

## **BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATIONS IN 2009**

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 focused on a five axis approach, through UN, EU, NATO, OSCE, and bilateral contributions. In 2009, 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 Maneuver Company and TWO Liaison and Monitoring Teams in KOSOVO (with an average of around 215 military in zone)
  
- Contribution to the instauration of the authority of the democratically elected Afghan government and the stabilisation effort of Afghanistan with the participation in NATO operation in Afghanistan (ISAF) (with about 600 military in zone):
  - o Participation in the ISAF Head Quarters.
  - o Protection of Kabul International Airport with a Force Protection Detachment.
  - o Participation in German led Provincial Reconstruction Teams, mainly in KUNDUZ (EOD, CIMIC, PsyOps, MP).
  - o Providing missions in support of ISAF with FOUR F16 till July 2009 and with SIX F16 from July on. This contribution implies a deployment in KANDAHAR Air Field.
  - o Providing an infantry OMLT (Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team) for the mentoring and training of an Afghan Kandak in Northern Afghanistan, mainly engaged in the region of Kunduz.
  - o Since the end of December 2009 contributing to a German led Brigade OMLT in the region of Kunduz.
  - o Participation in the Afghan engineer's school of Mazar-é-Shariff with instructors since December 2009.
  
- 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 until February 2009 with a Role 2 Field Hospital, including their own force protection and support elements (total of around 330 military and 240 military since February).
  - o ONE Frigate (BNS LEOPOLD 1) integrated in UNIFIL MTF from end of February till end of May 2009 in order to conduct maritime interdiction and surveillance Ops (around 150 military).

- Contribution to protection of vessels against piracy in the Gulf of Aden region with the participation in EU operation ATALANTA with one frigate (BNS LOUISE MARIE) from September 2009 till December 2009 (around: 170 military).
- 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 with one C130 to MONUC;
    - until March 2009, contributing to the operation EUFOR TCHAD/RCA, 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), with several teams.
  - o Support to the stabilization efforts through a Military Partnership Program with the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (average of 50 military during the year), BENIN (average of 90 military during the first part of the year) and BURUNDI (education and train the trainer).
- 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 with one tripartite minehunter ship.

The total number of Belgian personnel participating in operations during 2009 amounts to about 5000, representing an average of more than 1250 Belgian military in operations at any given time and a participation of more than 21% of all deployable military personnel. Of these 5000, 52% participated in NATO operations, 30% in UN operations, 11% in national and bilateral operations and 7% in EU operations.

Additionally, Belgium took the lead of an EUBG (2d semester 2009) and maintained some 1.400 military (land-, air-) personnel on stand by for this EUBG, some 200 airmen and 50 sailors for its contribution to both NRF 12 and

13. 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 (one battalion), 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 one ready duty ship for maritime security tasks.

Further information and updates on the Belgian military contribution to operations can be found on [www.mil.be](http://www.mil.be).