Defence & Security · GS - III

Assess the challenges posed by low-cost drone warfare to the security of overseas military bases and examine the requirements of an effective counter-drone defence system.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Unmanned aerial systems, asymmetric warfare, force protection, electronic warfare, layered air defence, critical infrastructure, international security

Model Answer

The growing use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) has transformed modern warfare. Their relatively low cost, operational flexibility and potential for remote deployment make them a significant threat to overseas military installations.

1. Emerging security challenges

1. **Asymmetric cost advantage:** Relatively inexpensive drones can threaten military assets requiring costly conventional air-defence systems.
2. **Detection difficulties:** Small radar cross-sections, low-altitude flight and swarm tactics can complicate detection and interception.
3. **Critical infrastructure vulnerability:** Fuel storage, communication systems, ammunition depots and accommodation facilities may become potential targets.
4. **Attribution challenges:** Identifying operators and establishing responsibility can be difficult, particularly when drones are remotely controlled or launched through intermediaries.

2. Requirements of effective counter-drone defence

1. **Integrated detection:** Radar, electro-optical sensors, acoustic systems and radio-frequency monitoring should provide complementary surveillance.
2. **Layered interception:** Electronic warfare, specialised guns, interceptor drones and directed-energy systems can address different categories of threats.
3. **Passive protection:** Hardened shelters, dispersed assets, redundant communication systems and emergency response arrangements reduce vulnerability.
4. **Intelligence coordination:** Information-sharing between host countries and foreign military contingents can improve threat assessment and preparedness.

3. Strategic implications

Drone attacks on overseas forces can increase diplomatic tensions, affect military deployments and create pressure for retaliatory action. Consequently, defensive responses must be accompanied by clear rules of engagement and crisis communication.

Conclusion

Protecting overseas military bases requires more than conventional air defence. An integrated system combining early warning, cost-effective interception, infrastructure resilience and international coordination is essential against evolving drone threats.

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