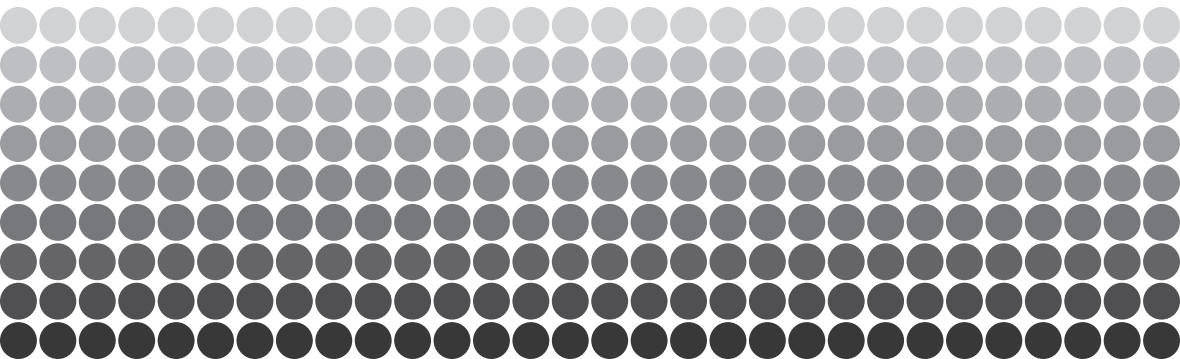


SIPRI YEARBOOK 2013

Armaments, Disarmament and International Security

Global trends in peace operations

JANE DUNDON



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I. Global trends in peace operations

JANE DUNDON

A total of 53 peace operations were conducted in 2012, one more than in 2011 but still the third lowest number in the period 2003–12 (see figure 2.1). The number of personnel deployed with peace operations in 2012 was the third highest in the period, at 233 642; however, it was a marked drop, of 28 487, from the previous year's figure of 262 129 (see figure 2.2).¹ This drop was due to reductions in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, by far the largest single mission in 2012; excluding ISAF, deployments increased by 847 personnel. This is the first increase in total personnel figures excluding ISAF since 2008.

Three new missions opened in 2012: the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB), the European Union (EU) Capacity Building Mission in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger) and the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS). Four missions closed during the year: the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM), the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and two missions in Syria, the League of Arab States Observer Mission to Syria and UNSMIS, both of which were forced to close (the Arab League mission after a month and UNSMIS after four months) due to high levels of violence, hampering the ability of the missions to implement their mandates. The small increase in the number of operations between 2011 and 2012 suggests that the trend, which has been downwards since 2009 (see figure 2.1), may be beginning to stabilize.²

The significant decrease in personnel deployments in 2012 was due principally to the withdrawal of 29 334 ISAF troops from Afghanistan (see section III below). ISAF troops accounted for 44 per cent of total deployments in 2012 (down from more than half in 2010 and 2011). Non-ISAF personnel deployments increased slightly in 2012, from 130 743 to 131 590.

During the year several operations reduced their personnel numbers, including the EU Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA), the African Union (AU)/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), while the International Stabiliza-

¹ The figures for personnel deployments given here are generally estimates as of 31 Dec. 2012 or the date on which an operation terminated. They do not represent maximum numbers deployed or the total number of personnel deployed during the year.

² The quantitative analysis presented here draws on data collected by SIPRI to examine trends in peace operations in the 10-year period 2003–12. It is limited to operations that meet the SIPRI definition of a peace operation (see section IV below). The data presented provides a snapshot of ongoing peace operations in 2012 and is meant to serve as a reference point to enable comparative analysis between 2012 and previous years.

