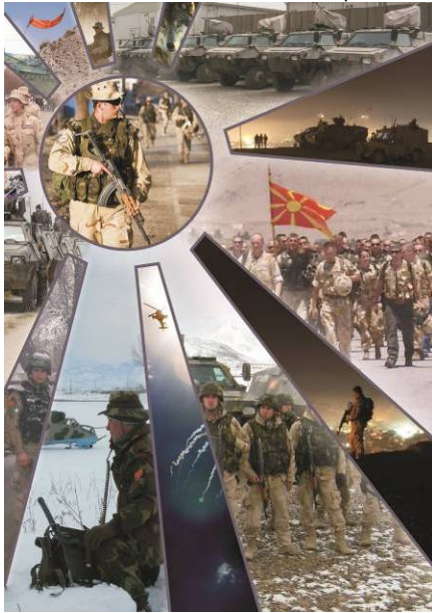


# The contribution of the Republic of Macedonia to global security, peace and stability

April 2010



The Republic of Macedonia is an example of the substantial transformational power of its strategic commitments for achieving NATO and EU membership.

Since gaining its independence (1991) to date, the Republic of Macedonia has managed to grow into a factor of regional cooperation and a serious contributor not only to regional, but also to global security, peace and stability.

Strongly committed to the efforts for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, the Republic of Macedonia is striving towards integration of the entire Region and its enhanced contribution to global security and world peace.

The Republic of Macedonia is one of the first countries in the Region that joined the initiative Partnership for Peace (1995) and the first country to sign the Stabilization and Association Agreement (2001). The constant defence reforms have enabled attaining the required standards and provided a capacity for contribution to peace operations throughout the world. The achievements in defence reforms and the shaping of the contemporary Macedonian army give a strong contribution to the overall integration efforts of the Republic of Macedonia. In addition to the outstandingly successful (10) MAP cycles, and after receiving the candidate status (2005) and the positive recommendation of the European Commission for a starting date for negotiations with the Union (2009), the concrete contribution of the Republic of Macedonia to peace operations in the world is the most tangible confirmation that the Republic of Macedonia has managed to transform itself into an equal and credible partner to NATO and the EU.

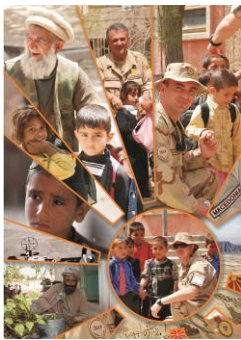
Despite all challenges encountered in the period from gaining its independence to building the multiethnic functional democracy, the Republic of Macedonia has built a modern Army that enabled us to rapidly transform from consumer into a contributor to the global security. The first contribution of the Republic of Macedonia outside its borders began in 2002 in the framework of the NATO led mission ISAF in Afghanistan. This contribution was then expanded by participating in the mission Iraqi Freedom (June 2003 - December 2008), the military operation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina Althea (as of July 2006) and in the mission of the United Nations UNIFIL in Lebanon (as of May 2007). In addition, the Republic of Macedonia provides continuous support to the NATO led mission in Kosovo through the functioning of the Host Nation Support Coordination Centre (nationally led from July 2007).

## Iraqi Freedom



Following the completion of the major combat operations in Iraq, the overthrowing of the regime of Saddam Hussein and the adoption of the Resolution 1546 of the Security Council of the United Nations, the Republic of Macedonia adopted a decision in June 2003 to initiate contributing to the mission Iraqi Freedom. The initial contribution consisted of a declared special purpose platoon (about 40), was additionally reinforced in 2008 by another platoon (a total of about 80). The Republic of Macedonia took part in the mission Iraqi Freedom from July 2003 to December 2008 with a total of 11 conducted rotations or a total number of 490 personnel that took part in this mission.

