TURKEY ARMED FORCES

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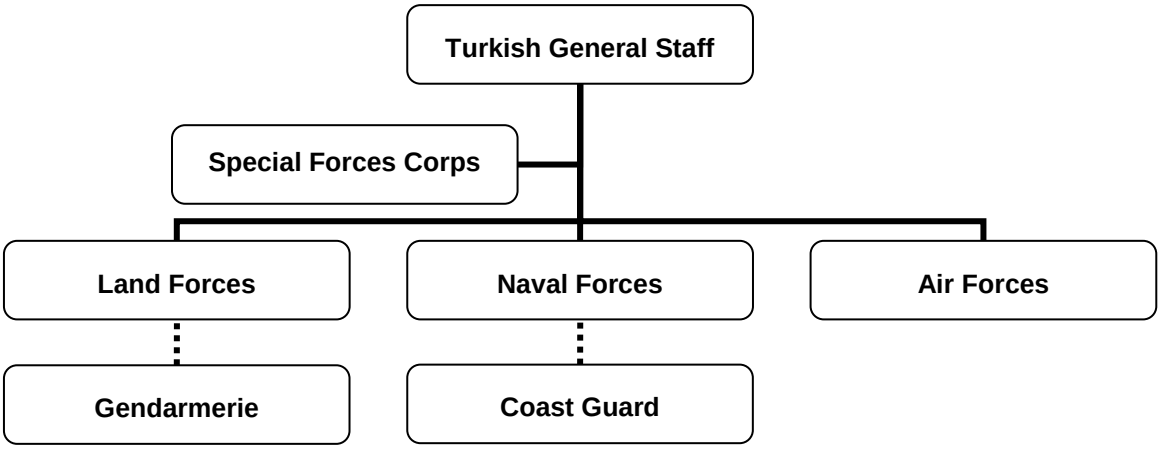
1. A Brief Summary of the Turkish Armed Forces

The Turkish Armed Forces missions and responsibilities are clearly stated in the Turkish constitution and determined by laws as to react against new security challenges and crises in 2000's, to be ready to face the uncertainties, and to ensure the security of Turkey against internal and external risks. Turkish Armed Forces will conduct the following tasks;

* Deterrence,
* Analyses of the security and operation area,
* Operations other than war,
* Crises management,
* Small scale or limited force deployments,
* Conventional war,

The Chief of General Staff is the commander of the Armed Forces, and, in time of war exercises the duties of Commander-in-Chief on behalf of the President of the Republic. The Chief of General Staff is responsible to the Prime Minister and works in very close coordination with National Ministry of Defence for preparing Turkish Armed Forces for the defence of the country.



The Chief of the Turkish General Staff is also responsible for;

- Conducting the military operations effectively
- The operational readiness of Turkish Armed Forces

During peacetime, the Land, Naval and Air Forces Commands report directly to the Chief of the Turkish General Staff. Turkish General Staff and the Ministry of Defense work in close coordination and cooperation to fulfill their respective responsibilities.

During war-time, the General Command of Gendarmerie and the Coast Guard Command which are normally some parts of the internal security forces and affiliated with the Ministry of Interior Affairs at peacetime, fall under Land Forces Command and Naval Forces Command respectively.

Special Forces Command which reports to Turkish General Staff is a strategic unit

composed of personnel with very high physical and intellectual skills. They comprise a multipurpose force with superior training and a flexible command system, organised specially to perform specialised operations and meet various requirements of the Turkish General Staff (TGS), armed with high-tech special equipment and weapons systems dedicated to the task.

2. Steps Planned in Turkey to Transform Its Military Forces to a More Agile and Expeditionary Structure

a. Turkish Armed Forces is the second largest standing force in NATO and one of the main contributors to NATO led operations. Turkey is a vital contributor to the NATO Force Structure, giving high priority to the development and deployability of the NATO Deployable Reaction Corps.

b. Turkish Armed Forces have already taken various steps to realize its vision which is in line with NATO transformation and NATO's new command and force structure. Such steps are as follows:

(1) With the realization of some C4ISR projects, acquisition of interoperable, deployable and sustainable troops,

(2) Development of different procedures, doctrines and concepts, regarding joint operations,

(3) Realization of various military modernization projects,

(4) Acquisition of A 400 M heavy lift airplanes to gain operational & strategic airlift capability.

