



FATA SECURITY REPORT

First Quarter 2017

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**First Quarter 2017
(January - March)**

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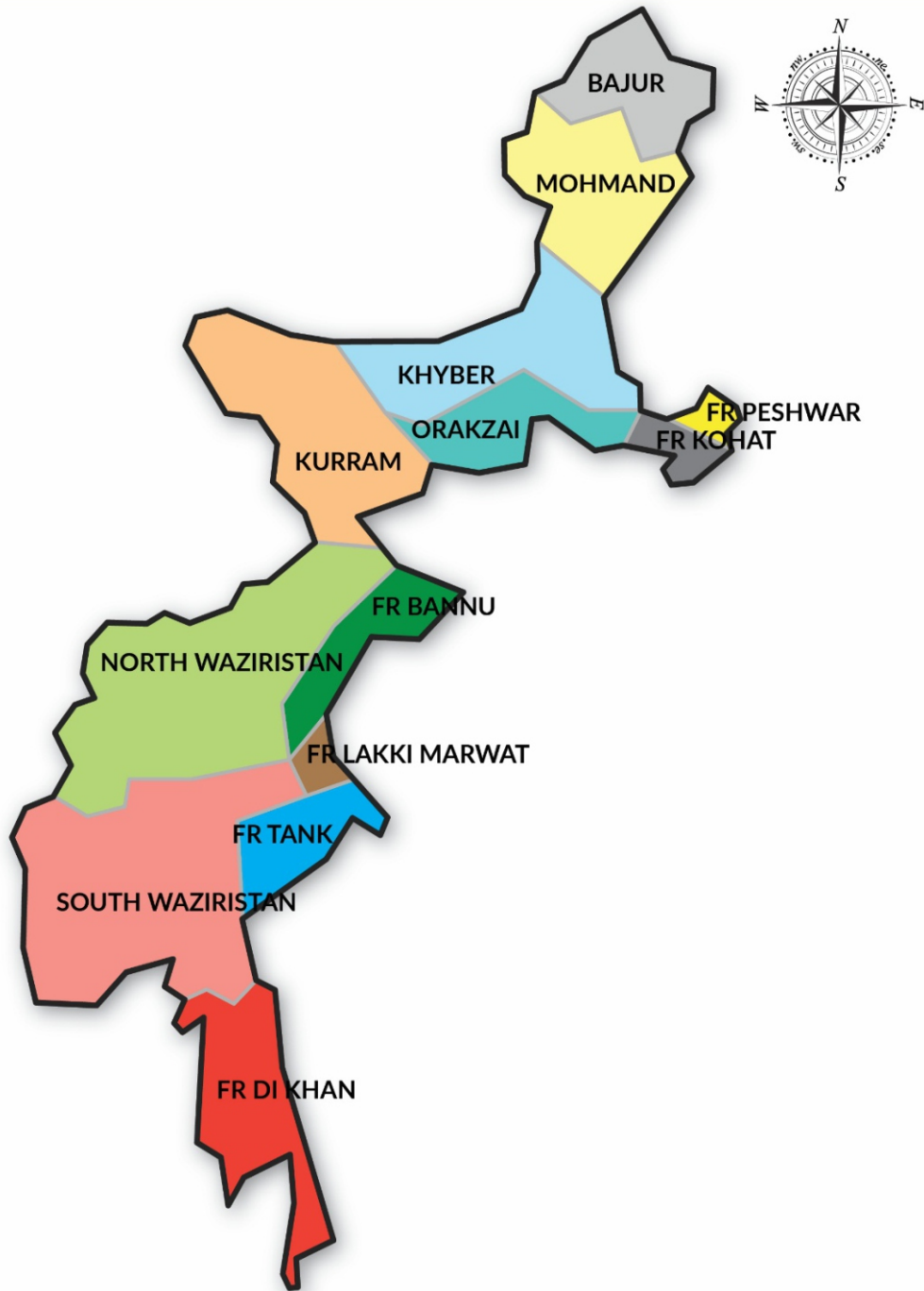
Irfan-U-Din

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1	1
Introduction	1
Security Overview of FATA 1st Quarter, 2017	1
Quarterly Comparison	4
Chapter 2	7
Agency wise Security Overview, First Quarter 2017	7
Bajaur Agency	7
Mohmand Agency	9
Khyber Agency	11
Kurram Agency	13
Orakzai Agency	15
North Waziristan Agency	16
South Waziristan Agency	18
Chapter 3	20
Trends and Analysis	20
Violence and Actor Mapping	20
Terrorists Tactics	23
Operation Ghazi by Jamaat-ul-Ahrar	24
Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad	25
Fencing Pak-Afghan Border	25

Map Of FATA



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

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 Waziris tan 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

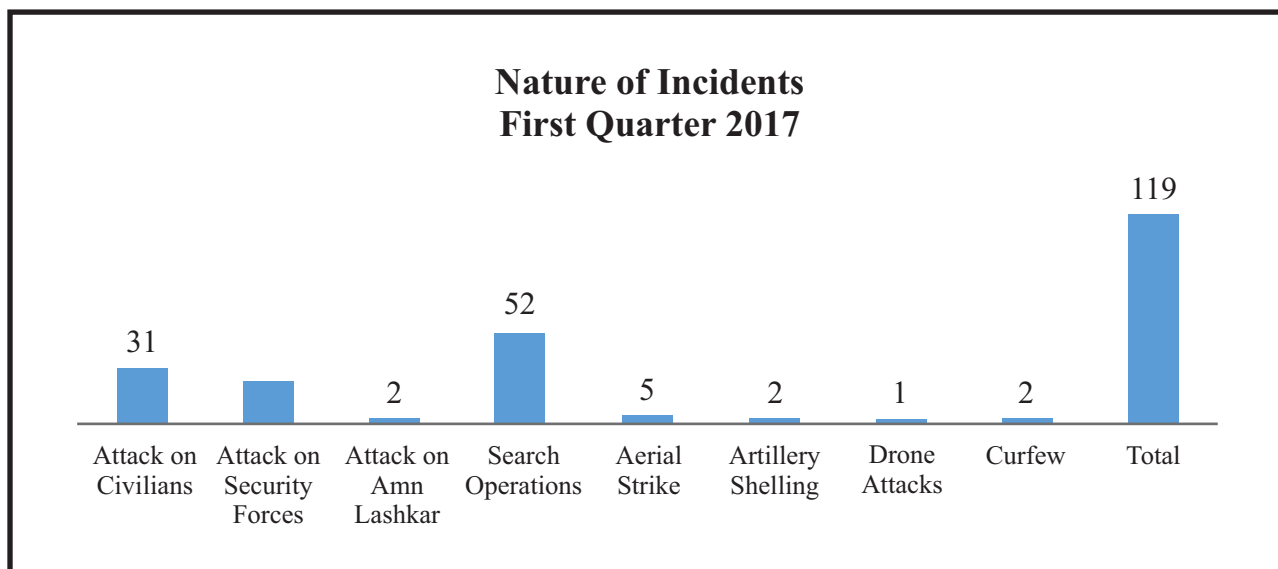
Terrorist Attacks	Indiscriminate use of violence by local, non-local, and foreign terrorist outfits.
Counter-Terrorist Attacks	Large-scale military operations launched by security forces and para-military troops against terrorist in FATA in order to restore law and order and to establish the writ of 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.
Total Number of Casualties	The sum of total killed and injured in FATA due to terrorist and counter-terrorist activities.

Chapter 1

Introduction

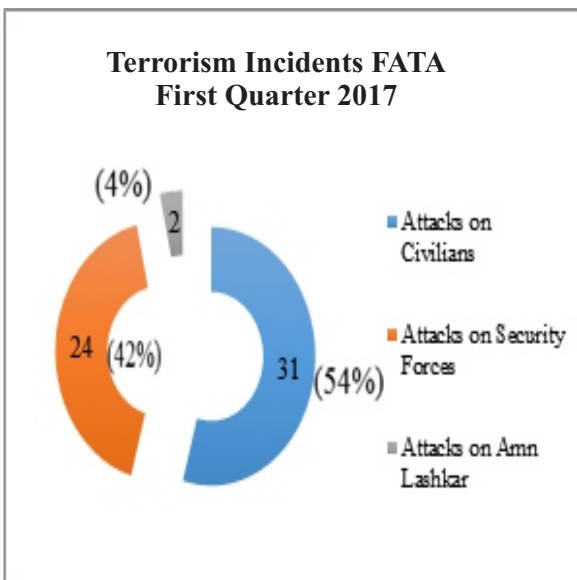
Security Overview of FATA 1st Quarter, 2017

The security situation in FATA remained volatile during the first quarter (January-March) of 2017. Although security forces persistently carried out operations in order to curb the terrorists' activities, the latter continued their attacks, both against civilians and the security personnel, during this quarter. While the security forces were also targeted by the terrorists, the civilians remained the prime target during first quarter of 2017. On the other hand, security forces persistently carried relied upon kinetic means to countervail the terrorist attacks perpetrated by terrorist outfits operating in FATA. The ratio of counter terrorism (CT) offensives remained high in comparison to the terrorist attacks during the first quarter of 2017. The following table and graph give an overview of nature of incidents during this quarter in entire FATA region:



A total of 119 terrorism and counter-terrorism incidents were recorded during first quarter (January-March) 2017. The number of violent incidents, both terrorism and CT, witnessed 72% increase during the first quarter of 2017, compared to the previous quarter (October-December 2016), which recorded 69 such incidents.

