRF rotation).

For up-to-date information on current deployments see: www.army.cz