



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Ministry of Defence
for 2008

Ljubljana, 2009



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FOREWORD



Dr Ljubica Jelušič, Minister of Defence

The attention of the international arena in 2008 was drawn by a number of events, tensions and conflicts, which marked the year. We were witness to the emerging independence of Kosovo, terrorist attacks in India, Pakistan and elsewhere, escalation of relations between the West and Russia, and the EU and China, and efforts for the mitigation of humanitarian tragedy in Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq. Moreover, life was made more difficult by large-scale natural and other disasters at home and around the world that were, in terms of casualties and the financial cost of damage, even more devastating than those in previous years. And while it appeared that nothing worse could befall us, in the middle of the year we started to feel the consequences of the financial and economic crisis spreading its influence to all spheres of our lives.

In the first half of the year, Slovenia was focused on the EU Council Presidency and co-ordination with Germany and Portugal as parts of the troika, which together drew up and sought to implement the 18-month presidency programme. The main tasks of the troika were to carry on with EU reforms and the constitutional process, to accomplish the goals of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, and to make progress in the establishment of Europe's area of freedom, security and justice. In this context, the ministry made particular efforts to enhance its work within the European Defence and Security Policy. We sought to implement the relevant goals by chairing the military working group for the 2010 Headline Goal, the Steering Committee of the European Security and Defence College, and the ATHENA special finance committee.

The topics addressed at the meetings of defence ministers of EU Member States focused mainly on military and civilian operations, enhanced European military capabilities,

strategic airlifts, and the strategic partnership between the EU and NATO. Most attention was dedicated to the EUFOR operation in Chad and the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Slovenian military and civilian participation within NATO focused on the Western Balkans. The stability of the region remains a strategic interest of the Republic of Slovenia. Slovenia continued its co-operation in KFOR by deploying troops of the Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) and upgraded it through involvement in the defence reforms in Kosovo. Slovenia took an active part in civil-military co-operation (CIMIC), which is an important element in building confidence with the local population. We were also active in the operation in Afghanistan, where Slovenia intensified its activity in the stabilisation and reconstruction of the country.

Through its active engagement in international activities, Slovenia became a credible partner, a role which could only be assumed and performed by also addressing the challenges of the defence system.

Another big challenge was the transition to the new pay system. On the basis of the Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act, several bylaws were adopted defining the status and other issues concerning SAF members. The SAF recorded a positive employment trend with new recruits exceeding the number of discharges. In line with long-term personnel recruitment for the SAF and the stipulations of the Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act, a set of Rules on Scholarships in the SAF were drawn up and an invitation for scholarship applications in the academic year 2008/2009 published. In the area of equipment, the SAF successfully carried out procurement of new military equipment: the F2000 S assault rifle, equipment for the Warrior of the 21st Century programme, and light NBC vehicles. The Spike anti-tank guided missile, the system for tactical operation simulation and the Bell-206 training helicopter were introduced into operational use. Because of the budget supplement, procurement of heavy NBC-reconnaissance vehicles was cancelled and certain funds allocated for social transfers, incubators and mitigation of the consequences of floods in Železniki. Natural and other disasters accentuated the need to dedicate more attention to the search and rescue system in the future, particularly in developing a crisis management system that will not depreciate but rather upgrade the present system.

The lessons learned and successful accomplishment of tasks over the year will serve as a starting point for further work and future challenges, and for easier definition and accomplishment of new goals. The ministry's first priority in the future will be the security of SAF troops, both at home and in performing their valuable tasks in international operations and missions. More attention will be dedicated to the interpersonal relations, ethics, professionalism and resolution of personnel and other issues. Striving for ambitious goals will, nevertheless, remain our focus as we are confident that we are capable of accomplishing even the most challenging tasks.



Dr. Ljubica Jelušič
Minister of Defence

A PROGRESS MADE IN THE MINISTRY'S AREAS OF WORK

1 DEFENCE POLICY

1.1 International defence co-operation

European security and defence policy

During the first half of 2008, Slovenia successfully presided over the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) of the EU Council, which was a demanding task for the ministry both in terms of subject matter and logistics.

Our efforts were directed toward successful accomplishment of the priority tasks defined in the 6-month programme of the Slovenian presidency and in the overall 18-month presidency programme of the Federal Republic of Germany, Portuguese Republic and the Republic of Slovenia.

As part of work on the presidency, the ministry continued to strengthen the ESDP and dedicated particular attention to the management of EU military operations. During the Slovenian presidency, the EUFOR Chad/CAR military bridging operation commenced, and the SAF deployed its contingent. This operation helped to improve the humanitarian situation and the establishment of conditions allowing displaced people to return voluntarily to their original locations.



SAF service members in EUFOR Chad/CAR

Photo: Borut Podgoršek

Considerable attention was given to ensuring security and stability in the Western Balkans and involvement in the defence and security sector reforms in the region. The EUFOR Althea operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued. Its operational focus was on maintenance of a stable and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on transfer of military affairs to the national authorities responsible.

During the presidency, progress was made in the development of EU military capabilities. Reports on a prioritised classification of capability gaps were produced defining the relevant priority tasks to allow execution of EU military operations and analysis of lessons learned in EU operations and other operations of Member States. The revision of the Military Rapid Response Concept (MRRC) was not completed and hence continued during the French Presidency.

As part of the strategic partnership between the EU and NATO, the ministry sought to strengthen co-operation between the organisations, particularly in crisis management. It also promoted debate on key obstacles to co-operation and identification of proposals for its improvement, focusing on the development of key military capabilities and efficient co-ordination in multinational operations and missions (MOM).

An EU crisis management exercise (CME 08) was organised, which for the first time included civilian capabilities for operational planning and execution.

Co-operation within the framework of NATO

The discussions of defence ministers concentrated mainly on NATO operations, notably the ISAF operation in Afghanistan and the related implementation of a comprehensive approach to operational planning and execution, the definition of criteria for the further development of transformation initiatives, identification of the required establishment of allied missile defence, provision of key capabilities, more efficient manning of MOM and NRF (the NATO Response Force), and enlargement of the alliance following the invitations to Albania and Croatia at the Bucharest Summit.

With reference to the Alliance's defence transformation, the ministry put considerable effort into increasing the key capabilities commitment of member states, such as strategic and tactical air lift and alliance ground surveillance, that are inaccessible by small member states owing to high cost. Slovenia, therefore, signed a co-operation agreement in 2008 on an initiative on C-17 strategic airlift granting a lease of 60 flying hours per year.

In the context of force generation for MOM, Slovenia maintained its presence in KFOR, with stability of the Western Balkans being one of its strategic interests, and enhanced its role in the process of stabilisation and reconstruction process in Afghanistan. In October, SAF troops from the Multinational Land Force (MLF) in Udine were deployed to Regional Command West (RC West) of the ISAF operation in Herat, Afghanistan. In November, the first civilian expert on humanitarian relief operations was assigned to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Herat, an appointment expected to last until June 2009, which marks the commencement of Slovenia's active engagement with the reconstruction of the country. At the end of the year, a decision was reached to deploy additional SAF troops to Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLT), tasked with supporting training and exercises for the Afghan military. Throughout the year, the ministry made great efforts towards the efficient introduction of a comprehensive strategic politico-military plan for Afghanistan, the comprehensive approach of the

international community, the provision of key capabilities for the Afghan Army and appropriate support for the elections in Afghanistan, as one of the biggest challenges of 2009.



*Participants in the Kosovo and Afghanistan missions addressed by
Commander-in-Chief Dr Danilo Türk*

Photo: Bruno Toič

Slovenia deployed with a battalion-minus unit in KFOR and upgraded its commitment through participation in Kosovo defence reforms as part of civil–military co-operation (CIMIC). SAF troops reconstructed a road in the Jošanice village, trained members of the Gjeravica Alpine Society in mountain rescue, equipped some primary schools with furniture and donated basic necessities to socially disadvantaged families. Two civilian experts on law and finance are posted to the Military Civilian Advisory Division (MCAD) at KFOR HQ.



International CIMIC training

Photo: Archives Civil Defence Agency

Slovenia took part in several training programmes and exercises, among them the NATO-led crisis response exercise CMX 08, which deserves special mention as it was designed

to test the efficiency of envisaged procedures and measures during the potential outbreak of an international crisis.

Participation of Slovenia in the Southeast Europe Clearinghouse (SEEC) initiative

In 2008, Slovenia prepared a proposal for EU participation in the SEEC initiative in the area of defence and security reforms, which was presented at the Politico-Military Working Group (PMG) in May.

In the context of the EU Council Presidency, the ministry organised the 8th SEEC Conference attended by representatives of the Western Balkans and delegates from approximately 25 other countries or organisations. Slovenia also hosted an informal meeting of defence policy directors from Southeast Europe (SEE) on the SEEC initiative, the purpose of which was to prepare for the informal SEE defence ministerial meeting (the first on defence in the Western Balkans) co-organised with the Presidency Secretariat in Podčetrtek at the end of June. Representatives of participating countries expressed their interest in the continuation of defence ministerials.

In 2008, the work related to SEEC shifted to regional relations. The possibility of the establishment of regional education and training centres in the area of defence were identified to enable the exchange of experiences, to strengthen trust and stability in the region, and to rationalise cost. The Defence Training Centre in Poljče and C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence) hosted a regional workshop on defence standardisation at Bled.

Bilateral and multilateral co-operation

The amended agreement between the Slovenia and France on defence co-operation and a letter of intent on defence co-operation were signed.

The scope of work with Macedonia increased in the field of logistics. Preparations were completed for the agreement between Slovenia and Serbia on defence co-operation. For the first time, the ministry prepared a bilateral programme of defence co-operation with the Defence Ministry of Albania.

The ministry organised training for six experts of the defence ministry of Montenegro in the area of strategic planning, NATO co-operation, participation in MOM, legal matters, logistics, and human resource management.

Special attention was dedicated to monitoring major OSCE activities and regular reporting on international agreements adopted by Slovenia in the military and political fields.

During the Slovenian EU Council Presidency, the implementation plan was endorsed on stipulations set out in the joint declaration by the UN and EU for a number of

concrete proposals for the improvement of mutual co-operation in crisis management. Slovenia guided co-ordination within the EU for a session of the special committee on peacekeeping operations (C-34) of the UN General Assembly. According to assessments, the EU achieved its goals and completed the C-34 session successfully. At the meeting of the working group for the system for equipping in operations, Slovenia contributed to the final consensus on financial reimbursements for the equipment in MOM.

