

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA TRIBAL DISTRICTS ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT 2019



**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal
Districts**

ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT 2019

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Map of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts

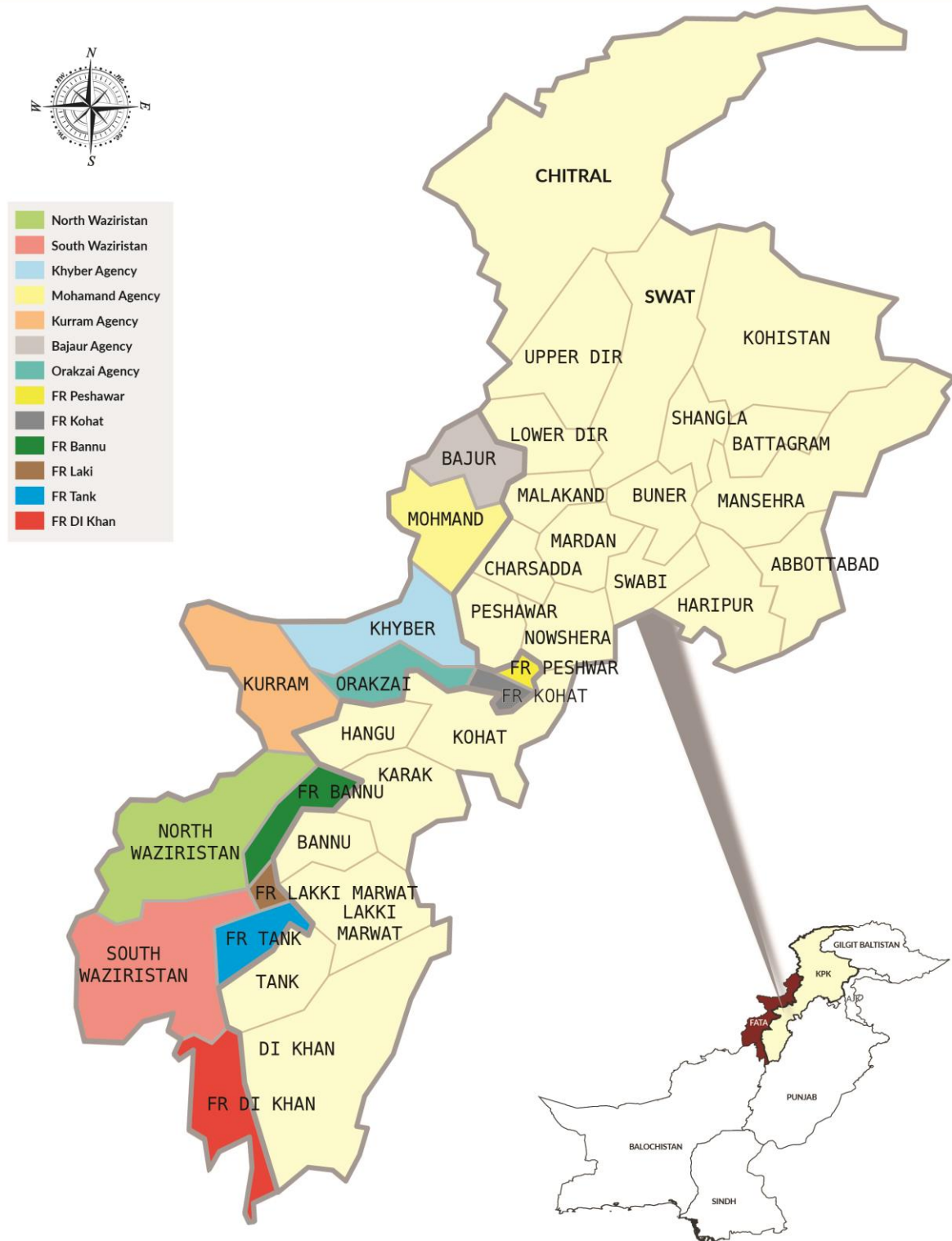


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About FATA Research Centre

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 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs) – previously known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. The purpose of establishing the FRC is to create a better understanding about the conflict in former FATA (presently KPTDs) 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 society in the KPTDs.

Annual Security Report Former FATA

The Annual Security Report reviews recent trends in conflict in the former 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 all the districts of the 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 district administration in KPTDs 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 all the seven Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tribal districts, provide information and data verification from concerned authorities 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
NW	North Waziristan
SW	South Waziristan
TTP	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
CT	Counter-Terrorism
LeJ	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
LeJA	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Almi
VBIED	Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device
KPTDs	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts

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 the KPTDs 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 the KPTDs to aid the Pakistani government and security forces in their battle against terrorists of all shades.

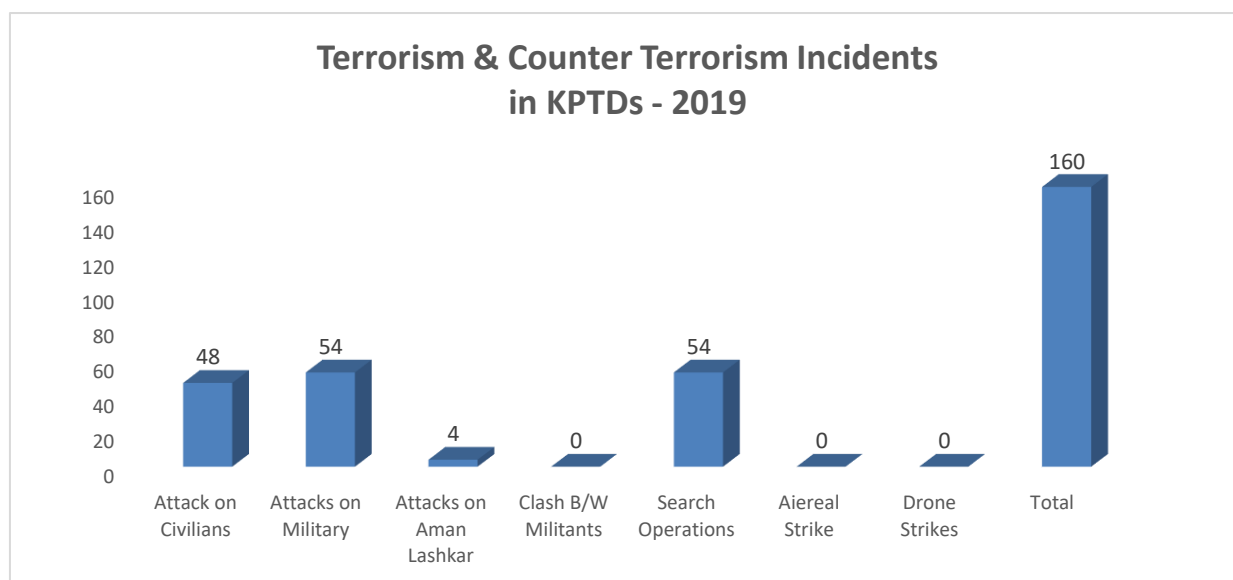
Chapter 1

Introduction

Security Overview of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs) 2019

The security situation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs)¹ considerably improved in the year 2019. With exception to South Waziristan districts, a significant decline in terrorism related incidents and resultant casualties was observed in the remaining six districts of the former FATA. Overall 16 percent decline in terrorism incidents and 24 percent in causality index was recorded in 2019 as compared to the preceding year.

The following graph gives a bird's eye view of the nature of incidents in the year 2019 and 2018 in all the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province:



The graph given above shows that a total of 160 violent incidents (106 terrorism and 54 counter-terrorism) were recorded during the year 2019 as compared to 264 such incidents (127 terrorism and 137 counter-terrorism) in the year 2018. This shows a decrease of 16 percent in terrorism incidents while 82 percent in counter terrorism incidents in 2019 as compared to the previous year.

