

IHS Jane's Terrorism Country Briefing

PAKISTAN

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A product of IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC)



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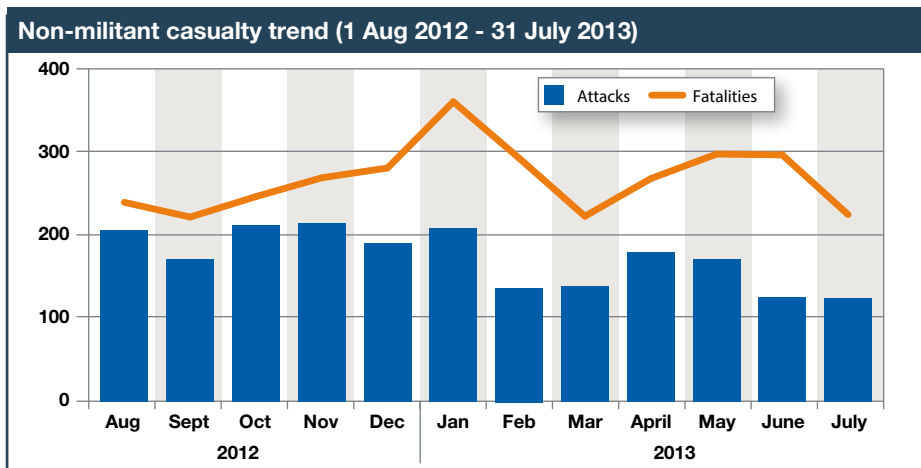
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Executive Summary

Operational Tempo



Between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013, IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC) recorded 2,096 damaging attacks in Pakistan, representing a 0.05% increase from the preceding 12 month period when 2,095 damaging attacks were recorded. While much of the violence was accounted for by established pro-Taliban and Baloch separatist insurgencies, there was also considerable violence in the city of Karachi, both politically- and ethnically-motivated.

The reporting period began with violence at a high level, with 207 attacks recorded in August, although this was notably 25.8% lower than the level recorded in August 2011. The month saw several notable attacks in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and in Gilgit-Baltistan province, in addition to the reported death of senior Haqqani Network commander Badruddin Haqqani in an alleged United States unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strike in North Waziristan.

While violence decreased in September, with 173 attacks recorded, the level of violence reached its highest in the months of October and November, when an average of 215 attacks was recorded each month. While the majority of the two-month period was dominated by low-level attacks – with Sindh province, predominantly Karachi, and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa accounting for 62.1% of attacks nationwide – 23 people were killed in a suicide attack in the city of Rawalpindi on 21 November.

While the recorded number of attacks fell in December, non-militant fatalities increased to 282. Meanwhile, January 2013 saw 210 attacks recorded, with a considerable rise in non-militant fatalities (363) – the highest recorded total in the reporting period. Particularly notable was a double suicide attack targeting Shia Muslims in Balochistan's capital Quetta on 10 January, which killed 103 people.

February and March saw the recorded level of violence decline considerably, to 138 and 140 attacks respectively, although 89 people were killed in a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) attack in Quetta on 16 February. While militant violence remained largely constant across April and May, June and July saw the recorded level of attacks decline considerably, with 127 and 125 attacks respectively – the lowest recorded monthly total in the reporting period. Nevertheless, July ended with a major Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) assault on the Dera Ismail Khan Central Prison in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, which left 19 people dead and saw 248 prisoners, including 35 “high-profile” pro-Taliban commanders, freed.

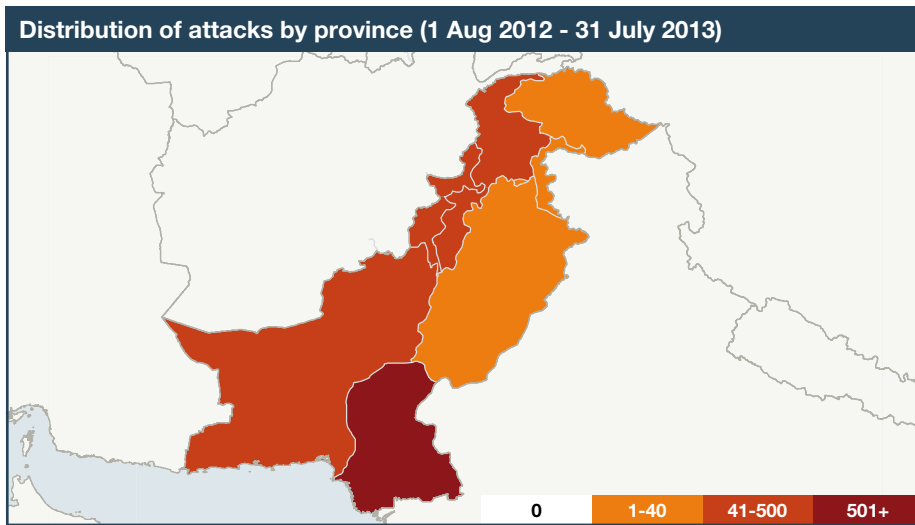
Distribution of Attacks

The majority of attacks in Pakistan were in Sindh province, with the 721 attacks recorded accounting for 34.6% of all attacks nationwide during the 12 month reporting period. This was almost entirely accounted for by violence in the city of Karachi.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa represented the second most violent region, with a total of 546 attacks recorded. The region continued to see substantial levels of pro-Taliban militant activity.

High levels of violence were also recorded in Balochistan province (480 attacks), home to an ethnic Baloch insurgency and also to Sunni Islamist militant groups who primarily targeted Shia Muslims in the provincial capital Quetta. The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) represented the fourth most violent region, with 273 attacks recorded.

Lower levels of violence were recorded in the provinces of Punjab (36 attacks) and Gilgit-Baltistan (22 attacks), while the capital Islamabad saw six attacks.



Counter-terrorism Rating

Security Environment	3.0
Police, Customs and Intelligence	2.0
Military and Paramilitary Forces	3.0
Judicial and Penal System	3.5
Political Environment	2.5
Government Legitimacy	2.5
Socioeconomic Conditions	1.5
International Co-operation	3.0
Physical Environment	1.5
Geography and Terrain	1.5
Natural Resource Control	2.0
Weapons Proliferation	1.0

The counter-terrorism environment in Pakistan is rated **Lax (2.5)** based on a weighted composite of the country's ratings for Security Environment (military and law enforcement), Political Environment (government and society) and Physical Environment (terrain and resources).

A Lax environment is defined as one which slightly favours the sub-state actor. Terrorism campaigns may be sustainable indefinitely, and have a realistic prospect of achieving limited concessions. Insurgencies may be sustainable in the medium to long term, but are unlikely to be able to maintain anything other than temporary control over any territory, and pose only a moderate threat to the state.

1. Country Profile

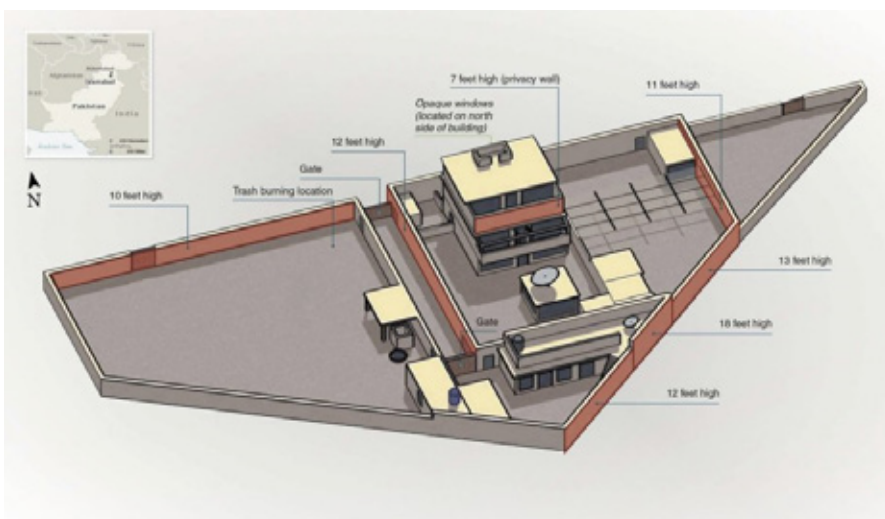
Overview

Pakistan's ethnically complex society, geographically wedged between Hindu-majority India – with which it retains many links – and the contrasting Islamic cultures of tribal Afghanistan and Iran, has faced enormous challenges of governance since its creation in 1947. Struggles over its own political identity, marked by short periods of democratic but mostly military rule, an ongoing grievance against India over the disputed territory of Kashmir, a growing problem of domestic instability and violence, and an increasingly unpopular alliance with the US have all contributed to insecurity.

The end of 2007 saw Pakistan become increasingly unstable. The storming of the Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) in Islamabad in July 2007, the sacking of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry in March 2007, and the imposition of emergency rule in November 2007 both enraged the country's militant Islamists and energised its civil society. Faced with impeachment, then President Pervez Musharraf resigned in August 2008. Subsequent elections ushered in a civilian coalition government led by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and ended eight years of military rule.

However, the civilian government has not improved stability and its tenure has been characterised by fraught political tensions with the opposition, the judiciary, and the military; a deteriorating economy; and increasingly frequent and intense pro-Taliban militant activity. The military launched major offensives against pro-Taliban groups in 2009, early 2010, and mid-2011 but these failed to result in a significant improvement in security and resulted in a series of reprisal attacks in Pakistan's urban centres. Since then pro-Taliban groups have carved out effective areas of influence in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, which have been sporadically targeted by military offensives. Meanwhile, pro-Taliban groups frequently retaliate against military operations with high-profile, mass-casualty operations in Pakistan's heartland and Shia Muslim communities in Kurram and Balochistan have also been targeted. A continuing low-level separatist insurgency in Balochistan and particularly intense political violence in Karachi in throughout 2012 and 2013 have contributed significantly to internal security problems.

