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Special forces to counter insurgency

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NEW DELHI: The government has apparently okayed the Army demand to raise four new special forces battalions trained in counter-insurgency operations.

Defence sources say these new battalions are likely to be trained by Israeli special forces commandos. They will be equipped with sophisticated equipment like night-vision devices, hand-held thermal imagers and weapons like the Israeli Tavor-21 guns.

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"This decision comes in the backdrop of the 10-month-long Operation Parakaram, the mobilisation of forces along the Indo-Pak border last year. An important lesson learnt was that there was a need to bolster the number of special forces," said an officer.

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