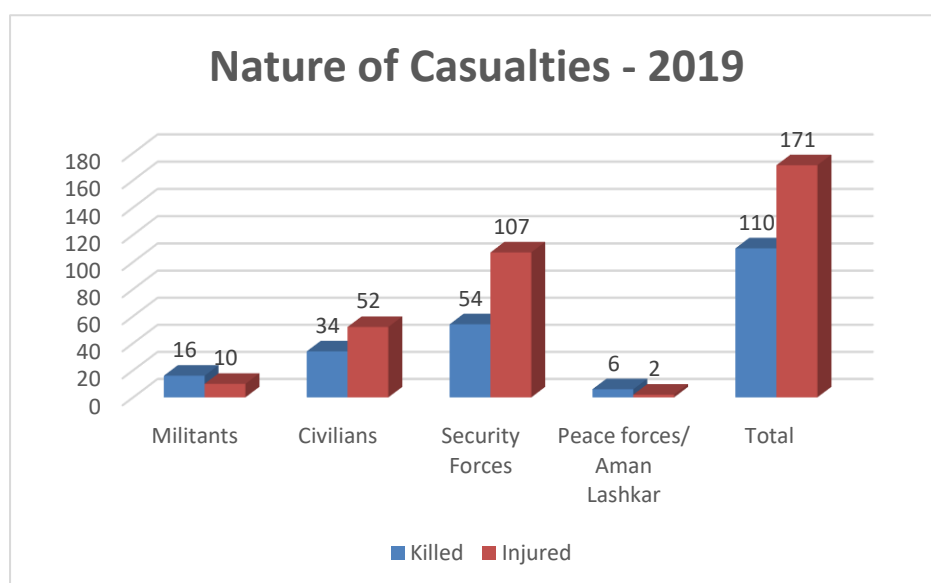
A further breakdown of terrorism incidents shows that of the total 106 terrorist incidents in 2019, 54 terrorist attacks (52 percent) targeted the security forces while 48 attacks (46 percent)

¹ The KPTDs was previously known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), until it was merged with the adjoining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) in May 2018. Henceforth, FATA is being referred to as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs).

were directed against civilians. Four terrorist attacks (Four percent) targeted members of civil militia or *Amn Lashkar*.

On the other hand, to dilute the operational capacity of terrorist groups in the former FATA, Pakistani security forces as a part on ongoing military operation, code named Radd-ul-Fasad conducted intelligence based operations (IBOs) during the year 2019. However majority of these IBOs were reactive in nature as they were conducted after a terrorist incidents. In total 54 IBOs were reported during 2019, compared to 137 such incidents in 2018. Though IBOs were conducted in all the tribal districts of KP, the North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Bajaur remained the prime focus of these CT operations.

The violent incidents of both terrorist and counter-terrorist, resulted in a total of 281 casualties – 110 killed and 171 injured – in all the KP Tribal districts, marking a significant decrease of 24 percent in overall casualties. The following graphs provide an overview of these casualties.



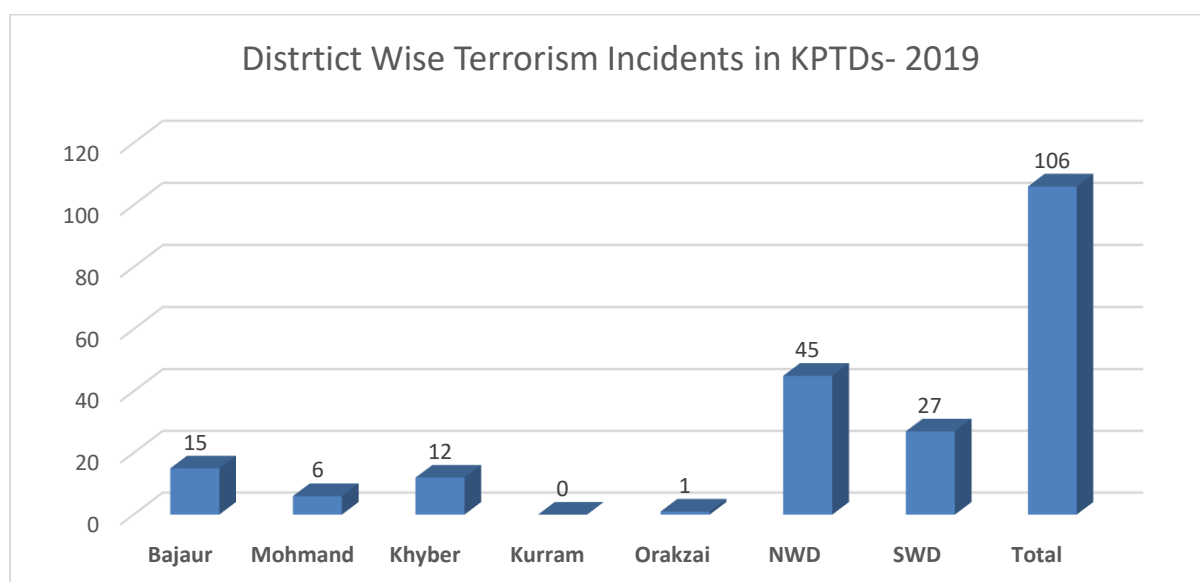
According to the graph, security forces remained the main target of terrorist outfits during the year 2019. Of the total casualties, 161 (54 Killed and 107 Injured) were that of security forces,

accounting for 57 percent of the overall casualties. The growing number of IED attacks and ambush attack by militants, particularly in North and South Waziristan districts were the main causes of the high number of security forces casualties during 2019. Comparatively, 12 percent increase in security forces casualties was observed in the reporting year as compared to 2018.

Civilian stood at second with 87 casualties (35 killed and 52 injured) which make it 31 percent of the overall casualties. As compared to the previous year a significant decline of 55 percent was observed in the year 2019. Eight casualties of Amn Lashkar personnel (Six killed and two injured) were also recorded during the outgoing year.

As part of counter-terrorism operations, security forces continued to conduct intelligence based operations (IBOs) in all the KPTDs during 2019, which led to the killing of 16 terrorist and injuries to 10 others. This accounted for nine percent of overall casualties during the year 2019.

The agency wise breakdown of terrorism incidents illustrates that the North Waziristan tribal district, remained the most turbulent one. The graph given below shows that 45 terrorism incidents were recorded in the district during the reporting year compared to 58 such incidents in the previous year. Although frequency of terrorism incidents in NWD declined by 22 percent; nevertheless NWD remained the most vulnerable to terrorist threat. The main reason for the high number of terrorism incidents in NWD during the year 2019 were incidents of target killing of civilians (including ex-Taliban fighters from the districts), IED attacks, ambush attacks and cross border attacks carried out by militant refuging inside Afghanistan.



The South Waziristan tribal district stood second with 25 terrorist incidents which resulted in 44 casualties (17 Killed and 26 Injured) followed by Bajaur and Khyber, which reported 15 and 12 terrorist incidents respectively. Six terrorism related incidents were reported from Mohmand district while only one such incident was took place in Orakzai district. Although one terrorism related incidents was reported from Kurram district; nevertheless the district is highly vulnerable to terrorist attacks due to its proximity to the Nangarhar, one of the volatile province of Afghanistan.

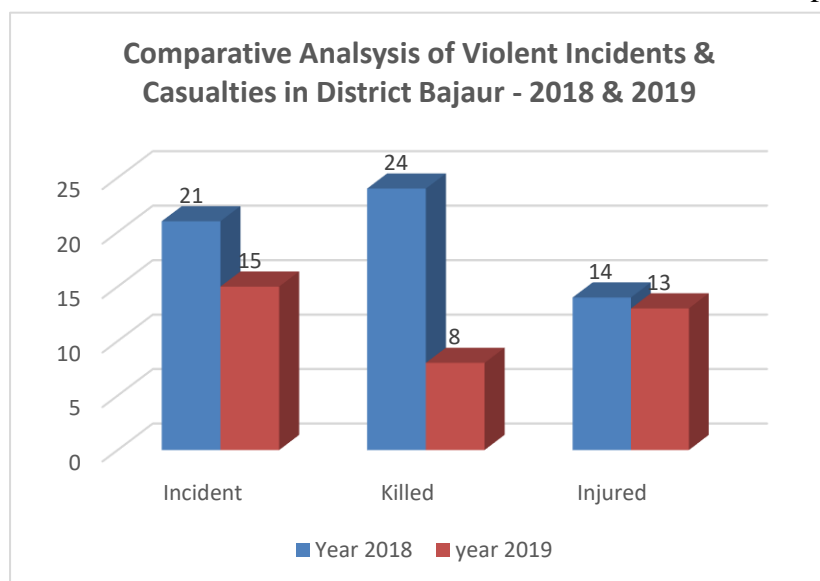
Chapter 2

District wise Comparative Analysis

District Bajaur

Year 2018-2019

During the year 2019, Bajaur tribal district witnessed a downward trend in terrorist incidents and resultant casualties. A total of 15 violent incidents were reported in 2019, compared to 21

