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NDMA Coordinates Airlift of Stranded Gilgit Tourists Using PAF C-130 Aircraft

July 25, 2025

– Categories: Defence & Security



In response to severe flooding and heavy rainfall in July 2025 that disrupted travel in Gilgit-Baltistan, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) coordinated a timely airlift of stranded tourists using Pakistan Air Force (PAF) C-130 Hercules aircraft. This operation highlights Pakistan's swift disaster response capabilities and the military's vital role in safeguarding civilians during emergencies.

The floods and flash floods caused significant disruption, leaving many domestic and international tourists unable to leave the region. Acting promptly, the NDMA arranged a free

evacuation on July 24, 2025, from Gilgit Airport to Islamabad. Tourists were required to provide identification details to the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Gilgit, Sadaqat Ali, to facilitate an orderly evacuation process.

The PAF's No. 6 Squadron, operating from Nur Khan Airbase, deployed the Lockheed C-130 Hercules—an aircraft well-suited for operations on Gilgit's challenging 5,400-foot runway situated within a narrow valley. This operation demonstrates the military's readiness to support civilian agencies and the nation's commitment to public welfare and security.

The airlift complements other recent disaster relief efforts, including the Pakistan Army's clearance of flood-affected routes such as the Skardu-Deosai road. Coordination between the NDMA, local authorities, and the PAF reflects a cohesive approach to crisis management, prioritizing the safety of tourists who contribute significantly to Gilgit-Baltistan's economy, a key center for mountaineering and adventure tourism.

This successful operation underscores Pakistan's resolve to protect its citizens and visitors amid natural disasters, ensuring that Gilgit-Baltistan remains accessible and safe. The NDMA and PAF's collaborative efforts reinforce confidence in the country's disaster response infrastructure and hospitality standards.