Tensions between Pakistan and the United States over ongoing US unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes in FATA were exacerbated by the killing of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in the city of Abbottabad in May 2011. The unilateral US raid on Bin Laden's compound raised serious questions in the US regarding possible Pakistani complicity with Al-Qaeda and prompted Pakistan to eject US military and CIA personnel from the country. US UAV operations targeting pro-Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants were temporarily halted between November 2011 and January 2012, but have since resumed and are maintained at a steady rate, particularly in North Waziristan. US officials have also accused Pakistan of supporting the Haqqani Network for strategic purposes in Afghanistan.



US DoD-released diagram of Bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad. (US DoD 1402426)

Physical Terrain

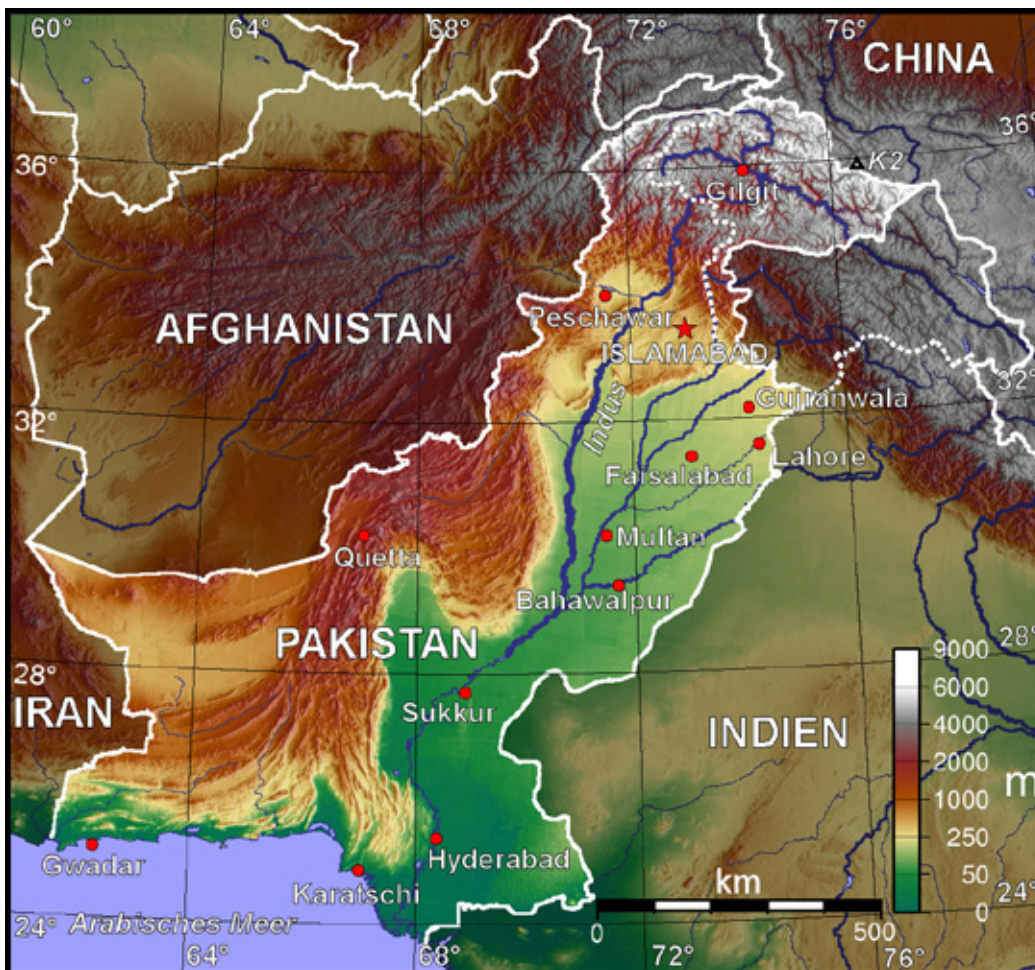
Pakistan is comprised of 796,095 sq km of territory, making it over three times the size of the UK (244,820 sq km). Of this territory, 770,875 sq km is land, and 25,220 sq km is water. The country has 1,046 km of coastline, and 6,774 km of land borders with China (523 km), India (2,912 km), Iran (909 km), and Afghanistan (2,430 km).

The capital of Pakistan is Islamabad, located in the northeast of the country, with an estimated population of 832,000. Population density averages 235.33 people per sq km, and around 36% of the population live in urban areas.



Pakistan is a country of strikingly different landscapes and climates, the latter varying mainly according to elevation. Under the overall influence of the monsoon system, Pakistan has climates ranging from arid hot deserts in the south to temperate and high altitude climates in the far north. Punjab and Sindh are part of the Indus plain, crossed from north to south by the Indus River before it reaches the Arabian Sea. Pakistan's mountains – formed as part of the same mountain building activity which formed the Himalayas – stretch from the Makran Sihan, Chagai, and Toba Kakar ranges in Balochistan to the Hindu Kush, Karakorams, and the Pamirs in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan (formerly the Northern Areas).

The rest of the country comprises the flat lands of the Indus and its five major tributaries, all flowing from India. Agriculture is almost entirely dependent upon irrigation schemes linked to this river system, monsoon rains being a vital supplement in many areas.



Topographical map of Pakistan

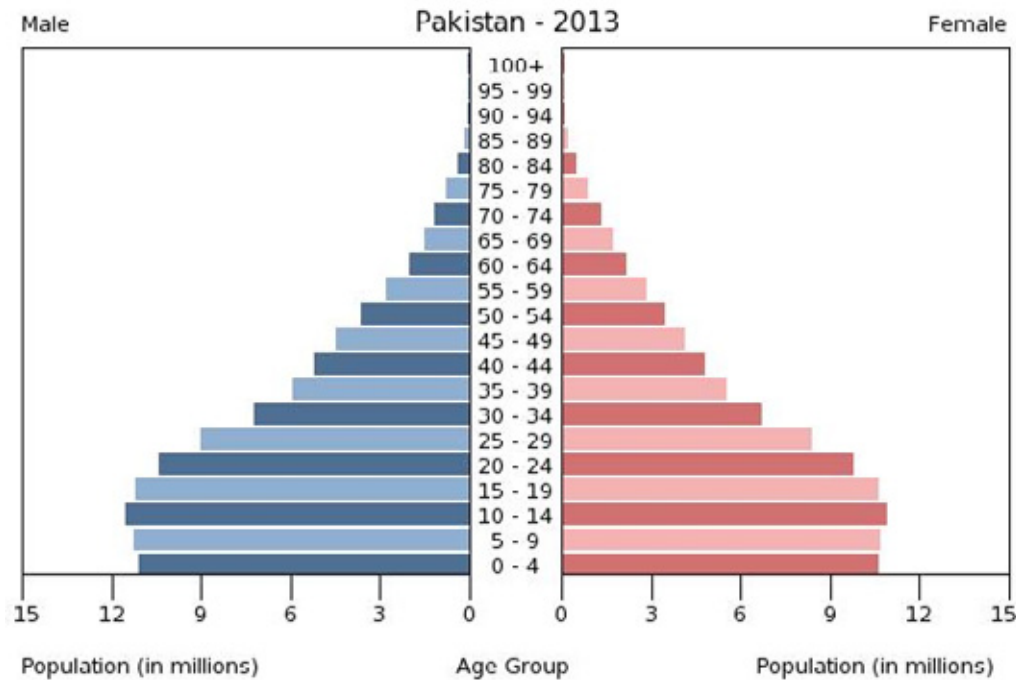
Pakistan's climate varies from tropical to temperate with arid conditions existing in the coastal south, characterized by a monsoon season with adequate rainfall and a dry season with lesser rainfall. There are four distinct seasons: a cool, dry winter from December through February; a hot, dry spring from March through May; the summer rainy season or southwest monsoon period, from June through September; and the retreating monsoon period of October and November. Rainfall can vary radically from year to year, and successive patterns of flooding and drought are common.

Across Pakistan as a whole, forest covers approximately 19,020 sq km, or 2.4% of total land area.

Pakistan has approximately 260,760 km of roadway – compared to 394,428 km in the UK – of which 69.4%, or 180,910 km, is paved. The country's transport infrastructure also includes a total of 151 airports – compared to 462 in the UK – of which 107 possess paved runways.

Human Terrain

The CIA estimated in July 2013 that the Pakistani population was 193,238,868, with an estimated growth rate of 1.52%. High growth rates have resulted in a large youth population, with 34% of the population under 14 years old and a median age of only 22.2 years. Infant mortality averages 59.35 deaths per 1,000 live births, while life expectancy at birth averages 66.7 years.



Pakistan is an almost entirely Muslim country, accounting for 96.4% of the population – of which between 85-90% are Sunni Muslim, 10-15 are Shia Muslim, with a small number represented by other sects such as the Ahmadiyya. The remaining 3.6% is predominantly Christians and Hindus.

Pakistan's population is ethnically heterogenous, and is comprised of Punjabi (44.7%), Pashtun (15.4%), Sindhi (14.1%), Saraiki (8.4%), Muhajirs (7.6%), Balochi (3.6%), and other (6.3%).

Furthermore, a wide variety of languages are spoken in Pakistan. Although the two official languages are Urdu and English, four major languages are also spoken at the provincial level – Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, and Balochi. In addition Saraiki and Kashmiri are spoken regionally.

Of Pakistan's 58.21 million strong labour force, approximately 45.1% of workers are engaged in agriculture, 20.7% in industry, and 34.2% in services.

Around 22.3% of the population subsist below the poverty line, and vertical inequality (between rich and poor) is severe, with the richest 10% accounting for 39.3% of the country's wealth, with the poorest 10% accounting for less than 3.9%.

Sub-State Threats

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Name: Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), or the Taliban Movement of Pakistan.

