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ARMY



A T-72 Tank of "Blue land" advancing to capture a strategic position of "Red land" during the Exercise "Vijay Chakra" in the deserts of Western Sector

3.1 The Army's basic responsibility is to safeguard the territorial integrity of the nation against the external aggression. The Indian Army has to be extremely vigilant at all times to meet various challenges arising from the country's long borders encompassing different geographical and climatic conditions such as desert terrain on the west, snow covered mountains in the north and thick mountainous rainforests in the east. The responsibilities of the Army have increased manifold due to counter insurgency operations in the Kargil and Dras sector, Jammu & Kashmir and the North Eastern parts of the country. In addition, the Army is often required to assist the civil administration during internal disturbances to maintain law and order as well as to organise relief operations during natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, cyclones and to maintain essential services like supply of food and medical aid. The Indian Army played an important role in the relief operations in the Orissa cyclone.

**MODERNISATION OF VARIOUS ARMS/
SERVICES OF THE INDIAN ARMY
MECHANISED FORCES**

3.2 To enhance the combat efficiency, Mechanised Forces are in the process of acquiring T-90 S tank and Konkurs Medium Anti-Tank Guided Missile with tandem warheads.

ARTILLERY

3.3 For meeting urgent operational requirements, Artillery have contracted for Medium Range Surveillance Radars and Thermal Integrated Observation Equipment. Artillery is also in the process of

acquiring weapon-locating radar, which will enhance effectiveness.



Bofors Gun in action during OP Vijay

AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY

3.4 Air Defence Artillery has acquired improved Tactical Control Radars. The case for Schilka upgrade is under consideration.

ARMY AVIATION

3.5 Cheetah night vision goggles have been contracted during the year. Negotiations for Cheetah arming and trials of a helicopter mounted surveillance system are in progress. Advance Light Helicopter prototypes have already completed stringent hot weather trials. The prototypes are under advanced stages of certification.

ENGINEERS

3.6 To combat the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) planted by militants, Corps of Engineers has acquired counter IED equipment. In addition, trials are in progress to evaluate vehicle mounted mine detection system.

ARMY CAPITAL WORKS

3.7 Army capital works can be categorised

into two broad categories, viz. Married Accommodation and Other than Married Accommodation (OTM). The Other than Married Accommodation category generally includes technical and administrative accommodation, training establishments, military hospitals, laboratories, storage facilities, ammunition depots and external services.

3.8 The management of Army Capital Works has been streamlined over the years. Close monitoring and careful cost control has resulted in most of the high value projects being completed on schedule and within the estimated cost. Completion of on going works continued to get priority to achieve an optimum use of the available resources and minimise cost overruns. Modern construction techniques and materials are being instituted gradually.

3.9. The allocation of funds for Capital Works for the Army during the Financial Year 1999-2000 was Rs. 450 crores, which includes Rs. 28 crores for special married accommodation under Quick Shelter Project initiated to achieve enhanced satisfaction levels of married accommodation. The emphasis continues on the construction of married accommodation expeditiously in a time bound manner. Towards achieving this end, all married accommodation projects are being treated as Fast Track Projects and works amounting to Rs. 38.75 crores have been sanctioned during 1999-2000. During 1998-99, married accommodation comprising 417 units for officers, 394

units for JCOs and 1978 units for OR have been completed.

REVENUE WORKS

- 3.10 These works comprise major and minor works (which do not result in creation of capital assets), normal and special repairs of buildings, roads, furniture, electrical and water supply installations, tools, plants and machinery.
- 3.11 The allocation of funds for Revenue Works and Maintenance Services is Rs. 1367.57 crore during 1999-2000 as against Rs. 1239.38 Crores allotted during the year 1998-99. . To optimise the use of the available funds and to achieve higher users' satisfaction, innovative schemes like door-to-door maintenance, "Welcome maintenance" and the single window system for attending to maintenance problems introduced earlier have been given a major thrust.

SIGNALS

- 3.12 During the year, the Corps of Signals have contracted the state-of-the-art Radio Set HX for use by Special Forces. In addition, they have acquired Hand Held Direction Finders and Radio Receivers and they are in the process of updating communications in high altitude areas.

ASCON

- 3.13 ASCON is a fully secured digital network providing voice, telex and data services and serving as the backbone communication network of the Army. ASCON was planned in the early eighties and Phase 1

and 2 of ASCON have been implemented. Phase 3 of ASCON has been envisaged to cover voids in the existing network.

