

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### 1. OVERALL NUMBERS

The Czech Republic has a population of 10.3 million inhabitants. In 2009, the Armed Forces military personnel strength was 24,103; due to budget reduction, the strength decreased to 23,136 by the end 2009. As for the Usability initiative, from the land forces strength of 14,336, the number of deployable personnel reached 8,932 (62.3%), and the number of sustainable personnel was 1,350 (9.4%). Regarding the air forces, from the overall airframe strength of 96, the number of deployable air frames reached 18 (18.8%), and the number of sustainable air frames was 7 (7.3%).

### 2. RESOURCES

The defence expenditure share on GDP was 1.37% in 2009 (2.2 billion EUR). Expenditure on operations went up representing 5% of defence expenditure in 2009 (111.3 million EUR). The minimum of 4% of defence expenditures spent on operations will be maintained in the following years. The Czech Republic's share in NATO civilian and military budgets represented 0.88%.

### 3. OPERATIONS IN 2009

In 2009, deployment of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic averaged 975 land force personnel, of which 865 were land forces in NATO-led operations, and 110 in non-NATO operations.

- The Czech Republic has maintained its military presence in the Western Balkans region having for most of the year approximately 410 personnel in the field. Contribution to KFOR continued within Multinational Task Force-Centre and included a reserve company of 106 personnel, which was deployed from May 29 to July 9 2009.
- In Afghanistan, the Czech Republic contributed to both ISAF and Enduring Freedom operations. In the framework of ISAF, the mandate was up to 480 members of Czech Armed Forces with emphasis on the Czech PRT in Logar.
- Czech Armed Forces were also stationed at the Kabul International Airport. The contingent had a leading role in the CBRN area; Air Mentor Team provided training as a follow up to the 12 helicopters that the Czech Republic had donated to the Afghan National Army. There were also other experts assigned to ISAF and KAIA HQ.
- A Czech contingent assisting the NLD-led Task Force in Uruzgan province, terminated its mission at the end of March 2009.
- In addition, towards the end of 2009, the Czech Republic also started preparation for deployment of three Helicopters Mi-171 to be stationed at Sharana base in Paktika province.
- The Czech Republic also contributed up to 100 personnel to Operation Enduring Freedom.

- The Czech Republic concluded its contribution to the stability of Iraq at the end of February 2009, where we provided three military instructors for NTM-I in Baghdad.
- At the end of the first quarter of 2009, the Czech Republic also terminated the commitment of two officers to EUFOR TCHAD/RCA operation in Chad and Central African Republic.
- During the period from May 1 to August 31 2009 the Czech Republic participated in NATO Air Policing Operation in the Baltic States by providing 4 JAS 39 Gripen Fighters including a contingent of up to 75 persons.
- During November 2009 the Czech Republic deployed three staff officers to the mission of the Multinational Forces and Observers in Sinai.
- In addition, up to 10 military observers were serving in UN peacekeeping missions in Georgia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

### ***Operations – Further Ambitions***

The Czech Republic plans to keep the current level of its contributions to NATO operations, while focusing on strengthening the qualitative aspects of provided capabilities:

- In Kosovo, the Czech Republic intends in 2010 to maintain the level of presence approximately up to 320 personnel plus a reserve company of up to 102 personnel. From the Gate 2 the Czech Republic is ready to provide ORF Battalion.
- In Afghanistan, the PRT of up to 285 personnel will continue to operate in the Logar province. Presence on KAIA airfield will also continue and will be broadened to include training on Mi17. The Czech Republic will continue to provide three medium transport helicopters under ISAF at Sharana base in Paktika. Later in 2010, an OMLT will be deployed in Wardak province with up to 55 persons for mentoring ANA battalion (kandak).
- The overall involvement in ISAF mission is mandated to increase to 535 personnel in 2010.
- In 2012 the Czech Republic intends to participate again in NATO Air Policing Operation in the Baltic States by providing the same capabilities as in 2009.

## **4. STANDBY FORCES**

The NATO Response Force represents an important vehicle driving Czech Armed Forces transformation. In 2009, the Czech Republic contributed to the NRF rotations with a wide range of capabilities, the most significant contributions being ISTAR unit PSS VERA with 86 personnel and CBRN unit of up to 90 personnel within the NRF-12 rotation (total contribution to the rotation being 229 persons).

Czech contribution to NRF-13 rotation was limited to 3 personnel within the NBC Joint Assessment Team. This was due to its concurrence with the role of the lead nation within the CZE-SVK EU Battlegroup in the second half of 2009. Its Czech part consisted 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. At the Bratislava NATO Ministers of Defence Informal Meeting in October 2009, the Czech Republic declared its intention to form in six years' average 2% of the IRF.

The Czech Republic also is to participate within EU Battlegroup in 2012.

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