The Institute for Voices of Liberty ("iVOL")

Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Iran's Armed Forces

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Executive Summary

The transformation and reconstruction of Iran's armed forces after the fall of the Islamic Republic is not merely a security necessity but a vital step toward stabilizing democracy, establishing lasting peace, and fostering the country's economic development. The new Iranian military must be national, professional, and independent, loyal not to a particular ideology or regime but to the people and the democratic constitution of the country.

The armed forces must be redesigned to align with global defense advancements, security needs, and regional stability requirements. The primary focus of this transformation will be reforming command structures, investing in advanced technologies, restructuring organizational culture, and developing a professional human capital base to establish a military force that is efficient, accountable, and internationally recognized.

In the new military model, the national army will serve as the backbone of security, built on a coherent and professional structure. It will have an efficient chain of command, clear missions, and institutional independence from political and economic interference. Historical examples such as Germany, Japan, and South Korea demonstrate that redefining military roles and cultural restructuring can lead to a modern and powerful army, one that is committed not to domestic repression but to national defense and public security.

A key aspect of this transformation is investing in human capital and creating a modern and comprehensive military education system to train skilled and competent personnel. Future military training must focus on advanced technical skills, crisis management, intelligence analysis, and information warfare, ensuring that Iran's armed forces remain prepared for modern threats at all times.

Additionally, the development of military technology, research, and innovation is crucial. Iran must move towards self-sufficiency in defense production by leveraging domestic expertise and forming strategic international partnerships to develop modern defense systems, artificial intelligence, radar technologies, and cybersecurity capabilities.

A sustainable and transparent financial system is essential for this transformation. The lifting of sanctions, repatriation of Iranian capital, increased exports, and foreign financial support will be

key funding sources. Effective budget management and strategic investments will ensure that the armed forces remain self-sufficient and operationally resilient.

The successful implementation of this transformation will require a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure that reforms are progressing according to strategic goals. Establishing digital oversight systems and continuous performance assessment mechanisms will help optimize efficiency and military readiness.

Ultimately, this program envisions a clear future for Iran's armed forces, where they serve not just as protectors of national security but also as a force for regional peace and stability. The new Iranian military must be an institution committed to a democratic constitution, professional integrity, and national interests, free from political manipulation and economic corruption.

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Introduction

Iran's armed forces are at a critical turning point in their history, facing a fundamental crisis in political, economic, and military dimensions. Alongside regional geopolitical shifts, these factors

have made deep structural and ideological reforms in the country's defense apparatus more necessary than ever.

Historically, Iran's armed forces have played a pivotal role in maintaining national security and territorial integrity. However, institutional inefficiencies, lack of cohesion, and ideological interference have severely impacted their effectiveness. Today, the Iranian military faces significant challenges to its efficiency, coordination, and strategic alignment.

One of the most pressing factors behind this transformation is the changing nature of security threats. In the past, Iran's military was designed around conventional warfare, relying on traditional battlefield tactics. However, modern threats such as asymmetric warfare, cyberattacks, drone warfare, economic threats, and intelligence-based operations have challenged Iran's national security landscape.

At the same time, the technological gap in Iran's military has widened. The armed forces suffer from aging military equipment, lack of access to modern weaponry, and outdated strategic planning. In contrast, many regional countries have modernized their militaries by investing in cutting-edge defense technologies and intelligence capabilities, giving them a decisive advantage over Iran.

Another major structural weakness is the division between the army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). These two parallel military institutions, with contradictory missions and conflicting leadership, have undermined national defense efficiency. The army, which was historically a professional and national force, has been marginalized in favor of the IRGC, which has become a political and economic powerhouse, overshadowing national security priorities. Instead of focusing on national defense, the IRGC has diverted resources to foreign operations and ideological expansionism, weakening Iran's military readiness.

The Political and Historical Context of Military Transformation

Iran's military has a long history of defending the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. During the Pahlavi era, the military underwent major modernization, becoming one of the most advanced military forces in the Middle East, with significant Western financial and technological support. Iran's armed forces possessed modern fighter jets, advanced armored units, and a well-equipped navy, positioning the country as a regional military power.

However, despite its military advancements, the Pahlavi military model suffered from structural weaknesses, including overreliance on foreign advisors and arms imports, an

inability to develop an independent military-industrial base, and a failure to adapt to unconventional warfare. These weaknesses became evident during conflicts in Kurdistan and Baluchistan, where Iran struggled with insurgencies and asymmetric threats.

The 1979 Islamic Revolution dramatically altered Iran's military structure. The newly established regime distrusted the national army and instead formed the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a parallel military force. The IRGC's rapid expansion, fueled by ideological loyalty rather than military expertise, led to institutional competition, inefficiencies, and misallocation of resources.

During the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988), these weaknesses became more apparent. While the army maintained traditional military tactics, the IRGC promoted asymmetric and ideological warfare, resulting in high casualties and prolonged conflicts. Despite massive sacrifices, Iran failed to achieve decisive military victories, highlighting gaps in strategic planning, training, and military-industrial capabilities.

After the war, the IRGC expanded its role beyond military affairs, evolving into a political and economic entity with control over key industries, intelligence operations, and foreign interventions. This shift further marginalized the army, making national defense secondary to the IRGC's ideological and economic ambitions.

Considering these internal weaknesses and external threats, the restructuring of Iran's armed forces is an unavoidable necessity. This transformation must focus on separating the military from political and ideological influences, reforming the chain of command, modernizing military technologies, strengthening military diplomacy, and professionalizing the military to function as a modern, transparent, and merit-based institution.

Ultimately, this transformation is not just a security necessity but a fundamental political and social requirement for a stable and democratic Iran. The armed forces must transition from an ideological and factionalized force to a truly national and professional military.

MISSION STATEMENT, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

The transformation of Iran's Armed Forces after the establishment of a democratic government requires fundamental changes in its mission, structure, and guiding principles. The Armed

Forces must transition from an ideological military force that serves a regime to a national and professional institution dedicated to the security of the nation and its people. This change is not only a military necessity but a critical step in reestablishing Iran as a responsible and constructive player on the international stage.

MISSION STATEMENT

Following the transition to a democratic system, Iran's Armed Forces will be committed to defending the country's territorial integrity, national security, and long-term stability. Their mission will be centered on protecting Iran's borders, ensuring public safety, countering internal and external threats, and participating in international peacekeeping efforts.

Unlike the past, when the Armed Forces were used as an instrument of internal suppression and regional intervention, the new military structure will be non-political and focused solely on national defense. The Army, Air Force, and Navy will operate under a clear, constitutional mandate, free from political and ideological manipulation.

Beyond military operations, the Armed Forces will also play a supportive role in humanitarian missions, disaster relief, and international peacekeeping operations under the oversight of the United Nations. By adopting this approach, the new military will gain the trust of both the Iranian people and the international community.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE MILITARY

The goal of this transformation is to create a professional, modern, and well-integrated military force that aligns with international standards. In the medium term, the Army and other branches must undergo fundamental reforms in command structure, training, and technological advancement. Investments in human capital, state-of-the-art equipment, and defense strategies will be critical to achieving these goals.

Within the first decade of transformation, Iran's Armed Forces must emerge as a highly capable and independent military organization, free from ideological constraints and regional adventurism. This period will focus on the complete overhaul of military training, leadership selection, and professional ethics, ensuring that the military operates solely for the security and stability of the nation.