Slovenia took part in all planned forms of multilateral defence and military co-operation within the Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) process, MLF, the Multinational Standby High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG), the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Quadrilateral and the SEE Stability Pact. Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministry submitted a proposal to the RS Government at the end of 2008 on the participation of the ministry in Slovenia's presidency of the Quadrilateral Initiative and the conclusion of SAF participation in SHIRBRIG.

In July, Slovenia hosted the fourth regular meeting of the Political – Military Steering Group of the Multinational Land Force (MLF) in Ljubljana, where member states reiterated their support for Croatian inclusion into MLF. The most important decision of the meeting was to deploy the MLF HQ to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from October 2008 to April 2009



Exercise »Clever Ferret 2008«, training of MLF for Afghanistan

Photo: Bruno Toič

Defence diplomacy

During the Slovenian EU Council Presidency, defence attachés regularly updated the military diplomacy corps of the countries of their accreditation on the priority tasks of Slovenia and their implementation.

The first Slovenian defence attaché was accredited to China. The defence attaché to Hungary, who also functioned as the non-residential attaché to Bulgaria and Ukraine, completed his term of duty.

Based on the lessons learned, the ministry organised training for the employees of the Slovak ministry of defence on the organisation of the informal ministerial meeting in Slovakia in the second half of 2009.

Slovenian defence diplomacy was involved in the drafting of the first co-operation programme between Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and assisted in implementation of reforms in the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, infrastructure arrangements, as well as in the training of Montenegrin troops. Slovenia also took part in the NATO working group for defence reforms in Serbia.

1.2 Defence planning and reporting

Work revolved about the preparation of development documents, analyses, and reports related to defence policy, planning and reporting, on defining and streamlining defence system development priorities, co-ordination of defence resource projections, defence planning management, management of defence system activity and involvement in the international security environment, on performance evaluation of the defence system and the search and rescue system, and the submitting of proposals for improvement of the implementation of the ministry's goals.

In the preceding period, the ministry was able to harmonise planning processes with NATO. In June 2008, the NATO force goal package for Slovenia was endorsed at a meeting of the NATO Defence Planning Committee (DPC) in Brussels.

In July, the response to the NATO Defence Planning Questionnaire (DPQ 2008) was submitted to NATO. It included a situation report, an overview of defence policy, a study of the feasibility of force goals and detailed plans for their realisation.

In line with the Rules on Planning in the Ministry of Defence, annual reports were prepared on the work of the ministry to inform the internal and the wider public on the ministry's work in 2007.

Periodic reports on execution of the ministry business plan were also prepared, highlighting the progress made in the implementation of the set goals, and describing any discrepancies from planning and proposed measures to remove deficiencies.

2 NORMATIVE ACTS FOR THE AREA OF DEFENCE

The normative field centred on the harmonisation of implementing regulations related to legal novelties in the area of protection against natural and other disasters from previous periods, and the development of bylaws based on the new Service in the Slovenian

Armed Forces Act, adopted in 2007. Given the legal possibility introduced by the Amended Law to the Protection against Natural and Other Disasters Act from 2006 for contract-based recruitment for Civil Protection, the ministry issued a Decree on Service in Civil Protection specifying contract criteria for service in Civil Protection, general requirements for contract-based execution of these tasks and a recruitment procedure. The decree also stipulated the basic rights and obligations of contract personnel of Civil Protection, including payment, compensation and other forms of income, and reasons for termination or denunciation of contract service in Civil Protection. This will allow for higher quality recruitment in the key Civil Protection structures, notably those required to maintain constant readiness, perform highly specialised tasks or dangerous search and rescue tasks, or those intended for disaster relief outside the country under the adopted international obligations.

The endorsement of the Amended Decree on the Contents and Drafting of Search and Rescue Plans allowed for harmonisation of Slovenia's legal order with that of the European Union, namely with Directive 2006/21/ES of the European Parliament and Council dated 15 March 2006. In terms of contents, it introduced obligations for operators of mining waste management concerning search and rescue plans in case of a disaster at mining waste disposal sites.

Considering some new aspects of the organisation and operation of the monitoring, notification and warning system, the Rules on Notification and Reporting in the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters specify the issues relevant for the operation of the information and communications system to meet the demands of protection, rescue and relief by collecting, processing, disseminating and applying data on natural and other disasters, including reception and dissemination of data to other countries and international organisations, activation of protection, rescue and relief forces, and operation of notification centres, which should improve the functioning of the system.

Harmonised with the Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act, the Rules on Scholarships in the Slovenian Armed Forces have laid down the details of the scholarship policy for career personnel in the SAF and contract military personnel in the reserve component of the SAF. The autonomous scholarship system, designed for the requirements of the military service, should increase the attractiveness of the military as a career and, consequently, positively influence the recruiting process for the SAF. A similar goal should also be achieved with the Decree on Remuneration for the Conclusion and Extension of Employment Contracts in the Slovenian Armed Forces. This would reduce and prevent negative manning trends in the SAF by ensuring special financial bonuses for new military personnel and extension of employment contracts. The Decree on Salaries and Other Forms of Income of the Slovenian Armed Forces' personnel introduced pay arrangements for SAF members performing duties in international organisations and under international agreements outside the country in multinational operations and missions, in line with the new Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act

and the introduction of the unified pay system for the public sector. The decree lays down arrangements for salaries, allowances and types of reimbursement and compensation taking into account the specific characteristics of military service in such missions.

In February, in the area of crisis management, the RS Government passed the Decision on Preparations for the Implementation of NATO Crisis Response Measures, which served as a basis for the ministry's new Decision on Defining Preparations for the Implementation of Readiness Measures. The Decision on Nominating Facilitators of Preparations for NATO Measures at the ministry and the Rules on Announcement and Revocation Procedures for NATO Crisis Response Measures were also adopted. Planning of NATO measures will also be included in changes and amendments to the Decree on Defence Plans.

In 2008, several other important bylaws were adopted:

- Rules on Defence and Confidential Procurement Procedures in the Ministry of Defence,
- Rules Amending the Rules on Confidential Information Protection,
- Rules on Protection of the Communications and Information System of the Ministry of Defence,
- Rules on the Internal Auditing Service Activity of the Ministry of Defence,
- Rules Amending the Rules on Housing Facilities of the Ministry of Defence,
- Rules Amending the Rules on Business, Office and Working Hours of the Ministry of Defence and its Constituent Units.

Pursuant to the Protection against Natural and Other Disasters Act, the following normative acts were adopted:

- Decree Amending the Decree on Service in Civil Protection,
- Decree Amending the Decree on Contents and Development of Search and Rescue Plans,
- Decree Amending the Decree on Damage Assessment Methodology,
- Decree Amending the Decree on Organisation and Operation of Administrative Communications,
- Rules Amending the Rules on Uniforms of Civil Protection,
- Rules on Exercises in the Area of Protection Against Natural and Other Disasters,
- Rules on Personnel and Materiel Formation Tables of Civil Protection Units, Services and Bodies.

Pursuant to the Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act, the following documents were adopted:

- Rules Amending the Rules on Examining Health Condition for Military Service,
- Decree on Classification of Formation Positions and Titles in the Slovenian Armed Forces into Pay Classes,
- Decree Amending the Decree on Classification of Formation Positions and Titles in the Slovenian Armed Forces into Pay Classes,

- Rules on Position-related Bonuses for the Slovenian Armed Forces' Members Deployed Abroad,
- Rules on Uniforms in the Slovenian Armed Forces.

3 CIVIL DEFENCE AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Special attention was dedicated to the transformation of civil defence into the crisis management system. This included, in particular, drawing up normative acts and their implementation, as well as other preparations in the area of civil defence and crisis management. Further development of crisis management was significantly enhanced through the results of the crisis management surveys conducted in past years.

The RS Government passed a Decision on Preparations for NATO Crisis Response Measures, and Guidance on Announcement and Revocation Procedures for the implementation of NATO crisis response measures was also adopted.

Crisis management includes development of the information system to support the decision-making process that will facilitate a quick, reliable and secure information flow among the key subjects of crisis management in Slovenia and, consequently, efficient support of the strategic command level.

Several solutions for the protection of critical infrastructure were developed to move civil defence towards a crisis management system. Specific projects entailed activities to develop the definition of critical infrastructure protection as a prerequisite for development of the national critical infrastructure.

Slovenia presided successfully over the working group of the EU Council – PROCIV in the part related to the European critical infrastructure. The Directive regulating the identification, definition and protection of the critical infrastructure at the European level was harmonised and adopted. As part of these efforts, and in agreement with the European Commission, the final workshop for the harmonisation of these standards took place in September in Kranjska Gora. The workshop reached a consensus on the wording of standards required for the adoption of the directive by the EU Council.

Provision of civilian capabilities for the SAF and allied forces included tasks related to Host Nation Support (HNS) and integration of civilian capabilities into MOM.

We supplemented and drafted appendices to the Host Nation Support plan, and started to prepare IT support for HNS. A data input trial for approximately 20 locations was carried out.

The integration of civilian capabilities in multinational defence-related operations progressed according to plan. Two civilian functional experts were assigned to NATO's Ministry Consulting Group to KFOR, one civilian functional expert completed her mission in the CIMIC group as part of the Grof Battlegroup in Kosovo and one functional

expert started the preparatory mission in the CIMIC centre at PRT Herat in Afghanistan in November 2008. The ministry steered the implementation of civil-military co-operation projects and kept the responsible ministries updated on their potential projects. Three civilian functional experts were selected to work with SAF units in the KFOR operation. The call for applications for the fourth generation of civilian functional experts attracted 17 candidates, with 3 failing to meet the criteria. With the purpose of identifying 25 candidates per year, the call was also distributed to other bodies through the responsible ministries in June. The supplemented training programme was launched in June 2008. The four-year training period yielded 73 civilian functional experts.



Srečko Zajc, the first civilian functional expert in Afghanistan

Photo: Sergeja Hadner Hvala

In the area of cartography, the revision and update of military and national topographic maps at 1:50,000 (12 sheets) was completed. Fourteen sheets of the national and military topographic maps 50, produced in the year 2006, were harmonised with the latest editions of Slovenian military standards STANAG 3676 and 7136. Procedures were initiated for the adoption of three STANAG standards. Slovenia was also involved in the preparation of NATO document and geospatial documents of the EU, and in publication of the ministry's catalogue of cartographic material.

Significant progress was made with harmonisation of draft agreements on co-operation in geospatial area with Italy and the US national geospatial intelligence agency.

