

Transparency Initiative

The Republic of Latvia

International operations

Participation in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan was the only international operation Latvia was engaged in 2010 after withdrawal its troops from NATO operation in Kosovo, OSCE mission in Georgia and EU operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2009.

Since the operation in Afghanistan is top priority military operation for NATO, Latvia continued to increase its military presence in Afghanistan. The size of the Latvian contribution was increased to 353 soldiers in 2010, compared to 343 in 2009. The average number of deployed troops was raised to 178, which remained constant at this level for both 6 month rotations.

The largest part of the Latvian contingent has located in the Regional Command North (RC- N): Meymaneh (Faryab province) and Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh province) as well as in the eastern part of Afghanistan (Kunar province) and in Kabul. In December 2010 Latvia has accomplished its third rotation of Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) in the Regional Command East (RC- E) where it has conducted mentoring and training tasks of the Afghan National Army in cooperation with the US forces since 2008.

Although Latvia has accomplished its military engagement in KFOR operation, from May 2010 with the Norwegian financial support Latvia contributed towards the work of the NATO Advisory Team to the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force with civilian experts - one legal advisor and one advisor on public relations issues.

Latvia contributes to NATO Response Force (NRF) since 2006. From the beginning of 2010 Latvia took part in NRF-14 for six month stand-by period with three staff officers.

For the first time in Latvian history the National armed Forces took part in European Union Battle Group (EU BG) - 66 Latvian soldiers served on a stand-by regime together with German, Slovak, Lithuanian and Polish troops from January to July 2010. The lead nation of EU BG was Poland.