

TTP's Threat Looms on Baluchistan

The report contains agency and district wise security analysis of FATA and KPK as well as detailed discussion on TTP's expansion to Baluchistan's Pashtun areas.

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Summary

According to data compiled by the Conflict Monitoring Center 286 people were killed and 307 injured during the month of September 2012. Among the dead, 100 were civilians, 124 militants, 25 security personnel, and one pro government Razakar (militiaman) while 161 civilians, 76 militants, 58 security forces personnel, and 12 pro government Razakars were injured. The security forces have arrested 144 suspected militants while the militants have kidnapped 37 people.

The security forces have carried out 23 actions against militants during the month killing 73 militants while the militants have carried out 64 attacks against security forces, government installations, public properties, and civilian targets killing 131 civilians, 28 security forces personnel, and one Razakar. 52 militants were also killed in retaliation by security forces.

In September, Security situation was improved in Baluchistan, Punjab, and Sindh. The number of anti-state violent incidents dropped by fifty percent in Baluchistan during the month. No anti-state militant attack occurred in Punjab. The only militant activity in the province during the month was an explosion when some militants were making a bomb in Bhakkar district. Only one incident was reported in Sindh.

Conflict Monitoring Center's field researchers reported that Tehrek-e-Taliban Pakistan is expanding its operations in Pashtun areas of Baluchistan. Zhob district is badly affected by TTP militancy. Sectarian militants targeting Hazara community are mostly Bloch and the close networking between Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and TTP can create a bridge between Bloch nationalist rebels and Taliban militants, which will make the security situation in the province even worse.

After regrouping and getting tacit support inside Afghanistan, the TTP that was on the run, a year ago is now staging well-coordinated and lethal attacks in different parts of FATA. In September, Pakistani security forces regain control of a portion of Slarzai Tehsil, which was captured by TTP in August. The operation continued for 17 days and the militant put stiff resistance in the area. Bajour Agency had become relatively peaceful during last couple of years but now once again the security situation is getting worse.

In Khyber Agency, the TTP's Tariq Afridi group is facing serious internal rifts after reported killing of its founder head Tariq Afridi by his own brother in law. Sources said that Afridi was murdered on the behest of Hakeemullah Mehsud. The notorious commander Abdul Wali of Mohmand Agency has been appointed as the head of TTP Khyber Agency.

In North Waziristan, the militants regularly target the movement of Pakistani security forces. All the attacks in North Waziristan, which the CMC recorded during the month, only targeted the military's convoys.

Afghan backed militants also carried number of attacks in Upper and Lower Dir districts of KPK province. Pakistan has sealed lower Dir's borders with Bajour and Afghanistan but could not stop the militants from repeated incursions during the month. A tribal Lashkar is also set up to fight the intruders. TTP has also targeted local tribesmen for forming the Lashkar.

Peshawar remained most affected district of the province with the highest number of militant attacks during the September. Its border areas with FATA are of special concern for the government and security forces as the militants cross into the settled area and carry out attacks. In one such incident, the militants blocked Peshawar-Kohat road for a brief period and kidnapped at least seven people along with their vehicles.



Abbreviations to read tables:Nos. = Number of incidents

SFP=Security Forces Personnel

RZ=Razakar (Pro government tribal militias)

M=Militant C=Civilian

Arst=Arrested by Security Forces

Knp=Kidnappings by militants.

IED= Improvised Explosive Device or Handmade bombs

MrS= Mortar Shelling

CBA=Cross Border Attack

SA= Suicide Attack

RA=Rocket Attack

MA= Militant Assault

TK= Targeted Killing

K=Kidnapping

KK=Kidnapping and Killing

NtC= NATO Container

TABLE 1. OVER ALL BREAK UP

Province-wise Break up of Violent Incidents in Pakistan, September 2012													
Region	Nos	Killings				Injuries					Arst	Knp	
		SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	SFP	RZ	M	C			Total
Baluchistan	19	6	0	2	46	54	4	0	0	28	32	27	2
KPK	24	5	0	20	31	56	28	0	28	75	131	64	6
Punjab	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	0
Sindh	1	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	25	25	0	0
FATA	42	18	1	100	46	165	26	12	45	33	116	53	29
Total	87	29	1	125	131	286	58	12	76	161	307	144	37