In the long term, Iran's military should be recognized among the most professional and technologically advanced forces in the region. This can be achieved through self-

sufficiency in defense production, the development of a robust military-industrial complex, and strengthening international defense partnerships. The Armed Forces must maintain the ability to defend the country without relying on foreign suppliers while also contributing to global stability through peacekeeping missions and humanitarian interventions.

CORE VALUES OF THE FUTURE ARMED FORCES

The Armed Forces will be guided by principles that ensure their professionalism, accountability, and commitment to democratic governance.

Accountability and Transparency will be fundamental to the new military structure. The Armed Forces will be subject to civilian oversight, ensuring they operate in a manner that aligns with the principles of democracy and national interests. Military expenditures, operations, and policies will be transparent and open to public scrutiny, preventing corruption and abuse of power.

Commitment to Human Rights and Constitutional Law will define military conduct. Unlike past practices where military forces were used to suppress civil movements, the new Armed Forces will be bound by international human rights standards. Training in the protection of human rights, legal conduct in conflict situations, and ethical decision-making will be mandatory for all personnel.

Military Professionalism and Efficiency will be at the core of all reforms. The Armed Forces must transition into a highly skilled and merit-based institution. Training programs will focus on strategic planning, crisis management, cyber defense, and intelligence operations to prepare personnel for modern threats and challenges.

Equity and Inclusivity will be a fundamental principle in recruitment and career progression. Military service and leadership opportunities will be based on merit and professional qualifications rather than political, ethnic, or religious affiliations. This shift will create a national military force that reflects the diversity of the Iranian population and ensures equal opportunities for all citizens.

Regional Stability and Peaceful Cooperation will replace the previous policies of confrontation and proxy conflicts. The Armed Forces will focus on defensive strategies rather than offensive regional interventions. Military diplomacy will prioritize partnerships with democratic nations and regional cooperation to enhance security and economic prosperity.

Iran's transition to a professional, national military force will require a complete departure from its past policies. The future military must be structured to serve the people, uphold the democratic constitution, and ensure the security of Iran through professionalism and strategic defense planning.

Historical Review and Strategic Lessons

The transformation of Iran's Armed Forces requires a thorough understanding of historical military developments, both before and after the 1979 revolution. By analyzing past successes and failures, Iran can adopt a defense strategy that avoids previous mistakes and aligns with modern security needs.

The Army Before the 1979 Revolution

Before the 1979 revolution, Iran's Army was one of the most advanced military forces in the Middle East. The Pahlavi regime prioritized military modernization, benefiting from Western financial and technological support. Iran developed a well-equipped Army, modern air force, and strong naval capabilities, making it a dominant regional power.

Despite these advancements, the Army faced significant structural weaknesses. Overreliance on foreign advisors and imported military technology prevented the development of an independent defense industry. The Army's command structure remained highly centralized, limiting flexibility and strategic adaptability. Additionally, the excessive focus on conventional warfare left Iran unprepared for asymmetric and insurgent conflicts, such as those in Kurdistan and Baluchistan.

The Army After the 1979 Revolution

The 1979 revolution drastically altered Iran's military landscape. The newly established Islamic Republic distrusted the Army due to its historical ties to the monarchy and prioritized the creation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a parallel military force. This shift led to the Army's marginalization, with many experienced officers purged, executed, or exiled.

During the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988), the Army faced severe challenges due to weakened leadership, lack of resources, and ideological interference. While the Army adhered to conventional military strategies, the IRGC promoted asymmetric warfare, leading to conflicting operational strategies. The war exposed deficiencies in military

planning, technology, and logistics, highlighting the need for long-term structural reforms.

After the war, the IRGC expanded its influence beyond military operations, taking control of key economic sectors, intelligence agencies, and regional interventions. This expansion further undermined the Army's role, shifting Iran's defense priorities toward ideological and regional objectives rather than national security.

Lessons from Global Military Transformations

The experiences of countries such as Germany, Japan, and South Korea demonstrate that a professional, non-political, and technologically advanced military can emerge from fundamental reform. Germany and Japan rebuilt their militaries after World War II by focusing on professionalism, training, and military diplomacy. South Korea transformed its armed forces by investing in defense technology, regional alliances, and strict civilian oversight.

These examples highlight the importance of separating the military from political and ideological influences, investing in research and development, and maintaining an independent and professional Army. The key lesson for Iran is that a modernized Army must prioritize national security over ideological agendas, ensuring stability through strategic defense policies and diplomatic engagement.

The Need for Military Redesign

Iran's Armed Forces must undergo a comprehensive redesign to address both internal inefficiencies and external threats. The Army must reclaim its position as the central pillar of national defense, with a command structure free from ideological interference. Military education and training should be restructured to align with modern defense strategies, including cyber warfare, artificial intelligence, and intelligence-based operations.

A strategic transformation requires the development of a domestic defense industry to reduce reliance on foreign arms imports. Iran must also shift from an aggressive regional posture to a defense-oriented strategy that fosters regional stability and economic partnerships. A well-equipped, highly trained, and professionally managed Army will ensure Iran's security and restore its standing as a responsible military power in the region

SWOT Analysis of Iran's Armed Forces

A thorough assessment of Iran's armed forces requires an analysis of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Understanding these factors will help guide the transformation process, ensuring that reforms address key vulnerabilities while leveraging available resources and strategic advantages.

Strengths of the Armed Forces

Despite existing challenges, Iran's armed forces possess several strengths that can be utilized in the transformation process. One of the most significant advantages is the Army's long-standing experience in military operations. The Army, having engaged in prolonged conflicts such as the Iran-Iraq War and various regional security missions, has developed a resilient force structure and operational knowledge in both conventional and asymmetric warfare.

Iran's strategic geographical location also provides a defense advantage. Positioned at the crossroads of the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf, Iran controls critical chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz. This location enables the military to exert strategic influence over regional trade routes and security operations.

The development of a domestic defense industry has given Iran partial independence in arms production. Despite facing international sanctions, Iran has made progress in manufacturing missile systems, drones, and electronic warfare capabilities. While these developments are limited in scope, they provide a foundation for future advancements in defense technology.

Iran's military personnel also represent a key asset. The armed forces include a substantial number of trained officers and enlisted soldiers with operational experience. With appropriate reforms in training and leadership, this human capital can be further developed to align with modern defense strategies.

Weaknesses of the Armed Forces

While Iran's armed forces possess operational strengths, they suffer from fundamental weaknesses that must be addressed for long-term military effectiveness. One of the most critical issues is the outdated military infrastructure. Much of Iran's military equipment dates back to the 1970s and 1980s, with limited access to modern upgrades

due to international sanctions and government mismanagement. The lack of modern aircraft, naval vessels, and armored units places the military at a disadvantage compared to regional competitors.

The dual structure of the Army and the IRGC has created inefficiencies, internal competition, and misaligned strategic priorities. The Army, historically responsible for national defense, has been overshadowed by the IRGC, which prioritizes ideological loyalty over professional military conduct. This divide has led to fragmented decision-making, resource misallocation, and a weakened national defense posture.

Corruption and political interference further hinder the effectiveness of the armed forces. Military promotions and funding allocations have often been influenced by political and ideological considerations rather than professional merit. This has resulted in weakened leadership, reduced morale among professional officers, and mismanagement of defense resources.

