

FATA SECURITY REPORT



**Third Quarter
(July-September)
2017**



FRC
FATA RESEARCH CENTRE

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Third Quarter 2017
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About FATA Research Centre

The 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 stakeholders 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 terrorist attacks, tactics and strategies used by the terrorists and the resultant casualties. The objective of this security report is to outline and categorize all forms of violent extremism, role of terrorist groups and the scale of terrorist activities in the area. This report is the result of regular monitoring of terrorist and counter-terrorist activities by employing primary and secondary sources. FRC 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, terrorist and counter-terrorist 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 contributed to the compilation of this report. 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 verification from concerned political administration offices and locals of the area.

Acronyms Centre

FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FRC	FATA Research Centre
IED	Improvised Explosive Devices
ISPR	Inter-Services Public Relations
TTP-JuA	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan Jamaat-ul-Ahrar
NAP	National Action Plan
NWA	North Waziristan Agency
SWA	South Waziristan Agency
TTP	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
CT	Counter-Terrorism
LeJ	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
LeJA	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Almi
VBIED	Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device

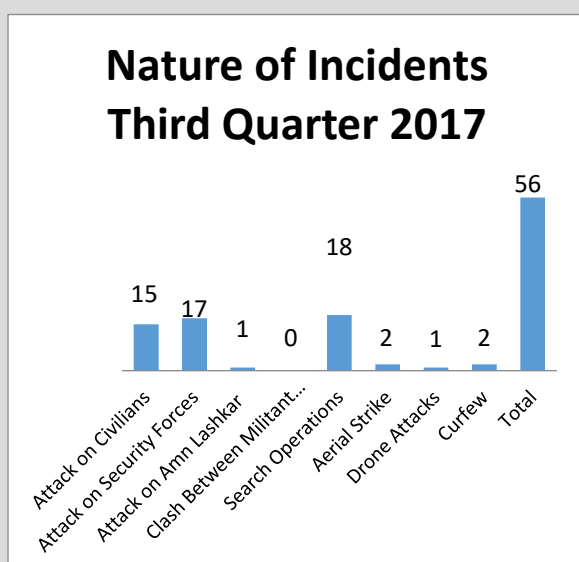
Glossary

Terrorist Attacks	Indiscriminate use of violence by local, non-local, and foreign terrorist outfits.
Counter-Terrorist Attacks	Large-scale military operations launched by security forces and para-military troops against terrorist in FATA in order to restore law and order and to establish the writ of state.
Amn Lashkar (Urdu for Peace Militias)	Volunteer tribal militias formed by tribes, clans, and sub-clans living in FATA to aid the Pakistani government and security forces in their battle against terrorists of all shades.

Introduction

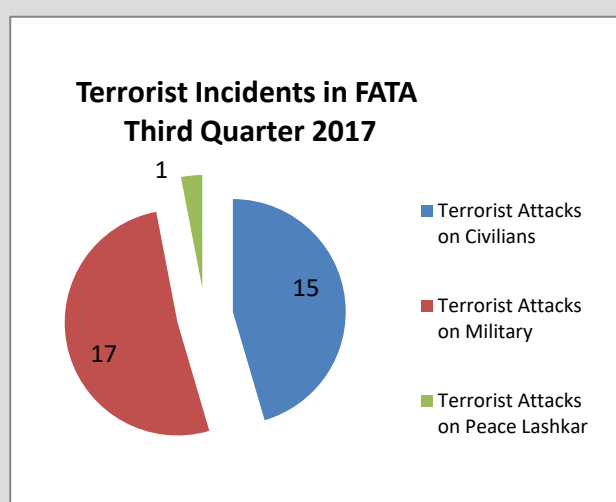
Security Overview of FATA Third Quarter, 2017

The security situation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan (FATA) witnessed a slight improvement during the third quarter (July-September) of 2017. However, terrorist activities continued to occur with varying intensity in all the seven agencies of FATA. The following graph gives a bird eye view of the nature of incidents during this quarter in entire FATA:

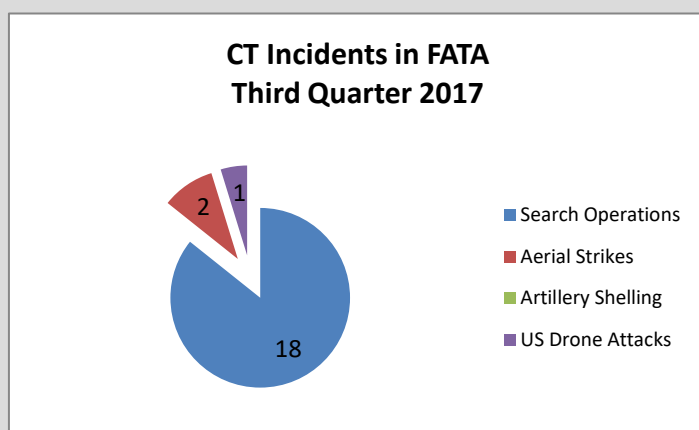


A total of 56 terrorism and counter-terrorism (CT) incidents were recorded during third quarter of 2017. As compared to 100 violent incidents in the previous quarter (April to June 2017), 56 violent incidents, both terrorism and counter terrorism, were reported from July to September of the current year, marking a decline of 44 % in violent incidents. However, this is slightly higher than the third quarter of 2016, in which only 52 violent incidents were recorded.

