

MULTILATERAL PEACE OPERATIONS: PERSONNEL, 2008

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More personnel were deployed to peace operations in 2008 than in any previous year recorded by SIPRI. At a total of 187 586 personnel, peace operation deployments were 11 per cent higher than in 2007, 69 per cent higher than in 2003 and 37 per cent higher than in 1999, when deployments reached their previous peak (see figure 1).¹ Nevertheless, several operations in 2008 remained far short of their full authorized strengths.

Peacekeeping deployments remain overwhelmingly military (including troops and military observers). The numbers of troops deployed ranged from a low of 92 000 in 2002 to more than 161 000 in 2008. The number of military observers remained roughly static, reaching a peak of 5200 in 1999 and a low of 3700 the following year.

In 2008, civilian deployments (including civilian police and non-uniformed civilian staff) passed 20 000 for the first time recorded by SIPRI.² This reflects the increased emphasis on conflict transformation and state building—which are essentially civilian tasks—evident in many current operation mandates. Nevertheless, civilians accounted for only 11.6 per cent of international peace operation personnel in 2008 (see figure 1).

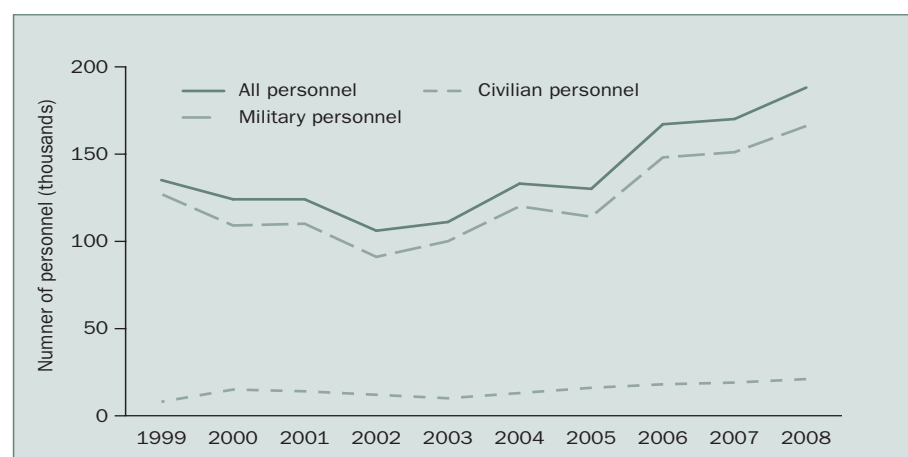


Figure 1. Total deployments of peace operation personnel, 1999–2008, showing military and civilian personnel deployments

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 maintains data on civilian deployments from 1999 and on military deployments from 1993.

QUICK FACTS

- Personnel deployments to multilateral peace operations reached a record high of 187 586 in 2008.
- Around 88 % of all personnel deployed were troops or military observers.
- Civilian personnel numbers doubled between 2003 and 2008 to reach their highest recorded level of c. 20 000.
- Since 2002 the UN has deployed the largest share of personnel—it has accounted for more than half of personnel deployments in every year since 2004.
- In 2008, 88 % of all personnel were deployed to operations conducted by either the UN or NATO.
- Deployments to Africa increased by c. 400 % and deployments to Europe decreased by 68 % between 1999 and 2008.
- The USA was the largest single contributor of military personnel in 2008. Collectively, Europe sent the most military personnel while Asia sent the most police.
- European and North American countries sent only c. 17 % of their deployed military personnel to UN operations.
- Countries in the Middle East and Central Asia contributed uniformed personnel exclusively to UN operations.
- Latin American countries sent 93 % of their uniformed personnel to UN operations.

Civilian police deployments reached 13 409 in 2008. An earlier peak in civilian deployments in 2000–2001 was largely accounted for by police deployments to the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), and the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), which all included over 1000 police. In 2008 six operations, all conducted by the UN, deployed more than 1000 civilian police, with the largest contingents attached to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the African Union (AU)–UN Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). However, only the police contingents in Timor-Leste and, to a limited extent, in Haiti had executive powers. The European Union (EU) deployed civilian police to six operations in 2008, mainly advising and training local police.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States (OAS) deployed only non-uniformed personnel in 2008.

