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PRESS RELEASE

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**GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF 21<sup>ST</sup> AIR DEFENCE BATTALION  
BUILDING HELD AT ORMARA**

Islamabad, 14 July 17: The ground breaking ceremony of 21<sup>st</sup> Air Defence Battalion unit was held today at Ormara. The ground breaking ceremony marks commencement of construction work for permanent and dedicated infrastructure of the unit. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakauallah graced the occasion as chief guest.

21<sup>st</sup> Air Defence Battalion was raised in 2005 to provide Ground Based Air Defence to all PN and designated national infrastructure. In order to undertake the assigned task, the battalion is equipped with state of the art air defence guns, surface to air missiles and air defence radars.

In his address on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakauallah lauded the efforts of all those who are involved in this project of critical significance. The Naval Chief said that within the overall developmental plans of PN, Air Defence stands out to be a clear priority of Naval Headquarters and all endeavours are being made to modernize this important segment of Coastal Command to contribute significantly towards the defence of the country. He extended his felicitations to the officers and men of 21<sup>st</sup> Air Battalion on commencement of construction work of their unit and called for careful implementation and monitoring of the project.

Earlier in his welcome address, Commander Coast highlighted salient features of this mega project. He said that development of dedicated infrastructure of 21<sup>st</sup> Air Defence Battalion would lead to further efficiency and effectiveness to counter any challenge to our motherland from any potential aerial threat.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of senior naval officers and CPOs/sailors and civil dignitaries.

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