TABLE 2. SECURITY FORCES ACTIONS

Province-wise Break up of Security Forces Actions in Pakistan, September 2012												
		Killings					Injuries					
Region	Nos.	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	Arst
Baluchistan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
KPK	8	1	0	5	0	6	1	0	3	0	4	55
Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sindh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FATA	14	0	0	68	0	68	0	0	23	3	26	41
Total	23	1	0	73	0	74	1	0	26	3	30	111

TABLE 3. MILITANT ACTIVITIES

Province-wise Break up of Militant Activities in Pakistan, September 2012												
		Killings					Injuries					
Region	Nos	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	KnP
Baluchistan	18	6	0	2	46	54	4	0	0	28	32	2
KPK	16	4	0	15	31	50	27	0	25	75	127	6
Punjab	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	3	0
Sindh	1	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	25	25	0
FATA	28	18	1	32	46	97	26	12	22	30	90	29
Total	64	28	1	52	131	212	57	12	50	158	277	37

TABLE 4. TYPES OF ATTACKS

Types of Militant Attacks Break up in September 2012												
	Nos	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	
CBA	2	1	0	13	2	16	1	0	25	4	30	
IED	27	11	0	8	74	93	35	3	3	96	137	
K	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
KK	2	6	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	
MA	16	8	1	29	19	57	16	9	22	29	76	
MrS	2	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	
SA	3	0	0	2	4	6	5	0	0	21	26	
TK	8	2	0	0	23	25	0	0	0	8	8	

Baluchistan Security Report

The data shows that anti-state violence has considerably declined during the month of September 2012. Relatively better security situation can be the reason behind sharp decline in Baluchistan province during the September 2012. The violence in Baluchistan has declined by almost fifty percent in September as compared to the August 2012. The Conflict Monitoring Center has recorded 19 anti-state violent incidents in September compared to 38 such incidents in August. Comparatively better security situation during the month of September can be assessed from the fact that during the August 2012, the CMC had recorded anti-state violence in 17 districts of the province while in September the violence was recorded in 11 districts. There are thirty districts in Baluchistan province. The following table gives a comparison between affected districts during August and September 2012.

TABLE 5. AFFECTED DISTRICTS OF BALUCHISTAN

Districts of Baluchistan Affected by Anti-State Violence during <u>September 2012</u>		Districts of Baluchistan Affected During <u>August 2012</u>	
1. Quetta	7. Khuzdar	1. Panjgur	10. Nasirabad
2. Bolan	8. Mastong	2. Chaghai	11. Barkhan
3. Turbat	9. Lora Lai	3. Quetta	12. Dalbandin
4. Dera Bagti	10. Noshki	4. Khuzdar	13. Naushki
5. Kalat	11. Zhob	5. Lasbela	14. Kharan
6. Lasbaila		6. Dera Bugti	15. Bolan
		7. Mastong	16. Pishin
		8. Tubat	17. Qilla Abdullah
		9. Kalat	

TTP's looming threat in Pashtun areas of Baluchistan

Majority of the affected districts belongs to Bloch population however; now Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan is gaining grounds in Pashtun districts of the province.

The district of Zhob is increasingly falling into the hands of TTP militants who are consistently targeting tribal elders. This is a tactics they used in FATA to paralyze the existing cultural and social system. In FATA, these militants effectively destroyed the Malik and Jirga system to implement their brand of Shriah Laws. Under pressure from Pakistani security forces in FATA, the TTP is not only relocating its infrastructure but also expanding itself beyond a restricted area where it is relatively easy for the forces to conduct a military operation to root them out. The influx of TTP in the province is expected to make security situation worse.

