

# MULTILATERAL PEACE OPERATIONS: ASIA, 2009

KIRSTEN SODER

A total of 88 270 personnel were deployed to nine peace operations in Asia in 2009, more personnel than in any other region (see table 1). For the fourth year running Asia had the biggest relative increase in personnel of any region—a 59 per cent rise from 55 542 in 2008. The increase was due to the continued expansion of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). ISAF, accounting for 95 per cent of the deployments to Asia in 2009, was nearly four times the size of the next largest operation (the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUC, with 21 515 personnel). ISAF's force strength of 84 146 troops in 2009 exceeded the total number of troops sent to peace missions in Africa and was also higher than the total number of troops deployed to United Nations missions.

Only three of the nine operations in Asia included troops: ISAF, the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in Timor-Leste and the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). RAMSI was the smallest multidimensional peace operation (i.e. an operation that includes a variety of roles such as military, civilian policing, political affairs, rule of law, human rights and reconstruction) conducted in 2009.

As a consequence of the continued reinforcement of ISAF, Asian peace operations had the lowest proportion of civilian personnel of any region. While 16 per cent of peacekeepers in Africa and 13 per cent of those in Europe were civilian, civilians accounted for only 3 per cent of the personnel deployed in Asia in 2009.

Operations took place in six locations in Asia in 2009: Afghanistan (3 operations), Timor-Leste (2 operations), India and Pakistan (Jammu and Kashmir, 1 operation), Nepal (1 operation), the Korean Peninsula (1 operation) and the Solomon Islands (1 operation).

**Table 1.** Peace operations and personnel deployments, by region, 2009

Region	No. of operations	No. of personnel
Africa	16	85 562
Americas	2	9 571
Asia	9	88 270
Europe	17	19 750
Middle East	10	16 125
<b>World</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>219 278</b>

*Notes:* All personnel numbers are estimates of international personnel located in theatre as of 31 Dec. 2009. If an operation closed before that date, its final force size is used.

Asia includes Oceania (Australasia and the Pacific) and excludes the Middle East.

## KEY FACTS

- More than 88 000 personnel were deployed to nine peace operations in Asia in 2009—the highest number of personnel deployed to any region.
- The number of peacekeepers deployed in Asia was 59 per cent higher in 2009 than in 2008, a greater increase than in any other region.
- The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan was the largest operation worldwide for the fourth year running. It was almost four times the size of the next largest operation active in 2009.
- ISAF troops accounted for 95 per cent of personnel deployed in Asia and outnumbered the troops deployed to peace missions in Africa.
- No UN troops have been deployed to Asia since 2006.
- In 2009, 87 countries contributed uniformed peacekeepers to operations in Asia; most peacekeepers came from North America and Europe.
- Only 3 per cent of peacekeepers in Asia were civilian, the lowest proportion of any region.

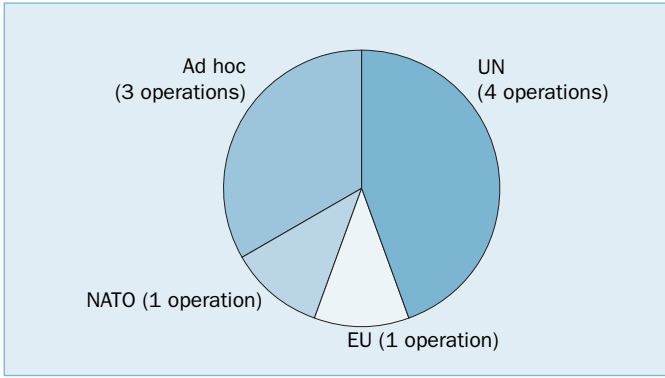
## PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN ASIA