From July-September 2017, a total of 33 terrorist attacks were carried out by terrorist outfits across FATA. Of these, 17 terrorist attacks (40 percent) targeted the security forces while 15 attacks (39 percent) were directed against civilians. One terrorist attack or three percent of the attacks launched by terrorist targeted members of *Amn Lashkar* (Peace Committee).



On the other hand Pakistani security forces conducted 18 search operations which accounted

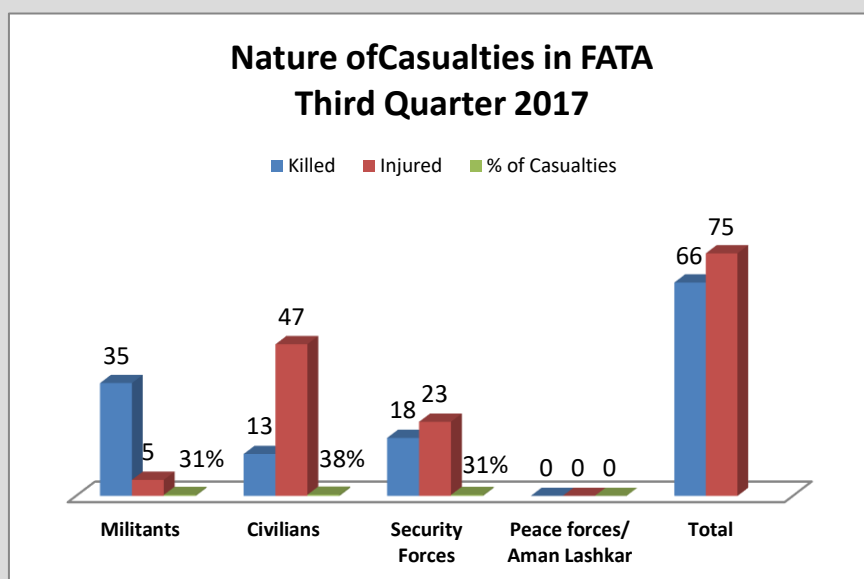


for 87 percent of the total CT operations. Two aerial strikes, as part of Operation “Khyber IV” were also carried out against terrorists in Khyber agency while US authorities carried out drone strike against terrorist in Kurram Agency. Three terrorist including a mid level

commander of Haqqani Network were killed in the US drone strikes carried out in Kurram Agency.

Khyber Agency, where military operation Khyber IV was launched against terrorist, remained the prime focus of CT operations. Out of 23 CT operations, eight IBOs and two aerial strikes were carried out in Khyber Agency. The Rajgal area of Tirah valley, where military operation Khyber IV was launched in mid of July remained the most disturbed area of the agency.

The violent incidents both terrorist and counter-terrorist, resulted in a total of 141 casualties – 66 killed and 75 injured – across FATA. Following graphs provide an overview of these casualties.

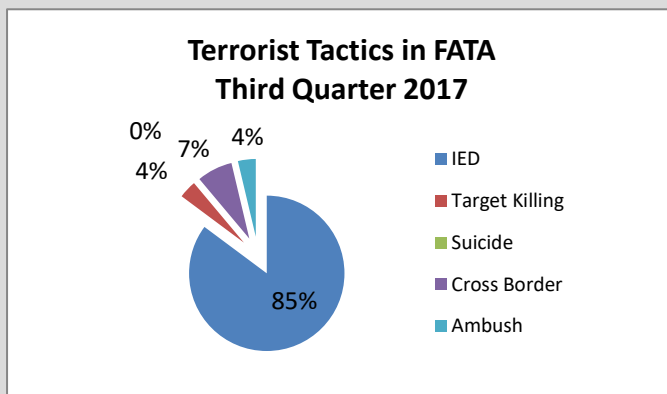


The graph illustrates that civilians remained the main target of terrorist organization during the third quarter (July-September 2017). Most of the civilian casualties were reported from the Bajaur Agency where 5 civilians were killed

while 32 others were injured. Mohmand and Khyber Agency follow the list with 10 and nine respectively.

Similarly, 35 terrorists were killed while five others were injured during the outgoing quarter which forms 17 percent of the overall casualties. The security forces suffered 41 casualties (18 killings and 23 injuries) during the third quarter. On one occasion, terrorist also targeted members of *Amn lashkar* (Peace Committee) in Bajaur Agency via IED attack in Shagoo area of War Mamond in Bajaur agency. Both the elder and his son remained unhurt however, their car was partially damaged.

A breakdown of the terrorist attacks illustrates that IEDs remained the most preferred tactic