The militancy in Baluchistan is complex in nature where overlaps of the type of insurgents make it somewhat difficult to understand who is fighting for what cause. The Bloch nationalist militants are generally of secular and liberal thoughts but most of the militants targeting Hazara community also belong to Bloch ethnicity. It is no secret that the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which targets Hazara community in the province, is also working closely with Pashtun TTP. Sectarian militants of Bloch origin can work as a bridge between anti-state Bloch militants and the Taliban. Any such united front will be devastating for the security situation in the province.

Zhob district of the Baluchistan province is increasingly becoming safe haven for TTP militants. The district borders with South Waziristan Agency of FATA and Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunehwa Province. Conflict Monitoring Center's field researchers have reported an alarming development that some of the influential clerics of the province are now supporting TTP clandestinely. After establishing strong holds in certain areas, the TTP commanders have started to issue threats to the local tribal elders to obey their orders. Those who resist are becoming targets of the TTP. On September 28, the TTP carried out an attack on the residence of a local tribal elder Sardar Qaymo Kabaz. The Sardar was injured along with three other people. Local tribal elders and traders are upset with the latest development. On September 17, Frontier Constabulary came under attack in adjoining Lora Lai district. One FC personnel was killed. The FC arrested ten suspects from the area.

Although only one violent incident was recorded in Zhob district but the developments taking place are of worrying nature. If the looming threat is not assessed at its initial stages and adequate measures are not taken at right time, the Pashtun belt of the province, which remained generally peaceful, may become more violent than the Bloch belt because the TTP is better equipped and more experienced than the nationalist rebels active in the province.

The response from security forces in Baluchistan remained limited to just one search operation in Quetta where they arrested 15 suspected militants and recovered two SMGs, five pistols, three motorbikes, one mobile phone and two bottles of liquor during the operation.

TABLE 6. TYPES OF ATTACKS BALUCHISTAN

Attack wise breakup of violence in Baluchistan											
	Nos	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total
IED	4	2	0	0	23	25	3	0	0	10	13
MA	4	2	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	10	11
TK	8	2	0	0	23	25	0	0	0	8	8
NtC	1	0		0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Total	17	6	0	2	46	54	4	0	0	28	32

FATA Security Report

Security situation remained unstable in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunehwa where the higher number of anti-state violent attacks and actions of security forces against the militants were recorded as compared to the month of August. Almost half of the anti-state violent incidents and security forces actions against the insurgents during the month were recorded in FATA where 58 percent of the total deaths in Pakistan during the month were recorded. 165 people including 46 civilians 100 militants 18 security forces personnel and one pro government armed militiaman was killed in 42 violent incidents.

Bajour Agency

Bajour Agency remained the major source of concern for security forces during the month of September. In August, militants of TTP intruded from across the border into Tehsil Slarzai of the agency, which borders with Kuner province of Afghanistan. They captured some mountains of strategic importance and inflicted heavy losses to Pakistani security forces in the area. Pakistani military launched a military operation. The local tribal Lashkar also backed the military in rooting out the militants. The operation continued for almost 17 days. The military has claimed to regain the captured area. During the fighting, more than one hundred people were killed, most of them were militants. About twenty civilians also died.

For quite some time the TTP militants are enjoying safe havens inside the Kuner province of Afghanistan. They use to attack upper and lower Dir district of Khyber

Pakhtunehwa province as well as border areas of FATA. Militants use to attack and go back to their safe havens inside Afghanistan. However in Slarzai Tehsil they changed their tactics and tried to exploit relatively peaceful area. They captured and tried to hold that area.

After a military operation a couple of years ago, Bajour Agency was relatively secure area. Militants were effectively rooted out from the area. Either their important commanders were eliminated or they fled away to Afghanistan. Those who fled away, regrouped, and with the help of TTPs support network inside Afghanistan, these militants are once again active in certain portions of the Bajour Agency. The areas of Salarzai Tehsil have strategic importance because these areas are close to lower Dir district of the KPK province which is a frequent target of the TTP militants coming from across the border. Salarzi can provide a safe corridor as well as a launching point for attacks in Dir and other parts of Bajour Agency.

