

Pakistan Air Force Academy

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Pakistan Air Force Academy



Motto	(Urdu) فقط ذوق پرواز ہے زندگی)
Established	1910 as Royal Flying Corps of Risalpur Renamed on 14 August 1947
Type	Military academy
<u>AOC</u>	AVM Rashid Kamal
Admin. staff	300
<u>Undergraduates</u>	500 (approx.)
<u>Postgraduates</u>	150 (approx.)
Location	Risalpur , Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa , Pakistan
Nickname	Home of Eagles
Mascot	Eagle

PAF Academy Risalpur

IATA: *none* – **ICAO**: OPRS

Summary

Airport type Military

Operator [PAF](#)

Location [Risalpur, Pakistan](#)

Elevation AMSL 1,050 ft / 320 m

Coordinates  34°04′52″N 071°58′21″E

Map



PAF Academy

Runways

<u>Direction</u>	Length		Surface
	m	ft	
09R/27L	2,769	9,085	Asphalt
09L/27R	1,780	5,840	Asphalt

Source: [DAFIF^{\[1\]}](#)

The **Pakistan Air Force Academy (PAFA)** is an accredited co-educational four-year [military academy](#) which provides undergraduate education to officer candidates for the [Pakistan Air Force](#). Located in the town of [Risalpur](#) in [Nowshera District](#) of the [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#) province in northwestern [Pakistan](#),^{[2][3]} it is a premier cadet training institution of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) which offers academic professional degrees. Its role is the training of General Duty Pilots (GDP), Aeronautical and Avionics Engineers and the initial training of other Ground Branch cadets. Cadets of all branches join the academy following a recommendation by the [Inter](#)

[Services Selection Board](#) (ISSB) of [Pakistan](#) and the [Air Headquarters](#) Special Selection Board for Short Service Commission candidates. Graduates of the Academy's four-year program receive a [Bachelor of Science](#) degree, and most are commissioned as flying officers (lieutenants) in the Pakistan Air Force.

The academy was created in 1910 and was a former airfield of the [Royal Flying Corps](#) then later [Royal Air Force](#). It officially became the airbase of the PAF on 15 August 1947. On 21 January 1967, it was again upgraded to the status of an academy by then-President [Ayub Khan](#). It has five components.

The Pakistan Air Force Academy has bred generations of officers for the PAF and other branches of the [Pakistani Armed Forces](#).^[4]

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Location[\[edit\]](#)

Located in a basin 1014 feet above sea level, it is bounded on the south and west by the [Kabul](#) and Kalpani rivers, respectively. It is located in [Risalpur](#) in [Nowshera District](#) and is situated eight kilometers from the city (and district capital) of [Nowshera](#); the famous [Khyber Pass](#) lies 90 kilometers to the north.^[3] The [Risalpur Cantonment](#) itself lies on high ground, some 30 feet above the surrounding area, with the oldest building dating from 1913 or 1914.^[5]

Campus[\[edit\]](#)

The academy campus is centered around the drill square. The Cadets' mess houses two dining halls for Wing No.1 and Wing No.2, the Sky Lounge,two conference rooms, a movie room and the internet facility.In the front of the mess, lies the red carpet which terminates at the Falcon's Hearth with five cadet blocks on either side of the red carpet to accommodate the cadets. The campus has a gymnasium, four soccer fields, four hockey fields, four tennis courts, a swimming pool, a polo ground, ten basketball courts, and an athletics field. The academy also features a Cadets' Mosque,the Hobbies' Club building, the Academy Auditorium, and the Academy Library.

Organization[\[edit\]](#)

The academy has two Cadet Wings (Wing No.1 and Wing No.2) both of which contain around 800 cadets. Each Wing consists of two Cadet Squadrons. The Wing No.1 consists of Squadron No.1 Cheetahs and Squadron

No.2 Burraqians. The Wing No.2 consists of Squadron No.3 Stallions and Squadron No.4 Lions. Each Squadron is associated with a colour which they use in their sports kits and their uniform shoulder boards. The colours are blue, red, green and yellow respectively.

The organization of these Squadrons are similar to those of a normal Pakistan Air Force Squadron. Each Squadron has a Squadron Commander and one or two Flight Commanders which are senior officers usually Squadron Leaders and Flight Lieutenants.

Cadet life^[edit]

The academy offers two years of cadetship after which cadets are commissioned as Pilot Officers in the PAF. Each course has a six-month semester after which a new course enters the academy. Thus there are four courses in the academy at a time. The courses are termed as per the academy tradition: one tape(junior most), two tape, third term, and final term (senior most). A cadet's term can be identified by his shoulder board stripes (one stripe, two stripes, three stripes and a broad stripe for the final term cadets.)