Aliases: Fidayeen-e-Islam, Ajmad Farooqi, Ansar al-Aseer, Partisans of the Prisoners.

Scope: Domestic **Orientation:** Sunni Islamic **Objective:** Revolutionary.

Status: Active since being founded in December 2007.

Leader: Hakimullah Mehsud (alias Zulfikar).

Summary: The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was formed in December 2007 as an umbrella group that would enable the numerous pro-Taliban groups operating in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa (formerly the NWFP) to co-ordinate their activities and consolidate their growing influence in the region. The constituents of the TTP already posed a significant threat throughout FATA and in areas of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, regularly confronting and defeating Pakistani security forces, while their ability to deploy suicide bombers made them a threat throughout the rest of Pakistan, even in military strongholds such as the garrison city of Rawalpindi. In addition, the TTP's control of much of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border has enabled them to forge strong operational links with the Afghan Taliban. Like the Afghan Taliban, the TTP's ultimate objective is the creation of an Islamic emirate governed according to their fundamentalist Deobandi interpretation of sharia (Islamic law). However, unlike earlier Pakistani Taliban groups which focused solely on supporting the Afghan Taliban against the US-led coalition, the TTP is explicitly revolutionary, and is committed to overthrowing the Pakistani government. Following the failure of two high-profile government peace initiatives, military operations against the group increased, particularly in Bajaur Agency in August 2008, Swat in April/May 2009, and South Waziristan in October 2009. The TTP suffered an additional setback in August 2009 when its founder and inspirational leader, Baitullah Mehsud, was killed. However, the TTP remains a powerful force on the ground in Pakistan's tribal areas under the leadership of Hakimullah Mehsud, and remains capable of conducting high-yield suicide bomb attacks on hard targets throughout the country. The TTP also demonstrated that it possessed both the capability and the intent to carry out attacks on hard targets in Afghanistan when it carried out a high-profile suicide attack on a US base in Khowst in late December 2009, which left seven CIA operatives dead. US authorities have also accused the group of being behind the 1 May 2010 failed bombing in New York's Times Square, which, if confirmed, would signify a notable expansion of the group's capabilities. Further offensives against the TTP through 2010 and 2011 have failed to diminish the threat posed by the group, with the TTP executing regular mass-casualty attacks alongside a high-tempo guerrilla campaign throughout 2012 and into 2013.



TTP leader Hakimullah Mehsud (alias Zulfikar).

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ)

Name: Lahkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), or Army of Jhangvi.

Aliases: Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Afghanistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami.

Scope: Domestic **Orientation:** Sunni Islamic **Objective:** Communal.

Status: Active since being founded in 1996.

Leader: The group does not have an official leader, although Mohammed Ajmal (alias Akram Lahori) is assessed to be the most senior leader.

Summary: Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) is a Sunni militant Islamist group that has been active across Pakistan since it splintered from the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) – now Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) – in 1996. The LeJ's pre-eminent objective is the creation of an Islamic state in Pakistan under sharia (Islamic law), by violent means if necessary. The group also aims to have Shia Muslims declared kuffar, or non-believers. Since its formation, LeJ has carried out sporadic and often notable attacks in Pakistan's Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan provinces. It has also been accused of involvement in the massacre of Shia Muslim civilians in Afghanistan in 1997 and again in 2011; the beheading of United States journalist Daniel Pearl in February 2002; and a SVBIED attack on the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad in September 2008 that killed 53 people. Following a crackdown on the group's senior leadership there was a substantial reduction in LeJ-claimed activity in 2006, 2007 and early 2008, although Pakistani officials had claimed during this period that LeJ cadres had co-operated with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in launching attacks across Pakistan. Since then, the LeJ has periodically launched mass casualty attacks targeting Shia Muslim civilians, particularly in the city of Quetta, Balochistan. Two such high-profile attacks in Quetta in January and February 2013 left almost 200 civilians dead.



The aftermath of a double suicide attack by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) militants on Shia Muslim targets in the city of Quetta in Pakistan's Balochistan province on 10 January which left 103 people dead.

Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI)

Name: Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI), or Army of Islam.

Aliases: Laskar-e-Islam.

Scope: Local **Orientation:** Sunni Islamic **Objective:** Autonomist.

Status: Active since being founded in 2004.

Leader: Mangal Bagh.

Summary: Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI) is a Deobandi Sunni militant group based and operating in the Bara sub-division of Khyber Agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Although ideologically similar to the Taliban, it has repeatedly denied having links with either Afghan or Pakistani Taliban groups. LeI aims to introduce sharia in Bara, and to counter Ansar-ul-Islam (AI), a rival Sunni militant group. Its goals are primarily local, and unlike an increasing number of Pakistani Taliban groups, it has repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness to target state institutions or security forces. While posing a significant threat at the local level, LeI therefore currently poses little or no threat at the national level, and has shown no propensity to target foreign persons or assets. LeI is estimated to be capable of fielding between 150 and 300 fighters.

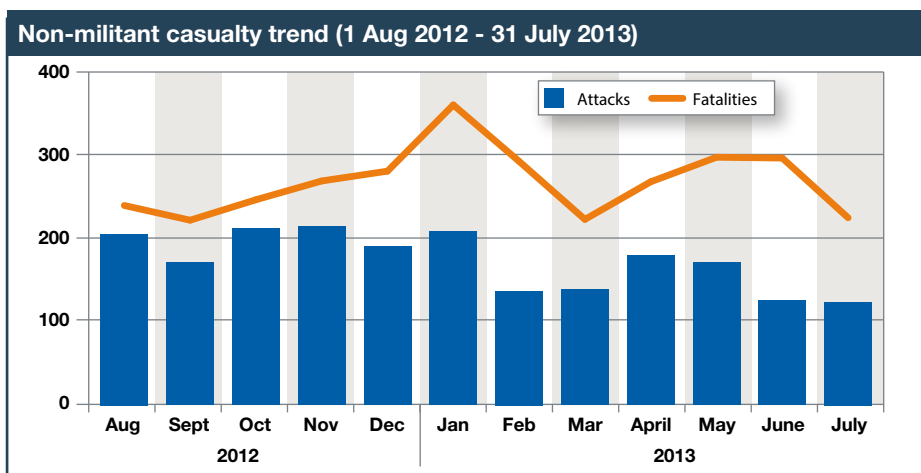


Mangal Bagh, second right, attends a rally in Bara, Khyber Agency, in January 2008.

2. Operational Profile

Tempo

Over the 12 months between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013, *IHS Jane's* Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC) recorded a total of 2,096 damaging attacks in Pakistan, with damaging attacks classed as operations by sub-state armed actors which directly resulted in loss of life, damage, or disruption. These attacks represented a marginal 0.05% increase from the 2,095 attacks recorded in the preceding 12 month period, and equated to an average operational tempo of 174.7 attacks per month. A total of 3,232 confirmed non-militant fatalities and 5,803 non-militant wounded were also recorded in the reporting period in Pakistan. Non-militant casualties include all security forces and civilians killed or wounded, whether by insurgents or as collateral damage in counter-insurgency actions. The deadliest single month was January 2013, with 363 non-militant fatalities and 524 non-militant wounded.



The reporting period began with violence at a high level, with a total of 207 attacks recorded in August 2012, resulting in 240 non-militant fatalities. Although this represented a level of violence 25.8% lower than that recorded during the previous 12 month reporting period, it was nonetheless high within the context of the period in question, and as with the remainder of the period, the violence could be primarily attributed to the three principal conflict theatres in Pakistan: the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, home to the pro-Taliban insurgency; Balochistan province, scene of the ethnic Balochi insurgency and sectarian violence against Shia Muslims; and Sindh province, principally its capital Karachi, where a sustained level of political violence is common. A particularly notable attack in the month took place on 16 August when 25 Shia Muslims were killed in a suspected sectarian attack by Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants in the city of Gilgit in Gilgit-Baltistan province.

Late August also witnessed a series of suspected United States unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) missile strikes targeting pro-Taliban militants in North Waziristan in the FATA. Notably, on 25 August, Pakistani and US officials claimed that senior Haqqani Network commander Badruddin Haqqani had been killed in a UAV strike in North Waziristan the previous week. Although his death was never admitted by the Haqqani Network, it was also not formally denied.

Violence fell by 16.4% in September to a total of 173 attacks, in addition to 222 non-militant fatalities. The targeting of Shia Muslims in Balochistan continued, with a notable example being the killing of 14 people in a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack by the TTP that targeted Shia civilians in the town of Parachinar in Kurram Agency in the FATA on 10 September. The ethnic Baloch Baloch United Liberation Army (BULA) also claimed responsibility for a rare attack, when its militants killed 10 road construction workers in Balochistan province's Dasht district on 13 September. A notable suspected US UAV strike also took place on 24 September, when two alleged Al-Qaeda commanders – an Iraqi national, Abu Kasha al-Iraqi, and a Turkish national, Abu Saleh al-Turki – were killed in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan on 24 September.

Violence reached a peak level in October and November, with the two months maintaining an average of 215 attacks per

month. However, while 247 non-militant fatalities were reported in October, this increased by 9.3% in November, to 270 non-militant fatalities. While the majority of the two-month period was dominated by lower-level attacks – with Sindh province and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa accounting for 62.1% of all attacks nationwide – a notable attack took place on 21 November when a TTP suicide bomber detonated his explosives at a Shia Muslim procession in the city of Rawalpindi in Punjab province, killing at least 23 people and wounding 68 others.

