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WELCOME NOTE: NEW CAS

TECH-SAVVY FORCE: CISF TEAM DSA

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IT ALL DEPENDS ON **WHO YOU ASK** J.M. PHELPS

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BOOK REVIEW BY COL HARJEET SINGH (RETD)

TECH-SAVYY FORCE: CISF

Will CISF acquire drones for surveillance-in-depth in hostile territory? The CISF has not been mandated with offensive operations against LWE elements. However, CISF has been assigned to extend security to installations located in LWE affected areas, within its limits. Within the area of responsibility in these installations, effective on ground surveillance system is already in place. Option of airborne early warning system shall be explored as per guidelines in this regard keeping in view the threat perception, in future.



Could you please give a resume of assignments and deployments that have been the hallmark of the Force since its inception?

Director General, CISF: CISF was formed in the year 1969 with an initial strength of 3,129. Over a period of time, it has emerged as a Specialised Force shouldering pivotal responsibilities in securing the most critical infrastructure of the country in the public, joint and private sector establishments. Today, CISF provides security cover to a large number of installations constituting the critical infrastructure of the nation which includes 61 international and major airports of the country, atomic energy and space installations, sea ports, steel plants, coalfields, hydroelectric and thermal power plants, defence production units, fertilizer and chemical industries, note printing press / mints, heritage monuments / museums, important government,

buildings, Delhi Metro, VIP Security and important private sector establishments.

CISF has earned the reputation of being a multi-skilled and tech-savvy Central Armed Police Force ready to accept newer and bigger challenges.

DSA: Terrorism has evolved in

many different ways making the job of the security forces that much more complicated e.g., the use of truck / car bombs. What counter-measures can be deployed against such attacks? **DG**, **CISF**: In the recent past, there has been a shift in modus operandi adopted by terror outfits thereby posing various challenges to security forces. Uses of truck / car bombs are part of the series of changing strategies of terrorists. In an environment of changing threats, it is incumbent upon the security forces to remain abreast with such changes and threats thereof. In order



to counter such threats, CISF has adopted a multi-pronged approach, implementation of multi-layered defence system at airports and other vital installations being one of them. Constant electronic and manual surveillance especially over the vehicles approaching the various installations, isolation of critical areas from being directly approached by vehicles within an establishment, dedicated bomb detection and disposal squads (BDDS) are few other such measures. The CISF also has in place a system of structured security audit and gap analysis to plug the loopholes in the existing security systems, on regular basis.





Rajesh Ranjan, Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

DSA: Terrorists in Africa have used the truck bomb as a means of mass indiscriminate destruction. We, in India, have just experienced the Pulwama attack. Are such attacks preventable?

DG, CISF: Though this is clearly a challenge, yet by ensuring adequate preventive mechanism in place, security forces can counter such threats to a great extent. An effective Intelligence sharing mechanism is a key to avoid such attacks. CISF has a dedicated Intelligence wing for effective and timely collation and dissemination of vital Intelligence inputs. Integrated multiple technical devices along with, of course, human intervention would provide a robust

system to detect and neutralise such threats. Public places with large public interface including airports, metro networks are vulnerable to such threats. In order to counter such threats, CISF has laid special focus on security aspect of city side at airports. Also, state-of-the-art technology as a force multiplier is the hallmark of the Force.

DSA: Technical means of discovery, detection and defusion of improvised explosive devices to protect static assets is an expensive proposition. Can sniffer dogs help?

DG, **CISF**: Being deployed in critical vital installations of the country,

CISF has channelised all available options to detect and dispose explosive devices. Detection and disposal mechanism has been on constant evolution keeping pace with technological advancements in the field. CISF has dedicated trained manpower, canines and state-of-the-art technical gadgets for detection and disposal of the explosive devices. Canines and gadgets complement each other in detection of explosives. To minimise expenditure on devices for detection and disposal of explosives, the approach of risk analysis is adopted wherein attention is particularly given to vulnerable and high risk areas. Sniffer dogs have also been provided as per requirement.

The **Fire Wing of CISF** consists of professional, technically trained personnel with vast experience in **handling various kinds of fire emergencies**

DSA: Many industrial units are fire prone. The CISF has a fire wing. The idea of a self-sufficient fire-fighting facility is attractive but is it feasible? Any research on new fire dampening materials?

DG, CISF: Central Industrial
Security Force is a premier Security



CCTV Survillance.