Troops: 85 096

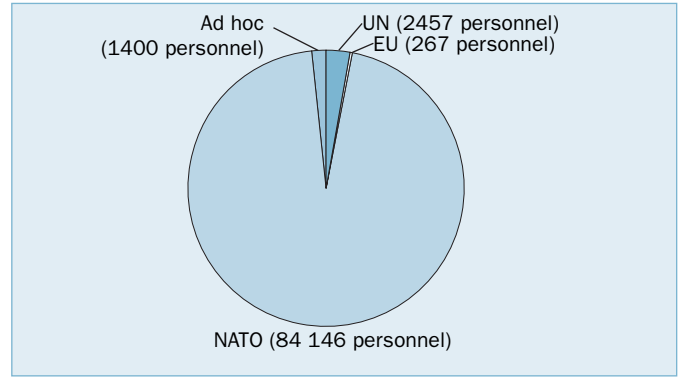
Observers: 177

Civilian police: 1929

Civilian staff: 1068



**Figure 1.** Number of peace operations in Asia, by conducting organization, 2009

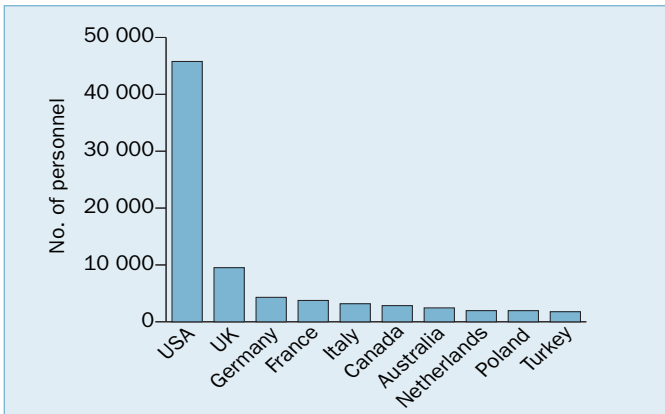


**Figure 2.** Number of personnel deployed to peace operations in Asia, by conducting organization, 2009

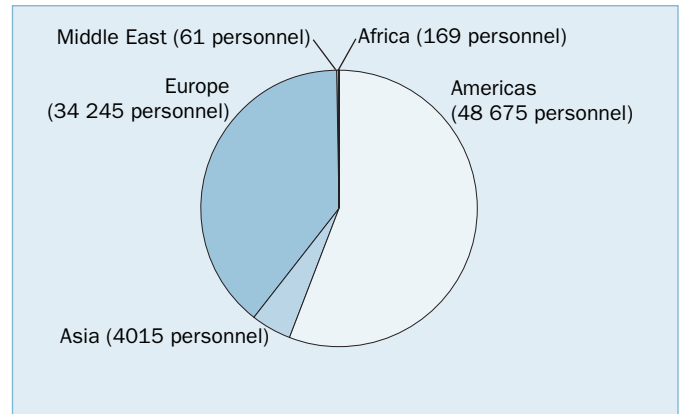
**CONDUCTING ORGANIZATIONS**

The UN conducted four operations in Asia in 2009 (see figure 1), two of which were special political and peacebuilding missions. The largest UN operation in the region was the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), with a strength of 1914 personnel. Overall, the UN accounted for 3 per cent of personnel deployed in Asia (see figure 2). Asia was the only region where the UN deployed no troops in 2009; 93 per cent of its personnel were civilians.

Three of the six operations deployed by ad hoc coalitions worldwide were in Asia: the ISF, the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) on the Korean Peninsula and RAMSI. The ISF and RAMSI were both led by Australia. The EU conducted one police mission, EUPOL Afghanistan, which reached only 67 per cent of its authorized staffing level.



**Figure 3.** Top 10 contributors of uniformed personnel to peace operations in Asia, end 2009



**Figure 4.** Region of origin of uniformed personnel deployed to peace operations in Asia, end 2009

**CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES**

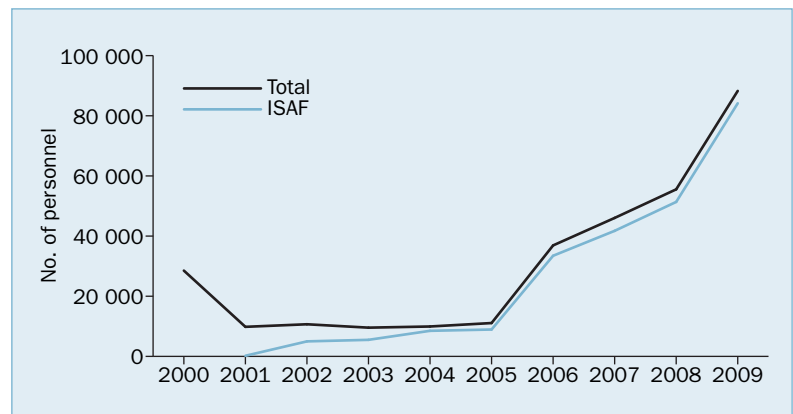
Uniformed personnel (i.e. troops, military observers and civilian police) were sent to operations in Asia by 87 countries. Nine of the top 10 contributors (see figure 3) were NATO members and all contributed over 99 per cent of their uniformed personnel to ISAF. Australia was the only non-NATO member among the top 10. It deployed uniformed personnel to ISAF and bigger contingents to the ISF and RAMSI.