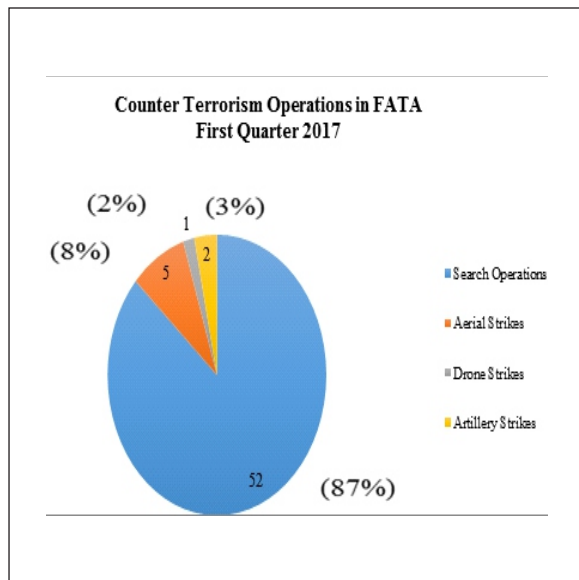
Between January-March 2017, a total of 57 terrorist attacks were carried out by various terrorist outfits, out of which 31 targeted the civilians while 24 were aimed against the security personnel. Two terrorist attacks targeted members of Amn Lashkar. Conversely, security forces conducted 60 CT operations against the terrorists. A tehsil-level (sub-division) curfew was also clamped on two different occasions during CT operations. The following graphs illustrate terrorist attacks in FATA during the first quarter (January-March) 2017.



During the first quarter of 2017, terrorists carried out 31 terrorist attacks or 54% of the total violent incidents against civilians which killed 72 people and injured 164 others. The attacks against civilians included two high profile attacks in Parachinar, headquarters of the Kurram Agency. The first attack was conducted on 21 January 2017, in which an IED explosion in a market left 22 civilians dead and 35 others wounded. The second attack targeted a Shia mosque, thereby killing 23 people and injuring 100 others.

Various terrorist outfits conducted 24 terrorist attacks against security forces during this quarter in FATA. The terrorists attacked security forces by employing IEDs on seven occasions; ambushing security check posts on ten occasions; and conducting cross border attacks on three occasions. Three incidents of targeted killing of security personnel and one incident of a human-borne suicide attack in Mohmand Agency on 15 February 2017 was also reported. Further, prominent members of Aman Lashkars were targeted on two occasions – one through an road-side IED and target killing of a member – in the Khyber Agency.

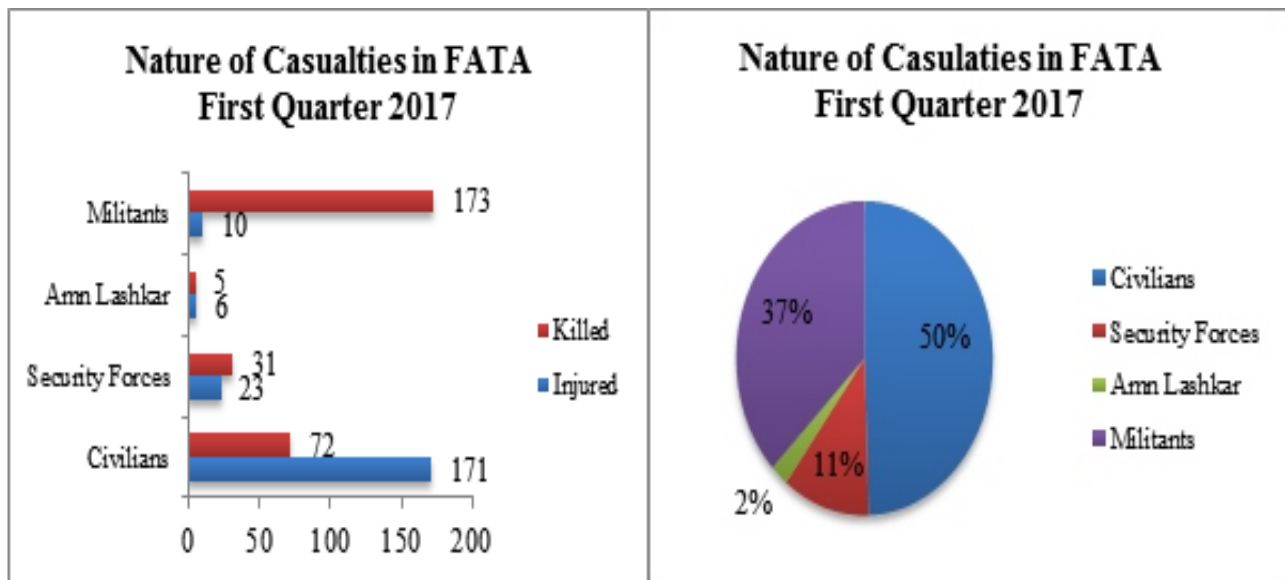
To combat the escalating terrorist violence in FATA, Pakistani security forces carried out regular counter offensives, which included search operations and aerial strikes, during the first quarter (January-March) 2017.



These incidents are illustrated in the graphs below. Due to resurgent terrorist violence in FATA, security forces conducted 52 search operations in all the seven agencies of FATA. Although counter-terrorism operations were launched in all the agencies, the Khyber Agency remained the prime focus of these operations where 24 CT offensives - 18 search operations, four aerial strikes and two artillery shellings - were recorded. An incident of aerial strike was recorded in the remotest area of North Waziristan Agency (NWA). Moreover, the security

forces also clamped curfews on two occasions – one in Khar, headquarters of Bajaur Agency on 16 February 2017, and the other in Dara Zinda area of NWA on 17 March 2017.

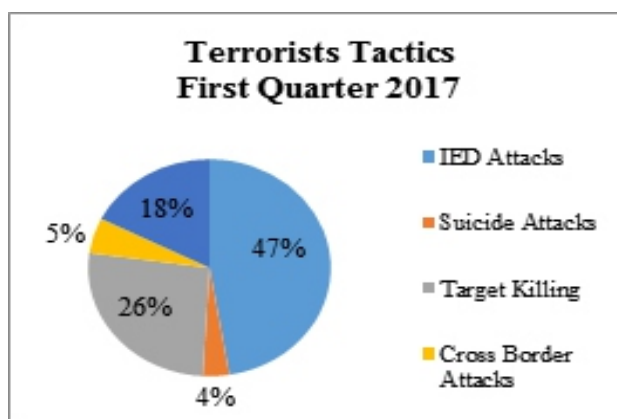
These terrorist and counter-terrorist operations resulted in a total of 491 casualties – 281 killed and 210 injured – across FATA. Following graphs provide an overview of these casualties.



In terms of CT operations, 183 casualties (173 killings and 10 injuries) of terrorists were recorded in all the seven agencies of FATA. Most of the terrorist casualties were reported from the Khyber Agency where 87 terrorists were killed. In terms of civilian casualties, the Kurram Agency remained at the top due to two major terrorist attacks which took place in Parachinar. A total of 182 casualties - 45 killed and 137 injured – were reported during the said quarter.

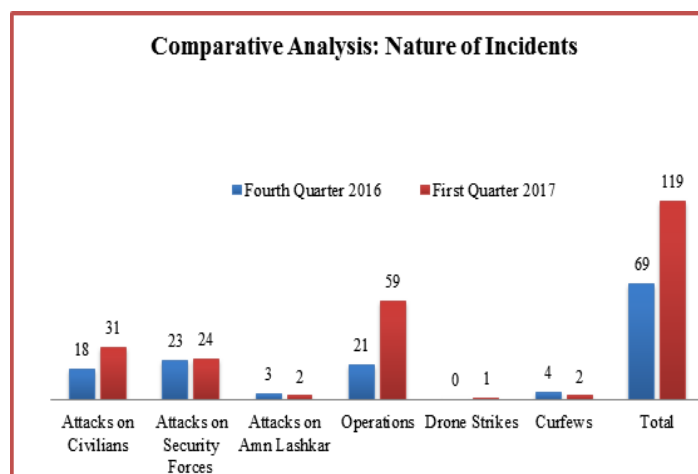
A breakdown of the terrorist attacks highlights that IEDs remained the most preferred tactic of terrorists during the first quarter of 2017. On 27 occasions, terrorists opted for IED attacks, which accounts for around 47% of the total terrorist attacks during the quarter. Similarly, targeted killing incidents remained the second preferred mode of terrorists and accounted for 26% of the total attacks. Ambushes remained the third preferred mode of attack and formed 18% of the total share of terrorist attacks. The terrorists ambushed the security forces across FATA. Though suicide attacks remained quite low - around 5% percent – they caused the maximum number of casualties.