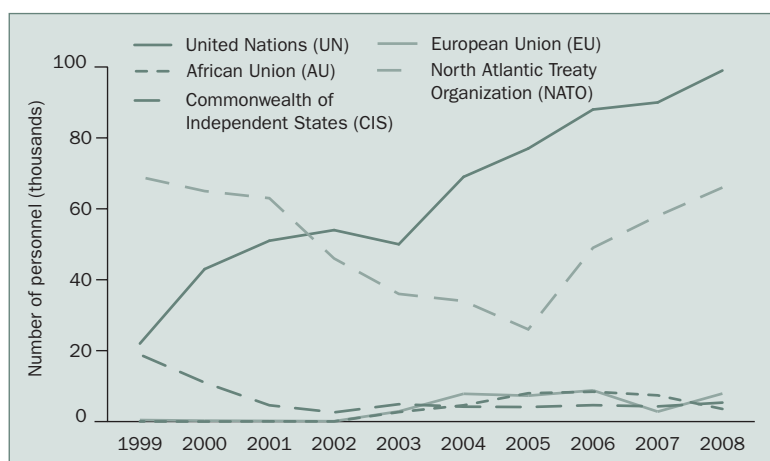


Figure 2. Personnel deployments by the top 5 deploying organizations, 1999–2008

DEPLOYING ORGANIZATIONS

The UN is today the main deployer of peace operation personnel.³ Every year from 2004 to 2008, the UN accounted for more than half of all deployments, up from 16 per cent in 1999.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was the main deployer in 1999, thanks to its peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Its deployment levels then declined until the rapid build-up of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from 2005. NATO deployments in 2008 were still short of their 1999 level.

From 1999 until 2002, the AU and the EU both deployed mainly military observers and some police to relatively small operations. In 2003 the EU launched the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Also in that year, the EU deployed its first out-of-area peace operation, the Operation Artemis military force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The following year, the EU Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR Althea) took over responsibilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR). Having previously deployed military observer missions, the AU deployed its first peacekeeping troops in 2003 as part of the AU Mission in Burundi (AMIB); by 2008, the AU deployed only troops.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was the third largest deployer in 1999. Two CIS operations in Georgia terminated in 2008, leaving the CIS conducting only one operation in 2009: the Joint Control Commission Peacekeeping Force in Trans-Dniester, Moldova.

³ UNAMID is treated as a UN operation in the statistics given in this section.

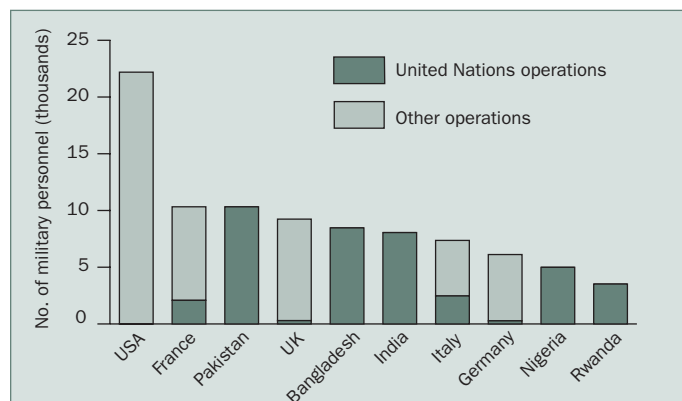


Figure 3. Top 10 contributors of military personnel to peace operations, end 2008

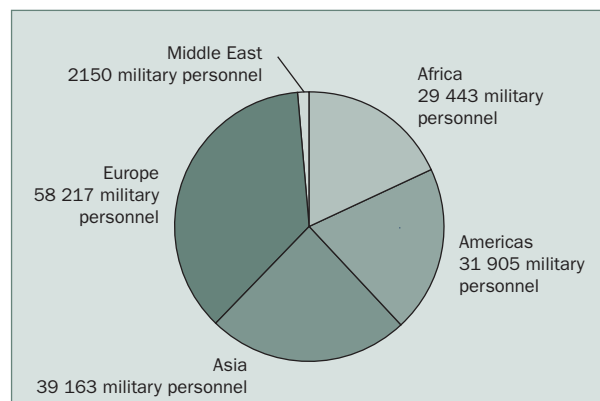


Figure 4. Origin of military personnel deployed to peace operations, by region, end 2008