According to CMC's sources in the area the Slarzai attack was led by TTP Swat chapter's Qari Amjad with the support of Moulvee Faqeer. TTP Swat chapter is led by Moulve Fazlullah who is hiding inside Afghanistan. Capturing of Slarzai Tehsil can be seen as a pressure tactics from TTP to avert a possible military operation in North Waziristan. Pakistani military is already stretched beyond its limits in tribal areas and cannot afford military operations at same time in different areas. Instead of North Waziristan the military had to launch an operation in Salarzai tehsil of Bajour Agency. After three weeks of intense fighting the military has claimed to expel the militants from the area. However the CMC's researchers in the area reported that the situation is still not fully under control. The fighting has forced about two thousand people to relocate from the area. Many civilians also died in the battle and in some cases the corpses could not be picked to burry due to heavy fighting. Pakistani military also used its jets to pound militant hide outs in the area. Militant commanders Umer and Huzaiifa along with more than 80 other cadres were eliminated during the operation. The militants had also kidnapped and then killed six security forces personnel in Bajour Agency.

This is believed that Afghan intelligence and Afghan National Army now patronize the TTP. During Pakistani military's operation in Slarzai tehsil, the Bajour Agency came under missile attack from across the border. Locals accused that Afghan National Army fired these missiles. On same day Khan Kot area of Waziristan also came under missile attack from across the border. Pakistan blames that it is not possible for TTP to establish its strongholds inside Afghanistan without tacit support from the forces active inside Afghanistan. It looks that forces inside Afghanistan are replicating Pakistani model of militant safe havens against Pakistan itself. Pakistan is long being accused of using its tribal belt to safeguard its strategic interests inside Afghanistan.

Orakzai Agency

Pakistani security forces are consistently using artillery shelling to pound militant hideouts in Orakzai Agency, which has become most volatile area of FATA after successful operation in South Waziristan. After running away from South Waziristan, the TTP had relocated its bases in Orakzai agency. Military operation in the area can be termed as longest one in FATA. A number of times it was claimed that the area has been secured but consistent use of Air Force and artillery shelling in the area show the grave security situation of the agency. The security forces in Orakzai agency killed 33 militants during the month of September 2012.

Khyber Agency

Militants carried out eight attacks in Khyber Agency during the month of September while no action from security forces was recorded in the Agency during the period. Bara remained most troubled area of the Agency where five out of eight attacks took place. Deteriorating security situation in the agency is of prime concern for both Pakistan as well as U.S. as it falls in rout of NATO supply line. The conflict in Khyber Agency is multi-dimensional. It was started as a sectarian conflict between two Lashkars (militias) of two opposing sects prior to nine eleven. The Lashkar-e-Islam was formed to fight against the followers of Pir Saif of a branch of Brailvee school of thought. When Lashkar-e-Islam gained upper hand in Bara Tehsil of the Khyber Agency, it started to implement its own interpreted Shriah Laws in the area. LI also started to exert influence in the city of Peshawar. Pakistani security forces initially tolerated Lashkar-e-Islam because it was against TTP and did not attack Pakistani security forces. However, kidnapping for ransom in Peshawar forced the security forces to alter their stand on the group. Khyber Agency's Tehsil Bara is a lucrative location as it can be used easily for kidnapping and ransom activities against business community of Peshawar city. While Tirah valley of the Agency works as a rout of smuggling to and from Afghanistan. The 'strategic' location influenced TTP to force the LI out of the area. TTP's Tariq Afridi started a turf war against LI, which is still not finished. However, according to Conflict Monitoring Center's field researchers and sources in the area the TTP is facing internal rifts in Khyber Agency.

In mid of August Tariq Afridi was reportedly killed by his own brother in law Commander Nazir. According to sources, Hakeemullah Mehsud himself hatched the plan to kill Tariq Afridi because Afridi was becoming more influential in TTP ranks and had started to act upon his own without taking into account the instructions of the Amir (Hakeemullah Mesud).