- 3.14 **WAN Connectivity for Army Intranet :** Army Intranet was inaugurated by COAS on January 15, 1999.
- 3.15 **AREN Equipment :** Tactical Communication Network 'AREN' (Army Radio Engineered Network) provides survivable, secure and reliable voice, data and telex communication to the field formations. Conceived in the early 70's, AREN was implemented in two distinct but concurrent phases. Phase I involved the modernisation of the entire range of existing communication equipment from infantry platoon to Corps Head Quarters level. Phase II was the design development and production of automated switching and mobile communication systems for fielding an integrated, digital secure communication network in the tactical area. It is a matter of great pride for the country that the design, development and production of the AREN family of equipment has been done indigenously in association with the Defence Research Development Organisation and Public Sector Undertakings. The availability of Radio Trunk System (RTS) for providing grid access to mobile subscribers as well as Radio Local System (RLS) for providing local connectivity on radio has further improved the versatility of the AREN.

INFANTRY

- 3.16 In order to provide mobility and protection

to our troops against improvised explosive devices, the Army have acquired Protected Vehicles and deployed them in the Northern as well as the Eastern Commands. To enhance logistics capability in east of Zojila, Infantry have contracted snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles. Infantry have also contracted for Anti Material Rifles, Sniper Rifles, AK 47 Rifles with Under Barrel Grenade Launcher, Multiple Grenade Launcher, Disposable Flame Thrower and Rocket Launcher to enhance our combat potential. Short Range Battle Field Survival Radars and Special Equipment were inducted for a few infantry units in Jammu & Kashmir.



The Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Air Staff examining a Captured Grenade Launcher from Pakistanis' intruders on during Kargil War at Kargil

ARMY SERVICE CORPS

- 3.17 The basic role of the Army Service Corps

encompasses provisioning and supply of rations and all grades of petroleum products to all the three services and a few para military forces in peace as well as in war. This includes procurement, inspections, quality control, storage and distribution. The Corps delivers all the items including ammunition to the most forward locations, be it by surface, air or animal transport. At altitudes of 15,000 to 17,000 feet in the higher reaches of the northern sector, cooking of food in very low temperatures and inhospitable terrain is a major problem. This was overcome during OP VIJAY by resorting to Composite Pack Rations, Survival Rations and Meals Ready to Eat. In such treacherous conditions and dangerous looping roads, the stalwart drivers of Army Service Corps drove their trucks fully loaded with troops, food and other essentials without a thought to their personnel protection and safety. The mules and mule drivers were pressed into service where roads did not exist to support the Indian Army in line with ASC credo 'SEVA ASMAKAM DHARMA'.

ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

3.18 **Development of Simulators :** The Corps of EME has actively associated itself in the design, development and manufacture of an array of sophisticated and state-of-the-art simulators such as B Vehicle Driving Simulators, Hand Grenade Simulators and Small Arms Training Simulators, etc. for use by the field Army in imparting realistic and cost-effective training to its personnel.

3.19 **Indigenisation of Equipment :** The Corps has also successfully developed the Eagle Mine Detector for combat application by the field Army.

TERRITORIAL ARMY (TA)

3.20 The Territorial Army (TA) is an organisation of units formed by ordinary citizens from all walks of life who generally, while continuing to pursue their normal vocations also volunteer for military service. These citizens, on joining the Territorial Army, undergo a short period of rigorous training to make them competent soldiers. The Territorial Army has an authorised strength of 41,000 men of all ranks comprising 25 Infantry Battalions (TA) and 29 departmental units. The Territorial Army Infantry units successfully met the heavy commitments during 'Operation Vijay' and 'Operation Rakshak' in J&K and Counter-Insurgency Operations in the Eastern Sector apart from Guard and Escort duties round the year. The 131 Infantry Battalion (TA), Waste Land Development Force, which was raised at the behest of ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, at Morena (Gwalior), completed its assigned task of soil conservation and plantations.

3.21 The Territorial Army recently held its Golden Jubilee Celebrations. As part of celebrations, it successfully conducted various adventure activities during September/October 1999. A Motorcycle expedition from Pune to Kargit to Delhi was organised covering a distance of 4,600 Kms in 38 days to pay homage to the Kargit Martyrs. Three cycle expeditions were conducted - one

from Chandigarh covering 1,048 Kms from September 12 to October 6, 1999 and the second from September 29 to October 6, 1999 from Saugar (MP) to Delhi covering a distance of 630 Kms. The third cycle expedition on Kumaun Hill was flagged off from Tawaghat on Indo Tibetan border on September 17, 1999 which reached Delhi on October 6, 1999, successfully covering a distance of approximately 682 Kms over difficult mountainous terrain.