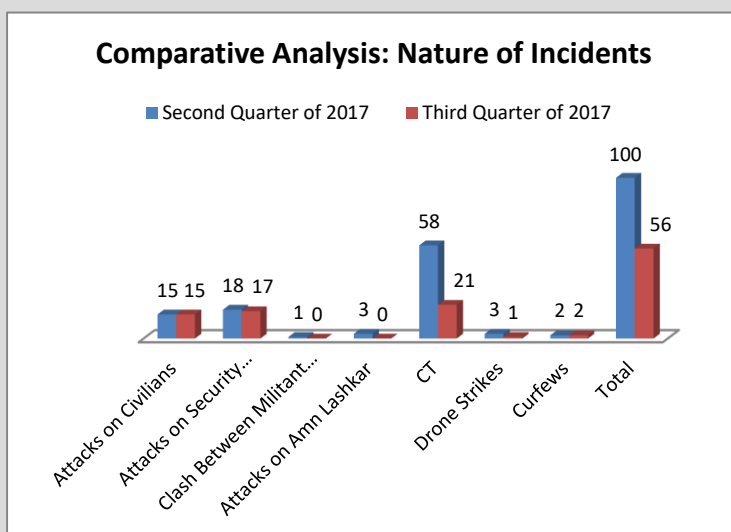


of terrorists during the third quarter of 2017. Of the total 33 terrorist incidents, 23 (43%) were IED attacks. On two occasions terrorists used cross border attack to target forces which accounted for seven percent of the total terrorist attacks. One incident of target killing and one ambush were also reported

during the third quarter of 2017.

Quarterly Comparison

The comparative analysis of the third quarter (July-September) 2017 and second quarter (April-June) of 2017 illustrates that violent incidents, both terrorism and CT have witnessed a



downward trend during the outgoing quarter. A significant decline of 44 percent was witnessed in overall violent incidents across FATA during the third quarter (July-September) 2017, as compared to the second quarter (April-June) 2017.

The graph illustrates that during third quarter of 2017, 56 violent incidents took place in comparison to 100 such incidents in the preceding quarter; marking a decline of 44 percent in violent incidents, both terrorism and counter terrorism across FATA.

Agency Wise Security Overview Third Quarter 2017

Bajaur Agency

During the third quarter (July-September) 2017, the security situation in Bajaur Agency remained volatile. In total nine violent incidents, both terrorism and counter terrorism were recorded in the agency. Out of these, five were terrorist attacks while four were CT incidents. The table given below gives an account of the overall violent incidents in Bajaur Agency during from July-September 2017.

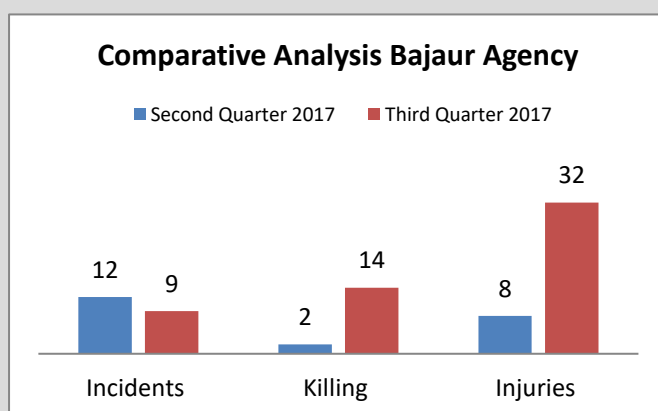
Security Situation in Bajaur Agency				
Third Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	4	8	32
	on Military	1	6	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	4	0	0
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		9	14	32

According to the above graph, of the total terrorism incidents four were terrorist attacks on civilians while one was directed towards security forces. The terrorist attacks caused 46 casualties (14 killings and 32 injuries) in total. The table below gives an account of casualties in Bajaur Agency during the third quarter of 2017.

Casualty Types Bajaur Agency Third Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorist	0	0
Civilians	5	32
Security Forces	9	0
Civil Militia/ Aman Lashkar	0	0
Total	14	32
Total Casualties	46	

During the third quarter (July-September) of 2017, the most affected areas included Shagoo, Gat Agra, Garigal area of Mamond, Tangi Badda area of Salarzai tehsil and Charmang area of Nawagai tehsil of the agency. Terrorists associated with the TTP and TTP-JuA, which are currently based in adjoining Kunar province of Afghanistan, are behind the terrorist attacks in the Bajaur. During the third quarter (July-September 2017) the terrorists targeted civilians via IED planted along the roadside in Khar and Mamond tehsil of the agency. On 17 September 2017, a political tehsildar of Momand tehsil and four Levies personnel lost their lives when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED), planted by terrorists in Bajaur Agency. Similarly, in another such incident, at least three people were killed and 26 others injured in Charmang area of the agency.

To combat terrorism incidents, the security forces conducted four search operations in Mamond, Nawagai and Salarzai tehsils of the agency, confiscated huge cache of arms and ammunition. However, majority of these operations were reactive in nature as these were being carried out after a terrorist incident in the area.



Bajaur Agency witnessed a slight decline of 25 percent in violent incidents during the third quarter (July-September) 2017 as compared to the second quarter (April to June) 2017. Conversely, the overall casualties witnessed a significant increase of 60 percent during this quarter as compare to the preceding one.

Mohmand Agency

The security situation in Mohmand Agency remained tense during the third quarter (July-September) of 2017. In total, six incidents of terrorism and CT were recorded across the agency, marking 14 percent decline in violent incidents as compared to the preceding quarter of 2017. The table below provides the nature of attacks that took place in the agency from July to September 2017.

Security Situation in Mohmand Agency				
Third Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	1	3	2
	on Military	2	1	6
	on Peace Lashkar	1	0	5
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		6	4	13

According to the above table the terrorists carried out four attacks during this quarter, out of which two were carried out against the security personnel, while civilians were targeted on one occasion. To combat the terrorist threat on two occasions targeted and intelligence based operations were carried out in the agency during the outgoing quarter of 2017.