## Afghanistan



The participation within the NATO led mission ISAF in Afghanistan was the first contribution of the Republic of Macedonia to peace and stability outside its borders. The contribution that began in August 2002 by a symbolic deployment of 2 officers within the Turkish contingent, gradually evolved into a rotation of 1351 Macedonian peace keepers to date and into a national contribution that is one of the largest (per capita) contributions today in Afghanistan. In the framework of its contribution to ISAF hitherto, the Republic of Macedonia was also part in the Combined Medical team in A3 format (Macedonia, Albania and Croatia), which functioned successfully through 8 rotations at Kabul airport in the period from August 2005 to July 2009. Currently, the Republic of Macedonia has a total of 242 soldiers deployed in the mission ISAF in Afghanistan - a company that secures the ISAF HQ in Kabul (150), staff officers in ISAF HQs (2), staff officers in the OMLTs (5), and Joint Medical Surgical Team (6) within the Norwegian Provincial Reconstruction team in Meymanah.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010, the Republic of Macedonia additionally increased its contribution to Afghanistan by 79 soldiers (MP platoon (32), for training of the Afghan National Police, a ranger platoon (32) for training of the Afghan National Army, a team for personnel protection (8) and 7 staff officers in the 86. Brigade, Vermont USA. Given this increase by about 50%, the contribution of the Republic of Macedonia to Afghanistan will amount to a total of 255 soldiers, which is indeed a serious and significant contribution accounting for 4% of the forces of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia.

## UNIFIL Lebanon



The Republic of Macedonia initiated its contribution to effective multilateralism in May 2007 by the participation of one staff officer in the UN led mission UNIFIL in Lebanon. The mission of the Macedonian UN peace keeper has a one-year mandate within the UNIFIL HQ in Nagura and the third rotation is under way.

## Althea



The contribution of the Republic of Macedonia to Althea was the first contribution of this country to a military operation led by the European Union. The contribution to the EU operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Althea, began (as of November 2006) by declaring a helicopter detachment consisting of two helicopters Mi-8/17 (and 21 crew). After three rotations of the helicopter detachment and the fourth rotation (January - July 2008), which was conducted with only one transport helicopter Mi-8/17 (and 12 crew), the helicopter contribution of the Republic of Macedonia to the EU operation Althea was completed in July 2008. After the great loss of 11 Macedonian peace keepers in the helicopter crash on returning from the successfully completed helicopter mission in Althea, the contribution (12 personnel) of the Republic of Macedonia to the EU operation Althea continues with ROLE 1 medical team (10 personnel) in Butmir camp (as of December 2006), a legal advisor (1) and a NCO for preventive medicine in the EUFOR HQ. 142 Macedonian peace keepers have taken part in the EU operation Althea heretofore, symbolizing thus the Macedonian contribution to European Security and Defence Policy and to regional peace and stability.

## Host Nation Support

The Republic of Macedonia provides a permanent logistic support to the Alliance, that is the NATO led operation in Kosovo (KFOR) through the independent functioning (July 2007) of the Host Nation Support Coordination Center/ HNSCC. The HNSCC initiated its work in April 2005 as part of the NATO HQ in Skopje, a project that was for the first time implemented with a PFP member country. In addition to the permanent engagement of the HNSCC (13 staff in total), the Army of the Republic of Macedonia provides medical support to the KFOR troops, fuel and escort and protection of the NATO forces for Kosovo transiting through the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. The HNSCC is integrated in the formation of the Logistic Support Command of the General Staff of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia. Due to the importance of the provision of logistic support to the Alliance for the needs of the NATO mission in Kosovo, the Republic of Macedonia considers the functioning of the HNSCC as a concrete contribution in a fourth mission (in addition to Afghanistan, Althea and Lebanon) in support of the NATO forces in Kosovo.



# Concrete contribution hitherto, future projections and their importance

The contribution of the Republic of Macedonia to international operations constitutes a tangible confirmation of the success in the defence reforms and the strong strategic commitments of our country for NATO and EU membership. Today, the Republic of Macedonia is contributing in three international operations abroad (NATO, EU and UN led operations ISAF, Althea, UNIFIL Lebanon) and is heading the fourth operation for providing a permanent logistic support to the NATO forces KFOR in Kosovo through the functioning of the HNSCC.

Today's total global contribution of the Republic of Macedonia includes 255 peace keepers deployed in the operations led by NATO, the EU and the UN. Including the host nation support contribution, the Republic of Macedonia reached the planned level of contribution of about 270 personnel, which represents a level of deployment of about 4% of the forces of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia in peace operations throughout the world.