The largest number of uniformed personnel came from the Americas, foremost the United States, followed by Europe (see figure 4). While African countries accounted for 48 per cent of the peacekeepers in Africa and European countries accounted for 87 per cent of the peacekeepers in Europe, personnel from Asia accounted for only 5 per cent of peacekeepers in Asia. Australia is the major regional deployer to operations conducted in Asia—it accounted for 61 per cent of the uniformed personnel from Asia.

## TEN-YEAR TRENDS

The deployment pattern over the decade to 2009 was largely shaped by deployments to Afghanistan. In 2009 ISAF surpassed the force strength of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995–96) to become the largest NATO-led peace operation to date. ISAF's share of personnel deployed in Asia rose from 2 per cent in 2001, when the mission started, to 95 per cent in 2009 (see figure 5). In 2009 ISAF deployed 84 146 personnel, while the remaining eight operations in Asia deployed only 4124 peacekeepers.



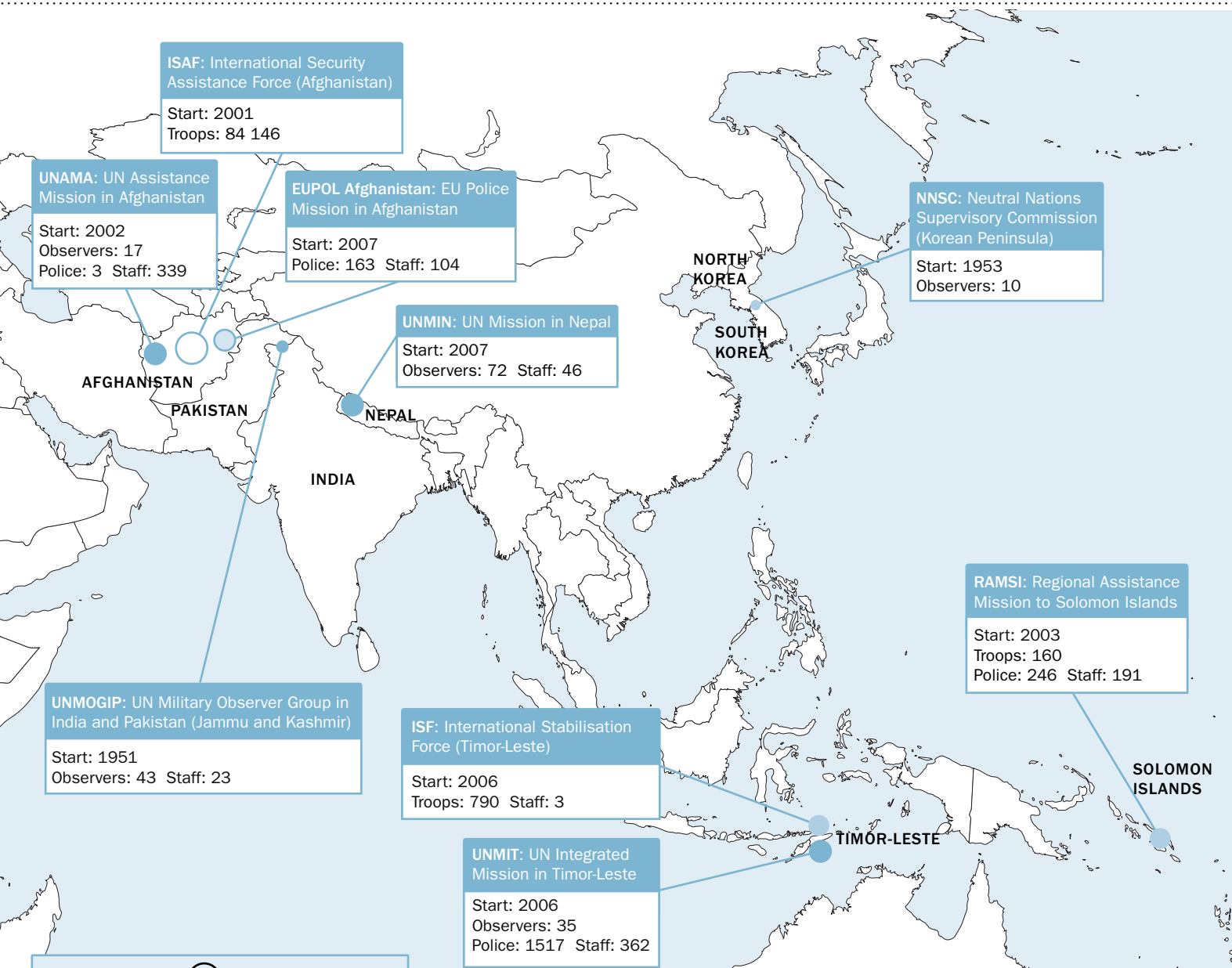
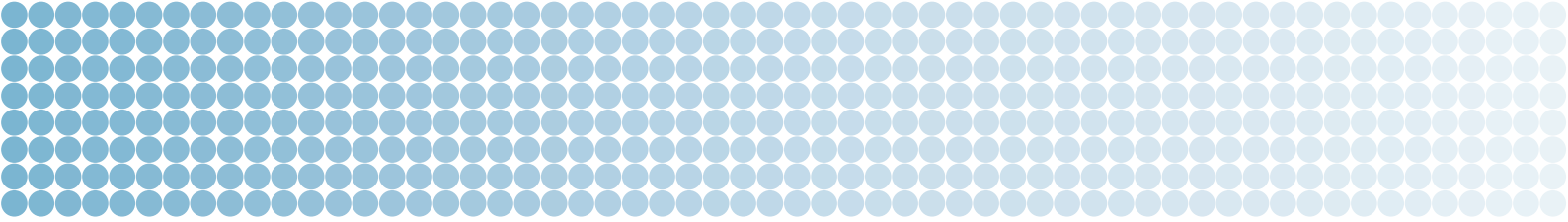
**Figure 5.** Number of personnel deployed to peace operations in Asia, 2000–2009

