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POLAND

Poland continues to actively participate in multinational crisis response operations carried out under the auspices of international organizations – NATO, the EU, the UN – as well as in the framework of coalition operations. Poland's intention for 2008 is to slightly increase the level of force commitment in comparison to the previous year, when the number of Polish troops in deployed operations reached an average level of 3,500 personnel.

More than 1,500 personnel participated in NATO operations: ISAF – 1,200, KFOR – 300, NTM-I – 3. Some 900 personnel were part of the multinational coalition in Iraq. About 880 personnel were involved in UN operations, 499 in UNIFIL, 366 in UNDOF, 15 as military observers in Africa and the Balkans. Some 200 personnel have taken part in EUFOR operation in BiH.

Additionally, 210 troops were on standby reserve for the Polish contingent in Iraq. 220 personnel was on standby for NRF operations.

Deployed personnel made 4.55% of the land forces' strength, of which 1.95% were engaged in NATO operations, 1.17% in multinational coalition operations, 1.17% in UN operations, and 0.26% in EU missions.

In 2008, Poland's contribution to NATO operations will increase up to 1,900 personnel. Main portion of this increase will result from strengthening the contingent in Afghanistan, up to the level of 1,600. This reinforcement will comprise, inter alia, some transport and attack helicopters.

In addition, a *Kobben*-class submarine and an *Oliver Hazard Perry*-class frigate will take part in operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR. Furthermore, since mid March, the Polish Air Force will rotationally resume the Air Policing tasks over the Baltic States. Around 200 of sustainable personnel will be on standby for NRF operations this year. There are also plans under consideration to increase Poland's contribution to NTM-I mission.

At the same time, Poland has taken the decision to fully withdraw its forces from the multinational coalition in Iraq, by Autumn this year.

The number of forces involved in UN operations will remain similar as in the previous year.

Once the 400-strong Polish contingent is deployed for EUFOR mission in Chad/RCA, participation in EU operations will reach the level of ca. 600 personnel. Further increase of Polish contribution of sustainable personnel to the EU is expected in the 1st half of 2010, with the Poland-led Battlegroup reaching its stand-by status.

The engagement in operations is supported by the continuously increasing reallocation of financial resources. In 2008 budget for operations will amount to 3% of total defence budget. The latter one will represent 1.95% of the GDP.

Further information can be found on the website of the Poland's Ministry of Defence: www.mon.gov.pl/en/index.

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