

MULTILATERAL PEACE OPERATIONS: ASIA, 2008

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A total of 55 542 personnel were deployed to 10 operations in Asia in 2008, the second highest deployment level of any region (see table 1).¹ Asia also had the biggest proportional increase in operation personnel of any world region in 2008—a 21 per cent rise from 46 035—despite no new operations being launched during the year. The increase was due to the continued rapid expansion of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operation in Afghanistan, led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO; see figure 5). Around 93 per cent of operation personnel deployed in Asia in 2008 were attached to ISAF, which was also the biggest peace operation in the world for the third year running.

Asia remains the most dangerous region for peace operation personnel. In 2008, 209 personnel were killed in the region. Of these, 189 were battle-related deaths and 199 were of troops serving with ISAF.

Operations took place in seven locations in Asia in 2008: Afghanistan (3 operations), Timor-Leste (2 operations), Nepal (1 operation), the Solomon Islands (1 operation), Tajikistan (1 operation), Kashmir (1 operation) and the Korean Peninsula (1 operation).² Five operations deployed fewer than 200 international staff and only one, ISAF, deployed more than 5000.

One operation terminated in 2008. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Centre in Dushanbe closed in June. It was succeeded by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, which does not have a peace-keeping mandate.

Table 1. Global distribution of peace operations and personnel deployments, 2008

Region	Operations	Personnel
Africa	19	78 975
Americas	2	9 621
Asia	10	55 542
Europe	19	26 797
Middle East	10	16 651
World	60	187 586

¹ All cited personnel numbers are estimates of international personnel located in theatre as of 31 Dec. 2008. If an operation closed before that date, its final force size is used. The personnel of follow-on missions are not counted twice. Numbers of local staff and UN volunteers can be found in the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database.

² SIPRI includes Australasia and the Pacific in the Asia region for the purpose of peacekeeping statistics. The Middle East is treated as a separate region.

QUICK FACTS

- A total of 55 542 personnel were deployed to 10 peace operations in Asia in 2008—the second highest number of personnel deployed in any region.
- Around 30% of all peace operation personnel were deployed in Asia in 2008, but only 17% of operations were conducted there.
- Asia was one of two regions that saw a significant rise in numbers of deployed personnel between 2007 and 2008.
- Fewer personnel were deployed to UN operations in Asia than in any other region in 2008. No troops were deployed to UN operations in Asia.
- Two out of four UN operations in Asia in 2008 were special political and peacebuilding operations.
- ISAF was the largest operation worldwide for the third year running in 2008; 93% of personnel deployed to Asia were ISAF troops.
- Asia was the most dangerous region for peace operation personnel, with 209 fatalities. Of these, 199 were ISAF troops.
- Of the 88 countries contributing uniformed peacekeepers to operations in Asia, most were European or North American.
- One operation terminated in Asia in 2008: the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe (Tajikistan).