Although the number of attacks recorded in December declined to 192, non-militant fatalities increased from November to 282. Meanwhile, January 2013 saw the recorded level of attacks increase to 210, with a considerably higher number of non-militant fatalities, 363 – the highest recorded throughout the 12 month reporting period. Several notable attacks took place in December 2012 and January 2013, including the killing of 103 people in a double suicide attack targeting Shia Muslims in Balochistan's capital Quetta on 10 January. While senior pro-Taliban commander Maulvi Nazir was killed in an alleged US UAV strike in South Waziristan on 2 January, that month also witnessed the eruption of inter-factional clashes between both TTP and Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI) militants and members of anti-Taliban peace lashkars (tribal militias) in Tirah Valley in the FATA's Khyber Agency, which continued throughout February and March.

February and March saw the recorded level of violence decline considerably to 138 attacks and 140 attacks respectively. At least 89 people were killed and more than 200 others wounded in a large SVBIED attack by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) militants in a predominantly ethnic Hazara Shia Muslim area of Quetta on 16 February. The following month, an unusually large attack took place in Karachi, when 52 people were killed and 130 wounded in a remote-controlled improvised explosive device (RCIED) attack targeting Shia Muslims leaving a mosque. The attack was subsequently attributed to the TTP, although no claim was issued by the group.

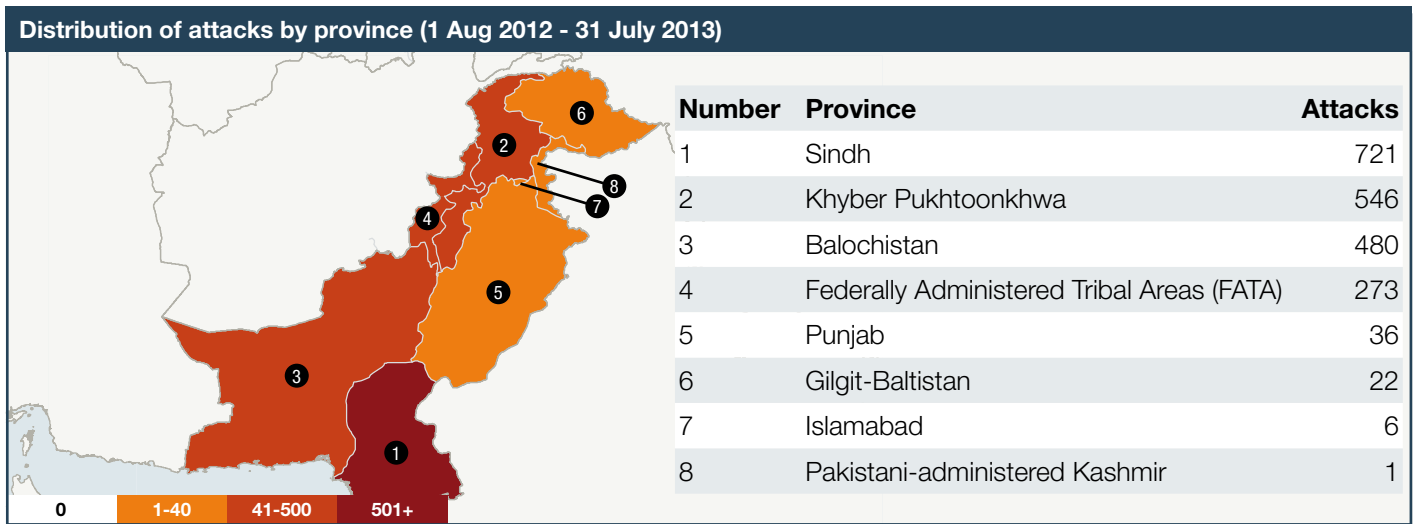
Having seized control of the majority of the Tirah Valley during three months of inter-factional clashes with anti-Taliban lashkars, the TTP and LeI were the target of a major military offensive in the area – termed Operation Rah-e-Shahadat – which was launched on 5 April. Four days later, the Pakistani military claimed to have killed 110 suspected militants in the Tirah Valley and to have sustained 23 military fatalities. Elsewhere in the country, an SVBIED attack in Peshawar killed both the son and the nephew of Afghanistan's former deputy prime minister, Qazi Mohammed Ameen Waqdad, on 29 April.

While the level of insurgent violence remained steady across May, with 271 attacks and 299 non-militant fatalities recorded, the months of June and July saw violence decline considerably, to 127 and 125 attacks respectively – the lowest recorded levels in the reporting period. May was most notable for the killing of senior TTP commander Wali-ur-Rehman in a suspected US UAV strike in Miranshah in North Waziristan on 29 May, which led the TTP to withdraw an offer of peace talks with Pakistan, which it had made in early February.

Despite the comparatively low level of attacks in June and July, June saw non-militant fatalities reach 298, attributable largely to seven attacks in which more than 10 non-militant fatalities were recorded. In addition to two suicide bomb attacks in the Mardan district of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa on 18 June, which killed 34 people (including a member of the Provincial Assembly) and in the city of Quetta on 30 June, which killed 31 people, the month also witnessed a notable attack in Gilgit-Baltistan province on 22 June – three Ukrainian nationals, two Slovakian nationals, two Chinese nationals, and one national each from Lithuania, Nepal, and the US, were killed by TTP militants during an attack on foreign hikers in the Nanga Parbat mountain range.

Meanwhile, July ended with two significant attacks: the killing of at least 60 people near a Shia Muslim mosque in Parachinar in Kurram Agency on 26 July and a TTP militant assault on the Dera Ismail Khan Central Prison in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa late on 29 July, which left 19 people dead and saw 248 prisoners, including 35 “high-profile” pro-Taliban commanders, freed.

Distribution of attacks



The majority of recorded attacks in Pakistan in the reporting period were in Sindh province, with the 721 attacks recorded accounting for 34.6% of all attacks nationwide during the 12 month reporting period. This figure represented a 30.6% increase from the preceding 12 month period, when 552 attacks were recorded. This was primarily a consequence of the endemic levels of politically- and ethnically-motivated violence prevalent in the city of Karachi.

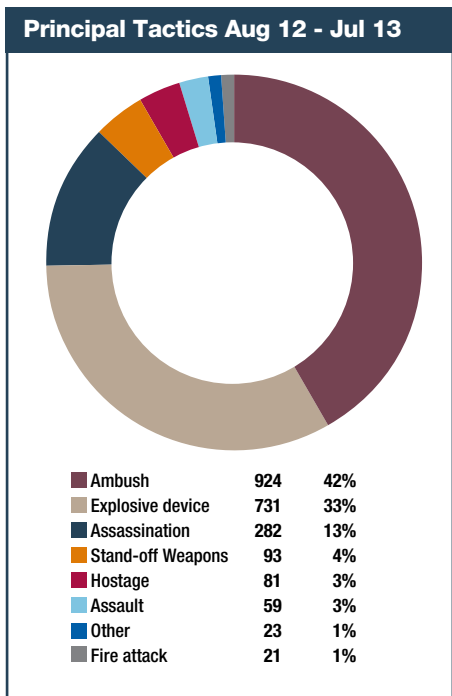
Meanwhile, Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa represented the second most violent region in the period, with a total of 546 attacks recorded, an increase of 14% from the previous 12 months. The area remains home to significant pro-Taliban militant activity, to which the vast majority of the violence is attributable.

High levels of violence were also recorded in Balochistan province (480 attacks), which is home to an ethnic Baloch separatist insurgency as well as substantial sectarian violence by Sunni Islamist militant groups targeting Shia Muslim civilians in the provincial capital Quetta.

While the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) represented the fourth most violent region, with 273 attacks recorded, this represented a considerable 42.6% decrease from the previous reporting period.

Lower levels of violence were recorded in the provinces of Punjab (36 attacks) and Gilgit-Baltistan (22 attacks), while the capital Islamabad saw six attacks and one attack was recorded in Pakistani-administered Kashmir.

Tactics



Ambush

The most commonly utilised tactic by militants in Pakistan between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013 was ambush, with the tactic used on 924 separate occasions, accounting for 42% of all tactics employed by militants. This represented a notable 27.6% decrease from the tactic's use in the preceding 12 months, and also a proportional decrease in the tactic's use, indicating that the change was likely a consequence of a decreased preference for the use of ambush tactics in militant operations.

Small-unit ambush tactics were frequently utilised by pro-Taliban militants throughout the reporting period and small-arms attacks dominated the largely politically-motivated violence seen in Sindh province's capital Karachi. In the pro-Taliban heartlands of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), explosive devices (IEDs) were often used in conjunction with small-arms ambushes.

A notable example of the use of ambush tactics came on 16 August 2012 when Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants dressed in military uniforms ambushed several vehicles transporting Shia Muslims and killed all 25 passengers near the city of Gilgit in Gilgit-Baltistan province.

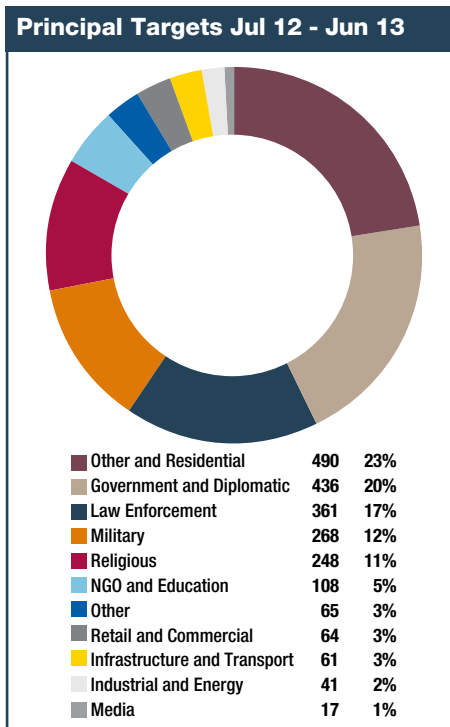
Explosive device

The second most commonly employed tactic by militants in Pakistan was explosive device, with a total of 731 recorded instances of the tactic's use during the 12 month period, representing 33% of all tactics employed. This represented an 11.6% increase from the tactic's use in the preceding 12 months, and also a proportional increase in the tactic's use, indicating that the change was likely a consequence of an increased preference for the use of explosive device tactics in militant operations.