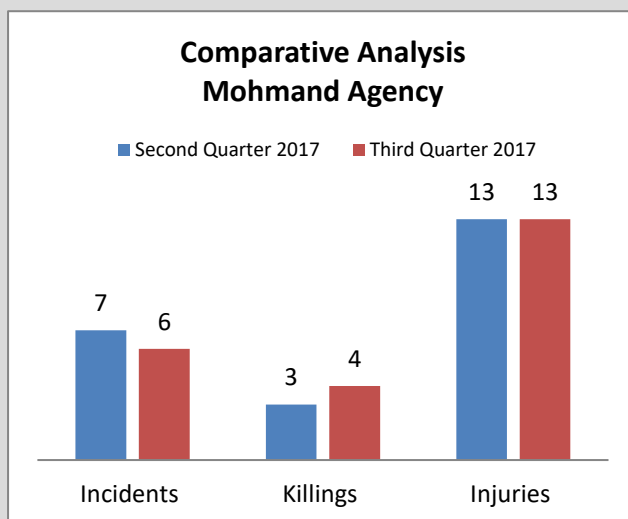
Casualty Types Mohmand Agency Third Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorist	0	5
Civilians	3	7
Security Forces	1	1
Civil Militia/ Aman Lashkar	0	0
Total	4	13
Total Casualties	17	

According to the above graph, a total of 17 casualties (four killed and 13 injured) were recorded in six terrorism and counter terrorism incidents during the outgoing quarter of 2017.

Ajdari area of Anbar tehsil and Baizai tehsil remained the most disturbed area of the agency during the third quarter (July-September 2017). Terrorists belonging to TTP currently based in Afghanistan carried out terrorist attacks in the agency through cross border attacks and at times infiltrating into the agency with the help of local sympathizers. On July 09, 2017, one soldier was killed and another sustained injuries, when terrorist targeted security forces via IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in Soran Dara village adjacent to Baizai tehsil of the agency. In another such incident, five members of security forces were injured when a convey of security forces came in contact with an IED planted by terrorist along the roadside in Koda Khel area of Baizai tehsil of the Agency.

On August 25, 2017, five people were injured when terrorist fired rockets at the house of a pro-government *Amn Lashkar* (Peace Committee) member in Ajdari area of Anbar tehsil in Mohmand Agency.

To combat the terrorist threat in the area two search operations during the third quarter of 2017.



During the third quarter (July-September) of 2017, Mohmand Agency witnessed a downward trend of 14 percent in violent incidents in comparison to the last quarter, i.e., April-June 2017. However, the casualties index remain the same with 13 (4 killed and 13 injured) reported during the second (April-June) and third quarter (July-September) 2017

Khyber Agency

Khyber Agency remained the most volatile agency during the third quarter (July-September) of 2017. In total, 28 incidents, both terrorism and CT were reported in the agency, making a decline of 18 percent in violence incidents as compared to the preceding quarter of 2017. The table below illustrates the nature of violent incidents that took place in Khyber Agency.

Security Situation in Khyber Agency				
Third Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	7	1	5
	on Military	9	9	11
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Militant Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	8	12	0
	Aerial Strikes	2	14	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		2	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		28	36	16

According to the above table, of the total 28 violent incidents, 16 were terrorist attacks on civilians and security forces compared to 11 such incidents in the preceding quarter (April-June) 2017 while 10 were CT actions. These terrorist incidents resulted in 56 casualties (39 killings and 17 injures) compared to 48 casualties (27 killings and 21 injuries) in previous quarter of 2017. The table below gives a detail account of the nature of casualties in Khyber agency during the second quarter of 2017.

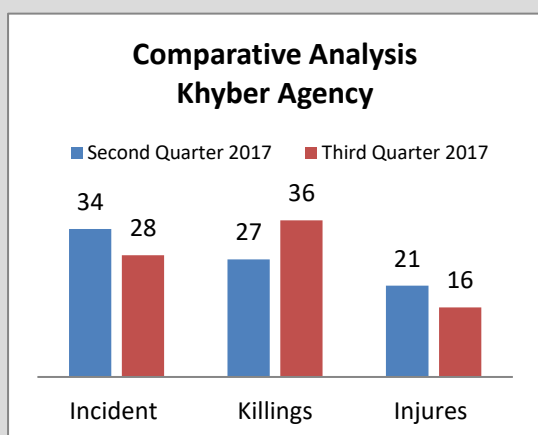
Casualty Types Khyber Agency Third Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Terrorist	32	
Civilians	3	6
Security Forces	4	11
Civil Militia/ Aman Lashkar	0	0
Total	39	17
Total Casualties	56	

According to the above graph of the total casualties, 32 were militants which accounted for 57 percent of the overall casualties. Security forces and civilian casualties follow the list with 15 (four killed and 11 injured) nine (three killed and six injured) respectively.

