



FRC

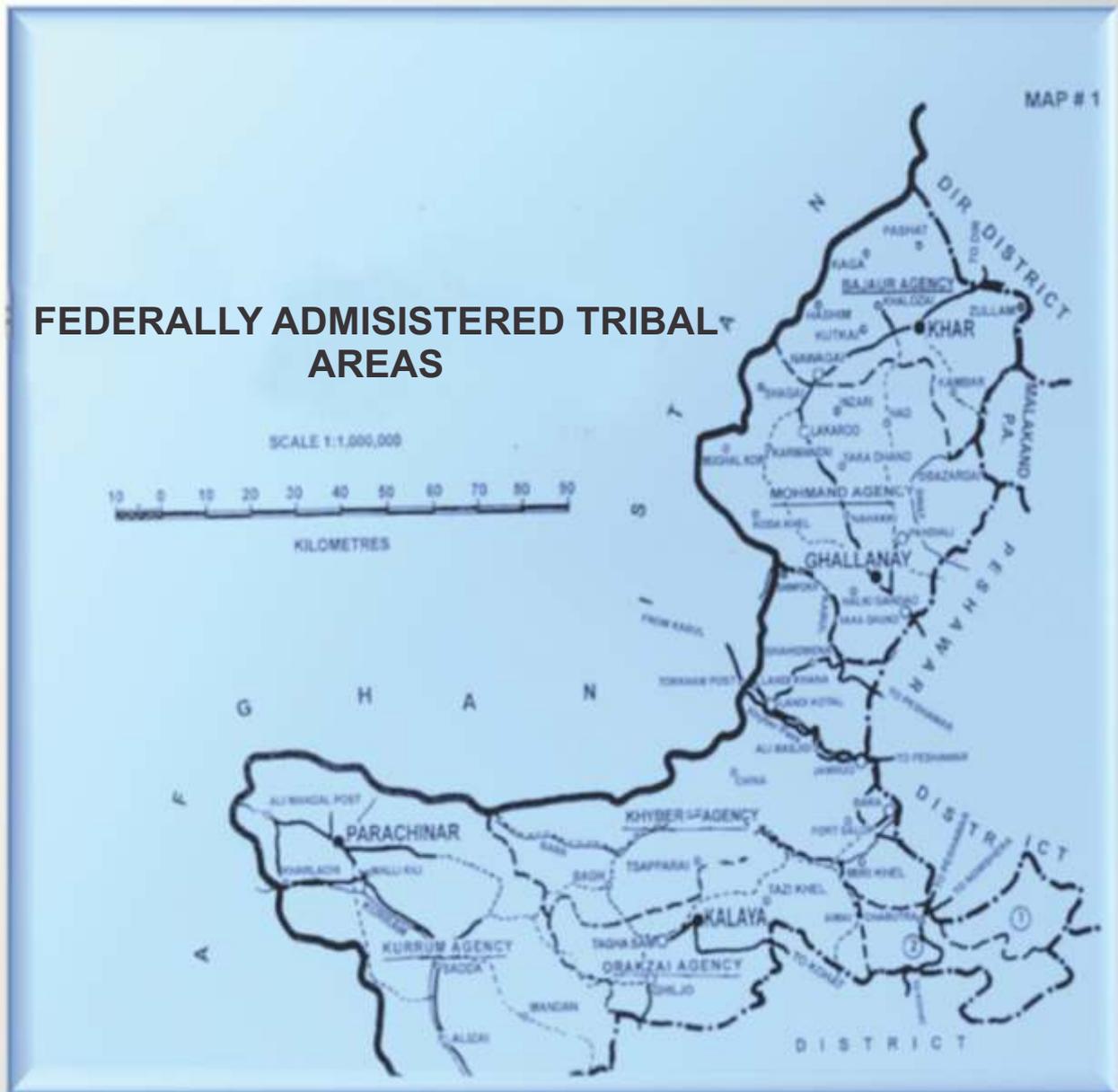
FATA RESEARCH CENTRE

FATA SECURITY REPORT

Second Quarter 2016 (April -June)