Force of the country providing fire safety coverage to 102 vital national assets such as steel plants, refineries, seaports, DAE installations, coal mines, chemical and fertilizers plants, heavy industries, historical monuments, etc. The Fire Wing of CISF consists of professional, technically trained personnel with vast experience in handling various kinds of fire emergencies.

The idea of a self-sufficient firefighting unit in an industrial undertaking is very much feasible and desirable, which requires a holistic evaluation of the fire protection systems, fire safety management strategies, logistics and manpower based on the assets required to be covered under the fire protection. Majority of industries are located at remote locations and the local / State fire services may not be able to timely respond to any fire related emergency. CISF Fire Wing is trained in handling industrial fire hazards which are peculiar in nature in addition to regular fire / rescue emergency. CISF provides a holistic Industrial Fire Service Management Solution (fire risk assessment, fire audits, fire prevention inspection i.e. checking testing and maintenance of active and passive fire protection system and equipment, training to the occupants, fire hazard operational (HAZOP) studies, technological advancement, investigation of incidents, mock exercise at regular interval, fire-fighting and rescue operation, maintenance of record,

etc.) Hence, a self-sufficient Fire Service Management unit equipped with specialised equipment and trained manpower can only be effective in controlling and containing the fire and also to mitigate the consequences of a fire or other emergency.

DSA: In 2017, the Home Ministry announced the expansion of the manpower of the CISF by about 35,000 additional personnel. Has this been completed?

DG, CISF: MHA has enhanced the ceiling of CISF to 1,80,000 personnel from 1,45,000 in the year 2017. We have recruited more than 25,000 personnel in last two years. Present sanctioned strength of CISF is 1,61,564. A number of proposals are likely to be approved



in this year and manpower would be sanctioned within the ceiling limit of 1,80,000.

DSA: The role and responsibilities of the CISF have expanded tremendously. What would be the optimum manpower requirement?

DG, CISF: Manpower for CISF is sanctioned on the basis of recommendation of Survey Board which prepares a comprehensive security plan including requirement of gadgets and manpower. Ministry of Home Affairs has already increased ceiling for CISF up to 1,80,000. Out of that, 1,61,564 has already been sanctioned against various responsibilities assigned to CISF. Our focus has been on judicious mix of technology and manpower to ensure best security architecture which is installation specific. While there is an increasing demand for deployment of the Force in various sectors, however, the Ministry meticulously analyses the actual need and priority areas of the government before approving the deployment.

Our focus has been on judicious mix of technology and manpower to ensure best security architecture

which is installation specific

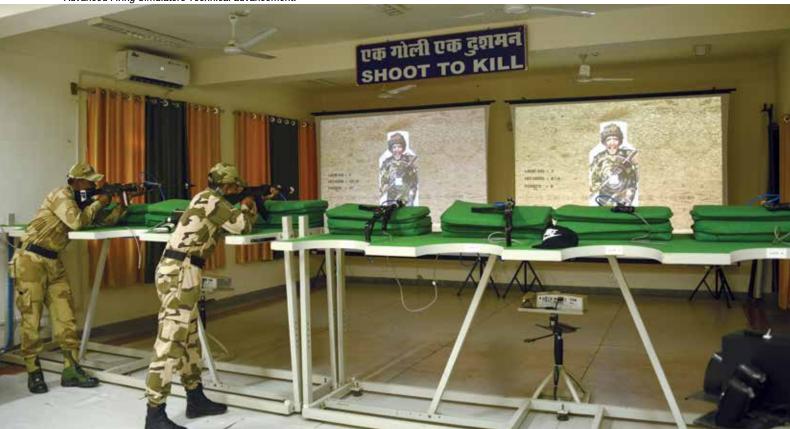
DSA: The recent Maoist attack on security personnel in Gadhchirolli points to the need for an airborne early warning system as an organic component of every security force inclusive of the CISF. Will CISF acquire drones for surveillance-in-depth in hostile territory?

DG, CISF: CISF has not been mandated with offensive operations against LWE elements. However, CISF has been assigned to extend security to installations located in LWE affected areas, within its limits. Within the area of responsibility in these installations, effective on ground surveillance system is already in place. Option of airborne early warning system shall be explored as per guidelines in this regard keeping in view the threat perception, in future.

DSA: Human resources especially in the area of security require much specialised management. What new facilities are being provided to personnel in both field areas and peace stations? DG, CISF: CISF is deployed across the length and breadth of the country to protect and safeguard the vulnerable critical infrastructure, sensitive establishments in core sectors which are contributing immensely in our national development. Each establishment is different from others in view of locational vulnerability, terrain, nature of establishment, emerging threats, etc.