The most disturbed areas of the agency included Brekh Muhammad Kandao, Speenkai top, Saparay top and Sattar Kalay areas in Rajgal, and Jarobi check post of Tirah Valley, Shah Kas area of Jamrud teshil, Malikdin Khel, Malagori and Spin Qabar Chowk in Aka Khel area in Bara and Loishalman and Ghaibi Khel-Pero Khel of Landikotal. Terrorist via ambushes, IED attacks and target killing on 16 occasions targeted civilians and security forces in Tirah, Bara, Landikotal and Jamrud tehsils of the agency. On July 14, 2017, two personal of security forces were injured when terrorist ambushed a security check post in Jarobi check post of Tirah valley. Similarly, from July to September 2017, five people were killed while 16 others were injured in seven IED attacks on security forces and civilians in the agency. On two occasions terrorist via cross border attack targeted civilians and security forces. On September 24, 2017, a 22-year-old army officer was martyred when a group of terrorists from Afghanistan targeted a security check-post situated in Rajgal area of the Agency. Security forces successfully retailed and killed three terrorist.

On July 16, 2017 military operation code named, Khyber IV, was launched to clear 250 square kilometers of the Rajgal Valley of militants belonging to various groups, including Islamic State (IS). During the third quarter (July-September) 2017, as a part of the Khyber IV, 10 CT operations, (two aerial strikes and eight search operations), were carried out in Khyber Agency. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), official mouthpiece of the Pakistan Armed Forces, after the completion of this operation, Khyber Agency would be free of terrorists` as Rajgal is the last hideout terrorist groups in the Agency.

During third quarter 2017, a slight decline of 18 percent in violent incidents was observed in



Khyber Agency as compared to the previous quarter. During 2nd quarter (April-June) 2017, 34 incidents of terrorism and counter-terrorism were recorded, while during 3rd quarter 2017, 28 such incidents were reported. Moreover, the casualty index witnessed a slight increase 0.17 percent during the outgoing quarter of 2017.

Kurram Agency

Kurram Agency avowing to the sectarian nature of conflict in the agency, emergence and expansion of Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K) in Pak-Afghan region and its contiguity with Afghanistan's volatile provinces of southeast, namely Paktia, Paktika and Nangarhar, is considered as the most sensitive and vulnerable Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan. However, after passing through a volatile period during the first half of 2017, Kurram Agency witnessed a significant decline in violent incidents, both terrorism and counter terrorism incidents during the third quarter (July-September) 2017. In total, six violent incidents, both of terrorism and counter-terrorism, were recorded in the agency compared to 20 such incidents in the preceding quarter (April-June) 2017, marking a significant decline of 70 percent.

The table below illustrates the nature of incidents that took place in Kurram Agency.

Security Situation in Kurram Agency				
Third Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	0	0	0
	on Military	4	3	8
	on Peace Lashkar	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		1	3	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		6	6	8

In total, the violent incidents caused 14 casualties (six killings and eight injuries) across the agency during the third quarter (July-September) 2017. The table below gives detail of the nature of casualties in Kurram agency during the third quarter of 2017.

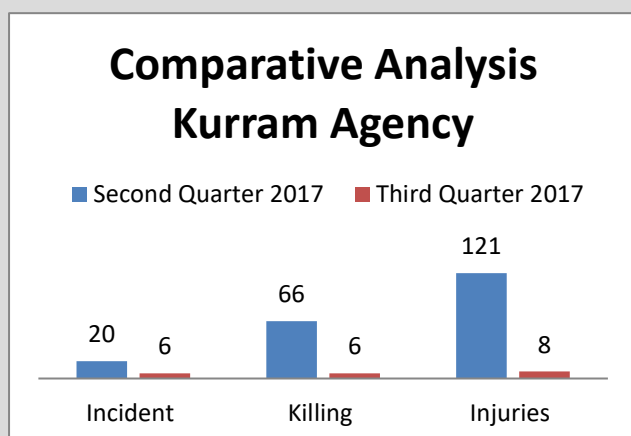
Casualty Types Kurram Agency Third Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Terrorist	3	0
Civilians		0
Security Forces	3	8
Civil Militia/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	6	8
Total Casualties	14	

During this quarter, Ghuz Ghari, Semakai and Tegha area in lower Kurram remained the most disturbed areas of the agency.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on four occasions carried out terrorist attacks against civilians and security forces during the third quarter of 2017. On July 10, 2017, at least three Frontier Corps (FC) officials were martyred and four others injured when terrorist belonging to TTP targeted security forces via IED in Tegha area of Lower Kurram. Later on September 27, 2017, around four security personnel were injured in two landmines blast in Semakai area of Lower Kurram near Pak-Afghan border.

In order to curb the growing terrorist activities, security forces carried out one Intelligence based operation (IBO) during the third quarter of 2017 in the Kurram Agency. Beside, IBOs, senior security officials on August 06, 2017 convened a *jirga* of tribal elders from lower and central Kurram in which the tribal elders vowed to fight alongside the security forces against terrorist to ensure sustainable peace in the area. Earlier, on July 13 July, 2017, local political leaders, elders of Bangash, Chamkani, Alisherzai, Masozai, Zimasht and Mengal tribes, religious scholars during a Jirga demanded of the political administration to seize arms from all the houses in the agency.

Similarly, on September 15, 2017, three terrorist, including a commander of Haqqani network was killed when US drone attack in Ghuz Ghari village of lower Kurram.



During the third quarter of 2017, a significant decline of 70 percent in terrorism related incidents was observed, compared to the previous quarter of 2017. Compared to 20 terrorism incidents in the second quarter of 2017, only six such incidents were recorded during the third quarter (July-September) 2017. Similar a

downward trend was observed in casualty index. During second quarter of 2017, 212 casualties (69 killings and 143 injuries) were recorded, while during the third quarter (July-September) 2017, only 14 casualties (six killings and eight injuries) were reported in the agency. This marks an incremental decline of 93 % in overall casualties as compared to the previous quarter of 2017.

