



Defense and National Security

For the first time in the history of Pakistan, the defense budget was placed and debated in the Parliament for the financial year 2009-2010. The legislature approved an allocation of Rs.342 billion for all the three security forces -- Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, and Pakistan Navy -- higher by 11% from the 2008-2009 budget of Rs.308 billion. The increase is because of inflation and, if seen in real terms, it has been reduced.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) signed an agreement with Germany on mutual protection of classified information in May 2009. Another agreement has been signed with the People's Republic of China for the provision of military assistance gratis to Pakistan. The Federal Cabinet approved MoUs/agreements for negotiations with different countries including Indonesia, France, Hungary, Algeria, Japan, Egypt, U.S.A. and Qatar in defense, academic research training, and mutual cooperation.

An air services agreement was upgraded in talks held in April 2009 at Beijing (China), to enhance benefit for passengers, traffic, and flow of trade and commerce. An agreement was signed with the European Union in Brussels in January 2009 to determine parameters for commercial air-carrier operations between Pakistan and the E.U. states. The treaty enables uniformity and balance in negotiating all air services accords with member countries.

A defense delegation visited the U.K. in June 2008 to set up a Pak-U.K. defense cooperation forum. The third meeting of Pakistan-Brunei defense working group was held in October 2008 in Brunei Darussalam. Pakistan also sent a delegation to Singapore in May 2009 to present its point of view on counter-terrorism at the 8th Shangrila Dialogue. A U.K. defense delegation visited Pakistan for the Pak-U.K. defense cooperation council.

A defense planning coordination committee meeting was held in May 2009 to formulate war time requirements of the Armed Forces from the civil sector. The substantive outcome of the meeting has been submitted to the Cabinet Division for Defense Committee deliberations. The Public Accounts Committee met to review the MoD's accounts for the years 2005-2006, 1989-1990 and 1991-1992 in February, April, May and June 2009. Most of the audit points were settled.

Additional land has been acquired and up-gradation of Multan for wide body aircraft is in progress. Up-gradation will help its use as an international airport capable of handling expected passengers and cargo traffic on enhanced scale. The first phase of the airport's runway, apron and taxi-way is to be completed by August 31, 2010.

The infrastructural development of Shahbaz (Jacobabad) Forward Operating Base for conversion into the main operating base to house the contracted F-16s is in progress. The ECC has approved Rs.6 billion for the purpose. Six more PSDP projects involving a cost of Rs.66 million were completed in 2008-2009. Fifty-Seven projects are in hand and seven new approved to cost Rs.16.6 billion for 2009-2010.

Pakistan Army

In compliance with a Government decision, the current counter-terrorism and law enforcement operations were undertaken by the Pakistan Army in April 2009. The operations are being effectively supported by PAF in all its dimensions. Operation Rah-e-Rast and Operation Rah-e-Nijat are successfully proceeding towards their logical conclusion.

A Special Support Group has been constituted to supplement the national/provincial efforts for efficient management of about three million IDPs (internally displaced persons), especially those of Malakand division.

After several years of threadbare analyses of the mission, role and task, the General Headquarters has carried out a major restructuring of the combat and logistics branches of the Pakistan Army. A micro-credit scheme (AZMAT) has been launched by PASB D Department for ex-servicemen in 30 districts, and an amount of Rs.24.75 has been allocated for 5,883 ex-servicemen and their widows to benefit from the scheme.

Pakistan Navy

Pakistan Navy is the only navy in the South Asian region, which has committed her ships as part of Task Force 150 and is playing an active role in North Arabian Sea along with the U.S.-led Coalition Naval Forces. It has commanded the CTF-150 thrice. The PN successfully conducted the multinational exercise Aman-09 in Pakistani waters in March 2009 in which navies of friendly countries participated to promote a common cause of eradicating the menace of terrorism and other maritime crimes from our region. The Federal Government has also decided to assign PN with anti-piracy operations off the Somali coast in support of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1816 to safeguard Pakistan's maritime interests.

The F-22 Frigate construction project is under implementation. The first ship was commissioned in July 2009 at Shanghai, China. The Government approved the establishment of Naval Air Station at Turbat (Project Eagle Fort) at a cost of Rs.4.6238 billion.

Pakistan Air Force

Contracts for co-production of 42 x JF-17, avionics systems, accessories and services through 'Seller's Credit' spread over a period of seven years have been finalized. The first batch of four serial production aircraft is under production. Contract for procurement of 18 x F-16 C/D (Block 52) is under way. The delivery of aircraft is due in 2011. Contract for the Mid Lift Update of PAF's existing F-16 A/B (Block 15) fleet has been concluded. The contract for four x ZDK and three AWACS with maser CETC of China has been concluded. The first aircraft will be delivered by October 2011 and the last one by March 2013.

The PAF organized a joint exercise "Falcon Talon 2009" with U.S. Air Force in February-March 2009 at Shahbaz Base. A joint PAF-Royal Saudi Air Force Exercise "Al-Suqour-II" Pakistan (on rotational basis) was conducted in August 5-28, 2008 at Mushaf Base.

The PAF undertook relief missions to Quetta for earthquake affectees of Balochistan and IDPs in October-November 2008. Relief missions were also flown to Palestine in January 2009 for Gaza War victims.



November 22, 2009: Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani sitting in the cockpit of a JF-17 Thunder fighter plane at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra.

Maritime Security Agency

Claim documents on extension of continental shelf were submitted to the U.N. Commission on limits of the Continental Shelf in April 2009. Pakistan is the 29th country to submit the claim. India has done this after Pakistan's initiative. Indian fishing boats have been indulging in large-scale poaching in Exclusive Economic Zone of Pakistan. The illegal activity of Indian fishermen is causing a loss of approximately Rs.250 million a month. Being the only law enforcement agency at sea, the Maritime Security Agency is taking care of the issue in coordination with other concerned agencies.

Survey of Pakistan

The United Nations International Global Mapping Project to monitor environmental degrading on global scale was completed by the Survey of Pakistan and submitted to the U.N. International Steering Committee, which was released in April 2008. The project was an international collaborative effort approved by the Federal Cabinet.