

CITIZENS REPORT

**Performance of the
Senate Standing
Committee on
Defence & Defence
Production**

June 04, 2012 - March 15, 2013

CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS | MARCH 2013

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PILDAT is an independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit indigenous research and training institution with the mission to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan.

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Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency - PILDAT
Islamabad Office: No. 7, 9th Avenue, F-8/1, Islamabad, Pakistan
Lahore Office: 45-A, Sector XX, 2nd Floor, Phase III Commercial Area, DHA, Lahore
Tel: (+92-51) 111-123-345; Fax: (+92-51) 226-3078
E-mail: info@pildat.org; Web: www.pildat.org

June 04, 2012 - March 15, 2013

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PREFACE

The Citizens Report on the **Performance of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production** has been prepared by PILDAT. The report covers the period from June 04 2012 to March 15, 2013 and is a continuation of the analysis of performance prepared by PILDAT earlier.

The report draws upon the publicly-available data on the work of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence, which is obtained mostly from the official website of the committee <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk>.

The objective behind the report is to analyse the performance of the Committee in the backdrop of peculiar security needs of Pakistan and the role Parliament is playing with respect to defining and influencing policy and principles of national defence. The report therefore is meant to assist the committee in its oversight functions.

Furthermore, in the backdrop of specific civil-military equation in Pakistan, the purpose of the report is to examine the exercise of available powers of the Parliament with regards to Parliamentary oversight of defence and security sector in the light of the Constitution of Pakistan and assisting Parliament and its committees in undertaking well-researched, objective and non-partisan oversight of defence and security sector alongside other fields in the executive branch.

Acknowledgments

This report has been prepared by PILDAT team including **Mr. Khurram Malik**, Projects Manager-PILDAT, and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director-PILDAT, under the supervision of **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT.

Disclaimer

PILDAT and its team have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this report and do not accept any omission or error as it is not deliberate.

Islamabad
March 2013

June 04, 2012 - March 15, 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production was re-constituted on June 04, 2012, 3 months after the Senate election in March 2012. **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** (Islamabad, PML) was elected as the chair of the committee on the same date.

There was a huge change in the performance of Senate Defence Committee after the election of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as its Chairman. In less than one year since its re-constitution, the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production has held 20 activities including meetings, visits, seminars and public hearings. In the previous three years of the Committee from 2009 to 2012, in comparison, the committee had held a total of 34 meetings in 3 years.

Another significant improvement in the performance is that the committee has prepared and published¹ 4 reports in less than a year whereas under the earlier tenure of the Committee, not even a single report was tabled by the Committee in 3 years.

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence has also launched its website <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk> in June 2012 on which details of all activities and minutes of the meetings can be accessed.

The Senate Defence Committee has achieved another first by taking the initiative of preparing a list of activities and a Work Plan for the year which includes holdings official briefings, and public hearings on important issues. The proposed plan is attached in Appendix A.

The Committee has also set some new traditions such as receiving briefings on the Defence Budget and giving suggestions for the preparation of the budget.

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence has also, for the first time in Pakistan's Parliamentary history, begun holding public hearing and policy seminars on important issues related to Defence and Civil Military Relations.

1. PILDAT is assisting the Senate Defence Committee, upon its request, with publication of the official Committee Reports since June 2012.

June 04, 2012 - March 15, 2013

Introduction

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production was re-constituted on June 04, 2012, 3 months after the Senate election in March 2012. **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** (Islamabad, PML) was elected as the chair of the committee on the same date. Party-wise membership of the Committee is provided in Table 1.

Role of Defence Committees

The principle of Parliamentary oversight on the Executive is enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan mandated mainly through Parliamentary powers of legislation and passage of the budget. These powers are further defined under the rules of the Senate of Pakistan that govern the functioning of the Parliamentary committees as well.

The functions of Standing Committees in Pakistan's Parliament are to debate legislation relating to, and overseeing the working and performance of, the relevant Ministry or Division. Standing committees have wide powers to call witnesses, requisition official records, seek statements on oath and take up any matter within their jurisdiction, without reference by the House.

