

ITALY

In 2008 Italy deployed, on average (12 months), 7,754 land force personnel in operations of which 5,303 in NATO operations and 2,451 in non-NATO operations. The average figure for all services personnel deployed in 2008 was 8,562. This corresponds to 7 % of the reported land forces strength.

Italy has been maintaining high contribution, in the most significant operational theatres as well as KFOR, ISAF, NTM-I, EU Operation Althea and EUFOR CHAD, coalition operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, UNIFIL 2 and several other UN, EU and OSCE missions. At present, in Kosovo Italy leads the multinational bde West and provides the KFOR commander; leads the EU Althea mission and also UNIFIL 2. In addition, by the end of 2008 the government had committed some 3,400 army personnel to homeland security operations in support of the Italian police forces.

Italy continues to provide significant support to the NRF and is the framework nation for an EU Battlegroup in the first half of 2009 and the second half of 2010. Future commitments include the responsibility for the CJSOCC (2009) and the MCC (2009-2010). It also participates in the multinational formations: EUROFOR, SIAF, MLF, and MPFSEE.

As to the EU Battlegroup initiative, Italy contributed to three Battlegroup packages (national in 2005, amphibious within SIAF/SILF in 2006 and within the Multinational Land Force in 2007). It will contribute also to a BG in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

The reported land forces strength (2008) is 122,600; deployable personnel is 59,000 while sustainable personnel is 12,000.

Italy has also provided more than 800 Carabinieri personnel in various operation, mainly: European Force (European Gendarmerie Force) Integrated Police Unit (EUFOR (EGF) IPU) in Bosnia, Multinational Specialized Unit – Kosovo Force (MSU – KFOR), European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF), NATO Training Mission in Iraq and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Italy has supported operational theatres with the following Air Force assets: 3 Predator UAV, 2 Tornado A200 and 3 helicopters AB212 in ISAF; 1 C-130J available in operation Joint Enterprise in Kosovo; Italian Air force has been supporting various operational theatres flying 1.950 hours of Strategic Airlift and 3.300 hours of Tactical Air Lift, involving some 650 personnel deployed for International Operations.

Italy has also contributed a Frigate or Destroyer (on average 300 personnel) on a rotational basis to the following operation: Allied Provider, Active Endeavour and Atalanta and provided the same class of ships to Standing NATO Maritime Group TWO (SNMG 2). In addition, Italy contributed one Mine Hunter to Standing NATO Mine Counter Measure Group TWO (SNMCMG 2) and three Patrol Boat to Multinational Force & Observers (MFO), in Sinai.

For further information visit: <http://www.difesa.it/Operazioni+Militari/>