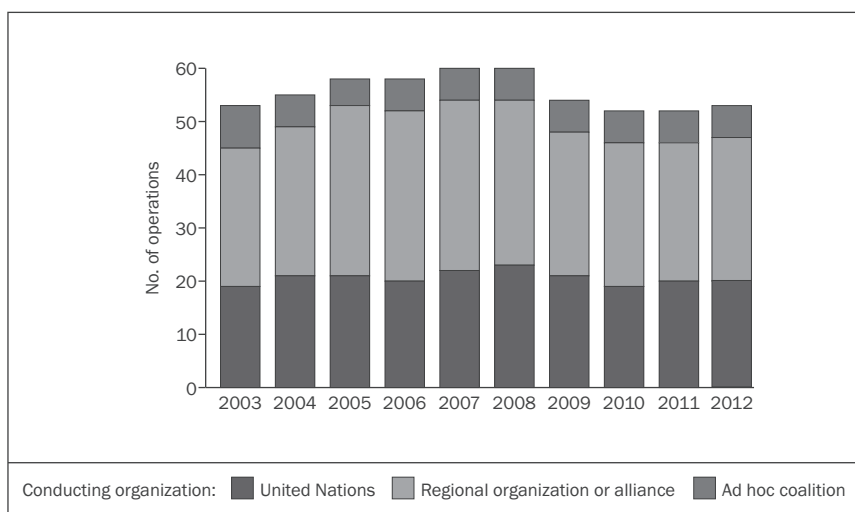


Figure 2.1. Number of multilateral peace operations, by type of conducting organization, 2003–12

tion Force (ISF) in Timor-Leste began its drawdown in November in preparation for a planned complete withdrawal in April 2012.

The three new operations launched in 2012 accounted for 921 personnel in total. In addition, several existing missions increased their personnel numbers. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which started in 2011, came close to reaching its authorized personnel figure of 7000 in 2012. The AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) almost doubled its troop numbers to 16 970 following a UN Security Council resolution in February that expanded the mission's operational scope and capacity.³

The UN, which was responsible for 20 of the 53 peace operations in 2012 (38 per cent), remained the main conducting organization (see figure 2.1). However, almost half of the total personnel deployed to peace operations worldwide—107 186 personnel (46 per cent)—were deployed to operations conducted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), mainly ISAF (see figure 2.2). This made NATO the largest conducting organization, in terms of personnel deployed, for the third consecutive year.⁴

ISAF, with 102 052 troops deployed, was the largest operation in 2012, for the fourth year running. The second and third largest missions were the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and UNAMID. Ten operations deployed more than

³ UN Security Council Resolution 2036, 22 Feb. 2012.

⁴ United Nations figures include peace operations led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the UN Department of Political Affairs and UNAMID.

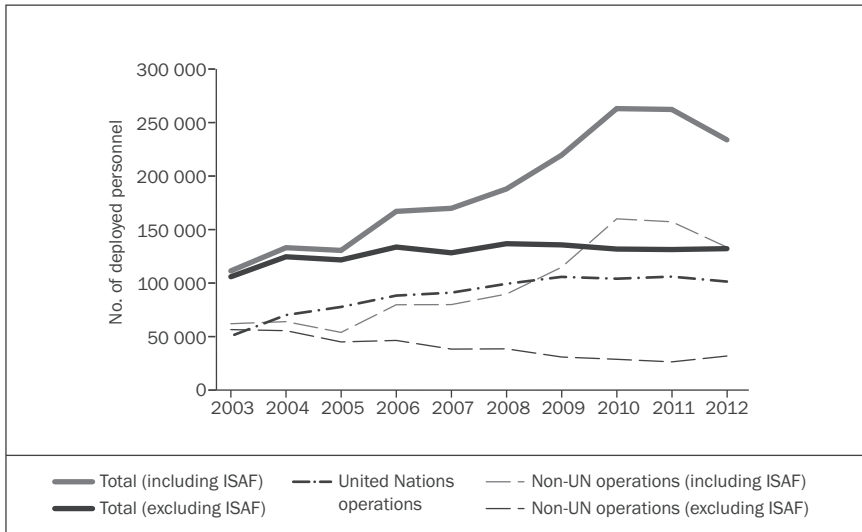


Figure 2.2. Number of personnel deployed to multilateral peace operations, 2003–12

ISAF = International Security Assistance Force.

5000 personnel: seven under UN command, two led by NATO and one AU mission (see table 2.2 in section IV).

