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## Pakistan Inducts New 500 km Surveillance Aircraft

August 20, 2025

— Categories: Defence & Security



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Islamabad: Pakistan has formally inducted a new electronic warfare and surveillance aircraft into the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), strengthening its defensive posture and intelligence-gathering capacity. The move reflects Islamabad's emphasis on modernizing defense infrastructure while reducing vulnerabilities exposed during recent regional conflicts.

The newly added platform is a Bombardier Global 6000, a business jet modified for advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) roles. According to defense officials familiar with the development, the aircraft has been upgraded to perform long-range monitoring and electronic countermeasure missions. Operating at high altitude, it can intercept and disrupt adversary communications and radar networks from extended distances, enhancing Pakistan's ability to secure its airspace.

The aircraft's centerpiece is the Aselsan HAVA SOJ electronic warfare system, developed and integrated with the technical support of Turkish defense firms. This partnership highlights Pakistan's reliance on strategic defense cooperation with Turkey, rather than dependence on Western suppliers, in order to maintain operational independence. The system enables stand-off jamming, surveillance of enemy air defense networks, and support for suppression and destruction of enemy air defenses.

In addition to the core system, the modified aircraft is believed to include Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Digital Radio Frequency Memory (DRFM) jammers, wideband electronic intelligence (ELINT) sensors, communication denial systems, and radar deception equipment. These features are designed to degrade hostile defense networks and provide cover for Pakistani squadrons conducting operations.

Defense sources indicate the Global 6000 has already been inducted into the PAF fleet and is undergoing integration with mission planning and training units. This reflects the Air Force's strategy of ensuring that new capabilities are not only acquired but also rapidly absorbed into active deployment cycles.

While specific operational details remain undisclosed for security reasons, defense analysts describe the induction as a significant step toward strengthening Pakistan's electronic warfare infrastructure and reducing reliance on outdated platforms. By diversifying suppliers and investing in advanced systems, Islamabad is attempting to protect its sovereignty without depending on larger powers for aerial security.

The induction comes at a time when regional security challenges remain heightened. Pakistan has previously suffered losses of surveillance assets in cross-border hostilities, underscoring the importance of resilient and redundant ISR capabilities. The Global 6000 addition is expected to help bridge gaps in situational awareness and restore operational balance.

Military experts note that the aircraft's range, stand-off jamming ability, and multi-role intelligence suite will provide Pakistan with greater flexibility in defending its territory. These capacities are particularly valuable in contested environments, where electronic superiority can determine the effectiveness of conventional air power.

The development also signals a broader shift in Pakistan's defense procurement strategy. Rather than relying solely on conventional platforms, the PAF is increasingly focusing on force-multiplying technologies such as electronic warfare, early warning systems, and intelligence integration. This reflects a preference for efficient, high-impact solutions that maximize defense readiness while minimizing cost burdens on the national economy.

For Pakistan, the addition of this aircraft is not only about matching regional rivals in technology but also about ensuring self-reliance in a volatile neighborhood. Officials emphasize that defense modernization is being pursued within Pakistan's resource constraints, highlighting the importance of prioritizing investments that directly enhance national security rather than expanding government spending unnecessarily.

In the longer term, analysts believe the induction of platforms like the Global 6000 will contribute to a more robust air defense ecosystem, offering Pakistan enhanced deterrence and strategic depth. By reinforcing its surveillance and electronic warfare assets, the PAF aims to maintain operational resilience and secure its position in an increasingly contested regional security environment.