Terrorists Tactics First Quarter 2017			
Tactic	Civilians	Security Forces	Peace Militia
IED	19	7	1
Target Killing	11	3	1
Suicide	1	1	0
Cross Border	0	3	0
Ambush	0	10	0



Quarterly Comparison

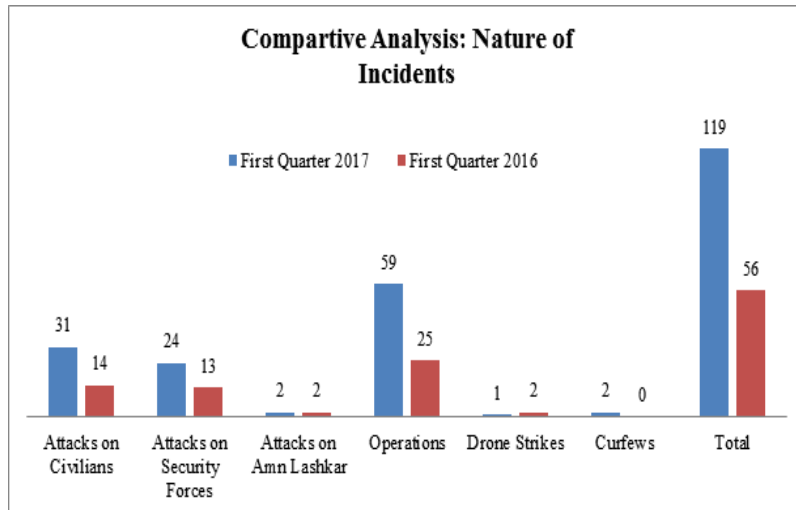
The comparative analysis of the first quarter 2017 and last quarter of 2016 highlights that both



terrorism and CT incidents have witnessed an upward trend during the former. A spike of 72% was witnessed in overall violent incidents across FATA during the first quarter (January-March) 2017, as compared to fourth quarter (October-December) 2016. The graph below indicates the comparative analysis of

terrorist and CT incidents between the two quarters.

During first quarter of 2017, 119 violent incidents took place in comparison to 69 such incidents in the preceding quarter. There was a 176% increase in CT operations during this time. During fourth quarter (October-December) 2016, 21 CT operations were conducted, while 60 CT incidents were recorded in the first quarter of 2017. Likewise, a hike of 72% was observed in terrorist attacks aimed against the civilians.



On the other hand, the comparative analysis of the first quarters of 2016 and 2017 highlights that the latter witnessed a rise of 112% in overall violent incidents in FATA. The following graph illustrates the comparative picture of first quarters of 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Chapter 2 Agency wise Security Overview First Quarter 2017

Bajaur Agency

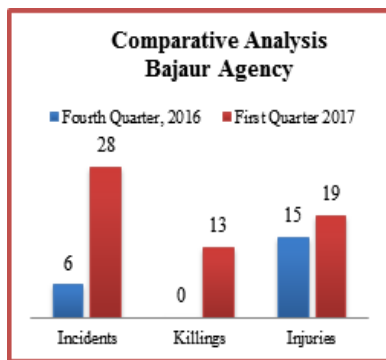
During first quarter (January-March) 2017, the security situation in Bajaur Agency remained volatile as 28 violent incidents were recorded across the agency. Out of these, 15 were terrorist attacks while security forces conducted twelve operations. Moreover, on February 16, security forces also enforced a curfew in Khar, the headquarters of Bajaur Agency.

Security Situation in Bajaur Agency				
First Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	11	9	13
	on Military	4	2	6
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Terrorist Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	12	2	0
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		1	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		28	13	19

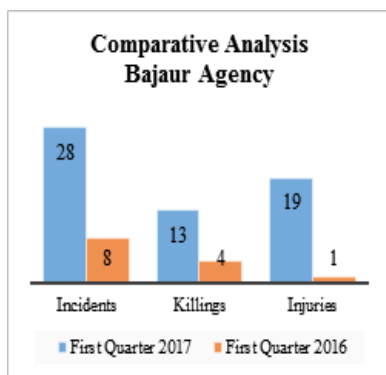
The terrorist attacks caused 30 casualties (11 killings and 19 injuries) in total, while two terrorists were killed during the search operations. The dead included two security personnel and nine civilians, while the injured included six security personnel and 13 civilians.

Casualty Types Bajaur Agency First Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorists	2	
Civilians	9	12
Security Forces	2	7
Aman Lashkar	0	0
Total	13	19
Total Casualties	32	

During the first quarter of 2017, the most affected areas included Mamond, Salarzai, Arang, and Khar tehsils of the Agency. Terrorists associated with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and TTP-Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (TTP-JuA) have so far been operating in the area. The terrorists conducted two IED attacks against security personnel – both attacks took place in the Mamond tehsil of the agency. Moreover, terrorists belonging to the TTP and TTP-JuA, who have established their sanctuaries in adjoining Kunar province of Afghanistan, restored to cross-border attacks on two occasions to target security forces deployed along the Afghan border. On the other hand, terrorists carried out six IED attacks targeting the civilians. The civilians were also targeted in target killing incidents on five occasions during this quarter. During search operations, security forces also demolished the house of Anwarul Haq, a facilitator of Lahore suicide attack, on 13 February 2017. The house was located in Barkalan area of Mamond tehsil.



Bajaur Agency witnessed a rise of violent incidents to 66% during first quarter 2017 as compared to fourth quarter (October-December) 2016. Likewise, with reference to casualties, a rise of 113% was observed during this quarter as compare to the preceding one. During fourth quarter of 2016, six incidents were recorded leaving 15 people wounded. On the other hand, during first quarter of 2017, 28 violent incidents left 13 people dead while 19 others wounded.



As compared to first quarter of 2016, Bajaur Agency also witnessed a rise of 250% in violent incidents during the first quarter of 2017. Likewise, a rise of 540% in casualty rate was recorded during first quarter of 2017, compared to first quarter of 2016. During first quarter 2016, five casualties (four killings and one injured) were recorded in eight violent incidents that took place in the agency. Conversely, during first quarter of 2017, 32 casualties (13 killing and 19 injuries) were recorded across the agency.

Mohmand Agency

The security situation in Mohmand Agency remained volatile during the first quarter of 2017. In total, 12 incidents of terrorism and CT were recorded across the agency. These violent incidents resulted in 66 casualties (48 killings and 18 injuries). The table below provides the nature of attacks that took place in the agency.

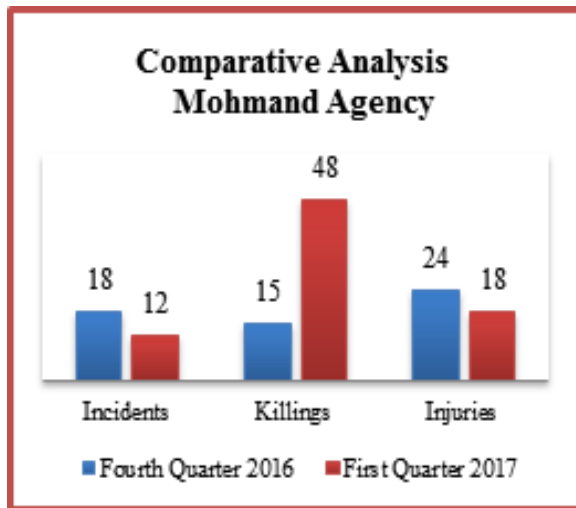
Security Situation in Mohmand Agency				
First Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	1	1	0
	on Military	6	34	18
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Terrorist Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	5	13	0
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		12	48	18

The terrorists carried out seven attacks during this quarter, out of which six were carried out against the security personnel, while civilians were targeted in an IED attack. The attacks resulted in 53 casualties (35 killings and 18 injuries). Moreover, 13 terrorists were also killed during security operations in the agency.

Casualty Types Mohmand Agency First Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorists	38	6
Civilians	1	8
Security Forces	9	4
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	48	18
Total Casualties	66	

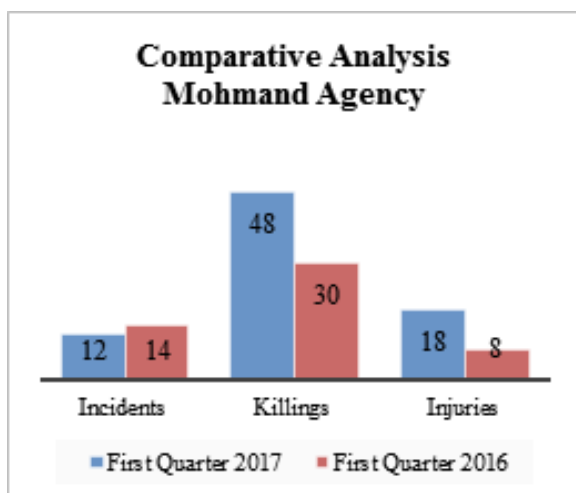
The most disturbed areas of the agency during the first quarter of 2017 are Olai, Michni, Pandialay, Daudzai, Safi and Ghallanai. Terrorists launched four ambushes on security check post in Olai, Safi, Maxhni and Ghallanai areas of the agency. An IED attack against security forces was carried out in Daudzai

area which left three security personnel and eight civilian wounded. On the other hand, the security forces foiled a suicide bid in Ghallanai, the headquarters of Mohmand Agency. Two suicide bombers who tried to forcefully enter the political administration office were intercepted and killed by the security personnel on 15 February 2017. However, three security personnel were killed while suicide vest of an assailant exploded following the retaliatory firing by security forces. TTP-JuA claimed responsibility for the suicide attack. Conversely, security forces conducted five security operations in order to countervail the terrorist cadres' maneuverings.