Iran's economic difficulties have also constrained military readiness. A shrinking defense budget, coupled with a struggling economy, has led to inadequate funding for military personnel, technological advancements, and operational maintenance. These financial limitations hinder modernization efforts and reduce combat preparedness.

Opportunities for Military Reform

Despite existing weaknesses, several opportunities can facilitate the transformation of Iran's armed forces. One of the most significant opportunities is the potential for military restructuring following political transition. A newly established democratic government can prioritize military professionalism, eliminating political interference in defense affairs and focusing on efficiency, accountability, and modernization.

Improved international relations following the end of the Islamic Republic could open pathways for defense cooperation, access to modern technology, and integration into global security frameworks. Lifting of sanctions and economic recovery would allow for investment in military research, procurement of advanced weapons systems, and development of modern defense infrastructure.

The adoption of digital and cyber warfare capabilities presents an opportunity for Iran's armed forces to enhance their strategic effectiveness. By investing in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and electronic warfare, Iran can compensate for its conventional

military limitations and establish a modernized defense strategy suited to contemporary warfare.

Regional stability initiatives also provide an opportunity for military transformation. A shift in foreign policy toward diplomatic engagement, rather than military interventions and proxy warfare, would allow the armed forces to focus on national defense rather than external conflicts. This would improve Iran's security environment and contribute to regional peace efforts.

Threats to Military Stability

While opportunities for reform exist, Iran's armed forces face external and internal threats that could disrupt the transformation process. One of the most immediate threats is regional military competition. Neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel have significantly advanced their military capabilities through defense partnerships with Western powers. Without substantial modernization, Iran risks falling behind in regional defense capabilities.

Ongoing geopolitical tensions with global powers also pose security challenges. Continued hostility with the United States and NATO allies could lead to prolonged economic restrictions and military containment efforts. Iran's international isolation limits its ability to engage in defense cooperation, access modern technology, and participate in global security initiatives.

The presence of ideological factions within the military, particularly in the IRGC, could also hinder efforts to professionalize the armed forces. Hardline elements may resist reforms, attempting to maintain political and economic control over military operations. Internal divisions could lead to instability and further weaken national defense capabilities.

Economic instability remains one of the greatest threats to military sustainability. A prolonged financial crisis, coupled with mismanagement and corruption, could prevent necessary investments in defense technology, personnel training, and military readiness. Without economic recovery, the armed forces will struggle to maintain operational effectiveness.

Strategic Implications of the SWOT Analysis

The analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats highlights the critical areas that must be addressed in the transformation of Iran's armed forces. Military restructuring must focus on eliminating internal inefficiencies, modernizing defense capabilities, and shifting to a professional, merit-based structure. Technological advancements, economic recovery, and international cooperation will be essential in creating a sustainable and effective military force.

The Army must reclaim its central role as the primary defense institution, free from political interference and ideological influence. A national defense strategy must be established that prioritizes self-sufficiency in defense production, investment in modern warfare capabilities, and alignment with international security standards.

By addressing these challenges and capitalizing on available opportunities, Iran's armed forces can transition from an outdated and divided institution into a modern and professional military force. This transformation will not only enhance national security but also contribute to regional stability and global military cooperation.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Experienced and well-trained human resources	Lack of coordination between the Army and the IRGC	Expansion of defense cooperation with some Asian countries	International sanctions and restrictions on military equipment
Strategic geographical position	Outdated military equipment	Increased role of defense diplomacy and security in the region	Military competition in the region
Strong domestic defense industries	Budget shortages and economic difficulties	Development of cyber capabilities and electronic warfare technology	Cyber threats and hybrid warfare
Cyber warfare and asymmetric capabilities	Overdependence on human resources rather than advanced technology	Enhancement of domestic production capabilities in the defense sector	Economic instability and reduced military funding

This table provides a SWOT analysis of Iran's armed forces, highlighting key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that impact military transformation efforts. Let me know if you need further refinements or explanations before proceeding with the next section.

Strategic Plan for Structural Transformation

The transformation of Iran's armed forces requires a comprehensive restructuring to align with modern defense strategies, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen national security. This plan focuses on military professionalism, technological advancement, and the establishment of a national Army that is independent of political and ideological influences.

Redesigning Military Structure and Command Systems

One of the most critical aspects of transformation is the reorganization of the military's command structure. Currently, the existence of both the Army and the IRGC has led to inefficiencies, internal conflicts, and misalignment in defense priorities. The new structure must establish a single, unified chain of command that ensures military decisions are made based on national security needs rather than ideological considerations.

The Army must be restructured to serve as the primary defense institution, with a focus on professionalism, meritocracy, and operational efficiency. A modernized command hierarchy will allow for rapid decision-making, improved coordination between military branches, and better crisis management. The reform process must also ensure that military leadership is selected based on experience and professional qualifications rather than political affiliations.

Modernization of Military Equipment and Defense Capabilities

A significant weakness of Iran's armed forces is the outdated nature of its military equipment. Decades of economic sanctions and limited access to international defense markets have prevented necessary upgrades in air, land, and naval forces. The transformation plan prioritizes domestic defense production, investment in research and development, and the acquisition of modern military technology.

The Army must transition from relying on outdated weaponry to a force equipped with advanced combat systems, including precision-guided missiles, modern tanks, and drone warfare capabilities. The air force must undergo extensive modernization by acquiring next-generation aircraft, developing indigenous aviation technology, and enhancing radar and air defense systems. The navy must also be strengthened to secure Iran's maritime borders and maintain regional stability, particularly in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Investment in Cybersecurity and Electronic Warfare

As modern warfare increasingly relies on cyber operations and electronic warfare, Iran's armed forces must develop capabilities in these domains to protect national security. The expansion of cyber defense units, development of artificial intelligence in military applications, and investment in electronic warfare technologies will be essential in countering cyber threats and securing national defense networks.

Training specialized military personnel in cybersecurity, intelligence operations, and electronic warfare will be a priority. The Army must establish partnerships with research institutions and technology firms to ensure that Iran remains capable of responding to emerging cyber threats and securing its military infrastructure against foreign attacks.

Reforming Military Training and Human Resource Development

A modern and professional Army requires a fundamental overhaul of military training programs. The current system, which has been influenced by political and ideological teachings, must be replaced with a structure that prioritizes technical expertise, leadership skills, and strategic planning.

A new national defense academy should be established to train officers and personnel based on international military standards. The curriculum must focus on military strategy, operational tactics, crisis management, and intelligence analysis. Regular joint exercises with allied nations will enhance combat readiness and expose the Army to modern warfare techniques.

Additionally, reforms should ensure fair recruitment policies that are based on merit rather than political loyalty. Military service must be structured to provide career growth opportunities, competitive salaries, and benefits that encourage long-term commitment from skilled personnel.

Enhancing Military Diplomacy and Regional Stability

The transformation of Iran's armed forces must align with a broader strategy to promote regional stability and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Military diplomacy should focus on establishing cooperative defense agreements with neighboring countries, participating in international peacekeeping operations, and engaging in regional security initiatives.

Reducing military involvement in regional conflicts and proxy wars will allow Iran's armed forces to concentrate on national defense and modernization efforts. Instead of

aggressive military expansion, the Army should prioritize defensive strategies that strengthen border security, protect national infrastructure, and deter foreign aggression.