A judicious mix of young and experienced personnel of all ranks is generally deployed in sensitive

Advanced Firing Simulators Technical advancement.





Airport deployment.

areas such as Naxal, insurgency, and terrorist infested locations of the country. In order to effectively address the threat perceptions of these locations, CISF units are equipped with modern weapons, access control systems, communication equipment, security gears, bomb-recovery vehicles, etc. The personnel deployed in such areas have the provision to keep their family in peace stations for better education and medical facilities.

CISF has also taken initiatives to address the housing requirement for its personnel at different locations with special emphasis on Delhi / NCR. In order to provide accommodation to the Force personnel, quarters in bulk have been purchased at Rohini, Bapraula, Narela and Kaushambi from DDA / GDA. The residential complexes are being equipped with various facilities viz. Mess, Medical, Gymnasium, Creche, CPC Canteen, Childrens' Park, Community Centre, etc.

DSA: How well is CISF prepared for a CBRN attack on any airport or establishment? Is some special training being given to the force personnel to counter such attacks? DG, CISF: Although, NDRF is the nodal force to counter the CBRN situations, however, our Fire Service Training Institute (FSTI) is imparting training in disaster management viz. Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), Medical First Response (MFR) and Chemical Biological and Nuclear Disaster Response (CBRN). Initially, all Central Armed Police Force personnel were asked to raise two battalions for Disaster Management. Accordingly, CISF raised two Disaster Management Battalions, which have now been placed as NDRF Battalions. In addition, CISF is imparting training to its personnel to counter CBRN threats. At airports under its security cover, CISF is the first responder by virtue of the nature of its deployment. CISF is leveraging availability of trained manpower to design a first responder mechanism. Further, all CISF Units have prepared their respective contingency plan for such situations and accordingly specialised teams have been formed. Procurement of requisite equipment is also part of this process.

DSA: What special training do you impart to your personnel and how do you upgrade training of your personnel to keep them up to date with new, emerging threats? DG, CISF: CISF is aware of the need for matching professionalism in security dispensation through specialized training of personnel, up-gradation of knowledge and

Each CISF unit has a component of **Crime and Intelligence Wing**



managerial skills, besides induction of sophisticated gadgetry. The premier training institution of CISF, National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), was established in Hyderabad in 1990 to upgrade the professional skills of the Force.

Keeping in view the importance of training, modern training aids have been provided at CISF Academy (NISA) as well as at the six other RTCs (Regional Training Centres). Each of these six RTCs, have been infused with additional training skills for specialising in a particular aspect of security. The NISA imparts training not only to the personnel of CISF, but also to other forces / services / organisations including Indian Revenue Services, Indian Air Force, Navy, and ONGC. It has organised training for the officers from neighbouring countries as well, like Nepal, Sri Lanka, etc. The Academy was declared as 'Centre of Excellence' by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the field of industrial security in the year 1999. Further, in year 2016, Dept. of Personnel

and Training (DoPT) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), awarded Excellence in Training' to NISA. The award acknowledged good work rendered by the CISF in the category of "Trainer/Faculty Development."

Before induction to the various fields / sectors, CISF personnel undergo specialised training including Advance Commando Training, VIP Security, QRT, WT & Field Craft Tactics Course, specialised courses on Aviation Security, Seaport Security, Atomic Energy establishments and Space Units oriented requirements, etc. Also, each CISF unit has a component of Crime and Intelligence Wing and personnel of this wing are imparted specialised training in the field of Intelligence also.

In order to combat the emerging threat of urban terrorism, Crisis Response Team (CRT) courses are being conducted regularly for Airport Sector, DMRC, DAE and DOS and LWE activity affected units by the Special Tactics Training Wing (STTW), NISA Hyderabad.

Organised TOT courses on Female Screening and Check Point optimisation for ASG personnel by the faculty of Transport Security Administration (TSA) of USA with the approval of MHA.

Furthermore, following courses are also being conducted for CISF personnel at various CISF Training Institutions:

- Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare Training
- Area Weapon Course
- Bomb Disposal Course
- Counter IED Courses

Canine Training is being conducted at CISF Dog Training School, Ranchi (Jharkhand), especially to meet emerging requirement of Airport units, DMRC Delhi and other Units in:

- Explosive Detection
- Tracker
- Narcotics Detection



CISF personnel patrolling at Metro Station.