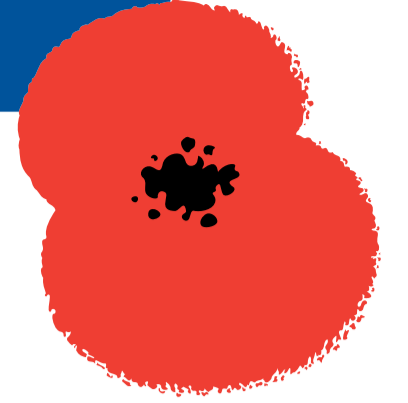


INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



- 1 Families in Kosovo receiving UN aid
- 2 UN Forces are clearly identified by their blue helmets and berets
- 3 A UN soldier on guard
- 4 The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is a NATO-led security mission in Afghanistan established by the United Nations Security Council on 20 December 2001
- 5 UN Forces working with local communities

As a member of the United Nations and NATO, Britain has been involved in a wide range of peacekeeping and multi-national force activities.

The UN

The United Nations (UN) was created in 1945, starting with 50 members. Today there are 192 member countries. The UN charter sets out the basic principles for all the member countries to co-operate and work together. These include:

“to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods,

that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest.”

The UN is a voluntary organisation that relies on the commitment of its member countries (States). It does not have its own Armed Forces, so if a decision is made by the UN Security Council or the UN General Assembly (the two main bodies that make decisions) it depends on the Member States' commitment to see the decisions through. If a decision is made requiring military action, commitment is made from the Armed Forces of the 192 member countries.

Peacekeeping and military support for the UN

The first type of decision that involved the UK sending troops to support a UN Force was in the Korean War (1950–1953). Since then, British Service

men and women have assisted the UN in its peacekeeping activities across the world – events we don't often hear about because their very presence and bravery helps prevent further conflict and people being killed.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

NATO was founded in April 1949 by countries from Europe and North America with both a military and political remit. Initially it was conceived as a response to the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the West that developed after World War II. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO has taken a more international role with an expanded membership. In 1999, British Forces, as part of a NATO operation, intervened in the Balkans to halt ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Currently British Service personnel are in Afghanistan as part of the NATO contingent of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Over 350 British Service men and women have been killed in the conflict in Afghanistan and nearly 2,000 injured, including 486 with serious or very serious injuries (source: www.mod.uk/ as at January 2011).

For further information, please visit
www.un.org/aboutun
www.nato.int