Map of FATA

FEDERALLY ADMISISTERED TRIBAL AREAS



Contents

About FATA Research Centre.....	i
FATA Quarterly Security Report.....	i
Methodology.....	i
Acronyms.....	ii
Glossary.....	iii
Chapter 1	
Introduction.....	1
Profile of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).....	1
Security Overview of FATA, 2nd Quarter, 2016.....	2
Chapter 2	
Agency wise Analysis.....	5
Bajaur Agency.....	5
Mohmand Agency.....	7
Khyber Agency.....	9
Kurram Agency.....	11
Orakzai Agency.....	12
North Waziristan Agency.....	12
South Waziristan Agency.....	14
Chapter 3	
Trends and Analysis.....	15
Actors Mapping.....	15
Militant Tactics.....	16

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, role of militant groups and the scale of militant activities in the area. This report is the result of regular monitoring of militant and counter-militant activities while 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 curfews. Hence, militant and counter-militant attacks sometimes restrict the mobility of our field staff. Thus, the number of actual occurrences of violent acts may be greater than those being reported here.

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 prepared through 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 contribute in the 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 after verification from concerned political administration offices and locals of the area.

Acronyms

Aul	Ansar-ul-Islam
APAs	Assistant Political Agents
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FCR	Frontier Crimes Regulation
FDA	FATA Development Authority
FRC	FATA Research Centre
HBIEDs	Human-borne Improvised Explosive Devices
IBOs	Intelligence-based Operations
IED	Improvised Explosive Devices
JA	Jamaat-ul-Ahrar
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LI	Lashkar-e Islam
NWA	North Waziristan Agency
PAs	Political Agents
SAFRON	Ministry of States and Frontier Regions
SWA	South Waziristan Agency
TTP	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
US	United States
VBIEDs	Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices

Glossary

Militant Attacks

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

Counter-Militant Attacks

Large-scale military operations launched by security forces and para-military 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 targeted operations, intelligence-based operations (IBOs), air attacks employing fighter jets, gunship helicopters and drones.

Security Forces

This include Pakistan Armed Forces, Frontier Corps, Frontier Constabulary, Khassadar force, Levies 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 include attacks involving explosives such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) landmines, remote controlled explosive devices, human-borne improvised explosive devices (HBIEDs) and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs).

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 at 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 between British India and Afghanistan and established the British control over FATA, but also had an inherent effect of dividing some of the FATA tribes on both sides of the border.

The British Indian government devised a unique set of laws, 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, holds 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 house-hold 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) which oversee FATA under the directives of Governor of KP. FATA continues to be governed through the Frontier Crimes Regulation Act (FCR) of 1901, which was amended in 2011.