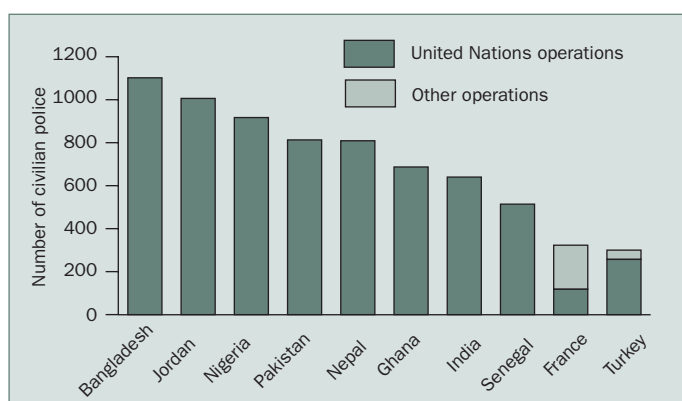


Figure 5. Top 10 contributors of civilian police to peace operations, end 2008

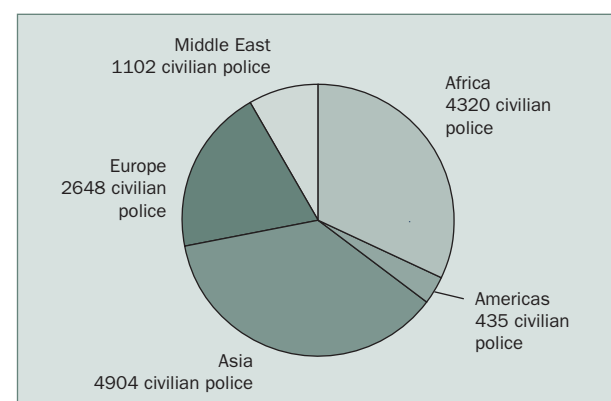


Figure 6. Origin of civilian police deployed to peace operations, by region, end 2008

CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

As of 31 December 2008, 137 countries contributed uniformed personnel to peace operations.⁴ The top 10 contributors of military personnel are shown in figure 3. While the top African and Asian contributors sent their military personnel exclusively to UN operations (including UNAMID), the USA and the top European contributors contributed almost exclusively to non-UN operations, mainly ISAF and the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR). Military personnel were contributed by 115 countries in 2008. The largest number came from Europe (37 %), followed by Asia (24 %) and the Americas (20 %; see figure 4).

Civilian police were contributed to peace operations by 112 countries in 2008. The top eight contributors of civilian police deployed police only to UN operations, while France and Turkey contributed police to both EU and UN operations (see figure 5). Only one operation not conducted by the EU or the UN included police: the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), which is conducted by an Australian-led coalition. The largest number of civilian police deployed in 2008 came from Asia (37 %), followed by Africa (32 %) and Europe (20 %; see figure 6).

⁴ ‘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

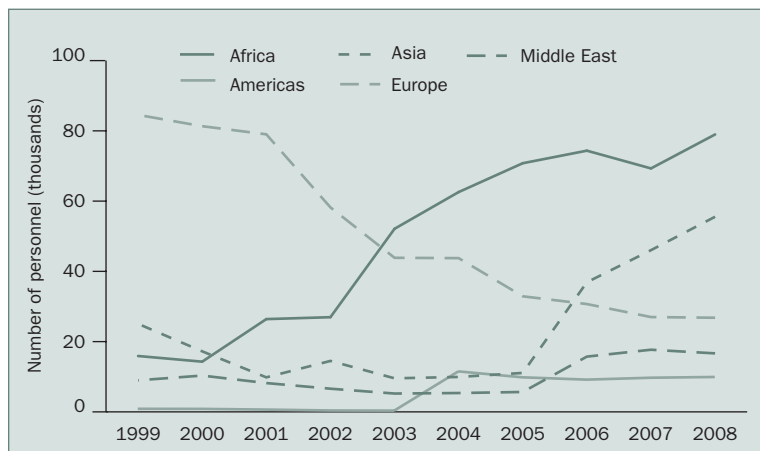


Figure 7. Regional distribution of peace operation personnel deployments, 1999–2008

REGIONAL TRENDS

One of the most marked trends in personnel deployments in the decade to 2008 was a significant geographic shift (see figure 7). In 1999, more than 60 per cent of personnel were deployed in Europe. Most of these were troops deployed to two NATO operations in the territories of the former Yugoslavia: SFOR (24 500 troops in 1999) and KFOR (42 500 troops in 1999). SFOR terminated in 2005 and KFOR had been drawn down by 70 per cent at the end of 2008.

Deployments in Africa increased by 400 per cent between 1999 and 2008. They overtook deployments in Europe in 2003, when seven new operations were launched in Africa. Nine of the 15 UN operations (excluding special political and peacebuilding operations) launched between 1999 and 2008 were located in Africa, and UN deployments to the region increased tenfold in the period. With five large operations involving more than 9000 personnel, Africa now accounts for by far the largest number of deployed personnel.

Significant changes in deployments to the Americas, Asia and the Middle East in the period were generally due to the launch or reinforcement of one operation per region: the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in the Americas, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan—which was more than twice the size of any other operation active in 2008—in Asia, and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the Middle East.

For more information on patterns of peace operation deployments in Africa in 2008 and the 10-year period 1999–2008, see the other fact sheets in this series.



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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>>.