



3.1.1. Pakistan Army

The Pakistan Army has been described as being arguably the country's most powerful institution.[176](#) Sources from 2025 and early 2026 estimated that the Pakistan Armed Forces in their entirety had between 650 000[177](#) and 660 000 active-duty personnel, with an overall personnel strength of around 1 710 000.[178](#) Within the armed forces, active duty members of the Pakistan Army accounted for 550 000 as of December 2025. Pakistan's military forces are tasked with external defence but also have a role in internal security.[179](#) Troops serve on a voluntary basis. Each of the main services of Pakistan's armed forces (army, navy, air force) is commanded by a chief of staff.[180](#)

The 27th amendment to the Constitution, signed into law in November 2025,[181](#) rewrote Article 243 of the Constitution to create the new supreme military position of Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a post designed to be held automatically by the sitting chief of the Pakistani Army, currently Asim Munir.[182](#) This grants the army chief (Munir) primacy[183](#)/direct operational command[184](#) over the chiefs of the air force and navy,[185](#) thus effectively placing these two services under the CDF's authority.[186](#) At the same time, the new amendment abolished the position of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), which, albeit ceremonial, had embodied a degree of equilibrium between the three armed services.[187](#) The amendment further provides for professional safeguards for Munir, requiring a two-thirds majority in parliament to remove a CDF. Moreover, it grants lifelong immunity from prosecution to five-star military officers, a rank presently only held by Munir.[188](#) The amendment also created the new military position of Commander of the National Strategic Command (CNSC), whose holder is responsible for overseeing the country's nuclear command[189](#) and reports through the army's chain of command.[190](#)

The Army General Headquarters (GHQ) is located in Chaklala in the city of Rawalpindi.[191](#) As reported in mid-2025, the army's command system encompassed nine corps-level commands, each covering a specific geographic zone and operational domain.[192](#) Paramilitary groups affiliated with the Pakistan Army include the Khyber Rifles[193](#) and the National Guard. Pakistan's military arsenal consists of foreign and some domestically produced equipment.[194](#) During the reference period, the military forces significantly stepped up their use of targeted drone strikes against militants.[195](#) In Balochistan, there were a number of reported instances of the army subjecting civilians to extrajudicial killing,[196](#) arbitrarily detention/enforced disappearance,[197](#) and torture.[198](#)

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