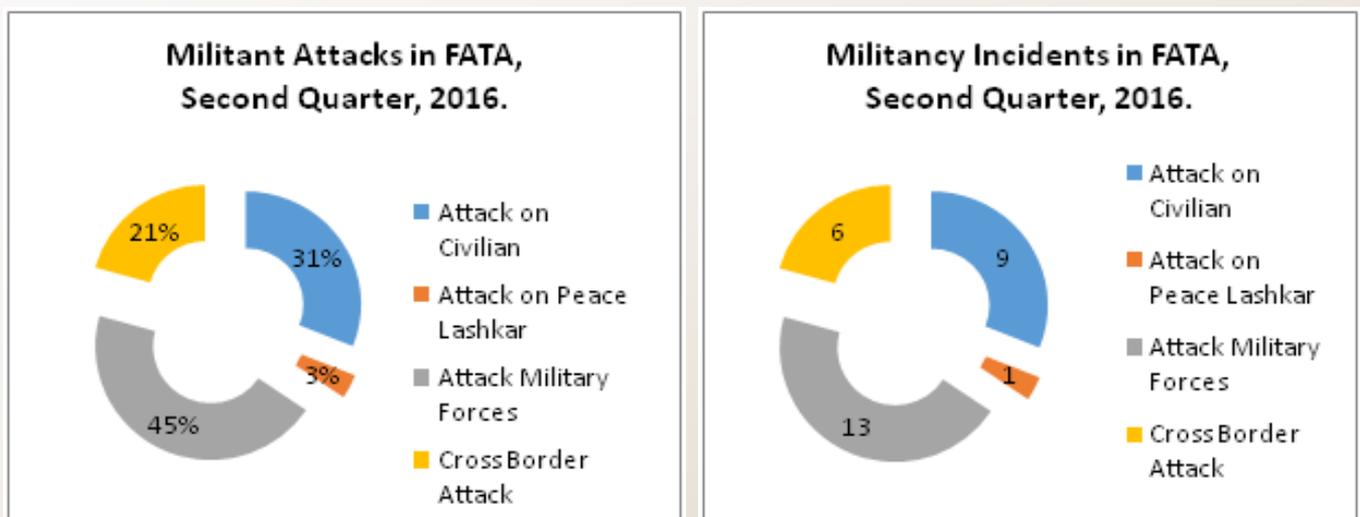
The incident of 9/11 changed the security situation of FATA more than it did in other parts of the world. As a spillover effect of conflict in Afghanistan, the diverse militant outfits established their sanctuaries in the area. As a result, Pakistan, pushed by the United States (US), launched security operations against the suspected militants in FATA. The first military operation was launched in March 2004 in SWA; it was followed by the US drone strike that killed the then supreme leader of Taliban, Nek Muhammad. This further aggravated the security situation and led to the emergence of new militant groups in FATA. Consequently, the terrorist assaults and subsequent counter military operations, which, in turn, also caused vast collateral damages, became the dominant features of the area. However, a relative peace has been observed during the first two quarters of 2016 which indicates towards the success of security operations against the anti-state elements operating in FATA.

Security Overview of FATA, 2nd Quarter, 2016

The security situation in FATA has remained disturbed during the second quarter April – June 2016. The high number of casualties caused to militants during this quarter is suggestive of the strength of counter terrorism activities being carried out in the area. A significant counter militancy trend which prevailed during the quarter was that of effectively countervailing attacks perpetrated by the militants and successfully destroying their hideouts. However, the ratio of counter militancy steps as compared to militant attacks has been relatively low.

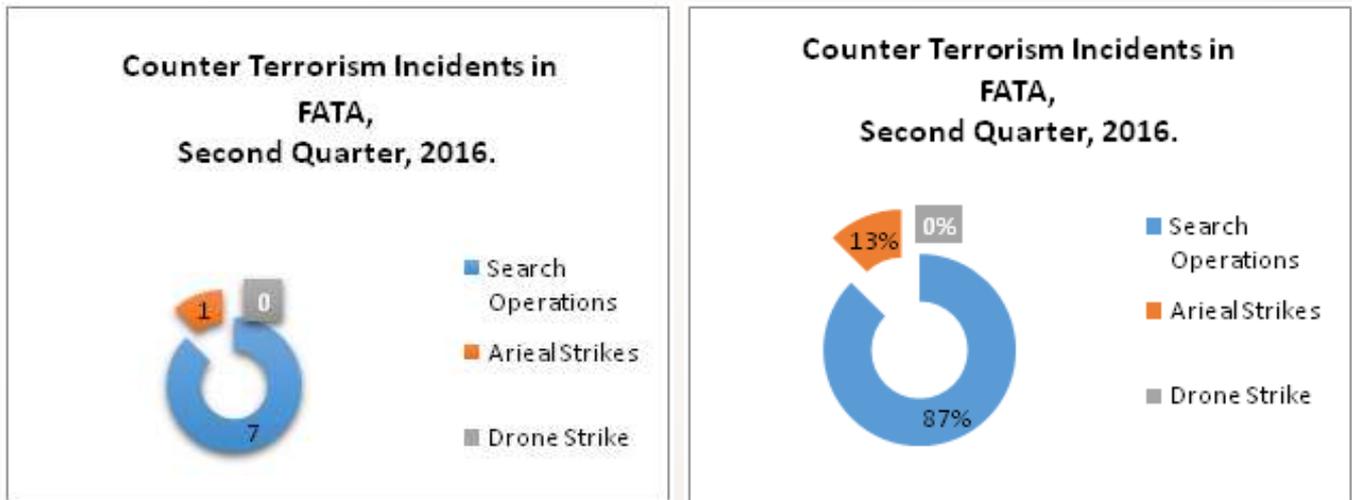
A total of 37 militancy and counter militancy incidents were recorded in FATA during the second quarter April – June 2016, as compared to 53 such incidents that occurred across the agencies during the previous quarter. Out of these 37 incidents, 29 were terrorist attacks while eight were counter terrorism operations. Terrorists predominantly attacked the security forces, during this quarter, through IED attacks and ambushes on the security check posts.