During the first quarter of 2017, Mohmand Agency witnessed a downward trend in violent incidents in comparison to the last quarter, i.e., October-December 2016. However, with reference to casualties, an upward trend was witnessed. During first quarter of 2017, 12 violent incidents were reported in the agency, while 18 such incidents were reported during the preceding quarter, thus, making a 33% decrease in terrorist

attacks. Conversely, the agency witnessed 69 % increase in casualties which took place during the first quarter as compared to fourth quarter 2016. In total, 66 casualties (48 killings and 18 injuries) were witnessed during first quarter 2017 compared to 39 casualties (15 killings and 24 injuries) during the preceding quarter.



Likewise, the agency witnessed 16% decrease in terrorist attacks during first quarter of January-March 2017 as compared to first quarter 2016. Conversely, a 73% increase in casualty rate recorded during this quarter as compared to the similar period in 2016. During this quarter, 66 casualties (48 killings and 18 injuries) were recorded in 12 violent incidents;

however, during the same period in 2016, 38 casualties (30 killings and 8 injuries) were recorded in 14 incidents of violence.

Khyber Agency

The security situation in Khyber agency remained tense during the outgoing quarter of 2017. In total, 42 incidents, both of terrorism and CT were reported in the agency. The table below illustrates the nature of violent incidents that took place in Khyber Agency.

Security Situation in Khyber Agency				
First Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	9	5	2
	on Military	7	26	6
	on Peace Lashkar	2	5	6
Clashes Between Terrorist Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	18	2	0
	Aerial Strikes	4	35	0
	Artillery Shelling	2	30	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	2	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		42	105	14

The violent incidents caused 119 casualties (105 killings and 14 injuries) across the agency during first quarter (January-March) 2017. To combat the terrorists, security forces conducted 18 search operations and four aerial strikes during this quarter. Moreover, security forces also carried out artillery shelling in Landikotal and Rena area of the agency.

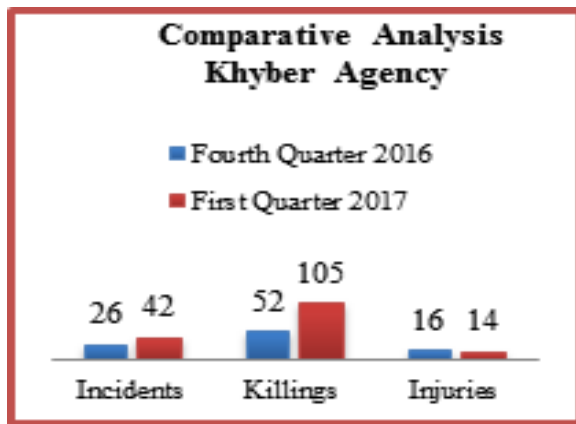
Casualty Types Khyber Agency First Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorists	87	0
Civilians	5	2
Security Forces	8	6
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	5	6
Total	105	14
Total Casualties	119	

The most disturbed areas of the agency included Rajgal area of Tirah Valley, Sur Kamar, Torkham, Rena, Lala Kandao, Rakha Laman, Shin Po, Pera Khel, Jamrud, Bara and Landikotal. The terrorists attacked civilians while employing the IEDs on six occasions in Pera Khel, Jamrud and Landikotal. The civilians were also attacked in target killing incidents on three occasions in Bara and Jamrud.

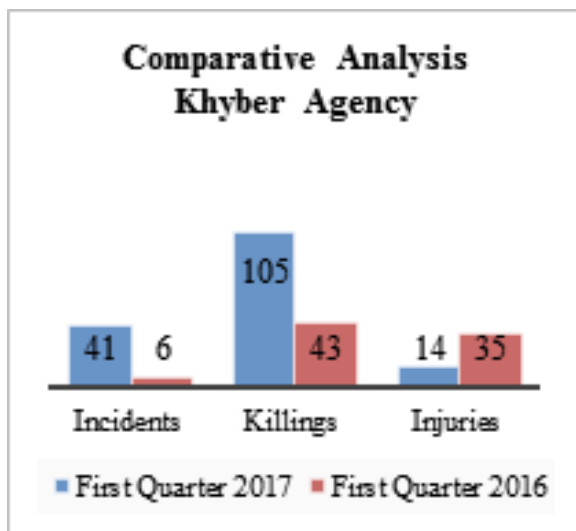
On the other hand, the terrorists attacked security personnel on seven occasions across Khyber Agency during first quarter pertaining to January-March 2017. Terrorists targeted security personnel on three occasions in Jamrud tehsil which left three security personnel dead. Moreover, four ambushes against the security check posts were also carried out in Landikotal and Torkham areas of the agency during this quarter. During an ambush in Landikotal on 17 February 2017, terrorists from across the border attacked a security check post. The attack was repulsed during the counteraction which left six terrorists dead. Nevertheless, two security personnel were also killed and two others wounded. Interestingly, the incident of cross border attack came when Pakistani and Afghan authorities were engaged in a dialogue over the closure of border by Pakistan. The TTP-JuA claimed responsibility for the attack.

The terrorists also targeted members of Aman Lashkar during the outgoing quarter in Khyber Agency on two occasions. An IED attack in Jamrud killed two members of the Aman Lashkar members and injured four others on 31 January 2017. Moreover, three Aman Lashkar members were killed while two others wounded in a target killing incident in Landikotal on 7 February 2017.

Although security forces conducted search operations in all seven agencies during this quarter; nonetheless, Khyber was an exception where four aerial strikes were also conducted. The aerial strikes predominantly targeted Rajgal area of Tirah valley. Following the tip-off regarding presence of Mangal Bagh, chief of Lashkar-e-Islam, the aerial strikes were largely aimed at targeting him in Rajgal. Moreover, a suicide trainer, Rehman Baba, was also killed during these strikes. The security forces also destroyed the hideouts of JuA and TTP, located in the border areas.



During first quarter 2017, a rise of 61% in violent incident was observed in Khyber Agency as compared to the previous quarter. During fourth quarter 2016, 26 incidents of terrorism and counter-terrorism were recorded, while during first quarter 2017, 42 such incidents were reported. Moreover, the casualty index also increased to 75% during this quarter.



The violent incidents during first quarter of 2017 also increased to 583% as compared to first quarter of 2016. Likewise, the casualty index also increased to 52% during first quarter of 2017 as compared to the similar time period in 2016. During the first quarter of 2017, a total of 119 casualties (105 killings and 14 injuries) were recorded in 42 violent incidents, while during the same period in 2016, 78 casualties took place in six incidents.

Kurram Agency

The security situation in Kurram Agency, which is considered one of the most sensitive agencies in FATA due to its sectarian nature of conflict and its borders with three insurgency-stricken provinces of Afghanistan, remained disturbed during the first quarter (January-March) 2017. In total, 16 violent incidents, both of terrorism and counter-terrorism, were recorded in the agency. The table below illustrates the nature of incidents and resultant casualties that took place in Kurram Agency.

Security Situation in Kurram Agency				
First Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	4	45	137
	on Military	2	0	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Terrorist Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	9	22	6
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		1	2	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		16	69	143

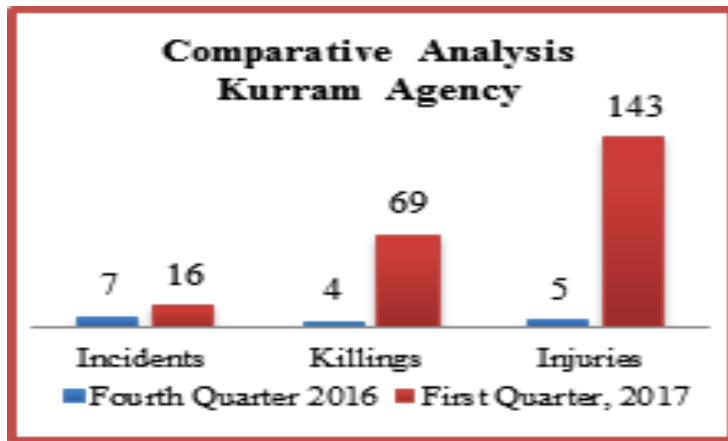
In total, the violent incidents caused 212 casualties (69 killings and 143 injuries) across the agency during first quarter (January-March) 2017. Security forces also continued their operations in order to counter the terrorist activities. In total, nine search operations were launched by security forces.