In response to the modified Slovenian co-ordinate system, the ministry initiated a development project on the establishment of relations between the new national co-ordinate system and NATO UTM co-ordinate system.

As part of the target research programme, the ministry continued with the research project on the identification of magnet declination for Slovenia and comparison with global models of the earth's magnetic field.

The ministry was also engaged in the preparation and adoption procedures for spatial documents of national importance and local communities.

4 MILITARY DEFENCE

The core effort of the defence system was concentrated on achieving operational capability and SAF readiness for operations in Slovenia, on multinational missions and on support tasks of the EU Council Presidency.

A reduction in funds did not affect SAF capability for operational mission tasks in Slovenia and international military operations. As a consequence, individual risks may still appear in the next period with the volume of funds defining the reprogramming of long-, mid- and short-term plans.

4.1 Development of the capabilities of the SAF

The main effort of capability building was directed toward the continued SAF reorganisation process and establishment of SAF deployable units for operations and SAF mission accomplishment in the national and allied context, and an increase in capabilities for command and control functions and air policing.

The SAF set up the first high-readiness battalion battlegroup (BBG), and the Air Defence and Aviation Brigade Command.

The light decoy company achieved full operational capability.

The Combat Training Centre was introduced into operational use in accordance with plans.

An important quality change in combat forces' capabilities took place with the introduction of new infantry weapons and new handheld anti-armour and missile systems.

New formation tables were developed for the Military Medical Unit, the 74th Motorised Battalion, the Combat Training Centre and the Mlake Training Site.

4.2 International certification of SAF units

A national readiness evaluation was carried out for two declared units according to CREVAL requirements. The first part of BBG certification (unit inspection) took place in December 2008, and the second (test or exercise) at the Grafenwöher training site, Germany, in January 2009.

4.3 SAF exercises

Training and exercises of SAF commands and units were targeted primarily at planned capabilities of units and capabilities required for MOM. Of a planned total of 31, 28 international exercises and training events of the SAF were carried out.

The Roland air defence battery took part in a live exercise in Germany and live field firing in the NAMFI firing range on Crete as part of a multinational air defence unit (Germany, Hungary and Slovenia), and received good grades.

In October 2008, the SAF carried out an exercise Zmožnosti 2008 (Capabilities 2008) which besides active duty personnel also involved members of the contract reserves.



Mobile weather station



"Zmožnosti 2008" exercise

Photo: Bruno Toič

4.4 Contract and strategic reserves

At the end of 2008, 1,926 members of the contract reserves (CR) were assigned to various SAF units and their planned training was organised. CR was used to augment the Military Medical Unit ROLE 2LM. Out of the 49 interested medical personnel candidates, 17 signed contracts on military service in the SAF reserve structure. Members of CR were trained in different units.

The implementation of the military strategic reserve concept (MSR) progressed according to the action plan. The scope of the plan and MSR structure were prepared, including formation tables for all basic elements. With the aim of ensuring the criteria for materiel support of the MSR, implementation documents and an overview of the

required materiel means and inventory vehicles were prepared. Minimum criteria to cover the gaps in infrastructure capabilities were defined. Standard operational procedures for MSR training are in the final stage of co-ordination. Stocks of major materiel assets in individual classification groups were put in place.

4.5 Professionalisation of the SAF

Within the process of professionalisation, a career path model was developed for SAF non-commissioned officers that will be followed by career path models for SAF members. The military profession was registered in the standard classification of professions in the Slovenia, which will contribute to its recognition.

The planned ratio of officers to non-commissioned officers to soldiers was achieved (planned 1:1.5:2.3; achieved 1:1.5: 2.2).

To celebrate, NATO's proclamation of 2008 as the year of non-commissioned officers, the SAF organised a first selection of the best non-commissioned officers of the year.

4.6 Integration of the SAF into NATO

As part of the integration of the SAF into NATO and the EU, and the affiliation of declared units to the NATO corps structures, activities were completed in line with the plans on integration, force goal implementation and standardisation.

Integration into NATO remains one of the key processes for the SAF. Relevant progress was recorded in all functional areas. The integration of key SAF capabilities (BBG and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear – CBRN Bat) as the Slovenian commitment towards the Alliance is progressing in stages.

The SAF sped up the affiliation process of its key declared capabilities to the NATO corps structure. This involves BBG in the structure of the Milan-based NATO Rapid Deployable Corps NRDC-IT under the umbrella of Italy as the lead nation, and CBRN Bat in the structure of the Multinational Corps North East – MNC NE under the auspices of the three leading nations i.e. Denmark, Germany and Poland headquartered at Szczecin in Poland. Political guidance was drawn up on constituting a basis for the SAF in conducting the required preparations and expert talks. In August 2008, the RS Government adopted a decision on the affiliation of BBG and CBRN Bat to the two NATO corps structures. Along with the creation of expert working groups and organisation of bilateral meetings, the SAF continued drafting technical arrangements on affiliation of the mentioned declared capabilities to the two corps structures. In parallel with strategic activities, activities for achievement of full operational capability of the BBG and building of CBRN Bat capabilities were carried out, focusing on the introduction of new assets into operational use and related training. The light decontamination company achieved full operational capability.

The integration of the national air defence system into the NATO integrated air defence system continued. Establishment of operational capabilities progressed in accordance with the integration plan.

The implementation of the integration plan for maritime forces in the previous year was reflected mainly in issues pertaining to the manning and training process, arrangement of premises and the information-telecommunications network of the SAF maritime operations centre.

The 2008 plan envisaged the adoption of 69 NATO standards, 50 of which were realised. In addition, 21 SAF standards, 18 ratifications and 6 verifications of standards' conformity were implemented.

4.7 Work with civilian organisations

As part of our work with civilian organisations, societies and local government bodies, the ministry worked on the recognition of the military profession in the wider environment. In the process of planning and implementing military-civilian co-operation, the major effort was directed at strengthening the reputation of the SAF, presentation of career opportunities and visibility of SAF interests in the activity of civilian organisations and societies.

Co-operation centred mainly on the implementation of goals of civilian organisations and societies, the activity of which is closely linked with the SAF and the Slovenian defence system, and is derived from mutual interest.

Co-operation activities progressed in accordance with the planned routine activities of the SAF, materiel and human resources of units and commands of the SAF, and planned priorities. In line with the Directive on co-operation of the Slovenian Armed Forces with civilian organisations, associations and societies which are important for the defence system of the Republic of Slovenia, the SAF also identified priority tasks and appointed subject-matter facilitators.

5 MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

Slovenia has been participating in multinational operations and missions since 1997. Throughout these years, members of the SAF have acquired significant knowledge and experiences required for MOM-related tasks, and have gained a reputation for their professional attitude towards task accomplishment, often reflected in the aspirations of foreign military troops to work alongside Slovenian soldiers and units.

Twelve years of participation in MOM represents invaluable experience and has positive effects on the status and development of the SAF. In general, it enhances the readiness of the SAF and its ability to perform military defence as its core mission. Participation in operations is a recognition of the SAF's interoperability with allied forces and ability

to operate within multinational structures in various geographical and climate areas. The average number of SAF personnel participating in multinational operations and missions over the past four years was the following: 238 in 2005, 284 in 2006, 542 in 2007, and 456 in 2008.

Accomplishment of operational tasks provides the opportunity to test the abilities of individuals, units and organisations as a whole. It ensures direct feedback information on the success level of the development of the forces and its adjustment to contemporary requirements for employing military forces. Operational activity enhances military professionalism. Operations in remote crisis areas demand high level of motivation, professionalism, responsibility, adaptability, denial and risk-taking, and demonstrate the understanding of the nature of the military profession and the level of professionalisation. SAF engagement in operations also enhances understanding of its role in contemporary society and its public image, and public recognition of the mission and risks involved in the provision of collective security and support of national interests.

5.1 UN operations

Within the framework of the UN, the SAF took part in two operations in the Middle East. As part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the SAF contributed a squad-level unit and staff for the operational command. Slovenia contributed five military observers to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization – UNTSO, along the border areas between Israel, Syria and Lebanon.



SAF in Lebanon

Photo: Marko Pišlar

5.2 EU operations

Stabilisation of the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006 and 2007 led to a reduced presence of SAF troops in the operation Althea. Slovenia contributed a liaison group (EUPIC), troops to the EUFOR command, alongside transport aircraft and crew.

The Slovenian contingent received support from the national support element and the national intelligence cell. The operational focus was on maintenance of a stable and safe environment, and transfer of military matters to the responsible national authorities.

A new area for EU operations opened in Chad and Central African Republic where SAF troops were also deployed. As part of the EUFOR force, a Slovenian officer was assigned to the Paris-based operational command and another to the force command in Chad. Owing to the difficult situation in the operation, members of the unit, excluding two members of the command structure, participated for a total of four months.

5.3 NATO operations

As part of NATO forces' rotation within KFOR, the SAF continuously provided two motorised companies forming a combat group, together with the Italian and Hungarian company under Slovenian command during the first rotation, which functioned as part of the Task Force West. In addition, one Bell 412 helicopter was deployed to Kosovo and a liaison military team (LMT) to Klina. During the second rotation in September, the battalion HQ and the helicopter were withdrawn, and command of the combat group transferred to Hungary. Slovenia for the first time participated in the NATO Training Team (NTT) and the Military Civilian Advisory Division (MCAD) of the KFOR command.

The SAF contributed 208 troops to the ISAF operation. They were mainly engaged in protection of the logistics base and airfield at Herat. As part of the operation, Slovenia introduced the panel bridge COMPACT 200 into operation. The SAF enhanced its participation in ISAF operations through the activities of Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLT), targeted at supporting exercises and training of the members of the Afghan Army.

The SAF deployed six military instructors to NTM-I and concluded its participation in the operation on 31 December 2008.

