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## Tajikistan's Military Chief and Pakistan's CJCS Strengthen Ties on Security and Strategic Interests

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On July 25, 2025, Major General Saidzoda Bobojon Abdulkodir, Chief of General Staff and First Deputy Minister of Defence of Tajikistan's Armed Forces, met with General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) of Pakistan, at the Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi. The meeting, marked by a guard of honour, focused on strengthening Pakistan-Tajikistan defence cooperation and discussing regional security challenges.

The discussions took place amid increasing regional threats and centered on counterterrorism and stability across Central and South Asia. Both military leaders

reaffirmed the close ties between Pakistan and Tajikistan, founded on shared cultural and historical connections. Major General Saidzoda commended the professionalism and sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism, as reported by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). He stated, "Pakistan's resolve against extremism is commendable." The agenda included cooperation on intelligence sharing, joint military training, and counterterrorism strategies addressing threats such as the Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K).

Given Pakistan's strategic position bordering Afghanistan, General Mirza emphasized the importance of enhanced collaboration to counter cross-border militancy, particularly along the Tajik-Afghan border, where Tajikistan faces security challenges from insurgent groups. This meeting aligns with Pakistan's broader initiative to deepen relations with Central Asian countries, demonstrated by recent diplomatic and military engagements with China and Uzbekistan.

The visit by the Tajik military delegation, welcomed with a tri-services guard of honour, underscored the role of military diplomacy in promoting regional peace. Both sides expressed interest in expanding defence cooperation through joint exercises and technology sharing. Major General Saidzoda's acknowledgment of Pakistan's anti-terrorism efforts reflected a mutual commitment to stability and security in the region.

This high-level engagement signals Pakistan's increasing involvement in regional security frameworks. As security challenges evolve, the Pakistan-Tajikistan partnership is positioned to act as a stabilizing force, facilitating deeper collaboration against shared threats.