(5) Introduction of a wide number of new combat systems to improve effective engagement capabilities,

(6) Restructuring two brigades for being able to conduct NATO crisis response operations and one brigade for humanitarian aid missions,

(7) Introduction to an integrated logistics system, capable of being continuous, providing logistical support in all kinds of operational scenarios.

3. Turkey's Contributions to NATO Operations

a. International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) - Afghanistan :

(1) Turkey served as lead nation and commanded the ISAF by a Turkish Major General during ISAF-II, 20 June 2002 to 10 February 2003 while supporting the operations with 1300 troops. Turkey leaded the operations as a 2nd time by the Turkish 3rd Corps as a NRDC-T between 13 February - 04 August 2004. Turkey carried out the leadership of Regional Command (RC) Capital between April 2007- December 2007. Also contributed to ISAF HQ with 100 personnel from NATO Rapid Deployable Coprs –Turkey (NRDC-T) between Aug 2008 and Feb 2009.

(2) Currently Turkey is the leading nation in RC Capital, for one year, started from 01 Nov 09, with a Brigade level HQ, and contributing with nearly 1800 personnel.

(3) In RC-C; two combat battalion-size manoeuvre units are deployed.

(4) Other contributions include:

(a) Wardak Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Wardak Province, RC East,

(b) Four Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLT) partnering three Afghan National Army (ANA) brigade garrison, and a multinational OMLT partnering an ANA Corps HQ.,

(c) Staff personnel to HQs (HQ ISAF:6, HQ IJC:4, HQ NTM-A:3, HQ KAIA:4),

(d) Turkish Armed Forces has been sponsoring the Afghan Army Academy and Military High School in re-construction of buildings, classes, support units and providing equipment to operate these facilities. The total value of the donations made by Turkey including other goverment organizations is about $160 Million,

(e) Turkey has provided support the Afgan Elections with around 90 personnel as Election Support Force, in RC North. These units are planned to be part of a new PRT to be established in RC North AoR.

b. Kosovo Force (KFOR) :

(1) Turkey assumed the leadership of the Multinational Task Force – South (MNTF-S) in KFOR on 29 May 2007 for one year. During her leadership, the commitment to MNTF-S was 723 personnel including 3 helicopters.

(2) Now Turkey contributes to KFOR with 562 personnel In support of international efforts to build peace and stability in Kosovo. In the future, our personnel levels may decrease in accordance with NATO's plans.

(3) Turkey's contribution to the Multi National Engineering Coy with personnel and heavy work vehicles are assisting the local authorities in repairing bridges, levelling roads and other infrastructure services for a better for community life.

(4) Personnel in Liaison and Monitoring Teams are very helpful in providing feedback and open source information to KFOR to accomplishing its mission.

c. Maritime Operations :

(1) Operation Active Endeavour (OAE) : Turkey is a regular contributor to OAE, and in 2009 provided 2 frigates totaly for 40 days, 2 submarines totaly for 4 weeks. Turkey contriutes also, 1 standby corvette permanently located in Izmir, and forward logistics sites in Aksaz and in Mersin.

(2) Turkey regularly contributes a frigate (FFGH) to Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) and has commanded the maritime group from June 2007 to June 2008. The SNMG vessels routinely participate in OAE Surge Operations in Mediterrenean.

(3) Turkish Navy also regularly contributes to Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 2 (SNMCMG2) with a Mine Counter Measures (MCM) vessel. Between June 2006 and June 2007 Turkey provided the flag ship to the force.

(4) Operation Ocean Shield: Turkey supports NATO's counter piracy operations with one frigate assigned to SNMG-2.

(5) Turkish Naval Forces, with the help of Black Sea Harmony operation conducted in Black Sea and Operation Med Shield in eastern Mediterranean contributes to Recognize Maritime Picture of MCC Naples to increase the NATO's Maritime Situational Awareness in the region.

(6) To assist the Allied submarine operations in Mediterrenean, Black Sea and Red Sea, the VLF station located at Bafa/Turkey has been used on availibility basis without any charge by NATO athorities since 2005.

d. NATO Response Force (NRF) :

(1) Considering its potential as a catalyst and vehicle for NATO's overall transformational efforts, Turkey has done remarkable contributions to the establishment of NRF and led NRF 1 & 2 Land Component Command (LCC). Turkey, in 2007 once more led NRF 8 LCC and contributed 2,470 personnel to this rotation including considerable amount of assets to NRF Maritime and Air Components.