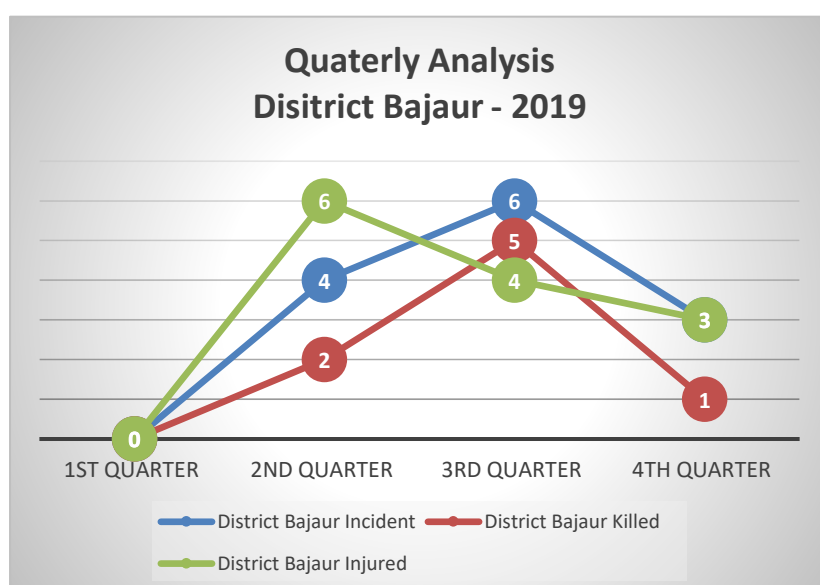


such incidents in 2018. This marks a significant decrease of 29 percent in 2019, compared to the previous year. A similar trend was also observed vis-à-vis the casualty index. Compared to 38 casualties (24 killed and 14 injured) in 2018, 21 casualties (08 killed and 13 injured) were reported

during the year 2019, accounting for a remarkable decrease of 45 percent in overall casualties.

Quarterly Analysis 2019

The graph given below provides a detail of violent incidents and resultant casualties against each quarter of 2019 in Bajaur District.



According to the graph during the first quarter (January-March) 2019, the security situation in Bajaur district remained relatively peaceful as no terrorism incidents were recorded during the said period compared to four such incident during the same

period in the year 2018.

Conversely, during the second quarter (April-June) of 2019 an increase in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties was observed in district Bajaur. Compared to zero terrorism related incidents in the first quarter, four such incidents were recorded in the tribal district during the second quarter. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to zero casualties, eight casualties (six killed and two injured) was reported during the second quarter of 2019.

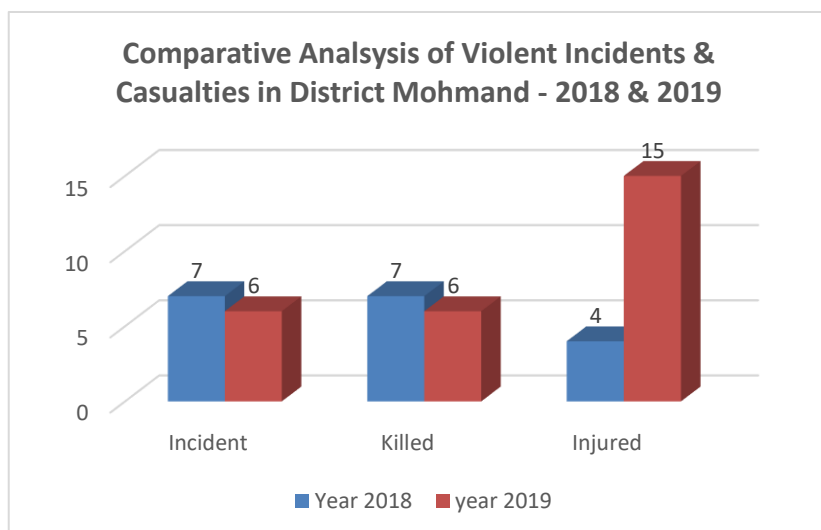
Terrorism incidents and resultant casualties continued to escalate in the third quarter (July-September) 2019 in district Bajaur. Compared to four terrorism incident in the preceding quarter six such incidents was recorded in the third quarter, marking an increase of 50 percent in terrorism incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to eight casualties (Six killed and Two injured) in the second quarter, nine casualties (Five killed and four injured) were reported from the district during the third quarter, accounting for increase of 13 percent.

However, a downward trend in terrorism related incidents and resultant casualties was observed during the fourth quarter (October- December) 2019 in district Bajaur. A total of three terrorism incidents were reported from the district during the final quarter of the year which resulted in four casualties (Three Killed and one Injured). This shows a decrease of 50 percent in terrorism incidents during the fourth quarter (October-December) 2019 as compared to the preceding quarter of the outgoing year.

District Mohmand

Year 2018-19

A slight decline in terrorism incidents and the resultant casualties was reported in 2019,

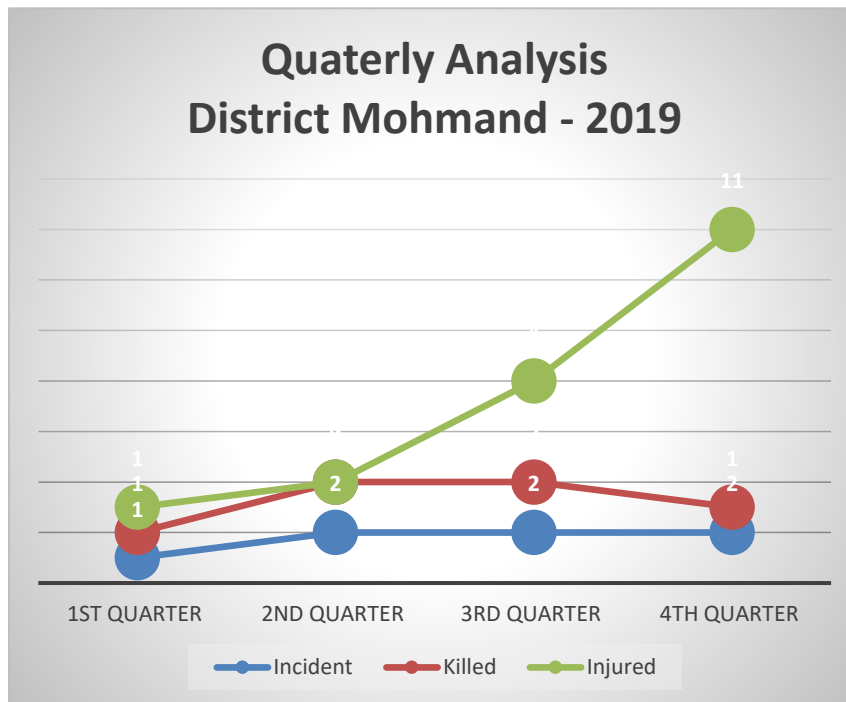


compared to the previous year. A total of six terrorism incidents were reported in 2019, compared to seven such incidents in 2018, thereby signifying a decrease of 14 percent. Conversely an upward trend was observed in the number of casualties index.

Compared to 11 casualties (Seven Killed and Four Injured) in 2018, 21 casualties (Six killed and Fifteen injured) were reported in the Mohmand tribal district during the year 2019, marking an increase of 90 percent in overall casualties during the outgoing year as compared to 2018.

Quarterly Analysis – 2019

The graph given below provides detail of terrorism incidents and resultant casualties against each quarter of 2019 in district Mohmand. In total, one incidents of terrorism was recorded in



the district during the first quarter (January-March) of 2019 as compared to nine such incidents same period of the year 2018. The same trend was observed in causality index. Compared to six casualties (Three killings and Three injuries) during the first quarter (January-March) 2018,

only two casualties (Zero killed and Two injured) were reported during the first quarter of the reporting year.