Establishing Civilian Oversight and Transparency in Defense Operations

A key component of military transformation is ensuring that the armed forces operate within a framework of transparency and civilian oversight. The establishment of a parliamentary defense committee to oversee military budgets, strategic decisions, and procurement processes will help prevent corruption and ensure that military expenditures align with national security priorities.

Military operations and decision-making processes must be subject to democratic accountability, with regular audits, performance evaluations, and independent reviews of military policies. The Army must function as a professional institution that serves the nation rather than a political or ideological entity.

A National Army for a Democratic Iran

The restructuring of Iran's armed forces is a critical step toward building a modern, professional, and accountable military. By eliminating inefficiencies, investing in technological advancements, and prioritizing national security over ideological interests, Iran can establish an Army that is capable of defending the country while contributing to regional peace and stability.

A transformed military must focus on professional training, modernization of defense capabilities, and the development of cybersecurity and intelligence operations. By integrating military diplomacy and fostering international cooperation, Iran's armed forces can transition from an isolated and outdated institution to a globally recognized and respected defense force.

The success of this transformation depends on political commitment, strategic investment, and a clear vision for a democratic and secure Iran. By implementing these reforms, Iran's Army can emerge as a pillar of national strength, ensuring long-term stability and prosperity for the country.

Human Capital Development

The transformation of Iran's armed forces requires a highly skilled and professional military personnel base. Investing in human capital is essential for building a modern and efficient Army

that is capable of adapting to contemporary warfare and national security challenges. This section outlines the necessary reforms in military education, training, and career development to ensure that the Army operates at the highest standards of professionalism and efficiency.

Modernizing Military Education and Training

The current military education system is outdated and heavily influenced by ideological teachings rather than practical defense strategies. To build a professional Army, military training institutions must be restructured to align with international military standards. A new national defense academy should be established, offering specialized training programs in military strategy, leadership development, crisis management, intelligence operations, and cyber warfare.

Training programs must focus on modern warfare techniques, including electronic warfare, strategic planning, and joint military operations. The curriculum should incorporate case studies from global military successes and failures, ensuring that officers and soldiers are equipped with the knowledge to handle real-world security challenges. Regular military exercises, including simulations of battlefield scenarios and counterterrorism operations, should be conducted to improve combat readiness.

Additionally, cooperation with international military academies can provide Iranian officers with exposure to best practices in defense strategy and tactical training. Exchange programs with allied nations will help strengthen professional military networks and enhance training capabilities.

Recruitment and Career Progression Based on Merit

A fundamental weakness of Iran's armed forces has been the political and ideological influence in recruitment and promotions. To ensure the professionalism of the Army, recruitment must be based on merit and competence rather than political loyalty. Selection criteria should focus on educational background, physical fitness, and leadership potential, ensuring that only the most qualified individuals serve in key military roles.

Career progression within the Army must also be structured to reward professional excellence and operational achievements. A transparent and standardized promotion system should be established, where officers advance based on their expertise, combat experience, and leadership skills rather than political or ideological affiliations. This will help create a culture of professionalism and accountability within the armed forces.

Improving Military Personnel Welfare and Retention Policies

For the Army to attract and retain top talent, military service must offer competitive salaries, benefits, and long-term career opportunities. Many skilled officers and soldiers have left the military due to poor working conditions, low pay, and lack of career growth opportunities. Comprehensive reforms in military welfare policies are necessary to ensure job satisfaction and operational effectiveness.

Providing housing assistance, healthcare benefits, and family support programs will help improve the quality of life for military personnel. Additionally, establishing post-service career transition programs will enable veterans to integrate into civilian employment after completing their military service. This will not only enhance retention rates but also attract skilled professionals who see the military as a viable and rewarding career path.

Developing Specialized Forces and Advanced Training Programs

To meet the demands of modern warfare, Iran's armed forces must invest in specialized military units trained in cyber defense, intelligence operations, and counterterrorism. Creating elite forces with expertise in special operations, urban warfare, and electronic surveillance will enhance the Army's ability to respond to emerging security threats.

Advanced training programs should also focus on technological innovations, including artificial intelligence in military applications, drone warfare, and cybersecurity. By equipping military personnel with expertise in cutting-edge defense technologies, the Army can maintain a strategic advantage in future conflicts.

Encouraging Scientific Research and Military Innovation

A modern Army must integrate research and technological development into its core structure. Collaboration between military institutions and academic research centers can foster innovation in defense technology, weapons development, and strategic analysis. Encouraging military officers to pursue advanced degrees in engineering, cyber operations, and strategic studies will contribute to a more skilled and knowledgeable military force.

Establishing military research grants and scholarships will further promote scientific advancements in defense-related fields. By integrating research and education, the Army can develop homegrown solutions to defense challenges and reduce reliance on foreign military technologies.

Promoting Ethical Standards and Military Discipline

For Iran's Army to function as a professional institution, strict adherence to ethical standards and military discipline must be enforced. A code of conduct should be established to ensure that military personnel uphold values such as integrity, accountability, and respect for human rights.

Training in military ethics should be mandatory, emphasizing the role of the Army in serving the nation rather than political interests. Clear mechanisms for accountability must be implemented to address cases of misconduct, corruption, or abuse of power within the military. A disciplined and professional military will gain public trust and reinforce the legitimacy of the armed forces in a democratic society.

Building a Skilled and Professional Army

The success of Iran's military transformation depends on the development of a well-trained, professional, and highly motivated Army. By modernizing military education, reforming recruitment policies, improving personnel welfare, and investing in technological advancements, Iran's armed forces can establish a defense force that is capable of responding to modern security threats.

A skilled and professional Army will not only strengthen national security but also contribute to regional stability. By fostering a culture of meritocracy, innovation, and ethical conduct, Iran's armed forces can transition from an outdated and politically influenced institution to a modern and globally respected military force.

Technological Development and Research Innovation

The modernization of Iran's armed forces depends on technological advancement and investment in research and development. In an era where warfare is increasingly driven by innovation, Iran must prioritize the development of domestic military technology, enhance cyber and electronic warfare capabilities, and establish strong research institutions to support its defense strategy.

Strengthening Domestic Defense Industry

One of the primary challenges facing Iran's military is its reliance on outdated equipment and limited access to international defense markets due to sanctions. To overcome this,

Iran must develop a self-sufficient defense industry capable of producing advanced weaponry, military vehicles, and surveillance systems.

Expanding domestic production of missile systems, drones, armored vehicles, and naval vessels will reduce dependence on foreign suppliers and enhance Iran's military readiness. Establishing specialized defense research centers in collaboration with universities and industrial firms will facilitate the development of next-generation weapons and military hardware.

Investments in artificial intelligence, precision-guided munitions, and autonomous systems must be prioritized to ensure that Iran's armed forces remain competitive in modern warfare. Additionally, upgrading logistics and supply chain management within the military will enhance efficiency and operational preparedness.

Advancing Cybersecurity and Electronic Warfare Capabilities

Modern warfare increasingly involves cyberattacks, electronic surveillance, and information warfare. Iran's military must expand its cyber defense capabilities to protect national security infrastructure, detect potential threats, and engage in defensive cyber operations.

Developing military-grade encryption systems, artificial intelligence for cybersecurity, and network defense protocols will strengthen Iran's ability to counter cyber threats. Establishing dedicated cyber defense units within the Army will ensure that military operations remain secure from external interference.

