

## **Pakistan's Military Operations: the Counter terrorism Strategy (2001-2013) Prospects and Implications**

### **Abstract**

*Pakistan has regained the status of the frontline state immediately after the holocaust of 9/11 and adopted the both military and non-military based counter terrorism strategy. The paper critically examines evolution, prospects and implications of Pakistan's counter terrorism efforts and analyzes inefficacy of Pakistan's counter terrorism policies during the period 2001-2013. Pakistan has been worst terrorist hit state in the post 9/11 environment which sacrifices over 8500 military and almost 40000 civilian lives. Along with that Pakistan has to face a bounce back reaction of its military operations against the home grown and international terrorists i.e. religious extremism, insurgency, cross border infiltration, affluent terrorist attacks on military and public centers and a terrible series of suicidal attacks. Pakistan faces the after effects of its ineffective counter terrorism strategy in the context of domestic, regional and international security reservations. Although Pakistan has initiated several military operations to root out the sanctuaries of Taliban and al-Qaeda but yet could not satisfy the United States and international community due to lacking of intangible scheme plan, incident to incident counter approach, much focus on negotiation and cease fire, discrimination between bad and good Taliban, sympathetic policy towards home grown terrorist organizations, vulnerable internal security and inconclusive military operations. Pakistan direly needs substantial overhauling policy, a strong national consensus on WOT, balance in civil-military relations in the context of decision making and identification of enemy while fighting against extremism, militancy and terrorism.*

**Key words:** Frontline status, Counter terrorism, Military operations, home grown terrorists, al-Qaeda, Taliban, WOT, Religious extremism, Militancy, Security, 9/11.

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### **Introduction:**

The Islamabad administration announced that fighting terrorism would be its top most priority agenda and turned out to be a front line state in the operative gadgets of OEF. Pakistan immediately separated itself from Taliban regime in Afghanistan and decided to be inside the global coalition led by the United States. Since then Pakistan has maintained an obvious stance on WOT. The government of Pakistan ever rejected and condemned all kinds of terrorism and its demonstration in any corner of the world. Islamabad authorities emphasized on the need for the comprehensive and coherent definition of terrorism. With the rejection of the myth of so called Islamic terrorism. Pakistan has a firm believer in clear distinction between terrorist activities and the legal or legitimate struggle of the people for their right of self determination. The government of Pakistan formulated a military strategy to root out the local and the international militants having their hideouts in tribal areas in the vicinity of Pak-Afghan borders. The security forces of Pakistan have conducted a number of small military operations to rip up the militant groups in the tribal areas as the leading part of its counter terrorism strategy. Pakistan army has conducted 251 major and 735 minor operations in the war on terror since 9/11 to 2012. The military operations conducted by Pak army can be divided into two major categories i.e. before and after May 2009.

First phase of the security operations was sporadic and followed by peace agreements which could not last long, with the militant groups fighting against the state of Pakistan in its northern region. After the incident of 9/11 the northern areas of Pakistan became a hot bed of several international groups. Different terrorist organizations aimed sectarian split and violence. The dissidents acquired strength, power and get deep rooted competing external powers in Afghanistan. The NATO forces and Washington administration sought Pakistan's cooperation to seal Durand Line for maximum blockade of the extremists moving into its northern region especially in PATA and FATA. Because the major objective of Afghan invasion by the US led forces was to dismantle the terrorist activities of al-Qaeda and Taliban and to hunt their leadership. Therefore, being a frontline state and non-NATO ally Pakistan decided to deploy almost 140000 troops along Pak-Afghan border and extended logistic support to the allied forces especially in the tribal areas which were being used as war theatre against Pakistan army and US led NATO forces.

### **Operation Enduring Freedom and Pakistan:**

After the terrible tragedy of 9/11 the United States chalked out a plan to initiate military operation on the Taliban and their guest terrorist organization al-Qaeda, which was alleged of these horrific attacks on WTC and Pentagon. Pakistan became a key player and the major non-NATO ally in OEF on October 7, 2001 (Malik Hafeez, 2008, p. XV). The government of Pakistan provided strategic and information based support to the United States. Pakistan also offered an access to its bases in Jacobabad and Sind, gave intelligence and immigration services to the United States. Pakistan at once cut off all the logistic, political and social support to the Taliban on the pressure and demand of the United States. The US led forces were allowed to use the bases of Dalbadin, Jacobabad and Shamsi to launch OEF against the perpetrators of the 9/11 terrorism. The United States