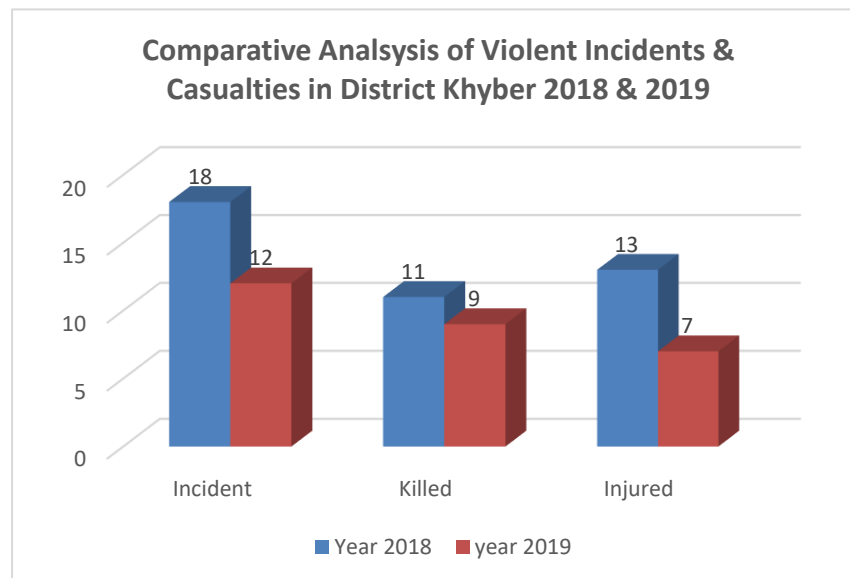
The same trend in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties was observed during the second quarter of 2019. Compared to one terrorism incidents during the first quarter (January-March) 2019, the second quarter (April-June) reported one incidents.

Although the number of terrorism incidents during the third (July-September) and the fourth quarter (October - December) of 2019 remained steady at two incident in each quarter however, a surge in the number of casualties was observed during the last two quarters of the reporting year. As compared to two casualties in the second quarter of 2019, six casualties (Two Killed and Four Injured) was reported in the third quarter while 12 casualties (One Killed and 11 Injured) were reported during the last quarter of the year 2019.

District Khyber

Year 2018- 2019

During 2019, the Khyber tribal district witnessed a downwards trend in violent incidents and resultant casualties. The graphs given below shows that compared to 18 violent incidents in

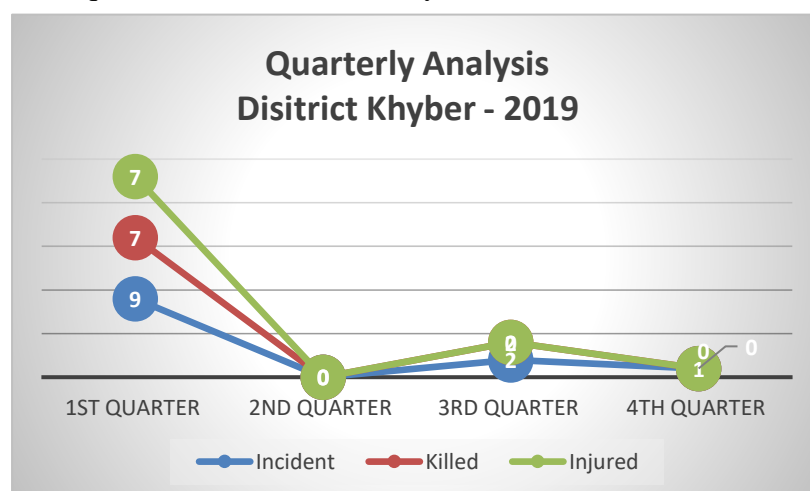


2018, 12 such incidents were reported in Khyber district in the year 2019, which marks for a significant decrease of 33 percent. A similarly trend was also observed in the number of casualty index. Compared to 24 casualties (11 Killed and 13 Injured) in 2018, 16

casualties (Nine Killed and Seven Injured) were reported during the year 2019, accounting for a significant decrease of 33 percent in overall casualties.

Quarterly Analysis – 2019

The graph given below provides a detail of terrorism incidents and resultant casualties against each quarter of 2019 in the Khyber tribal district. In total, nine incidents of terrorism were



recorded during the first quarter of 2019 as compared to six such incidents recorded during the same period in the preceding year. A similar trend was observed in the casualty index. Only 14 casualties (Seven killed and Seven injured) were

reported during the first quarter (January-March) of 2019 compared to nine casualties (Five Killed and Four injured) in the same period during the year 2018.

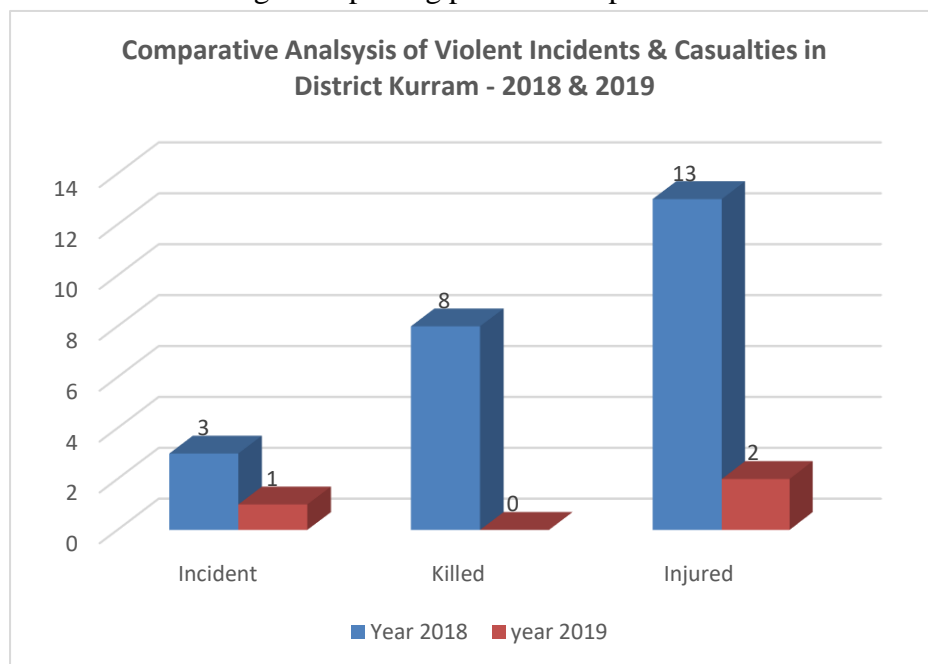
The terrorism incidents and resultant casualties declined during the second, third and fourth quarter of 2018 respectively. During the second quarter (April to June) 2019 zero terrorism incidents were reported compared to seven such incidents during the first quarter of 2019.

With exception to only two terrorism incidents which resulted in two casualties, the third quarter of 2019 largely remained peaceful in Khyber district. The decline in terrorism continued in the fourth quarter of 2019, as only one cross border rocket attack was report from Khyber district during last four months of the reporting year.

District Kurram

Year 2018 - 2019

The Kurram tribal district largely remained peaceful during year 2019. A remarkable decrease in violent incidents and resultant casualties during the year 2019 as only one terrorist incident was recorded during the reporting period. Compared to 3 terrorism incidents in 2018, only one



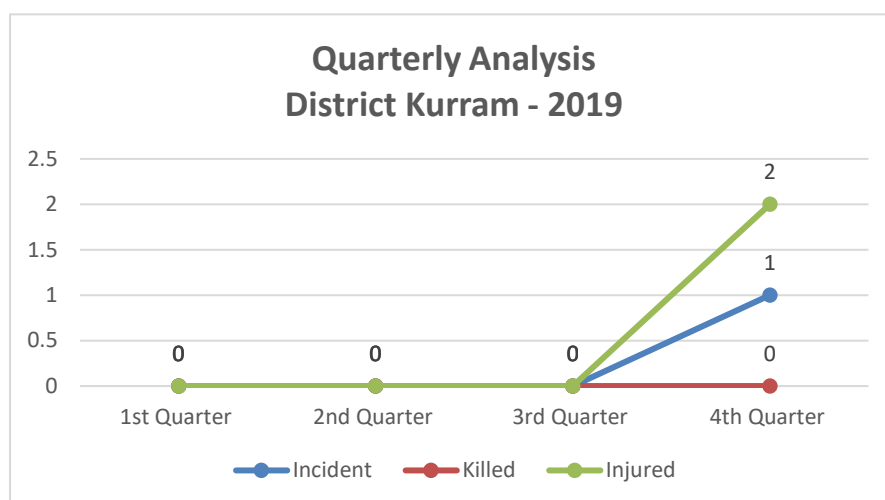
such incidents was recorded in 2019. This marks a significant decrease of 67 percent in violent incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to 19 casualties (Eight

Killed and 13 Injured) in 2018, only two casualties (Zero killed and Two injured) were recorded in 2019, which accounts for a remarkable decline of 89 percent in overall casualties during the reporting year.