Electronic warfare capabilities must also be enhanced, focusing on disrupting enemy communications, radar detection, and GPS systems. Investments in electronic countermeasures, signal intelligence, and electromagnetic warfare will provide Iran's armed forces with strategic advantages in conflict scenarios.

Innovation in Drone and Autonomous Systems

Drones have become a critical component of modern military operations, offering capabilities in reconnaissance, surveillance, and targeted strikes. Iran has already made advancements in drone technology, but further research is needed to develop high-endurance, stealth, and autonomous drone systems.

Investing in next-generation unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with artificial intelligence, advanced sensors, and electronic warfare capabilities will significantly

enhance Iran's military capabilities. Additionally, integrating drone technology into naval and land-based operations will provide a multi-domain advantage in future conflicts.

The development of autonomous ground and naval defense systems must also be explored, incorporating artificial intelligence and robotics to improve battlefield efficiency and reduce risks to human personnel.

Military Space and Satellite Programs

Expanding Iran's military space capabilities is essential for intelligence gathering, secure communications, and strategic defense planning. Developing and deploying military satellites for reconnaissance, navigation, and communication will enhance Iran's ability to monitor regional threats and improve battlefield coordination.

Investments in space technology should focus on satellite-based surveillance, secure data transmission, and early warning systems. Collaborations with research institutions and private technology firms will be necessary to accelerate advancements in this sector.

Collaboration Between Military and Civilian Research Institutions

A successful military innovation strategy requires collaboration between defense institutions, universities, and technology companies. Establishing partnerships with academic research centers specializing in artificial intelligence, cyber defense, and advanced engineering will facilitate knowledge transfer and accelerate technological advancements.

Funding military research grants, encouraging innovation competitions, and integrating military personnel into specialized research programs will create a pipeline of scientific talent dedicated to national defense. Establishing innovation hubs focused on military applications will ensure that Iran remains at the forefront of emerging technologies.

Developing Advanced Training Programs for Technological Warfare

To effectively utilize new technologies, Iran's military must train personnel in advanced warfare tactics, cyber operations, and artificial intelligence applications. Specialized training centers should be established to educate military officers in modern defense systems, information security, and digital warfare.

International collaboration with allied nations in defense technology training programs will provide Iranian military personnel with exposure to cutting-edge military strategies

and operational techniques. Simulated exercises and wargaming scenarios will further enhance readiness and adaptability in high-tech warfare environments.

Ensuring Ethical and Strategic Use of Military Technology

The integration of advanced technology into military operations must be guided by clear ethical and strategic frameworks. Policies should be developed to ensure responsible use of artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, and autonomous weapons systems. Military decision-making must prioritize national security while adhering to international regulations on technological warfare.

Investments in military technology should focus on defense rather than aggressive expansionism. A balanced approach that prioritizes deterrence, cyber resilience, and intelligence gathering will strengthen Iran's security position while maintaining regional stability.

A High-Tech Army for the Future

The future of Iran's armed forces depends on technological innovation, self-sufficiency in defense production, and the development of cyber and electronic warfare capabilities. By investing in research, expanding drone and space programs, and fostering collaboration with civilian institutions, Iran can build a modernized Army capable of responding to emerging threats.

A technologically advanced Army will enhance national security, improve operational effectiveness, and position Iran as a responsible defense power. Through sustained investment in innovation, research, and personnel training, Iran's military can transition into a high-tech force that safeguards the nation's interests while contributing to global security advancements.

Military and Financial Sustainability

The transformation of Iran's armed forces requires a sustainable financial strategy to support modernization efforts, enhance operational capabilities, and ensure long-term military readiness. A well-funded defense system must balance financial efficiency with strategic investments in technology, personnel, and infrastructure. To achieve this, military funding must be managed with transparency, accountability, and alignment with national economic priorities.

Establishing a Transparent and Accountable Defense Budget

A major challenge in the current system is the mismanagement of defense funds and the lack of financial oversight. Ensuring a sustainable military budget requires an independent civilian authority to oversee financial allocations and prevent corruption. Establishing a parliamentary defense committee with the power to audit military spending will help eliminate inefficiencies and ensure that resources are directed toward national security needs rather than political interests. Defense expenditures should be planned within a long-term financial framework, allowing for stable investments in modernization without straining the national economy. Periodic financial reviews and independent evaluations will be necessary to maintain accountability and prevent wasteful spending.

Diversifying Sources of Military Funding

The financial sustainability of the armed forces depends on diversifying funding sources. Expanding the domestic defense industry can generate revenue through the production and export of military equipment, cybersecurity solutions, and advanced technologies. Strengthening the domestic production of weapons, surveillance systems, and military vehicles will reduce dependency on foreign imports and create economic opportunities. Improved diplomatic relations with international partners may also lead to new defense cooperation agreements, opening avenues for foreign investment, training programs, and technological transfers. Engaging with the private sector will further support financial sustainability by fostering military research collaborations and industrial investments in defense technology.

Cost-Efficient Military Modernization

To optimize military expenditures, cost-efficient modernization strategies must be adopted. Domestic production of military equipment must be prioritized to reduce procurement costs while enhancing national security. The restructuring of military personnel and wages should focus on maintaining a highly trained but economically sustainable force. Investing in dual-use technologies that serve both civilian and military applications will further improve cost efficiency while driving technological advancements. Retiring outdated military hardware and replacing it with modern, cost-effective alternatives will enhance operational effectiveness without excessive financial burdens.

Leveraging Economic Stability for Defense Growth

The sustainability of military funding is closely linked to national economic stability. A growing and stable economy provides the foundation for consistent defense investments. Strengthening the industrial and technological sectors will not only boost economic performance but also contribute to self-sufficiency in defense production. Expanding international trade partnerships will increase national revenue, making it easier to allocate resources for military modernization. The armed forces must also transition away from economic management roles, focusing solely on national defense rather than controlling business enterprises. Transferring military-owned industries to civilian administration will lead to better financial management and efficiency in both the economic and defense sectors.

Ensuring Stability in Military Funding During Economic Fluctuations

Fluctuations in the national economy can pose risks to military sustainability, making flexible financial strategies essential. Establishing contingency funds and maintaining diversified financial reserves will help stabilize military funding during economic downturns. Essential defense projects must be prioritized, while non-critical expenditures should be postponed when economic conditions require adjustments. A balanced approach between economic growth and military spending will ensure that national security is not compromised by financial constraints.

Military Contributions to National Economic Development

A modernized military can also contribute to national economic growth through innovation, infrastructure development, and skill-building programs. Investments in military-led research and engineering projects will generate technological advancements that benefit the broader economy. Military training programs in technology, cybersecurity, and engineering will equip personnel with valuable skills that can be utilized in both military and civilian industries. The logistical and operational expertise of the armed forces can also support disaster relief efforts, humanitarian assistance, and national emergency management, strengthening public trust and national resilience.

A Sustainable Military for a Stronger Iran

Financial sustainability is essential for building a modern and professional Army that can protect Iran while maintaining economic stability. Ensuring financial transparency, optimizing expenditures, and leveraging economic growth will provide the armed forces with the stability needed for long-term military readiness. A well-funded and efficiently

managed military will strengthen national security, drive technological innovation, and contribute to Iran's overall economic resilience. Strategic financial planning and responsible defense investments will be key in sustaining Iran's military transformation without compromising broader national development objectives.

