## THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

In 2007, the Republic of Bulgaria sustained on average 570 (including NRF and HELBROC Brigade on standby) Land Forces personnel in operations, of which 266 in NATO operations and 304 in non-NATO operations. This is 1.32 % and respectively 1.51 % (in total 2.83 %) of its reported Land Forces strength. The average of total Armed Forces (including Air Force and Navy) deployed in 2007 was 593 personnel. In 2007, Bulgaria significantly increased its participation in ISAF with a mechanized and a light infantry company. While the number of military contribution to ISAF in 2006 was 260, it was increased to reach 525 in 2007.

Its Land Forces have participated in KFOR, ISAF, NTM-I, Iraqi Freedom, EU operation "ALTHEA" and some UN missions (UNMEE, UNMIK and UNMIL). The Bulgarian Navy continues its support to the NATO Operation "ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR" with a frigate. Bulgaria pays special attention to the Balkan region and continues to participate in the operations on the Balkans. In particular it contributed to operation "ALTHEA" with a light infantry company and a platoon in 2007.

Bulgaria strongly supports the NRF concept. Throughout 2007, it provided a CBRN platoon on NRF 8 and NRF 9 standby and will continue to contribute to the NRF rotations in 2008. Bulgaria contributed to the HELBROC Battle Group a light infantry company during the second half of 2007.

Bulgaria also participates in the Multinational Peace Force South Eastern Europe (SEEBRIG) with some troops and in BLACKSEAFOR activations with a ship.

As reported, for 2007, the Land Forces strength is 20,165 personnel of which are 3,140 (15.57%) deployable,  and 758 (3.76 %) sustainable.

Land Forces strength in 2015 is planned to be 18,310, of which are 7,210 (39.40 %) deployable and 1,200 (6.60 %) sustainable. However, the current Plan for the Organizational Build up and Modernization until 2015 is under revision.

The Bulgaria's 2007 defence expenditures were 2.5 % of GDP, while for 2008 they are planned to be 2.2 %.