The following graphs show the terrorism incidents during the quarter April – June 2016.



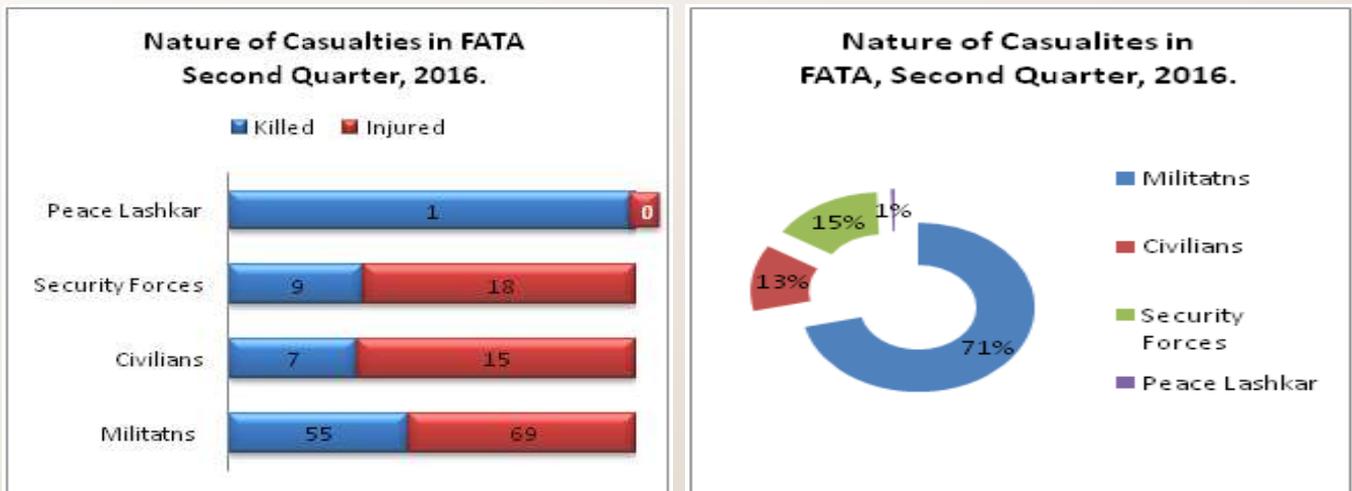
The terrorists accelerated cross border attacks during the quarter as they carried out six guerrilla assaults during the said period. On the other hand, Kurram and Khyber agencies of FATA also witnessed cross border shelling following the strains between Pakistan and Afghanistan. One of these incidents prolonged over five days when tensions between the two countries intensified which also resulted in the transitory closure of Torkham border. Both countries carried out cross border shelling on security check posts near the Torkham border of Khyber Agency.