Casualty Types Kurram Agency First Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorists	24	4
Civilians	45	137
Security Forces		2
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>		
Total	69	143
Total Casualties	212	

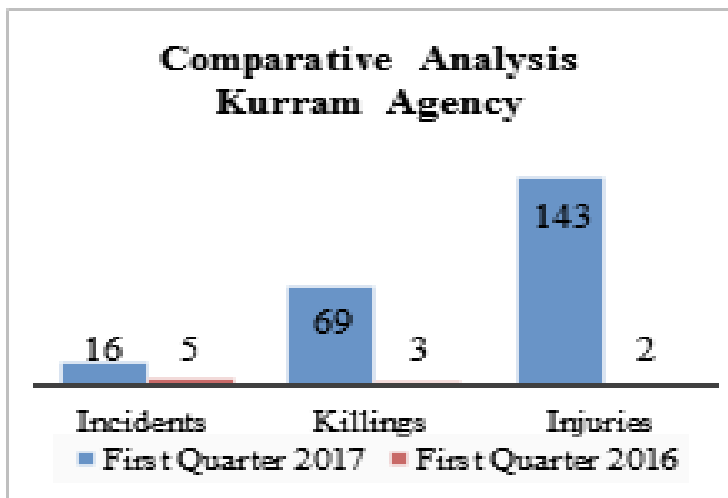
During this quarter, Munda Alizai, Sperkat, Ghwaz Gari, Ahmadi Shaman and Borki areas of the agency witnessed violence. However, Parachinar remained the most disturbed area as it witnessed two high profile sectarian incidents during this quarter.

On 21 January 2017, an IED explosion ripped through a crowded marketplace leaving 22 people dead and 35 others wounded in Parachinar. While claiming responsibility for explosion, TTP-JuA spokesman said that the attack was launched to avenge the killings of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), a sectarian outfits, cadres. The attack was also claimed by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami (LeJA). Likewise, on 31 March 2017, at least 23 people were killed while 100 others wounded in a suicide blast outside a mosque in Parachinar. These two incidents are indicative of heightened sectarian strains in the agency. Moreover, terrorists attacked civilians while employing the IEDs in Broki and Parachinar. Terrorists also targeted security forces on two occasions. A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) exploded near a security check post on 10 February 2017. However, no casualty was reported in the said incident. Furthermore, four terrorists were arrested in a cross border attack targeting the security personnel on 18 March 2017.

In order to curb the terrorist activities, security forces carried out nine search operations during the first quarter of 2017 in the Kurram Agency. Apart from security operations by Pakistani security forces, the United States forces conducted a drone strike, which is the first of its kind in the year 2017. The drone strike which struck in Ahmadi Shaman area killed two terrorists who were reportedly associated with the Afghan Taliban. Although military operations have largely dismantled terrorist networks in the agency, the terrorists associated with TTP-Shehryar Mahsud group and JuA are active in few pockets.



During the first quarter of 2017, a rise of 128% was observed, compared to the last quarter of 2016. During fourth quarter of 2016, nine casualties (4 killings and 5 injuries) we recorded, while during this quarter, 212 casualties (69 killings and 143 injuries) were reported.



A similar trend appeared while comparing the incident and casualty index of first quarters of 2016 and 2017. The incident index increased to 220% during first quarter 2017 as compared to the similar period in 2016. On the other hand, five casualties (three killings and two injuries) were recorded in first

quarter 2016, while during the current quarter, 212 casualties (69 killings and 143 injuries) took place.

Orakzai Agency

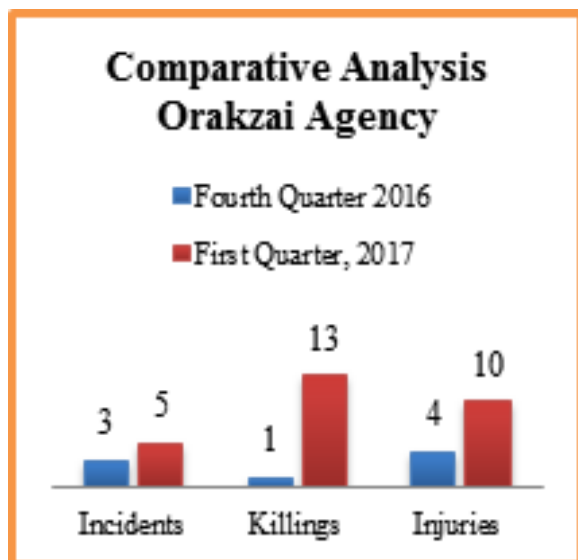
Orakzi Agency witnessed five violent incidents during first quarter (January-March) 2017. The table below provides an overview of the nature of incidents and resultant casualties that took place in Orakzai Agency.

Security Situation in Orakzai Agency				
First Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	2	5	10
	on Military	0	0	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Terrorist Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	3	8	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		5	13	10

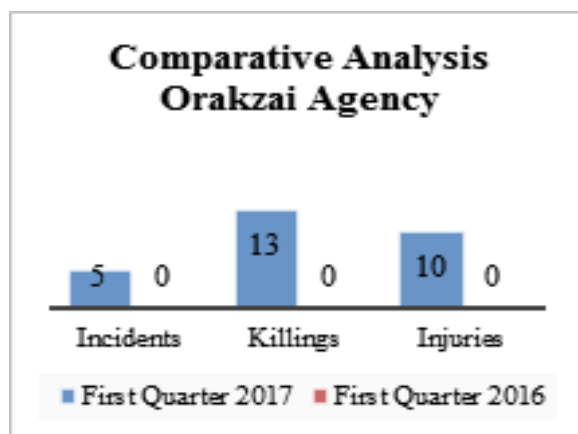
In total, five violent incidents, both of terrorism and counter-terrorism resulted in 23 casualties (13 killings and 10 injuries) across the agency during first quarter (January-March) 2017.

Casualty Types Orakzai Agency First Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorists	5	
Civilians	5	10
Security Forces	3	
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>		
Total	13	10
Total Casualties	23	

During first quarter 2017, Darand, Sheikhan and Uttman Khel areas of Orakzia witnessed violent incidents. The terrorists attacked civilians in two target killing incidents in Darand and Sheikhan areas leaving five people dead and ten others wounded. On the other hand, security forces conducted three search operations which resulted in killings of five terrorists, while three security personnel also lost their lives during these operations. On the other hand, a high-ranking TTP commander was killed during the operations which is indicative of the presence of TTP cadres in the agency.



Orakzai Agency also witnessed a rise in violent incidents to 66% during first quarter (January-March) 2017, as compared to fourth quarter (October-December) 2016. Likewise, with reference to casualties, a rise of 360% was observed during this quarter as compared to the previous one. During fourth quarter 2016, three violent incidents that took place in Orakzai resulted in five casualties (one killing and four injuries). On the other hand, during first quarter 2017, five violent incidents caused 23 casualties (13 killings and 10 injuries) across the agency.



Conversely, Orakzai Agency remained peaceful during first quarter (January-March) 2016 as no violent incident was reported across the agency. However, during the same time period in 2017, five violent incidents took place in the agency which resulted in 23 casualties (13 killings and 10 injuries).

North Waziristan Agency

North Waziristan Agency was the only agency which witnessed a downward trend both in violent incidents and resultant casualties during first quarter 2017, as compared to fourth quarter 2016. In total, six violent incidents were reported during this quarter. The table below illustrates the nature of incidents that took place during first quarter 2017 across the agency.

Security Situation in NWA Agency				
First Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	1	3	0
	on Military	1	3	0
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Terrorist Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	2	0	0
	Aerial Strikes	1	10	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		1	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		6	16	0

The violent incidents in North Waziristan Agency caused 16 casualties (all of them killings) during first quarter 2017. The below table provides the casualty index of the agency for first quarter 2017.

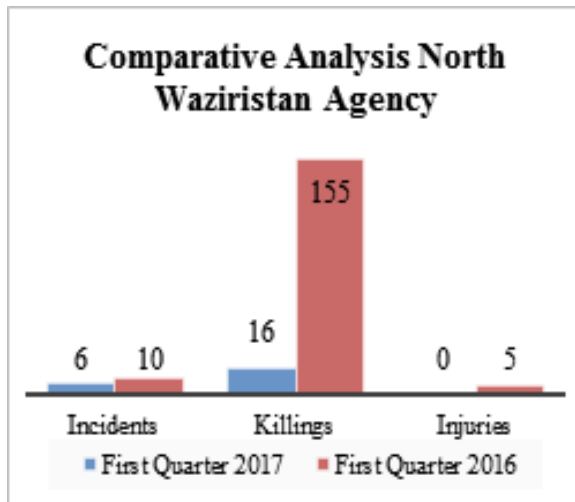
Casualty Types NWA Agency First Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorists	10	0
Civilians	3	0
Security Forces	3	0
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	16	0
Total Casualties		

During this quarter, Dara Zinda, Shewa, Sherani, Wucha Bibi and Miran Shah areas of the agency remained disturbed. The terrorists carried out an IED attack targeting civilians in Dara Zinda area on March 16 which left three people dead. The attack also led security forces to impose curfew in the locality on 17 March 2017. The terrorists also ambushed a security check post in Shewa area of the agency on 19 March 2017, which left three security personnel dead. On the other hand, in order to

countervail the terrorist activities, security forces conducted two search operations in Sherani and Miran Shah. Moreover, an aerial strike in Wucha Bibi area left ten terrorists dead who were trying to regroup their cadres in NWA. The terrorist's limited operational capacity in NWA can be attributed to the success of operation Zrb-e-Azb which was launched in the agency in June 2014.