Standing Committees can take up public petitions on any matter *“connected with the business pending before the parliament, or any matter of general public interest which is primarily the concern of the government, provided that it is not one which falls within the cognisance of a court, nor shall it relate to a matter pending before any court or other authority performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions.”*²

As with other permanent parliamentary committees throughout the world, it is common for Parliamentary Defence Committees to have a range of roles, including.³

- i. Considering relevant draft legislation, consulting with Ministers and others about its content and reporting the legislation to the House considering national military and defence priorities and making public its views.
- ii. Considering the law as it affects members of the armed forces – dealing not with individual cases but with the law as it applies to forces generally.
- iii. Overseeing the detailed workings of the department of defence and any of its agencies and holding Ministers

Table 1: Membership of Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production

Party	No. of Members In Committee
Pakistan Peoples Party-Parliamentarian (PPPP)	5
1. Senator Farhatullah Babar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PPPP	
2. Senator Sabir Ali Baloch Balochistan, PPPP	
3. Senator Sardar Ali Khan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PPPP	
4. Senator Sehar Kamran Sindh, PPPP	
5. Senator Faisal Raza Abidi Sindh, PPPP	
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)	2
6. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Punjab, PML-N	
7. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq Punjab, PML-N	
Pakistan Muslim League (PML)	2
8. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Islamabad, PML	
9. Senator Ch Shujaat Hussain Punjab, PML	
Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM)	1
10. Senator Col. (Retd.) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi Sindh, MQM	
Awami National Party (ANP)	1
11. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ANP	
Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F)	1
12. Senator Molana Muhamad Khan Sherani Balochistan, JUI-F	
Total	12

2. Parliamentary oversight on Spy agencies, Dawn, May 13, 2011: <http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/13/parliamentary-oversight-of-spy-agencies.html>

3. Role of Defence Committee, <http://www.parliamentaryresources.net/policy-areas/security-defence-committee/-role-defence-committees>

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- to account; reviewing how the outcome of policies matched previously announced plans and making reports for the House and the public on such matters.
- iv. Examining the budget of the department critically and making detailed reports on any issues which seem unsatisfactory.
 - v. Considering the operation of existing laws and policies.
 - vi. Following up the previous recommendations of the committee and checking that the ministry has fulfilled undertakings previously given to change or improve its practices or policies.
 - vii. Providing regular information on which Parliament as a whole can make soundly based decisions on defence priorities, spending and administration.
 - viii. As a specialist committee, helping Parliament itself in plenary sittings to deal with complex and sensitive issues in relation to security and defence and helping to improve public understanding of these matters.

the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production has held 20 activities including meetings, visits, seminars and public hearings. The committee has prepared and published⁵ 4 reports in less than a year.

Constitutional Mandate

The Constitution of Pakistan vests the control and command of the Armed Forces in the Federal Government. The Federal Government exercises its powers of control and command of the Armed Forces through its Ministry of Defence.

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production corresponds to the Ministries of the Defence and Defence Production. Its key responsibilities are to oversee the functioning of these ministries and all their related bodies in keeping with the tasks assigned to these divisions. Review of legislation relating to these ministries and to oversee the financial and policy-related working and performance of these ministries are the main tasks of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production.⁴

Performance of Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production in 2012-2013

There was an accelerated positive change in the performance of Senate Defence Committee after the election of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as its Chairman. In less than one year since its re-constitution,

4. For details please see Citizens Performance Report: Performance of the Parliamentary Committees on Defence and National Security, March 15, 2008 – March 15, 2012, PILDAT, (May 2011): <http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/CMR/Report-PerformanceoftheParliamentaryCommitteesofDefenceandNationalSecurityMar08toMar11.pdf>

5. PILDAT is assisting the Senate Defence Committee, upon its request, with publication of the official Committee Reports since June 2012.

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Meetings of the Committee: 2012-2013

After the election of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, the performance of the committee has set new and positive standards of effective oversight.

In less than a year since its inception, the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production has held total of 20 activities which include meetings, visits, public hearings and policy seminars.

After the election of Chairman on June 04, 2012, the committee held its first meeting to discuss work plan for upcoming months. The committee also held two separate meetings with Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Defence Production to get briefings on their functions and performance. The committee also visited Naval and Air headquarters to get briefings on their working and performance.