The following graph illustrates the counter-terrorism offensives carried out by Pakistan military.



The security forces carried out seven ground operations while one aerial strike was reported during the outgoing quarter. Furthermore, the security personnel actively repulsed most of the attacks launched by the militants, causing them to suffer.

The following table records the overall casualties caused during the quarter.



During the second quarter, April – June 2016, in total 174 casualties were reported across FATA. Out of these, 124 were inflicted upon militants, 27 upon security forces, 22 upon civilians, while one member of peace militia was killed.

In Bajaur Agency, two militants, one civilian, two security personnel, and one peace lashkar member were killed while two militants and two security officials were wounded, accounting for a total of ten casualties which occurred during this quarter.

In Mohmand Agency, nine militants, five civilians, and five security officials were killed while six civilians and five security personnel were wounded, adding up to 30 casualties.

In Khyber Agency, five militants, one security official, and one civilian were killed while nine civilians and nine security personnel sustained wounds, making up a total of 25 casualties which occurred during the quarter.

93 casualties were reported in Kurram Agency during this quarter which comprised of 27 militants and one security official who were killed, while 63 militants and two security officials who were wounded.

In North Waziristan Agency, 12 militants were killed while four were wounded during the quarter.



The total number of militancy and counter militancy incidents, during the second quarter of 2016, have been comparatively lower than those occurred during the first quarter of 2016. However, the above graph shows a rise in militant attacks against the security forces, especially cross border attacks have escalated during the period. The reason for the escalation in cross border attacks seems to be the success of Pakistan military operations in FATA that pushed back militants into Afghanistan. These banished militants targeted Pakistani security checkposts and personnel along the border, mostly in Mohmand, Kurram, and Khyber agencies. The number of military operations, airstrikes and drone strikes in the second quarter of 2016 have seen a significant decline. There had been a total of eight counter militancy operations in the second quarter of 2016 (seven search operations and one air strike) while a total of 27 counter militancy incidents (17 search operations, eight air strikes and two drone strikes) were noted during the first quarter of 2016.

NOTE: The total number of militancy and counter militancy incidents shown in the “Security Report of First Quarter 2016” is “59”. The kidnappings and target killings were shown as separate incidents, whereas, these were “tactics” and were a part of “Attacks on Civilians” and “Attacks on Peace Lashkar”.

Chapter 2

Agency wise Analysis

Bajaur Agency

During the second quarter of 2016, six terrorist incidents were reported to have occurred in various areas of Bajaur Agency. These incidents resulted in 10 casualties: six killings and four injuries. Three of the terrorist attacks targeted security forces, one targeted civilians, and one was aimed at Peace Lashkar. Apart from these, at one occasion, guerrilla assault was also carried out. Two of the three terrorist attacks on security forces were carried out in Mamond Tehsil of the Agency while one was carried out in Nawagai area; the incidents caused casualties to both, militants and security forces. At another occasion, a target killing of a Peace Committee member was carried out in Gat Agra area of Mamond Tehsil. In Khar Tehsil, a civilian was killed in another target killing incident.

A cross border attack in form of Guerrilla attack was carried out in Nawagai tehsil of the agency. The attack was repulsed successfully and injuries were caused to militants only. Lashkar-e-Islam claimed the responsibility of this attack.

Security Situation in Bajaur Agency				
Second Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	1	1	0
	on Military	3	4	2
	on Peace Lashkar	1	1	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerrilla Activities	1	0	2
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	0	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		6	6	4

The table below describes the casualties caused in Bajaur Agency pertaining to violent activities, during the second quarter (April – June, 2016).

Casualty Types Bajaur Agency Second Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	2	2
Civilians	1	0
Security Forces	2	2
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	1	0
Total	6	4
Total Casualties	10	

The casualties in Bajaur agency included six killings and four injuries; the killed included two militants, two security forces officials, one civilian, and one peace lashkar member while the injuries were inflicted upon two militants and two security officials.