During the first quarter (January-March) 2017, a downward trend in incident and causality indexes was witnessed in NWA as compared to fourth quarter (October-December) 2017. During the outgoing first quarter of 2017, a 33% decrease in violent incidents was recorded as compared to the previous quarter. Similarly, the casualty index dropped to 15% during this quarter as compared to the previous one.



A similar downward trend was also observed while comparing the incident and casualty indexes of first quarters (January-March) of 2016 and 2017. The incident index, during first quarter 2017, dropped to 40% as compared to the similar time period in 2016. On the other hand, the casualty index witnessed more substantial decrease as during first quarter 2016, 160 casualties (155 killings and five injuries) while during

first quarter of 2017, 16 casualties were recorded across NWA.

South Waziristan Agency

The security situation in South Waziristan Agency (SWA) remained disturbed during first quarter (January-March) 2017. The agency witnessed ten violent incidents during this quarter which included seven terrorist attacks and three search operations. The below table provides an overview of violent incidents and the resultant casualties that took place during the first quarter across SWA.

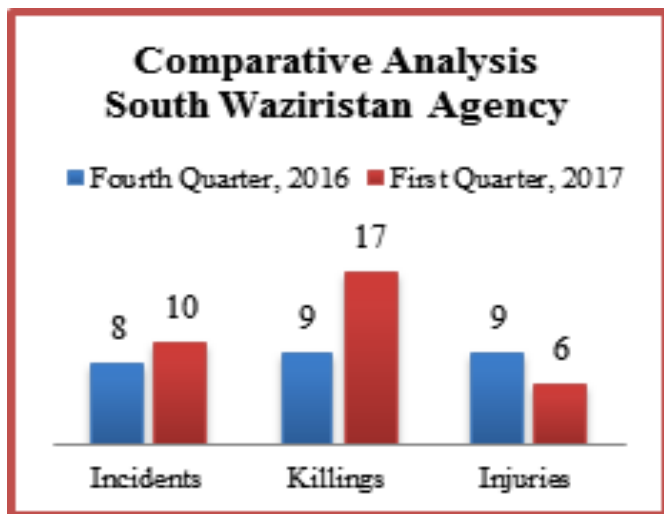
Security Situation in SWA Agency				
First Quarter 2017				
Nature of Attacks		Incidents	Killings	Injuries
Terrorist Attacks	on Civilians	3	4	2
	on Military	4	7	4
	on Peace Lashkar	0	0	0
Clashes Between Terrorist Groups		0	0	0
Military Operation	Search Operations	3	6	0
	Aerial Strikes	0	0	0
	Artillery Shelling	0	0	0
Curfews		0	0	0
Drones Attacks		0	0	0
Lashkar Operations		0	0	0
TOTAL		10	17	6

The violent incidents resulted in 23 casualties (17 killings and six injuries) during this quarter in SWA. Apart from the terrorists' maneuverings, security forces also carried out three search operations which resulted in the killings of six terrorists.

Casualty Types SWA Agency First Quarter 2017	Killed	Injured
Terrorists	7	0
Civilians	4	2
Security Forces	6	4
Peace Forces/ <i>Aman Lashkar</i>	0	0
Total	17	6
Total Casualties	23	

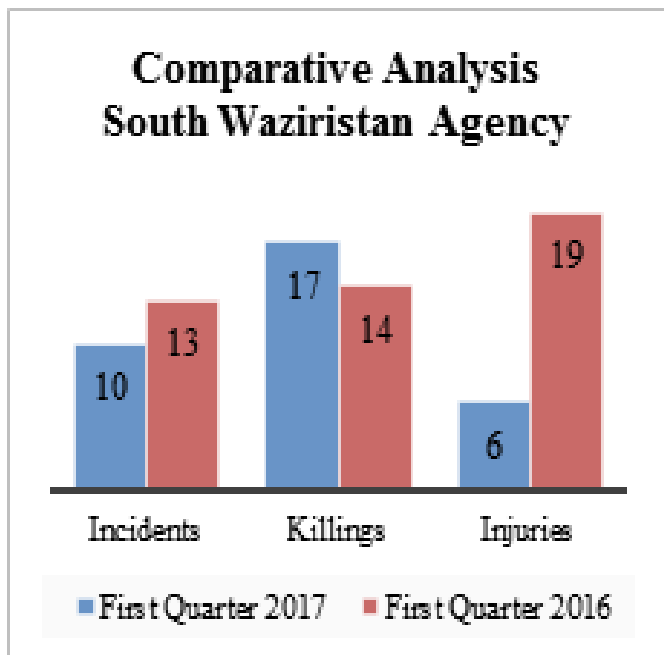
During first quarter (January-March) 2017, Sararogha, Zarmilan, Angor Ada, Kotki, Mangrotai, Tor Mazdik and Wana remained the disturbed areas of the agency. The terrorists carried out two IED attacks against civilians in Sararogha and Kotki areas which left two people wounded. The civilians were also targeted by terrorists in a target killing incident in Wana which left four people killed. On the

other hand, the terrorists attacked security personnel while employing the IEDs on three occasions in Zarmilan, Angor Ada and Wana. In an IED attack, three Frontier Corps soldiers were killed when their vehicle struck an implanted explosive device in Zarmilan area; the attack was claimed by TTP. Moreover, the terrorists also ambushed a security check post in Mangrotai area leaving a soldier wounded. The terrorists associated with different factions of TTP, including that of Khan Said Sjana group, actively operated in the agency during this quarter.



During first quarter 2017, the incident and causality indexes witnessed an increase as compared to fourth quarter 2017. The incident index rose to 25% while the causality index witnessed a rise of 27% during this quarter as compared to the previous one. In total, eight violent incidents caused 18 casualties (nine killings and nine injuries during first

quarter 2016, while ten such incidents resulted in 23 casualties (17 killings and six injuries) during the same time period in 2017.



On the other hand, the incident and casualty indexes witnessed downward trend in SWA during first quarter 2017 as compared to the similar time period in 2016. During the first quarter 2017, the incident index decreased to 23% as compared to first quarter 2016. Likewise, the casualty index witnessed a decrease of 43% during first quarter of 2017 as compared to the similar time period in 2016.

Chapter 3

Trends and Analysis

Violence and Actor Mapping

During first quarter (January-March) 2017, an upward trend in terrorist incidents and resultant casualties was witnessed in all agencies of FATA in comparison to fourth quarter (October-December) 2016, with the exception of North Waziristan Agency (NWA), where a downward trend, both in violent incidents and casualties, was observed. This downward trend in NWA is indicative of the success of Operation Zarb-e-Azb, which was launched in NWA against terrorist elements having their safe havens in the agency in June 2014. Nonetheless, the upward trend in violent incidents and resultant casualties in the rest of FATA agencies highlight that the terrorist outfits are regaining their operational capacity for carrying out their activities across FATA. Although the terrorists also endeavored to regroup in NWA; nevertheless, the bid was foiled during an aerial strike in Wucha Bibi area of the agency.

Counter-terrorism related incidents remained a constant factor during the first quarter of 2017, 60 counter offensives were recorded during this time period while on two occasions, security forces imposed curfew in Bajaur and NWA; nonetheless, the terrorist cadres also persistently carried out their operations across FATA. In total, 57 terrorist attacks were recorded during this quarter. The civilians remained the prime target during these attacks as 31 attacks (54% of terrorist attacks and 26% of total violent incidents) against civilians were recorded during this quarter. On the other hand, security personnel were targeted on 24 occasions (42% of terrorist attacks and 20% of total violent incidents), while Aman lashkars were targeted on two occasions – both incidents took place in Khyber Agency. Thus, despite the persistent counter-terrorism operations, terrorists effectively maneuvered and carried out their activities across FATA.

During the recent wave of violence which struck tribal areas along with other parts of the country,

108 people, including 77 civilians (including five members of Aman Lashkar) and 31 security personnel, were killed across FATA, while wounds were caused to 200 others. On the other hand, 173 terrorists were killed and ten others wounded in counteractions by security forces. Despite the persistent security operations and repeated calls by the governmental authorities and security establishment regarding the success of counter-terrorism operations, the terrorists repeatedly penetrated and carried out their maneuverings while challenging the writ of state in FATA. During this quarter, most of the attacks were claimed by TTP-JuA, Mahsud Taliban and TTP.

The resurgence of violence during first quarter is indicative of the presence of sleeping cells of TTP and TTP-JuA in the FATA region. Following the resurrection of violence, security forces conducted aerial strikes in NWA and Khyber Agency while launched search operations in all seven agencies; during these operations, the security forces asserted to have destroyed the training camps being operated by TTP-JuA and TTP, particularly in Khyber, Mohmand and Kurram agencies. These claims also highlight that the training camps of terrorist outfits remained operational in the FATA region despite the persistent counter-terrorism operations launched in the past. These camps and the sleeping cells provided logistic support to those elements who infiltrated to carry out their activities in FATA and to sabotage relevant stability attained through security operations.

