

Structure of the Pakistan Army



Founded: 1947

Headquarters: GHQ, Rawalpindi

Commander-in-Chief: President of Pakistan

Chief of Army Staff: General (Name may vary)

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The Pakistan Army is the principal land warfare branch of the Pakistan Armed Forces. Established in 1947 upon independence, the Army plays a critical role in national defense, counter-terrorism operations, peacekeeping, and disaster relief. Its organizational structure is highly disciplined, hierarchical, and rooted in British military traditions.

Command Structure

The Pakistan Army is commanded by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), a four-star general, who reports to the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the civilian leadership. The COAS oversees all operational, administrative, and logistic functions of the army.

Army Headquarters (GHQ)

The General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi is the nerve center of army operations. It houses various directorates and branches such as Military Intelligence (MI), Military Operations (MO), Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), and Logistics. GHQ is responsible for strategic planning, coordination, and overall policy implementation.

Operational Commands

The Pakistan Army is divided into several regional corps, each responsible for a geographic area. There are nine corps:

- **I Corps (Mangla)**
- **II Corps (Multan)**
- **IV Corps (Lahore)**
- **V Corps (Karachi)**
- **X Corps (Rawalpindi)**
- **XI Corps (Peshawar)**
- **XII Corps (Quetta)**
- **XXX Corps (Gujranwala)**
- **XXXI Corps (Bahawalpur)**

Each corps is headed by a Lieutenant General and includes divisions, brigades, and supporting units.

Combat Arms

The combat elements of the Army include:

- **Infantry:** Backbone of the army, including elite units like the Special Services Group (SSG).
- **Armored Corps:** Operates tanks and armored vehicles.
- **Artillery:** Provides firepower support using howitzers, rocket launchers, and air defense systems.

Support Arms and Services

The Army also includes vital supporting branches:

- **Corps of Engineers**

- **Signals Corps**
- **Army Aviation Corps**
- **Army Medical Corps**
- **Ordnance, Supply, and Logistics branches**

Training Institutions

The Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul trains new cadets. Other institutions include:

- **Command and Staff College, Quetta**
- **National Defence University, Islamabad**
- **School of Infantry and Tactics, Quetta**

These institutes ensure professional development at all levels.

Special Forces

The **Special Services Group (SSG)** is Pakistan's elite commando unit, trained for counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, and unconventional warfare. It has participated in major operations domestically and abroad.

Peacekeeping and Modernization

The Pakistan Army is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions. It continues to modernize through technology, training, and partnerships with allied nations, particularly China and Turkey.

Conclusion

The Pakistan Army remains a central institution in the country's defense strategy. With a robust structure, disciplined forces, and extensive training systems, it plays a vital role in safeguarding Pakistan's territorial integrity and contributing to global peace efforts.

"A strong army builds a strong nation — Pakistan Army stands tall with courage, duty, and honor."