

FATA SECURITY REPORT

First Quarter 2016



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(January -March)

“Dedicated to the marginalized and conflict affected people of FATA”

Map of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

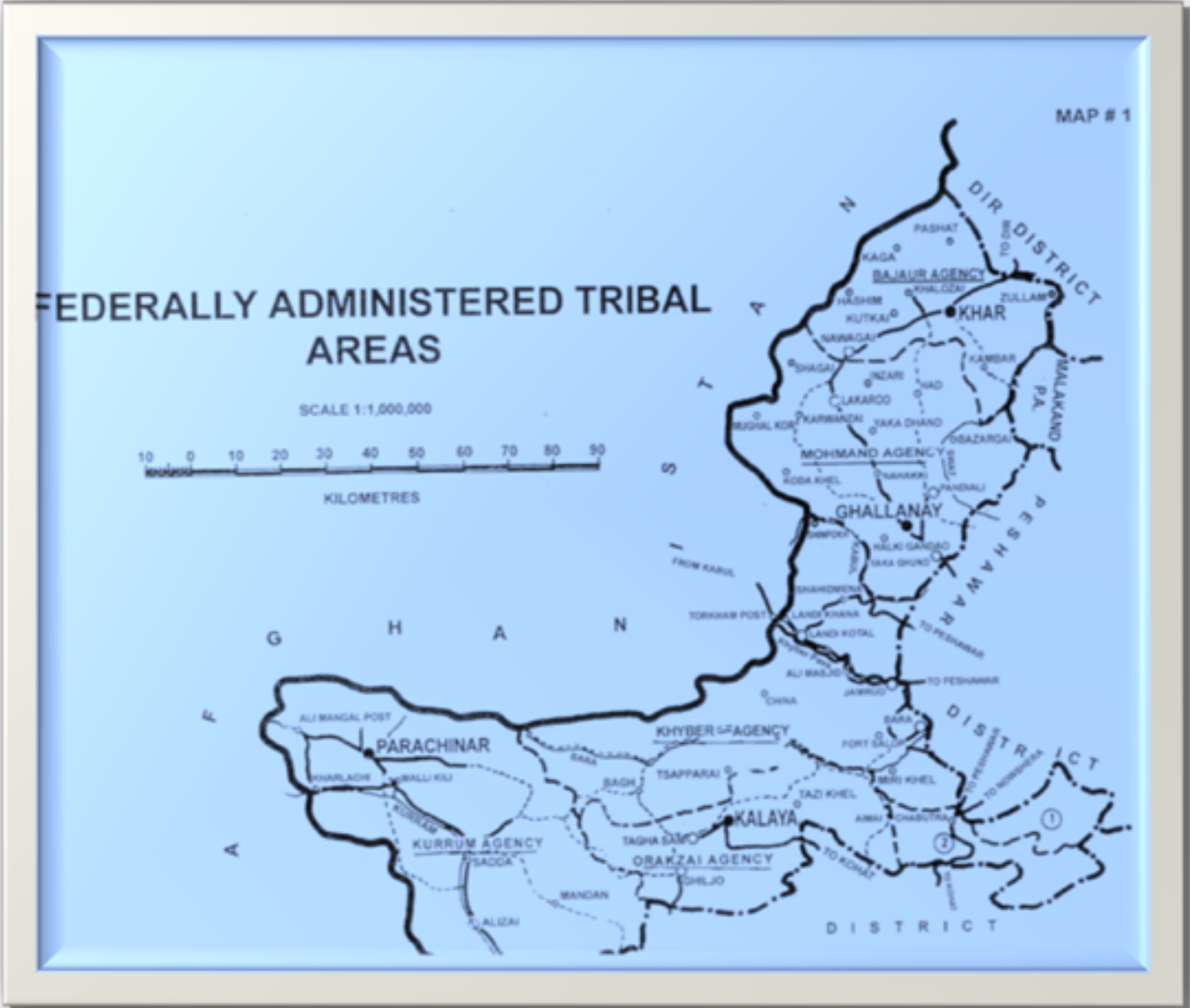


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About FATA Research Centre

FATA Research Centre (FRC) is a non-partisan, non-political and non-governmental research organization based in Islamabad. It is the first ever think-tank that specifically focuses on the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan in its entirety. The purpose of establishing the FRC is to create a better understanding about the conflict in FATA among the concerned stake holders through undertaking independent, impartial and objective research and analysis. The FRC endeavors to create awareness among all segments of the Pakistani society and the government to jointly strive for a peaceful, tolerant and progressive FATA.

FATA Quarterly Security Report

The FATA Quarterly Security Report reviews recent trends in conflict in FATA such as the number and type of militant attacks, tactics and strategies used by the militants and the resultant casualties. The objective of this security report is to outline and categorize all forms of violent extremism in the area, role of militant groups and the scale of militant activities. This report is the result of regular monitoring of militant and counter-militant activities, employing primary and secondary sources. The Centre collects data from the field through its field researchers working in FATA, and also consults reliable secondary sources to ensure the quality and veracity of its research. However, it also faces certain limitations since the area under discussion is undergoing counter-insurgency operations and imposition of curfew, militant and counter-militant attacks sometimes restricts the mobility of our field staff. Thus, the number of actual occurrences of violent acts may be greater than those being reported here.

Acknowledgment

The research team of the FRC deserves the credit for collecting the data and compiling this report.

The report was drafted by Irfan U Din (Lead Researcher) with assistance from Maida Aslam and Noshad Ali Mahsud (Research Associates) Hoor Arif (Researcher) and Naila Nadir (IT) carried out extensive media monitoring.

The Security Report was supervised by Dr. Syed Adnan Ali Shah (Director Programme) while Saifullah Mahsud (President) and Mansur Khan Mahsud (Executive Director) reviewed it.

Acronyms

AI:	Ansar-ul-Islam
APA:	Assistant Political Agent
BA:	Bajaur Agency
FATA:	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FC:	Frontier Corps
FC:	Frontier Constabulary
FCR:	Frontier Crimes Regulation
FDA:	FATA Development Authority
FR:	Frontier Region
HBIED:	Human-Borne Improvised Explosive Device
IBOs:	Intelligence-based Operations (IBOs)
IDP:	Internally Displaced Persons
IED:	Improvised Explosive Device
KA:	Kurram Agency
KHA:	Khyber Agency
KPK:	Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
LI:	Lashkar-e-Islam
MA:	Mohmand Agency
NATO:	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NWA:	North Waziristan Agency
OA:	Orakzai Agency
Sect:	Sectarian
SF:	Security Forces
SWA:	South Waziristan Agency
TI:	Tauheed-ul-Islam
TTP:	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
VBIED:	Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device

Glossary

Militant Attacks: Indiscriminate use of violence by militant outfits - both local, non-local and foreign. The local militant outfits are mainly Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its various offshoots and splinter groups like Mahsud Taliban of Khan Said group, Jamaatul Ahrar (JI) of Omar Khalid and Majlis-e-Askari; Lashkar-e Islam (LI), Ansar-ul-Islam (AI); Taliban militant group of Bahawal Khan of Wana-South Waziristan Agency (SWA), Hafiz Gul Bahadar group of North Waziristan Agency (NWA); Jamaat al-Qaeda al-Jihad, Uzbek militants of Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. All the above mentioned groups employ suicide attacks, beheadings, target killings, ambushes and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), destruction of public property, CD/video shops etc.

Counter-Militant Attacks: Large-scale military operations launched by security forces and paramilitary troops against militants in FATA in order to restore law and order and establish the writ of the state. This category includes military offensives, search and destroy operations, intelligence-based operations (IBOs), air attacks employing fighter jets, helicopter gunships and drones.

Security Forces: This includes Pakistan Armed Forces, Frontier Corps, Frontier Constabulary, Khassadar force, Levi force and the police.

