

Patterns of Deployment 2008

The regional distribution of peace operations changed very little throughout 2008. Ninety-five percent of troops continue to be deployed in three large clusters of missions: those of the UN and the AU in Africa, alongside smaller AU and EU deployments; those of NATO and the UN in the broader Middle East, drawing primarily on US and European troops; and those of NATO and the EU in Europe.

Africa remained home to 40 percent of global peace operation deployments. The UN remained the largest military deployer on the continent, accounting for approximately 87 percent of all deployments there in 2008. The UN provided more than ten times the number of military peacekeepers in Africa than any other organization. Large-scale UN deployments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Darfur, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire made up the bulk of these troops. Peacekeepers in Africa emanated primarily from two regions: Africa itself (40 percent) and South and Central Asia (42 percent). In 2008 the European Union deployed a short-term bridging and humanitarian security operation, the EU Force in the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA), whose mandate was set to expire in March 2009, after which the operation would be replaced by a proposed force of 6,000 UN troops.

Within Africa, the broader Horn represents a major locus of activity, accounting for 40 percent of deployments on the continent and includes operations launched by the AU, EU, and UN. When—or if—proposed deployment levels are reached, including deployment of the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) as well as 20,000 troops for Somalia, over 60,000 peacekeepers will be operating in the region.

The broader Middle East and European regions accounted for 55 percent of global military deployments during 2008. The nearly 90,000 peacekeepers deployed across these two regions were largely drawn from Europe and the United States and operated mostly under NATO's command in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR). European contingents continued to compose 62 percent of the expanded UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the largest contribution of Western military personnel under UN command.

Rounding out the final 5 percent of global deployments in 2008 were regional peacekeeping responses involving troop deployments from nearby states acting through the UN, regional organizations, or multinational forces. Two examples exemplified this pattern of deployment: Haiti, where roughly 60 percent of troops for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti

(MINUSTAH) were drawn from nearby Latin American countries; and Timor-Leste, where the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) operated alongside the Australian-led International Security Forces (ISF). Similarly, the International Monitoring Team (IMT)—sent to oversee the cease-fire on the Philippine island of Mindanao—was largely drawn from regional actors Malaysia and Brunei.

Police deployments have nearly doubled over the past three years. In 2008 UN deployments grew at a rate of over 33 percent, from 9,000 to 12,000 personnel. The surge in police deployments was also reflected in non-UN missions, particularly the large number of EU police authorized for Kosovo.

Recognizing the central role of policing and rule of law in contemporary peace operations, in late 2007 the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (ROLSI) was established within the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). Led at the level of assistant secretary-general, the office integrates five formerly disparate sections of DPKO (police; criminal law and judicial advisement; security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; and mine services) to provide strategic guidance on these critical aspects of peace operations.