Quarterly Analysis - 2019

The graph given in page No 9, illustrates that the Kurram district largely remained peaceful during first, second, and third quarter of the year 2019. However, in the fourth quarter of the reporting year two security forces got injured in an ambush attack by militants. The district although largely remained peaceful during the reporting year but it is believed to be the one of

the most vulnerable district. Firstly due to its geographical proximity to Nagarhar, one of the



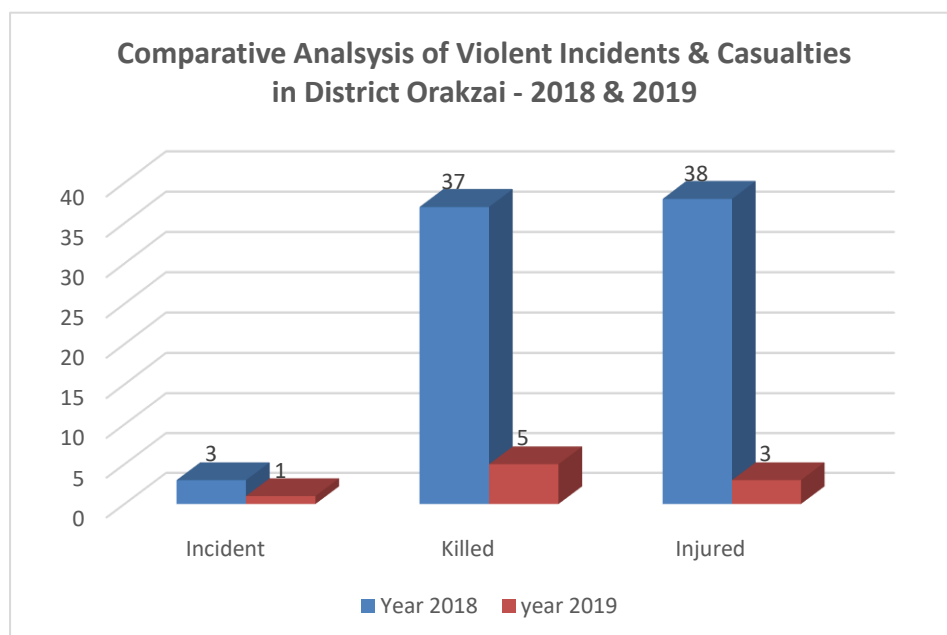
most volatile provinces of Afghanistan. Secondly due to the sectarian nature of conflict in the district and thirdly, its proximity to the North Waziristan district and Tirah

valley of Khyber district, where militants are still able to conduct terrorist activities, makes the district vulnerable to terrorist threat.

District Orakzai

Year 2018-2019

The Orakzai tribal district also remained largely peaceful during the year 2019. Compared to

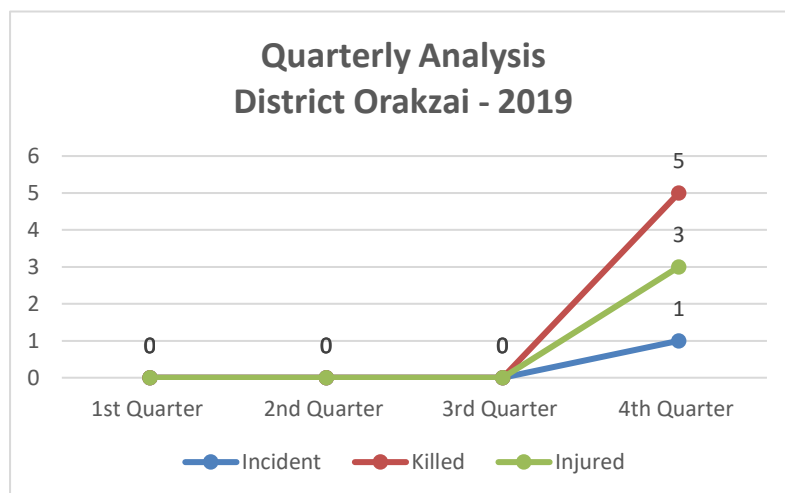


three violent incidents in 2018, only one such incidents were reported in Orakzai in 2019, which accounts for a decrease of 67 percent in violent incidents. A similar trend was also

observed in casualty index. Compared to 75 casualties (37 killed and 38 injured) in 2017, eight casualties (Five killed and Three injured) were reported from Orakzai during the year 2019, marking a significant decrease of 89 percent in overall casualties.

Quarterly Analysis 2019

With exception to one terrorist attack on security forces during the fourth quarter of 2019,



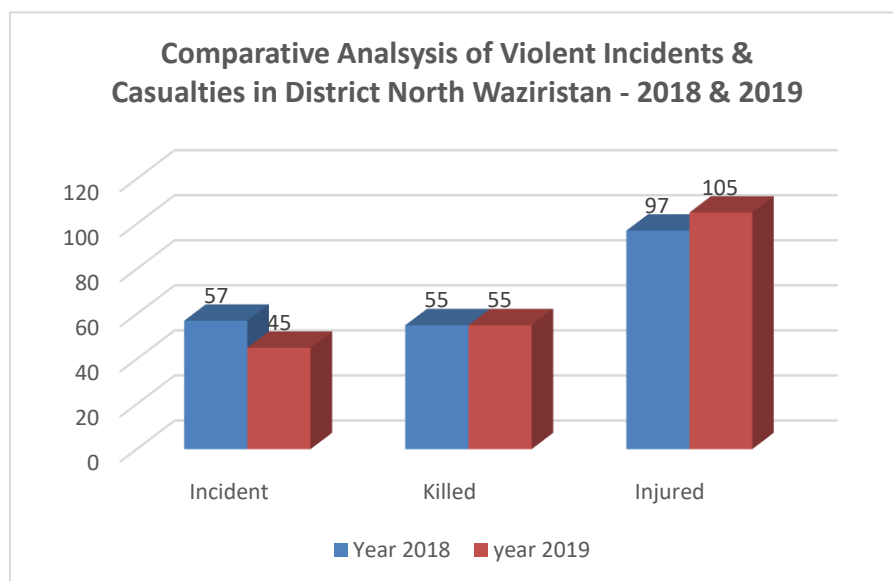
district Orakzai remained peaceful as compared to other tribal districts of KP. The graph given to the left provides an overview of the nature of incidents and resultant casualties that took place in District Orakzai during the year 2019.

From January-September 2019, on terrorism related incident was reported from the district however, only one terrorism incident, which resulted in eight casualties (Five killed and three injured) was recorded in the fourth and last quarter of the reporting year.

