Participation in peace support operations is one of the main priorities of Croatia’s foreign and security policy contributing in this way to peace and security in the world.

In 2008, the expenses for participation in international crisis response and peace support operations were approximately 4.7% of defence expenditures. The expenses for participation in international crisis response operations under the auspices of the NATO were approximately 4.0% of defence expenditures. These expenses are entirely financed from within the defence budget.

During 2008, Croatia significantly increased its contribution to operations abroad and currently Croatia is sustaining approximately 3.4% of its total land force strength reported for 2008 on operations.

As of March 2009, Croatia provides military and civilian personnel to 14 international peace operations on four continents, of which 12 are led by the United Nations, one by NATO and one by the EU. Additionally, Croatia supports other NATO operations and initiatives offering training, logistic support, or exchange of information.

Current status is 433 military personnel engaged in operations: 283 in NATO operation (number will increase soon on 315 - 295 in ISAF and 20 in KFOR) and 150 in non-NATO UN/EU operations.

\(^1\) 11421 troops: the Army and Army’s share in other services and branches
Croatia puts a great deal of importance to Alliance operations and in the previous period Croatia has been conducting preparations to further increase the number of its soldiers in Alliance missions.

**ISAF - AFGHANISTAN:** Croatia continues to support international efforts in establishing stability in Afghanistan and reconstruction of the country and sees its participation in ISAF as a long term commitment. During 2008 Croatia has significantly increased its participation and contribution to the ISAF operation. In February/March 2009, Croatia deployed its 13th rotation, reaching near 300 troops. The 13th national contingent (13 HRVCON) is deployed to three regional commands: **RC North**, **RC West** and **RC Capital** and located at four permanent locations: Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif, Chaghcharan and Pol-e Khomri.

The national contingent is now composed of an OMLT on Kandak level, Garrison OMLT, participation in Corps OMLT, two Mobile Liaison Observation Teams (MLOT), Medical Team, Infantry Coy, Infantry Guard, Military Police Task Force, Staff personnel, National Intelligence Cell (NIC), National Intelligence Support Team (NIST), National Support Element (NSE), and National Contingent Command (NCC).

Recognising the importance of training the Afghan National Army, Croatia will at the end of March or beginning of April deploy one additional MN CS OMLT (HRV+USA). Croatia has also been supporting the German-led PRT in Feyzabad with one diplomat and two police officers since 2005.
KFOR - KOSOVO: Croatia is planning to deploy 20 members of the CAF and two Mi-171Sh helicopters to KFOR in the medium transport/MEDEVAC roles to KFOR. Preparation for deployment is in final stage. Estimated time for deployment is April - June 2009. Also, Croatia continues to provide logistics support to NATO’s mission in Kosovo (KFOR). Croatia has been supporting this operation by providing its capacities of sea and air ports, military facilities, and the use of the airspace and air traffic control services.

ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR - THE MEDITERRANEAN: Croatia supports Operation Active Endeavour (OAE) in the Mediterranean through exchange of data on maritime traffic in the Adriatic with CCMAR Naples. In the future, Croatian participation will be expanded to radar and intelligence data exchange, and to participation in training and exercise activities.

NTM-I - IRAQ: In order to contribute to stability and security of Iraq and to formation of Iraqi security forces, Croatia has, through NATO Training Mission – Iraq, NTM-I, offered a donation of weapons and military equipment, and training of Iraqi security forces in Croatia. Iraqi side accepted training of dog handlers and EOD detection dogs and the training will start in May 2009. Croatia also donates assault rifles to the Iraqi security forces. The donation will be delivered in coordination with NATO and the Iraqi MoI in the second half of 2009.

NATO MNMPBAT: In 2004, within the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC) initiative, Croatia joined the project of formation of NATO Multinational Military Police Battalion (NATO MNMPBAT). The lead nation for this project is Poland. The MNMPBAT should be certified ready for deployment to operations in 2010.

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

In June 2008 Croatia increased in strength its contribution to UN missions by sending, for the first time, a military unit - one company of 95 members - to the UNDOF mission on the Golan Heights. During 2008 Croatia participated in 12 UN missions with 143 personnel, out of which 134 are military and 9 civil police officers.

Currently Croatia participates with 150 military personnel in 12 UN missions: BINUB (Burundi), MINURCAT (Chad and CAR), MINURSO (Western Sahara), MINUSTAH (Haiti), UNDOF (Israel and Syria), UNFICYP (Cyprus), UNIFIL (Lebanon), UNMIL (Liberia), UNMIS (Sudan), UNOCI (Ivory Coast), UNOMIG (Georgia) and UNMOGIP (India and Pakistan). At the moment Croatia has 9 police officers in 3 UN missions, as follows: UNFICYP (Cyprus), UNMIK (Kosovo) and UNMIT (East Timor).

EUROPEAN UNION OPERATIONS

EUFOR - Tchad/RCA: Since September 2008 a team of 15 members from the Special operations battalion has been deployed, together with Polish soldiers, to the North of Chad along the border with the Sudanese province of Darfur. On 15 March 2009 this operation becomes UN operation MINURCAT and Croatia will continue to support it through the engagement of its second rotation of a SOF team.

EUPOL - Afghanistan: In July 2007, Croatia joined the EU mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) with two police officers being transferred from the German PRT in Feyzabad. Croatian officers have continued to work on reform and training the Afghan National Police.

EULEX – Kosovo: Croatia joined the EU mission in Kosovo (EULEX) with two police officers.

ALTHEA/EUFOR - Bosnia-Herzegovina: Croatia continues to support logistically the EU operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea), as it did previously with the NATO operation.
EU NAVFOR - ATALANTA - The Horn of Africa: Croatia intends to support EU Operation ATALANTA through engaging up to 5 (five) personnel in the operation.

EU Battle Groups: The expressed intention to join a EUBG confirms Croatian interest to participate actively in the ESDP. Croatia is establishing the EUBG with Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Ireland and FYROM. The BG will be operationally ready in the second half of 2012. For this purpose Croatia has offered a Motorised company and Engineering platoon (horizontal constructions).