Hakeemullah Mehsud first tried to clip the wings of Tariq Afridi by sending Abdul Wali -one of the most powerful TTP commanders in FATA- as head of the TTP Khyber Agency but Tariq Afridi rejected the orders to give the command to Abdul Wali. Mehsud used Afridi's brother in law Nazir who is himself a militant commander, to eliminate him. Commander Nazir was promised to be appointed Naib Ameer (Deputy Commander) of TTP Khyber Agency.

Tariq Afridi group is facing stern internal rifts. Three influential commanders, Mufti Ilyas, Commander Arif and Commander Omer Amin have locked horns with each other to control the group. Commander Abdul Wali is based with Kooki Khel tribe these days but still could not get control of Tariq Afridi group. Currently Mufti Ilyas is working as Amir of the Tariq Afridi group. There are reports that he may join Commander Fazal Saeed who had left the TTP last year and formed his own faction of Tehreek-e-Taliban-e-Islami (TTI). Commander Omer Amir has more influence in Darra Adam Khel area is currently operating as Naib Amir or Deputy Commander of the Tariq Afridi faction. He wants his own control on the group instead of accepting Abdul Wali as Amir. Another influential Commander Arif is loyal to Abdul Wali and working to pave way for his takeover. The internal rift has weakened the group. It could not stage any significant attack since Tariq Afridi's reported death. CMC's sources say that the news of Tariq Afridi's death is almost certain but the group is yet to announce it 'officially'.

Interestingly in Khyber all, the militant groups are fighting with each other as well as with the security forces except Toheedul Islam, which is fighting only against Lashkar-e-Islam. Here is a list of groups active in Khyber Agency.

1. Lashkar-e-Islam
2. TTP
3. Ansarul Islam
4. Amer Bil Maroof Nahi Anil Munkar
5. Tawheedul Islam (Zakakhel tribes militia formed to fight Lashkar-e-Islam).

North Waziristan

During the month of September 2012, the militants carried out five attacks in North Waziristan; all of them on convoys of the security forces. After conceding defeat in South Waziristan, the leadership of TTP is now hiding in certain pockets of North Waziristan. The movement of security forces in North Waziristan consistently comes under attack from the militants. The security forces impose curfew on main roads

and adjacent areas to make their movement safe but every now and then the militants manage to target security forces vehicles.

Pakistani security forces stationed in FATA suffered highest number of casualties in North Waziristan during the month of September when six personnel were killed and 17 injured. There is a general perception prevailing in Pakistan that the militants active in North Waziristan are pro Pakistan. Haqqani network and Hafiz Gul Bahadur are presented as examples. That is why any Pakistani media, political parties, and religious elements oppose any suggestion of a military operation in the area. This fact is generally ignored that Hakeemullah Mesud of the TTP is now based in North Waziristan from where he is running affairs of the TTP. North Waziristan is a frequent target of U.S. drone attacks but Hakeemullah Mehsud is freely operating in the area, which reinforces the accusations leveled against U.S. in certain quarters of Pakistan that the drones generally avoid anti-Pakistan militants.

South Waziristan

Once South Waziristan was the main headquarters of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan but in 2009 Pakistani military secured the area in a successful 'Rah-e-Nijat' military operation. Now once again TTP is reemerging in South Waziristan and gradually expanding its area of operation. Commander *Wali ur Rehman* is leading the militants in South Waziristan. In fact, after establishing safe havens inside Afghanistan and getting tacit support from the forces active on the other side of the border, the militants targeting Pakistan have become more organized and lethal. Pakistani military has done incredible development work in South Waziristan after the operation and is still trying to keep the local population away from the influence of militants but close proximity with Afghanistan and regrouping of TTP is making the task more difficult. Commander Wali ur Rehman also sends his cadres to Zhob district of Baluchistan which borders with South Waziristan.

Mohmand Agency

Mohmand Agency remained generally peaceful during the month. Two IEDs were exploded in which no fatality occurred. One IED targeted a vehicle of the security forces and the other blown up an electricity pylon. After each incident, half a dozen people were arrested under notorious 'collective responsibility' law of Frontier Crime Regulation (FCR).