District North Waziristan

Year 2018- 2019

The security situation in the North Waziristan tribal district remained turbulent during the year 2019. The graph below provides a comparative analysis of violent incidents and resultant casualties in the year 2018 and 2019. According to the graph, compared to 57 violent incidents

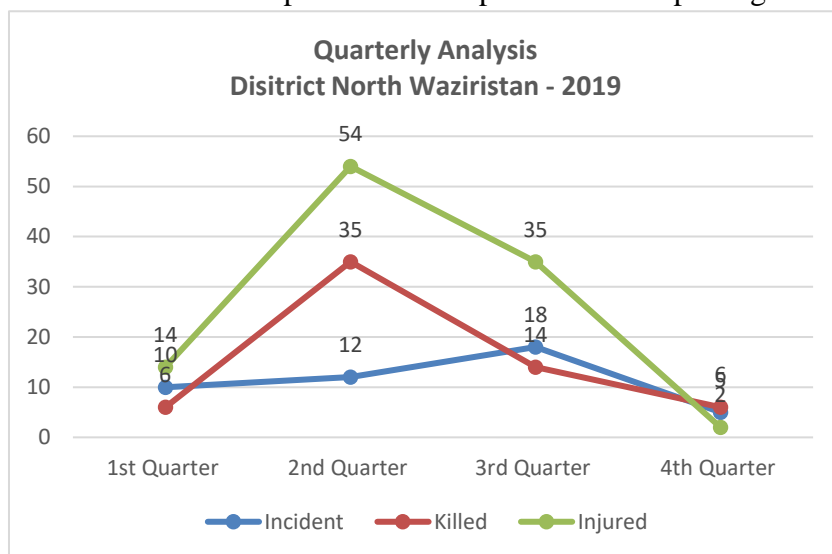


in 2017, 45 such incidents were recorded during the year 2019 marking a decrease of 19 percent in violent incidents. Conversely a slight upward trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to 152 casualties (55

killed and 97 injured) in 2019, 160 casualties (55 killed and 105 injured) occurred in North Waziristan, accounting for an increase of five percent in overall casualties.

Quarterly Analysis - 2019

Compared to 11 terrorism incidents during the fourth quarter (October-December) of 2018, 10 such incidents were reported in same period of the reporting of the year 2019, marking a slight



decrease of nine percent in terrorism incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to 41 casualties (19 killed and 22 injured) in final quarter of 2018, 20 casualties (Six Killed and 14 Injured) were reported during the

first quarter of the reporting year, marking a significant decrease of 51% in overall casualties.

Conversely, a slight upward trend in violent incidents was observed in district North Waziristan, during the second quarter (April-July) 2019. Compared to 10 terrorism related incidents during the first quarter of the year 2019, 12 such incidents were recorded in the second quarter (April-July) of the reporting year. Similarly, the casualty index also witnessed an incremental increase of 325% during this quarter as compared to the previous one.

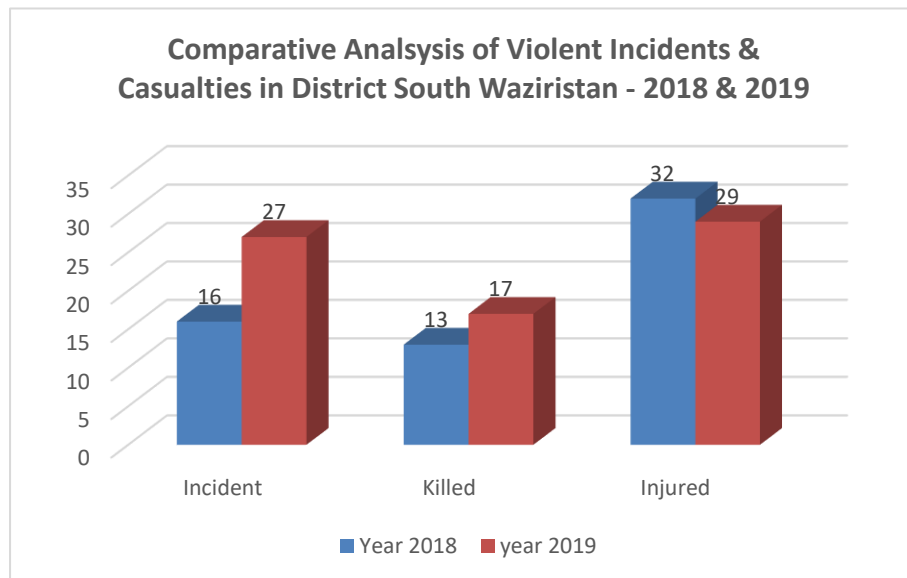
The terrorism related incidents again increased significantly during the third quarter (July-September) 2019 in district North Waziristan as compared to the preceding quarter of the reporting year. Compared to 12 terrorism incidents in the preceding quarter, 19 such incidents were recorded during the third quarter (July-September) 2019. Conversely, the casualty index drop by 42% during the third quarter of the reporting year.

Terrorism incidents and resultant casualties decreased significantly in the last quarter of the year 2019. Compared to 19 terrorism incidents in third quarter of the year 2019, only six such incidents occurred in the final quarter of the reporting year. A similar trend was in casualty index. Compared to 49 casualties (14 Killed and 35 Injured) in the third quarter of the outgoing year, eight casualties (Six Killed and Two Injured) in the fourth quarter of the year 2019.

District South Waziristan

Year 2018- 2019

The security situation continued to remain disturbed in District South Waziristan, as the frequency of terrorist incidents increased significantly during the year 2019. Compared to 16

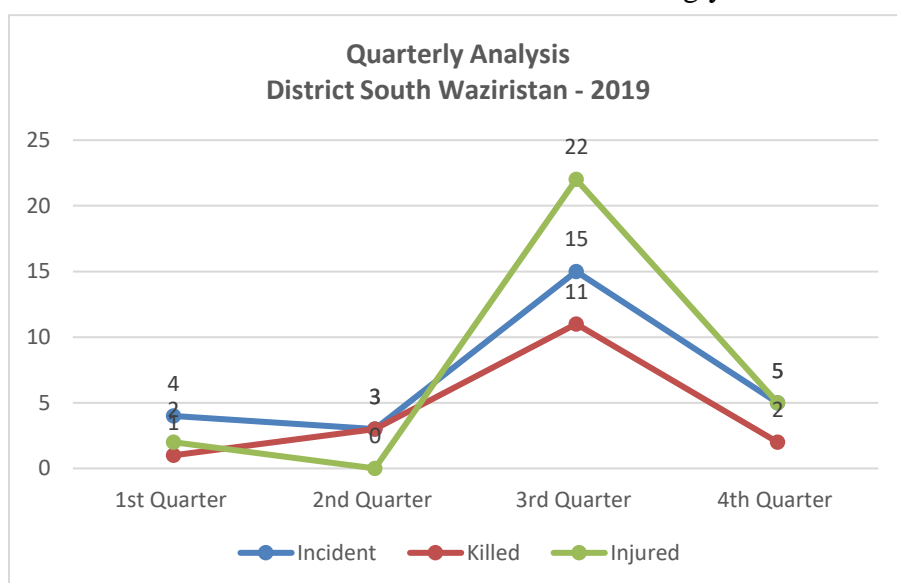


terrorist incidents in 2018, 27 such incidents were reported in South Waziristan during the year 2019. This marks a remarkable increase of 50 percent in terrorism incidents. A similar trend was observed

in casualty index. Compared to 45 casualties (13 Killed and 32 Injured) in 2018, 46 casualties (17 Killed and 29 Injured) were reported during the year 2019, thereby marking a slight increase of two percent in overall casualties.

Quarterly Analysis 2019

The security situation in South Waziristan remained disturbed as a steady hike in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties was observed during year 2019. Compared to two terrorism



incidents in the first three months of 2018, three such incidents were recorded during the same period in 2019, marking a significant increase of 50% in terrorism incidents. However, the casualty index did

not witness any change during the reporting year as compared to 2018.

During the second quarter (April-July) 2019, three terrorism incidents and three casualties were reported from district South Waziristan. Conversely, a significant increase in terrorism incident was observed in terrorism incidents during the third quarter of 2019. Compared to three terrorism incidents in the second quarter, 15 such incidents were recorded from SWD, during the third quarter (July-September) 2019. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to three casualties (Three killed and Zero injured) during the second quarter of 2019, 33 casualties (11 killed and 22 injured) were reported during the third quarter of the reporting year.

Chapter 3

Trends and Analysis

Although terrorist incidents continued to occur in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs), the overall security situation in area has remarkably improved during the past few years. A total of 160 violent incidents (106 terrorism and 54 counter-terrorism) incidents were recorded during the year 2019 compared to 264 (127 terrorism and 137 counter-terrorism) incidents in 2018. This shows a decrease of 16 percent in terrorism incidents while 82 percent in counter-terrorism incidents in 2019 as compared to the previous year.

A further breakdown of terrorism incidents shows that of the total 106 terrorist incidents in 2019, 54 terrorist attacks (52 percent) targeted the security forces while 48 attacks (46 percent) were directed against civilians. Four terrorist attacks (Four percent) targeted members of civil militia or *Amn Lashkar*.