On the other hand, the presence of training camps and sleeping cells also highlights that the troops were withdrawn, during these security operations, without achieving their targets. Notably, in Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency, where TTP-JuA and TTP had sanctuaries in the past, security forces launched three security operations – Khyber-I, Khyber-II and Khyber-III – and claimed to have established writ of the state. Nonetheless, during first quarter of 2017, the terrorist outfits continued to operate in the valley and infiltrated into other parts of the tribal region to carry out their attacks. The valley, being a hotspot for terrorism, provides safe havens to the terrorist outfits due to its complex geography. It connects three tribal agencies – Khyber, Kurram and Orakzai – while a smaller northern part of it is included in Nanagarhar province of Afghanistan. The intricate geography of Tirah valley provides an ideal opportunity to the terrorists to infiltrate in FATA.

During first quarter (January-March) 2017, Kurram Agency, a sectarian violence prone region in FATA, again witnessed two high profile attacks during this quarter – both of these attacks took place in Parachinar. The IED blast which took place on 21 January 2017 was claimed by two terrorist outfits – TTP-JuA and LeJ – which is indicative of growing cooperation among the terrorist outfits operating in the region. On the other hand, Kurram agency, unlike other agencies of FATA, has different dynamics owing to its demographic division on sectarian grounds and its geo-strategic location as it is surrounded by Afghanistan on three sides. These aspects make Kurram Agency more vulnerable to the terrorist activities as compared to other parts of FATA.

It is pertinent to mention here that the above mentioned IED blast took place within the span of one month when government announced to launch dewatering campaign in Kurram Agency in order to purge the society from illegal weaponry. On 26 December 2016, Brigadier Malik Amir Mohammad Khan, local Brigade Commander, urged the people of Kurram Agency to surrender their heavy weapons to political administration of the agency within 45 days as all the tribal areas had been cleansed of terrorist elements. Nonetheless, the tribal elders rejected the call due to the persistent threats of terrorist outfits having their safe havens in FATA and adjoining areas of Afghanistan, notably Islamic State (IS) with its strong bases in neighboring Nangarhar province.

Although the military operation Rah-e-Nijat in 2009 cleared of the terrorist operatives in SWA; however, on 31 March 2017, a high-ranking terrorist commander Mahmoodul Hassan aka Khwaja Muhammad, associated with Khan Said Sajna faction of TTP, was killed during an intelligence based operation in Tor Mazdik area of SWA. The killing of high profile terrorist leader indicates towards presence of these elements in the agency. It is also pertinent to mention that Mahsud Taliban claimed responsibility for six terrorist attacks during this quarter. On the other hand, in a rare move, a Russian military delegation visited Miran Shah and Wana, headquarters of NWA and SWA respectively. The visit may help Russia to analyze the existing regional situation, who is to host a regional conference on Afghan peace process in April 2017.

Following the persistent CT operations launched in different agencies of FATA, governmental authorities claimed of ousting the terrorist outfits and eliminating their sanctuaries; nonetheless, the

revival of violence during the first quarter of 2017 put several question marks over the efficacy of security operations. These ousted terrorist outfits established their safe havens across the border in volatile and terrorist infested areas of Afghanistan. In an interview in October 2016, Khan Said Sjana of Mahsud Taliban asserted that they had not been ousted; rather, they had performed “Hijrat” (migration) as a tactical strategy in the wake of operations against their cadres. The resurgence of violence during the outgoing quarter proved the assertions of the terrorist commander.

On the other hand, during the recent terrorist attacks it has been traced that Afghan soil has been used by the terrorist elements in their tactical maneuverings and orchestrating terrorist attacks within Pakistani territory. For example, on February 10, a freight truck coming from Afghanistan was blown up following a bomb blast near a security check post in Salag area of Kurram agency. Although Pakistani authorities repeatedly urged the Afghan authorities, when security operations were in full swing, to adopt measures to counter the terrorists' regrouping in Afghanistan. However, Kabul didn't adopt concrete measures in this regard and allowed the TTP and JuA cadres to establish their safe havens in adjoining provinces of Afghanistan.

Hence, the recent wave of violence which shook the relative peace in FATA led the government of Pakistan to empower security forces to launch their activities against the elements infiltrating from across the border to carry out terrorist attacks. Pakistani security forces, therefore, also shelled across the border in order to destroy the safe havens of TTP and JuA in the adjoining areas of Afghanistan. Resultantly, during first quarter 2017, Pak-Afghan relations remained disturbed. The neighboring states also exchanged acquisitions of harboring terrorist elements against each other. On the other hand, terrorist associated with TTP and TTP-JuA continued to infiltrate and carry out attacks within FATA and beyond.

On the other hand, the infighting between two factions of Mahsud Taliban associated with TTP – Khan Said Sjana group and Hakimullah Mahsud group aka Sheharyar group – erupted during first quarter (January-March) 2017 in Laman area of Paktia province in Afghanistan. During the clash, a key commander of Sheharyar group, Hazaratullah, along with an aide was detained by Khan Said group. Moreover, two other terrorists, one belonging to each group, were killed during the clash.

During another clash, another senior commander of Shaharyar group, Daud Mahsud, was also detained and later killed by Khan Said group. The two groups had also been engaged in infighting during April and May 2014. The resurrection of infighting is indicative of differences among the terrorist circles. Although the clash erupted in Afghanistan; however, it may result in further clashes within FATA in the days to come.

Terrorist Tactics

During first quarter 2017, IEDs remained the most preferred tool of terrorists for carrying out attacks against civilians and security forces. On 27 occasions, terrorists employed IEDs in their attacks which accounts for 46% of total terror attacks during this quarter. Out of these, eight IED attacks were carried out in Bajaur, seven in Khyber, five in SWA, four in Kurram, two in Mohmand and one IED attack took place in NWA. Orakzai was the only agency where no IED attack took place during this quarter. Following the IEDs, terrorists predominantly opted for target killings. On 15 occasions, terrorists opted for target killing which accounts for 26% of the total terrorist attacks. Out of these, seven were witnessed in Khyber Agency, five in Bajaur Agency, two in Orakzai, while one incident of target killing took place in SWA. On ten occasions, terrorists ambushed security forces which accounts for 19% of the total terror attacks. The terrorists ambushed security personnel four times each in Mohmand and Khyber agencies while one time each in NWA and SWA. The terrorists staged cross border attacks to target security check posts on three occasions – two times in Bajuar and one time Kurram. They also carried out two suicide attacks in Mohmand and Kurram agencies.

On the other hand, various terrorist outfits also joined their hands in their bid to escalate their operations during this quarter. According to an audio message disseminated during this quarter by TTP, Khan Said Sajna group of Mahsud Taliban, earlier a splinter faction, rejoined the TTP and appealed other terrorist outfits to join TTP. Khan Said group broke away from TTP in May 2014, while presenting a long charge sheet against the TTP leadership including those of receiving money from foreign elements to carry out attacks and deviating from the ideology of Baitullah Mahsud, the founder of TTP. As Mahsud Taliban makes a major chunk in TTP, the escalation of terrorist attacks in this

quarter can be attributed to this reunion of terrorist outfits.

Operation Ghazi by Jamaat-ul-Ahrar

TTP-Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a faction of TTP, also unveiled its new strategic policy to revive its operations during first quarter (January-March) 2017. The proscribed terrorist outfit has denominated its new strategic plan of action as “Operation Ghazi,” an ascription to Abul Rashid Ghazi, who was killed during “Operation Silence” in Lal Masjid in Islamabad in July 2007. In the code of conduct for Operation Ghazi issued by TTP-JuA, the terrorist outfit affirmed to intensify its activities against governmental institutions, security personnel and those who assist them. The outfit also avowed to target Shia Muslims, political parties and the developmental organizations in their policy statement. On the other hand, the policy statement of Operation Ghazi also highlighted that soft domains, including hospitals, railway stations and parks etc. would not be attacked.

As the TTP-JuA along with TTP claimed responsibility of most of the attacks during the outgoing quarter of 2017, the escalation of terror attacks during this time period can also be attributed to the reviving of action plan by the terrorist outfit. Although the TTP-JuA affirmed not to target the civilians; nonetheless, civilians were targeted in 31 terrorist attacks across FATA which accounts for 54% of the total terror attacks during this quarter. On the other hand, terrorists targeted security personnel on 24 occasions during this quarter, which accounts for 42% of the total terror attacks.

Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad

In the aftermath of a new resurgence in terror incidents during first quarter 2017, the security apparatus of Pakistan launched Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad (Elimination of Discord) on 22 February 2017. The operation has been launched as a part of continuation of National Action Plan (NAP), a comprehensive strategy formulated following the gory attack on Army Public School Peshawar in December 2014. The operation is aimed at eliminating the “latent threat of terrorism,” consolidating the advances made during the persistent military operations launched in the past and securing the borders, as proclaimed in the press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). The press

release further adds that all security and law enforcement agencies of the country will vigorously participate in elimination of terrorism.