military installed radar equipment's for the extensive coverage of Pakistan's air space on the soil of Pakistan. Pakistan being an important and strategic non-NATO ally had deployed the regular military units, the frontier corps (FC), special services group (SSG) and ISI to conduct the operation along the infiltration roots from Afghanistan to Pakistan (Javaid Umbreen, 2013, p. 54). The FC forces clashed with the foreign militants in October 2001. These terrorists had crossed the border near Nawa Pass; area of Bajaur Agency. Pakistan deployed its security forces in Khyber and Kurram tribal agencies in December 2001, aided the US military in hunting al-Qaeda's dissidents and the foreign activists who were pushed into FATA because of the operation in Tora Bora. The strength and strong momentum of OEF dislocated al-Qaeda and Taliban from their hideouts in the mountains of Tora Bora in Afghanistan. Pakistan had deployed two infantry brigades of the 9<sup>th</sup> division of 11<sup>th</sup> corps for border and security missions in the FATA regions in regard to strengthen the US led military operation OEF. Pakistan also stationed its SSG in Kohat and Wana as he part of its counter terrorism policy (Goraya, S. Naheed, 2013, p. 152). The Islamabad administration increased the level of its forces deployment in northern and southern Waziristan to hunt the suspect terrorists of al-Qaeda and Taliban. In March 2002, Pakistan extended a great personnel and logistic support to the US led NATO forces in the 'operation Anaconda' which was commenced in Shah-i-kot Valley of Paktia and Khost provinces of Afghanistan. Pakistan army experienced short term and small range operations in northern areas prior to OEF. The prime objective of the operations OEF and Anaconda was to eliminate the Taliban government. Pakistan contributed substantially to facilitate American forces to acquire maximum success against the terrorists. Abu Zubaidah a senior al-Qaeda commander was detained in a joint raid of Pakistan and the US forces at Faisalabad in March 2002. The operatives of ISI and CIA detained Ramzi bin Al-Shibh and other key suspect of 9/11 attacks. The OEF was partly successful in its objectives but could not capture the prime figures of al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden and Aimen-al-Zawahari. On the other hand many militants of al-Qaeda and Taliban continued to use Pakistan as a safe haven for their terrorist campaigns.

**Operation Al-Mizan (Justice) June 2002:**

The fall of Taliban regime in Afghanistan led the Afghan, Uzbek and other international militants belonging to al-Qaeda started to take refuge in the northern areas (FATA and PATA). These al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives got a reasonable support from the local militants and arranged to conduct destructive strikes on the security forces of Pakistan in the area of Azam Warsak situated South Waziristan and killed 12 Pakistani security personnel in June 2002 (Ahmad, 2014, p. 7). Hence, Pakistan decided to launch small and large security operations in the name Al-Mizan to target the terrorists in FATA with a major focus on South Waziristan in June 2002. The objective of operation Al-Mizan was to clear the area of militants, extremists and the jihadists especially of those international militants who had threatened Pakistan's security, solidarity and sovereign status. The Operation Al-Mizan was aimed to capture the master mind and operatives of these terrorist organizations making plan to deepen its roots in the PATA and FATA regions. These terrorists had begun their offences not only against Pakistan army but targeted the US and NATO forces, as they attacked the US fire bases, shkin on the Pak-Afghan border. The key objective behind the operation Al-Mizan

was to kill and detain the foreign militants who were posing a big threat to the government of Pakistan. President Musharraf had a personal motive and means to clear the key portions of South Waziristan because a fatwa was issued by Zawahiri that called for Musharraf's death as President Musharraf was providing help to the US led NATO forces in Afghanistan and was internationally praised for his efforts against terrorists. The Islamabad government decided to deploy almost 80,000 troops in the FATA to conduct military operations against the terrorists (Jones & Fair, 2010, p. 46). The convoys of Pakistan army including the 20 infantry battalions, six engineer battalions, one SSG battalion, two signal battalion and thirty nine FC wings were involved in the operation Al-Mizan. These units were under the eight brigade headquarters. A heavy artillery and aviation escorted the troops. Military forces started creeping into the region of South Waziristan by the beginning of 2002. The check posts were setup by the two brigades along the border in Waziristan to carry out regular operations. The United States had granted massive financial assistance \$2 billion per year to Pakistan for the operation Al-Mizan. The operation Al-Mizan could not acquire its determined results as the foreign militants didn't vacate the area, whereas a strong resistance from tribesmen like Ahmedzai Wazir's and others has been faced by the government of Pakistan. (International Crisis Group, 2006, p. 14 & Gates Roy, 2014, pp. 125-130). The Islamabad administration led by general Musharraf decided to deploy its army into the frontier provinces, North West Pakistan beside the afghan border. Pakistan was well aware about the terrorist activities in the FATA and PATA regions even before the event of 9/11. Pakistan status of front line state and decision to become an active participant country in the WOT heighten the matter in the context of launching organized and well disciplined military operation against the preparator of terrorism.