Inter and intra-tribal clashes: Clashes or feuds reported between tribes, clans and families in FATA.

Amn Lashkar (Urdu for Peace Militias): Volunteer tribal militias formed by tribes, clans and sub-clans inhabiting FATA to aid the Pakistani government and security forces in their battle against militants of all shades. Other words used for such a volunteer force are tribal lashkars, civil militias, Amn Committees (Urdu for Peace Committees).

Bomb Blasts: The category of bomb blasts includes attacks involving explosives such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the shape of landmine blasts, roadside blasts, remote controlled bomb blasts, human-borne improvised explosive device (HBIED) and vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED).

Total Number of Casualties: The sum of total killed and injured in FATA due to militant and counter-militant activities

Introduction

Profile of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

FATA is strategically located on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) and Afghanistan. FATA, both historically and traditionally, has enjoyed a unique administrative and political status since British control over the area in 1894. In 1893, the respective governments of the British India and Afghanistan signed the Durand Line Agreement which formally demarcated the sphere of influence of the two countries over their respective territories. FATA, which had long existed as Azad Qabail (urdu for independent tribes), finally fell into the sphere of the British Indian government. The Durand Line not only marked the official boundary of British control over FATA, but also had the inherent effect of dividing some of the FATA tribes on both sides of the border.

The British Indian government devised a unique set of law known as the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) to administer FATA through an effective combination of Political Agents (PAs) and tribal elders while allowing maximum autonomy to the respective tribes to run their tribal affairs under local rawaj (tradition) and Sharia (Islamic law). The office of Political Agent, the administrative head of each tribal agency, wields extensive administrative as well as judicial powers. Each agency, depending on its size, has about two to three assistant political agents (APAs), about three to four Tehsildars, four to nine Naib Tehsildars and requisite supporting staff. Pakistan, upon its establishment in August 1947, inherited this system which it continued with a few minor changes over the course of time.

FATA is comprised of seven agencies – Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, North Waziristan and South Waziristan. The society is predominantly Pashtun and exhibits a strong tribal structure with rich ethnic and cultural heritage. There are more than two dozen tribes inhabiting the area. According to 1998 census, the population of FATA is estimated at 4.45 million, with an average growth rate of 3.76 percent, and an average household size of 12.2. Under the Constitution of Pakistan, FATA falls under the exclusive domain of the President, who has devolved his powers to the Governor of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) to look after its day-to-day affairs. There are three administrative set-ups, namely, the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the FATA Secretariat, and the FATA Development Authority (FDA) who look after the FATA under the directives of the Governor of KP. FATA continues to be governed through the Frontier Crimes Regulation Act (FCR) of 1901, which was amended in 2011.

Methodology

The FRC research team collects information and data from both primary and secondary sources and presents its analysis on the security issues. FRC's internal database, daily monitoring of more than a dozen English and Urdu newspapers, periodicals, magazines, monitoring and reviews of locally distributed literature in the area and data collected from political administration in FATA Agencies contributes to compilation of this work. Additionally an up-to-date archive system at the FRC is consulted for authenticity and reference to important events and incidents. FRC correspondents based in FATA provide information and data collection after verifying with concerned political administration offices and locals of the area.

Security Overview in FATA 1st Quarter 2016

The security situation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan (FATA) remained turbulent during the first quarter - January to March 2016. An escalation in violence as a consequence of militant and counter militant activities has left deep impact on the local population inhabiting the region. With the exception of Orakzai Agency, almost every FATA agency witnessed a surge in militant activities. Compared to last quarter – October to December 2015 – militant activities have increased by 34 percent during the current quarter, i.e., January to March 2016.

The following table gives a bird’s eye view of the nature of attacks and the resultant casualties in the entire FATA region:

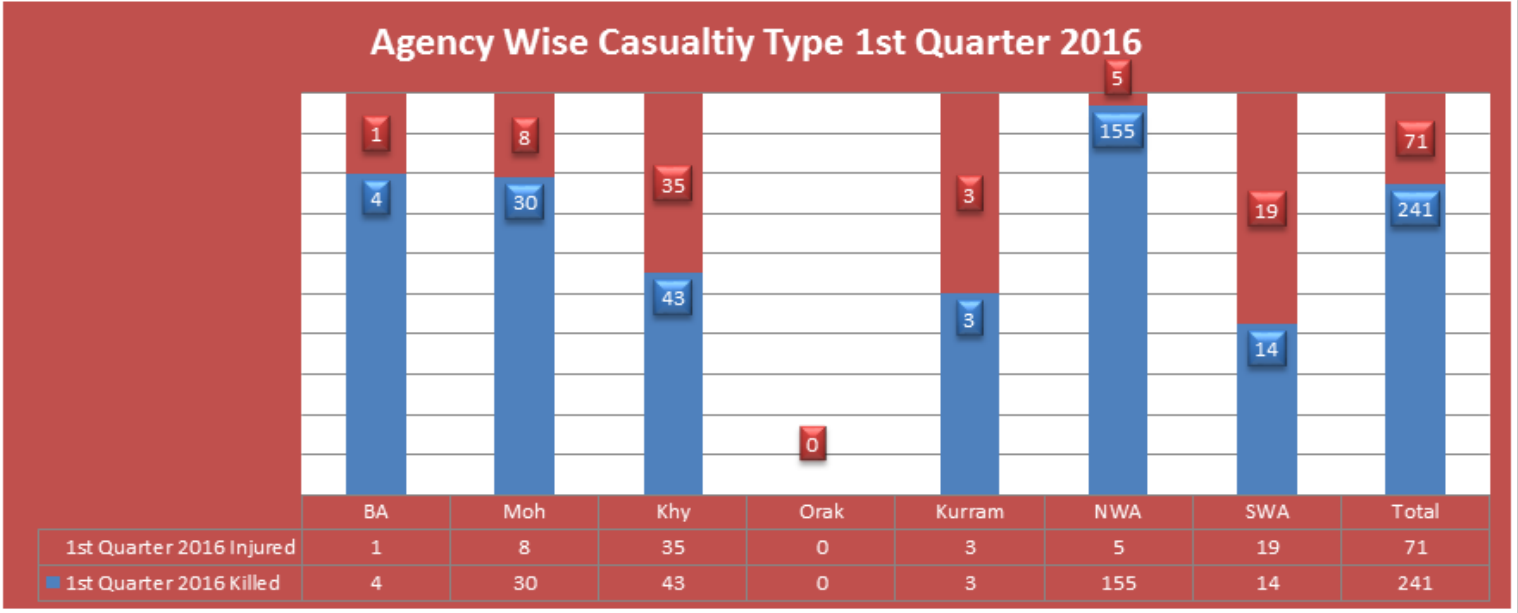
Security Overview in FATA First Quarter 2016														
Agencies	Nature of Incidents													Total Incidents
	Terrorist Attacks			Cross Border Attacks		Target killings	Group Infight	kidnapping	Military Operations			curfew	lashkar Ops.	
	Civilian	Security Forces	Amn Lashkar	Guerilla Attack	Shelling				Search Operations	Air Strike	Drone Strike			
Bajaur	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	9
Mohmand	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	14
Khyber		3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	8
Orakzai	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kurram	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
NWA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	1	0	0	10
SWA	5	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	14
TOTAL	10	9	2	2	2	4	0	2	17	8	2	0	0	59

A total of 59 terrorist attacks were reported during the current quarter, compared to 44 such attacks in the previous quarter of October-December 2015. A breakdown of 59 terrorist attacks show that 14 were related to improvise explosive devices (IEDs) in comparison to 18 such attacks reported during the previous quarter – October to December 2015. Four incidents of target killings took place during the current quarter, compared to only two such attacks during the previous quarter. Similarly, four cross-border attacks took place in the FATA region compared to the previous quarter in which five such incidents were recorded. Incidents of militant ambushes were mainly recorded against Pakistani security forces. A total of eight such ambushes were recorded during this quarter, in which majority of such attacks took place in the Mohmand Agency. In the previous quarter (October-December 2015), only one instance of militant ambush was recorded in the entire FATA.