Graph 1: Overview of SAF participation in multinational operations and missions in 2008 (annually)

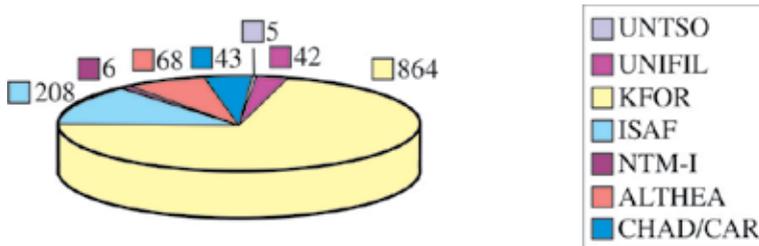


Table 1: Overview of SAF participation in multinational operations and missions in 2008 (annually)

Name of operation	International forces	Area of operation	Operational leadership	Rotation	No. of service members in 2008
UNTSO		Middle East	UN	12 months	5
UNIFIL		Lebanon	UN	6 months	42
JOINT ENTERPRISE	KFOR	Kosovo	NATO	6 months	864
	NATO command in Sarajevo	Sarajevo	NATO	6 months	4
ISAF	ISAF	Afghanistan	NATO	6 months	208
	CENTCOM command		USA	6 months	2
NTM-I		Iraq	NATO	6 months	6
ALTHEA	EUFOR	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EU	6 months	68
CHAD/CAR	EUFOR	Chad	EU	4 months	43
Total					1,242

Table 2: Overview of the annual average number of participants in SAF multinational military operations and missions to date

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of participants	57	36	108	97	99	69
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of participants	174	199	238	284	542	456

6 INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY ACTIVITY

The Intelligence and Security Service of the ministry (ISS) focused in its assessments primarily on the military, political and security situation in the Western Balkans,

particularly the resolution of Kosovo crisis and other crisis areas (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Chad, and Iraq) where SAF troops are engaged in international operations and missions.

Presence and activity within the intelligence and security structures of NATO and the EU continued and was further strengthened. Within the EU intelligence and security structures, Slovenia continued active participation and these efforts were intensified during the Slovenian presidency of the EU Council. In line with the programme of the EU Council Presidency, special importance was attached to the Western Balkans, where monitoring of the military, political and security situation was intensified, and ISS regularly updated the leadership of the ministry and the SAF. Intensive contacts with the intelligence directorate of the Military Staff (EUMS Int) were maintained. ISS hosted the Intelligence Workshop at the level of deputy directors of defence intelligence services from the EU Member States. The workshop revolved on finding solutions for the intelligence support of EU operations, both during planning and implementation of the operation.

Within NATO, ISS continued with active involvement in intelligence and security committees, the development of NATO-agreed intelligence products and as part of the NATO Intelligence Warning System (NIWS). ISS also intensified activity in the Intelligence Fusion Centre (IFC) by assigning another analyst. The implementation of the adopted NATO force goals in the area of intelligence and security activity continued. In accordance with the applicable documents and proposals, and alongside the SAF, the ministry continued the integration process for intelligence and security activity in the defence area. Our final objective remains the establishment of an appropriate and communications-related structure for intelligence and security activity in the defence area, allowing ISS to gather intelligence from the whole range of available defence resources, and analyse and disseminate it in real time.

7 SYSTEM OF PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS

Research and development

A total of 22 tasks were completed. The Target Research Programme "Knowledge for Security and Peace" included 8 tasks related to intervention measures, defence against bioterrorism, identification of risks associated with gravel movement, development of methods for the identification of viruses in potable water, etc. With reference to technological development of equipment for an improved fire protection in the Karst region, 6 tasks were completed, focusing on the development of fire-fighting vehicles and wild-fire equipment, and video control of the fire threat. In the area of fire protection, 5 tasks were concluded and 3 tasks were funded by the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR).

Communications and information system

The communications and information system was successfully upgraded. Major tasks and procurement activities included the transition to optical fibre access networks,

replacement of the main network equipment, streaming and SPIN servers, and installation of a new WAP server.

There was a continuation of the development and upgrading of the SPIN, GIS Ujme, SPU PLK and Vode applications, and the acceptance and modernisation of public alerting systems at the local level. A new system for public alarms was set up in the municipality of Maribor. The second part of the siren network of the public alert system was linked with notification centres.

Monitoring, notification and alerting

Operational and communications tasks concerning monitoring, notification and alerting are carried out by the Republic of Slovenia Notification Centre and 13 regional notification centres responding to the emergency call number 112, round the clock, 365 days per year. Notification centres ensure that all rescue services are on standby and that rescue units are quickly activated.

In order to support a quicker and better response of operators, the following internal documents and operating procedures for notification and activation during disasters were drawn up: a procedure for SAF aircraft activation in search and rescue, a guide on deer-related road traffic accidents (with the adoption of the Hunting Act, regional notification centres are now in charge of animal-related traffic accidents), instructions on measures during storms, floods and other disasters, and rules of procedure for animal-related reporting.

The national notification centre provides daily information for the public on the system of protection against natural and other disasters and has to date published 21 special bulletins (extraordinary events and potential threats from storms).

Prevention activity

The special attention of ACPDR was dedicated to prevention activity. A manual for examination in fire protection proficiency was drawn up. It will also be used to support daily prevention activity by personnel responsible for fire-protection measures.

In view of the public interest in fire prevention, requirements and implementation methods are being defined for individual fire protection measures and relevant powers, which will become particularly important in the future as part of the implementation of the Directive on internal market services. In 2008, 110 authorisations for contracting parties including regulations on specific fire-protection tasks were issued.

In co-operation with the Fire Fighting Association of Slovenia, the Slovenian Forest Service and the Slovenian Fire Protection Association, ACPDR organised joint activities in the form of written materials and lectures on wild forests in 2008. They were targeted at the local population, primary school children, fire-fighters, representatives of local

communities, public forest services, hunting societies, police forces and persons responsible for fire protection measures. A seminar on wildfires was organised for the expert public, and a seminar on elevators for fire-fighters – requirements, planning, checks and tests, and practical implications for technical operators of the installed active fire-protection systems. ACPDR also participated in seminars on chimney services and fire-protection surveys.

Activities included information services and training for the population and pre-school and school children, and were aimed at raising knowledge of the search and rescue system. Knowledge about search and rescue is also spread through topic-related activities in individual years and participation in major public events. In 2008, ACPDR participated in the organisation of a children's bazaar, a festival of the third age and tests of first aid and Red Cross teams' qualifications.

In 2008, a total of 2,135 applications and documents were received concerning project requirements and fire permits for project solutions as part of the approval process for building permits for facilities subject to prescribed fire protection studies, and the issuance of guidance and opinions on physical planning documents. Based on the procedures carried out in compliance with the General Administrative Procedure Act, 1,933 documents were issued.

Organisational and operational activity, and damage assessment

In terms of organisation, the majority of activities involved adjusting rescue services and units to requirements, linking and co-ordinating various services, refining organisational preparations for threats including hazmat accidents, employment of weapons or assets for mass destruction, terrorist attacks with conventional means, unexpected contamination of the sea, and earthquakes of grade seven or higher according to the European earthquake scale in the most threatened areas. Supplements were drawn up for national protection and rescue plans in the event of nuclear and air accidents and floods.

A total of 71 contracts on co-funding of activities were concluded with various services, associations and societies. Contracting activity also involved members of regional boards and the national board for damage assessment during natural and other disasters, and facilitators of preparedness of units and services at terrorist activities.

The AJDA application for damage assessment during natural disasters was upgraded, including information from the register of buildings and land that will allow for a quicker and more detailed inventory of facilities and crops damage.

Cleanup of the crash site of the Adria aircraft on Corsica

In May 2008, in line with the decision of the RS Government, 60 members of the provisional formation of Civil Protection, including members of Civil Protection, fire-fighters, mountain-rescuers, ACPDR employees and SAF troops, supported with a mid-

sized SAF transport helicopter, successfully completed the cleanup operation at the site of the crash, in 1981, of an Adria DC9 aircraft on Corsica.

During the first quarter of the year, organisational, personnel and technical preparations were carried out for the cleanup of the crash site of the Adria aircraft on Corsica. To assist field units removing aircraft debris on Corsica, a communications and information network was set up. On San Pietro mountain, more than 27 tonnes of aircraft debris and other material from the crash were collected, transported by helicopter to the valley and handed over to the responsible authorities.



Civil Protection members cleaning the crash site of the Adria aircraft on Corsica

Photo: Borut Podgoršek

The cleanup operation, led and logistically supported by ACPDR, was conducted with the co-operation of the local, Corsican and French national authorities. It was completed at the end of May 2008 with the erection of a crash site memorial on San Pietro mountain.

Extraordinary events

Accident at the Blanca hydro-electric power plant: In the period 3–8 July 2008, a rescue operation took place at the Blanca hydro-electric power plant. It involved representatives of the police, Underwater Rescue Service of Slovenia, Slovenian Kennel Club, Cave Rescue Service, Mountain Rescue Service, the Posavje health and social centres, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, fire-fighters from the general units, volunteer fire-fighters, representatives of the construction site services, fire-fighters of the IGD Brestanica thermal power plant, rafters and kayakers, and commanders and members of Civil Protection staffs. The rescue operation involved 1,379 people. Findings and recommendations for future work were presented at a joint analysis of rescue-service representatives.

Landslide: Halfway along the mountain track between the alps Rudno and Velo polje on the ridge below Tošec, a landslide occurred in the first half of June. Based on the reports of geologists and a threat assessment, the Civil Protection commander issued a decree requiring ACPDR to remove the material. In line with the instructions and under

the constant control of geologists, the contractor carried out the removal of rock blocks on and above the path in July. Transport of machines to and from the site of the landslide was provided by SAF helicopters.

Storms: Several storms were recorded in 2008 in Slovenia, with effects on many municipalities and significant damage to property.

On 13 and 14 July 2008, a storm accompanied by strong winds and hail affected many municipalities, and large areas of forest were destroyed. As part of the emergency response, ACPDR provided large quantities of shelter material, aggregates and other means.



Effects of storm

Photo: Jaka Oražem

A storm that raged in the evening and night hours from 15 August to 16 August inflicted tremendous damage on different types of buildings and infrastructure, but also in agriculture. Owing to the extraordinary thickness of hail, the storm caused extensive damage to roofs of buildings, particularly in the municipalities of Ptuj and Destrnik.

During the disaster, regional boards were activated to assess damage in the affected regions or municipalities, including professional and particularly volunteer fire-fighting units, utility and other services, while in the most affected municipalities Civil Protection staff were called up and additional other services and bodies, notably those managing different types of infrastructure. Activation and operation of these various rescue services was carried out in a timely, organised and efficient manner.

Fire on the plain Dravsko polje: A fire broke out at the waste disposal area at Lovrenc on Dravsko polje in July and several tonnes of waste tyres were burnt. The fire was confined by as many as 438 fire-fighters the following day. The fire-fighting operation covering an area of 12,000 m² included 80 volunteer fire-fighting societies.

