

Defence Updates

Capabilities¹

Pakistan's conventional and nuclear forces have been primarily oriented and structured against a prospective threat from India. The nuclear weapons are believed to be well secured against terrorist attack, but the prospect of widespread disorder or adverse regime change in the country nevertheless alarms Western governments.

The US helicopter-borne attack on Osama Bin Laden's compound outside Abbottabad called into question the effectiveness of Pakistan's air defences. Pakistan's Air Force is modernising and reducing its fighter inventory while improving its precision strike and ISTAR capabilities. The navy has contributed to international efforts to counter Indian Ocean piracy. The modest submarine force would hamper any attacker's freedom to maneuver, but too small to sustain a long campaign against enemy vessels equipped with Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities.

Since 2008, a priority for Pakistan's army has been counter-insurgency operations against Islamic insurgents in the Federally Administered Tribal Area. Militarily these have been successful, with Pakistan's forces demonstrating the ability to innovate, learn in combat, and better integrate air and land operations including precision bombing. The table below gives a brief overview of Pakistan's economy and military budget:

Pakistani Rupee	Rs	2010	2011	2012
GDP	Rs	14.8tr	17.5tr	
US\$	173bn	202bn		
per capita	%	936	1,079	
Growth	%	3.76	2.56	
Inflation	%	11.7	13.9	

SCHOLAR WARRIOR

Def exp	Rs	481bn		
	US\$	5.6bn		
Def bdgt	Rs	384bn	447bn	501bn
	US\$	4.47bn	5.16bn	
FMA* (US)	US\$	238m	296m	
US\$1=Rs			85.92	86.59

* Foreign Military Assistance, does not include Pakistan counter insurgency capability fund

**ACTIVE 642,000 (Army 550,000 Navy 22,000 Air 70,000)
Paramilitary 304,000**

ORGANISATIONS BY SERVICE

1. Strategic Forces

Operational control rests with the National Command Authority (NCA); Army and Air Force strategic forces are responsible for technical aspects, training and administrative control of the services' nuclear assets.

Army Strategic Forces Command: 12,000-15,000

Commands all land-based strategic nuclear forces.

MSL – STRATEGIC 60

MRBM 30 *Ghauri/ Ghauri II (Hatf-5)/Shaheen-2 (Hatf-6 – in test)*

SRBM 30 *Ghaznavi (Hatf-3 – PRC M-11)/Shaheen-1 (Hatf-4)*

LACM some *Babur (Hatf-7 – in development)*

Air Force

1-2 sqn of F-16A/B or Mirage 5 may be assigned a nuclear strike role

2. Army 550,000

FORCES BY ROLE

COMMAND

9 Corps HQ, 1 (area) comd

SPECIAL FORCES

1 SF gp (3 SF bn)

MANOEUVRE

Armoured

2 armed div, 7 indep armed bde

Mechanised

2 mech inf div, 1 indep inf bde

Light

18 inf div, 5 indep inf bde

Aviation

1 VIP avn sqn, 5 (composite) avn sqn, 10 hel sqn

COMBAT SUPPORT

9 corps arty bde, 5 indep arty bde, 1 AD comd (3 AD gp (total: 8 AD bn)),
7 engr bde

3. Navy 22,000 (incl 1,400 Marines and 2,000 Maritime Security Agency)

EQUIPMENT BY TYPE

SUBMARINES – TACTICALS

SSK 5:

2 Hashmat, 3 Khalid

SSI 3 MG110 (SF delivery)

PRINCIPAL SURFACE COMBATANTS – FRIGATES 10

PATROL AND COASTAL COMBATANTS 12

AMPHIBIOUS

LANDING CRAFT – UCAC 4 Griffon 2000

LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT 11

Marines: 1,400

FORCES BY ROLE

SPECIAL FORCES

1 cdo gp

Naval Aviation

AIRCRAFT: 7 combat capable

ASW 9: 3 *Atlantic*; 4 P3-C *Orion* (additional 4 ac on order)

MP 6 F-27-200 MPA

TPT – PAX 1 Hawker 850XP

HELICOPTERS

ASW 12: 5 *Sea King* Mk45; 7 Z-9C *Haitun*

4. Air Force: 70,000

3 regional comds: Northern (Peshawar) Central (Sargodha) Southern (Masroor). The Composite Air Tpt Wg, Combat Cadres School and PAF Academy are Direct Reporting Units.

FORCES BY ROLE

FIGHTER

2 sqn with F-7P/FT-7P *Skybolt*, 3 sqn with F-7PG/FT-7PG *Airguard*, 1 sqn with *Mirage* IIID/E (IIIOD/EP)

FIGHTER/GROUND ATTACK

1 sqn with JF-17 *Thunder* (FC-1), 1 sqn with (forming) with JF-17 *Thunder* (FC-1), 1 sqn with F-16C/D Block 52 *Fighting Falcon*, 3 sqn with *Mirage* 5 (5PA)

ANTI SURFACE WARFARE

1 sqn with *Mirage* 5PA2/5PA3

ELECTRONIC WARFARE/ELINT

1 sqn with Mi-171Sh (SAR/liaison), 6 sqn with SA316 *Alouette* III

TANKER

1 sqn with Il-78 *Midas*

TRANSPORT

1 sqn with C-130B/E *Hercules*; CN-235M-220; L-100-20, 1 VIP sqn with B-707; *Cessna* 560XL *Citation Excel*; CN-235M-220, F-27-200 *Friendship*; Falcon 20E; Gulfstream IVSP, 1 (comms) sqn with EMB-500 *Phenom 100*; Y-12 (II)

TRAINING

2 OCU sqn with F-7P/FT-7P *Skybolt*, 1 OCU sqn with *Mirage* III/ *Mirage* 5, 1 OCU sqn with F-16A/B *Fighting Falcon*, 1 sqn with FT-5, 1 sqn with K-8 *Karakourm*, 2 sqn with MFI-17, 2 sqn with T-37C *Tweet*

AIR DEFENCE

1 bty with CSA-1 (SA-2 *Guideline*); 9K310 *Igla-1* (SA-16 *Gimlet*), 6 bty with *Crotale*

5. **Paramilitary** up to 304,000 active
Coast Guard

PATROL AND COASTAL COMBATANTS 5

PBF 4

PB 1

a. **Frontier Corps** up to 65,000 (reported) Ministry of Interior

FORCES BY ROLE

MANOEUVRE

Reconnaissance

1 armed recce sqn

Other

11 paramilitary regt (total: 40 paramilitary bn)

b. **Maritime Security Agency:** 2,000

c. **National Guard** 185,000: Includes *Janbaz Force*; *Mujahid Force*; National Cadet Corps; Women Guards

d. **Northern Light Infantry** 12,000

FORCES BY ROLE

MANOEUVRE

3 paramilitary bn

e. **Pakistan Rangers** up to 40,000 Ministry of Interior

Notes

1. The data has been sourced from Pakistan, *The Military Balance 2012*, IISS.