

JOINT STATEMENT
U.S.-PAKISTAN DEFENSE CONSULTATIVE GROUP
MAY 1-5, 2006
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The 17th annual meeting of the U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group was held in Washington D.C. on 4-5 May, 2006. The U.S. side was chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Eric S. Edelman and the Pakistan side was chaired by Secretary Defence Lt Gen Tariq Waseem Ghazi (Retd). The U.S.-Pakistan defense relationship is essential to strengthening U.S. and Pakistani security, winning the Global War on Terrorism, and enhancing stability in South Asia.

The Defense Consultative Group (DCG) serves as a primary forum for exchanging ideas and coordinating defense policy discussions with a view to deepen cooperation in diverse areas of the bilateral defense relationship. This week's meetings of the DCG continued a tradition of open, broad-ranging, and practical discussions aimed at further strengthening the bonds of mutual friendship and respect between our countries. One of the major themes of this year's DCG was to highlight the importance of the U.S.-Pakistan long-term relationship and look at ways in which we can work together to enhance and expand our defense partnership.

The DCG working groups met for three days to review the progress of defense cooperation between the two countries, and to identify and plan activities for the future that will be mutually beneficial to our nations.

1. The Military Cooperation Committee (MCC) met on May 1, 2006 and looked at ways that we can better coordinate our military to military cooperation and improve the overall U.S.-Pakistan military relationship. We also agreed to a schedule of military to military exercises and training activities for the upcoming year. These events will deepen existing bilateral military cooperation, and provide new opportunities to gain greater interoperability.

2. The Security Assistance Working Group (SAWG) met on May 2, 2006 and addressed procurement of U.S. military equipment and services under the Foreign Military Sales program, including:

- Acquisition of weapons systems and related support;
- Repair/upgrade of existing systems;
- The technology transfer process; and
- The discussion of other ongoing issues.

The SAWG reviewed defensive systems available to improve Pakistan's conventional capabilities, Pakistani equipment priorities, and the way ahead for a sustainable defense cooperation relationship. We reaffirmed that ensuring interoperability of weapons systems, tactics, techniques, and procedures between our militaries remains a high priority.

3. The Counterterrorism Working Group (CTWG) met on May 3, 2006 to achieve unity of effort in confronting terrorism regionally and globally. This working group provided a critical forum for exchange and collaboration. It was based upon our combined

successes, derived from a common view of shared challenges, and resulted in synchronized and expanded counterterrorism efforts.

4. The DCG plenary talks gave the delegations an opportunity to discuss strategic defense issues at a high level. The delegations received detailed presentations on Pakistan border region operations and counterterrorism strategies, Afghanistan stabilization efforts, opportunities for further cooperation in the areas of humanitarian assistance, and U.S. foreign policy priorities and objectives in South Asia.

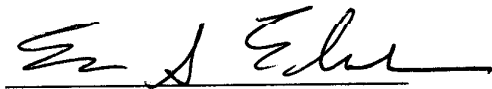
The centerpiece of the DCG was a strategic discussion about the U.S.-Pakistan long-term strategic relationship. During this discussion, we exchanged views about the importance of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship and how we can build upon an already robust defense relationship and ensure that it continues to grow stronger.

Finally, the delegations reviewed the impressive results of our relationship over the past year, including progress in the war on terror and joint operations in the wake of the tragic earthquake that struck Pakistan in October. The fact that the U.S. and Pakistani militaries worked side-by-side to provide extensive earthquake relief to the local population is a testament to our strong defense relationship.

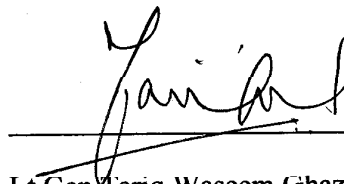
In sum, the DCG meetings highlighted the strong and enduring ties between the United States and Pakistan, celebrated our impressive achievements, and considered how to strengthen our alliance for the future. We agreed that the DCG provides an important opportunity to reinvigorate existing areas of cooperation and open up new areas of

collaboration. The DCG also provides a forum to exchange viewpoints and increase understanding about the security challenges our countries face.

The co-chairs agreed that the DCG will hold its next meeting in Pakistan in approximately one year, but would consider re-convening sooner if circumstances warranted. In the meantime, we will have sub-group meetings to continue the process of building the architecture of our long-term relationship.



Ambassador Eric S. Edelman
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
United States of America



Lt Gen Tariq Waseem Ghazi (Retd)
Secretary Defence
Islamic Republic of Pakistan