The most numerous militant use of the tactic came in the form of IEDs, frequently employed in conjunction with the use of ambush tactics. There were also 23 reported instances of suspected pro-Taliban militants employing vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) – 13 of which involved suicide bombers – during the reporting period. This amounted to a small increase in the number of VBIED attacks in Pakistan in the previous reporting period, when 21 were recorded.

Most notably, at least 103 people were killed and 169 others wounded when two Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) suicide bombers detonated their explosives at a snooker hall popular with Shia Muslims in the city of Quetta in Balochistan province on 10 January 2013.

Targeting



Other and Residential

The most common target of sub-state violence during the reporting period was other and residential - a classification used by JTIC to denote seemingly indiscriminate attacks where the nature of the target was either not apparent, typically involving attacks on apparently random civilians, or attacks in which the civilian population was deliberately targeted - with the 490 attacks on the sector accounting for 23% of all sectors targeted. This represented a notable 29.4% decrease from the 694 instances of the sector being targeted in the preceding 12 months, and a proportional decrease, seemingly indicating that the change was a consequence of a decreased preference for the targeting of the sector in militant operations.

That attacks targeting other and residential have maintained a prominent role in Pakistan underlines the continued high-level of seemingly indiscriminate and mass-casualty attacks in the country. Sustained politically-motivated violence in Karachi often sees civilians caught up in attacks and targeted indiscriminately, while the TTP-dominated Taliban insurgency in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa and the FATA frequently sees civilians being targeted.

Government and Diplomatic

The second most common target of sub-state violence during the reporting period was government and diplomatic, with the 436 attacks on the sector throughout the 12 month reporting period accounting for 20% of all sectors targeted. This

represented a 64.5% increase from the 265 instances of the sector being targeted in the preceding 12 months and also a proportional increase, indicating that the change was a consequence of an increased preference for the targeting of the sector in militant operations.

The very notable increase in attacks on this sector can primarily be attributed to the sustained high level of political violence in Karachi, which particularly saw activists of the Awami National Party (ANP), the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) targeted in small-arms attacks. In addition to Karachi, pro-Taliban militants in the FATA and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa also targeted local government officials and representatives, as did ethnic Baloch insurgents in Balochistan.

Most notably, two civilians were killed and 25 others were wounded when a suspected TTP militant detonated a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) targeting a United States consular vehicle near the US consulate in the city of Peshawar in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa on 3 September 2012.

3. Qualitative Analysis

The following is a selection of recent *IHS Jane's* analysis covering sub-state violence in Pakistan:

OSINT Summary: TTP fires senior spokesman for divisive comments in Pakistan

7 July 2013

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has dismissed its senior spokesman, Ehsanullah Ehsan, for making divisive comments about the TTP's relations with the Afghan Taliban, the group announced in pamphlets distributed throughout North Waziristan in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on 9 July.

"He has made comments that have raised the danger of divisions between the Pakistani Taliban and the Afghan Taliban... The [Afghan] Taliban are our foundation and [its] leader Mullah [Mohammed] Omar is our supreme leader," the pamphlets stated, adding that Ehsan had been replaced by a man identified as Sheikh Maqbool.

One unnamed TTP commander speaking to *The Express Tribune* newspaper on 9 July claimed Ehsan's dismissal had been sparked by comments he made to an unspecified local newspaper that suspected peace talks between the Afghan Taliban and the United States in the Qatari capital Doha would not affect the TTP. The commander claimed these comments had implied the TTP and the Afghan Taliban were "completely different", and as a result, "the Afghan Taliban asked us not to use their stationery or their flag... This is unacceptable to us".

Ehsan's replacement appeared a clear attempt to mend any damaged relations with the TTP's compatriots in Afghanistan. Pakistani media identified Sheikh Maqbool as a man fiercely loyal to the Afghan Taliban who had spent much of his time in Afghanistan since 2007.

However, in comments made to *The Express Tribune*, Ehsan claimed to be "unaware" of his purported dismissal and stated: "I cannot confirm the news". Moreover, the Urdu-language pamphlets distributed on 9 July claimed Ehsan had been dismissed on 25 June, but Ehsan had issued statements on behalf of the TTP as recently as 3 July, when he threatened attacks against security forces as retaliation for the death of senior commander Wali-ur-Rehman in an alleged US unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strike in North Waziristan on 29 May.

Nonetheless, unnamed sources told *The News* on 9 July that Ehsan's close relationship with TTP leader Hakimullah Mehsud (alias Zulfikar) meant he would likely remain leader of the group's political wing.



TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan, shown in Pakistan's South Waziristan in August 2012.

OSINT Summary – Militants kill 10 foreigners in remote Pakistani territory

24 June 2013

Ten foreign tourists were killed, along with a Pakistani tour guide, when between 10 and 15 militants wearing security force uniforms attacked the group at a remote base camp near the bottom of Nanga Parbat mountain in the Diamer district of Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan territory late on 22 June. The attackers reportedly accessed the camp with the help of two guides, whom they had earlier kidnapped.

Gilgit-Baltistan Secretary of Home Affairs Attaur Rehman stated that three Ukrainian nationals, two Slovakian nationals, two Chinese nationals, one Lithuanian national, one Nepalese national, and one Chinese-United States national were killed.

The attack was first claimed by militant Islamist group Jundullah, which is based largely in Sindh province but claimed responsibility for an attack in the Kohistan district of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, which borders Gilgit-Baltistan, in February 2012. Jundullah spokesman Ahmed Marwat stated: "These foreigners are our enemies and we proudly claim responsibility for killing them, and will continue such attacks in the future."

However, after initially refusing to comment, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan also claimed responsibility for the killings. Speaking with AFP, Ehsan stated that the attack was conducted by a new faction of the group, Junood ul-Hifsa, whose purpose was "to attack foreigners and convey a message to the world against drone strikes".

Ehsan stated that the attack was in retaliation for a suspected US unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strike in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on 29 May that killed senior TTP commander Wali-ur-Rehman, warning that further attacks on foreign nationals would be used to avenge UAV strikes.

The remote location of the attack was particularly notable, with the president of the Pakistan Tour Operators' Association, Amjad Ayub, stating on 23 June that it takes at least 18 hours by foot to reach the base camp. While neither group is known to have a clear presence in the territory - which has nearly 150 tour and trekking operators - the attack underlines the degree to which militants will seemingly travel to conduct their operations.



Pakistani rescue workers unload the casket of a foreign tourist in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on June 23, 2013. Ten foreign nationals were killed in an attack by militants in Gilgit-Baltistan the previous day.

Unholy Baloch alliance? The Islamist-separatist nexus in Pakistan's Balochistan

28 February 2013

Key Points

- Successive mass-casualty attacks in the city of Quetta in Pakistan's Balochistan province left almost 200 dead in January and February.
- The attacks were both claimed by Sunni Islamist sectarian group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) and seemingly marked an intensification of the group's campaign.
- The nature of the attacks has led investigators to posit the possible emergence of a nexus between the LeJ and ethnic Baloch separatist militants.

Pakistani officials are investigating the emergence of a possible alliance between Islamist and separatist militants in Balochistan. Farhan Bokhari reports from Islamabad.

A massive explosion at a busy bazaar in the city of Quetta, capital of Pakistan's Balochistan province, on 16 February left 89 dead and more than 150 wounded. The attack hit the congested Hazara Town neighbourhood of the city - predominantly inhabited by ethnic Hazara Shia Muslims - and occurred when many of the area's low-income residents were returning home for the weekend, while shopkeepers were shutting down their businesses.

Prior to the attack, a tractor had towed a water tanker and parked on its usual spot for residents of the area to fill their buckets and cans. According to eyewitnesses, the tractor driver - described as a bearded man in his 20s - stepped down from the tractor, unhinged the water tanker, and casually drove his tractor away. Soon after, a large explosive device concealed in the water tanker was detonated.



The aftermath of a bomb attack by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) militants on Shia Muslim targets in the city of Quetta in Pakistan's Balochistan province on 16 February, which left 89 dead.

The attack came just over a month after a double suicide attack targeting a popular billiards club in Quetta's Hazara Town on 10 January, which killed at least 103 people, mostly Shia Hazaras.

Both attacks were subsequently claimed by Sunni militant Islamist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), which has a long history of such sectarian violence targeting Pakistan's Shia minority. While the two attacks perhaps indicated an intensification of the group's campaign and a troubling deterioration in an already fragile security environment, Pakistani officials warned on 18 February of new evidence indicating the possible emergence of a nexus between the LeJ and ethnic Baloch separatist militants in the province.

Army of Jhangvi

The two attacks have prompted a renewed examination of the LeJ, which Pakistani and Western officials have consistently assessed to be a threat to Pakistan's internal security as well as a regional threat.

The LeJ's formation in 1996 came at a time of heightened sectarian violence between Sunni and Shia militant groups in Pakistan through the 1980s and 1990s, and the group emerged as a splinter faction of the Sunni Islamist sectarian group Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP). The LeJ, which translates as Army of Jhangvi, was named after SSP founder Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi who was killed by Shia militants in 1990. The name also references the town of Jhang in Pakistan's Punjab province, a Sunni Islamist heartland in which Jhangvi was born and the SSP emerged.

While the initial decade of LeJ operations saw the group focus on the targeted killings of Shia and Christian civilians in the urban centres of Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan provinces - with suicide attacks a favoured tactic - the late 2000s saw the group increasingly establish links with the pro-Taliban Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Pakistan's tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan and dispatch militants to fight against coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Following an operational lull in the early 2010s, the killing of then Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad in May 2011 saw the LeJ intensify its campaign with a series of supposed retaliatory attacks which were largely restricted to the continued killing of Shia civilians.