3.22 The Territory Army celebrated its Golden Jubilee on October 9, 1999 and a first day cover was also released by Hon'ble Defence Minister on that day. The high standard of drill of the Territorial Army contingents in the Parade was well-praised by the viewers.

3.23 The Territorial Army rendered assistance to civil authorities during Super Cycle in Orissa in October-November 1999 by mobilizing six Infantry Battalions for loading/unloading, guarding, escorting relief material to various distentions in the cycle affected areas of Orissa during the period from October 29 to December 15, 1999. In addition, one Infantry Battalion was also mobilized in Thiruchirapalli during November 22-25, 1999 for flood relief and rescue operations. The Territorial Army also rendered assistance during Port & Dock workers strike during January 14-18, 2000 by mobilizing five of its Railway Engineers Regiments at various ports for running trains within Dockyard complexes and for maintenance of track, locomotives and wagons employed for the assigned tasks. The Territorial Army also rendered assistance

during strike called by Officers Association of Oil Sector PSUs during January 9-12, 2000 by mobilizing three of its Oil Units for running the Thermal power stations, crude Oil distillation plant and to maintain supply of Aviation fuel to Aircraft operation out of Delhi. This strike was withdrawn subsequently.

THE REMOUNT & VETERINARY CORPS

- 3.24 The Remount & Veterinary Corps (RVC) has been entrusted with the task of breeding, rearing & training of horses, mules and Army dogs. The Corps is also carrying out the specialised task of deployment of Army dogs. Army dogs have proved to be a force multiplier in Counter Insurgency Operations and the Corps is engaged in meeting this challenging job efficiently.

MILITARY FARMS

- 3.25 Military Farms, the pioneers in organised commercial dairy farming in the country, supply hygienic and pasteurized milk to troops at 49 military stations. These farms produce as well as procure fodder for their animals and meet the requirement of Army animals. In order to strengthen military farms in forward areas, poultry, goat/sheep and vegetable farming has been taken up at Dimapur, Guwahati, Tenga, Karu (Leh), Shillong and Panitola. Military farms have also embarked on collaborative projects with the Ministry of Agriculture for dairy development in remote regions of the country. The Frieswal Project, one of the biggest cattle breeding project for evolving a breed for the tropics, is being run in collaboration with the Indian

Council of Agricultural Research (Ministry of Agriculture).

TRENDS IN TRAINING

- 3.26 **National Defence Academy (NDA):** The academic training of the National Defence Academy is in tune with the national educational format of 10+2+3. The syllabus of the Academy meets these requirements and has been approved by the Jawaharlal Nehru University for grant of B.A. or B.Sc. degrees at the time of passing out from the Academy after three years of training. The Academy is a unique institution wherein Inter Service aspects are developed in the formative stages of an officer, thus developing a bond of friendship and respect for each other's Service.
- 3.27 **Entry of Women as Commissioned Officers:** Since September 21, 1992, the Indian Army has opened up its portals for entry of women as Commissioned Officers. Initially, 50 lady cadets were commissioned every year, with the entries presently limited to Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General's Department, Corps of Engineers, Signals and Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The strength of lady cadets from March 1997 has been enhanced to 50 per course i.e. 100 per year.
- 3.28 **Junior Leaders Academy (JLA) :** Officers and Non Commissioned Officers in warfare tactics and weapon craft. However, there was no course specially structured to impart training in leadership and management. With the aim of filling this void, a Cat-

egory 'A' Training Institution named Junior Leaders Academy (JLA) has been established. The Academy conducts specifically structured courses in leadership and management to help them to shoulder responsibilities presently being borne by junior officers. The establishment of another Junior Leaders Academy is in progress.

HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS IN THE ARMY

- 3.29 The achievement of human rights values is the restoration of the right balance between the needs of the society and individual liberty and dignity. While it is not always easy to maintain this balance, the Army, with its concern and commitment for human rights, has managed to achieve the best track record in the world in observance of human rights despite being heavily committed in Counter Insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir as well as in the North Eastern States where it is operating against individuals trained and equipped with state-of-the-art weapon system and who do not subscribe to the Geneva Conventions or any law. The troops have carried out all operations with utmost restraint and with full respect for the human rights of the populace, sometimes even at the cost of their own lives.