Time Period	Financial Source	Funding Amount (Billion Dollars)	Application in the Armed Forces
Year 1 to 3	Lifting of sanctions and return of blocked funds	50	Modernization of military infrastructure, development of human resources, and improvement of training programs
Year 1 to 3	Investment by Iranian expatriates	30	Procurement of initial equipment and modern weaponry
Year 1 to 3	International aid and development loans	40	Establishment of advanced training and research centers
Year 3 to 5	Increase in export revenues	80	Development of domestic defense industries and production of weaponry
Year 3 to 5	Investment in military technology	40	Strengthening cyber capabilities and electronic warfare
Year 3 to 5	Government budget allocation	30	Development of air, ground, and naval forces
Year 6 to 10	Export of defense technology and military equipment	50	Achieving self-sufficiency in the production of military equipment
Year 6 to 10	Increase in tax revenues from economic growth	30	Construction of military bases and advanced facilities
Year 6 to 10	Private sector involvement in the defense industry	25	Expansion of international cooperation and improvement of aerospace and naval technology
Total over 10 years	-	355	-

This table outlines the projected financial sources and their allocation for the modernization and restructuring of Iran's armed forces over a ten-year period. Let me know if you need any refinements before proceeding with the next section.

Risk Assessment and Crisis Management

The transformation of Iran's armed forces requires careful planning to mitigate risks and ensure stability during the restructuring process. The success of military modernization depends on identifying potential threats, managing internal and external challenges, and establishing a comprehensive crisis management strategy. A well-prepared Army must be capable of adapting to security risks, economic uncertainties, and geopolitical shifts while maintaining operational effectiveness.

Addressing Internal Resistance and Institutional Challenges

One of the primary risks in military transformation is internal resistance from factions within the armed forces. The dual structure of the Army and the IRGC has created entrenched interests that may oppose reforms. Certain elements within the IRGC, particularly those benefiting from political and economic influence, may resist restructuring efforts aimed at depoliticizing the military. Addressing this challenge requires clear policies that gradually integrate or phase out ideological influences while ensuring a smooth transition to a professional defense structure.

Military leadership must be engaged in the reform process through transparent communication, professional incentives, and a phased approach to structural changes. A national security council composed of experienced military officers, defense analysts, and government representatives should oversee the transition, ensuring that reforms are implemented without disrupting military readiness.

Managing Economic Constraints and Financial Stability

Economic instability poses a significant risk to the sustainability of military transformation. Fluctuations in national revenue, sanctions, and budgetary constraints may impact the availability of funds for modernization programs. Ensuring financial stability requires a diversified funding strategy that includes domestic defense production, export revenues, foreign investment, and government budget allocations.

To minimize economic risks, military projects should be prioritized based on strategic necessity, with essential programs receiving guaranteed funding while non-critical expenditures are postponed during periods of economic downturn. Efficient resource

management, reduction of unnecessary expenditures, and increased transparency in defense spending will also contribute to financial stability.

Countering External Threats and Regional Security Challenges

Iran's strategic position in the Middle East makes it vulnerable to external threats, including military confrontations, economic sanctions, and cyber warfare. The transformation of the armed forces must account for potential regional conflicts and international pressures. Neighboring countries with advanced military capabilities, such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Israel, present security challenges that require Iran to maintain a strong defense posture without escalating tensions.

Regional stability efforts must be integrated into military planning, with an emphasis on diplomatic engagement, conflict resolution mechanisms, and defense cooperation agreements. Establishing regional security partnerships can reduce the likelihood of military confrontations while ensuring Iran's defense capabilities remain intact.

Cyber threats have become an increasing concern in modern warfare, with potential attacks on military infrastructure, defense communication systems, and critical national assets. Strengthening cybersecurity measures and electronic warfare capabilities will be essential in protecting Iran's military infrastructure from cyber espionage and sabotage. A dedicated cyber defense unit should be established within the Army, focusing on early threat detection, rapid response capabilities, and secure communication networks.

Developing Crisis Response Mechanisms and Emergency Preparedness

A modern military must have the capacity to respond effectively to crises, including natural disasters, security threats, and national emergencies. Establishing a centralized crisis management unit within the armed forces will enable coordinated responses to unexpected challenges.

Military training programs should include simulations and scenario-based exercises that prepare personnel for crisis situations, including border conflicts, cyber-attacks, and domestic security threats. Collaboration with civilian agencies in disaster relief efforts will strengthen the military's role in national emergency management, ensuring rapid deployment and coordination in times of crisis.

Crisis communication strategies should be developed to ensure that military decisions are effectively conveyed to government officials, allied forces, and the general public.

Information security measures must be in place to prevent misinformation, cyber-attacks, and unauthorized leaks that could compromise national security during crises.

Ensuring Stability During Military Transition

The restructuring of Iran's armed forces must be carefully managed to prevent instability during the transition. A gradual and phased approach to military reform will minimize disruptions while allowing for adjustments based on real-time assessments.

Institutional reforms must be accompanied by professional development programs that train military personnel in modern defense strategies, technological advancements, and international military cooperation. Establishing clear chains of command, operational guidelines, and legal frameworks will enhance stability during the transition.

To ensure long-term success, military transformation efforts must be supported by strong civilian oversight, legislative backing, and national consensus. Defense reforms should be communicated transparently to the public, fostering trust and confidence in the restructuring process.

 A Resilient and Adaptive Military

The ability to assess risks and manage crises effectively will determine the success of Iran's military transformation. By addressing internal resistance, securing stable financial resources, countering external threats, and developing comprehensive crisis response mechanisms, Iran's armed forces can transition into a modern, professional, and resilient military institution.

A structured approach to military reform will ensure that Iran's Army remains prepared for emerging security challenges while contributing to regional stability and national defense. Through proactive planning, technological advancements, and institutional resilience, Iran's military can achieve long-term operational success without compromising national security during the transformation process.

Cultural and Organizational Change

The transformation of Iran's armed forces is not limited to structural and technological reforms; it also requires a fundamental shift in military culture and organizational behavior. The armed forces must transition from an ideologically driven institution to a professional, merit-based military that operates in accordance with national security interests and democratic principles.

Cultural and organizational change is essential to fostering accountability, ethical leadership, and operational efficiency.

Shifting from Ideological Influence to National Service

One of the most significant challenges in military reform is eliminating ideological influence from the armed forces. For decades, the military, particularly the IRGC, has been shaped by political and religious ideologies rather than professional defense objectives. This has resulted in factionalism, politicization of command structures, and loyalty-based promotions rather than merit-based career progression.

To establish a professional Army, military service must be redefined as a duty to the nation rather than a tool for political enforcement. Military personnel should be trained to uphold the principles of national sovereignty, territorial defense, and constitutional law rather than ideological agendas. Educational programs should focus on strategy, ethics, leadership, and modern warfare rather than political indoctrination.

Promoting Meritocracy and Professionalism

A modern military must prioritize meritocracy in recruitment, training, and promotions. The existing system, which often rewards political loyalty over professional competence, must be replaced with a performance-based evaluation system. Clear and transparent promotion criteria should be established to ensure that officers advance in rank based on skills, experience, and operational achievements rather than ideological alignment.