Mohmand Agency

Mohmand Agency witnessed 13 terrorist incidents during the second quarter (April – June, 2016); six of the terrorist attacks targeted civilians while another five targeted security forces. On two occasions, guerrilla activities were also reported.

Security Situation in Mohmand Agency				
Second Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	6	6	5
	on Military	5	4	4
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerilla Activities	2	9	2
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	0	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		13	19	11

Out of the six terrorist activities carried out against civilians in Mohmand Agency, during the outgoing quarter, three were IED attacks which were carried out in Davizai and Karappa areas of Pandyalai Tehsil, and Safi Massod Ziarat area. A civilian was killed in a target killing incident in Regamena area in Ekkaghund Tehsil, while on two occasions, civilians were abducted and, later, put to death in different areas of Ekkaghund Tehsil.

At four occasions, the security forces were targeted in IED blasts which occurred in Chamarkand and Qayyumabad areas in Safi Tehsil and Atmarkhel area in Baizai Tehsil of the Agency. A security official was kidnapped and, later, killed in Shanow Ghundi area of Ekkaghund Tehsil.

On two occasions, cross border attacks in form of guerrilla activities were also reported in Surgat and Khwezai areas of Baizai Tehsil. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar claimed attacking a security check post from across the border, in addition to two IED attacks – one against civilians and the other against security forces.

The following table records casualties which occurred in the mentioned incidents.

Casualty Types Mohmand Agency Second Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	9	0
Civilians	5	6
Security Forces	5	5
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	19	11
Total Casualties	30	

Among the 30 casualties which occurred in 13 incidents of terrorism recorded in Mohmand Agency during the second quarter (April – June, 2016), 19 were killings and 11 were injuries. Nine militants, five civilians, and five security officials were killed while six civilians and five security officials were injured.



Khyber Agency

In Khyber Agency, seven terrorism and counter-terrorism incidents occurred during the second quarter (April – June, 2016). Two cross border attacks were attempted in form of guerrilla activities, and two terrorist attacks targeting military and one targeting civilians occurred in the agency. As part of the ongoing military operation in the agency, two search operations were also carried out in different parts of the agency.

Security Situation in Khyber Agency				
Second Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	1	2	0
	on Military	2	4	4
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerilla Activities	2	1	14
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	2	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		7	7	18

During this quarter, tensions erupted in LandiKotal, across the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. During the strains, the militants twice attacked the security check posts from Afghanistan. Both attacks were characterized by guerrilla activities and cross border shelling. A Pakistan Army soldier lost his life in these cross border attacks while 14 people, including civilians and security officials, received injuries in these attacks.

Terrorists targeted security forces in two incidents during the outgoing quarter, including an IED blast and an ambush on the security check post. The IED attack occurred in Sandana area near Naribaba locality of the Agency, while a security check post was ambushed in PindaCheena area of Tirah valley. An attack targeting civilians occurred in LandiKotal and was claimed by Lashkar-e-Islam.

The counter terrorism forces conducted two search operations, one in Jamrud and another in Bara Tehsil of the agency, during the outgoing quarter. No casualties were reported in these operations; however, 24 Afghan nationals were arrested in Jamrud and one Afghan National was arrested in Bara Tehsil.

Descriptive tabulation of casualties which occurred during the second quarter (April – June, 2016) in Khyber Agency is given below.

Casualty Types Khyber Agency Second Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	5	0
Civilians	1	9
Security Forces	1	9
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	7	18
Total Casualties	25	

Seven violent incidents which occurred in Khyber Agency during this quarter brought about 25 casualties including seven killings and 18 injuries. Five militants, one civilian, and one Pakistan Army officer were killed while nine civilians and nine security forces officials received injuries.



Kurram Agency

During the second quarter (April – June, 2016), Kurram Agency witnessed three terrorism and one counter terrorism incidents; two attacks were carried out by terrorists against the security forces and one incident of cross border shelling was reported. Furthermore, a search operation was also carried out.