When a cadet enters the academy he is termed as "white". While being a white, the cadet is taught the rules and regulations of the Academy, he is also under restrictions such as using only specified routes which going around in the academy and following a proper chain of command. After two months as a white, the cadets must pass a Saluting Test which judges their drill movements. On passing the saluting test, a white is formally accepted as a part of the academy, and wears the academy uniform with a single shoulder board. As the terms progress, the restrictions are relaxed.

Routine^[edit]

A Cadets' day starts usually at 5'o clock in the morning with P.T. After returning from the P.T. breakfast is eaten. Then there is a morning inspection followed by a one-hour drill period. After the drill period there is college from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. After that comes lunch, then sports for two hours. After sports, the cadets go for dinner and then sit for a two hour study period, after which they have to turn their lights out at around 10p.m.

History^[edit]



Hawker Hurricane of No. 2 Squadron RIAF at Risalpur before moving to Eastern India for training in support of the Chindits

The history of Risalpur airbase dates back to 1910 when an airstrip was developed there. During the [First World War](#), the [Royal Flying Corps](#) established a base at Risalpur. In December 1915 RAF's newly raised [No. 31 Squadron](#) was stationed here, which was later [used against troublesome tribesmen](#) of the [Tribal areas](#) along the [Afghan border](#). The squadron flew [B.E.2c](#) and [Farman biplane](#) in ground support missions.^[6] On 24 May 1919, [Handley Page V/1500](#) flew its first mission to attack [Kabul](#) from the airfield.^[7] In 1925 the air fleet of base was tasked to carry out a survey of the about four hundred square miles area of [Ravi's old river bed](#) for finding ancient sites.^[8] After First World War, the [No. 11 Squadron](#) of [Royal Air Force](#) equipped with [Westland Wapiti](#) was stationed at the base in 1928,^[9] that was also used in the operations in the tribal areas.^[10] The bombers of this squadron were used By 1940, Risalpur had become both a training and an operational base. During the Second World War, an operational training squadron was stationed at Risalpur,^[11] besides the base also conducted fighter conversion courses.^{[5][12]}



A trainee pilot in front of Hawker Hurricane of No. 151 (Fighter) Operational Training Unit at Risalpur

After [partition](#), Risalpur was like an abandoned airfield.^[13] The airbase was formally established after the creation of Pakistan on 15 August 1947 with 20 officers, 21 trainees, 23 senior non commissioned officers (SNCOs) and 257 airmen. The base comprised only a handful of men and some equipment. About a month later, the Flying Training School was established at Risalpur, that carried out Initial, elementary and advanced flying training.^[14] In September 1947, six Harvard aircraft from Flying Training School of [Ambala](#), that were transferred to Pakistan after partition, reached Risalpur.^[15] Wing Commander [Asghar Khan](#), later to become the first Air Chief of the PAF, took over as the first Officer Commanding of the School, with Harvard and Tiger Moth aircraft in the inventory. Flt Lt M Khyber Khan, who later rose to the rank of Air Vice Marshal, and his student, Flight Cadet Akhtar, flew the first training sortie on 22 September 1947.^[16]

During the [Indo-Pakistani War of 1947](#), the airfield was used to transport personnel and other equipment to the mountain terrain of [Northern Areas](#). In March 1950, [Mohammad Reza Pahlavi](#) of Iran, who was the first Head of state to visit Pakistan and a flyer himself, visited the academy.^[17] After fifty years of Jinnah's visit to the academy, a commemoration was held on 13 April 1997. Among other veterans, [Air Marshal Asghar Khan](#) also witnessed the ceremony who was the commandant at the time of the visit.^[18]

On 13 April 1948, the founder of Pakistan, [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](#), visited Risalpur Flying Training School and raised its level to that of a college. Risalpur thus became the genesis of PAF pilots. It became the only military academy of Pakistan to be visited by Jinnah.^{[19][20]} At this ceremony, Jinnah took the General Salute at the parade and fighter aircraft from Peshawar Air base performed aerobatics. During [Indo-Pakistani War of 1965](#) a bomber squadron was stationed here after [Peshawar Airbase](#) was hit by [IAF](#).^[11] On January 21, 1967 President [Ayub Khan](#) elevated the status of the PAF College, Risalpur to that of an academy.^[21]

Aircraft[\[edit\]](#)

Initially, the institution was equipped with Harvard, Tiger Moth, Auster, Fury and Tempest aircraft. A major change came with the introduction of the T-37 jet trainer in 1963 and the air fleet of the academy was transformed from propeller to jet engine aircraft.^[15] Eight years after the College was upgraded to an Academy in 1967, the T-6G (Harvard), which had rendered extensive service to the PAF since 1947, was replaced by the Mushshak (Saab Trainer). Currently, the trainer aircraft at the PAF Academy are [T-37](#),^[22] [Mushshak MFI-17](#) and the [K-8](#), the last of which was brought into service with the PAF in 1995. The academy has two aviation wings and a squadron. The Primary Flying Training (PFT) Wing consists of MFI-17 while Basic Flying Training (BFT) Wing consists of T-37 aircraft. An Advance Flying Training squadron is composed of K-8 aircraft.