PERSONNEL DEPLOYED

Troops: 52 466

Military observers: 164

Civilian police: 1949

Civilian staff: 963

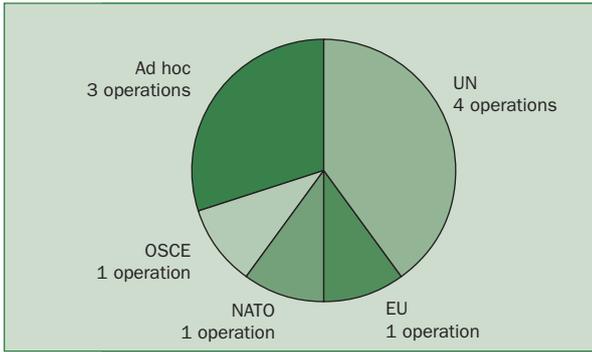


Figure 1. Number of peace operations in Asia, by conducting organization, 2008

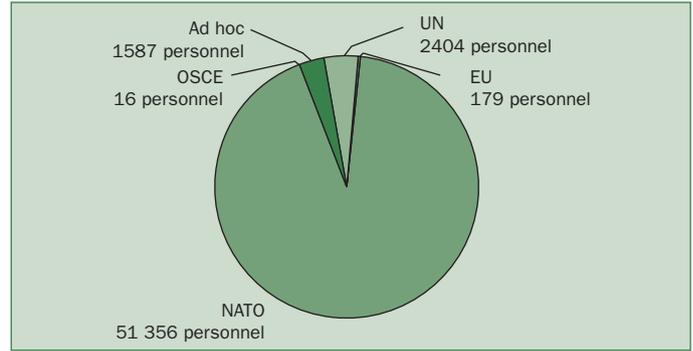


Figure 2. Number of personnel deployed to peace operations in Asia, by conducting organization, 2008

CONDUCTING ORGANIZATIONS

The UN conducted four operations in Asia in 2008 (see figure 1), two of them special political and peacebuilding operations. The largest UN operation by far in the region—with a strength of around 1900—was the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). Overall, the UN accounted for around 4.3 per cent of personnel deployed in Asia (see figure 2). This was the second largest share of deployments, the largest being NATO’s. Significantly, Asia was the only region where the UN did not deploy any troops in 2008. Besides those serving with ISAF, all troops deployed in Asia were attached to operations conducted by ad hoc coalitions. These were the International Security Forces (ISF) in Timor-Leste and the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), both led by Australia. RAMSI was the smallest multidimensional peace operation conducted in 2008.

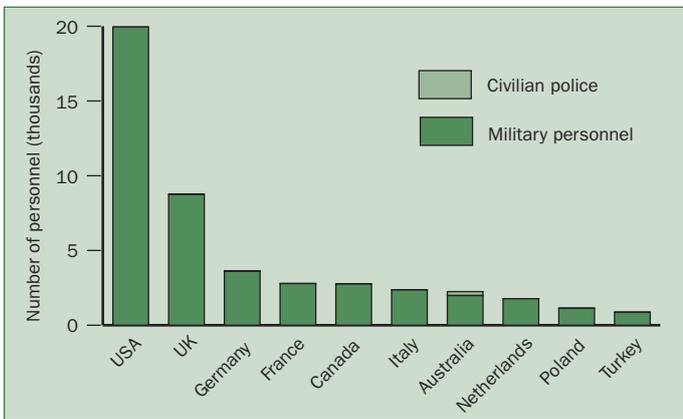


Figure 3. Top 10 contributors of uniformed personnel to peace operations in Asia, end 2008

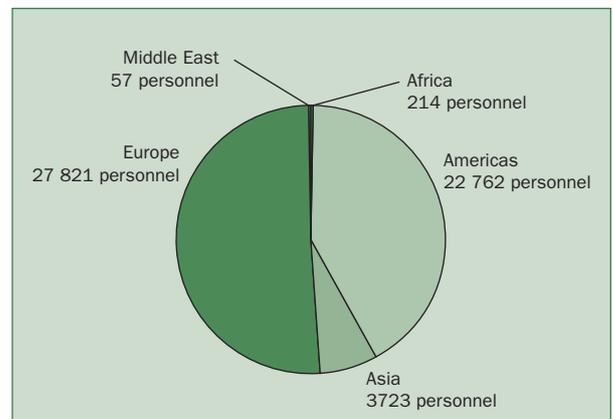


Figure 4. Origin of uniformed personnel deployed to peace operations in Asia, by region, end 2008

CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

Uniformed personnel were sent to operations in Asia by 88 countries.³ Nearly all the top 10 contributors (see figure 3) were NATO members and contributed 98 per cent or more of their uniformed personnel to ISAF. Australia also deployed major troop contingents to the ISF and RAMSI.

³‘Uniformed personnel’ includes troop, military observers and civilian police. SIPRI was unable to collect data on the non-uniformed civilian staff of all operations in 2008



The largest number of uniformed personnel came from Europe (see figure 4), followed by the Americas (the USA and Canada) and Asia. Australia and New Zealand accounted for more than 70 per cent of the uniformed personnel deployed to operations in Asia by Asian countries.

