

Visit to IAF's No. 129 Helicopter Unit



No. 129 Helicopter Unit, known as the “Nubra Warriors,” is a distinguished squadron of the Indian Air Force (IAF) equipped with Mil Mi-17 helicopters. The unit was officially raised on 1 July 1987 at Hindon Air Force Station, following its sanction in March of the same year. Over the decades, the Nubra Warriors have played pivotal roles in various operations, showcasing exceptional courage and dedication.

Upon its inception, No. 129 Helicopter Unit was entrusted with a diverse set of operational and peacetime roles. These included Special Heliborne Operations, VVIP/VIP communication duties, courier flights for the Himachal Pradesh government and participation in ceremonial flypasts during national events such as Republic Day, Independence Day, and Air Force Day. Notably, the unit holds the exclusive honour of colour trooping the National Flag on these significant occasions.

Significant Operations

Operation Pawan (1987): In October 1987, the Nubra Warriors were deployed in support of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) during the Battle for Jaffna in Sri Lanka. Their primary mission was to provide logistical support, troop insertion and casualty evacuation amidst challenging combat conditions. The unit's precise and

fearless operations significantly contributed to the IPKF's efforts in the region.

Operation Meghdoot (1985): Although Operation Meghdoot commenced in 1984, No. 129 Helicopter Unit played a crucial role in subsequent years by supporting operations on the Siachen Glacier. Operating in one of the world's most inhospitable terrains, the unit conducted supply missions, troop rotations, and medical evacuations at altitudes exceeding 20,000 feet. Their unwavering commitment ensured sustained Indian military presence in the region.