The Defence Committee held a meeting on Defence Budget in month of October in which Secretary Defence gave a detailed briefing on preparation of Defence Budget and requirements for the next fiscal year.

The Committee also set a new tradition in September 2012 when it held public hearings on new Defence Strategy and

Table 2: Meetings of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production: March 2011-March 2012

Month	Number of Meetings held
June 2012	04
July 2012	03
August 2012	01
September 2012	02
October 2012	02
November 2012	04
December 2012	02
January 2013	01
February 2013	00
March 2012	01
Total	20

Table 3: Meetings by the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production: 2009-2012

Parliamentary Year	Number of Meetings held
2009-2010	15
2010-2011	11
2011-2012	08
2012-2013	20
Total	54

another public hearing on Civil Military in Pakistan in November 2012. The Committee also held two policy seminars during this period.

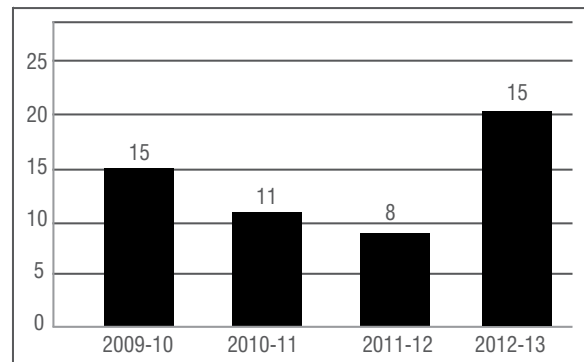
During this period, the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production prepared four (4) reports and reviewed the following six (6) bills:

- i. The Airports Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2012.
- ii. The Maritime Security Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2012.
- iii. The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2013
- iv. The Defence Housing Authority Islamabad Bill, 2013
- v. The National Counter Terrorism Authority Bill, 2013
- vi. The Anti-terrorism (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013

Table 2 carries the number of meetings held by the Committee in each month since June 2012:

In comparison, the previous Senate Defence Committee had held 34 meetings from 2009-2012, while the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production held 20 meetings in almost 9 months after reconstitution. Table 3 carries number of meetings per year.

Figure 1: Year-wise Meetings held by the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production



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Details of Meetings

June 04, 0212: Election of the Chairman

The first meeting of re-constituted Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production was held on June 04, 2012, 3 months after the Senate election in March 2012. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed (Islamabad, PML) was elected as the chair of the committee on the same date.⁶

June 13, 0212: meeting to chalk out plan of action

The Committee, which was presided over by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, chalked out a comprehensive plan of action for the year 2012 in its meeting held on June 13, 2012. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, in his opening remarks, stated that a smooth Civil-Military Relationship is the need of the hour to protect the national interests and formulate policies to counter internal and external security threats.

Reiterating his resolve to make the Defence Committee serve as a bridge between what he termed as “Khaki and Mufti,” he said that the Committee would also endeavour to focus on a review of Pakistan's defence strategy in the light of the situation around Pakistan's borders. Apart from Civil-Military Relations and briefing from the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Defence Production, the Defence Committee would also review the working of the PIA and Civil Aviation Authority.⁷

He said that Parliament has to play a proactive role keeping in view the new emerging realities at national, regional and international level. Senator Mushahid sought suggestions from the members of the committee in this regard.

The proposed work plan has been divided into two parts which would include briefings by all the three services, Strategic Plan Division, ISI, and Defence Production besides holding public hearings based on input from defence experts, academics and professionals to better understand Pakistan's defence issues. The committee

would also formulate proposals to further enhance Civil-Military Relations and prepare an annual Defence Policy Strategy document based on policy recommendations, he said.