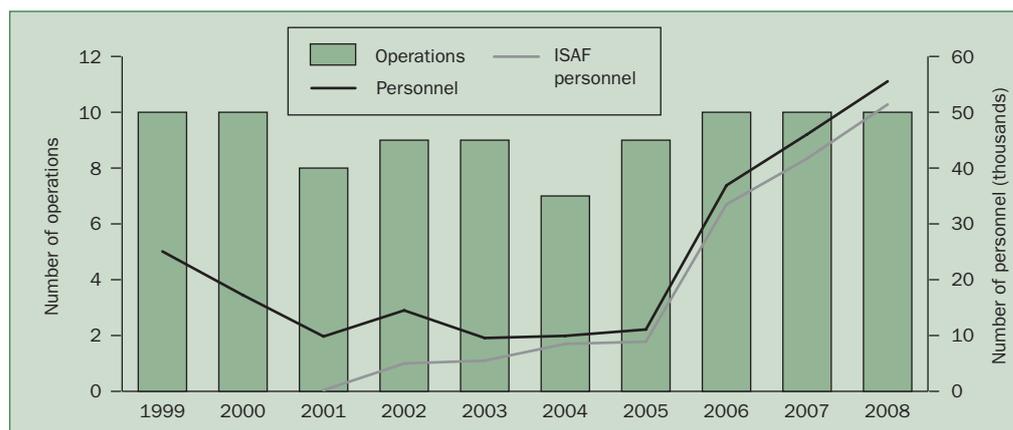


Figure 5. Number of operations and total personnel deployments in Asia, 1999–2008, showing deployments to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan

TEN-YEAR TRENDS

Trends in personnel deployments over the decade to 2008 were largely shaped by deployments to Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. There was a large presence of peace operation personnel in Timor-Leste in the wake of the August 1999 referendum on independence from Indonesia. This was reduced as the state-building process progressed. ISAF, unlike previous NATO operations, has substantially grown, rather than shrunk, over time. Between August 2003, when NATO took over command of ISAF, and 31 December 2008, the operation grew by 833 per cent (see figure 5).

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2008

In Afghanistan, ISAF, which is charged with helping the Afghan Government to maintain security, has been increasingly involved in counterinsurgency. Since 2007 it has been under the same commander as Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the US military operation in Afghanistan. Both operations greatly increased their troops strengths in 2008: ISAF by 9600 and OEF by 20 000. The increases will continue in 2009, not least linked to the planned national elections in August. More ISAF peacekeepers—199—were killed in 2008 than in any other operation in 2008. Of 2118 civilian deaths in 2008 recorded by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), 39 per cent were attributed to pro-government forces, including ISAF.

The focus of UNAMA's work shifted in 2008 to leading international civilian efforts and strengthening cooperation between civil and military actors in Afghanistan, under Afghan ownership. UNAMA's budget, personnel size and geographic coverage will all increase in 2009.

EUPOL Afghanistan, which is the second EU operation to be conducted in Asia, doubled in size to 181 personnel in 2008, but remained short of its original authorized strength of 195. A new target strength of 400 was announced in 2008. However, the training of the Afghan National Police to date has been judged a failure and NATO may take over police training responsibility.

Following the attack on Timorese President José Ramos-Horta (11 February 2008) the ISF was temporarily reinforced with 350 troops to contribute to stability in the country. By the end of 2008, it had been drawn down again to 890 troops, leaving it slightly smaller than at the end of 2007.