Equipping and maintenance

With the aim of promoting and modernising protective and rescue equipment of fire-fighting units of volunteer fire-fighting societies and facilitating co-ordinated development

of these units, a public call for applications was published to co-fund the protective and rescue fire-fighting equipment. On this basis, 758 contracts were concluded. Public procurement for acquisition of a special fire-fighting vehicle for tunnel rescue operations to be delivered in 2009 and handed over to the Jesenice Fire Fighting Rescue Service was also conducted. Financial means was provided to co-fund the purchase of equipment for 20 first-aid teams. A smoke house and a training road tunnel designed for training of first-responders in tunnel accidents were built. The latter is one of the few in Europe and as such is especially important for Slovenia with the increasing annual rate of road tunnels.



Training road tunnel



Smoke house

Photo: Jaka Oražem

National commodity reserves and equipment of protection, rescue and relief units

In line with the adopted programme for the provision of national commodity reserves and the equipping programme for protection, rescue and relief units, some large investment purchases were carried out for caravans, mobile housing units, a chemical detector, a bag for the transport of unexploded explosive ordnance, an upgraded medical trailer, equipment for quick interventions, and a gas detector. A comprehensive and responsive logistical system to support the operations of protection, rescue and relief forces was set up at the national and regional levels.

Fire fund

The fire tax funds are regarded as specific appropriations of the Slovenian budget. In 2008, general funds were allocated for the procurement of insulating breathing apparatuses, signals equipment (including personal pagers and radio stations), forest fire equipment, equipment for mitigation of the results of large floods, and equipment for fire fighting with helicopters. Co-funding was provided for the procurement of fire-fighting vehicles for forest fires in the western parts of Slovenia, to fund training of operational volunteer fire-fighters, for research and development activity in fire fighting and fire protection, and for the maintenance of the fire-fighting and rescue equipment in the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief.

Exercises

In October, command-staff theoretical exercise NEK 2008 was carried out, based on the assumption that an extraordinary event had occurred at the Krško Nuclear Power Plant. Some 350 participants were actively involved in the exercise. The exercise concluded with an exercise analysis, during which recommendations were developed to supplement the national protection and rescue plan in the event of a nuclear accident.

In September, Hungary and Romania hosted a 5-day international protection and rescue exercise within the EU civil protection mechanism Huromex 2008, in which 23 members of Slovenian protection and rescue forces took part.

Also in September, an international exercise on assessing earthquake-related damage in buildings took place in Ljubljana, at Ig and Čezsoča near Bovec. The exercise was the concluding event of the STEP project funded by the European Commission and managed by Italy as the project's leading nation. During the exercise, participants from 12 nations examined the methodology for assessing earthquake-related damage in buildings that was developed as part of the project. Experts from the Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute were also involved as observers.

Slovenia also took part in NATO-led exercise USSIMA08 on flood scenarios, held in June in Finland. The exercise was attended by 43 units from 20 countries of the Euroatlantic Partnership Council. Slovenia contributed part of the scuba diving rescue unit.

International co-operation

ACPDR's international activity was focused on the Slovenian EU Council Presidency in the area of civil protection, on intensifying regional and bilateral relations, particularly with the Western Balkan nations, and on active participation in international organisations. As part of presidency activities, two events were organised in Slovenia i.e. the meeting of directors-general for civil protection and a seminar on enhanced co-operation in civil protection with the candidate countries and countries of the Western Balkans. The third major presidency-related task of ACPDR involved harmonisation of the response measures of the civil protection mechanism in third countries during large-scale disasters, such as the earthquake in Kyrgyzstan, floods in Ecuador and Bolivia, the tropical cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China, where ACPDR provided expert support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by managing strategic and political co-ordination of the response measures of the EU civil-protection mechanism during the disasters.

Worthy of special mention is the award received by ACPDR for exceptional achievements in introducing new technical solutions and promoting the uniform emergency call number 112.



ACPDR receiving the 112 Emergency Number Award

Photo: www.eena.org

The majority of activities concerning regional relations were carried out as part of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE).

In 2008, Slovenia provided rescue and humanitarian relief by providing a situation-analysis expert within the EU civil-protection mechanism during the earthquake in Kyrgyzstan, by contributing 50,000 EUR during cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, by delivering 30 tents for provisional shelter to the value of 92,420 EUR during the earthquake in China, and by providing 100,000 EUR of financial help during Georgia's unrest.

8 INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA OF PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS

With reference to inspections, 7,516 inspection tasks were accomplished, 4,836 of which included inspections. A total of 2,680 regulatory decisions were issued, 1,334 of which included inspection, regulatory decisions determining deadlines for the resolution of deficiencies in fire protection, protection and rescue, and protection against drowning, 696 of which were acts on the extension of deadlines for deficiency removal, 94 decisions based on the General Administrative Procedure Act, 45 enforcement decisions, 115 decisions on procedure termination based on the Inspection Act, and 396 notes for the file. Inspectors also participated in 8 boards for the identification of fire causes and in 13 emergency operations during fires, explosions or other disasters.

As part of their law enforcement authority, inspectors accomplished 831 tasks, 96 of which involved payment notices and 87 procedures were related to the issuance of offence decisions, comprising 49 offence decisions and 648 offence warnings.

With the aim of improving work effectiveness, a computer programme for the administrative procedure information system was introduced, to serve as an essential tool for task planning and preparation of reports on the realisation of work plans.

Three expert seminars were organised and carried out in 2008.

9 DEFENCE INSPECTIONS

A total of 108 inspections were conducted out of the 120 planned. These inspections took 510 inspection days, compared with the 450 planned. The overall result is close to the planned target; despite a lower number of inspections, more inspection work was accomplished with more inspection days compared to the plan.

While performing inspections, inspectors produce inspection reports imposing the removal of the established deficiencies on the bodies inspected. They consequently monitor the implementation of these tasks and advise the bodies on the established deadlines and their obligations for task accomplishment. Out of the 292 tasks set, 288 were realised. Unrealised tasks are monitored by inspectors up to their final achievement.

10 INTERNAL AUDITING

Two regular and two extraordinary audits were carried out. Priority was given to the collection of appropriate and adequate evidence to assess whether internal auditing of the use of company vehicles and procedures pertaining to research and development manages the risks of operation, reporting and legal compliance to the extent that implementing the goals set is feasible. Expert advice has been used in an attempt to improve risk management and the system of internal control.

Extraordinary audits focused on the correct execution of the sales contract between the ministry and the company Trilogija d.o.o., the order procedure, and the implementation of the construction contract for hangar reconstruction and building of the covered parking lot for tanker trailers.

Through the investigation procedures, the ministry aimed to verify that the execution and efficiency of supervision had progressed as planned. The system of internal control in the inspected areas of the ministry was not yet properly functioning. It was established, however, that control was achieved in individual parts of the business but was not functioning as planned in individual cases, and that this could not prevent and identify mistakes, nor guarantee the execution of the set business plans within the anticipated timescale.

11 COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC

The major project of the Public Relations Service was the provision of communication services at defence-related events during the Slovenian presidency of the EU Council. Through appropriate communication support and organisation of media activity, the service tried to attract the interest of the national and foreign media to the highest extent possible. Greatest media attention was given to the informal meeting of EU defence ministers at Brdo pri Kranju, with the participation of influential reporters and correspondents from Brussels. Work with Slovenian national and local radio stations also intensified. The latter, in particular, reported on all major events of the ministry during the presidency.

In the field of public communications, the service continued with communication strategies concerning the procurement of 8 x 8 light armoured vehicles, which raised most media questions, and the renovation of the Cerklje ob Krki airbase. In the area of civil protection and disaster relief the service provided detailed information to the public on the cleanup operation at the crash site of the Adria aircraft on Corsica. The media were also interested in the activities of the SAF, investment projects, human resources management in the ministry and the SAF, and the real estate managed by the ministry.

We organized 12 major press conferences and prepared press statements were for all major events, such as presentations on events and projects at the ministry and in the SAF, visits of the minister and the Chief of the General Staff to the SAF abroad, their visits to Slovenian troops in MOM and units in Slovenia, and their meetings with foreign defence ministers and chiefs of staff.

Each day, the service received, on average, three questions or requests for statements or detailed articles, and it prepared 327 answers in total.

One of the major projects of the Public Relations Service was the modernisation of the www.slovenskavojska.si website, and involvement in the recruitment campaign for the SAF entitled "We Take Pride".



Communication strategy in the recruitment campaign

Photo: Pristop

As part of our bilateral work with similar services in defence ministries of other countries, return visits were paid to the counterpart services of the Serbian and Croatian ministries of defence. In October, at the informal meeting of public relation services of defence ministries of the EU Member States in Paris, the defence-related communication services of the ministry during the Slovenian EU Council Presidency were successfully presented.

B REPORTS ON MANAGING RESOURCE PLANS

1 FINANCIAL PLAN

In its work, the ministry spent EUR 546 million, which was 96.8% of the valid or 97.5% of the adopted financial plan according to the budget supplement.

Table 3: Budgetary resources for 2008

in EUR

Budget supplement 2008 (30 May 2008)	Valid fin. plan 2008	Realisation 2008	Increase – appropriations	Reduction – government decisions
560,078,620	564,474,284	546,271,569	16,547,208	-12,151,544

The difference between the valid financial plan (as of 31 December 2008) and the adopted financial plan following the budget supplement (May 2008), in the total amount of EUR 4.4 million, resulted from the increase of appropriations by EUR 16.5 million, a reduction of EUR 15.7 million following the decision of the RS Government on reallocation to other budget-users and funds acquired following decisions of the RS Government in the amount of EUR 3.5 million. Reallocation of funds among the direct spending units within the ministry affected only the spending rights of individual units.

The integral funds of the ministry represented 96.5% and the appropriations 3.5% of the realised financial plan. EUR 14.3 million was transferred from 2007, and inflows were EUR 2.2 million higher than planned indicating a total increase of the appropriations of the valid financial plan by EUR 16.5 million.

The difference between the valid financial plan and the realisation as on 31 December 2008 was an unspent amount of EUR 18.2 million. Of that amount, EUR 12.2 million of the unspent appropriations was transferred to the 2009 fiscal year.

The remaining funds include mainly integral resources of investment into Basic Development Programme in the amount of EUR 3.2 million and current expenditure totalling EUR 1.3 million, followed by investments of EUR 0.8 million, salaries of EUR 0.6 million, and research and development funds. The realisation of integral resources compared to the valid financial plan is 98.9%. The realisation of appropriations is 61.1%, chiefly as a result of the management of state property, for which the largest amount of funds will be transferred to the next year.