June 15, 2012: Visit to Chakwal to condole with families of the martyrs of Gyari Sector

Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence & Defence Production, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, along with Senator Farhatullah Babar and Senator Sehar Kamran, on June 15, 2012 visited the residences of Gayari avalanche victims, Lt. Col. Tanvirul Hassan Shaheed, and Naik Ansar Mahmood Shaheed, and offered condolences with the families of both the martyred soldiers. This was the first parliamentary delegation who visited the ancestral homes of the martyrs of Gayari incident to express solidarity and condolences with the families of martyred soldiers.⁸

July 16, 2012: Briefing by the Ministry of Defence

The meeting of the Senate Defence Committee was held on July 16, 2012 to discuss the functions and performance of the Ministry of Defence and its attached departments.⁹

The Secretary Defence gave a detailed briefing on the functions and performance of Defence Ministry and related departments.

The Committee underscored the need for greater harmony between civil and military institutions and make coordinated efforts to formulate policies to protect the national security in a befitting manner keeping in view the regional as well as global situation.

The Committee, during the deliberations, also directed the Ministry of Defence to submit a detailed report on the issue of denial of building rights to the owners in Rawalpindi by Army as reported by local media sometimes back.

July 23, 2012: Launch of first Report and Website of the Committee

On July 23, 2012, a meeting of the Senate Standing

6. Mushahid Hussain Syed elected as Senate Defence Committee chairman, The Express Tribune, June 4, 2012, <http://tribune.com.pk/story/388624/mushahid-hussain-syed-elected-as-senate-defence-committee-chairman/>

7. Minutes of Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, June 13, 2012 <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/activity-detail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=MTM=>

8. Committee's Visit to Homes of Gayari Martyrs, Press release, June 15, 2012, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/activity-detail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=MTU=>

9. Briefing by the Ministry of Defence to Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, July 16, 2012, Press release by Senate Secretariat, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/activity-detail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=MTg=>

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Committee on Defence and Defence Production was convened in connection with launching of the new website of the Committee and presentation of its first report. Chairman Senate, Senator Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, in his opening remarks, said that the Defence Committee would establish new parliamentary traditions and would seek guidance from all the stakeholders including defence and security institutions, think tanks, media and others to formulate solid recommendations to further strengthen the defence of the country. He apprised the Chairman Senate of the 2012 Work Plan and other initiatives of the committee, adding that a Defence Policy Strategy document would be prepared annually to give specific proposals on how to promote harmony between the *Khaki* and *Mufti*, and to redefine some of the basic premises of National Defence Strategy in light of new challenges and emerging ground realities.¹⁰

August 15, 2012, Briefing by Ministry of Defence Production

On August 15, 2012, officials from Ministry of Defence Production, Heavy Industries Taxila, Pakistan Ordnance Factory Wah and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, briefed the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production about their working performance.

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence passed a unanimous resolution that the defence institutions should be given full autonomy and added that a member private from private sector should be appointed in these institutions.¹¹

September 06, 2012, Visit to Swabi on Defence Day

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed led a delegation of the Senate Defence Committee including Senators Sehar Kamran, Col. (Retd.) Tahir Hussain Mashhadi, Farhatullah Babar and Nisar Ahmed Khan, that visited the grave of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, at his native town in district Sawabi on Defence Day.¹²

The committee paid glowing tributes and homage to the courageous hero of Kargil war Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed. Senators offered fateha and laid the floral wreaths at the Mazar of the Shaheed. The Committee announced to construct a library and museum in the name of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed.

October 17, 2012: Visit to Naval Headquarters – Briefing by Naval Chief.

On October 17, 2012, members of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, visited Naval Headquarters. The Committee members were briefed on Prevailing Maritime Security and Pakistan Navy's role in maintaining peace and stability in the region by the Naval Chief. Committee members were also apprised of PN's Operational and Development Plans to protect maritime interests of Pakistan.¹³

The Chairman Senate Standing Committee expressed his satisfaction over PN operational and developmental plans which have been formulated to safeguard Pakistan's maritime interests. The Committee members, while acknowledging PN efforts in nation building, especially in the health and education sectors, appreciated PN's endeavours in service of nation, particularly on flood relief operations in the province of Sindh and Balochistan.

Committee assured its support to facilitate Pakistan Navy in meeting its requirements to address critical capability gap by actively pursuing the Government of Pakistan.

October 22, 2012: Briefing on Defence Budget.