(2) For NRF 11 (Jul 08 – Jan 09) Turkey has provided:

(a) Special Operation Component Command (SOCC) - Staff personnel for CJSOCC HQ

(b) Land Component Command (LCC) 1 x Armoured Reconnaissance Platoon

(c) Maritime Component Command (MCC) 1 x Frigate

(d) Air Component Command (ACC) 6 x F16 Fighter Aircraft and 1 x Air to Air Refuelling (AAR) aircraft

(3) For NRF 12 (Jan – Jul 09) Turkey has provided:

(a) SOCC - Staff personnel for CJSOCC HQ

(b) MCC - Staff personnel to MCC HQ, 1 x Mine hunter and 1 x Frigate

(c) ACC - 6 x F-16 Fighter Aircraft and 1 x Air to Air Refuelling (AAR) aircraft.

(4) Turkey, while continuing to contribute to each NRF rotation, will assume the leadership of Special Operations Component Command of NRF 2011 (one

year) and Land Component Command of NRF for the second half of 2011. Turkey also expressed the interest to be the leading HQ in 2014 for the long term rotation plan of HQ ISAF Joint Command.

e. NATO Training Mission-Iraq (NTM-I) ;

(1) Turkey offered 2 officers for the Crisis Establishment 7.0.

(2) As part of Out of Country Training, in 2005 54 Iraqi's attended a TUR-led course, 36 in 2006 and 24 in 2007. In 2008, 8 Iraqis attended two courses in the PfP training centre (Combating Organised Crimes and Mine, Counter Mine and Disasters Course) which were a bilateral offer.

(3) Turkey has contributed €200,000 to the Trust Fund without caveats.

(4) Furthermore, Turkey has offered to train 300 Iraqi officers in 2010 as part of Out of Country Training.

f. Baltic Nations Air Policing :

Turkish Air Forces provided 4 F-16 and technical support for air policing in Baltic States air space between 1 April to 31 July 2006.

4. Turkey's Hosting Responsibilities for NATO Capabilities and Facilities

a. Hosting NATO capabilities and facilities :

(1) Component Command Air HQ (CC Air HQ) Izmir

Component Command Air HQ (CC Air HQ) İzmir is subordinate to JFC Naples. It is responsible for the conduct of the full range of air operations throughout the NATO Area of Operations (AOR) and beyond, as ordered by Joint Force Commander, and exercise the command and control of subordinate commands/units like CAOCs, in order to deter aggression and ensure the territorial integrity of Alliance member states, to contribute to effective crisis management and to enhance peace, security and the promotion of stability. It is also to contribute to the preservation of peace and the promotion of stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area through cooperation activities, exercises, and dialogue through Partnership for Peace and the Mediterranean Dialog activities.

(2) NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Turkey (NRDC-TUR) İstanbul :

NRDC-T is NATO's one of the seven Rapid Deployable Corps at High Readiness, which can be quickly dispatched to lead NATO troops on missions within or beyond the NATO territory. NRDC-T's mission is to be prepared to deploy, on order, to an area of operation designated by SACEUR, and assume command of assigned units to conduct combined, joint military operations across NATO's entire mission spectrum either as a Corps HQ or as a LCC HQ including NRF and Combined Joint Operations (CJFLCC) in order to support crisis management options or sustain extant operations. NRDC-T has been deployed to ISAF several times and the compound is also currently hosting South Eastern European Brigade (SEEBRIG) HQ.

(3) Centre of Excellence Defense Against Terrorism (CoE-DAT) Ankara :

COE-DAT functions as NATO`s transformation expert for defense against terrorism. The vision of the centre is to overcome terrorism as a serious threat to the world peace, and to develop and maintain an academic institution to foster continual self-development by conducting results oriented studies, giving direction and providing education and training as a complete concrete contribution to the fight against terrorism today, and in the future.

The mission of COE-DAT is to:

- Provide defense against training and education at the strategic and operational level.
- Provide HQ SACT subject matter expertise on defence against terrorizm,
- Assist HQ SACT in testing and validating terrorizm related NATO concept through experimentation,
- Assist in doctrine development by contributing knowledge and lessons identified, contributes to NATO standardization and the improvement of capabilities and interoperability.

In accordance with its mission statement, the centre conductsan average of 20 educaton and training activities a year in which about 1530 participants (70% from NATO nations) attend.

Furthermore, COE-DAT participates in various conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings and working groups related to terrorizm in NATO.

