

Inculcating Professionalism in Defence for National Development: The Pakistan Perspective

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Abstract-The evolving security environment today, pose multiple challenges to the armed forces insofar, substantive changes in threat matrix and expansion in their roles, tasks and national expectations are concerned. Inculcating professionalism for national development, provides a perspective to understand the impact of this interplay. In the recent past, Armed Forces of Pakistan have experienced full spectrum impact of such changes, ranging from external to internal threats, punctuated frequently by assistance to civil administration for disaster management. Pakistan Armed Forces adapted efficaciously to combat these challenges effectively, while maintaining high degree of professionalism and contributing meaningfully towards national security and development.

In the context of today's topic, Inculcating Professionalism in Defence and National Development, I will endeavour to provide Pakistan's perspective on how Pakistan Armed Forces are contributing towards national security and national development through highly professionalized responses.

Firstly, I will share with you my understanding of the term professionalism and during the talk I will connect with how we have reorganized our strategy, doctrine and training to meet the new existing and future challenges.

Then I will discuss how Pakistan's threat matrix has evolved and how armed forces are contributing to improve national security. Thirdly, I will talk about our internal and global professional contributions. The term professionalism emerges as a multidisciplinary subject, drawing upon diverse fields of study ranging from knowledge of military history to understanding of human psychology and sociology, besides the mastery over hardcore professional subjects. These fields of study, for ease of conceptualisation can be grouped into three areas i.e. **Knowledge, military skills and behaviour**. In the context of changing security environment the task of armed forces has become increasingly difficult. The scope of Knowledge has enlarged, multiple skills are required, and conduct and behaviour has to be above board and people friendly. What all these challenges mean for a soldier I will elucidate in the context of Pakistan Armed Forces Experiences.

For optimum professionalism excellence in each of these fields is essential. It is acquired at different stages of professional life of a soldier and each stage leads to amelioration in standards. Progressively pushing military leaders closer to excellence with very step in career advancement.

Optimum professionalism is achieved through a combined use of the expertise acquired in these fields and then their application according to the context. The ultimate test of professionalism lies in accomplishment of the assigned task in a cost effective manner.

The term professionalism in all its attributes captures what it means to be a professional soldier, what is expected of him and for today's focus how this can be inculcated to generate effects in the field of national development.

Professionalism for Pakistan Armed Forces finds context in the country's purpose and interests and specifically in the prevailing and projected security environment. The latter are perceived from the stand point of nature and character of the threat. In this context, capabilities of the forces threatening the country define the response in all its dimensions.

Pakistan' security environment till the turn of the century were predominantly characterised by an existential external threat from India. As the resolve our adversary to deny resolution of Kashmir issue in accordance with UN Resolutions has hardened, threats to Pakistan has also proportionately increased. The constant increase in threat ultimately led to a situation when the country was threatened by WMD, The nation and its armed forces in response to the nuclear threat, contributed by developing a matching response capability. The resultant deterrent regime has since then, substantially diminished the probability of a **conventional war**.

For the time being the deterrence regime is stable. However the nuclear environment imposes huge responsibility on the military leaders as well as the politicians. Pakistan as a responsible nuclear state has formulated effective institutions to this effect.

Resultantly professionalism necessitates corresponding changes in the civil military engagement i.e. requisite changes in the concept of civil military relations.

After the turn of the 21st century, Pakistan's security environment witnessed a paradigm shift. While the traditional threats continue to persist, the events of 9/11 brought US and NATO into Afghanistan. Since then the war against terrorism, fought along our western borders has had an adverse spill over affect on Pakistan. The war also accentuated internal instability and created a new threat paradigm which incorporated both external and internal dimensions.

Alongside this change, acceleration in globalization and technological developments and policies of regime change led to rise of violent non state actors requiring Pakistan armed forces to also focus on non-traditional threats in general. This change in its interface with shift of wealth from west to east and rise of multipolarity provided further opportunities to our adversaries who desired to exploit the environment for multiple advantages.

To respond to this threat, whole of nation approach was needed. In this approach military responsibility implied, application of selective force to remove the challenges to the writ of state in areas along our western border. It led to execution of two staged military operation. In the first stage Op Al Mizan and its supporting operations eradicated militants from most of the areas. The second phase based on the **policy of zero tolerance of violence** is now underway under the title Op Zarb e Azb to gain complete control.

Similarly in Baluchistan, also witnessed spill over effects of war in Afghanistan, the militants are being severely degraded and progressively removed through Intelligence Based Operations being conducted by law enforcement agencies, they are also exposing the hand of their external abettors. The tide in Baluchistan has turned by grace of Allah and the soon will usher in an internally reconciled, stable and peaceful Baluchistan.