There was no incident of drone strike recorded in FATA during the last quarter of 2015, while two such strikes were reported – one each in Kurram and North Waziristan Agencies – during the current quarter of 2016. However, an intensity in drone and aerial strikes by the US and Afghan security forces was recorded in Afghanistan’s eastern and southeastern provinces during this quarter, which have become a semi sanctuary of the Pakistani Taliban militants. A total of 19 drone strikes were reported in Afghanistan’s border areas adjoining Pakistan during the current quarter.



To combat the escalating militant activities in FATA, Pakistani security forces are conducting military operations i.e. aerial strikes, ground and intelligence-based operations. The above graph - Comparative Analysis of Nature of Incidents in FATA - indicates that a total of 27 counter terrorist operations [47 % of the total incidents] were conducted during the current quarter, which included 17 search operations and 8 aerial strikes. Similarly two drone attacks were carried out against both local and foreign militants in North Waziristan and Kurram Agencies of FATA during the current quarter.



The table above illustrates that a total of 312 casualties - 241 killed and 71 injured - were reported during the current quarter of 2016. The North Waziristan Agency (NWA), where military operation Zarb-e-Azb has entered its final phase, remained the most violence-ridden Agency of FATA during the current quarter. A total of 160 casualties - 155 killed and 5 injured – were reported from the NWA which accounted for more than 64 percent of the total casualties. The Mohmand Agency witnessed 39 casualties - 30 killed and 8 injured – followed by the South Waziristan Agency where 14 people were killed and 19 were injured. The Orakzai Agency, however, did not witness any incident of terrorism during the current quarter.



The above graph shows that out of the reported 312 casualties, 199 are that of the militants. The number accounts for almost 64 percent of the casualties and reflects the effectiveness of counter terrorism operations being conducted by the Pakistani security forces. The security forces suffered 37 casualties during the current quarter which include 24 dead and nine injured. The civilians and members of Amn Lashkars suffered least casualties during the current quarter.



The above graph of Militant Tactics illustrates that improvised explosive device (IED) attacks remained the most preferred mode of militancy during the outgoing quarter of 2016. On 13 occasions, militants opted for IED attacks, which accounts for around 41 percent of the total militant attack. Militant on eight occasions [around 25 percent of the total militant attack] also employed ambush tactics to target security forces across FATA while on 4 occasions [around 12 percent of the total militant attacks] targeted security forces and civilians in Bajaur, Mohmand and South Waziristan Agencies through cross-border attacks. On one occasion militant opted for a suicide attack to target security forces in Jamrud area of Khyber Agency.

Agency Wise Security Overview First Quarter 2016

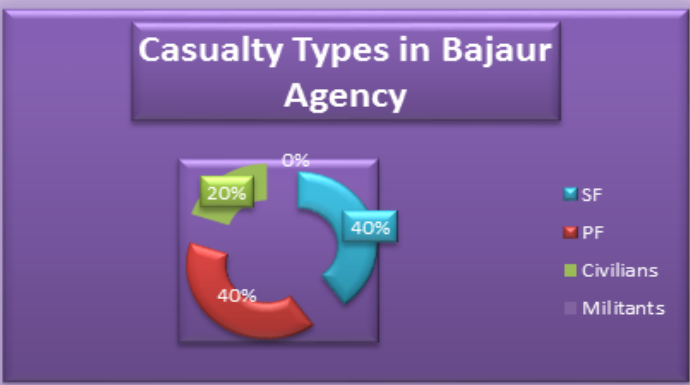
Bajaur Agency

Bajaur Agency remained relatively peaceful during the first Quarter - January to March 2016. A total of 5 militant attacks were reported during the current quarter, compared to the previous quarter of October-December 2015 which recorded 13 terrorist incidents. The security forces conducted three search operations against militants in the Agency during the current quarter.

Security Situation in Bajaur Agency				
First Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Target killings		0	0	0
Terrorist Attacks	On Civilians	1	1	0
	On Security Forces	1	2	0
	On Amn Lashkar	2	1	1
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerilla Attacks	1	0	0
Abduction		0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	3		0
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		8	4	1

A total of five casualties- four killed and one injured, were recorded in five militancy related incidents across the agency. The dead and injured included two security force personnel, one civilian, and two members of the peace forces.

Casualty Types Bajaur Agency 1 st Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	0	0
Civilians	1	
Security Forces	2	0
Amn Lashkar	1	1
Total	4	1
Total Casualties	5	



In the current quarter, the most vulnerable areas to militant attacks included Nawagai Tehsil, Chamarakand Tehsil, MamondTeshil and SalarzaiTehsil of the Agency.

Militants belonging to the TTP and JamaatulAhrar are active in the area. On four occasions, militants target- ed security forces, peace committee members and ordinary civilians through IEDs in Gangan area of Sala- rzai Tehsil of the Agency.Likewise, militants belonging to the TTP who are currently based in Kunar province of Afghanistan restored to cross-border attacks to target security forces deployed along the Afghan border. During the current quarter, Pakistani Taliban based in Afghanistan targeted a security check post in Bajaur Agency adjacent to theKunar Province of Afghanistan. However, no damage was reported from both the sides.

In order to overcome militant activity in the Agency, the security forces established dozens of security check-points in Nawagai, Chamaraknd, Mamond, Salarzai, Charmang and Kamangara areas of the Bajaur Agency in January 2016. The security forces also conducted three search operations against the militants during the current quarter. With exception to one search operation, in which security forces foiled a bid to smuggle huge amount of explosive and weapon in GhandaiQadafi area of the agency, all the other search operation were reactive in nature as they were conducted after a terrorist attack.

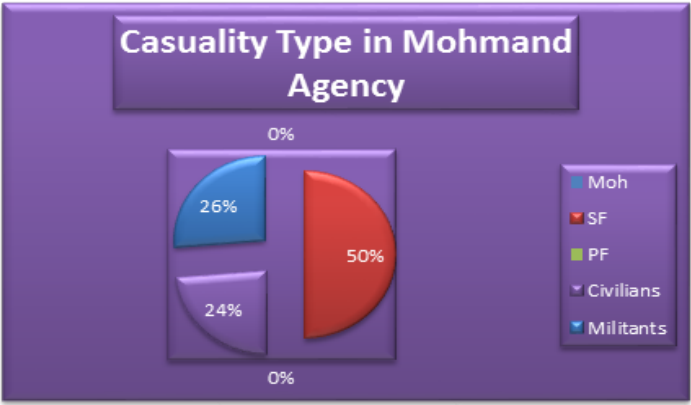
Mohmand Agency

The security situation in Mohmand Agency during the current quarter (January-March 2016)deteriorated in comparison to the previous quarter (October-December 2015). A total of 14militant and counter militant incidents were recorded during the current quarter which is an increase of 133 percent compared to last quar-ter – October-December 2015 which recorded six such incidents. The table below shows the nature and type of attacks that took place in the Agency.

Security Situation in Mohmand Agency				
First Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Target killings		0	0	0
Terrorist Attacks	On Civilians	2	2	6
	On Security Forces	4	23	2
	On Amn Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0		0
	Guerilla Attacks	1	4	0
Abduction		0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	6	0	0
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		14	30	8

The table below shows that the ratio of casualty among the security personnel was greater than the militants since 17 security personnel and 10 militants were killed in the current quarter. Similarly, six civilians and two security personnel were also reported to be injured in the current quarter.