(4) Partnership for Peace Training Center (PfP) Ankara[1]:

In the light of decisions taken "In the January 1994 NATO Summit" in Brussels, Turkey decided to establish a "Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Center." Turkish PfP Training Center was inaugurated on 29 June 1998 and recognized by NATO on 12 February 1999. The mission of the Turkish PfP Training Center is to provide qualitative education and training support to military and civilian personnel of NATO, PfP, Mediterranean Dialogue, İstanbul Cooperation Initiative, Contact Countries and other UN countries in accordance with NATO and PfP principles and Interoperability Objectives.

Turkish PfP Center, has conducted 313 courses and 13 seminars from 1998-2009. 9411 personnel from 84 countries attended courses. Among the PfP Training Centers, Turkish PfP Training Center is the first one, which conducted Mobile Training Team Activities. In the last five years, we have trained 1937 personnel in seventeen countries. These numbers show that Turkish PfP Training Center becomes a center of charm which serves to promote PfP spirit by contributing to realizing the interoperability objectives and maintaining continous self development. The course curricula are updated according to operational requirements of the NATO and Partner Nations.

(5) NCSA Sector Izmir and Deployable Communication Module (DCM)

NCSA Sector Izmir is one of the 10 NCSA Sectors located in İzmir. Its aim is to ensure the provision of secure end-to-end information exchange services required for NATO Consultation, Command and Control using fielded Communications and Information Systems in the most cost effective manner.

(6) NATO AEW Forward Operating Base (FOB) Konya[2]:

FOB Konya is one of the NATO AEW Force's few FOBs. It is located at 3 rd Main Jet Base in Konya in the middle of Anatolia and hosts NATO AWACS aircraft. More than 2200 plus successful sorties have been flown since the first flight on October 25th 1983. FOB Konya has proved to be a qualified, reliable FOB with high standards, in times of peace and crisis.

(7) Combined Air Operation Center 6 (CAOC 6) Eskişehir

The command was activated on 1 Sep 99. CAOC 6 took over the duties of the former 6 ATAF based out of İzmir/Turkey. CAOC 6 is one of 5 CAOCs in the Southern Region. It conducts air policing, air defense and interacts with the Turkish Air Force on behalf of NATO.

b. Hosting/Supporting other capabilities and facilities that take part in NATO operations:

(1) South Eastern European Brigade (SEEBRIG) HQ (Deployed to ISAF) İstanbul :

SEEBRIG mission is to contribute to the regional security and stability and to foster good neighborly relationships among the countries in South – Eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Macedonia, Italy and Turkey), in the context of South-East

[1] Please see http://www/bioemtsk.tr for more detailed information.
[2] Please see http://www.e3a.nato.int/html/fob_konya.htm for more detailed information.

Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) process, under the auspices of Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and in the spirit of Partnership for Peace (PfP).

SEEBRIG was established and activated on 31st of August 10 1998.

The current structure of the SEEBRIG is a brigade-sized force of about 5000 troops. Units allocated to the SEEBRIG will remain at their permanent home base locations and will be committed under a task force principle for exercises and operations upon the decisions of the participating Nations and appropriate joint direction and coordination. Currently the SEEBRIG HQ is co-located with NRDC-T in Istanbul.

The force will be available for possible employment in UN or OSCE-mandated NATO-led or EU-led conflict prevention and other peace support operations. It could also participate in "coalition of the willing" type international initiatives. The Force will also function "within the sprit" of PfP.

So far, SEEBRIG has been deployed to ISAF as the Kabul Multinational Brigade from 06 February to 06 August 2006.

(2) Blacksea Naval Cooperation Task Group (BLACKSEAFOR) Karadeniz Ereğli :

BLACKSEAFOR[3] establishment agreement is one of the most important historical documents in Black Sea region. Tasks of the BLACKSEAFOR include:

- Search and Rescue (SAR) operations,
- Humanitarian assistance (HA),
- Mine counter measures (MCM),
- Environmental protection,
- Goodwill visits,
- Any other tasks agreed by all the parties.

The BLACKSEAFOR is composed of Turkish, Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Ukrainian and Georgian naval elements only, without direct participation from air or army services. It can be supported by elements from other services, as and if necessary.

The BLACKSEAFOR conducts exercises, in order to increase its efficiency and interoperability in the execution of the above mentioned tasks. The BLACKSEAFOR is composed of minimum 4-6 ships which are allocated from the parties, including the one command and control ship.

The BLACKSEAFOR is intended to be used in the Black Sea, but if required, could be deployed out of the Black Sea should the parties so choose through a decision by consensus.

