

Press Handout

CRPF: an Idea

Way back in March 19, 1939, when the Crown Representative's Police- precursor of Central Reserve Police Force was created, the idea was to tackle issues of law and order, mainly in the Princely States. It was indigenised soon after Indian independence, thanks to the vision of the then Deputy Prime Minister and the first Union Home Minister Sardar Ballavbhai Patel in 1949 by an Act of Parliament, its forte expanded to all areas of maintenance of internal security of the country.

70 years down the line, CRPF has expanded into a full spectrum force handling sensitive needs of citizens to dealing with heavily armed militants. CoBRA –our elite Force to fight the naxals, RAF- the zero time response Force to intervene during riots and crowd control, PDG (Parliament Duty Group)-to protect the temple of our democracy, i.e. the Parliament, SDG (Special Duty Group)- to provide security to important installations, including Prime Minister's Residence, VS (VIP Security) Bns to give personal security to important persons and being lead counter insurgency force makes this Force a unique one among all the CAPFs..

The Largest and the Bravest FORCE

Largest paramilitary force of world, CRPF has 246 executive Bns, with 325000 personnel.

CRPF is the most gallant Force, among all the Police Forces in the country, with 1976 gallantry medals to its credit. Starting with Ashok Chakra- the highest gallantry medal during peace time, CRPF bravehearts have been decorated with all gallantry medals reflecting their valour and sacrifice. In 2019 alone it has been bestowed with 03 Kirti Chakra, 03 Shaurya Chakra, 05 PPMG and 111 PMG. The Force has also been awarded 76 gallantry medals which include one PPMG on the occasion of Republic Day 2020.

Engaging the Enemy

Alongwith the state police, CRPF has neutralized 1677 terrorists/Maoists. In 2019, 148 terrorists in J & K and 55 naxalites in the LWE areas were neutralised. Large cache of arms and ammunition has also been recovered from the anti-nationals.

We Dare & We Care

Till date 2198 personnel of CRPF have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty for the nation. CRPF has taken utmost care to ensure the Next of Kins of our martyrs are free from financial, educational and health related issues. Last year the Hon'ble President of India launched 'Veer

Parivar' Mobile App to act as a digital interface between the family members of the Force personnel and the Force.

Similarly in case of operational injuries to our personnel, we ensure not only prompt treatment but also take special efforts to restore selfworth and self esteem of our grievously injured personnel. Besides ensuring modern prosthetic limb transplant, the injured personnel are encouraged to participate in para sports and are provided special training to become good at performing office and support role.

Nari Tu Narayani

CRPF raised the First Armed Mahila Battalion in the Country. Presently the Force has 06 Mahila Battalions which are deployed in all theatres of the Country ranging from Jammu and Kashmir and Maoist infested areas to North East. The inclusion of adequate numbers of women (about 233) in the Bastariya Battalion raised on 1st April 2017 speaks volumes about the gender sensitivity of the Force. These women drawn from the local areas are now engaging themselves with the local populace in matters that go beyond security, like addressing women specific issues of the community which in turn helps in mainstreaming the misled youth. Even the courage of our women personnel is not found wanting; in fact the lone Ashok Chakra Awardee from the Force was Late Kamalesh Kumari- who laid down her life fighting the terrorists who attacked the Parliament in 2001. The female personnel of CRPF in the shape of the Mahila Bikers' 'daredevil' team caught the attention of the entire nation as they showed their breathtaking acrobatics, on motorcycles, on the Rajpath, during Republic Day Parade.

Community Connect

CRPF as a Force believes in working for the people with their help and support. The Force goes the extra mile in doing something for the community which goes beyond security. Be it the day to day need of a community that lives in some remote pocket or ameliorating the suffering of the disadvantaged by conducting Civic Action Programmes. Our efforts in lending a helping hand to the people in Jammu and Kashmir through our MADADGAR Helpline 14411 have been quite a success.

Securing Dignitaries

Full fledged Personal Protection duties have been assigned to CRPF from 2014. Currently the Force is guarding 55 protectees which include top leadership of the country.

Strengthening Democracy

CRPF has become the lynchpin for ensuring free, fair and peaceful conduct of elections across the country. It is looked upon with confidence in ensuring safe transportation and deployment of all Security Forces and Polling Parties, up to booth level, even in the most inhospitable and remote locations.

Year 2019 witnessed General Elections and Assembly Elections in 7 states: as always CRPF as the Chief Force Coordinator played a vital role in the free and fair conduct of electoral process.

Recently hon'ble President of India honoured CRPF with a Special Award, for its commendable role in Force coordination, during 2019 General Elections and State Assembly Elections. This prestigious award was received by Dr. A.P.Maheshwari, DG, and Shri Nikhil Rastogi, Commandant, at a function in New Delhi, on the National Voters Day, on 25th January, 2020.

Preparing For the Future

CRPF continuously strives to upgrade its weaponry, equipment and technology, in sync with the changing times and challenges. The Force has also been collaborating with S&T institutions, to innovate and improvise tech tools, to combat terrorists and all those inimical to the nation.

Sporting Prowess

Not only in the field of bravery and sacrifice, CRPF has acquitted itself with honour in the arena of sports and games. Force personnel have earned 1 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and as many as 16 Arjuna Awards, besides innumerable national and international medals.

SOME TALES OF UNPARALLELED COURAGE

Op Prahar was launched on 23 Jun 17, in Sukma Distt, by 201 CoBRA and DRG/STF. CoBRA teams, led by Sh Rakesh Rao, stealthily penetrated into the core areas of Maoists and busted one of their camps. Though, Maoists escaped from the camp.