The indicated differences between the adopted and valid financial plan and realisation are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Comparison of planned and actual expenditure in 2008

in EUR

Spending unit	Adopted fin. plan following budget suppl. (30 May 2008)	Valid fin. plan for 2008	Difference = valid fin. plan – adopted fin. plan following budget suppl.	Realisation 2008	Difference = valid fin. plan – realisation 2008
Integral funds	545,202,738	533,051,193	–12,151,545	527,062,427	5,988,766
Appropriations	14,875,882	31,423,091	16,547,209	19,209,141	12,213,950
Total	560,078,620	564,474,284	4,395,664	546,271,568	18,202,716

In contrast to the 2007 realisation, the realised financial plan for 2008 exceeded the former by EUR 58.2 million, and the growth index of the entire financial realisation was 111.9%. In the expenditure structure by economic purposes, integral funds included an increased proportion of investment, current expenditure and salaries, and a decreased proportion of investment into Basic Development Programme (as a result of the changed funding policy for new Basic Development Programme), and research and development. Nominal amounts were higher in all areas, except for science and technological development, with the reduction of funds spent by EUR 2.5 million, and investment into Basic Development Programme where spending decreased by EUR 37.7 million. In the structure of appropriations, spending decreased compared to the year 2007. Table 5 shows the comparison of realisation of financial plans between 2007 and 2008.

Table 5: Comparison of realisation of financial plans for 2007 and 2008

in EUR

Type of funds	Realisation 2007	Structure of realisation 2007	Realisation 2008	Structure of realisation 2008	Index 2008/2007
Integral	469,094,771	96.1	527,062,427	96.5	112.4
Earmarked	18,966,274	3.9	19,209,141	3.5	101.3
Total	488,061,045	100	546,271,568	100	111.9

In comparison with the adopted financial plan for 2008, realisation dropped by EUR 13.8 million, and the spending index was 97.5. The realisation of integral funds indicates a reduction of EUR 18.1 million, a lower proportion for investment and a higher for salaries

and current expenditure. The realisation of appropriations was EUR 4.3 million higher than planned, particularly owing to management funds for state property. A comparison of the planned and the actual expenditure is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Comparison of realisation with the adopted financial plan by economic purpose

in EUR

Economic purpose	Adopted fin. plan 2008 after budget suppl. (30 May 2008)	Structure of adopted fin. plan	Realisation of fin. plan 2008	Structure of realisation	Index
	1	2	3	4	$5=3/1*100$
Salaries	264,807,641	47.3	273,640,694	50.1	103.3
Current expenditure	109,746,109	19.6	120,126,004	22.0	109.5
Investment	100,546,971	18.0	93,198,119	17.1	92.7
Science and technology development (area 05)	18,183,134	3.2	16,757,676	3.1	92.2
EU Presidency (area 03)	101,402	0.02	101,348	0.0	99.9
Basic Development Programme	51,817,481	9.3	23,238,586	4.3	44.8
Integral funds – total	545,202,738	97.3	527,062,427	96.5	96.7
Fire funds	5,357,549	1.0	6,803,265	1.2	127.0
State property management	8,570,331	1.5	11,425,201	2.1	133.3
Ministry's own activity	948,002	0.17	980,675	0.2	103.4
Appropriations – total	14,875,882	2.7	19,209,141	3.5	129.1
Total	560,078,620	100	546,271,568	100	97.5

Table 7 shows the nominal growth of the defence budget in the period 2001–2008.

Table 7: Nominal growth of defence budget in 2001–2008

in EUR

Year	Defence budget	Nominal growth	Inflation in %
2001	286,119,963		8.4
2002	291,250,512	102	7.5
2003	321,075,010	110	5.6
2004	357,884,342	111	3.6
2005	386,507,496	108	2.5
2006	446,653,994	116	2.5
2007	488,061,046	109	3.6
2008	546,271,569	112	5.7

Defence expenditure

Defence expenditure for 2008 was first approved on 5 December 2006 in the amount of EUR 610,607,000, which represented 1.81% of GDP (Autumn Forecast of Economic Trends, 2006, IMAD).

On 13 December 2007, amendments to the financial plan were adopted reducing defence expenditure by EUR 2,575,000 to EUR 608,032,000. Defence expenditure then represented 1.69% of GDP (Autumn Forecast of Economic Trends, 2007, IMAD).

10 June 2008 saw the adoption of a budget supplement with a further reduction of defence expenditure by EUR 38,511,000 to 569,522,000. That represented 1.57% of GDP (Spring Forecast of Economic Trends, 2008, IMAD) or 1.52% of GDP given in the Updated Autumn Forecast of Economic Trends, 2008.

Table 8: Defence expenditure in 2007 and 2008

Economic purpose and GPR		2007	2008			
		Realisation	Adopted fin. plan 5 Dec 2006	Adopted fin. plan 13 Dec 2007	Budget suppl. and decisions of RS Government 10 June 2008	Realisation
Defence system		395,433	564,644	562,070	523,559	506,289
0703 – PU 1912, 1913	Civil and fire protection	31,704	32,069	34,069	36,519	39,983
MoD Financial plan		488,061	596,714	596,139	560,079	546,272
% Financial plan in GDP		1.42	1.77	1.66	1.54	1.47

Pensions	54,838	45,208	45,208	45,208	59,230
Other spending units	734	754	754	754	397
Basic Development Programme 2	55,090				
Defence expenditure	506,095	610,607	608,032	569,522	565,915
GDP in mio EUR	34,471	33,793	35,953	36,308	37,126
	Spring forecast 2009	Autumn forecast 2006	Autumn forecast 2007	Spring forecast 2008	Spring forecast 2009
% Defence expenditure in GDP	1.47	1.81	1.69	1.57	1.52

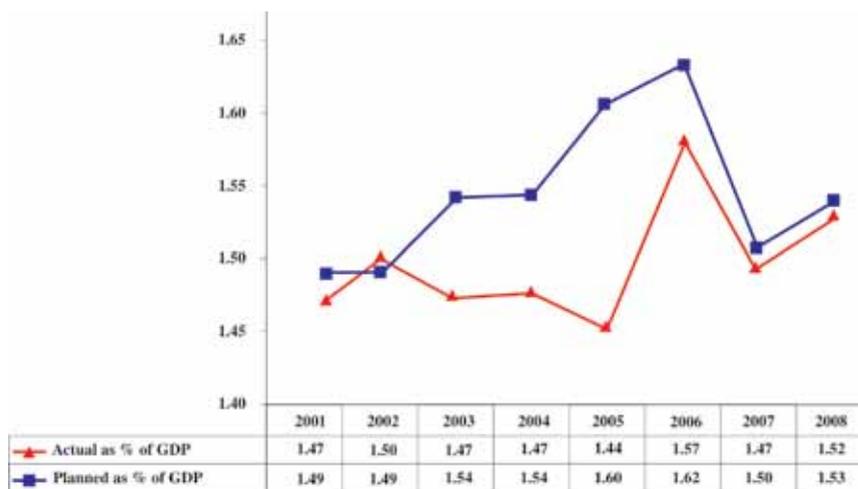
Realisation in defence system (the administrative part of the ministry, the SAF and the Defence Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia) was EUR 17.3 million lower than planned according to the budget supplement. Given the structure of economic purpose, investment was almost EUR 32.9 million lower than planned, EUR 8 million more was

spent on salaries and EUR 7.6 million on current expenditure. The new estimation of military pensions received from the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute on 29 January 2009 increased pensions by EUR 14 million. The realised defence expenditure is in fact lower than the spending endorsed with the budget supplement by EUR 3.6 million. It totals EUR 565,915,000 and represents 1.52% of GDP.

In comparison with 2007, defence spending in 2008 increased by almost EUR 60 million or 0.04 percentage points. Salaries increased by EUR 38 million, current expenditure by EUR 27 million and pensions by EUR 4 million, while investment was reduced by EUR 9 million.

The difference between the planned and the actual defence expenditure was biggest in 2005 when actual defence spending represented 90% of that planned. Actual defence expenditure was lower than that planned as a result of reduced realisation of current expenditure and procurement of military equipment according to Basic Development Programme 2.

Graph 2: Comparison of planned and actual defence expenditure in GDP



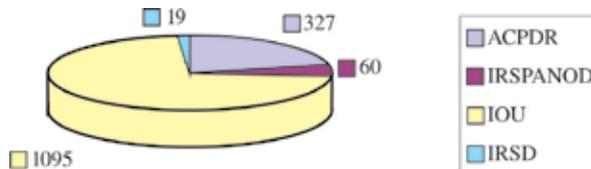
2 PERSONNEL PLAN

On the basis of the Joint Personnel Plan for State Administration Bodies for 2008, the RS Government determined the permitted number of ministry employees as of 31 December 2008.

Employees in ministry administration

The ministry's administration sections hired 50 employees. As of 31 December 2008 there were 1,551 employees: 1,147 in internal organisation units (IOU) of the ministry, 328 in the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR), 59 in the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters (IRSPANOD) and 17 in the Defence Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (IRSD). Of the total number of employees, 165 performed military duties under Article 47 and 48 of the Defence Act (156 in internal organizational units and 9 in the Defence Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia), and 8 were deputising for absent civil servants. This refers to the situation on 31 December 2008, which takes into account the personnel plan of the RS Government and the 1,378 employees at the time (19 more than allowed in the plan).

Graph 3: Structure of employees in ministry administration



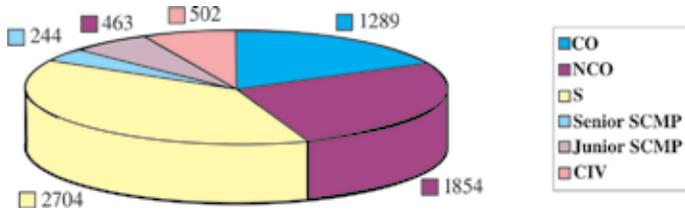
Permanent structure of the SAF

According to the personnel plan of the RS Government for 2008, the SAF personnel plan (7,999 employees) also includes employees performing military duties in positions within the administrative parts of the ministry under Articles 47 and 48 of the Defence Act.

The key challenge in achieving operational capabilities is to resolve personnel discrepancies and gaps in SAF units and commands. Priority in unit manning will be given to technical staff.

As of 31 December 2008, the SAF had a total of 7,034 members (excluding employees performing military duties in the administrative sections of the ministry): 1,234 officers (CO), 1,861 non-commissioned officers (NCO), 2,671 soldiers (S), 272 senior special category of military personnel (SCMP), 481 junior SCMP, 493 support staff and 22 officials. The realisation rate of SAF employees on 31 December 2008, compared with the RS Government personnel plan is 90% (with a difference of 800 from the RS Government personnel plan), or 87.9% if military posts in the administrative parts of the ministry are not taken into account.