Security Situation in Kurram Agency				
Second Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	0	0	0
	on Military	2	16	57
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	1	12	8
	Guerilla Activities	0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	1	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		4	28	65

At one occasion, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed to have ambushed a security check post in Shabek area of Lower Kurram. At another occasion, an IED blast targeting security forces was carried out in ShaheedanoDand area of Lower Kurram. The militants also fired shells from across the border in Mangorsar area of the agency. On the other hand, the security forces carried out a search operation in Gobazna area, arresting 22 suspected militants.

The table below illustrates the casualties caused in these four incidents.

Casualty Types Kurram Agency Second Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	27	63
Civilians	0	0
Security Forces	1	2
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	28	65
Total Casualties	93	

During the second quarter (April – June, 2016), 93 casualties were reported, out of which 28 were killings and 65 were injuries comprising 27 militants and one security official who were killed and 63 militants and two security officials who were wounded.



Orakzai Agency

Orakzai Agency, once again, remained very calm throughout the outgoing quarter and no violent incidents or casualties were reported during the period between April – June 2016.

North Waziristan Agency

The gradient of violence in North Waziristan during the second quarter (April – June, 2016) indicates only three counter terrorism incidents to have occurred in the agency. Two search operations and one aerial strike were carried out in the agency during this time period.

Security Situation in NWA Agency				
Second Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	0	0	0
	on Military	0	0	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerilla Activities	0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	2	3	4
	Aerial Strikes	1	9	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		3	12	4

A search operation was carried out by security forces in Razmak area of North Waziristan Agency during which a militant belonging to TTP was arrested while another search operation was carried out in Shawal valley. On the other hand, Barman area of the agency was targeted by an aerial strike. Following table records casualties which occurred in the said incidents.

Casualty Types NWA Agency Second Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Militants	12	4
Civilians	0	0
Security Forces	0	0
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	12	4
Total Casualties	16	

In North Waziristan Agency, owing to the strong military offensive against terrorists, all 16 casualties to have been caused were those of militants. 12 militants were killed while four were injured.



South Waziristan Agency

The period of April – June 2016 was relatively a peaceful for South Waziristan Agency as compared to the previous quarter. There were two search operations carried out in the agency. One was carried out in Shakai Area of the Agency and the other in Mastoi area. A suspected militant was arrested from Mastoi area.

No casualties were reported to have occurred in the agency during the second quarter of 2016.

Security Situation in SWA Agency				
Second Quarter 2016				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	0	0	0
	on Military	0	0	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Cross Border Attacks	Shelling	0	0	0
	Guerilla Activities	0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	2	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		2	0	0



Trends and Analysis

Actors Mapping

FATA witnessed relatively peaceful period during the outgoing quarter – April to June 2016. Owing to a series of successful counter terrorism measures taken by the government, a downward trend in militants' activities was witnessed. A string of search operations in FATA, including Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan, were carried out by the security agencies in which a number of militant hideouts were neutralized. As a consequence of these operations, a huge number of militants were either killed or captured. Most of these militants belonged to TTP, JamatulAhrar, and Lashkar e Islam. No major militant attacks were reported during this quarter across FATA. Moreover, a small number of reported attacks carried out by the militants, however, were countered successfully. Following are the militant groups that remained active during the quarter.

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan led by Mullah Fazullah: Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan has been relatively quiet in carrying out militant activities in the region during this quarter. The group claimed one attack on a security check post, which was successfully retaliated by the security forces.

Jamatul Ahrar led by Umar Khalid Khurrasani: Jamat-ul-Ahrar has actively been carrying out militant activities in Khyber, Bajaur and Mohmand Agencies from across the border. They performed guerilla activities using IEDs and ambush attacks on security personnel and security check posts along the border. Most of the attacks were effectively countered and repulsed by the security forces of Pakistan. Previously, the faction had been carrying out violent activities in the urban areas of the country; however, during this quarter, their operational capacity was observed to be limited to only peripheral areas of mainly two agencies. eBajaur and Mohmand. It also announced to conduct its operations under operation codenamed: “Saut al-Raad” (Arabic for Sound of Thunder) for the year 2016. The announcement, somehow, worried the security forces and led them to escalate their vigilance.