Kurram Agency

Militant carried out four attacks in Kurram Agency during the month. two IEDs targeted security forces vehicles while one mortar shell missed the target and landed on a civilian house killing at least two people. The militants raided Zamshet area of central Kurram and kidnapped five tribesmen. No response from security forces was recorded in Kurram during September 2012.

On September 24, the National Assembly Standing Committee on States and Frontier Region (Safron) recommended to the federal government to immediately release Rs860 million for rehabilitation of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) belonging to Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata), Kurram Agency forthwith. However, more than two thousand displaced families belonging to the Mussozai area in the Kurram Agency are still living in tents after returning to native villages.

Pakistan has banned use of cellular phone service in Kurram agency in 2008 due to 'miss use' of the service by the militants. However, a new development is causing irritation for the security apparatus that local people are switching to Afghan cellular services. MTN and Etisalat has installed their communication tower close to Pakistani border that enables the residents of the area to use their services. The militants use cell phones to detonate explosive devices as well as for general communication. Pakistan security forces are now unable to detect and locate militants through the monitoring of cellular phones. The situation can compel Pakistani security establishment to lift the ban on cellular phone, which may enable them to monitor the communication of suspects.

TABLE 7.FATA BREAK UP

Agency wise Breakup of violent incidents in FATA in September 2012														
Name of Agency	Killed						Injured						Arst	Knp
	Nos	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total			
Bajour	8	6	0	35	18	59	0	0	14	20	34	0	6	
Khyber	9	3	1	11	8	23	2	9	0	6	17	2	0	
Kurram	4	1	0	0	16	17	4	0	0	0	4	0	5	
Mohmand	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	11	0	
North Waziristan	7	6	0	9	0	15	17	0	6	0	23	0	0	
Orakzai	8	0	0	33	4	37	1	0	5	7	13	40	4	
South Waziristan	4	2	0	12	0	14	2	0	20	0	22	0	14	
Total	42	18	1	100	46	165	26	12	45	33	116	53	29	

Security Situation in Khyber Pakhtunehwa

56 people including 31 civilians 20 militants and 6 security forces personnel were killed while 131 people including 75 civilians, 28 militants, and 28 security forces personnel were injured in 24 anti-state violence and counter insurgency actions by security forces during the month of September 2012 in Khyber Pakhtunehwa province. During the month, the militants carried out 16 attacks in which 31 civilians and 4 security forces personnel were killed. Fifteen militants were also killed in retaliation by security forces in these attacks.

Militant attacks were recorded in seven districts of the KPK province that has 25 districts. The security forces actions against the insurgents were recorded in five districts. Overall, nine districts remained affected by the militancy during the month. All the affected districts are of Pashtun population.

Peshawar

Once again, highest number of insurgent attacks was recorded in Peshawar where 15 people were killed and 58 injured during the month. A suicide bomber killed four people including two Americans while 25 people including 20 civilians and 5 security forces personnel were injured in the blast that hit a U.S. diplomatic van. Controversy surrounded the incident regarding the motives of U.S. officials' presence in the area. U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has denied that any of its officials was killed however; provincial information minister of KPK Mina Iftikhar insisted that two Americans were killed in the blast.

The security situation in suburbs of Peshawar is a matter of constant concern for the government. Especially the Peshawar district's border areas with FATA face constant attacks from militants. On September 19, more than two dozen militants blocked Peshawar Kohat road near Matani Drazgai area and kidnapped District Revenue Officer Sajid Nawaz Khan along with his driver and gunman with his car. The militants were so daring that they kept the roadblock for an hour. They kidnapped those with higher chances of ransom. During the action they also kidnapped two employees of a multinational company Telenor and two Industrialists belong to Wah Cantt who were going to Kohat. All these seven personnel were kidnapped along with their vehicles. Later police chased the kidnappers and exchanged fire but could secure release of only DRO. Rests of the persons were taken to undisclosed location. The way the militants carried out this attack underlines the poor security environment in the district as well inadequate response from civil law enforcement agencies.