REHABILITATION AND WELFARE MEASURES

- 3.30 The Indian Army has been engaged in a number of military operations since independence. During these operations a large number of soldiers have been killed or disabled permanently. Besides, the Army



Naval aviators fly over mountains too! Lt. Cdr. UtaPl Dutta was the sole naval officer to have participated in Kargil Ops.

has been involved in fighting insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and North Eastern States over a protracted period of time. Counter Insurgency operations are still continuing in Jammu & Kashmir and the North East. There are approximately 14,000 living war widows and 7000 disabled soldiers who need to be taken care of by the Government and the Army. This figure is increasing every year. The Army has established a permanent Rehabilitation and Welfare (R&W) Section under the Adjutant General's Branch/Ceremonial and Welfare Directorate to execute the onerous task of implementing welfare schemes for the war widows/dependents and disabled soldiers. This section will interact and process all cases with various Government and Non-Government departments, co-ordinate training and subsequent rehabilitation of affected personnel and also maintain a centralised database on all war widows, dependents and disabled soldiers. It will act as the nodal agency for dealing with all issues related to the welfare of war widows and disabled battle casualties of the Army.

ARMY'S ROLE IN ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION

3.31 The Army logistic support contingent comprising two officers, two JCOs and nine other ranks has been provided to the Department of Ocean Development, Government of India for the 18th and 19th Antarctica Expeditions. While the 18th Antarctica Expedition is presently stationed at Antarctica, the 19th Expedition has moved from South Africa in December, 1999. The Army has been inti-

mately involved in this venture with effect from the 2nd Antarctica Expedition that was launched in 1982. Tasks undertaken by the contingent are construction, repair and maintenance of permanent stations; running of life support systems and overland transportation of men and material on the Continent. The Army team has also been undertaking other humanitarian tasks, over and above their laid down charter.

UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS

3.32 Peacekeeping operations, under the aegis of United Nations, have grown in relevance and importance, especially in the post Cold War period. This instrument is used by the UN for conflict resolution and the establishment of democracies worldwide. The professionalism and dedication of the Indian soldiers, the quality of performance of the Indian units deployed on such missions and execution of task by our staff officers in various UN Headquarters have established benchmark of quality in the field of Peacekeeping Operations. The respect for human rights displayed by Indian soldiers, often at the risk to their own lives, has been recognised and respected by all nations. Indian contributions, in numbers, rank first in the world today and is spread over three continents.

3.33 **Contributions by India :** During the year 1999-2000, the Indian Army was actively involved in the Peacekeeping Operations in Angola, Sierra Leone, Lebanon, Kuwait and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



COAS meeting the peace keepers

- (a) **MONUA (Angola) :** Indian troops as part of UN Military Mission Observer (MONUA) in Angola were not only involved in maintenance of peace but were also engaged in construction of quartering areas, reconstruction of bridges, reopening of roads, demining of roads as well as extending medical and humanitarian aid to the local populace. The Mission has since been closed down and all our troops have returned in April 1999.
- (b) **UN Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) :** Seven military observers have been deployed from India for this part of the mission. Their main task is to monitor the sensitive demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait. With their dedication, professionalism and ardent hard work, they have achieved accolades from the international community.
- (c) **UNIFIL (Lebanon) :** UNIFIL is a long established mission in one of the most strategically important and sensitive regions of the world. The countries of the region have also been important strategic partners of India

in the international order. The Indian contingent of 617 personnel, comprising all ranks of 2 MADRAS Battalion Group has recently replaced 2/4 GR Battalion Group which has been repatriated on successful completion of one year in the mission. The task involves domination of the area of operation, prevention of infiltration/operations by local militias, protection of local population against attacks and provision of humanitarian aid. The induction of the Indian contingent has been welcomed by all other participants in UNIFIL as well as by the host country.

- (d) **MONUC (Congo)** : Five officers have been deployed in this new UN mission as military liaison officers. Their main task is to ensure constant liaison between the UN

and the Government of Congo and of other neighbouring countries so as to speed up the peace process underway in war-torn Congo.

- (e) **UN Mission in Sierra Leone** : India had the unique privilege of deploying a 15 member medical team and five military observers including the Chief Military Observer to head the Observer Mission in mid 1998. Unfortunately, the Mission did not last long due to renewed fighting and most of our personnel were repatriated in early 1999. The Mission is now under expansion and transition from an observer to a formed troops mission. India is contributing one Infantry Battalion (Composite), Field Engineer Company, Quick Reaction Company, Army Aviation Unit, Transport

Unit and a large number of personnel for the Force Headquarters. Maj Gen VK Jetley, UYSM has been deployed as the Force Commander of the new Mission. The Indian Air Force is also participating with one Helicopter Unit in the Mission. In all, India is contributing 208 Officers, 190 JCOs and 1932 OR to this mission.

- 3.34 In the increasingly competitive environment and the changing political, social and economic equations, the relevance and benefits of Indian participants have been clearly established. There is a need within India to develop a strategic thought process in support of such operations and continuous training and doctrinal development to meet the emerging complex challenges in this field.