



### 3.1.1. Pakistan Army

The Pakistan Army has been described as being arguably the country's most powerful institution.<sup>176</sup> Sources from 2025 and early 2026 estimated that the Pakistan Armed Forces in their entirety had between 650 000<sup>177</sup> and 660 000 active-duty personnel, with an overall personnel strength of around 1 710 000.<sup>178</sup> 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.<sup>179</sup> 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.<sup>180</sup>

The 27<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution, signed into law in November 2025,<sup>181</sup> 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.<sup>182</sup> This grants the army chief (Munir) primacy<sup>183</sup>/direct operational command<sup>184</sup> over the chiefs of the air force and navy,<sup>185</sup> thus effectively placing these two services under the CDF's authority.<sup>186</sup> At the same time, the new amendment abolished the position of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC), which, albeit ceremonial, had embodied a degree of equilibrium between the three armed services.<sup>187</sup> 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.<sup>188</sup> 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<sup>189</sup> and reports through the army's chain of command.<sup>190</sup>

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

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