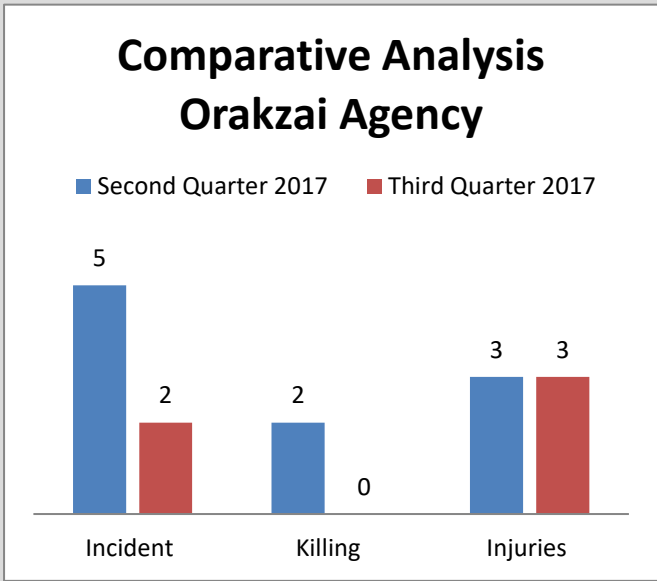
Orakzai Agency

Orakzai Agency with exception to one terrorism incidents largely remained peaceful during third quarter (July-September) 2017. The table below provides an overview of the nature of incidents and resultant casualties that took place in Orakzai Agency.

Security Situation in Orakzai Agency				
Third Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	0	0	0
	on Military	1	0	3
	on Peace Lashkar		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		2	0	3

In total, two violent incidents, both terrorism and counter-terrorism were recorded in the agency during third quarter (July-September) 2017. The table below illustrates the nature of casualties in Orakzai agency during third quarter of 2017

Casualty Types Orakzai Agency Third Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Terrorist	0	0
Civilians	0	0
Security Forces	0	3
Civil Militia/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	00	3
Total Casualties	3	



Orakzai Agency witnessed a significant decline of 60 % in violent incidents, both terrorist and counter terrorism during the third quarter (July-September) 2017, as compared to the previous quarter (April-June) 2017. In total two violent incidents (one terrorism and one CT) were recorded during the third quarter as compared to five such incidents during the preceding quarter of 2017. However, the casualty

index remained the same as compared to the previous quarter of 2017.

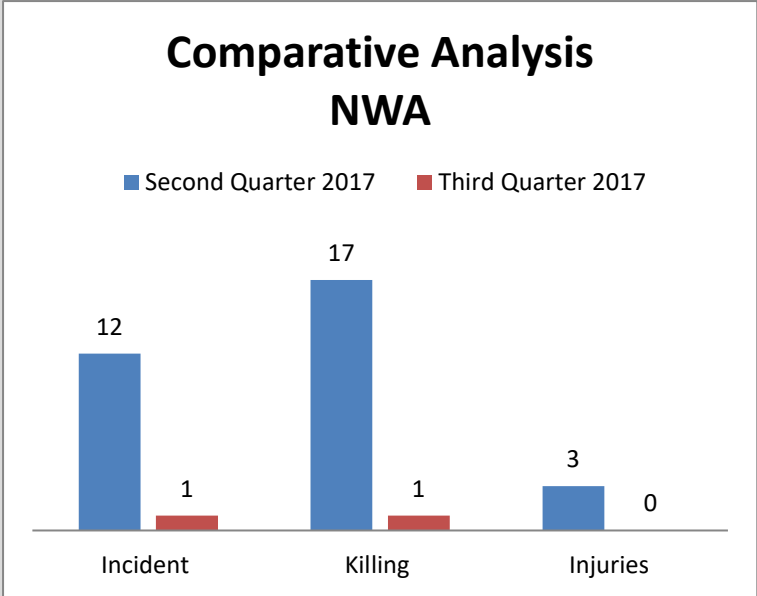
North Waziristan Agency

North Waziristan Agency with exception to one terrorist attack on civilian remained comparatively peaceful during the third quarter (July-September) 2017. The table below illustrates the nature of incidents that took place during third quarter of 2017 across the agency.

Security Situation in NWA Agency				
Third Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	1	1	0
	on Military	0	0	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
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		1	1	0

The terrorist attack on civilian in North Waziristan Agency caused one casualties during third quarter 2017. The below table provides the casualty index of the agency for third quarter of 2017.

Casualty Types NWA Agency Third Quarter 2016	Killed	Injured
Terrorist	0	0
Civilians	1	0
Security Forces	0	0
Civil Militia/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	1	0
Total Casualties	1	



During the third quarter (July-September) 2017, a significant decline in violent incident and causality indexes was witnessed in NWA as compared to the second quarter (April-June) 2017. During the outgoing quarter of 2017, only one violent incident was recorded as compared to 12 such incidents in the previous quarter.

Similarly, as compared to 20 casualties (17 Killings and three injuries) in the second quarter of 2017 only one civilian was killed during the outgoing quarter of 2017.