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production got briefing on Defence Budget in an in-camera meeting. Secretary Defence gave a detailed presentation on Defence Budget. After the meeting Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed told media that parliamentary oversight of the defence spending is must to ensure good governance and transparency. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed informed that comparative analyses were placed before the committee. He said that the Committee underlined the

10. Defence Committee Launches Website and First Report, July 23, 2013, Senate Press Release <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/activity-detail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=MTk=>

11. Private sector in defence production, The News, August 15, 2012, <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-63504-Private-sector-in-defence-production>

12. Minutes of the Meeting, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/activity-detail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=Mjl=>

13. Visit to Naval Headquarters, Pakistan today, October 18, 2012, <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/10/18/city/islamabad/senate-committee-visits-naval-headquarters/>

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need for more transparency in the budget being spent on Defence of the country. He further said that Pakistan stands at 33rd position as far as defence expenditure is concerned, adding that it is now 2.3 percent of the GDP.¹⁴

Senator Mushahid informed that Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Committee has decided to re-visit the defence paradigm and would prepare a defence policy strategy document after having input from all the stakeholders. He also sought view point of the Ministry of Defence in this regard so that a comprehensive document could be floated.

During the meeting, Members of the Committee termed it a good beginning as the figures of the defence budget were being shared with the committee.

November 27, 2012: Visit to PAF Headquarters

On November 27, 2012 the Senate Defence Committee visited PAF Headquarters. The committee was given briefing by Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique about the PAF and its overall performance. The historical background, force structure, role in Anti terrorist operations, role in national building, development plans and challenges being faced by PAF were shared in detail with the committee.¹⁵

Chairman of the Committee praised the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force and observed that the PAF has always delivered in times of crises through its high standards of professionalism and good quality leadership. The Committee appreciated the excellent coordination between the forces and termed it vital for the country keeping in view the regional and international perspectives, adding that the geo strategic interest and the internal and external threats need better coordination among the three institutions i.e. PAF, Navy and Army.

December 3, 2012: Meeting Iranian Delegation

A visiting delegation from Iran's Parliament and Foreign Affairs Committee, headed by Mr. Alaeddin Borojourdi, met with Senate Standing Committee on Defence on December 03 2012.

According to official Press release, the two committees had formal discussions during which there was an

exchange of views on Pakistan-Iran relations particularly gas pipeline, Afghanistan, Muslim unity and the Iran nuclear programme. Both sides also agreed on the necessity of enhancing cooperation between the Defence Ministries of both countries.¹⁶

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked Iran for its generous support to Pakistan during times of trouble, particularly when Pakistan faced pressures as well as recently during the floods in Sindh. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that Pakistan and Iran have no fundamental conflict of interests and he said that the entire Pakistani nation was committed to building the energy pipeline with Iran since it is a pipeline of peace and prosperity for the region.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed told the visiting Iranian delegation that Pakistan rejects any double standards on the nuclear issue and strongly feels that the standoff with Iran on the nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully, without threat or use of force. The Senate Defence Committee of Pakistan supported the right of Iran to undertake nuclear research and enrichment for peaceful purposes in accordance with IAEA safeguards.

Mr. Alaeddin Borojourdi clearly stated that Iran has no intention of building the atomic bomb but it will certainly exercise its right to do nuclear research and development for peaceful purposes. He also said that Iran will continue to supply arms and ammunition to those fighting in Lebanon such as the Hizbullah and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

January 31, 2013: Briefing by Ministry of Defence on Violation of LoC by the Indian Forces

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production strongly condemned the repeated ceasefire violations and incidents of unprovoked firing by the Indian troops on the Line of Control (LoC). In a resolution passed unanimously in its meeting held on January 31, 2013, the Committee expressed its deep disappointment on the propaganda by the Indian leadership, institutions including media and civil society and urged upon the international community and unbiased observers including UNMOGIP to play their role in clarifying the factual position to avoid any further escalation or recurrence of such incidents for

14. Minutes of the Meeting, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/activity-detail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=MJU>

15. PAF always delivered in times of crises, says Mushahid, Senate Secretariat Press Release, November 27, 2012, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/newsdetail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=NTk>

16. Minutes of the Meeting, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/activity-detail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=Mjg>

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peace in the region.¹⁷

A special meeting of the Committee was convened to get a briefing by the Ministry of Defence on the violation of LoC by the Indian forces and response by the Armed Forces of Pakistan. The Secretary Defence gave detailed briefing to the Committee on the incidents and answered questions of the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

The Committee was informed that a local incident of violation of LOC by the Indian troops in the night of 5th and 6th January, 2013 was propagated about in a calibrated manner and it reached the highest offices in India in less than four days. The hype built by the Indian media about the incident was also worrying.