Graph 4: Structure of SAF personnel



The negative trend of employment in the SAF was halted in 2008 with new appointments exceeding departures. In 2008, 327 persons were employed in the SAF and 294 employees left the SAF.

As part of long-term recruitment for the SAF, Rules on SAF Scholarships were adopted based on the stipulations of the Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act, and an open competition for the award of scholarships in the school year 2008/2009 was published. The competition included 637 scholarships. A total of 360 candidates opted for scholarships, and 236 of these were selected by the selection board.

SAF contract reserve

A total of 477 contracts on military service in the SAF contract reserves were concluded. At the end of 2008, 1,926 contract members were assigned to contract reserves, which represents an 87.5% realisation of the RS Government personnel plan.

Given the structure and the RS Government personnel plan, the attained manning level was 92.1% with 1,778 soldiers, 53.3% with 89 non-commissioned officers, 69.6% with 39 officers and 43.5% with 20 employees of the special category of military personnel.

Some 250 candidates, mostly soldiers, are still due to sign a contract on reserve service and will be selected by the responsible ministry board in 2009 in line with SAF requirements.

Voluntary military service

In accordance with the Military Service Act, and the needs of and opportunities offered by the SAF, draftees were given the opportunity to do their military service as volunteers. In 2008, 240 candidates were planned and 298 candidates eventually applied for voluntary military service. Due to cancellations and health requirements, 190 candidates were assigned for voluntary military service, which represents 79% of the posts available within the SAF.

Familiarisation of conscripts with obligations and rights

In 2008, 10,982 people born in 1990 were invited to attend briefings about the obligations and rights of conscripts. In a number of presentations, information was provided on employment opportunities in the SAF, contract military service in the reserve structure

and voluntary military service. A total of 8,921 conscripts or almost 81% of the planned number took part. Those who did not attend were informed about their obligations and rights through regular mail.

3 ACQUISITION OF PHYSICAL ASSETS AND INFORMATISATION

Main equipment

Major projects and the implemented and completed defence procurement, including deliveries, involved in particular the information command and control system, the Military Message Handling System (MMHS) and the RGW 90 light anti-tank launcher. Contracts for the purchase of CBRN light infantry vehicles (LIV CBRN), equipping and upgrading of Cougar helicopters, 30-mm ammunition and for 8 x 8 armoured vehicles were implemented only partially. The 8 x 8 armoured vehicles project did not progress as planned, and is now at the stage of a renewed quality acceptance. All procedures were completed, including the signing of contracts on the procurement of SPIKE missiles for delivery in 2010 and 2011, rounds for 120-mm mortars for delivery in 2009 and 2010, and two long-range radars for delivery from 2010 to 2011.

New weapon systems, delivered at the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008, have been introduced into operational use in the SAF. They include mainly SPIKE missiles and a simulation system for tactical operations. The F2000S assault rifle and RGW 90 light anti-tank launcher have also been introduced into operational use.



SPIKE anti-armour missile system



RGW 90 light anti-tank launcher

Photo: Bruno Toič

The SAF transport aircraft project was suspended during the course of the purchase order. The logistics project for vehicles included the following: 20 vehicles were delivered for the military police, two vehicles for the Slovenian Armed Forces Band, two combined vehicles with trailers for scuba divers, and 63 trucks. The public competition for the procurement of 4 x 4 all-terrain vehicles was annulled because of inappropriate bids. One Bell 206 training helicopter was procured and is now in operational use. The project to upgrade Cougar helicopters is being implemented on the basis of the amended investment programme. As part of the LIV CBRN 4 x 4 project, tests were performed on vehicles and platforms. Due to technical problems, the final acceptance of the vehicle with the weapon station has been postponed to the beginning of 2009. The competition for fire control centres has been annulled due to invalid bids.



Bell 206 helicopter

Photo: Bruno Toič

CBRN and engineer equipment required for passage construction were delivered. A video-conferencing system, tactical satellite terminals and equipment for a command centre were procured under Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

Based on the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Russian Federation on settling the obligations of the former Soviet Union towards the Republic of Slovenia concerning the balance of goods trading with the former SFRY, arrangements were agreed for the purchase of air-defence rocket and launch systems and a multipurpose SAF vessel.

The firing-range technology project consisted of a public competition, selection of the bidder, and award of the purchasing contract for technology for the Apače and Škrilj firing ranges. Due to delays in the infrastructure project for the Apače firing range, the relevant deliveries of technology is suspended. A firing house will be purchased for the Škrilj firing range.

Informatisation

The first tactical UHF-satellite terminals were brought into operational use, as part of an ongoing project. Equipment was delivered and initial training carried out for the video teleconference system (VTC) project.

The communications and information backbone was upgraded with mobile, optical and multiplex equipment, and server and terminal equipment. The upgrading of the high-speed data transmission links has progressed as planned. Equipment for the VTC project was procured, installed in planned locations, and is being introduced into operational use. The Military Message Handling System (MMHS) project is being implemented in line with plans. Installation and configuration of MMHS servers was completed, and training partially implemented. Activities related to the information command and control system contracts (the information command and control system) have been carried out in accordance with the plan of introduction and the foreseen timetable for procurement. Hardware and software equipment have been delivered and introduced into operational use.

As part of the process of reorganisation of the ministry's communications and information system (CIS), in accordance with the requirements of the Classified Information Act, the administrative communications and infrastructure building blocks of CIS were provided. Activities proceeded on wire segments and investment in the modem part of the communications backbone. Several contracts were concluded on upgrades and maintenance of software solutions for warehouse records, material handling, automated working time registration, information system for public procurement, management and distribution of data of the geographic-information system, and licensed off-the-shelf Microsoft products.

Construction

The SAF infrastructure works proceeded according to plan. Work to finalise the military academy was completed, and the building handed over to the user.

Cerklje ob Krki airbase: The national spatial plan decree was endorsed, investment documentation for the entire area of the airbase was prepared and approved, and a third hangar and an aircraft-technical facility were built. Project documentation for the control tower was completed and the appropriate building permit obtained. A technical inspection was carried out in the third hangar and the relevant operating permit acquired. The facility was then handed over to the user. A technical inspection was conducted in the facility designed for the aircraft-technical unit and the relevant operating permit was obtained. A contractor for the construction, finishing and installation works was selected for the control tower and utility infrastructure.



Cerklje ob Krki airbase

Photo: Bruno Toič

As part of NATO-shared funding, projects and surveys of the national spatial plan for the Cerklje ob Krki airbase were carried out, including implementation projects for the first phase of airbase modernisation which foresees the extension and modernisation of the runway, the construction of a local bypass road from Drnovo to Črešnjice, the provision of navigation lights and an aircraft docking system. Projects for the utility infrastructure and the required airbase fire-fighting infrastructure were prepared and/or are in the stage of implementation.

A public competition and selection of contractors were carried out for the project documentation for demolition approval for 16 buildings at the Cerklje ob Krki airbase.

Maribor military academy: finishing works were carried out, a technical inspection was conducted and the operating permit for the facility was obtained. A contract was awarded for project documentation on landscape design.



Military academy in Maribor

Photo: Bruno Toič

The denationalisation procedure for the Sežana branch training centre was completed. The document for investment project identification, including elements of the pre-investment design, and the investment programme were drawn up and approved. Project documentation for the building permit and project execution was prepared, and the relevant consents and building permit were obtained. A public competition for the execution of the construction, finishing and installation works was prepared and published.

Vipava gymnasium: Upon completion of the ground probing, archaeological investigations were carried out to obtain the relevant cultural heritage preservation permit as the basis for the building permit. Additional Roman remains were uncovered. The pre-investment design, investment programme and project documentation were drawn up and approved. A building permit was obtained, the public competition was carried out and a contract awarded for the execution of construction, finishing and installation works.

The documentation for the acquisition of the building permit for Kranj gymnasium was prepared and approvals were obtained. A road traffic study on the access and exit points was conducted for Slovenian Roads Agency approval. Regulation of the junction will be required for the acquisition of the sports facility's operating permit. The pre-investment design was drawn up and approved. Preparations are underway for the technological project at the firing range.

Apače firing range: Its location is subject to denationalisation procedures. The execution of the planned investment depends on resolution of the land ownership.

Škrlj firing and training site: Project documentation for the Škrlj firing and training site was completed based on the contract from 2007.

Vrhnika singles housing: A building permit is in the process of being acquired, and the investment documentation under review.

Investment maintenance was carried out on the facilities of the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of the Republic of Slovenia at Ig and the Pekre branch training centre, and the logistic centres and branch offices of ACPDR, a classroom was set up at the 208 training ground and the investment programme for the branch training centres at Sežana and Pekre was drawn up.

On the basis of the public procurement procedure, contracts were awarded in 20 sets for the maintenance of all systems and devices of the ZARE telecommunications system in the period 2008–2010. The public procurement procedure and the contract on the upgrading of the public warning system SIJA were successfully implemented. A contract was signed for procurement of 16 special vehicles for Civil Protection staff.

4 SALE OF STATE PROPERTY

In compliance with the Act on Physical Assets of the State, Regions and Municipalities, 18 housing units, business premises in the former Melje military post, a sentry house at

Motvarjevci, 11 plots of land and land with buildings were sold through public auctions, public offers and direct sale. The intangible property of the former Ribnica military post and military facility in Brežice were of higher value.

Among the immovable property that was not sold successfully at auctions was the highly valued land and facilities of the Slovenska vas Institute for Technical Overhaul in Brežice. Two apartments, sports grounds in Ilirska Bistrica, land in Ljubljana, business premises in Maribor, and land in Ajdovščina were all transferred to other state bodies.

With the adoption of the Act (and related Decree) on Physical assets of the State, Regions and Municipalities, and based on the expressed public interest, the ministry as the managing body transferred its management rights to immovable property to individual local communities free of charge.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ADVANCED TRAINING PLAN

Ministry staff were involved in various forms of education, training and advanced training in response to the requirements of the work process and in accordance with the financial capacity of the ministry.

Education for the acquisition of professional qualifications

The aim of education for the acquisition of professional qualifications is to raise the educational level of personnel and to reduce the discrepancy between actual and required levels of education.