South Waziristan Agency

The security situation in South Waziristan Agency (SWA) remained disturbed during the third quarter (July-September) 2017. However, compared to the second quarter (April-June) of 2017 a downward trend in violent incidents, both terrorism and counter terrorism incidents were recorded during the third quarter (July-September) 2017. The agency witnessed 04 violent incidents during this quarter, marking a significant decline of 67 percent in terrorism incidents.

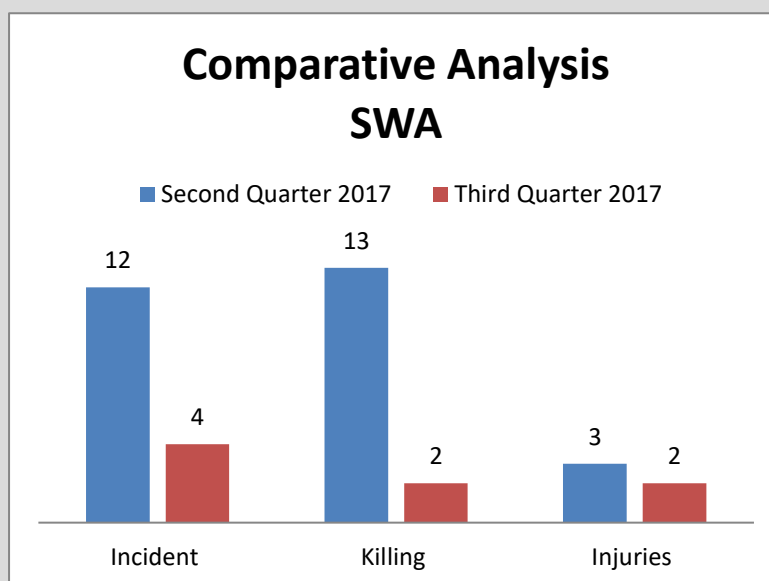
The below table provides an overview of violent incidents and the resultant casualties that took place during the third quarter across SWA.

Security Situation in SWA Agency				
Third Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	3	1	2
	on Military	1	1	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
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		4	2	2

The violent incidents resulted in four casualties (two killings and two injuries) during this quarter in SWA. According the table below, of the overall casualties three were civilians (one killed and two injured) while one was that of security forces.

Casualty Types SWA Agency Third Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorist	0	0
Civilians	1	2
Security Forces	1	0
Civil Militia/ Aman Lashkar	0	0
Total	2	2
Total Casualties	4	

During third quarter (July-September) 2017, Tangrai and Bibizai Ragzai area Ladha tehsil, and Zara Leta area of Wana tehsil remained the most disturbed areas of the agency. On August 14, 2017, a soldier was killed when he stepped on a roadside planted IED while bringing water from a nearby tube well. Later on September 09, 2017, in another such incident a man was killed in Bibizai Ragzai area in Ladha tehsil Agency. Similarly, on September 20, 2017, one person was critically injured when an IED planted by unknown militant went off in Tangrai area of Ladha tehsil.



During third quarter 2017, the incident index witnessed a down ward trend as compared to the second quarter 2017. The incident index declined by 67 percent during the third quarter as compared to the previous one. Similarly, the casualty index observed a significant decrease of 75 percent during the third

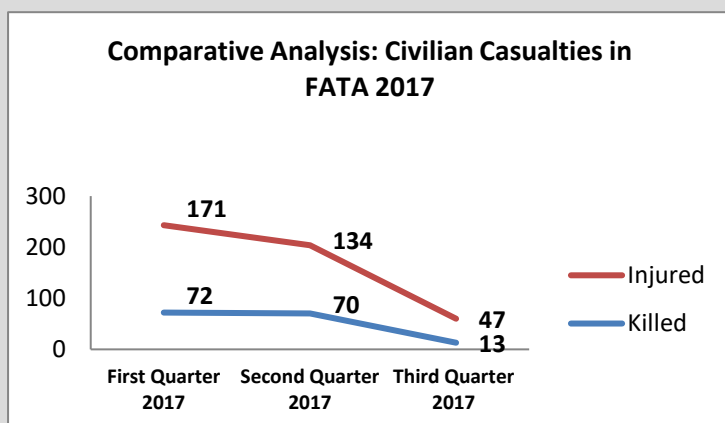
quarter of 2017 as compared to preceding quarter. In total, four violent incidents caused four casualties (two killings and two injuries) during third quarter 2017, while 12 such incidents resulted in 16 casualties (13 killings and three injuries) during the previous quarter of 2017.

Trend and Analysis

The security situation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan (FATA) remained volatile during the third quarter (July-September) of 2017, however as compared to the previous quarter (April-June) 2017 violent incidents both terrorism and counter terrorism declined in the outgoing quarter of 2017. Compared to 100 violent incidents in the previous quarter (April to June 2017), 56 violent incidents, both terrorism and counter terrorism, were reported from July to September of the current year, marking a slight decline of 44 % in violent incidents.