Including ISAF, the largest contributor of troops to multilateral peace operations in 2012 was the USA. The top 10 troop contributors included only two European countries—the United Kingdom and Italy—compared to four in 2011 (see figure 2.3), a drop that is mainly due to the ISAF draw-down. Excluding ISAF, the picture changes: Pakistan becomes the largest contributor, followed by Bangladesh; the top 10 contributors are all South Asian and African countries. More than two-thirds of troops deployed with UN missions came from countries in the top 10 (excluding ISAF). Uganda, Burundi and Kenya contributed more troops to AMISOM than they did to UN missions. The top 10 contributors of civilian police in 2012 were also from South Asia and Africa, along with two Middle Eastern countries (see figure 2.4).

The total known cost of peace operations in 2012 was \$9 billion. The UN accounted for the largest portion of this known cost—\$7.2 billion (80 per cent). However, the reported costs of most non-UN operations do not include personnel costs, which are generally borne by personnel-contributing states; the actual costs of NATO operations, in particular, are likely to be much higher than those of UN operations.⁵ This is due to the UN mostly

⁵ United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, 'Background note: United National peacekeeping', June 2012, <<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/backgroundnote.pdf>>.

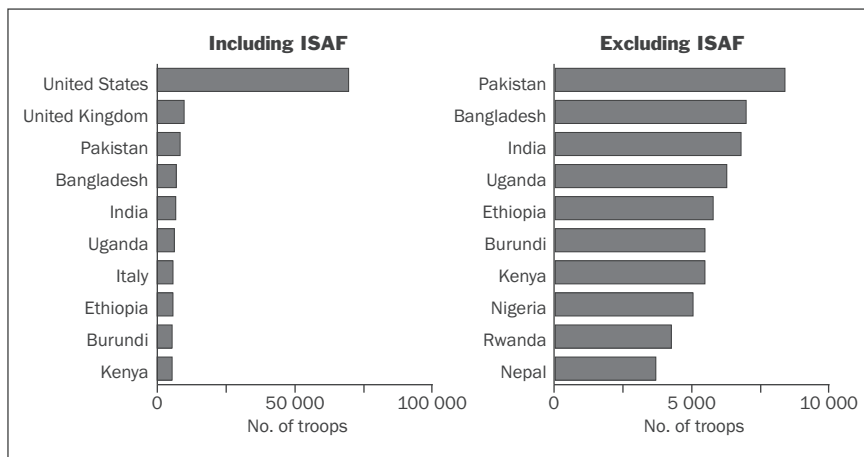


Figure 2.3. The top 10 contributors of troops to multilateral peace operations, including and excluding the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, 2012

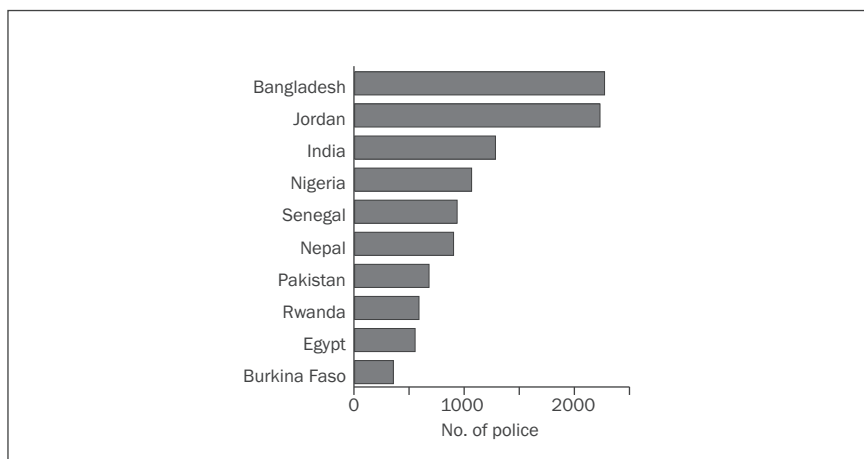


Figure 2.4. The top 10 contributors of civilian police to multilateral peace operations, 2012

using less expensive non-Western forces and to several measures in recent years to rationalize the use of UN peacekeeping resources, including a greater emphasis on cooperation between missions.⁶

⁶ Gowan, R. and Gleason, M., 'UN peacekeeping: the next five years', New York University, Center on International Cooperation, Nov. 2012, <<http://cic.nyu.edu/content/un-peacekeeping-next-five-years>>, p. 8; and 'Peacekeeping and inter-mission cooperation', *Security Council Report: Monthly Forecast*, Dec. 2012.