Table 9: Contracts signed for the acquisition of a certain level of education

Level of education acquired	No. of new contracts		No. of all valid signed contracts		Total of valid signed contracts
	Admini-stration	SAF	Admini-stration	SAF	
Secondary school		55		48	48
Higher vocational school		21	2	81	83
College		3	6	40	46
University		5	3	20	23
Postgraduate (specialisation, masters degrees, PhD)	12	15	26	55	81
Total	12	99	37	244	
TOTAL	111		281		281

By the end of 2008, the total number of education contracts stood at 281; these were mostly signed with SAF members, and 37 were signed with the employees in administrative sections of the ministry. A total of 42 employees acquired a higher level of education, most of them completing higher vocational schools and colleges.

Functional training

Functional training is aimed at providing general or specific knowledge which employees must acquire in connection with the demands of their specific post.

Individual organisational units of the ministry plan the attendance of staff in various forms of functional training organised by external institutions, the Poljče Defence Training Centre, the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief at Ig and the Doctrine, Development, Education and Training Command as part of the ministry, in relation to the area of work and their specific work requirements. In 2008, the planned total of participants was 12,712 and 10,741 employees (an 84.5% realisation) actually attended various functional and advanced forms of training.

The Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief at Ig carried out various forms of training for 16,355 participants, including 155 ministry employees. Training included programmes for professional fire-fighters, protection and rescue personnel, international participants, dog-handlers, scuba-divers, and other types of training and activities. The branch training centre at Pekre provided education and training for 5,414 fire-fighters and the Sežana training centre for 2,391 fire-fighters.

In response to the requirements of continuous duty service in the Trojane and Karavanke tunnels, education was organised for an increased cohort of professional fire-fighters, 70 participants. In order to meet the requirements of fire-fighters from the Republic of Austria, hot-fire training was organised for 20 fire-fighters.

Language training

Given the long-term objectives of language training (an overall higher level of language proficiency, training for international duties, scientific and research work in the area of specialist military terminology), the ministry is improving the level of general and specialist knowledge of foreign languages through language training.

Education, training and advanced training plans foresaw attendance of 537 employees in various forms of language training. The realisation achieved was 79.5% (427 participants). The majority attended English language courses. The discrepancy with the planned number of participants results from insufficient capacities of the School of Foreign Languages.

Training abroad

The purpose and objective of training abroad is to acquire an appropriate level of specialist and professional knowledge in the international environment, and to transfer knowledge

to the work environment and to education, training and advanced training processes at the ministry. This policy is particularly important because of the Republic of Slovenia's integration into international organisations and the need to achieve interoperability with NATO countries and EU Member States.

The 2008 plans for international education and training anticipated 746 participants. Training was eventually attended by 558 employees (74.8%). The difference between the planned and actual training programmes was biggest in the administrative sections of the ministry, where only 25% of employees taking part in the planned training events.

The realisation rate for planned participation in education and training programmes for SAF staff is 95.8%. The proportion of participating non-commissioned officers increased compared with other categories of SAF personnel.

Table 10: Participants of training programmes abroad

Country	SAF	MoD administration	Total
USA	119	7	126
Italy	50		50
Canada	8		8
Germany – Marshall Center	7	4	11
Germany – NATO School	76	15	91
UK	14		14
Croatia	15		15
Luxembourg	5		5
Switzerland	11		11
Netherlands	18		18
Other countries	180	29	209
TOTAL	503	55	558

6 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Research and development activities (R&D) in the ministry include three kinds of activities segments i.e. NATO, EU and national activities. Within NATO, Slovenia took an active part in the technical panels of the Research Technology Organisation (RTO). In the EU, Slovenia worked as part of R&D activity at the European Defence Agency (EDA). In November, preparations began for a multi-annual Joint Investment Programme on Innovative Concepts and Emerging Technologies (JIP ICET), and co-operation on

the management of the multi-annual Joint Investment Programme Force Protection (JIP FP) from 2007 moved forward. In connection with both of these programmes, together with the Slovenian Technology Agency, the ministry invited Slovenian R&D entities to participate in EDA invitations to tender with the aim of including Slovenia's R&D activity in the collective work programmes of the EU.

At the national level, R&D is part of two areas as R&D in science and technology.

In the Target Research Programme (TRP) entitled "Knowledge for Security and Peace 2004–2010", and public tenders TRP MIR 06 and TRP MIR 07, some projects have been completed successfully, and some are still underway.

In collaboration with the Slovenian Research Agency, the ministry prepared a new public invitation to tender within the framework of the Target Research Programme "Knowledge for Security and Peace 2006–2010" (TRP MIR 08/09). To this end, a call for tenders was published in December 2007 and an additional internal call in January 2008. The tender included the following priority areas: the Slovenian Armed Forces in the 21st Century, Development of Communications and IT Systems for National Security Requirements, Anti-Terrorism Defence, Protection of People and the Environment, and Development and Management of the National Security System.

Within the framework of technological R&D activity, TP MIR projects of the 2006 tender were concluded in 2008. Project results were presented as final reports and questionnaires that were completed in partnership with the agency, and handed over to the Library-Information Centre for access by the wider public.

TP MIR projects from the 2007 tender continue and will be completed by the end of 2009.

Together with the agency, the ministry prepared a third public invitation to tender for the subsidising of projects within the "Technology for Security and Peace 2006–2012" (TP MIR 08/09) technological programme. The tender pursues the following objectives:

- To develop defence, protection and rescue capabilities to ensure the peace, stability and security of the country and international community,
- To develop innovative technologies for an efficient national defence and security system,
- To enhance the image of Slovenia in the EU and NATO,
- To strengthen the role of Slovenian companies in the defence industry.

C OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY

SPORT

The Sports Unit was formed on the basis of an agreement between the ministry, the Ministry of Education and Sport, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Finance. Its primary task is to employ elite athletes. Athletes take part in training and SAF public events, and by doing so promote the SAF, and through their results and hard work Slovenia also.

The Sports Unit employs athletes from different disciplines, such as mountaineering, alpine skiing, athletics, biathlon, boxing, gymnastics, sailing, judo, kayaking and canoeing, kickboxing, cycling, archery, motocross, skydiving, cross-country skiing, shooting, sport climbing, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon and rowing.

This year, athletes achieved some outstanding results. By far the widest attention was given to achievements at the Olympic Games in Beijing in China. Lucija Polavder won a bronze medal in judo, Rajmond Debevec a bronze medal in shooting, and Primož Kozmus a gold medal in hammer throw.

In addition to these achievements, other athletes also excelled with their results and hard work. Petra Majdič won the small crystal globe in the cross-country skiing sprint.

Alongside Lucija Polavder, her colleague Urška Žolnir was also successful and won several medals in judo in the competitions of the World Cup and European Championships. In athletics, triple-jumper Marija Šestak also joined the club of medal holders. Her best achievement of the season was a bronze medal in the World Indoor Championships in Valencia. In biathlon, Klemen Bauer achieved his best ever result with an eighth place in the World Cup in South Korea. In cycling, among the road-racers, Jani Brajkovič excelled in the season as the best Slovenian representative in the ProTour, and like Blaža Klemenčič, the best mountain-biker, won the title of the cyclist of the year in 2008. Also worthy of mention in road cycling are the achievements of Jure Robič, who won the tour of Slovenia in May and celebrated his fourth victory in the Race Across America (RAAM).

CONCLUSION

Overall, 2008 represented one of the more demanding periods for the ministry. The ministry began the year with many expectations and ideas, and equipped with new knowledge, embarked on the learning path of the EU Council Presidency.

The main achievements in the presidency include the agreement achieved among EU Member States on relieving the humanitarian catastrophe in Chad and the Central African Republic. On this basis, the EU decided to launch a bridging military operation that also included an SAF contribution. Progress was also made in developing EU military capabilities. The CME08 crisis-management exercise was carried out successfully. The European directive on the identification, designation and protection of critical infrastructure on the European level was adopted. It was used as the basis for seeking solutions at the national level for the protection of the national critical infrastructure. In the field of protection and rescue, the ministry intensified co-operation in civil protection with the countries of the Western Balkans and provided professional support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in co-ordinating the response measures of the EU civil-protection mechanism for third countries during major disasters.

In addition to the tasks of the EU Council Presidency, work on strengthening international peace and security proceeded without interruption. SAF troops were involved in operations and missions, such as UNIFIL, UNTSO, ALTHEA, KFOR, ISAF, and NTM-I. For the first time, civilian capabilities were assigned to multinational operations in the defence area. In the context of military defence, the ministry streamlined its work on the generation of SAF capabilities along with the process of reorganisation and development of deployable units for operations, the accomplishment of the SAF mission in national and allied contexts, and the development of capabilities for command and control functions and air-space control. The ministry successfully introduced a number of new weapon systems into operational use, carried out a major military exercise "Zmožnosti 2008" and worked alongside civilian organisations. Much work is also underway in the field of SAF professionalisation and manning, organisation of the contract and strategic reserve structure, and SAF integration into NATO.

The protection and rescue system was also tested this year, when its members conducted a cleanup operation, at the beginning of the year, at the site in Corsica where an Adria aircraft crashed in 1981. The next test were the extraordinary events marking 2008, namely the accident at the Blanca hydro-electric plant, the landslide on the mountain track between the alps Rudno and Velo polje, the fire on the plain Dravsko polje and hail storms. An efficient response to accidents is enabled by, in particular, continued education and training, which can largely be attributed to the Slovenian Protection and Rescue Training Centre at Ig and its branch training centres in Sežana and Pekre.

The recognisability of Slovenia in the world increased not only through the successful EU Council Presidency, and involvement in peace-keeping operations, but also through sports achievements, culminating with high-profile Olympic medals from Beijing.

The upcoming year will bring new challenges in the provision of efficient defence for the country as part of national and collective defence. In 2009, the ministry will carry out a strategic defence sector review, which will serve as the basis for implementation of further reforms. In line with this, key strategic planning documents will be prepared: a new long-term programme for the development and equipping of the SAF up to 2025 and a mid-term programme for the period 2009–2014 setting the stage for building major SAF capabilities. Special attention will be dedicated to the establishment of an efficient and comprehensive human resource management system based on ensuring reasonable and transparent career paths for members of the SAF. The system will take into consideration the specifics of military profession and, hence, arrangements for the status of members of the SAF comparable to that for other government employees, and will allow for comprehensive care of members of the SAF and their families.

In partnership with other ministries, the ministry will draw up a new resolution on national security strategy in 2009 as the basis for the amended defence strategy of Slovenia and other doctrinal documents in the field of defence. In the area of protection against natural and other disasters, a new national programme on protection against natural and other disasters for the period 2009–2015 will be developed.