**FACT SHEET**

**Iceland’s contributions to NATO**

Iceland is a founding member of NATO and has contributed actively to Trans-Atlantic defense and security cooperation within NATO and on the basis of its 1951 bilateral defense agreement with the United States of America. Iceland (pop. 330.000) does not have a standing military yet has contributed to NATO operations both financially and with civilian personnel. The following outlines some of Iceland’s contributions to NATO operations for the period 1994 to 2017, indicating the scope and focus of its main activities.

In accordance with the Wales Summit commitment on defense contributions, more funding has been made available for NATO activities and operations as of 2016, allowing Iceland to double the number of personnel working within NATO structures and missions, and provide increased funding for defense related tasks in Iceland. For the year 2107, Iceland increased that contribution by 30%, and a similar increase for 2018.

**Support for NATO mission and infrastructure in Iceland**

Iceland operates an air defense and surveillance system (IADS, composed of four radar sites and centrally controlled Air Command and Control System), which is part of the NATO integrated Air Defense System.

When the US closed its naval base in Keflavik in 2006, Iceland took over the operation, providing facilities, infrastructure and host nation support for the US under the bilateral defence agreement, and for NATO forces, including the regular NATO-air policing missions in Iceland. Those missions are carried out by NATO member states at an average of three times a year, for several weeks at a time. Keflavík base continues to play an important role for maintaining situational awareness in the North Atlantic and as a hub for air and maritime operations for NATO and the US.

**Most recent and pending contributions within NATO**

**Enhanced forward presence and assurance measures**

From From 2017 EFP presence in Lithuania and Estonia. Press and Strat.com officers.

2014: Supporting SACEUR´s request for assurance measures/staff augmentation, currently with an expert in analysis at SHAPE.

**Afghanistan RSM**

Ongoing since ISAF, Iceland has contributed to the Afghanistan mission since 2003 with personnel and teams, focusing on the mission of prohibiting a safe haven for terrorists in Afghanistan. Continued funding and personnel for the Resolute Support mission throughout 2017. Currently two experts working at HQ of NATO/RSM, Kabul. Additional third expert to be provided mid 2018.

**Iraq/Jordan:** EOD/IED Experts from Icelandic Coast Guard worked in Jordan with NATO to train Iraqi EOD experts in 2016.

Training mission with Canada, supported by Spain in Bemaya on rotation in 2017 and 2018. Readiness to contribute further to a training mission by NATO in Iraq.

Contribution to DCB Trust fund …

**NATO Marcom:** Deploying an officer in 2018 to strenthen North-Atlantic aspects and work.

**NATO HQ IS**

From 2016 - ongoing: Two experts, currently expert in PASP and publ. diplomacy officer in PDD in NATO HQ

From 2015 - ongoing: Expert for NATO Secretary Generals Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security in HQ Brussels. Financial contributions to TF on 1325 regularly.

**Georgia – NATO Liaison office**

From 2016 –ongoing: Expert in Publ. relations/Civil society in NLO in Tiblisi

**Ukraine:** Financial contribution to NATO-Ukraine Trust Fund for command, control etc.

**Jordan:** Financial contribution to III Jordanian Trust Fund for service women (military/police) as part of NATO Defense Capacity Building for Jordan

**Past activities and contributions**

**Balkan - SFOR, KFOR**

1994 - 2001: Contribution of civilian doctors and medical personnel to SFOR, first with Norway in Tuzla and later with the United Kingdom in Sipho and various other locations including Banja Luka. A total of 100 Icelandic personnel participated in this operation.

2001 - 2002: Police officers for special operations with KFOR.

2003 - 2004: Lead nation in operating Pristina airport under KFOR with 15 civilian expert command team augmented by contributions of approx. 230 military personnel from 23 different nations. Trained Kosovo Albanians to become fire fighters, air traffic controllers and marshals. Upon completion of this mission provided continued quality control and training under UNMIK until 2010.

1994 - 2014: Iceland provided expertise and funding to the Balkans in support of democratic processes.

**Iraq – NATO Training Mission Iraq**

2004 - 2007: provided Press and Information Officers to the NATO Training Mission in Iraq

throughout its existence.

**Afghanistan – ISAF & RSM**

2004 - 2005: Framework nation for Kabul International Airport with a command team of 25 civilian experts augmented by 260 personnel from 24 other nations. 2005 -2015: Support and logistic experts at Kabul International Airport, KAIA.

2005 - 2007: Operated two of Mobile Liaison and Observation teams in ISAF PRTs in Maymaneh (NOR PRT, Faryab province) and Chagcharan (LIT PRT, Ghor province).

2005 - 2009: Provided development advisors and funding for various reconstruction and humanitarian projects in both Faryab and Ghor province i.e. Micro Hydroelectric plants, legal aid, medical assistance.

2009-2011 Provided senior development advisers to COMISAF’ Stability unit in HQ and for one year the senior political adviser to SCR in Kabul.

2007 - 2011: Provided funding for Strategic Airlift Support for transport of equipment and personnel funding for Post-Operations Emergency Relief Fund (POERF), the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA), Afghanistan (Counter Narcotics Task Force – CNTF).

**NATO Civilian Liaison Office to the UN**

2014 - 2015: Provided expert for NATO Liaison office to the United Nations in New York