Wings of Hope: Drone Technology for Medical Aid in High Risk Operational Zones

In today's conflict zones, getting medical supplies to casualities can be nearly impossible. Healthcare delivery can be completely transformed by the use of drones for medical missions in operational areas and during wars. Drones can provide rapid and effective solutions to a number of major issues that medical teams encounter in these settings, such as challenging terrain, continuing hostilities, and remote locations. When it comes to delivering supplies to hazardous and inaccessible locations, unmanned aerial vehicles offer a significant advantage over other delivery methods.

Conventional transit is unable to do so because of security risks, damaged infrastructure, or time constraints. Drones can be used to deliver medical supplies, such as blood products, vaccines, and self-important medications, directly to areas affected by natural disasters or conflicts. When every minute counts, this technology will save lives by ensuring that those in need receive much-needed supplies on time.[1]

In Pakistan, the use of drones to transport medical supplies is particularly relevant in regions affected by natural disasters, internal conflict, and military operations. The majority of these places have poor road conditions or are very dangerous for regular traffic. In this sense, the drones guarantee prompt resolutions without having to deal with obstacles, difficult terrain, and hostile groups. The following are some crucial elements that have helped make the successful use of drone technology for medical supply delivery in Pakistan: First, unreachable places can now be accessed thanks to drones' capacity to fly over challenging terrain. Second, drone delivery speeds up transportation, which is a critical consideration in emergency situations. Third, drones can be dependable in circumstances where other modes of transportation might not function because they can operate in inclement weather. Drones could give medical teams realtime feedback, enabling them to prioritize critical cases and provide remote support until evacuation is feasible in areas like Waziristan where ground access may be impossible due to ongoing conflicts or IED threats. Drones have been used to transport medical supplies, including insulin and antibiotics, to areas hit by Russian bombardment during the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, where ground transportation is frequently hazardous or impossible. A drone delivery service called Zipline has successfully delivered blood products in Rwanda and may be used as a prototype for deployment in Pakistani conflict zones. To remove small payloads, like injured people, from conflict areas, drones are being developed. This technology can be especially helpful in high-risk areas, even though it is not yet fully functional. The "EHANG 184," a drone that can carry a human, was created by a Chinese company. Such technology could save lives in conflict areas. Small autonomous drones could transport seriously wounded soldiers or civilians to safer locations for additional care in places where helicopter medevac is too dangerous or impractical, particularly in mountainous areas.[2]

The Pakistani military might work with foreign organizations to use drones for medical applications, combining combat operations with humanitarian missions. This could improve the military's reputation as a source of support and medical assistance for conflict-affected civilians. Drones have been used by the Turkish Armed Forces in Syria for both military and humanitarian objectives, conducting operations and delivering medical supplies to civilians. By employing drones to provide medical assistance in conflict areas, the Pakistan Army could adopt a similar strategy that would benefit military personnel and foster goodwill among the local populace.[3]

Drone use in Pakistan is not without its difficulties, despite the obvious benefits. The first and primary issue is of regulation, which serves as the foundation for the use of UAVs in the nation. Therefore, in order to guarantee the safe and effective use of drones, the government should establish clear rules and procedures. Furthermore, drone technology is not always practical for use in environments with limited resources due to its relatively high acquisition and maintenance costs. There is an obvious risk to the drones' security because hostile organizations might target them or use them maliciously.[4]

In summary, drones should be used as a tool to enhance the provision of healthcare services in Pakistani operation areas and conflict areas. They are particularly helpful in some places where it might not be practical to transport goods using conventional transportation methods because of the possible logistical challenges when dismantling communities to expedite the supplies in hazardous conditions. It is possible to fully realize the potential of this technology while taking into account the regulatory, financial, and

security challenges. Therefore, with the right preparation and funding, drones can revolutionize the delivery of vital medical supplies to some of Pakistan's most hazardous and difficult-to-reach areas.[4]

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Assoc Prof. Ammad Ud Din Nasir
Department of Surgery
Combined Military Hospital Peshawar
National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS)
Rawalpindi Pakistan