The aftermath of a double suicide attack by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) militants on Shia Muslim targets in the city of Quetta in Pakistan's Balochistan province on 10 January which left 103 people dead.

Linkages

For Pakistani officials, a key issue with the LeJ remains accurately predicting its planned attacks and gauging the group's capabilities. A Pakistani intelligence officer who spoke to *IHS Jane's* on condition of anonymity on 20 February stated: "The Quetta attack suggests a certain degree of sophistication of this group which is very troubling."

Police investigators examining the February attack have surmised that 800-1,000 kg of explosives had been emplaced inside the water tanker. Reportedly packed in plastic and made practically waterproof, the intelligence officer described the explosive device as "the handiwork of experienced professionals, the stuff which comes with organised army units", adding: "This was not the work of a novice." However, some details remain unclear, as while unverified reports stated that the explosive device was detonated remotely, the LeJ's telephoned statement of responsibility claimed: "Our suicide bomber carried out the blast."

Pakistani intelligence officials and their Western counterparts have long alleged that the LeJ has established close ties with bomb-making networks linked to Taliban groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as Al-Qaeda. Indeed, Pakistani officials have tracked the movement of LeJ personnel to remote locations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) along the border with Afghanistan. A second Pakistani intelligence officer who spoke to *IHS Jane's* on 18 February narrated a specific occasion in 2012 when officials tracked a group of eight LeJ militants who crossed the border from Afghanistan into North Waziristan in the FATA and "arrived in a bomb-making camp where they spent ten days before returning to Afghanistan". The officer added: "We have seen the footmarks of LeJ militants in the past when we looked at places where training was given to bomb-makers."

State patronage?

This account, however, is just one aspect of the threat posed by the LeJ. Unverified reports have repeatedly alleged that the group's members, while allied to other militant groups before the LeJ's formation, received patronage from the Pakistani state, specifically from elements of the Directorate of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), when Islamabad actively courted Islamist militants for geopolitical purposes. This was notably the case in the 1980s when Islamabad channelled funds, recruits, and weapons to Afghan insurgents fighting the Soviet Union.

However, Western and Indian officials alleged that elements of the ISI continued to provide aid to such groups following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, and armed and funded militant Islamist groups to travel to the disputed region of Kashmir in the 1990s, fuelling the indigenous separatist insurgency against the Indian government.

Geopolitical developments in the early 2000s saw Islamabad's relationship with such militant Islamist groups alter. A former Pakistani diplomat who served in Afghanistan told *IHS Jane's* on 21 January: "In Kashmir, Pakistan decided to scale down the insurgency, while in Afghanistan the departure of the Taliban [following a United States-led invasion the month after the 11 September 2001 attacks on the US mainland] and the installation of a US-backed government reduced the space for Pakistan to actively back militants."

Although Pakistan claimed that any such support for militant Islamist groups ended with the beginning of the US-led 'War on Terrorism' in late 2001, allegations remain that such support has continued, albeit reduced and consistently denied by Islamabad. Regardless, Pakistan's support for US-led operations in Afghanistan and operations against Islamist militancy domestically have seen the previous policy of fostering Islamist militants return to haunt the Pakistani government, with the emergence of a number of such groups that have directly fought the state.

Furthermore, the attacks in Quetta have raised disturbing questions over the failure of Pakistan's intelligence networks, particularly the ISI, and the military to curb LeJ militancy. The amount of explosives used in the February attack prompted questions to be asked of how exactly such a large quantity had been taken through the city to undertake the attack, all the while undetected by a number of police checkpoints along the route.

Former judge and Pakistani presidential candidate Wajihuddin Ahmed stated publicly on 19 February: "In the latest attack in Quetta, you have had up to 1,000 kg of explosives reach a congested part of Quetta and that too was undetected. There has to be some collective failure by the functionaries of the state when you have such a major breakdown."

There is also the dangerous prospect that groups such as the LeJ are capable of carrying out attacks in Pakistan with seeming impunity by utilising past ties to government agencies - particularly the ISI, police, and the military. A Western defence official, speaking to *IHS Jane's* in February on condition of anonymity, stated: "Isn't this a matter of biting the hand that feeds you?" He added: "Imagine, such groups were trained with capacities provided by Pakistan to attack foreign locations and now they are using those capacities to carry out attacks within Pakistan. This seems to be a major policy failure [by Pakistan]."

In private briefings with *IHS Jane's* on 19 February, Western officials warned that the LeJ's involvement in the two Quetta attacks raised disquieting questions over Pakistani policy failures that have seemingly allowed militant groups to operate with greater freedom. On the one hand, while Islamabad claims to have retreated from its policy of the 1980s and 1990s in support of militant Islamist groups, Western officials have alleged that there continues to be a tolerance for such groups, who are maintained as an asset for future use if required.

Radicalisation and governance

Such a phenomenon is potentially visible in the form of the network of madrassahs (Islamic schools) across Pakistan, some of which have flourished as active centres for the radicalisation and recruitment of youths for militant Islamist groups. The number of such madrassahs proliferated hugely during the 1980s as they were the first stop for ideologically-charged youths looking to join the anti-Soviet insurgency in Afghanistan. Pupils were first given training in Islamic studies, before being armed and put through training for guerrilla operations.

More than two decades after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, though, the madrassah network continues to flourish. While the vast majority of madrassahs are entirely peaceful, some schools have allegedly developed active links with militant Islamist groups. A Pakistani security official who spoke to *IHS Jane's* on condition of anonymity on 18 February told of a madrassah in a remote area of Balochistan that he alleged had close links to the LeJ and other militant groups.

He recounted a visit by some of his staff to the facility: "I had instructed my people to visit a madrassah to educate me and to educate themselves if there is a chance of this particular network being turned in to a progressive school with the passage of time." However, the feedback received by the official suggested that the prospect of reforming the institution for its eventual integration into the mainstream remained bleak at best.

Among the visitors, one found that the students hardly learnt any English or Maths, the basic subjects necessary for any integration in to the mainstream, while another concluded that the students who received the best awards from the madrassah were those who excelled only in Islamic subjects. He concluded: "There is little hope of mainstreaming these schools. Unfortunately and tragically, graduates from such institutions will come out inspired to create trouble because that will be the end result of their training."

There are also worrying indications of a widespread breakdown of governance which has given wider space to non-state actors who challenge the authority of the state. In 2001, Pakistan's then military-ruler General Pervez Musharraf ordered the replacement of the civil service structure inherited by Pakistan from colonial rule under the United Kingdom and ordered the installation of elected representatives to run Pakistan's lowest administrative units, known as districts and sub-districts.

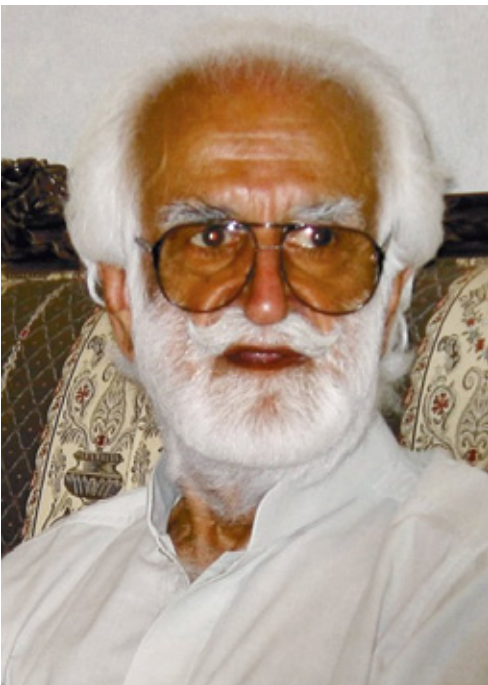
The change has meant that the close oversight of Pakistan's police, once undertaken by well-trained civil servants, has instead passed to elected politicians who have increasingly become embroiled in corruption scandals. Critics in Pakistan have alleged that the change has given rise to further corruption in a police force already tainted and has raised compelling questions over its ability to fight militancy.

This is an issue which has become paramount since 2008 when Musharraf stepped down as president and paved the way for Pakistan's return to democracy. In the meantime, efforts by the government of President Asif Ali Zardari to draw the military into fighting militancy in Pakistan's heartland have met with little success. With almost a third of Pakistan's military deployed to fight pro-Taliban militants in the FATA and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, senior army officers have argued that their troops are already stretched to the limit.

Baloch nexus

In the meantime, the LeJ attacks in Quetta have been followed by troubling revelations regarding a potential emerging nexus between militant Islamist groups, such as the LeJ, and ethnic Baloch separatist militants in Balochistan. Described by one tribal chief in Balochistan - who spoke to *IHS Jane's* in February on condition of anonymity - as "a lethal combination", the alleged alliance is a new phenomenon for Pakistan's security officials, who have traditionally seen Baloch separatism in a largely secular context.

The ethnic Baloch insurgency has escalated sharply since 2006 when the leader of the Bugti tribe - from which a substantial portion of the Balochi Liberation Army (BLA) is derived - Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti was killed when a cave he was hiding in collapsed. While the military claimed the accidental detonation of militant explosive stores led to the collapse, Bugti's followers - including his son and heir, Talal - maintain that it was caused by heavy military fire.



The leader of the ethnic Baloch Bugti tribe in Pakistan's Balochistan province, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, who was killed during a military offensive in the province in August 2006.

The Baloch tribal chief who spoke to *IHS Jane's* warned that "the death of Bugti may have also marked the death of his group's [the BLA] secular leanings." He claimed that Bugti's followers - including both Bugti tribesmen and BLA militants - in 2006 were weakened to the point where they became desperate to search for ways to survive, adding: "Even if that meant teaming up with Islamic militant groups."

The implications of such an alliance are relevant to understanding the LeJ's attacks in Quetta in January and February, particularly in terms of facilitation. While police and intelligence investigators are still trying to piece together evidence on the Quetta attacks, a third intelligence officer involved with the investigation told *IHS Jane's* on 19 February that the tractor used in the February attack likely passed through up to three police checkpoints undetected before it reached its destination.