Military academies should adopt internationally recognized training standards that emphasize critical thinking, decision-making under pressure, and leadership skills. Exchange programs with professional military institutions from allied nations can further enhance the professional development of officers and expose them to best practices in modern military operations.

Enhancing Civil-Military Relations

A democratic military must maintain a clear distinction between military and civilian governance. The armed forces should be accountable to an elected government and operate under civilian oversight to prevent military intervention in politics. Establishing mechanisms for parliamentary and judicial oversight will ensure that military decisions align with national security interests rather than political objectives.

Military personnel must be trained in the principles of civil-military relations, reinforcing their role as defenders of the nation rather than political actors. Educational programs should focus on the constitutional limits of military power, the role of the armed forces in a democratic society, and the importance of respecting civilian authority.

Improving Ethical Standards and Accountability

A reformed military must uphold the highest ethical standards in conduct, decision-making, and operational behavior. Corruption, abuse of power, and human rights violations must be systematically addressed through strict accountability measures. Establishing an independent military ethics committee will help monitor compliance with ethical standards and investigate cases of misconduct.

Ethical training should be integrated into military education programs, ensuring that all personnel understand their responsibilities under international humanitarian law and national legal frameworks. Clear mechanisms for reporting and addressing misconduct should be established, including whistleblower protections for those who expose corruption or abuses within the armed forces.

Developing a Modern and Inclusive Military Culture

The armed forces should reflect the diversity of the nation and provide equal opportunities for all qualified individuals, regardless of political background, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Discriminatory policies in recruitment and promotions must be eliminated to create a truly national military institution.

Additionally, fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation will enhance military efficiency. Officers and soldiers must be encouraged to engage in ongoing professional development, participate in advanced training programs, and contribute to defense research initiatives. A forward-thinking military culture will allow the armed forces to adapt to evolving security challenges and technological advancements.

Building a Military Identity Based on National Unity

A modernized Army must establish a unifying military identity centered on national service, professionalism, and duty to the people. Military traditions and values should emphasize honor, discipline, and respect for democratic governance rather than loyalty to a particular political or ideological faction. National symbols, history, and shared

experiences in defending Iran's sovereignty should be incorporated into military training to reinforce a sense of unity and purpose.

Encouraging cross-branch cooperation between the Army, Air Force, and Navy will further strengthen institutional cohesion. Joint training exercises, shared operational strategies, and integrated command structures will enhance coordination and reduce institutional rivalries within the armed forces.

A Military Rooted in Professionalism and National Service

Cultural and organizational change is a critical component of military transformation. By eliminating ideological influence, promoting meritocracy, improving ethical standards, and fostering a culture of professionalism, Iran's armed forces can transition into a modern and effective institution. A reformed military will not only enhance national security but also contribute to regional stability and democratic governance.

A professional and accountable Army will ensure that Iran's armed forces remain focused on defending the nation rather than serving political interests. By embracing ethical leadership, continuous learning, and national unity, the military can build a strong and respected institution capable of meeting future security challenges.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The transformation of Iran's armed forces requires a robust monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that reforms are effectively implemented, performance is continuously assessed, and military operations remain aligned with national security priorities. Establishing a structured oversight framework will enhance transparency, improve operational efficiency, and prevent corruption or mismanagement within the armed forces. A modern and professional Army must function within a system of accountability that guarantees military readiness, financial sustainability, and adherence to ethical standards.

Establishing Performance Assessment Mechanisms

An effective military transformation requires clear performance indicators to measure progress in key areas such as force readiness, personnel training, technological advancements, and financial management. A dedicated military oversight unit should be established to conduct regular evaluations of military capabilities, ensuring that reforms are producing measurable improvements.

Performance assessments should include reviews of training effectiveness, combat readiness, and operational efficiency. Regular military exercises and simulations should be used to test strategic preparedness, assess unit coordination, and identify areas for improvement. Evaluating the implementation of modernization programs, including the integration of new technologies and restructuring efforts, will help ensure that transformation goals are met within designated timeframes.

Enhancing Financial Oversight and Resource Management

Financial accountability is essential in preventing inefficiencies and corruption within the defense sector. A transparent budgeting system must be implemented, ensuring that military expenditures are aligned with strategic priorities rather than political interests. Independent audits should be conducted to track defense spending and eliminate financial mismanagement.

A parliamentary defense committee should oversee military expenditures, ensuring that budget allocations are justified based on national security needs. Defense contracts, procurement deals, and investment in new military technologies must be subject to rigorous scrutiny to prevent wasteful spending and ensure that resources are utilized effectively. Establishing a digital financial tracking system will improve transparency in military transactions and prevent fraudulent activities.

Implementing Digital Oversight and Data-Driven Decision-Making

A modern military requires real-time data analysis and digital oversight tools to evaluate operational performance and enhance strategic planning. Advanced data collection systems should be integrated into military operations to track unit effectiveness, logistics efficiency, and overall defense capabilities. Artificial intelligence and predictive analytics can be utilized to assess potential security threats, optimize resource allocation, and improve decision-making processes.

Digital monitoring systems can also enhance internal reporting mechanisms, allowing military personnel to provide feedback on training programs, leadership effectiveness, and operational challenges. These systems should be designed to encourage transparency while ensuring the security of classified military information.

Developing Independent Oversight Institutions

To maintain accountability, independent institutions should be established to oversee military conduct, investigate misconduct, and review defense policies. A military ethics commission should be created to ensure adherence to international laws and national regulations, preventing human rights violations and unethical behavior.

Civilian oversight institutions should also play a role in evaluating the effectiveness of military reforms. Engaging independent defense analysts, security experts, and policy advisors will provide an external perspective on the success of military transformation efforts. Annual reports on military performance should be presented to the public, fostering trust and demonstrating transparency in defense operations.

Ensuring Accountability Through Leadership and Command Structures

Military leadership must be held accountable for operational effectiveness and reform implementation. Officers should be required to submit regular reports on unit performance, training progress, and modernization efforts. Leadership evaluations should be conducted to ensure that commanders are meeting strategic objectives and maintaining discipline within their ranks.

A clear chain of command should be established to prevent unauthorized actions or deviations from national security priorities. Decision-making processes must be structured to allow for accountability at every level of military leadership. Commanders who fail to meet performance expectations or engage in misconduct should be subject to disciplinary action and, if necessary, removal from their positions.

Encouraging Internal Reporting and Whistleblower Protections

A professional and ethical military requires mechanisms that allow personnel to report misconduct, corruption, or operational inefficiencies without fear of retaliation. Whistleblower protections must be established to encourage reporting of ethical violations or abuses of power. Internal military review boards should be created to investigate complaints and take corrective action when necessary.

By fostering a culture of accountability and transparency, military personnel will be more likely to participate in reform efforts and uphold professional standards. Encouraging open communication within the armed forces will also contribute to improved morale and trust in leadership.

Conducting Periodic Strategic Reviews and Policy Adjustments

Military transformation is an ongoing process that requires continuous evaluation and adaptation. Periodic strategic reviews should be conducted to assess whether reforms are producing the desired outcomes and whether adjustments are needed to address emerging security challenges. These reviews should be based on data collected from military operations, personnel evaluations, and financial audits.

National defense policies must remain flexible to accommodate changing geopolitical realities, technological advancements, and shifts in regional security dynamics. A structured review process will ensure that military planning remains relevant and responsive to Iran's evolving defense needs.