This percentage of contribution is substantial and unattained even by a number of NATO and EU countries. Thus, speaking of Afghanistan only, the Republic of Macedonia is contributing more than all other countries in the Region and many NATO member countries (per capita), and its contribution is alongside the contributions of the UK, USA, Norway, the Netherlands and Denmark. The Republic of Macedonia is dedicated to further enhancement of the future contribution to global security and peace, by gradually increasing the contribution to international operations and in the long term attaining 10% deployment of the armed forces. The financial implications of the contribution of the Republic of Macedonia are substantial and they are evaluated to account for 11 million Euros in 2010.

We should take particular pride in the fact that in the course of the overall contribution of the Republic of Macedonia hitherto to the missions led by NATO, the EU and the UN, the members of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia have demonstrated and proved

that they deserve the confidence entrusted to them. They represent their motherland in the most decent possible way with their satisfaction, professionalism, discipline and dedication to the assigned tasks. A pride for their country and its ambassadors, our peace keepers are a confirmation of the fact that the Republic of Macedonia deserves the equal membership it is striving for.

The Macedonian peace keepers are a proved, credible and desirable partner. The best confirmation of this statement is the recognition of the Macedonian flag and its equating with peace keepers that possess the highest standards. An additional confirmation for that are the highest decorations that our peace keepers have received in all contributions to date (120 medals from Iraq, 1270 from Afghanistan, 144 from contribution to Althea); furthermore, medals of honour have been awarded to 4 Macedonian peace keepers for their outstanding contribution in the mission Iraqi Freedom and to 6 Macedonian peace keepers for outstanding merit in the mission ISAF in Afghanistan.

With its 18 years of independence and 7 years of contribution to world peace, the Republic of Macedonia has had 1744 Macedonian peace keepers (a fourth of our Army) in total in its rotations hitherto within the international missions and they have attained the highest standards and returned home with huge experience.

The Macedonian peace keepers, who marked symbolically the beginning of our contribution to peace operations throughout the world in 2002, by waving the flag of the Republic of Macedonia in Afghanistan on the very day of its independence, 08 September, continue to be our ambassadors who affirm the Republic of Macedonia in the best possible way in building peace and stability in the world.

**A diplomat and a soldier, the two symbolic figures in international relations, work together. Striving to achieve the strategic priorities of the Republic of Macedonia to NATO and EU membership, the Macedonian peace keeper gives his utmost contribution.**



Countries contributing to ISAF	Population (mil)	Troops	Contribution % (x 100)
1 United States	307,21	50590	1,647
2 United Kingdom	61,11	9500	1,554
3 Denmark	5,50	750	1,364
4 Macedonia	2,07	242	1,171
5 Netherlands	16,72	1880	1,125
6 Estonia	1,30	145	1,116
7 Norway	4,66	470	1,008
8 Canada	33,49	2830	0,845
9 Latvia	2,23	170	0,762
10 Australia	21,26	1550	0,729
11 Albania	3,64	250	0,687
12 Bulgaria	7,97	525	0,659
13 Lithuania	3,56	220	0,619
14 Croatia	4,49	270	0,601
15 France	64,42	3750	0,582
16 Poland	38,48	2140	0,556
17 Italy	58,13	3160	0,544
18 Belgium	10,41	560	0,538
19 Germany	82,33	4335	0,527
20 New Zeland	4,21	220	0,522
21 Sweden	9,06	410	0,453
22 Czech Rep	10,21	455	0,446
23 Romania	22,22	970	0,437
24 Slovakia	5,46	230	0,421
25 Georgia	4,62	175	0,379
26 Slovenia	2,01	70	0,349
27 Hungary	9,91	310	0,313
28 Spain	40,53	1075	0,265
29 Turkey	76,81	1835	0,239
30 Luxembourg	0,49	9	0,183
31 Finland	5,25	95	0,181
32 Armenia	2,97	40	0,135
33 Iceland	0,31	4	0,130
34 Azerbaijan	8,24	90	0,109
35 Portugal	10,71	110	0,103
36 Singapore	4,66	40	0,086
37 Montenegro	0,67	4	0,060
38 UAE	4,80	25	0,052
39 B i H	4,61	10	0,022
40 Ireland	4,20	7	0,017
41 Greece	10,74	15	0,014
42 Jordan	6,27	6	0,010
43 Austria	8,21	3	0,004
44 Ukraine	45,70	8	0,002

\* according to NATO web page dated 05 March