Casualty Types Mohmand Agency First Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	10	0
Civilians	3	6
Security Forces	17	2
Amn Lashkar	0	0
Total	30	8
Total Casualties	38	



The most disturbed areas of the Agency during the current quarter included Pandyali Tehsil (Karapa, Machni), Ambar tehsil (Sangar area), Ekka Ghund tehsil (Darwazgai) and Safi Tehsil.

IED attacks remained the most widely employed tactics by militants of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan-Jamaatul Ahrar (TTP-JA) during the first quarter of 2016. On four occasions, militants employed improvised explosive devices [IED] to attack security forces and members of Amn Lashkar in Safi and Ambar Tehsil of the Agency. On 15 February 2016, Malik Subedar Nokar, a tribal elder and chief of a former Amn Committee was killed, when an IED planted by militants of TTP-JA detonated in Safi tehsil. In other incident, two officials of the US Consulate in Peshawar were killed while three others were injured when their vehicle hit an IED planted on a road in Sangar area of Ambar Tehsil. Similarly, militants twice ambushed security forces in Karapa area of Pandyali Tehsil and Darwazgai area of Tehsil Ekka Ghund in which nine security personnel lost their lives. Similarly, cross-border attacks remain another tactic of the TTP to target security forces deployed on the border. In early February 2016, seven terrorist were killed when security forces repulsed an attack on a checkpost in Pandyali Tehsil of the Agency.

In order to counter militants in the Agency, security forces are taking strict security measures. During the current quarter, six search operations were conducted in the Agency against the TTP-JA in Pandyali, Ambar, Ekka Ghund and Safi tehsils of the agency. In mid-February, two consecutive militant ambushes on security check-posts killed nine personnel which led to a brief imposition of curfew across the Agency. There is a possibility that an escalation in militant attacks may necessitate a combing operation by the security forces which may lead to fresh displacement of the local population.

Khyber Agency

The security situation in Khyber agency remains tense during the current quarter of 2016. However, there was a decline in militant attacks during the current quarter compared to the previous quarter (October-December 2015). Six militant attacks were recorded while counter militant operations by the security forces also continued during this quarter. Two air strikes and one search operation were conducted against the militant in the Tirah Valley of the Agency.

Security Situation in Khyber Agency				
First Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Target killings		1	1	0
Terrorist Attacks	On Civilians	0	0	0
	On Security Forces	2	15	30
	On Amn Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerilla Attacks	0	0	0
Abduction		0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	1	0	0
	Aerial Strikes	2	27	5
	Artillery Shelling		0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drone Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		6	43	35

The following table of Nature of Casualties illustrates 78 casualties – 43 deaths and 35 injuries - occurred during the current quarter - January to March 2016. Most of the dead included militants, i.e., 27, while eight civilian and eight security personnel while 35 injured including five militants and 30 civilians.

Nature of Casualty Khyber Agency First Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	27	5
Civilians	8	30
Security Forces	8	0
Peace Forces/ AmanLashkar	0	0
Total	43	35
Total Casualties	78	



Although the military operation Khyber II which was launched in March 2015 to regain control of the Tirah valley was formally wrapped up on 15 June 2015, the security forces continue to conduct air strikes to weaken and eliminate terrorists hiding in Rajgal, Kukikhel and Dara Darmodorab area of the Tirah Valley. The security forces conducted two air strikes in which 27 suspected militants were killed during this quarter.

The intensive military operations i.e. Khyber I&II have largely dismantled the militant networks of Lashkar-e-Islam, TTP and TTP-Jamatul Ahrar in the Agency who have mainly taken refuge in the adjoining Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan. While a bulk of the militants continue to stay in Afghanistan, a small number has sneaked into the Agency and is reestablishing its presence in the Agency. The displacement of a large proportion of population from Bara Tehsil which also comprise of the Tirah Valley area has allowed the militants to only target the security forces in the area, which are still stationed in the Agency.

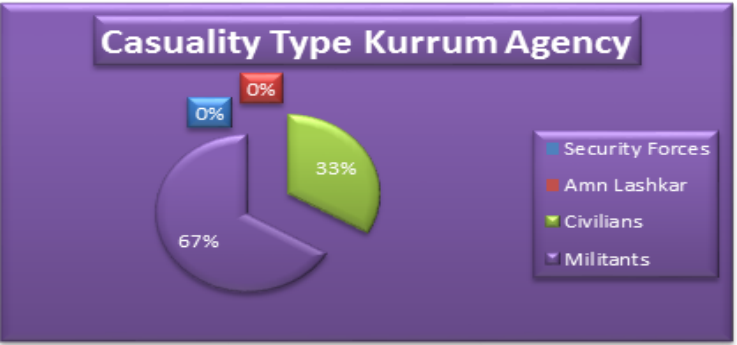
Kurram Agency

Kurram Agency witnessed a reduction in militant incidents from January-March 2016. A total of five militant and counter militant incidents were recorded in the Agency, which is 44 percent less than that of the previous quarter (October-December 2015). The militant attacks in the Agency during the current quarter comprised of one cross-border attack, kidnapping and an IED attack on the civilians. One search operation and one incident of drone strike was also recorded during the outgoing quarter of 2016.

Security Situation in Kurram Agency				
First Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killing	Injuries
Target killings		0	0	0
Terrorist Attacks	On Civilians	1	0	2
	On Security	0	0	0
	On Amn Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	1	0	0
	Guerilla Attacks	0	0	0
Abduction		1	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operation	1	0	0
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drone Attacks		1	3	1
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		5	3	2

The following table explains that only five casualties occurred in the Agency during the current quarter - January to March 2016. Five militants were killed and two civilians were injured in separate incidents.

Casualty Types Kurram Agency First Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	3	0
Civilians	0	2
Security Forces	0	0
Amn Lashkar	0	0
Total	3	2
Total Casualties	5	



Kurram is one of the most sensitive FATA Agency since it borders three Afghan provinces on its west. It has served as one of the key routes for militant movement in Afghanistan and is thought to be mainly used by the Haqqani Network as an operational base. Although military operations in the past have largely dismantled militant networks in the Agency, militants belonging to the TTP-South Waziristan chapter (also known as Shehryar Mahsud group) are operating in few pockets of the Agency along the Afghan border. During the past three months of the current quarter, Shaheedano Dan area of lower Kurram and Qaimatey area of Upper Kurram remained disturbed.

Militants employed a variety of tactics for attacking their opponents in the Agency. On 7 January 2016, two civilians were injured in an IED planted by the TTP militants detonated in Shaheedona area of Lower Kurram. The TTP militants also destroyed a newly constructed military camp in Sharinao area of the Agency. Similarly, TTP militant based in Khost province of Afghanistan targeted security check-post in Qaimaty area of Upper Kurram, but no casualty was reported. Cross-border attacks remains the most effective tactics by the TTP militants to target security check post located near the Afghan border. It is feared that such attacks may escalate during the coming months.

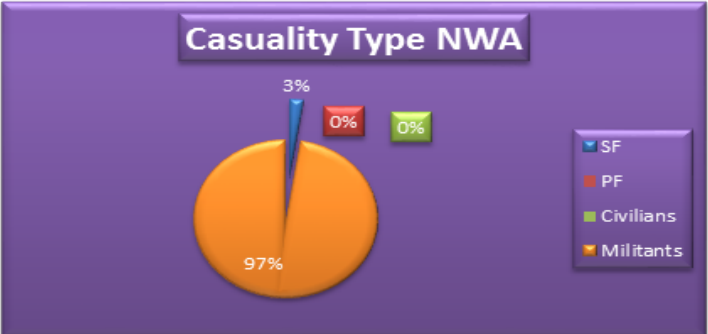
North Waziristan Agency

North Waziristan Agency, where military operation “Zarb-e-Azb” against militant outfits of all shades is currently in its final stage, continued to remain a war zone during the current quarter of 2016. In total, 10 militant and counter militant incidents were recorded in the agency - an increase of 230 percent compared to the last quarter - October to December 2015. Six aerial strikes, one US drone attack, and two search operations were recorded in the Agency. One attack carried out by militants on security forces was also recorded.