This initially raised the question of either complicity between police elements in Quetta and LeJ militants, or an incompetent failure to detect the explosives. However, for the second intelligence officer who spoke to *IHS Jane's* on 18 February, a third compelling question was the extent to which the two attacks were successfully carried out as the consequence of a partnership between Baloch separatists and LeJ militants.

After the February attack, Pakistani intelligence officers reportedly found evidence of up to 11 militants having been involved in organising the bombing. According to a senior ministry of the interior official, speaking to *IHS Jane's* on 20 February, one of the planners allegedly involved in the February attack - identified as Abdul Wahab (alias Doctor) - hails from Kohlu, a remote town in Balochistan considered by authorities to be a hub for separatists loyal to Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti.

The ministry of the interior official claimed that Wahab's involvement in the attack - which, it must be stressed, remains unproven - established "a firm link between Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and separatists from the Bugti network" - which likely encompasses both BLA militants and Bugti tribesmen.

Another factor potentially underlining the existence of such an alliance came with an operation in Quetta on 18 February targeting the alleged perpetrators of the attack two days earlier. Four suspects were killed and seven others were detained, including the unnamed alleged mastermind of the attack. While Pakistani officials stressed the involvement of the suspects in the attack, they pointedly declined to identify them as LeJ members, perhaps indicating that they might have been ethnic Baloch militants.

Any potential nexus between the LeJ and Baloch separatists would seemingly be mutually beneficial. The ministry of the interior official alleged that Wahab had used contacts in Balochistan to help the LeJ plan the attack, stating: "It is an example of Baloch nationalists who are indigenous to this area using their connections to help construct a plan for these attacks." He claimed that investigators suspected that Baloch separatists had supplied logistics to the LeJ for the attack, including the provision of safe passage through areas under their control to help LeJ militants enter Balochistan from Afghanistan and travel under protection to Quetta for the attacks.

While such facilitation is of clear benefit to LeJ militants, the tangible benefits of such an alliance to Baloch separatists are less clear. Nonetheless, it may be that the Baloch separatists have anticipated that a partnership with the LeJ would enhance their own capabilities and allow them to intensify their own insurgency against the state.



Ethnic Baloch tribesmen in the Kohlu area of Pakistan's Balochistan province in August 2006.

Broader linkages

The alleged LeJ-Baloch separatist links have also prompted investigators to consider broader links between Baloch separatist militants and other militant Islamist - particularly pro-Taliban - militants in other areas of Pakistan. A key area of concern in this regard is the city of Karachi in Sindh province - the largest city in the country and Pakistan's financial centre - which lies on the border with Balochistan.

Secular political party the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) is the dominant political power in Karachi, and a local MQM leader who spoke to *IHS Jane's* on 14 February on condition of anonymity complained of the "growing threat of Talibanisation" in the city. The official alleged that Afghan and Pakistani Taliban groups, as well as other militant Islamist groups such as the LeJ, had expanded their presence in parts of Karachi, aggressively seeking to take hold of the city.

The MQM official claimed that the party had collected evidence of Islamist militants arriving in Karachi from Balochistan and in some instances of hiding in the city with the support of Baloch groups. He alleged: "There is a trail of drugs and arms, which is accompanied by an increasing flow of Taliban type Islamic militants, coming from Balochistan." He added that the party had reportedly detected militants "who simply get on the back of motorcycles and are quietly driven in to Karachi. Then, they hide with local sympathisers with deep links to Balochistan until they surface to carry out an attack".

Western diplomats with access to intelligence information have agreed that growing lawlessness in Karachi in recent months, and increasing incidents of targeted killings involving rival gangs, may in part be driven by a territorial war involving militant Islamist groups. A senior Western diplomat in Islamabad told *IHS Jane's* on 15 February: "These people are seeking to carve out their own areas of influence and Karachi offers them the perfect opportunity. Parts of the city are out of anyone's control and provide a unique opportunity for militants to join gangs here."

OSINT Summary – Tribal ultimatum indicates wider Pakistani militant schism

6 December 2012

After a jirga (tribal gathering) on 1 December, the Ahmedzai Wazir tribe ordered that all Mehsud tribesmen leave the town of Wana in South Waziristan in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas by 5 December.

The statement followed a 29 November suicide attack on senior Ahmedzai Wazir tribesman and pro-Taliban commander Maulvi Nazir in Wana, which left seven dead and wounded Nazir. At the jirga, tribal elders alleged that Mehsud tribesmen were responsible, with unverified reports accusing the Mehsud-dominated Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).



Pro-Taliban commander Maulvi Nazir (front).

Although the TTP denied involvement, Nazir has a history of enmity with the group, dating back to late 2007 when he refused to join the nascent TTP. Nazir's fighters have historically focused on cross-border attacks on US-led forces in Afghanistan and opposed the TTP's attacks on the Pakistani state. In addition, earlier that year, Nazir's forces had attacked Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan militants being sheltered by future TTP founder Baitullah Mehsud in South Waziristan.

While the hostility between Nazir and Baitullah eased somewhat with the formation of the Shura Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen, or United Mujahideen Council, in February 2009 - along with North Waziristan-based pro-Taliban commander Hafiz Gul

Bahadar - both Nazir and Bahadar allowed the Pakistan army to use their territory in an offensive against TTP strongholds in South Waziristan seven months later.

Nonetheless, at the reported urging of Afghan Taliban leader Mohammed 'Mullah' Omar, Nazir and Bahadur formed the Shura-i-Muraqba with Baitullah's successor, TTP leader Hakimullah Mehsud, in January 2012, pledging to end inter-factional violence. However, six months later, on 5 July, the TTP's South Waziristan commander, Wali Mohammed, was shot dead, and the TTP accused Nazir's forces of responsibility. This was denied, and Nazir's group accused Wali of bringing Uzbek militants back into South Waziristan.

Unverified reports alleged that tension built over the following months before manifesting in the attack on Nazir. Although the perpetrators remain unknown, local TTP or allied Uzbek militants seem most likely to be responsible. The attack calls into question the future of the Shura-i-Muraqba, which would probably disintegrate with further inter-factional fighting.

OSINT Summary: TTP threatens political party in Pakistan's Karachi

5 November 2012

In a statement released on 2 November, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) threatened to “liberate Karachi” from the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) political party. TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan vowed to “deal” with the MQM, stating that the group would not “show any mercy to the apostate tyrants of Karachi”.

Ehsan's statement came the day after MQM leader Altaf Hussain criticised the TTP for its attempted killing of schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai on 9 October and announced plans for a national referendum - set for 8 November - that would ask Pakistanis whether they preferred to live under the TTP's militant Islamist ideology or in the country envisioned by Muhammad Ali Jinnah - the country's first post-independence head of state. The MQM is a socially liberal party, whose roots lie in the Muslim population that emigrated to Pakistan from India following independence in 1947.

Ehsan also urged the “leaders of the nationalist parties in Balochistan and Sindh” - naming the Balochi Liberation Army (BLA) and the Sindhu Desh Liberation Army (SDLA) - to “fight for their rights in an Islamic way”.

The Sindh provincial Minister of Youth Affairs, MQM member Faisal Sabzwari, spoke to daily newspaper Dawn on 2 November, stating that threats to the party were not new. MQM activists, members, and supporters are frequently killed in targeted violence in Karachi - both by militant groups and by armed wings of rival political parties. This was illustrated by the killing of an MQM activist and party worker in Karachi on the same day as Sabzwari's statement.



Members of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) rally in Karachi, Pakistan on 14 October 2012 to condemn the attack on schoolgirl Malala Yousufzai days earlier by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Militants strike suspected Pakistani nuclear facility

16 August 2012

EVENT: Pakistan's giant aeronautical complex at Kamra was attacked by the domestic Taliban on 16 August. The base may contain components of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

Key Points

- The Pakistani Taliban has launched another attempted suicide-siege attack against an air base.
- It is possible the base contains components of Pakistan's nuclear-weapons programme, although Pakistani officials deny this.
- The militant attack included planning errors that limited its effectiveness, reducing fears about the safety of dangerous technologies.

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has attacked the Kamra aeronautical complex near Attock in an escalation of its operations within Punjab province, which is more stable than the west of the country and where the majority of Pakistanis live. In the early hours of 16 August a squad of nine TTP militants stormed the Pakistan Air Force's PAF Minhas base, which is adjacent to the complex. The private *Geo News* channel reported that they were disguised in military uniform. The breach began at 2am and was concluded only after a four-hour gun battle in which the base's commander, Air Commodore Mohammad Azam, received a serious bullet wound when leading the counter-attack. One soldier died, as did all the militants. The PAF said six of the TTP operatives were wearing suicide vests, but not all of these were detonated. The militants had time to emplace a number of improvised explosive devices, and a bomb disposal squad was called in to dismantle these.



Pakistani security personnel guard the main entrance of Pakistan air force base in Kamra following a militant attack on 16 August.

The TTP assault was similar to that on the PNS Mehran air base in Karachi in May 2011. It was, however, less successful on this occasion. Whereas the assault in Karachi succeeded in destroying some of Pakistan's most prized aircraft - P-3C Orion surveillance planes acquired from the United States - on this occasion it appears that only one aircraft was damaged, by a rocket-propelled grenade. Moreover, in the Karachi attack a dozen service personnel died and the siege lasted for more than 15 hours, rather than just four at Kamra.