The BLACKSEAFOR may also be available for possible employment in the United Nations (UN) or the Organization For Security And Cooperation In Europe (OSCE)-mandated operations. It could also participate in other types of international activities with the aims and tasks of the BLACKSEAFOR. The parties approve their participation within the BLACKSEAFOR in such activities in accordance with their national legislation.

(3) Advanced Logistic Support Site (Supports Active Endeavour

[3] Please see http://www.blackseafor.org for more detailed information.

Operation) Aksaz Naval Base :

Turkish Aksaz Naval Base located in Marmaris, on the South of Turkey in the Mediterranean is a perfectly protected natural harbor and hosts NATO ships and provides logistics supports to Allied Naval Forces in any NATO operations. Currently Aksaz provides active support to NATO's Active Endeavor Operations that is taking place in Mediterranean Sea.

(4) Other Contributions:

Combined Task Force 151 is a multinational naval task force, which was composed by military forces from Coalition States, to fight against piracy and armed robbery in the coast of Somalia, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea. Turkey is amoung the coalition countries and has sent a frigate (TCG GAZİANTEP) on 25'th Feb 2009 to the region. Turkey also assumed the Command of CFT 151 between 01 May-13 Aug 2009.

5. Turkey's Contributions to ISAF Operation

a. Turkey has been contributing to ISAF since 2002 with several units and troops. For the second time, Turkey took over the leadership of the Regional Command – Capital (RC-C) on 1st of November 09, for one year. For the leadership, Turkey has provided 2 Battalion Task Forces, 1 Headquarters and Headquarters Support Battalion, 1 National Support Unit, 1 Helicopter Unit with 3 UH-60s, 1 ROLE-2 Medical Facility, 3 CIMIC Teams, 3 HUMMINT Teams, 3 INFO OPS Teams, 1 SIGNAL Company, 1 CIED Team, 4 OMLTs, 1 PRT in Wardak and 1 Election Support Unit in Mezar-ı Şerif. After the recent deployments, the Turkish manning figures in Afghanistan have shifted from 795 to 1753 personnel.

b. Turkey is sponsoring the Military High School. Turkey provide Military High School with 11 mentors/instructors, Afghanistan Military Academy with 16 mentors/instructors, Kabul Military Training Center with 6 trainers and Command and Staff College with 2 mentors/instructors. Additionally Turkey will provide Afghan Defense Collage with 2 mentors/instructors, 1 in 2010, 2 in 2011. With these, Turkey's total contribution will reach to 38 mentors/instructors. Turkey has trained approximately 9000 Afghan personnel so far. Additional 450 personnel will be trained until May 2010 in Turkey in a training program already started in October.

c. On the other hand during the Force Generation Conference, held on 7th December 2009, Turkey declared;

(1) Two additional OMLT (one of them is Euro Gendarmerie Force)

(2) Establish a battalion-training center in Kabul.

d. Currently Turkey has one Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Wardak. To support the Afghanistan Presidential Elections held on 20 Aug 2009, a Turkish Election Support Force (93 pax.) sent to Mezar-ı Şerif on 17 Jul 2009. As election phase ended, this unit will stay at the region to establish the force protection unit of the second PRT until the end of the negotiations about the establishment of the second PRT.

e. Turkish support to Afghanistan including military equipment, reconstruction projects, food and medical support is about $ 160 million so far.

6. The Public Opinion in Turkey Concerning Support for NATO and Armed Forces & Recruiting Situation

a. The basic principle determining the national security policy of Turkey has been defined by Atatürk, founder of Turkish Republic, "Peace at Home, Peace in the World". Within this framework, Turkey actively participates in joint defense systems with the objective of supporting regional and world peace and contributes to the peace and stability.

b. In this view, Turkey supports NATO in different aspects. Besides the operational support in International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Kosovo Force (KFOR), Maritime Operations, NATO Response Force (NRF), NATO Training Mission-Iraq (NTM-I) and Baltic Nations Air Policing, Turkey also hosts Component Command Air HQ (CC Air HQ), NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Turkey (NRDC-TUR), Centre of Excellence Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT), Partnership for Peace Training Center (PfP), NCSA Sector Izmir and Deployable Communication Module (DCM), NAEW Forward Operating Base (FOB), South Eastern European Brigade (SEEBRIG) HQ (Deployed to ISAF), Blacksea Naval Cooperation Task Group (BLACKSEAFOR), and Advanced Logistic Support Site (Supports Active Endeavour Operation) Aksaz Naval Base. All these supports backed with public opinion.

c. When we look at the recruiting, the basic recruitment policy is the recruitment of educated persons, who have the best physical and mental capabilities for the Armed Forces.