The casualty index also witnessed a downward trend during the third quarter (July-September) of 2017. The terrorism incidents resulted in 141 casualties – 66 killed and 75 injured – across FATA from July to September compared to 309 (137 Killed and 172 Injured) in the previous quarter (April-June) of the current year, marking a significant decline of 54 percent. Civilian casualties in particular witnessed a significant decline during the third quarter which signifies the improvement in security situation in FATA. However, improvised explosive devices, planted both by security forces (to stop terrorist infiltration) and terrorist (to target security forces and civilians) remained major threat to civilians, particularly, in Mehsud area of South Waziristan. On August 14, 2017, a soldier was killed when he stepped on a roadside planted IED while bringing water from a nearby tube well. Later on September 09, 2017, in another such incident a man was killed in Bibizai Ragzai area in Ladha tehsil Agency. Similarly, on September 20, 2017, one person was critically injured when an IED planted by unknown militant went off in Tangrai area of Ladha tehsil.

The graph below shows a comparative analysis of civilian casualties during the past three quarters (January-September) 2017.



The graph shows that civilian casualties witnessed a downward trend during the first three quarters of 2017. Compared to 243 civilian

casualties (72 killing and 171 injures) the first quarter (January-March) 2017, 204 civilian casualties (70 killing and 134 injuries) were reported across the seven agencies of FATA during the second quarter (April-June) 2017. A similar trend was witnessed during third quarter 2017. 60 civilian casualties (13 killing and 47) were reported during the third quarter (July-September) 2017, marking a significant decline of 70 percent as compared to the previous quarter.

Although terrorist activities and the resultant casualties observed a significant downward trend during the outgoing quarter of 2017, however, terrorist threat still prevails in the areas as terrorist belong to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), TTP-JamatulAhrar (TTP-JuA) and Laskar-e-Islam (LI) with weak operational capacity are still active in all the seven agencies of FATA. On 33 occasions these terrorist groups carried out violent attacks on civilians and security forces in all the seven agencies of FATA during the third quarter of 2017. A breakdown of these terrorist incidents shows that 17 terrorist attacks (40 percent) were targeted at the security forces while 15 attacks (39 percent) were directed against civilians. One terrorist attack (three percent of the attacks) was launched by terrorist to targeted members of *Amn Lashkar* (Peace Committee).

Although terrorist activities were reported from all the seven agencies of FATA, however, Khyber Agency where military operation “*Khyber IV*” was launched against terrorist outfits on July 16, 2017, remained the most volatile Agency. According to ISPR, security forces launched the operation “*Khyber IV*” to clear 250 square kilometers in the Rajgal Valley of militants belonging to various groups, Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K). The area is considered as the last hideout of terrorists in Khyber Agency and it is expected that over 1,500 dislocated families would be repatriated to the valley after getting security clearance from the army.

On September 02 Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Khyber Agency where he was briefed that 90 percent of the objectives of military operation “*Khyber IV*” were achieved. According to ISPR, security forces, including personnel of Special Services Group, backed by heavy artillery and air force took control of Kandu Gharebai, Sattar Kalay and Speena Norga hilltops from the Kurram Agency side. They also established their trenches and security posts atop Brekh Muhammad Kandaw, Sattu Kandawand Thora Teega. Elite SSG personnel were engaged in the operation because of the rough and tough terrain of Rajgal. According to military sources with effective control of Brekh Muhammad

Kandaw and Thora Teega, security forces had plugged the entry of terrorist from Afghanistan into Pakistani territory. Previously, terrorist had been secretly using Kandu Gharebai and Sattar Kalay routes while crossing the border from Speena Morga height from the Kurram Agency side to carry out terrorist activities inside Pakistan.

On August 21, 2017, Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor announced the successful completion of Operation “Khyber IV”. While brief the press, Mr. Gafoor said that in over a month-long campaign supported by Pakistan Air Force, the army gained full control of the Valley that shares border with Afghanistan’s Nangarhar province, known as a hotbed of Islamic State of Khorasan.

Although, security forces claimed to clear the FATA from all kinds of terrorist outfits in successive military operations, yet militants are able to carry out terrorist activities in all the seven agencies of FATA with varying intensity. Similarly, on September 15, 2017, three terrorist including a mid-level commander of Haqqani Network were killed in a US drone attack in Ghuzghari area of lower Kurram. The 33 terrorist incidents in FATA and the killing of terrorist in US drone attacks and CT operations during the third quarter of 2017, illustrate the presences of terrorist networks, albeit with limited operational capacity in all the seven agencies. However, a deeper look into the terrorist activities occurred during the third quarter (July-September) 2017 shows that majority of the terrorist and counter terrorist activities took place in areas close to the Afghan border. Since majority of the top leadership of all the anti-state terrorist groups are currently taking refuge in Nangarhar, Khost, Paktika, Paktia, Helmand, Kunar and Nooristan provinces of Afghanistan, it is believed that the planning of these terrorist activities were done in these provinces and are executed with the help of local sympathizers in across FATA.

Militant Tactics

The successive full fledge military operation along with intelligence based operations (IOBs) as a part of ongoing nationwide operation “Rad-ul Fasad” has significantly weakened the terrorist groups previously operating in FATA. Resultantly terrorist operational capacity in FATA has been weakened. During third quarter (July-September) 2017, 33 terrorist incidents were reported in FATA. A breakdown of these terrorist incidents shows that IED remained the most preferred tactics of terrorist during this quarter. Of the overall terrorist incidents 23 (85%) were IED attacks. On two occasions terrorists used cross border attack to target forces which accounted for seven percent of the total terrorist attacks. One incident of target killing

and one ambush were also reported during the third quarter of 2017. No incident of suicide attack was witnessed during the third quarter of 2017 which signifies the weak operational capacity of terrorist inside FATA.

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