Security Situation in North Waziristan Agency				
First Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Target killings		0	0	0
Terrorist Attacks	On Civilians	0	0	0
	On Security forces	1	4	0
	On Amn Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerilla Attack	0	0	0
Abduction		0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	2	19	
	Aerial Strike	6	122	5
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drone Attacks		1	6	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		10	155	5

The table below illustrates 160 casualties that occurred in the agency during the current quarter (January-March 2016). 155 people lost their lives out of which 96 percentage were militants. Other deaths included four security personnel. Besides, injuries were inflicted upon five militants as well

Casualty Types NWA Agency Second Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	151	5
Civilians	0	0
Security Forces	4	0
Amn Lashkar	0	0
Total	155	5
Total Casualties	160	



Pakistan Army chief, General Raheel Sharif, visited Shawal Valley in late February 2016 and announced the initiation of final phase of the ongoing operation Zarb-e-Azb. Alwara Mandi, Khar-Tangi and Maizer areas of Datta Khel tehsil and Mangroti area of Shawal Valley remained disturbed during the current quarter. Six aerial strikes were carried out against militants in Dattakhel and Shawal valley in which 122 militants were killed. The air strikes were followed by ground operations in Shawal to clear the territory from TTP and Central Asian militants. At least 19 militants were killed during a ground operation in the heavily forested Shawal Valley. Four security personnel, including an army officer, were killed in an encounter with militants in Shawal.

The ongoing ground offense against militants in Shawal valley is described as the push to clear remaining hide-outs of the militants in the valley. According to a statement released by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), a media wing of the Pakistan Armed Forces: “As the operation Zarb-e-Azab in North Waziristan is in the last phase and the most of the militants have either surrendered or flew away, those who are still fighting against Pakistan Army have been killed and the process of purging militants from the areas is still going on.”

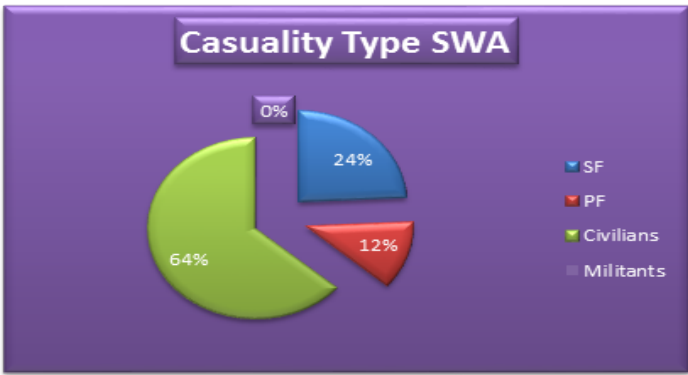
South Waziristan Agency

South Waziristan Agency (SWA) witnessed a hike in militant attacks during the current quarter (January-March 2016) compared to the previous quarter (October-December 2015). In total, nine incidents were recorded during the current quarter - an incremental rise of 300 percent compared to the last quarter of 2015. The militant attacks included one instance of target killing, five attacks on civilian, two attacks on security forces and one instance of cross-border attack. To counter the increasing trend of militancy in the Agency, security forces conducted four search operations against militants.

Security Situation in South Waziristan Agency				
First Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Target killings		1	2	0
Terrorist Attacks	On Civilians	5	7	12
	On Security Forces	2	1	7
	On Amn Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attack	Shelling	1	4	0
	Guerilla Attack	0	0	0
Abduction		1	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	4	0	0
	Aerial Strike	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drone Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		13	14	19

In total 33 casualties - 14 killed and 19 injured - were recorded in the Agency during the current quarter of 2016. Of those killed, nine were civilians, one was security personnel and four were members of Amn Lashkar. Compared to the fourth Quarter of 2015, an incremental increase of 230 % was recorded during the current quarter.

Casualty Types SWA Agency First Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	0	0
Civilians	9	12
Security Forces	1	7
Amn Lashkar	4	0
Total	14	19
Total Casualties	33	



During the first Quarter of 2016, Khan Said Group [Mahsud Taliban], TTP-South Waziristan chapter (Hakimullah Group) and Wazir Taliban were reported to be active in the Agency. On nine occasions, the above mentioned outfits carried out terrorist activities against civilians and security forces in Kwandsar area of Tiarza Tehsil, Angor Adda and Toi Khula area of Wana tehsil, Talai, Sarai Maulay Khan of Sarwakai tehsil and Sarokai tehsil. Militants used a variety of tactics like IEDs, ambush and cross border attacks to carry out attacks in the Agency. IED attacks remained the most preferred tactics of militants during the current quarter. Out of the total nine militant incidents, six were IED attacks which account for 67 percent of the total incidents. One security personnel was killed when an IED detonated in Talai Tehsil of the Agency while two were killed when their vehicle hit a roadside IED in Kwand Sar area of Tiarza tehsil. Another IED blast took place near a security check-post in main bazaar of Wana, where five security personnel were injured. In another incident, four members of Amn Committee were injured when militants targeted their vehicle with a remote controlled bomb in Sarai Maulay Khan in Sarwakai tehsil in January 2016.

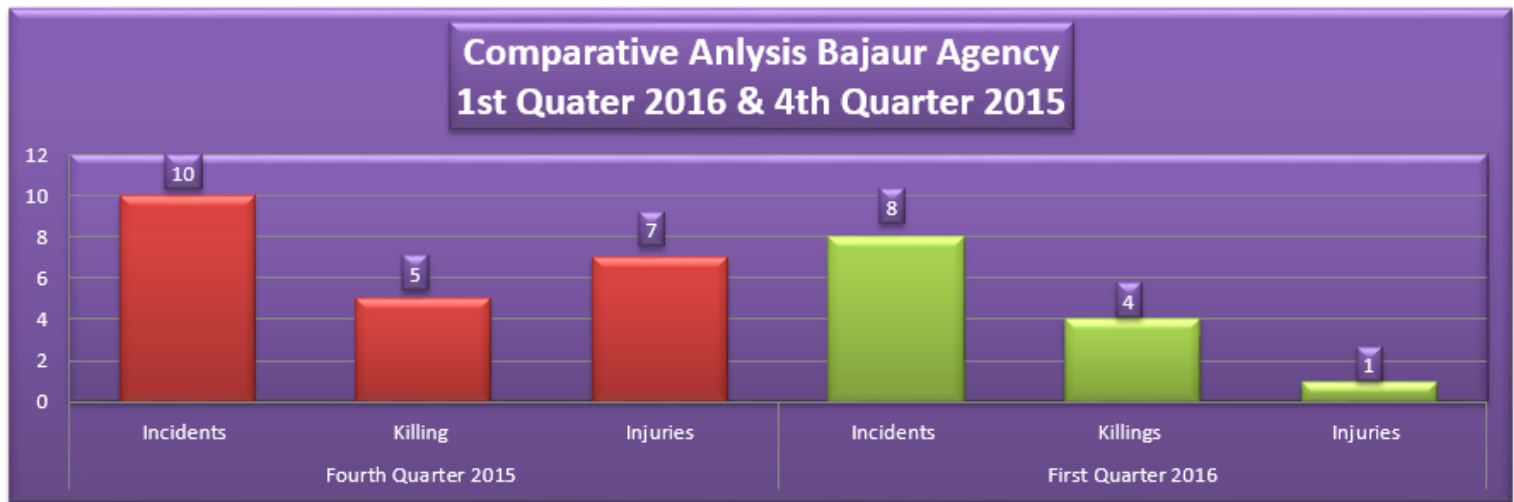
Furthermore, in the late February 2016, militants belonging to Khan Said group, a breakaway faction of TTP-South Waziristan, blew up an under-construction government school in Tiarza tehsil, and abducted 18 labourers from the site. The abductees were later on released unharmed. Azam Tariq, spokesman of Khan Said Group claimed the responsibility for the terror attack. He said: “We have blown up the school because it was a government installation, and we would continue to attack government properties”. In another incident, “South Tigers” abducted eight senior officials of the FATA Development Authority (FDA) from Thoi Khula area of Wana Tehsil. Two security forces personnel also lost their lives when militants ambushed a security check-post in Sarwakai Tehsil.

