



SAF unit in MSU, Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR).

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PARTICIPATION IN PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

Slovenia aims to ensure its basic security interests through participation in European institutions and NATO. Since gaining independence, Slovenia's strategic orientation has been to join the system of collective security and to become a full member of NATO and the EU. In addition, Slovenia is committed to the obligations of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE documents.

Slovenia supports international endeavours to preserve peace and stability in Europe, and especially in South-Eastern Europe. Following the new National Security Strategy, one of the main tasks of the Slovenian armed forces (SAF) is participation in international peace support operations (PSO) and humanitarian operations. Slovenia is directing its efforts

towards participation in peace support operations (PSOs) in order to assist in reinforcing peace, security and stability in its region.

Slovenia has been an active participant in PSOs conducted under the auspices of NATO and the UN since 1997, when the first SAF contingent was sent abroad to participate in a PSO. In an *ad hoc* international mission in Albania, ALBA, Slovenia participated with a sanitary unit of 25 soldiers, NCOs and officers, with medical equipment and ambulances. The unit participated independently within the Italian health station located in Tirana.

Since these successful missions, the SAF has participated with the following international forces and missions: SFOR, KFOR, UNTSO, UNMIK/UNMAS, UNMIK/CIVPOL, OSCE in Kosovo and Macedonia, and UNTAET.

Up to 2001 the number of SAF members participating in PSOs was 361.

SLOVENIAN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS UP TO 2001

Peace support operation in Albania

From 30 May to 14 July 1999 a sanitary unit of the SAF, with 27 members, participated in the international AFOR peacekeeping force. Their tasks included the medical treatment of the civilian population and AFOR members, as well as the provision of support to civil authorities and humanitarian organisations in offering medical treatment to refugees from the region of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The unit was active in larger groups composed of members of armed forces from Belgium, Slovakia and Latvia.

UN Peacekeeping operation in Cyprus

Slovenia has been participating in the UNFICYP peacekeeping operation in Cyprus since



September 1997. The twenty-nine SAF members (infantry platoon and staff officers) were a component part of the Austrian-Hungarian-Slovenian battalion (UNAHSB) within peacekeeping forces in Cyprus. Members of the Slovenian contingent SICON were engaged in working on observation points in the eastern part of the island (Sector 4), controlling the linking road between the Greek and Turkish parts along the SBA British base, and performed other duties, such as reserve force duties of the battalion commander in the event of the outbreak of disorder.

Slovenia completed its mission in Cyprus on 19 June 2001.

Operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina

On 1 October 1997 Slovenia began participation in SFOR peacekeeping forces implementing peacekeeping operations under NATO command on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. With three helicopters and a transport aircraft they carried out transport for the needs of SFOR command. Since 2 September 1999 the SAF have contributed an additional military police unit, which is active within the framework of a multinational specialised unit (MSU) also composed of military police officers and carabinieri troops from Italy, Argentina and Romania. The unit is intended for the performance of certain tasks in maintaining law and order, as well as offering help in returning refugees and displaced persons.

In 2000 Slovenia increased its participation within SFOR with a medical team, ROLE-1, in the sanitary battalion station, and they provide medical care for SFOR staff.



Operation in Kosovo

Since 5 January 2000 the SAF have contributed six officers to KFOR international peacekeeping forces. The officers carry out various staff duties in the KFOR commands in Pristina in the province of Kosovo, and in Skopje.

UNTSO operation

Since August 1998 Slovenia has participated in the UNTSO mission (UN Truce Supervision Organisation) on the Israeli-Lebanese border, with two military observers. It is also active in the OGL observation group, with its headquarters in the city of Nahariyya in Israel.

CURRENT SITUATION WITH SLOVENIAN PARTICIPATION IN PSOS

Slovenia currently contributes 112 members of the SAF and 22 civilian policemen – a total of 134. On 1 October 2001 Slovenia increased its participation in MSU of SFOR by 23 troops. In mid-July 2001 a Slovenian officer began a term at the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo. In 2002 Slovenia will contribute a total of 140 participants, of whom 112 will be SAF personnel and 30 from the police, to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. Ninety-seven will be deployed in the Balkan area.

In addition to its participation in PSOs, Slovenia actively participates in three regional cooperation initiatives: Multinational Land Force (MLF), Southeastern Defence Ministerial (SEDM) and Central European Nations Cooperation in Peace Support (CENCOOP).

This year Slovenia is participating in NATO and UN-led PSOs in the following international missions: SFOR, KFOR, UNTSO, UNMIK/UNMAS, UNMIK/CIVPOL, UNTAET, and OSCE in Kosovo and FYROM.