Militants Tactics in KPTDs - 2019

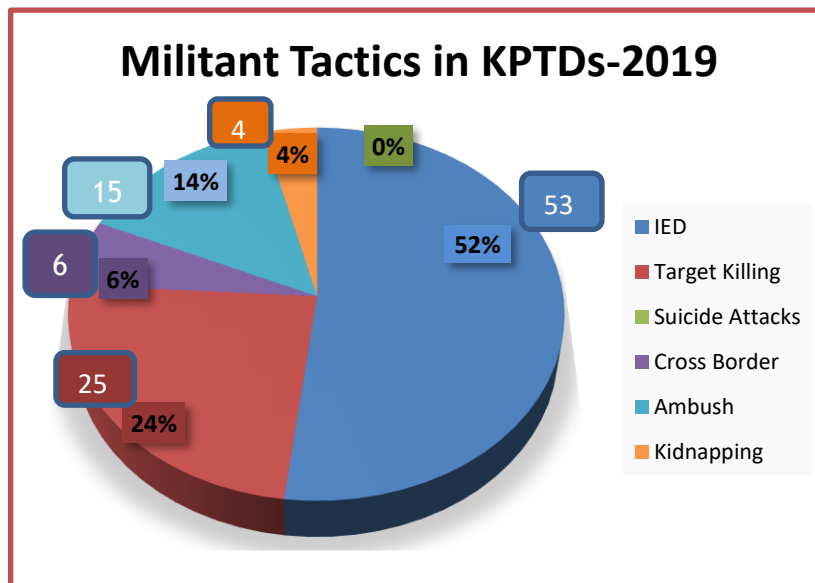
Military operations against the militant groups in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal districts have considerably weakened the operational capacity of militant organizations. A loss of terrorist training infrastructure, hideouts, safe havens and the gradual loss of local support within the Pashtun communities has deprived them from local recruits and sources of terror financing.

Nevertheless, the militant groups have altered their tactics, strategies and outlook to adjust to the changing environment. Instead of suicide attacks, which used to be the most preferred and effective tactics, the militants are now mainly employing target killing against personnel of law enforcement and security agencies, political representatives, tribal elders and members of anti-Taliban tribal militias in the KPTDs. The shift in militants' tactics i.e. from suicide attacks to target killing amid the nose dive in militancy-related incidents illustrates the significance of intensive hardcore approaches adopted by the Pakistani government in debilitating the militant networks of both local and foreign militants operating in tribal areas of Pakistan.

During the year 2019, IEDs (Improvised Explosives) remained the most preferred tool of terrorists for carrying out attacks against civilians, security forces and member of civil militia in the NMDs (Newly Merged Districts of KP). On 54 occasions, terrorists employed IEDs to target civilians, member of security forces and civil militias, which accounts for 52 percent of total terror attacks during this year. The terrorists also relayed on target killing to target civilians

and members of civil militias. In total 25 target killing incidents were recorded in which terrorist belonging to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) targeted security forces and civilians in North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Khyber, Mohmand and Bajaur tribal districts. Although IEDs and target killing remained the most preferred mode of militant tactics; nevertheless the frequency of such incidents have significantly declined as compared to the year 2018.

The ambush on security forces accounted for 14 percent of the terrorist attacks. On 15 occasions, terrorists ambushed security forces, particularly in North Waziristan during



reporting year which accounts for 14 percent of the terrorist attacks. Terrorist also staged cross border attacks to target security forces Khyber and North Waziristan districts. On six occasions security forces targeted security check posts near the Afghanistan border in

Khyber and North Waziristan districts in the year 2019 while four incidents of kidnapping were also reported from KPTDs in the reporting year.

Major Actors of Instability in KPTDs - 2019

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) led by Mufti Noor Wali Mahsud and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (Hakeemullah Faction), remained the major actors of instability during the year 2019. The above mentioned groups are currently based inside Afghanistan from there they are conducting terrorist activities inside the seven tribal districts of KP, through cross border movements or with the help of local sympathizers.

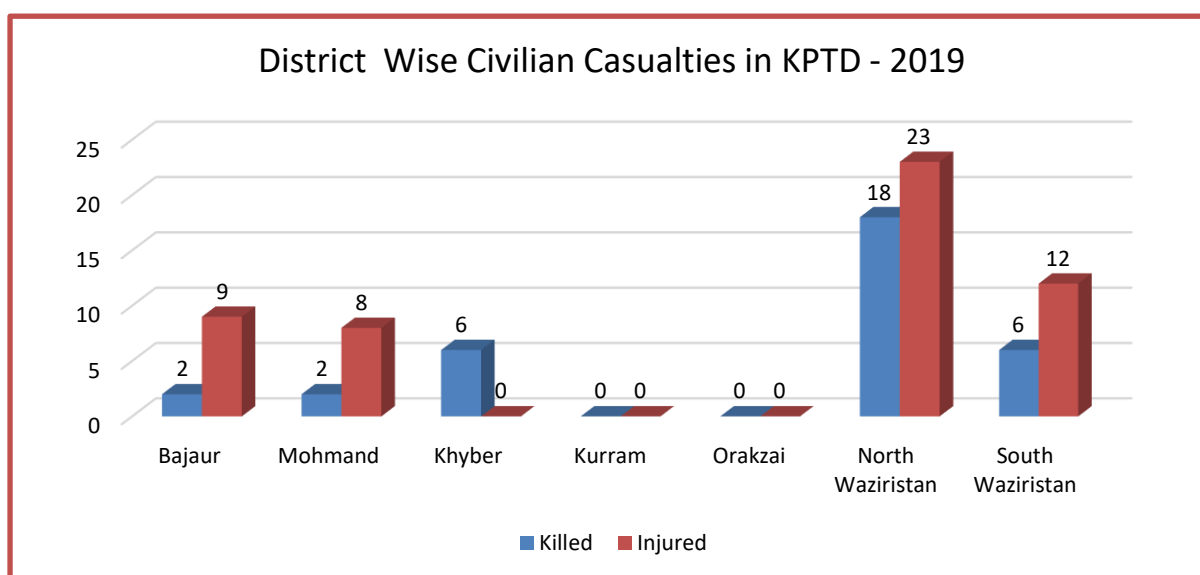
An important security development in this year was the killing of Qari Saifullah, a spokesperson of Hakeemullah group (TTP). It is believed that he was killed by members of Haqqani Network while he was in his home in Khost province of Afghanistan. Earlier, Qari Saifullah, claimed the responsibility for the killing of three members of Haqqani Network in the same province of Afghanistan. The killing of Qari Saifullah has significantly weakened

Hakeemullah group as he was the only highly profile commander left in the group.

On the other hand Mufti Noor Wali Khan Mahsud is trying his level best to strength his faction of TTP by bringing all the other smaller militant groups under umbrella of TTP. But so far he has achieved little success in abridging the rifts among the different factions of Taliban and bring them under one umbrella. Although, during the year 2019, the group claimed responsibilities for IED attacks and target killing incidents in NWD and SWD. There were also reports of few kidnaping incidents and also distribution of pamphlets warning the local residents to stop playing loud music, boycott polio vaccination and stop women from going out without being accompanied by a man were reported from Waziristan. However, the threat of Taliban re-emergence in the KPTDs is very meager. Firstly, their networks have been largely dismantled during the military operations in the area. Secondly, majority of their leadership is taking refuge inside Afghanistan and thirdly the gradual loss of local support within the Pashtun communities has deprived them from local recruits.

Nature of Casualties - 2019

The violent incidents both terrorist and counter-terrorist, resulted in a total of 281 casualties – 110 killed and 171 injured – in all the seven tribal districts of KP compared to 366 casualties (152 Killed and 214 Injured), thereby signifying a marked decrease of 23 percent in overall casualties. Although security forces remained the prime target of militants; nevertheless, militants via target killing and IED attacks also inflicted casualties on ordinary civilians during



the reporting year in the KPTDs. Of the total casualties, 86 casualties (34 Killed and 52 Injured) were that of civilians, marking a significant decline of 52 percent as compared to that of 2018.