The Committee was informed that the incident of violation of the LoC was taken up very next day by the DGMO of Pakistan with his Indian counterpart who expressed his ignorance at that point. However, later a whole set of accusations was levelled to cover and legitimize the misadventure in which the Indian troops had fled away leaving their arms. The repeated invitation by the Government of Pakistan to hold an independent inquiry in the matter is a clear proof that allegations by India are baseless.

The Committee recorded its apprehension that unabated unilateral violations of LoC by the Indian troops and the following propaganda to malign Pakistan's Armed Forces may cause serious damage to the peace process and prospects of better understanding and relations between the two countries so essentially required for the welfare of the common man of the two countries.

During the meeting Senators Haji Mohammad Adeel and Senator Col. (Retd.) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi raised the issue of making the Cantonment Boards more representative and democratic. The Secretary Defence responded that in the light of the decision of the Supreme Court, elections for the Cantonment Boards will be held within the given time frame. However, it was decided that a detailed briefing will be taken by the Director General Military Land and Cantonment on various issues raised by the members.

March 04, 2013: Meeting on DHA, PIA and ASF

The Senate Defence Committee, in its meeting on March

04, 2013, deliberated upon various issues concerning Defence Housing Authorities (DHAs), Military Lands and Cantonments, Pakistan International Airline (PIA) and Airport Security Force.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed expressed the hope that the committee would proactively engage in such a discourse which would help in formulating recommendations on new lines to improve functioning of the organizations and defence institutions.

The Committee asked about the legality of Defence Housing Authorities in the Country. It proposed that the administrators of a DHA should be appointed by the Ministry of Defence instead of Army Chief. The Committee also suggested to make the governing body of the DHA more representative and efficient.¹⁸

Members of the Committee expressed their dismay over the poor performance of Pakistan International Airlines and regretted the unsatisfactory dealing of the passengers and flight delays. The Committee directed the PIA management to improve quality of performance and services of the National Flag carrier.

During the meeting, the Defence Committee also approved the restructuring plan of the Airport Security Force, as per assurance at the time of approval of Airports Security Force (amendment) Bill 2012.

The committee was also given a detailed briefing on the DHAs in the country. Administrators of DHAs Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi / Islamabad informed the committee about the legal status of the DHAs. Whereas, MD PIA informed the committee on the issue of acquisition of new aircrafts for PIA besides opening up of new routes for the airline to earn more profit.

17. Senate Defence Committee passes unanimous resolution; condemns ceasefire violations by Indian troops, January 31, 2013, Senate Press Release, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/newsdetail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=ODI=>

18. Senate Defence Committee calls for improvement in PIA's working and performance, March 04, 2013, Senate Press Release, <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/newsdetail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=ODQ>

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Table 4: A Snapshot of Meetings of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production