The dastardly act of massacre of school children in Peshawar last year, led to a national outcry and formulation of twenty point national action plan. The plan aimed at eradication of perpetrators of violence and extremism from the country on an urgent basis. Operation Zarb e Azb is in its final stages along the western border.

These operations are joint operations in which Pakistan Air Force participates actively and Pakistan Navy has been part of the two Combined Task Forces in Indian

Ocean since a decade and many times it has commanded the task force working against terrorism and piracy.

Having covered the combat role of armed forces now let me briefly move to how we are supporting the civil administration and strengthening democracy in the process.

For long term stability it was essential to build capacities of the intelligence and law enforcement agencies, so that they can build on the success of military and remove violence and criminality and sever its connections with militancy and terrorism from major urban centres. These state agencies are now fully engaged in doing so. The government is prosecuting other facets of national action plan. These include identification and closure of seminaries involved in perpetuating violence. It will be followed by broad based and focused reforms.

In these operations Pakistan's Armed Forces and the nation have made huge sacrifices through their blood and lives. More than 50,000 civilian Pakistanis laid down their lives, 5,500 soldiers embraced martyrdom. The objective of all these sacrifices is to bring internal stability and restore law and order in the country. Which it is expected, will become the source of growth and national development as we are witnessing in the case of Sri Lanka.

To effectively perform in all these domains, there is requirement of formulation of strategy and a supporting doctrine. Combination of unconventional and conventional challenges led to formulation of doctrine of 'comprehensive response'. Pakistan Armed Forces Doctrine focuses on professional execution of Stability, Security, Transition, and Reconstruction Operations in which the principle role of the military is to create the right security conditions on which the civilian administration can then capitalise and build sustainable peace.

In this context we have reorganized training for soldiers in the training centres, and for officers in the military academy. This has been done to harmonise not only with the requirements of higher education but also expanding the base to cover diverse disciplines which constitute the domain of knowledge. Similarly the mid career education and training has been realigned with lower level to consolidate the knowledge, skills and behaviour attributes acquired but also to prepare for higher education. At the highest level, the National Defence University now organises education based on the notion of comprehensive national security. The courses at the university facilitate the participants in accurately

comprehending the security policy in all its facets and its interface with the imperatives of operational planning and implementation. At NDU we also bring together diverse groups and media persons to jointly deliberate on issues confronting the society.

These changes were accompanied with construction of training facilities which focused on sub-conventional warfare. It also required building up of appropriate logistic support and medical facilities and a comprehensive strategy to take care of the citizens of the country.

We are very proud that Sri Lanka armed forces choose Pakistan as their choice destination for training and I will like to compliment them for their very high degree of professionalism on the battlefield to win success for themselves as well for their country. Gallant friends you have provided your nation the environment on which growth and development will naturally build and we are happy that we could assist. President of Sri Lanka's recent visit to Pakistan would go a long way in strengthening relations between the two countries and their defence forces.

Thirdly besides combating external and internal threats, Pakistan armed force also act in aid of civil power when called for. They proficiently conduct rescue and relief operations but also assist our friends and allies in times of need may these be floods, earthquake or other natural calamities like Tsunami.

The fourth area in which Pakistan Armed Forces have contributed since decades is the support to UN DPKO. We consistently provide forces and officers to facilitate peace building may it be in Europe, Africa, Caribbean and East Asia. The flag of Pakistan and Pakistan Armed Forces means a very high standard of professionalism in all its facets, may it be knowledge, skills and above board their

conduct. They are acclaimed as experienced peace-keepers, men who bring expertise and excellence in skills. We have done this and will continue to remain steadfast to our commitments. Despite our extensive engagements we remain steadfast to our international obligations for supporting peacekeeping, peace building and action for humanitarian efforts.

Lastly in the context of contributing to development of infrastructure and state institutions the contributions of Pakistan armed forces stand out for establishment of National logistics cell for logistics support, Frontier works organisation for construction of communication infrastructure in less developed and sparsely populated areas of the country. National Highway authority facilitates in operation and maintenance of national road infrastructure. Pakistan armed forces also take cares of it retired and injured personnel and families of martyrs.

Pakistan is blessed as a connecting country. To contribute towards cross border trade and promote economic growth and development, Pakistan armed forces firstly contributed alongside our Chinese friends in building Karakoram Highway connecting the two countries and now to add volume to the trade we will be effectively cooperating to build the China Pakistan Economic Corridor centred on this road infrastructure. To add more options for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia new connections across the Hindukush Mountains have been and are being constructed. In Baluchistan, the major thrust is on construction of dams and highways along the coast and in the interior to connect Gawadar with major communication centres.

Through high degree of professionalism Pakistan Armed Forces are striving hard to contribute towards defence of the country and national development at a very critical juncture.