The TTP militants conducted a cross border attack in Angor Ada on 21 January 2016, in which four people lost their lives. Angor Ada is located on the Pak-Afghan border, almost 40 kilometer from Wana, the headquarters of the South Waziristan Agency.

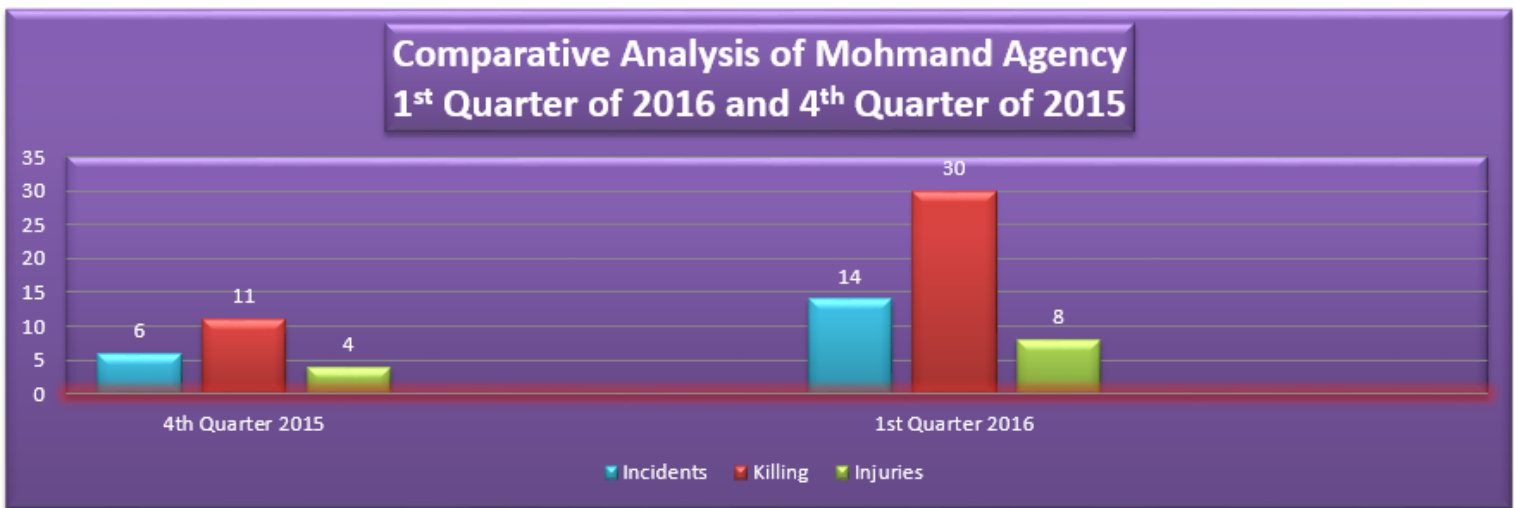
Chapter 4

Agency Wise Comparative Analysis - 1st Quarter 2016 & 4th Quarter 2015

Bajaur Agency



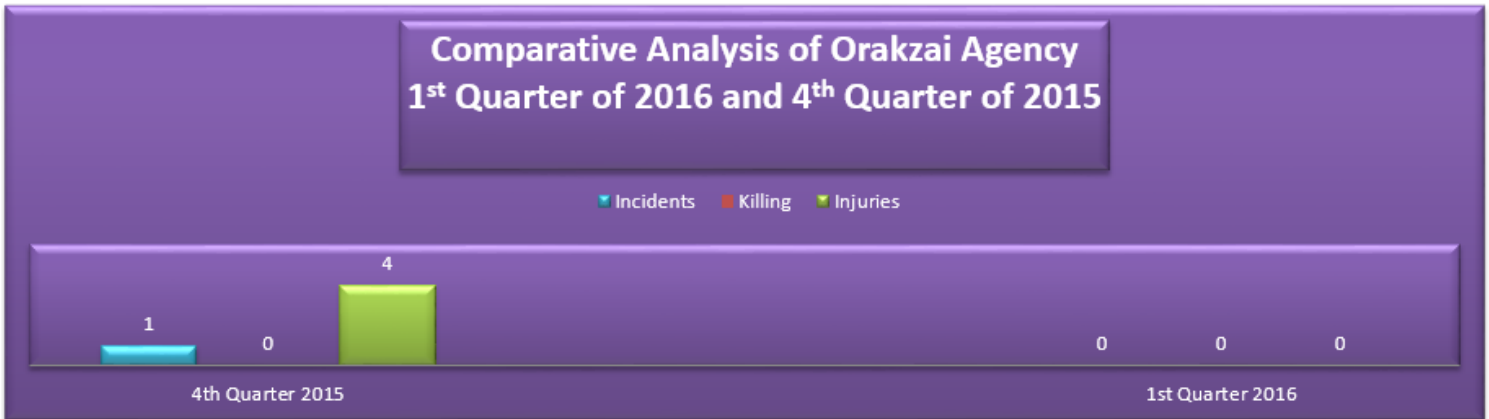
Mohmand Agency



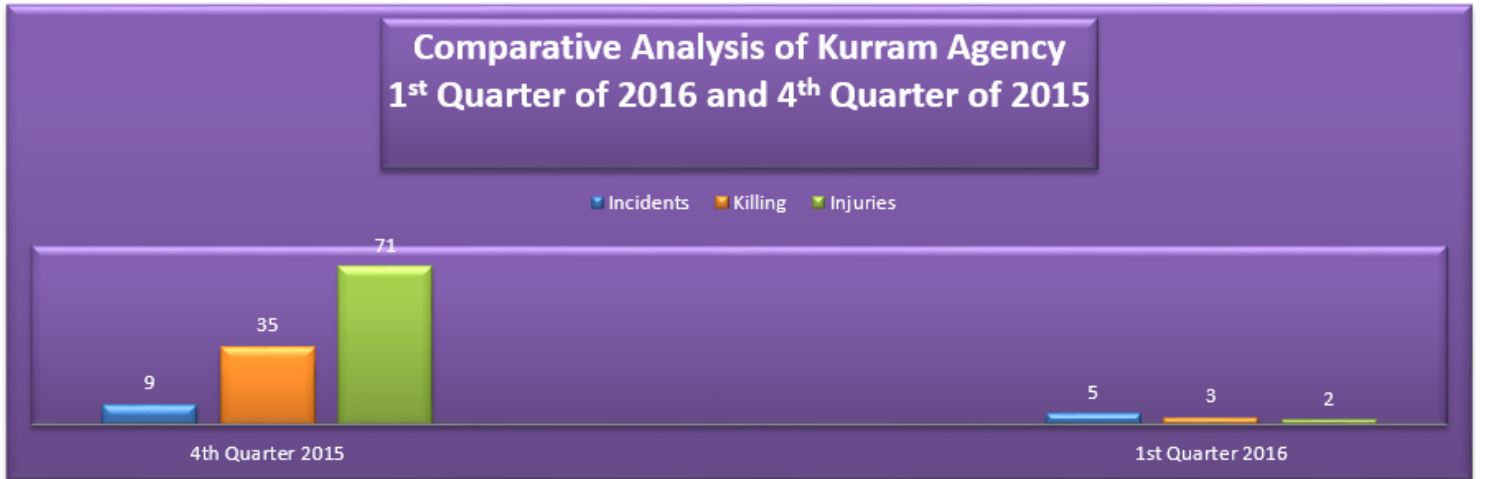
Khyber Agency



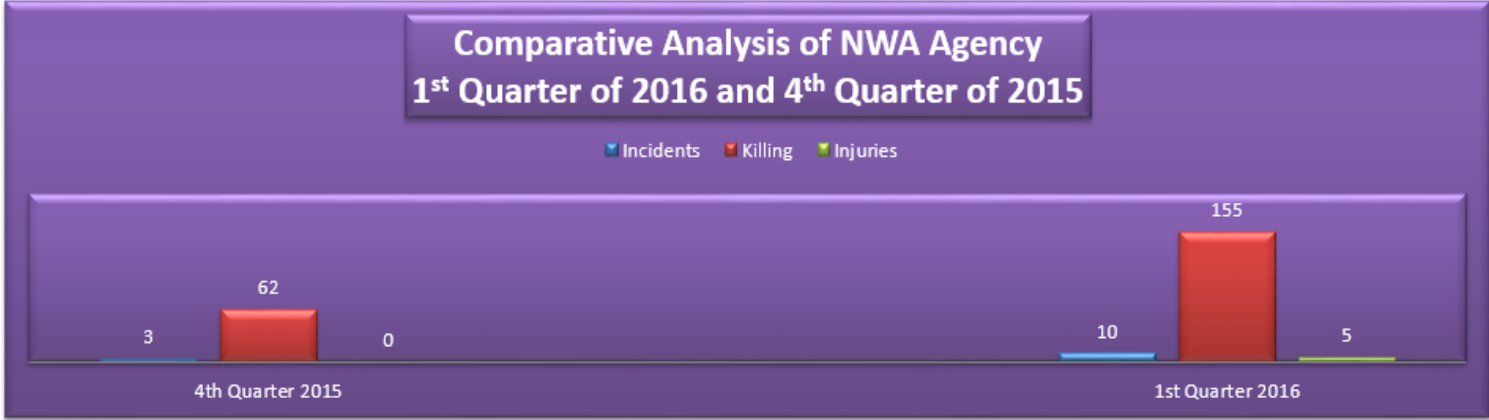
Orakzai Agency



Kurram Agency



North Waziristan Agency



South Waziristan Agency



Analysis and Future Predications

Simultaneous military operations in various parts of FATA have dismantled terrorist infrastructure to a large extent. The Taliban militants have fled to untouched pockets in various Agencies of FATA or escaped to the neighboring provinces of Afghanistan. According to FRC sources, majority of the rank and file of various Pakistani Taliban groups and their associates have shifted to Khost, Paktika, Paktiya, Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan provinces of Afghanistan. Since early 2016, some Pakistani Taliban groups are attempting to infiltrate into FATA to re-establish their network and conduct attacks in the region. Pakistani Taliban are reportedly present in Kachkol and Rajgal areas of Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency, Shawal Valley of North Waziristan Agency and Central Kurram tehsil of the Kurram Agency.

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan- Jamaatul Ahrar (TTP-JA), Majlis-e-Askari of TTP, Hakimullah Mahsud group of TTP and Khan Said Group (Mahsud Taliban) were active during the first quarter of 2016. On 31 occasions the above mentioned groups claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks on civilians, security forces and member of Amn Lashkar in different areas of Bajaur, Mohmand, Kurram, North and South Waziristan and Khyber Agency. An important development in this regards was the emergence of “South Tigers” terrorist group in South Waziristan Agency (SWA) during the current quarter of 2016. The group claimed responsibility for abducting nine employees of FATA Development Authority (FDA) on 10 March 2016 from Toi Khula area of Wana tehsil of SWA. The group is headed by Qari Asad while Zafaran Eagle is the spokesman of the group. However, FRC’s sources say that the South Tigers is neither a new group nor a splinter of an existing group but part of the infamous Khan Said group of the Mahsud Taliban.

The location of the militant attacks show that most of the attacks conducted by the Khan Said group took place in the Mahsud area, which was cleared by the government under a previous military operation “Rah-e-Nijat” in October 2009. One such attack was reported from Serwakai tehsil which is a Mahsud territory and lies close to the border with FR Dera Ismail Khan district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The second attack signifies that the Mahsud Taliban are penetrating much deeper into the South Waziristan Agency to conduct terrorist attacks on the security forces. Similarly, terrorist attacks were reported for the first time from the Sulaiman Khel tribe’s area of the SWA which has hitherto not witnessed any such incident in the past many years. Two attacks were reported from the Sulaiman Khel’s area which related to abduction of construction workers and government officials respectively and the destruction of a newly built government school in the area.