Constituent units[\[edit\]](#)

The PAF Academy consists of 5 components:

College of Flying Training[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [College of Flying Training](#)

The College of Flying Training imparts four-year undergraduate programs in science along with equipping cadets of the Flying branch, with flying skills. CFT is affiliated with [Air University](#). The college consists of Flying Training Wing, Directorate of Studies (DOS), Engineering Wing and Flying Instructors School.^[23] While the Flying Training Wing with BFT, PFT and K-8 Squadron its sub units, carry out flying training, the Engineering Wing supports the flying wing by maintaining the air fleet and the Directorate of Studies educates the flying and non-flying branch cadets about aviation sciences, administration, airspace management, humanities and other related academic disciplines. The College of Flying Training imparts education to cadets of the General Duty (Pilot), Air Defense, Administration and Special Duties, Logistics, and Navigation courses. After studying the first three semesters,

the GD(P) cadets proceed to the Flying Training Wing. Similarly the others course cadets of CFT proceed for further training in SATS (School of Air Traffic Services) and ADTS (Air Defense Training School).^[24]

<u>Pakistan Air Force</u>

History
History of the PAF
Aircraft
Air Force weaponry
Units and infrastructure
Air Headquarters
Pakistan Air Force Squadrons
Air Force Bases
Special Services Wing
Air Force Strategic Command
Personnel
Chief of Air Staff
Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee
Other information
Air Force Educational System
Air intelligence

College of Aeronautical Engineering^{[[edit](#)]}

Main article: [College of Aeronautical Engineering](#)

College of Aeronautical Engineering (CAE) is a component institute of the academy which imparts engineering education to the cadets inducted in the Engineering branch of PAF. The institute was set up in July 1965 at [Korangi Airbase](#), [Karachi](#), with the help of [US Air Force](#) (USAF) and [Colonel](#) John H. Blakelock, a member of USAF became its first principal. The first course graduated from the college on 9 November 1968. In May 1986 the college was shifted from Karachi to Risalpur. The college conducts four-year undergraduate programs in two engineering disciplines namely [aeronautical](#) and [avionics](#).^[18] CAE started postgraduate programs in 1997. The college was initially affiliated with [University of Karachi](#) and later to [NED University of Engineering and Technology](#) in March 1977.^[25] It got affiliated with [National University of Sciences and Technology](#) in 1995.^[26] The institute is equipped with modern engineering labs and workshops.^[18] CAE got [ISO-9001](#) certified in 1999 for successfully managing quality system of its academic programs. Apart from Aerospace and Avionics, the institute has three more departments: Industrial Engineering, Humanities & Science, and Professional Continuing Education.^[27]

Flying Instructors School^{[[edit](#)]}

The Flying Instructors School (FIS) trains instructors, not only for the PAF but also for the Pakistan Army and Navy. It trains instructors from countries in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa. The FIS is also responsible for the maintenance of high standards of teaching in the College of Flying Training, and the Fighter Conversion units. The re-categorization of instructors in all three armed forces is an additional responsibility of the school. FIS training includes academic training, flying training, and instructional technique. The FIS undertakes reciprocal visits to enhance training standards; between 1990 and 1997, these visits were organized with the [Central Flying School](#), UK.

Para Training School^{[[edit](#)]}

The Para Training School was established at the PAF Academy Risalpur in 2003. It is the second parachute school in Pakistan after the Pakistan Army Para School located at [Peshawar](#). Before its establishment, PAF personnel were trained at the Pakistan Army Para School. The school conducts various basic and advanced courses, including free fall training.^[28] It also trains cadets to fly para motor gliders.^[29] The [Special Service Wing](#) of the PAF also receives parachute training at this school. After a rigorous physical test the top cadets are selected to do the paragliding and para-trooping courses. Paragliding involves wearing a parachute and after

jumping from a height, glide and land. Cadets who successfully complete the paragliding course are entitled to wear the paragliding (PG) badge on their uniforms and they further get a chance to now fly para motor gliders which gets them to wear them the PMG badge on their uniforms.