## DEVELOPMENTS IN 2009

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) increased its staffing level and presence throughout Afghanistan during the spring and summer of 2009. The mission's neutrality was challenged by evidence of fraud during the first round of the presidential election, in August, which was financed and co-organized by the UN. The second round did not take place as President Hamid Karzai's opponent, Abdullah Abdullah, pulled out, questioning whether the election could be free and fair. Overall, the security situation worsened in 2009 as attacks on UN personnel increased by 65 per cent compared to 2008. As a result of a Taliban attack on a UN guesthouse in October 2009 that killed five international UN staff members and three Afghans, UNAMA relocated about 70 of its international staff outside Afghanistan and delayed the opening of additional provincial offices around Afghanistan.

At the request of the Nepalese Government, the mandate of the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) was extended for a fifth time in January 2010. One major reason for the further extension was the continuing problem in rehabilitating and integrating former Maoist rebels into the army, as agreed in the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Due to a better security situation in Timor-Leste, the ISF reduced its strength during 2009 and will continue to do so in 2010. Simultaneously, in May 2009 the Timor-Leste National Police started to take over primary policing responsibilities in some districts from UNMIT, which has an executive policing mandate (i.e. a mandate to take responsibility for law enforcement). Further expansion of the National Police's policing responsibilities is planned for 2010.



● UN  
● EU  
● NATO  
● Ad hoc coalition

= >5000 personnel  
 = 100–5000 personnel  
 = <100 personnel

Notes: 'Troops' include combat and non-combat troops. 'Observers' are both military and civilian observers. 'Police' are civilian police officers. 'Staff' are international civilian staff.

### 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, including 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>>.

**Kirsten Soder** (Germany) was a Researcher with the SIPRI Armed Conflict and Conflict Management Programme. She managed the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database between 2006 and 2010.

**SIPRI** is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.



**STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
 Signalistgatan 9  
 SE-169 70 Solna, Sweden  
 Telephone: +46 8 655 97 00  
 Fax: +46 8 655 97 33  
 Email: [sipri@sipri.org](mailto:sipri@sipri.org)  
 Internet: [www.sipri.org](http://www.sipri.org)