The attacks signify that the Mahsud Taliban are not only trying to contest the control of the government over the Mahsud tribe’s area earlier cleared in 2009, but are trying to expand their war and destabilize hitherto peaceful areas in the Agency. Such attacks also signify that the Mahsud Taliban are able to establish pockets of presence in the inaccessible areas of the Mahsud territory. At the same time, the Mahsud Taliban are carrying out cross-border attacks on security checkpoints on the Pak-Afghan border. The worsening security situation in the Mahsud area may derail the repatriation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their native areas. The latest phase of repatriation kicked off in Sararogha, Sarwekai and Tiarza tehsils of South Waziristan. These IDPs were demilitarized during the Rah-e-Nijat operation in October 2009. If Taliban militants attempt to conduct terrorist acts in these above mentioned tehsils, these repatriated tribals do not have any means to resist them under the FCR. Hence, the IDPs are wary of such attacks and are concerned when the Mahsud Taliban repeatedly issue warnings to them not to return.

Similarly on 14 occasions militants belonging to suspected militants of TTP’s breakaway faction, TTP-JA led by Omar Khalid Khorasani conducted cross-border attacks, IED and precise targeting of civilians, security personnel and members of Amn Lashkar in Gang and Ghadai areas of Salarzai Tehsil, Nawagai, Chamaraknd and Ghakhai pass areas in Mamond tehsil, Charmang and Kamangara areas of the Bajaur agency and Karapa, Machni of Pandyal Tehsil, Sangar area of Ambar tehsil, Darwazgai area of Tehsil Ekka Ghund and Safi Tehsil of the Mohmand Agency. The militants belonging to Khyber chapter of TTP led by Omar Mansur aka Narai targeted civilians and security forces through IED and targeted killing in Suleman Khel area of Landikotal, and Rajgal, Kukikhel and Dara Darmodorab area of Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency.

It has been seen that TTP-JA has emerged as the strongest and most capable group in the northern agencies of FATA and the adjoining districts of Peshawar, Charsadda, Mardan and Swabi of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. It recently announced to conduct its operations under the operation “Saut al-Raad” (Arabic for Voice of Sound of Thunder) for the current year. Apart from conducting attacks in Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies, TTP-JA has successfully carried out high profile attacks in Peshawar, Charsadda and Mardan. In all such attacks, Pakistani militants travelled from Afghan provinces to conduct successful attacks in these districts of KP and were hosted by locals in these districts which points towards the re-establishment of terrorist network of these groups. There are also reports that TTP Darra Adamkhel chapter led by Omar Mansur aka Narai is collaborating with TTP-JA to conduct attacks in Peshawar and adjoining districts. Narai belongs to Adezai area of Peshawar district. There are reports that security situation is deteriorating in the suburbs of Peshawar, especially Badher, Mattani and Adezai villages adjacent to Darra Adam Khel, and people are voluntarily raising Amn Lashkars and patrolling the area to resist the return of Taliban militants.