This failure would appear to be due to basic planning errors by the TTP. Any advantage conferred by the cover of darkness must have been reduced by the fact that, it being Ramadan, many of the base's personnel were awake for their pre-dawn breakfasts. Close to the Kamra facility is Attock Fort, a base of the Special Services Group (SSG) - the elite commando unit that eventually ended the Mehran siege and whose presence nearby posed a serious threat to the TTP militants involved. Nevertheless, TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan told Reuters that the group was "proud of this operation" and that its leadership had been planning the attack for a "long time". This was the third attack by the TTP's cell in Punjab in a little over a month; Ehsanullah had warned to expect more after those in July. *Geo News* reported that the Pakistani interior ministry suspected the cell to be led by Adnan Rasheed, a TTP militant who was one of several hundred to escape from prison in April. A former PAF servicemen, he may have had the insider knowledge necessary to breach Kamra's perimeter.

A sensitive target

This was not the first attack on Kamra - suicide bombers targeted the facility in 2007 and 2009. There are a variety of reasons why it is a tempting target for the TTP. It lies on the border between Punjab and the Pashtun-majority Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and is therefore relatively close to the TTP's base in the semi-autonomous tribal areas of North and South Waziristan, on the border with Afghanistan. Kamra is also the nucleus of Pakistan's aeronautical industry. Alongside the air base are four factories - three for assembling aircraft and one for avionics and radar. They contain state-of-the-art equipment, including for the manufacture of the joint Chinese-Pakistani JF-17 Thunder combat aircraft. Several reports suggested the presence of Chinese personnel at the base during the raid.

Moreover, although PAF officials deny the base contains warheads or materials connected to the country's nuclear weapons programme, this contradicts numerous other expert assessments, including by reliable *IHS Jane's* sources. The security of Pakistan's nuclear sites continues to be a major concern for the United States. Speaking at a Pentagon news conference on 14 August, before the Kamra raid, US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said that it was particularly important for Pakistan to confront its internal terrorist threat. Panetta said: "The great danger we have always feared is that if terrorism is not controlled in their country, those nuclear weapons could fall into the wrong hands." In July, the US Congressional Research Service issued a report suggesting that Pakistan had somewhere between 19 and 110 nuclear warheads and that it is expanding its nuclear weapons capability.

Forecast

Despite such worries, the overall US military assessment is that Pakistan's nuclear weapons are secure, and that Pakistan's leadership is aware of the importance of them remaining so. There is no particular reason to alter this assessment as a result of the latest TTP raid. Although the militants were heavily armed, it appears that they did a minimal amount of physical damage to the site and were swiftly intercepted, although this was in part due to planning failures that were absent in the 2011 attack in Karachi. Although the TTP may attempt to conduct similar operations in reprisal for an impending Pakistani army operation against the group in North Waziristan, announced by Panetta on 14 August that operation - should it materialise - is also likely to inflict significant damage to the TTP.

4. Counter-Terrorism Environment

Between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013, IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC) recorded 550 counter-terrorism operations in Pakistan, representing a 37.3% decrease from the preceding 12 month period when 877 counter-terrorism operations were recorded.

Counter-Terrorism Environment Rating

1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0
Highly Insecure	Extremely Lax	Very Lax	Lax	Moderately Restrictive	Restrictive	Very Restrictive	Extremely Restrictive	Highly Secure

The national counter-terrorism environment rating assesses the vulnerability of the state to campaigns waged by sub-state armed groups active in the country. The lower the rating, the more likely it is that groups active in the country will be able to sustain themselves and achieve their objectives.

The counter-terrorism environment in Pakistan is rated **Lax (2.5)** based on a weighted composite of the country's ratings for Security Environment (military and law enforcement), Political Environment (government and society) and Physical Environment (terrain and resources). A Lax environment is defined as one which slightly favours the sub-state actor. Terrorism campaigns may be sustainable indefinitely, and have a realistic prospect of achieving limited concessions. Insurgencies may be sustainable in the medium to long term, but are unlikely to be able to maintain anything other than temporary control over any territory, and pose only a moderate threat to the state.

Security Environment

Assesses the capacity, capability and loyalty of state security forces – as well as the effectiveness of the judicial system – and the extent to which they are adapted to the threat posed by militant groups.

Security Environment	3.0 – Moderately Restrictive
Police, Customs and Intelligence	2.0
Military and Paramilitary Forces	3.0
Judicial and Penal System	3.5

Pakistan's security forces are well-trained and becoming better equipped. Police forces in Pakistan total around 200,000 personnel and are organised into four distinct provincial groupings in Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa – there is no state police force in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

Pakistan's armed forces are estimated to number approximately 590,000 active personnel – composed of 520,000 in the Army; 45,000 in the Air Force; and 25,000 in the Navy. In addition, there are a number of paramilitary forces, including the 185,000 strong National Guard; the 35,000 strong Pakistan Rangers; and the 35,000 strong tribally-recruited Frontier Corps which operates in the FATA. These forces are considered reasonably well-equipped. Since 2003, the army has given more emphasis to counter-insurgency training and operations, although the main focus remains conventional manoeuvre warfare on the eastern border with India.

The three armed services are structured conventionally and are supported by paramilitary organisations with which there are varying degrees of co-operation. Some of them, for example the Frontier Scouts (formerly the Frontier Corps) being officered entirely by the army. All paramilitary elements are subordinate to the Ministry of Home Affairs, but units of the Frontier Scouts, the Pakistan Rangers, and Maritime Security Agency are from time to time placed under army command.

Pakistan has a restrictive judicial and penal system that grants the government significant legal powers in its counter-terrorism efforts. Suspects may be held in detention without charge for a relatively significant period of time and, if convicted,

face lengthy jail sentences. However, the government has faced criticism from human rights organisations over the “enforced disappearance” of hundreds of people under these counter-terrorism laws amid widespread allegations of torture.

Political Environment

Assesses the extent to which the political environment, and the attitudes of the population, affect the state's ability to counter the activities of militant groups operating in the country.

Political Environment	2.5 – Lax
Government Legitimacy	2.5
Socioeconomic Conditions	1.5
International Co-operation	3.0

Following his election as president in September 2008, the political standing of the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari decreased significantly in the face of domestic political crises and rising militancy. As such, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won the May 2013 general elections emphatically. This bodes well for political stability, although Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's new government faces a dismal economic situation and continuing militancy.

While there is little support for pro-Taliban militants among much of the population, the fragmented political landscape and the military's use of heavy weaponry in FATA and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa has resulted in anti-government sentiment in the tribal areas and peripheral areas of the country, particularly Balochistan and the FATA, often favour local tribal, kinship, and patrimonial loyalties.

Over 60% of Pakistan's population live under the international poverty line, while almost a third live below the national poverty line. This state of affairs has been exacerbated by a long-running lack of government investment in the country's peripheral regions. This has added additional emphasis to tribal antipathy towards the government that could be exploited by militants.

Pakistan's international status was transformed as a result of its strategic potential in the war on terrorism. The United States has overturned various sanctions previously imposed on the country and President Barack Obama announced increased aid in 2010 and 2011. However, the US-Pakistan relationship has soured since 2011, with US officials accusing Islamabad of collusion with militants and the Pakistani government voicing anger at continued unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes in the FATA. Meanwhile, Pakistan maintains relations of mutual distrust and antagonism with both India and Afghanistan.

Physical Environment

Assesses the extent to which characteristics of the local theatre affect the state's ability to successfully constrain the activities of militant groups operating in the country.

Physical Environment	1.5 – Extremely Lax
Geography and Terrain	1.5
Natural Resource Control	2.0
Weapons Proliferation	1.0

Dividing ethnic-Pashtuns between Afghanistan and modern-day Pakistan, Pakistan's 2,430 km border with Afghanistan is poorly demarcated and largely ignored by the tribal peoples who straddle it, many of whom depend on smuggling across this border for their livelihoods. With the FATA essentially a self-governing region beyond central state control, Islamabad's ability to regulate this section of its border is extremely limited. In recent years the border region has posed more of a security threat to both Pakistan and Afghanistan, serving as a refuge and staging ground for Taliban and pro-Taliban militants. A similar state of affairs exists in Balochistan where the large, sparsely populated desert terrain enables separatist militants to execute guerrilla attacks on mobile security force elements.

Pakistan is endowed with significant mineral reserves, including oil and substantial natural gas assets. While many of these

resources are located in relatively peaceful areas of the country, substantial natural gas fields are located in Balochistan, assets of which are periodically threatened by militants.

Militants in Pakistan have easy access to weaponry, with small-arms possession a standard way of life in the FATA and much of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa. The government's lack of a permanent presence in the tribal regions makes a crackdown on such a proliferation of weaponry problematic.

5. Appendix: JTIC Country Briefing Methodology

JTIC Country Briefings are consolidated reports designed to pull together all existing and new *IHS Jane's* qualitative and quantitative intelligence in an effort to provide our clients with the most complete view of terrorism threats on a country-to-country basis.

The JTIC dataset, used to generate the incident and trend analysis in these reports, is compiled using reliable open-source intelligence (OSINT) collated from a comprehensive range of national and international sources, including: local, national, and international news sources; government and inter-governmental reports; and analytical articles. Every effort is made by JTIC analysts to verify the accuracy of reported events through detailed examining and cross-referencing of all available sources.

The dataset is updated with new information twice daily and event records are written and meta-tagged in accordance with the facts of an event as known at the time. JTIC regional analysts consistently review event records entered into the database, and records are amended and updated as additional information becomes available.

JTIC's editorial and analytical procedures are designed to ensure that the maximum number of terrorism and insurgency events is recorded on the day those events occur. However, to ensure that all events are recorded, JTIC analysts periodically review the dataset on a country and group basis in an effort to capture any additional events that may not previously have been available in open-source. These events are backfilled into the dataset to allow for the most accurate statistical trend analysis.

As the JTIC dataset is compiled solely from available open-source intelligence, it is crucial to note that analysis of that data cannot be expected, in isolation, to provide a complete assessment of terrorism/insurgency trends. To achieve this, findings from the database should always be viewed in conjunction with qualitative intelligence provided by JTIC analysts in these reports, and gleaned from a multitude of sources in addition to available open-source.