

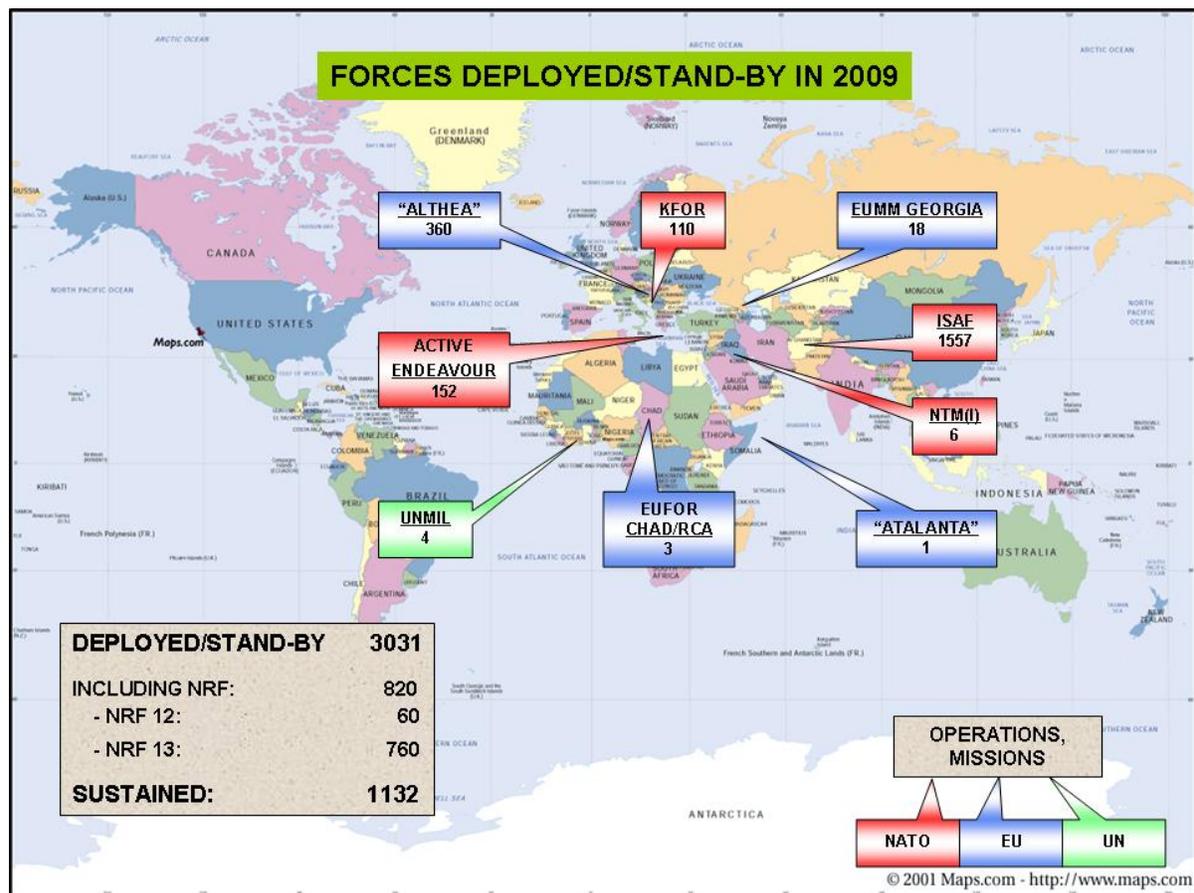
## BULGARIAN CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATIONS IN 2009

In 2009, the Ministry of Defense and the leadership of the Armed Forces took actions to ensure the military aspect of national security through the contribution of the Republic of Bulgaria in the collective security and defence within NATO, and the Common Security and Defense Policy of the European Union, and also in the efforts of other international organizations aimed at preserving international peace and security.

During 2009, the Republic of Bulgaria sustained on average, including NRF on stand-by, **1,132** Land Forces personnel in operations, which represent **36 %** increase in comparison to 2008. **992** (**81 %** increase) of them took part in NATO operations and **140** (**15 %** decrease) – in other operations. As a whole, these **1,132** troops represent **6,95 %** (5,11% in 2008) of reported Land Forces strength. The average of total Armed Forces (including Navy), sustained in 2009 was **1,146** personnel (**36 %** increase). The total number of Armed Forces troops deployed/stand-by in 2009 was **3,031** (**46 %** increase). These figures illustrate the continuous and strong commitment of Bulgaria to the regional and global security, and the steady increase of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' input to the international operations and missions.

In addition to the above mentioned increase in size of the troops in different operations the Bulgarian Armed Forces have expanded their military capabilities, which allowed them to take part in the PRTs, OMLTs and to reduce national caveats.

In 2009, Bulgarian forces participated in ISAF, KFOR, NTM-I, ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR and several EU missions as EUFOR, EUMM GEORGIA, ALTEA, ATALANTA and UN mission UNMIL.



During the past year Bulgaria contributed to NRF rotations with a mechanized battalion and national support group. This contribution represented the first significant participation of Bulgaria in the NRF made so far.

Bulgaria also paid special attention to political-military regional cooperation and continued to take part in the Multinational Peace Force South Eastern Europe (SEEBRIG) with some units and in the BLACKSEAFOR activations with a ship.

Bulgaria's 2009 defence expenditures were 1,92 % of GDP.

*For up-to-date information on current deployments see: [www.mod.bg](http://www.mod.bg).*