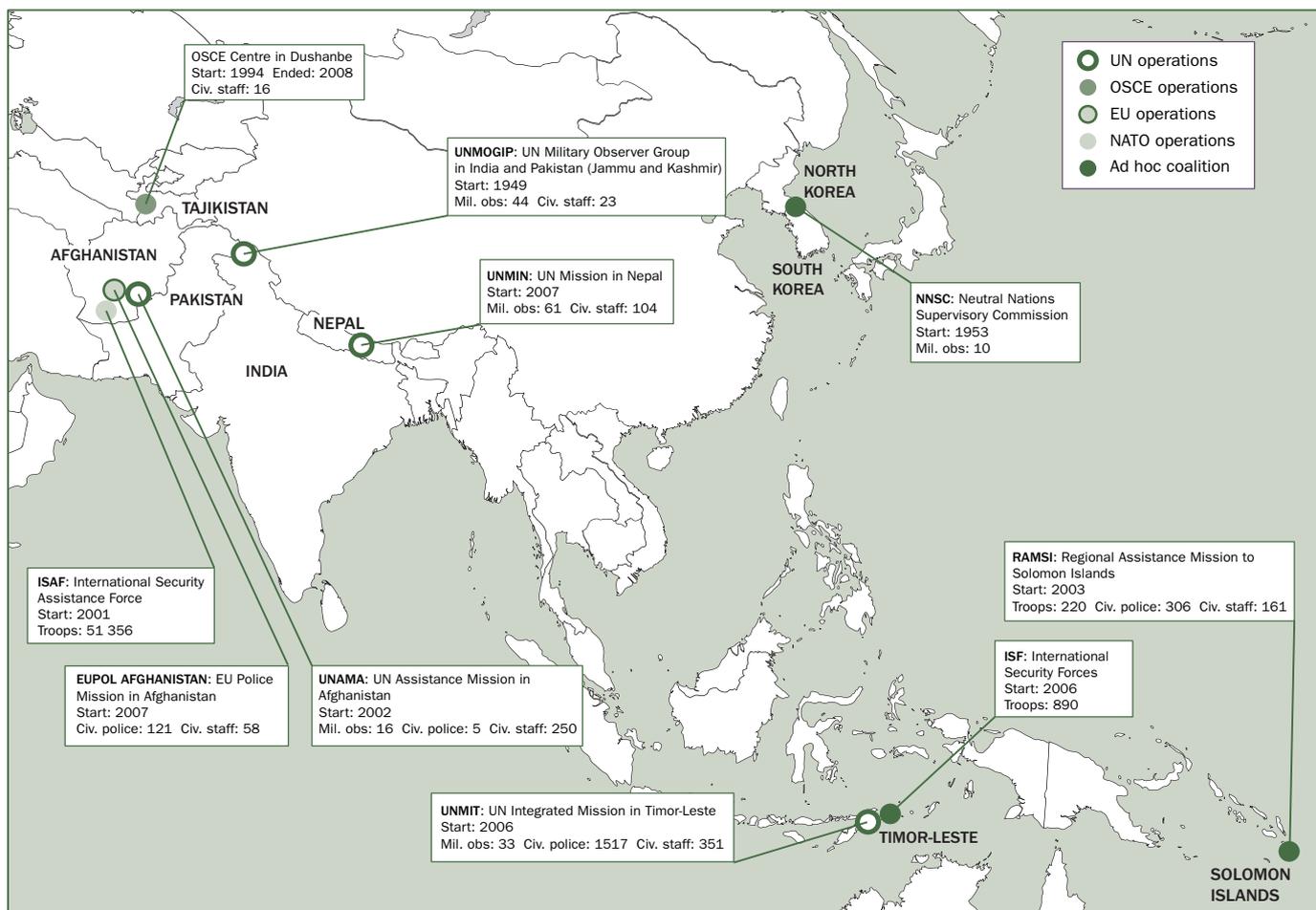


Figure 6. Map of multilateral peace operations in Asia, 2008

Troops = international troops; Mil. obs = international military observers; Civ. police = international civilian police; Civ. staff = other international civilian staff.

Note: The markers do not indicate the precise locations of deployments or mission headquarters.



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THE SIPRI MULTILATERAL PEACE OPERATIONS DATABASE

The data included in this fact sheet is taken from the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database. The database include historical data on all multilateral peace operations active since 2000. Data on operations includes, among others, international and local personnel numbers, budgets, lead countries and mission heads, fatalities, countries contributing different types of personnel, and mandates. The database can be accessed online at <<http://www.sipri.org/databases/pko>>.