Military Training Wing[\[edit\]](#)

The role of the Military Training Wing (formerly Cadet's Wing) is aimed to impart general service training and develop physical fitness, discipline, personal and leadership qualities in cadets. The subjects covered include:^[30]



Cadets' Mess

- Air operations
- Use of Small Arms
- Fieldcraft (camping, field exercises etc.)
- Leadership
- Character building
- Physical exercises
- Military drill
- Sports activities
- The cadets mess
- Extracurricular activities
- Literary activities
- Educational visits
- Student counseling

The Military Training Wing comprises officers and instructors who monitor the activities of cadets throughout their training period.^[30] The Military Training Wing is sub-divided into four squadrons. The squadrons take part in competitions and the winning squadron is awarded the "Quaid-e-Azam Banner" at the passing out ceremony which is held at the end of term.

The PAF Academy trains officers of the PAF, and cadets and officers of the Pakistan Army, Navy, [Pakistan International Airlines](#) and other countries including [Bangladesh](#), [Brunei](#), [China](#), [Indonesia](#), [Iran](#), [Jordan](#), [Malaysia](#), [Nepal](#), [Nigeria](#), [Qatar](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Sudan](#), [Syria](#), [Turkey](#), [Turkmenistan](#) and the [UAE](#).^[31]

Events[\[edit\]](#)

Passing Out Parade[\[edit\]](#)

The Passing Out Parade is held every six months, when the graduating cadets of flying and engineering pass out. The chief guests are usually the President, Prime Minister or the service chiefs of the [armed forces of Pakistan](#). Graduating cadets take the Oath of Allegiance under the flag of Pakistan, after which they take the salute of the parade. The end of the parade is marked by the aerobatics display of the PAF Aerobatic team renowned as the "[Sherdils](#)" (flying T-37 aircraft) and the Academy Aerobatic team known as "Academy Hawks" (flying K-8 aircraft).^{[24][32]} The awards presented to the cadets at this occasion are:^[33]

- Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee's Trophy (for Best performance in General Service Training in CAE)
- Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee's Trophy (for Best performance in General Service Training in CFT)
- Chief of Air Staff's Trophy (for Best performance in Engineering Discipline)
- Chief of Air Staff's Trophy (for Best performance in Flying)
- Sword of Honor (for Best performance in CAE)
- Sword of Honor (for Best performance in CFT)

The squadron that achieves best score in sports and other activities during the term is also awarded at this occasion with Quaid-e-Azam Banner.

Convocation^[edit]

This event also takes place after six months. Two convocations are held each time - one for graduating cadets of the GD(P) branch and the other for cadets of the engineering branch. The awards presented at this occasion are:^[34]

GD(P) Course Convocation

- Best Performance Trophy (Air Science Subject)
- Best Performance Trophy (Ground Subjects)
- Best Performance Trophy (Humanities Subject)

Engineering Course Convocation

- President's Gold Medal (Aerospace Engineering)
- Rector's Gold Medal (Aerospace Engineering)
- Rector's Best Aerospace Vehicle Design Certificate (Aerospace Engineering)
- President's Gold Medal (Avionics Engineering)
- Rector's Gold Medal (Avionics Engineering)
- Rector's Best Avionics System Design Certificate (Avionics Engineering)

Graduation^[edit]

The graduation ceremony of courses is held bi-annually. The cadets joining ground branches after completing their [HSSC](#) spend two to four years at the Academy whereas the [Bachelor](#) BS degree holder cadets course has a duration of six months.

Changing of the Guard at Mazare-e-Quaid^[edit]

The annual Changing of the Guard ceremony at [Mazar-e-Quaid](#), [Karachi](#) on Pakistan Defence Day (September 6). Cadets from the PAF Academy assume guard duties at the mazar on this day.^{[20][35]}



Cadets' Mess view at the night of competition

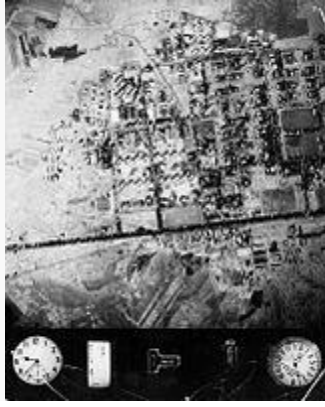
All Pakistan Bilingual Declamation Competition^[edit]

The PAF Academy holds an All-Pakistan [Declamation](#) Competition, one of the biggest annual events. Some forty teams from major higher education institutes in Pakistan are invited to take part. The event takes place over four days during which a number of rounds are held. The PAF bears all the expenses of travel and accommodation of the teams.^[36]

Falcons Hearth^[edit]

The memorial of the academy is known as 'Falcons Hearth' and is situated on the parade ground. It was erected in memory of cadets and instructors martyred during training, and also those who lost their lives on active service during the [Indo-Pakistani War of 1965](#) and the [Indo-Pakistani War of 1971](#).

Gallery^[edit]



Aerial view of Raisalpur Air Station 1930-40



T-37



MFI-17 Mushshak



Hawker Sea Fury at Raisalpur