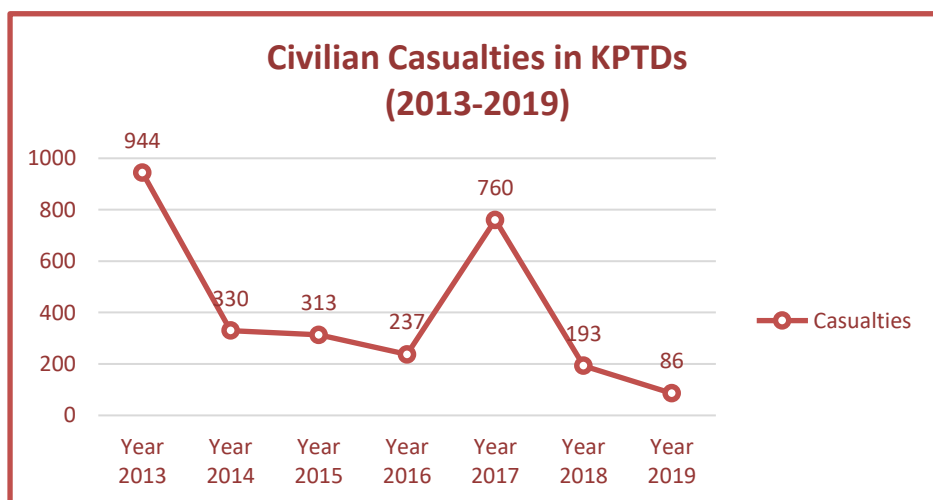
The graph given in page number 13 illustrates the district wise distribution of civilian casualties in the KPTDs during the year 2019.

Although terrorist incidents declined in North Waziristan district during the reporting year, the district topped the list in terms of civilian casualties. A total of 41 civilian casualties - 18 deaths and 23 injuries - were recorded from NWD, which accounted for 48 percent of the overall civilian casualties in the year 2019. The main reason for the high number of civilian casualty in district North Waziristan were the targeting killing incidents and IED attacks against civilian in the district. However, as compared to 60 civilian casualties (13 Killed and 47 Injured) in the district in 2018, 41 civilian casualties (18 Killed and 21 Injured) were reported during the year 2019, marking a significant decline of 32 percent in civilian casualties.

The South Waziristan district remained second in terms of civilian casualties. Around 18 civilian casualties (Six killings and 12 injuries), which makes up 14 percent of the overall civilian casualties. The IED attacks and target killing were the main cause of a high number of civilian casualties in District South Waziristan. However, compared to 2018, IED attacks and target killing incidents have considerably decreased in the district during the reporting year.

Similarly, 11 casualties (two killings and nine injuries) were reported from Bajaur district, while Mohmand and Khyber districts follow the list with around 10 and six civilian casualties respectively. The Kurram and Orakzai district remained the most peaceful ones as no civilian casualty was report from both the districts in the reporting year.

Although civilians continued to remain vulnerable to terrorist attacks in the seven tribal districts of KP; nevertheless with exception to the year 2017, a steady and downward trend has been



observed in civilians casualties during the past six years (2013-2019). The graph given to the left gives a bird's eye view of the civilian casualties from

2013 – 2019. The graph illustrates a significant decline in civilian casualties in the year 2014,

2015 and 2016. Although in the year 2017 an upward trend in civilian casualties was observed in civilian casualties as result of one high profile attack in the district but it again declined by 70 percent in 2018 and 52 percent in the year 2019.

The decline in civilian casualties no doubt illustrates that military operations have significantly weakened the ability of terrorist to conduct high profile terrorist attacks. However, the threat of militants is still potent. The militant groups have altered their tactics, strategies and outlook to adjust to the changing environment. Instead of suicide attacks they [Militants] now rely on IED attacks and target killing incidents to remain in limelight in the KPTDs.

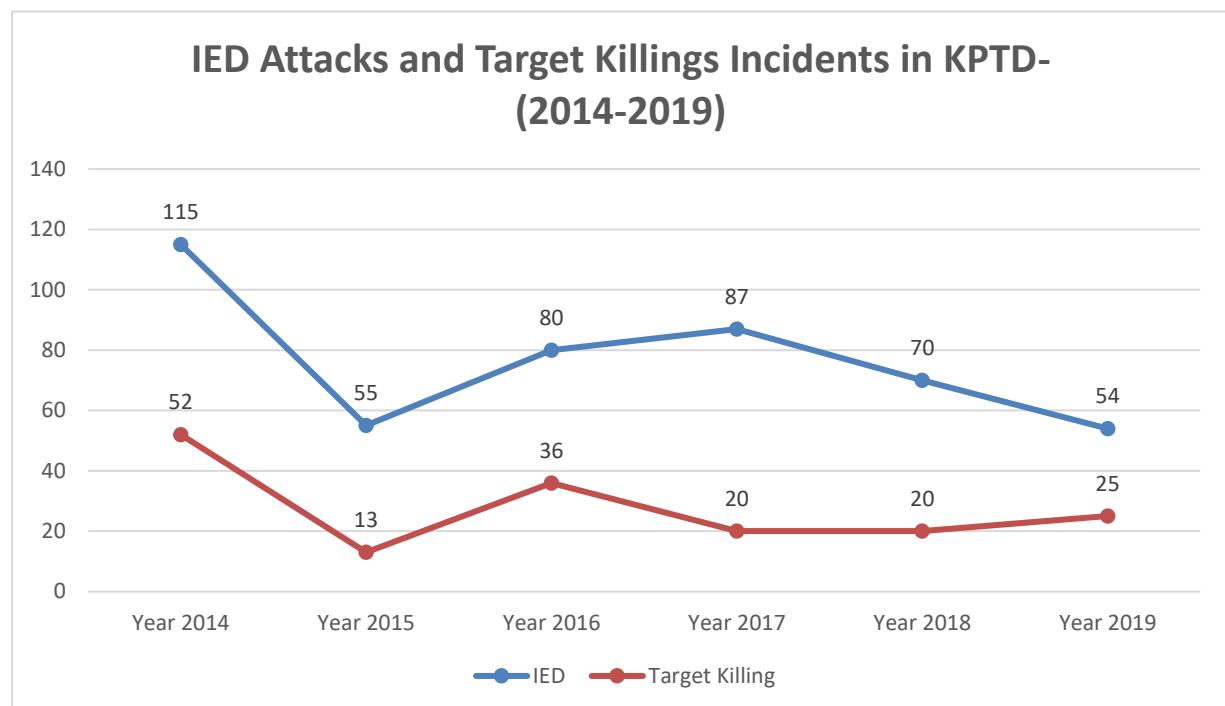
The table below gives a bird's eye view of IED Attacks and Resultant Casualties in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts during the year 2019.

IEDs Incidents and Resultant Casualties in KPTDs in 2019							
Districts	Incidents	Children		Men/Women		Security Forces	
		Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Bajaur	8	0	0	4	7	2	5
Mohmand	4	0	3	2		3	1
Khyber	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
Orakzai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kurram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWD	23	1	12	1	2	10	31
SWD	16	3	9	2	9	6	8
Total	54	4	24	9	18	22	50

According to the above table in total 54 IED attacks were carried out by terrorist against civilians, member of civil militia and security forces during the reporting year in the KPTDs. Security forces remain the prime target of militants. The IED attacks against security forces resulted in 72 casualties (22 Killed and 50 Injured). Civilian stood second with 55 casualties (13 Killed and 42 Injured).

Although IED attacks remained one of the major sources of casualties in the year 2019; nevertheless the frequency of such incidents witnessed a steady decline over the past few

years (2014-2019). The graph given below gives a bird's eye view of the IED Attacks and Target Killing Incidents in the KPTDs from 2014-2019.



Counter Terrorism Operations - 2019

To counter terrorist attacks in KPTDs, Pakistani security forces as a part of ongoing military operation, code named Rad-ul-Fasad continued to carry out IBOs during the year 2019. In total 58 search operations were conducted in 2019, compared to 137 such incidents in 2018. Although IBOs were conducted in all the seven tribal districts, North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Bajaur and Khyber districts remained the prime focus of these CT operations. However, majority of the search operations were reactive in nature and were conducted in the aftermath of a terrorist incident in the area.

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