

## **NON-CLASSIFIED**

### **ESTONIA**

During 2007, Estonia contributed to the international operations up to 267 Defence Forces personnel. Estonian forces were deployed for NATO and EU operations, as well as UN and other coalition operations and were on standby for NRF.

In 2007, Estonia concentrated efforts on increased contribution to NATO-led operation ISAF in Afghanistan, where Estonia contributes 130 personnel, located in southern Afghanistan (Helmand Province and Kandahar) and with staff officers in Kabul. Estonia also provides personnel to Kosovo (30), where an infantry platoon is operating in northern Kosovo; and also to the NATO training mission in Iraq (2 staff officers). The contribution to the international coalition operation (OIF) consists of 38 personnel, and to the UN observer mission (UNTSO) of two military observers. Estonia has a long-standing commitment in the Balkans, where in addition to our participation in KFOR, 33 personnel were committed to EU-led EUFOR ALTHEA until mid-2007. From mid-2007, Estonia participates in ALTHEA with staff officers (3 staff officers).

As Estonia is a strong supporter of the NRF, our participation in international operations includes also a MP Specialised Unit (32) for NRF-8 that was on standby in 2007. In 2010, Estonia together with Latvia and Lithuania will form a Baltic mechanised infantry battalion under the Danish-led Land Component Command of NRF-14 in 2009. During 2007, the preparations were also made for participation together with Sweden, Finland, Norway and Ireland in the EU Nordic Battle Group, which is on standby in the first half of 2008. Estonia contributes to the Nordic Battle Group 50 personnel.

The mandates for every operation (except for UN missions) are valid until the end of 2008. The rotations are 6 months long (except for UN missions). Altogether, in 2007, Estonia was able to sustain 8.5% of the land forces personnel on international operations, which is exceeding the political targets agreed in Istanbul. Valuing flexibility, Estonian troops have no other caveats than those stemming from international law and conventions.

For up to date information on current deployments see: [www.mod.gov.ee](http://www.mod.gov.ee)

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