On 24 Jun 17, around 0830 h, contact with the enemy was established and a fierce encounter commenced. Around 1020 h, SP Sukma informed Sh Rakesh Rao that the Maoists had attacked DRG/STF troops, causing casualties; the enemy had also laid a siege, thereby preventing aerial evacuation of casualties. Thus SP Sukma requested for immediate assistance for the besieged team. Responding to the SOS message, CoBRA teams, rushed towards the beleaguered DRG/STF team. Quickly assessing the scenario, teams covered both the flanks and

then SAT launched a frontal assault on the main body of Maoists, unmindful of the danger and pitfalls.

In a do or die battle: CoBRA troops breached the enemy's ranks and managed to evacuate the injured personnel. Maoists could not face the onslaught of CoBRA troops and escaped from the site. They reorganized quickly, divided into small groups and started harassing CoBRA teams, from different directions. Meanwhile, DRG/STF troops, were again attacked near Durma village, leading to 3 fatal casualties and another who expired later. Under attack for the second time, they were running dangerously low on ammunition. Again Sh Rakesh Rao was sent an SOS message.

Two CoBRA teams reached quickly to reinforce the DRG/STF troops and remaining teams occupied a tactically important feature. The CoBRA reinforcements forced the enemy to disengage and retreat. Subsequently, the Maoists attempted to encircle the CoBRA reinforcements, which were enroute to marry up with the main body. Acting with alacrity, the main body of CoBRA teams intercepted the enemy and a fierce gun battle ensued. Displaying the pebbles of CoBRA commando, troops retaliated the attack of Maoists with full might. They inflict heavy casualties on the enemy, forcing them to break contact. The retreating enemy carried away their casualties and weapons. However, the advancing CoBRA troops managed to recover the dead body of a Maoist, who was later identified as Vike Laddu @ Mahesh Kawasi, Section Cdr of 1st Bn PLGA.

The rescue of DRG/STF, twice the same day, and repeated encounters with the Maoists, that too with the PLGA, happened only due to the brave response by the CoBRA troops. For their most conspicuous bravery, beyond the call of duty; outstanding operational acumen and dogged determination, Sh Rakesh Rao, Commandant, along with 07 CoBRA troops were awarded Police Medal for Gallantry on the occasion of Republic Day 2020.

On 30th December 2017, at around 0200 hrs, three heavily armed terrorists of JeM outfit sneaked into the campus. After scaling the boundary, the terrorists opened fire on the sentries. They, taking advantage of the dim lighting inside the camp and undulating terrain, managed to enter the four-storeyed building. They took position at the attic on the top floor of the building.

It was decided to first evacuate the trapped personnel. Range QAT of SKOR u/c Shri Zile Singh, Asstt. Comdt, 180 Bn CRPF was assigned the said task. The militant in the barrack was continuously firing all around and shifting his position to maintain the surprise. Displaying raw

courage Zile Singh along with his buddy Rajendra Kumar Nain approached the building amid the raining bullets and rescued about ten personnel from the building. After ensuring that no other personnel were left in the barracks, they moved to top floor where militants have taken position.

As the duo reached the attic, the militant fired a volley of bullets and lobbed grenades towards them. The duo had a miraculous escape. To neutralize the militant, Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain decided to move inside with the help of the BP shield to finish him once and for all. He, in a flash without fearing for his life moved inside with his BP shield and fired a burst at the militant with full might. However, the militant anticipating the tactical movement also fired back. Resultantly, one Armour Piercing Incendiary (API) round pierced through the BP shield and hit Rajendra Kumar Nain in the upper part of the chest. Due to the hit, he lost control of the BP shield but continued to fire on the militant, till he fell unconscious and slumped on the ground. Shri Zile Singh, who was close by, instantly reacted and without caring for his life came out in the open and continuously fired upon the militant. Meanwhile Shri A S Negi, DIG SKOR joined the gun battle. In the audacious counter attack they neutralized the militant.

Meanwhile, the valley QAT was fighting with similar situation in adjacent building. Constable P.K.Panda, and his buddy Constable S Prakash, were at the front in clearing the building. Amid the heavy gun battle they rescued five jawans from the office block. Meanwhile, the valley QAT received information about the sighting of one militant in near the perimeter. P.K.Panda and S.Prakash were again at the front. They quickly reached the site and in fierce gun battle neutralized one militant. After neutralizing the militant they again entered the building to search for the remaining militants.

Constable P.K.Panda was again in the lead with his buddy Constable S.Prakash. After clearing the ground and first two floors, P.K.Panda entered the block on the left side of the top floor after hurling a grenade inside the room. However, as soon as he turned to move into another room, the militant hiding in a corner fired upon him. P.K.Panda immediately took cover of the wall and simultaneously retaliated the fire even while directing his buddy to move to safe zone. The instant reaction of P.K.Panda saved the life of his buddy S. Prakash but the militant had succeeded in inflicting grievous injury to P.K.Panda. He eventually fell down but not before he had inflicted serious wounds on the militant. The militant was neutralized subsequently.

For displaying exceptional and conspicuous bravery, raw courage, utmost dedication and commitment to duty and indomitable will and passion to uphold the honour and integrity of the Nation, come what may, Constable Rajendra Kumar Nain and Shaheed Constable P.K.Panda were awarded “Kirti Chakra (Posthumous)” and Shri Zile Singh, Asst. Comdt “Shaurya Chakra” on the occasion of Republic Day 2019.