No.	Date	Issues Discussed
1.	June 4, 2012	Election of Committee Chairman
2.	June 13, 2012	Discussion on Work Plan for 2012.
3.	June 15, 2012	Visit to Chakwal to condole with families of the martyrs of Gyari Sector in Siachen.
4.	June 17, 2012	Briefing of Chairman to students of NDU.
5.	July 9, 2012	Meeting with delegation of International Crisis Group (ICG) led by Ms. Louise Arbour, President ICG
6.	July 16, 2012	Briefing by Ministry of Defence on functions and performances of Ministry and its Departments.
7.	July 23, 2012	Launch of first Report and website by Chairman Senate.
8.	August 15, 2012	Briefing by Ministry of Defence Production and its attached departments.
9.	September 6, 2012	Visit to the grave of Capt. Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed at Swabi.
10.	September 28, 2012	Public Hearing on Towards a new Defence Strategy.
11.	October 17, 2012	Visit to Naval Headquarters – Briefing by Naval Chief.
12.	October 22, 2012	Briefing by Ministry of Defence on Defence Budget.
13.	November 5, 2012	Policy Seminar on “Towards 2014: Withdrawal of NATO from Afghanistan”.
14.	November 12, 2012	Review of ASF Amendment Bill 2012.
15.	November 27, 2012	Visit to Air Headquarters, Briefing by Air Chief
16.	November 28, 2012	Public Hearing on Civil-Military Relations.
17.	December 3, 2012	Meeting with delegation of Iranian Defence & FP Committee, led by its H.E. Alaeddin Boroujerdi.
18.	December 4, 2012	Policy Seminar with delegation of Iranian Defence & FP Committee, led by its H.E. Alaeddin Boroujerdi
19.	January 31, 2013	Briefing by MOD on Violation of LOC by the Indian Forces.
20.	March 4, 2013	Briefing on DHAs, ML&C, ASF and PIA.

Conclusion

After the election of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as Chairman, a significant improvement has been seen in the performance of the Senate Standing Committee of Defence and Defence Production.

The committee has set some new traditions such as preparing and approving a work plan, holding public hearings, printing and publishing committee reports and receiving briefing on Defence Budget.

In comparison with its counter-part committee in the National Assembly, as well as the earlier Defence Committee of the Senate, there is a marked improvement in efficiency and frequency of meetings held by Senate Committee.

However, the committee's performance can not be tracked in a short span of time since June 2012 in the absence of a set of clear-cut recommendations that may have emerged from the Committee. What will be most useful is the committee's planned review of defence strategy of Pakistan and its input.

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Appendix A

Work Plan for 2012

(As Presented in the meeting of Senate Defence Committee on June 13, 2012)

The Work Plan will be divided into 2 parts:

A) BRIEFINGS

- i. Briefing by the 3 services (Army, Air Force & Navy) under auspices of Ministry of Defence;
- ii. Briefing on the nuclear programme by the Strategic Plans Division (SPD);
- iii. Briefing on internal/external threats to national defence by the Inter Services Intelligence Directorate;
- iv. Briefing on Defence Production facilities and their role/potential to strengthen national economy.

B) PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearing with presentation by experts, scholars & retired military professionals on Defence Policy of Pakistan: what changes are needed in light of new realities particularly nature and source of military and non-military threats like cyber warfare and climate change, plus better inter-service coordination. One key focus should be how to redefine the concept of National Defence, viewing it in not just military terms but include civilian components in today's world like economy, education, energy, environment, Parliament, rule of law, political parties and provincial autonomy.

(By the end of 2012, the Defence & Defence Production Committee should be in a position to produce a document on Defence Policy and Security Strategy for Pakistan, with proposals and recommendations on what changes are needed given the emerging scenario in the country and the region).

C) CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

Seeking a balance between Khaki and Mufti in an institutional manner, upholding the principle of supremacy of the Constitution, In this regard, a Working Paper for background reading has already been circulated. This Paper has been written by the Chairman, and includes a comprehensive, specially prepared Fact Sheet on Civil-Military Relations from 1947 to the present. Based on testimony of experts, examples of other democratic countries like Turkey and Indonesia and the track record in Pakistan, the Defence Committee would study the issue and then prepare some concrete policy proposals as part of its Defence Policy and Strategy Document.

D) COMMITTEE WEBSITE

Suggestions, ideas and proposals for the website of the Committee

E) RESEARCH INTERNS

Two research interns for the Committee, who will be available to all Committee Members for their research & talking points on defence-related issues.



Pakistan Institute of
Legislative Development
And Transparency

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency - PILDAT

Islamabad Office: No. 7, 9th Avenue, F-8/1, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: (+92-51) 111 123 345 | Fax: (+92-51) 226 3078

Lahore Office: 45-A, 2nd Floor, Sector XX, Phase III, Khayaban-e-Iqbal, DHA, Lahore, Pakistan

Tel: (+92-42) 111 123 345 | Fax: (+92-42) 3569 3896

Web: <http://www.pildat.org>