The following table shows current SAF participation in NATO and UN led PKOs:





Mission	Slovenian police participation Participation in Multinational Specialised Unit: 46 SAF personnel are in the MSU regiment under Italian command. This unit performs general police tasks, patrols, information gathering, the protection of areas and people, and the maintenance of peace and order; it also participates in training. Three officers perform tasks in the HQ of the MSU regiment.
SFOR	ROLE-1 Medical Unit: 12 SAF personnel provide general and emergency medical aid to members of SFOR in Sarajevo and partly to the civilian population. Aircraft-Helicopter Unit: 41 SAF personnel conduct transport tasks for military and civilian personnel. The unit also performs aerial reconnaissance for the needs of the SFOR HQ in Sarajevo, and medical evacuation.
KFOR	Six officers in KFOR HQ in Kosovo (Pristina) and KFOR REAR HQ in Macedonia (Skopje).
UNTSO	Two SAF officers participate in the UNTSO (Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Syria) as observers.
UNMIK/UNMAS	One SAF officer participates in the mining activities co-ordination cell (MACC) for demining in Kosovo.
OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE (OHR)	Since July 2001, one SAF officer has been working in the OHR in Sarajevo.

Slovenian civilian police officers in international peacekeeping missions

The Slovenian police are forming a 40-member police unit to be included in the EU police units system. Ten per cent of the unit will be ready for immediate deployment to crisis areas.

The current participation of the Slovenian police in PSOs is shown in the following table.

In 2002 the Slovenian police are planning to increase their participation in international peace support operations. The targets are the OSCE missions in Yugoslavia (two to four offi-

cers) and FYROM (two officers), and UN missions in the Middle East and Africa (two to four officers).

TRAINING AND SELECTION OF SOLDIERS FOR PSO OPERATIONS

The selection of SAF personnel for participation in PSOs is based on the principle of voluntary choice. Participants in peacekeeping missions are selected from members of the permanent formation staff of the SAF on the basis of

Mission	Slovenian police and its participation
UNMIK/CIVPOL	There are 15 Slovenian police officers active in UNMIK. They perform traditional police tasks and participate in the training and work of Kosovo police officers.
UNTAET	Two officers are active in East Timor: one at Dili police station and the second in a court police unit.
OSCE in Kosovo	Four police instructors work at the police academy in Vucitrn – one as head of the personnel and candidate selection section, the others as instructors in traditional police tasks, border control, and immigrants and crime. One Slovenian police expert is an OSCE observer.
OSCE IN FYROM	
WEU MAPE	Two police advisers were working in Albania until June 2001.

their consent and with the signing of a contract. Slovenian legislation does not currently provide for the participation of national servicemen in peacekeeping operations.

Before departing for PSO, members of the contingent must undergo the necessary training. The conducting of training is one of the basic duties of the commands and units during peacetime. The staff and units of the permanent formation are trained in accordance with programmes for basic, supplementary and regular training, as well as during exercises. The purpose of the regular training of the permanent formation staff is to maintain the psychophysical and military expert capabilities and skills of the units at the level required for guaranteeing combat readiness. Training covers approximately 30 per cent of working time.

In accordance with bilateral programmes and individual partnership programmes between NATO and Slovenia, SAF staff and units take part in various forms of training and in exercises abroad. Members of the contingents that participate in peacekeeping operations also receive training in international military exercises and through various courses: Esperia 97; Co-operative Nugget 97 – Louisiana, USA; Co-operative Guard 96/97 – Germany; Co-operative Lantern, Trilog 98; Strong Resolve 98; Esperia 99 – representatives of Slovenia appeared for the first time in the role of commander of a peacekeeping battalion.

During the regular training of the units which send personnel to peacekeeping missions, tasks similar to those of the programmes of the peacekeeping missions are also performed in order to ensure that personnel are well prepared. Before departure for a particular peacekeeping mission, specialist training is also conducted either at home or abroad.

Many lessons have been learned from our participation in PSOs. Officers and units have returned from PSOs with many new experiences. It is especially important that officers who participated in different HQs gained a great deal of experience in NATO operational and logistics procedures. In addition, our participation in NATO-led PSOs (SFOR, KFOR) demonstrates that SAF units could be easily integrated and be interoperable with NATO forces.

Slovenian participation in operations to build peace in the Balkan area is specially appreciated by our partners. Our military personnel have a considerable advantage over the personnel of other NATO nations because of their greater knowledge of the local languages and of their culture and value systems.

Slovenia will help the international community to bring peace and prosperity to South-Eastern Europe and to the whole of Europe in the future as well.