A Military Built on Accountability and Efficiency

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework is essential for ensuring the success of Iran's military transformation. By implementing performance assessments, strengthening financial oversight, integrating digital monitoring systems, and establishing independent oversight institutions, Iran's armed forces can transition into a professional and accountable defense institution.

Ensuring leadership accountability, fostering transparency, and encouraging internal reporting mechanisms will further enhance military efficiency and professionalism. A well-monitored and well-managed military will not only strengthen national security but also build public confidence in the armed forces. With a structured approach to monitoring and evaluation, Iran's military can achieve long-term sustainability, operational readiness, and strategic effectiveness.

Policy Recommendations for a National Army

The successful transformation of Iran's armed forces requires a comprehensive set of policy recommendations to establish a professional, modern, and accountable Army. These policies must focus on depoliticizing the military, enhancing strategic capabilities, ensuring financial sustainability, and strengthening civil-military relations. A national Army must serve the interests of the people and the nation rather than political factions or ideological groups.

Depoliticizing the Military and Strengthening Civilian Oversight

The Army must be completely independent from political influence and remain loyal to the constitution and national security interests. Military personnel should not be

involved in domestic political affairs, and the armed forces must not be used to suppress political movements or interfere in governance. A clear legal framework should be established to ensure that military decision-making is based on national security considerations rather than ideological directives.

To maintain democratic oversight, a civilian-led defense ministry must have full authority over military planning, budgeting, and policy implementation. The armed forces should be subject to parliamentary review, with elected representatives overseeing defense expenditures and strategic initiatives. Strengthening civilian control will ensure transparency and prevent the military from becoming an independent power center.

Modernizing Military Training and Education

A national Army must be built on professionalism and technical expertise. Military academies should adopt modern curricula that emphasize strategic thinking, leadership development, and technological proficiency. Training programs should focus on combat readiness, crisis response, cyber warfare, and intelligence operations. International cooperation with allied defense institutions can provide valuable insights into best practices and modern warfare techniques.

Advanced training in military ethics, human rights, and international law should be mandatory for all officers. This will ensure that the armed forces operate in accordance with global standards, reducing the risk of misconduct or human rights violations. Investing in continuous education and professional development will create a highly skilled and adaptable military force.

Developing a Sustainable Defense Economy

The long-term sustainability of the Army depends on a stable financial foundation. A national defense strategy should prioritize the development of a self-sufficient military industry, reducing dependence on foreign weapons suppliers. Expanding domestic production of military equipment, cybersecurity solutions, and surveillance systems will enhance national security while creating economic opportunities.

Diversifying funding sources through public-private partnerships, foreign military cooperation, and defense exports will provide additional financial stability. Clear financial accountability measures must be established to prevent corruption and ensure that military budgets are spent efficiently. By integrating defense planning with national

economic strategies, Iran can maintain a strong military without undermining broader economic growth.

Enhancing Technological and Cyber Defense Capabilities

A modern Army must be equipped with advanced technology to address emerging security threats. Investments in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and electronic warfare will strengthen Iran's ability to counter digital threats and espionage. Research partnerships between military institutions, universities, and private technology firms will accelerate the development of next-generation defense systems.

Military satellite programs should be expanded to improve intelligence gathering, surveillance, and secure communications. Drones and autonomous systems should be further developed for both reconnaissance and combat applications. Strengthening cyber defense capabilities will ensure that Iran's military infrastructure remains protected from external interference and cyber-attacks.

Strengthening Regional Security and Defense Diplomacy

A national Army must prioritize regional stability and constructive international relations. Diplomatic engagement with neighboring countries should focus on confidence-building measures, military transparency, and security cooperation. Establishing joint military exercises and intelligence-sharing agreements with regional allies can enhance collective security while reducing the risk of conflict.

Iran should transition away from aggressive military posturing and proxy warfare, focusing instead on defense-oriented strategies. A clear foreign policy should outline military non-intervention principles, ensuring that the armed forces are dedicated to national defense rather than external conflicts. Establishing Iran as a responsible security partner will improve its international standing and reduce hostilities with regional powers.

Implementing Ethical and Merit-Based Military Leadership

Military leadership should be selected based on professional qualifications, experience, and ethical conduct rather than political allegiance. A transparent promotion system must be implemented, ensuring that officers advance based on performance and leadership abilities. Strict anti-corruption policies should be enforced to prevent financial misconduct and abuse of power.

To maintain discipline and accountability, an independent military review board should oversee internal investigations and legal compliance. Mechanisms for reporting misconduct must be in place, allowing personnel to expose corruption or ethical violations without fear of retaliation. A culture of integrity and professionalism will strengthen public confidence in the armed forces.

Enhancing National Defense Readiness and Crisis Management

The Army must be prepared to respond to a range of security threats, including conventional warfare, cyber threats, and natural disasters. A national defense strategy should integrate military readiness with crisis response capabilities, ensuring rapid deployment in emergency situations. Advanced logistics planning and infrastructure development will enable the armed forces to operate efficiently in various conflict scenarios.

Regular military exercises and strategic defense simulations should be conducted to assess operational effectiveness and improve coordination between different branches of the armed forces. Enhancing rapid response units and special forces will allow the military to effectively handle border security, counterterrorism, and cyber defense missions.

Ensuring a Balanced Civil-Military Relationship

The role of the Army in national security must be clearly defined within a legal framework that prevents military overreach into civilian governance. Civil-military relations should be based on mutual respect, with the armed forces serving as a stabilizing force rather than a political actor. Educating military personnel on democratic values, constitutional law, and civilian leadership principles will reinforce the non-political role of the Army.

A structured demobilization program should be introduced for military personnel transitioning to civilian life, ensuring that veterans receive career support, educational opportunities, and reintegration assistance. Establishing strong veteran programs will further strengthen civil-military relations and promote a positive image of the armed forces within society.

A National Army Committed to Security and Stability

The creation of a national Army requires policies that emphasize professionalism, accountability, and strategic defense planning. By depoliticizing the military, modernizing training programs, strengthening financial sustainability, and embracing technological advancements, Iran can develop a military force that is capable of defending the nation while upholding democratic values.

A professional and well-equipped Army will contribute to regional stability, foster international cooperation, and strengthen Iran's global standing. Implementing these policy recommendations will ensure that Iran's armed forces operate as a responsible, efficient, and nationally focused defense institution, serving the people and safeguarding the country's sovereignty.

Closing Summary

The transformation of Iran's armed forces is a crucial step toward building a modern, professional, and accountable military that serves the nation rather than political or ideological factions. A restructured Army must be grounded in principles of meritocracy, strategic defense planning, and technological advancement while ensuring financial sustainability and ethical leadership. By depoliticizing the military, prioritizing human capital development, and fostering transparency in defense management, Iran can establish a military institution that is both operationally effective and aligned with democratic values.

A national Army that focuses on territorial defense, regional stability, and technological superiority will not only enhance Iran's security but also contribute to its long-term economic and diplomatic interests. Emphasizing military professionalism, ethical governance, and defense diplomacy will strengthen Iran's role as a responsible regional power. The success of this transformation will depend on a clear commitment to reform, strategic investment, and the adoption of policies that ensure the armed forces remain a pillar of national strength and security. By embracing modernization and accountability, Iran's military can evolve into a force that protects the nation while upholding the principles of stability, peace, and sovereignty.