Fencing Pak-Afghan Border

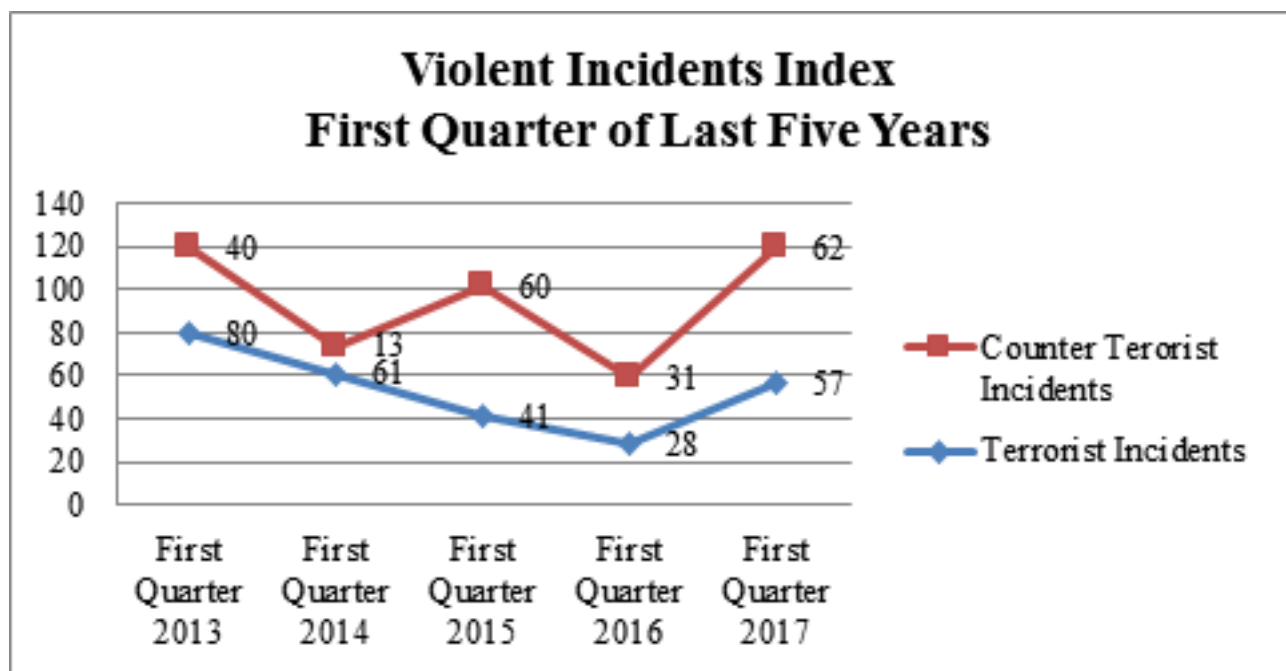
In the backdrop of recent terrorist attacks which were linked to Afghanistan, Pakistan has started partial fencing of the border in order to prevent the unauthorized incursions of terrorists, along with weapons and drug smugglings, across the border. The phased fencing of border was announced following a Corps Commanders meeting on 9 March 2017. In addition to construction of four more check points in Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan and South Waziristan agencies for legal entries, the installation of aerial surveillance and special radar systems, to check the terrorists' infiltration is also part of the plan. In the first phase, the borders along with Bajaur and Mohmand agencies would be fenced owing to the sensitivity of the locality. Apart from fencing the borders across FATA, Pakistan has already completed the excavation of an eleven feet deep and fourteen feet wide trench along 1,100 km long Pak-Afghan border in Balochistan province which is effectively helping in border management.

Owing to the infiltration of terrorists from across the border, Pakistani authorities before initiation of fencing the boundary line, resorted for closing the borders. Moreover, the authorities in Pakistan not only summoned the Afghan diplomats and lodged protest against the use of Afghan soil for carrying out attacks within Pakistan but also handed over a list of 76 most wanted terrorists to the Afghan officials who had been hiding in Afghanistan and were involved in staging attacks in Pakistan. Pakistan has long been calling for strengthening of border management mechanism in order to ensure peace on both sides of the border, often disturbed by the terrorists' incursions as both sides – Pakistan and Afghanistan – accuse each other of harboring terrorists posing threat to the other. Moreover, Pakistan also imposed valid passport and visa restrictions over Afghans entering Pakistan on June 1, 2016.

The fencing of Pak-Afghan border has an inherent capacity of escalating tensions and further poisoning the Pak-Afghan relations. Earlier in June 2016, the construction of border gate at Torkhum and introduction of new rules of valid passports and visas by Government of Pakistan led to the military

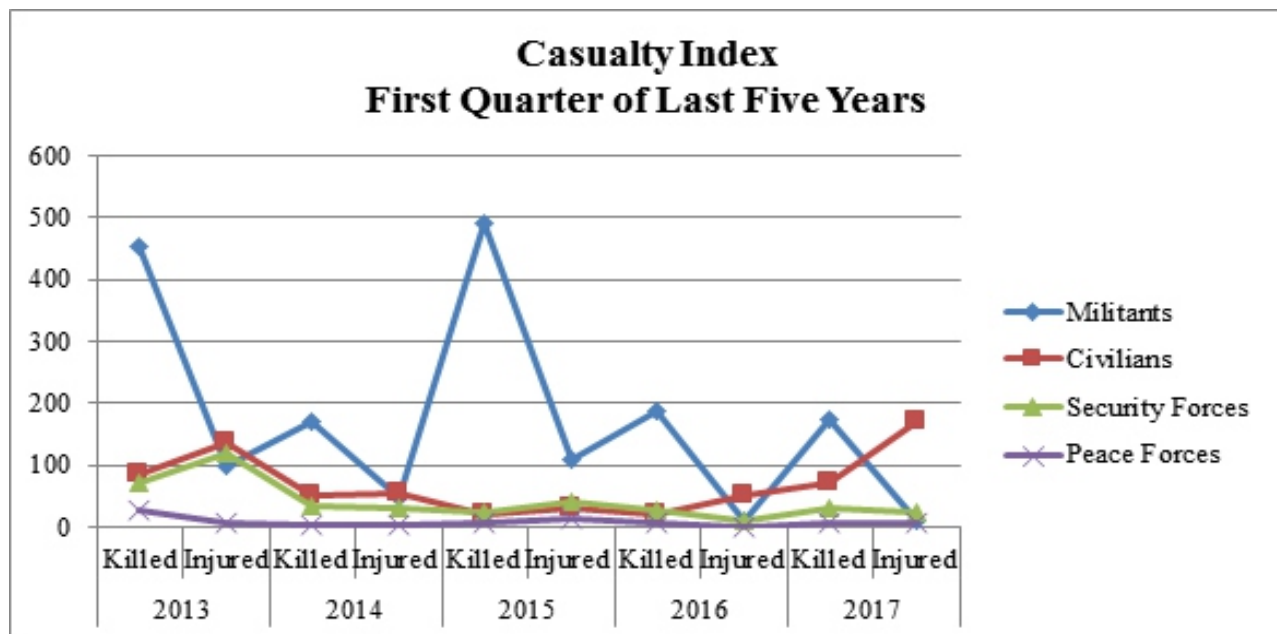
exchanges between the two countries in which casualties were caused on both sides. Although Afghan authorities repeatedly accuse Pakistan of sheltering the terrorist operatives causing havoc within Afghanistan; nevertheless, the Afghan authorities are opposing the border fencing, proposed and being executed by Pakistan. Afghan authorities' opposition to this measure is rooted in their rejection of accepting the Durand Line as an international boundary between the two countries. Conversely, the primo of National Congress Party in Afghanistan, Abdul Latif Pedram, during his recent assertion regarding the Durand Line, affirmed that Afghan authorities don't accede to the international borders due to backlash by the masses; however, they have never highlighted the issue at any international platform. He, therefore, urged the authorities to accept the Durand Line as an international border.

Comparative Trends: First Quarters Last Five Years



The above graphs highlight the trends of violence in FATA during first quarters of past five years. The graphs indicate that FATA witnessed a downward trend in terrorist attacks during first quarters of past four years. Likewise, the civilian and security personnel casualties also decreased during this time period in past four years. This downward trend during first quarters of past four years can be attributed to the persistent security operations carried in FATA. On the other hand, counter-terrorism incidents and the resultant terrorists' casualties witnessed variations during first quarters of past four years. The

trends highlight that the casualties increased during first quarters of 2013 and 2015 when counter-terrorism operations were on their full swing. Nonetheless, the terrorists' casualties decreased during first quarters of 2014 and 2016. This highlights that intensity of counter-terrorism operations decreased during these years.



Conversely, the trend reversed during first quarter (January-March) 2017 as terrorist attacks witnessed an upward trend. Likewise, the casualties of civilians and security personnel also increased during this time period against the trends of first quarters in past four years. Although counter-terrorism operations also witnessed an upward trend during first quarter 2017; however, the terrorist casualties didn't witness the same trend. These reverse trends during first quarter 2017 clearly highlight that the terrorist outfits have been endeavoring to regain their operational capacity in FATA during this quarter. Moreover, the terrorists' casualties declining trend during this quarter, despite a substantial increase in counter-terrorism operations, is also indicative of terrorists' swelling capacities of grasping and absorbing the military maneuverings. Moreover, the upward trend in terror attacks during this quarter can also be attributed to the reunion of terrorist outfits, reviving strategy of TTP-JuA and declining intensity of military operations during the past year.

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