Meanwhile, Kurram Agency is gradually becoming a hub of Pakistani Taliban groups. The TTP-South Waziristan chapter led by Shehryar Mahsud remains active in the Agency, especially in the border areas. On three occasions militants belonging to the above mentioned group carried out terrorist attacks in Bobrak thana, Shaheedano Dhand area of lower Kurram and Qaimatey area of Upper Kurram. On another occasion militants based in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan targeted security check-post in Qaimaty area of Upper Kurram. A team comprising of North Waziristan tribal elders was sent by the Pakistani government to Afghanistan’s Khost province to convince the NWA refugees displaced by operation Zarb-e-Azab in NWA to return back to their ancestral areas. Both the elders were subsequently kidnapped by the said group and were released after serious efforts by other NWA tribal elders. The main TTP commander in the Agency is Gilaman Mahsud aka Qari Saifullah, who is reportedly operating quite independently.

The concentration of Pakistani Taliban in the Agency may not augur well for the peace agreement reached between the Sunni tribes (Bangash, Para Chamkani, Maqbal and Mangal) and Shia tribes (Turi and a section of Bangash) living over there. Moreover, Kurram’s geostrategic location on the confluence of North Waziristan, Orakzai and Khyber Agencies makes it an ideal conduit for transportation of militants and weapons which may lead towards reemergence of Taliban in Orakzai and Khyber Agencies after they have been successfully cleared of militants’ presence.

Militant Tactics

The militants’ tactics have also undergone a tremendous shift since the launch of multiple and simultaneous military operations in FATA. Their eviction from the FATA region as well as the internal displacement of FATA population has severed their contact with their respective tribes and families. As a result, militants are not able to recruit from the local population nor can they disseminate their ideology. The inability to induct new recruits has mainly impacted on their suicide squads. Subsequently, the ratio of suicide bombing has gone down significantly. Only one incident of suicide bombing was reported during the current quarter which took place on the border of Khyber Agency and Peshawar district. Instead, the focus has been shifted to the usage of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Around 42 percent of the total militant attack carried out during the current quarter involved the use of IEDs. Since Pakistani security forces are currently holding the area cleared of militants’ presence, guerilla and ambush attacks by the Taliban militants on military installations and mobile resources accounted for 26 percent of the total attack. Cross-border attacks by the Taliban on Pakistan’s border security check posts as well as target killing of anti-Taliban persons accounted for 13 percent each of the total attacks. Kidnapping incidents formed 6 percent of the tactics used by the militants during the current quarter.

Terror Financing

Various Taliban militant groups continue to raise finances through illegal means during the current quarter. Extortion and kidnapping formed the main source of Taliban finance. While all the Taliban groups remained stationed in Afghanistan, they continue extort money from various segments of the society. The main source of such means happened to be in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP). Traders, industrialists and land owners in different parts of the province, especially in the Peshawar Valley districts (Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan and Swabi) remained a victim of Taliban extortion. Those who refused to pay heed to the Taliban demands were brutally targeted by the militants.

According to FRC database, 180 cases of extortion were registered with police, while 216 were filed with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) during this quarter, which exceeds the overall cases of extortion -178- recorded during the previous year of 2015. Eight people who refused to pay the extortion were killed in targeted operations by the Taliban alone in Peshawar, provincial capital of the KP during the current quarter. It is pertinent to say that most of the extortion cases go unreported since the victims do not register them with the local police and prefer to resolve such threats by negotiating the amount with the Taliban through negotiations. These negotiations are mainly held in Taliban offices in Afghanistan. A high profile case of extortion during this quarter concerns Haji Haleem Jan, former president of the traders union in Peshawar, who was killed by the Taliban on 8 February 2016 in Peshawar. In this context it is important to mention here that majority of the phone calls – 98 percent – were made from Afghanistan by the Taliban who used Afghan cell phone SIMs.

Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K) in FATA

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) locally known as Islamic State-Khorasan (ISK) is attempting to penetrate into the socio-economic and political landscape FATA. In this context, the sectarian nature of conflict in Kurram Agency and its geographical proximity to Nangarhar province of Afghanistan makes the former a vulnerable area for the ISK to expand into FATA. According to FRC sources, few commanders of TTP-South Waziristan Agency (also known as Hakimullah Mahsud Group) who fled to Afghanistan post-Zarb-e-Azab military operation, maintain a soft corner for the ISK. For instance, Gilaman Mahsud aka Qari Saifullah, a senior commander of Hakimullah Group, who heads the TTP-Kurram chapter sympathizes with the ISK ideology and exhibits extreme anti-Shia sentiments. But so far Gilaman Mahsud has not announced a formal merging of his group with ISK due to some unknown reasons. However, four relatively smaller groups of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan – are said to have joined ISK in Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan.

Rift and Divisions among Militant Groups: Impact on Militancy in FATA

The fracturing of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) continues unabated. The TTP-South Waziristan chapter led by Shehryar Mahsud is getting weaker with the passage of time. FRC sources report that some of his senior military commanders like Shakir Mahsud, Ghalib Mahsud, Haji Dawood, Hazratullah Mahsud and Gilaman Mahsud are operating independently. Gilaman Mahsud, in an interview with Sailab Mahsud stated: “Shehryar is a weak and incompetent commander and he is not fit to head the group any more. The group is facing problems and has lost its sanctuaries in the twin agencies of Waziristan. Sheryar Mahsud, on the other hand, is sitting silently in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan”.

In this context it is important to mention here that on 29 March 2016, commander Gul Janat Mahsud alias Zabal Mahsud, a senior militant commander of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (Hakimullah Mahsud Group) along with his 250 fighters joined the Afghan Taliban led by Mullah Akhtar Mansur. In a telephonic conversation with Mr. Sailab Mahsud, Zabal Mahsud, while speaking from an undisclosed location in South Waziristan Agency, stated that he and his group has separated from Hakimullah group. “I along with my 250 fighters have parted ways from Hakimullah group and have joined the Afghan Taliban ... all of my fighters support my decision and I along with my group is now part of the Afghan Taliban,” he stated.

This is the third time since past month that there is a continuous wave of desertion from Hakimullah Mahsud group. Earlier, on 29 February 2016, Commander Waheedullah Mahsud alias Jigri, the operational commander of Hakimullah group for Pakistan and Afghanistan, surrendered to the Pakistan Army along with 24 fighters in Wana, headquarters of the South Waziristan Agency.

Similarly, a couple of weeks earlier, more than 150 militants of the Hakimullah Group surrendered to the Pakistan Army in South Waziristan. The secession of Gul Janat alias Zabal Mahsud along with his fighters is a huge setback for Hakimullah Group. Such dissertations may weaken the Hakimullah Mahsud Group in the area.

Rehabilitation of IDPs

The intensive military operations in FATA have forced more than two million people to flee their homes and take refuge in the adjoining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP). The military operations by Pakistani security forces have cleared a large part of FATA from Taliban's presence. However, resettlement and rehabilitation of around two million internally displaced persons (IDPs) is a gigantic task for the Pakistani government.

The current government is passive in implementing soft-core approaches i.e. mainstreaming FATA through legal, political and administrative reforms and initiate social reform, economic recovery and behavioral change programmes which if implemented properly can dry up public support for militants groups in FATA. In this regard, the "FATA Sustainable and Rehabilitation Strategy" launched in April 2015, is positive initiative. However the process of rehabilitation is moving on at snail pace. According to FDMA, the IDPs return would occur in phases: Phase 1 (March 2015-July 2015), Phase 2(August 2015-November 2015), Phase 3 (December 2015-March 2016) and Phase 4 (April 2016-November 2016). So far 151,833 families have been rehabilitated to the aboriginal lands in Khyber, South, North, Orakzai and Kurram Agency.

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