An inspector of bomb disposal squad was killed on September 28, when he was attempting to defuse the explosive material in Badhaber area of Peshawar. Sources

said four high intensity explosive devices had been planted in Shekhan area where police were conducting routine search operation. The tragic incident happened on Frontier Road in Shekhan village when senior bomb disposal expert Hukam Khan tried to defuse the explosive device. It is worth noting that Peshawar district has faced highest number of militant attacks in Pakistan during past ten years.

Lower Dir

The district of Lower Dir is under threat from the TTP militants who once fled away from Swat after a military operation in 2009. These militants took refuge in Afghanistan and after regrouping; they are now using Afghan soil to stage devastating attacks in Upper and Lower Dir districts of KPK province. During the month of September 2012, 5 militant attacks were recorded by the CMC in lower Dir in which 19 people were killed and 27 injured. One unsuccessful suicide attack and three IEDs were reported while one of the security forces vehicles was also attacked. Militants loyal to Moulve Fazlullah of TTP Swat chapter, who is hiding inside Afghanistan, have stepped up their attacks in Lower and Upper Dir as well as Bajour Agency. In June, the militants had kidnapped at least seven Pakistani soldiers from lower Dir and later beheaded them. In first week of September, Pakistan has sealed its Lower Dir border with Afghanistan and taken solid and effective steps to check infiltration of militants from the Afghan side. The number of check posts were increased while additional security forces deployed and alerted to deal with any incursions of the militants. Lower Dir is a sensitive area as its western borders are linked with Afghanistan and Bajaur Agency, while militants from Afghanistan attempt to attack the border areas. The District Coordination Officer of Lower Dir claimed that there had been significant decrease in incursions from Afghanistan side after sealing of the border. Despite these claims, the militants from Afghanistan attacked a border village Bosta in Kharkai area in Lower Dir district on September 14 and attempted to hold local population hostage but villagers repulsed the attack with the help of security forces and the militants fled back. The bordering villages in Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Chitral and Bajaur Agency frequently come under attack from Pakistani militants operating from safe havens in Afghanistan. In another attack on September 16, at least 16 pro-government tribesmen, including three women, were killed and nine were wounded in a bomb attack on a passenger van in the volatile Lower Dir. The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which, it said, was to punish the tribesmen for siding with the government against the militants.

Swat

District Swat is once again facing threat of reemergence of the militants. The military had cleared the area in 2009 and is still holding it. Security of the district could not be handed over to the civil administration, as the political government could not devise any comprehensive security plan for the area. It is not possible for a military to hold an area for a longer period. TTP's Fazlullah faction is trying to infiltrate in the area. Security forces has conducted four actions against the militant and arrested 22 militants. Three of the already arrested suspected militants were killed in custody during the month.

The following table shows district wise break up of militant attack in KPK during the month of September 2012.

TABLE 8. KPK DISTRICT WISE BREAK UP

District wise Breakup of violent incidents in KPK in September 2012													
Name of District	Nos	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	SFP	RZ	M	C	Total	Arst	Knp
Peshawar	6	1	0	2	12	15	9	0	0	49	58	0	6
Lower Dir	6	1	0	1	17	19	6	0	0	21	27	39	0
Upper Dir	2	2	0	13	0	15	2	0	25	0	27	0	0
Swat	4	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	22	0
Noshehra	2	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	0	2	6	0	0
Lakki Marwat	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	3	0
Kohat	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hangu	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
Bannu	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	0
Total	24	5	0	21	31	57	28	0	28	75	131	64	6

Security Situation in Rest of the country

As compared to August, the month of September remained peaceful in Punjab where no militant attack was recorded during the month. In August, the militants had carried out two attacks including spectacular attack on Kamra Air Base while the security forces had conducted three actions against the militants. In September, only one violent incident was reported in which three militants were killed in Bhakar district while they were making a bomb. In Sindh province, one militant attack was recorded during the month in which the militants detonated two IEDs in Hydri Market of Karachi on September 18. In August, two militant attacks were recorded in Sindh. The CMC does not record ethnic and sectarian violence in any part of the country.