Sajna group a.k.aMahsud Taliban led by Khalid Mahsud alias Khan Said Sajna: Sajna group led by Khan Said Sajna, who was purportedly killed in the US drone strike in Afghanistan in 2015, has also been trivially active in North and South Waziristan Agencies. However, Pakistan Air Force conducted a few aerial strikes successfully neutralizing the hideouts of Sajna group in North Waziristan Agency. According to Taliban sources, Khalid Mahsud alias Khan Said Sajna is believed to be alive and leading the Mahsud faction of Taliban, a splinter group of TTP which was formed in May 2014 after the death of former TTP leader HakimullahMehsud in the US drone strike.

Lashkar-e-Islam (LI): Lashkar-e-Islam's leader MangalBagh was recently killed along with two close associates in the US drone strike in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province; both intelligence and Taliban sources have confirmed his death. Reportedly, the militants associated with Lashkar-e-Islam have largely fled to Afghanistan after the successful military operations – Khyber 1 and Khyber 2 –conducted by Pakistan security forces; however, the LI militants conducted few cross-border attacks on military check posts and civilians in Khyber Agency during the said period. Conversely, Pakistan army successfully destroyed a large number of the hideouts of LI in Khyber Agency during the second quarter of 2016.

AnsarUl Islam (Aul): Founded in 2004 by PirSaif-ur-Rehman, AnsarUl Islam is currently led by QaziMehboob-ul-Haq and is believed to be the rival of Lashkar-e-Islam (LI). With the most of its hideouts taken out by the Pakistan Military Forces, Aul had a little active presence in Khyber or in any other tribal agency during this quarter of the year.

TTP-South Waziristan Chapter: TTP-South Waziristan wing, led by ShehryarMahsud, has actively been operating in bordering areas of Kurram Agency during the second quarter. It is mainly present in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan but has been demonstrating an on and off presence in Kurram agency through guerilla attacks on security check posts in lower and upper Kurram agency. ShehryarMahsud group has been considered a major role-player in the sectarian violencebetween Shia and Sunni sects prevailingin Kurram agency.

Militant Tactics

The violence in FATA has resulted in a number of casualties during the second quarter of 2016. The intensive military operation, Zarb-e-Azb, against the militants,being carried out in North Waziristan Agency, is in its conclusive phase as per the latest statements put forth by the ISPR. The operation has successfully dismantled a large part of the militant networks previously operating in the entire region. According to a keen analysis, the governmental strategies have been more effective in countering terrorism. Search operations were conducted in South Waziristan Agency, North Waziristan Agency, and Khyber Agency while aerial strikes were carried out in North Waziristan Agency, targeting hideouts of TTP and Khan Said Group. These measures deflated the operational capacity of militants who were forced to resort to tactics of IED's and ambushes for their activities. The most preferred tactic has been that of IED bombings which were carried out in Mohmand Agency, as well as in Bajaur, Khyber, and Kurram agencies whileambushes, during this quarter, were recorded in Kurram, Khyber, Bajaur, and Mohmand agencies. On the other hand, cross border attacks were carried out in Mohmand, Khyber, Bajaur, and Kurram agencies. A few target killings were also reported in Mohmand andBajauragencies as well as in FR Tank, and FR Bannu while three incidents of abduction were reported in Mohmand Agency.

**Office # 4, Lower Ground Floor, (Near United Bank Ltd.) Bank Square Plaza,
F-11 Markaz, Islamabad - Pakistan.
Tel: +92-51-2228045, 2228046, Fax: +92-51-2228047
www.frc.org.pk**