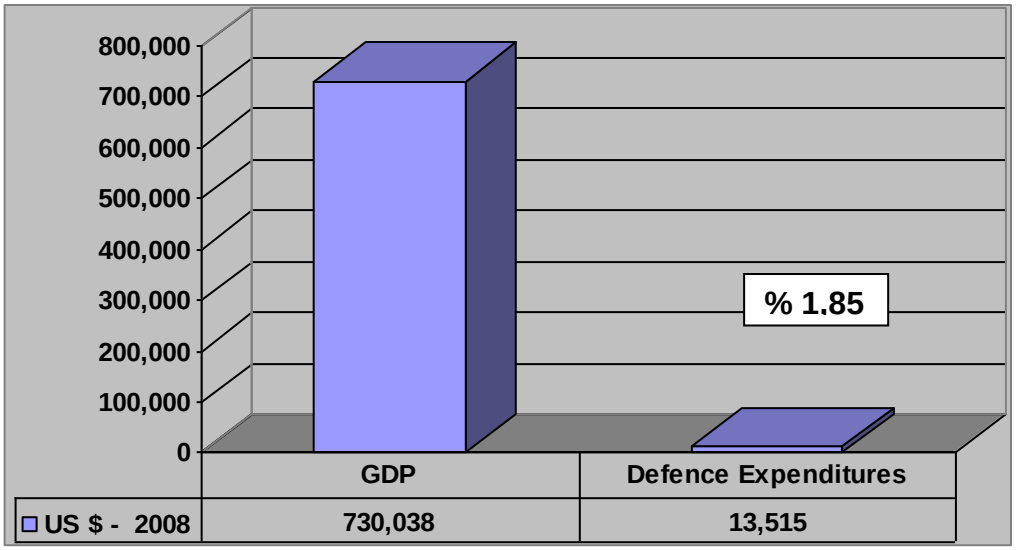
d. The essential basic source is the male citizens, who are obliged to assume duties in the defense of the country as required by the Constitution. Every Turkish citizen who reaches the age of 20 and who is determined to be suitable for military service at the end of a health examination performs his military service.

e. Because accomplishing military service is accepted a proud and a milestone to be a man within the Turkish citizens, Turkish Armed Forces doesn’t have any difficulty on recruiting new members.

7. The usage of Turkish Armed Forces for National Issues and NATO Issues & Defence Expenditures

a. After excluding basic trainees, internal security and border units and in place forces; Turkey has the indication of usability of its forces in an amount of %46 for deployed operations and % 10 for sustained operations. Turkey's support to current NATO operations is 2335 troops at this availability.

b. Regarding to the figures of 2008, Turkey's gross domestic product (GDP) is calculated 730,038 million US dollars and the defence expenditure for this year is 13,515 million US dollars which is approximately 1.85 percent of the GDP.



8. Turkish National Troops to Provide Civilian Aide or Other Services for Catastrophes

a. Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) do not focus solely on NATO operations. In the new world security environment it has been evaluated that activities such as supporting peace operations, the fight against terrorism, supporting crisis management, displays of power, blockades, embargoes, humanitarian aid and the prevention of illegal migration are examples of the operations TAF could take part in.

b. *"Turkish Humanitarian Assistance Brigade"* was established within TAF to help disaster victims in order to prevent more casualties and economic losses during post-disaster periods, to continue the authority of the State in the region and to help other governmental organizations. For the purposes of international peace and security keeping, reconstructing peace, and providing internal stability and humanitarian aid to a country, to participate in supporting peace operations, performed with the authorization of the UN and the OSCE, as well as NATO"

c. Some examples to the humanitarian assistance provided by TAF:

(1) In order to provide humanitarian assistance after Katrina Storm, Turkey provided one C-130 Cargo Plane between 30 September and 08 October 2005.

(2) In order to provide humanitarian assistance after the earthquake in Pakistan, Turkey provided a Search and Rescue Unit and C-130 Cargo Planes after 08 October 2005.

(3) In order to provide humanitarian assistance after the flood in Algeria, Turkey provided two C-130 Cargo Plane in February 2006."

(4) In order to support the governmental elections in Democratic Republic of Congo Turkey provided one C-130 Cargo Plane between July-November 2006.