#### **Operation Kalosha March 2004 (Wana):**

Pakistan army was targeted in January 2004 by the militants when they fired rocket on army camps in Wana from three sides. The terrorists launched many rockets of Pak army camps in the village of Bajaur in South Waziristan. A military check post in Shulama had to face a massive lose and made the situation worst. The military operation was launched by Pakistan army in the reaction of terrorist attack on Pakistan army camp. Moreover the deterioration of security situation led Pakistan army to launch a major "search-and-destroy" movement known as "Operation Kalosha" (Asif Hell, 2010, p. 36 & Tankel, 2015, pp. 31-36). Once again the major objective of search-and-destroy operation was to clear the area from the foreign militants. The operation continued for thirteen days but could not dislocate the international terrorists contrary to the claim made by Pakistan army. The eight soldiers of Pak army were killed who were left behind from their convoy on the main highway of Wana that was occupied by the local Taliban who were harboring the international terrorists, Including Naik Muhammad Wazir, Mulavi Abbas and Mulavi Muhammad Aziz. The frontier crops conquered three forts of the militants. These hideouts were considered as the head quarter of Naik Muhammad Wazir, Noor-ul-islam and Haji Sharif in Kalosha village of Wana a town of southern Waziristan. The Ahmad Zai Wazir Tribe kept fighting on and Pakistan's army including frontier have lost corps 15 lives. The militant also brought to a halt, destroyed or burn a dozen army truck pickups and personal carrier and light artillery. During the operation Kalosha Pakistan army

had to face a difficult time and tough confrontation in the remote areas of Karikot and Shinwarsak. The barrier pinched all around Kalosha and its adjoining areas could not the movement of the terrorist. Different militants were disappeared and fled away via underground warren. Almost 700 soldiers participated in the operation Kalosha initially but later on the number was increased into 7000 to crush the force and hideouts of the militants by March 19 2002 in the south west of Wana. About a dozen Cobra helicopters Pakistan air force fighters were fighting against the militants in this operation. Military killed many domestic and international terrorists and dislocated the commanding authorities of al-Qaeda. Pakistan army also destroyed the underground hideouts and ammunition of the targeted terrorists. Resultantly attacks on military and FC increased in places as such shah Alam, Bermal, Sarweki, Angoor Adda, Laddha, Tiarza and Wana. On June 10 Pakistan army installed 10000 troops and the US trained special operation task force and frontier corps forces. Almost 3000 soldiers establishes and outer cordon. The security forces raided through indirect artillery fire and launched rocket attacks through helicopters (Daily Times, 2004, March 27). The special operation task force was deployed to search the hideout of the terrorists. On the other hand infantry troops initiated simultaneous operation to vacate the area from the militants. And other 3000 troops were deployed to vacate the area. During this expedition over 50 militants were executed whereas 4 soldiers sacrificed their lives and 12 were injured.

**The Shakai agreement April 2004:**

The Musharraf government abandoned military operations and chose conciliation means and signed peace accords with the local militants. The Shakai agreement was signed between the military and Nek Mohammed, a militant commander on April 24, 2004 (Muhammad & Qadir, 2007, p. 5). As a result of this accord, a general pardon and economic incentives were promised provided the militants display positive behavior and loyalty to the state of Pakistan by renouncing militant activities. The agreement asked militants to hand over foreign militants to the state establishment and ensure that Pakistan's soil would not be used for cross border terrorism. This agreement was a verbal understanding between Pakistani government and Ahmad zai tribe led by Nek Muhammad in a Madrassa. The Islamabad administration declared it mandatory for the foreigner to get themselves registered to state authorities. Moreover the local rebels were not supposed to attack Pakistan government and military personal (Nawaz, 2009, p. 18). The militant presented their three conditions to the government like lifting the army's cordon, reconstruction of demolished houses of the militants by Pakistan army during the operation Kalosha. Militants also demanded military not to meddle in local and internal matters and would remain confined to cantonments. The Shakai deal had several problems. This agreement rewarded the materialistic and economic loss of the militants but could not provide the compensation of life loss. Pakistan army made a great blunder by allowing them to keep their arms. The militants proclaimed this deal as reconciliation" and identified it as the unstated acceptance. Pakistan army granted previously undeserved political legitimacy to Taliban and sanctioned the militant groups to strengthen their hold in the region. The local stakeholders and Nek Muhammad Wazir featured the Sakai deal as an unspoken surrender of the army. He declared that "I did not go to them, they came to my place. That should make it clear who surrendered to whom". The final deal

equipped the confidence of Nek Muhammad Wazir who soon violated the agreement. Consequently the Shakai agreement was collapsed when the commander Nek Mohammed was killed in a US drone strike in June 2004 (Daily Times, 2004, June 19 & Singh, I, 2015, pp. 229-240).

#### **The Sararogha Agreement Feb 2005:**

Pakistan army signed Sararogha agreement 7 February 2005 with the local militants then led by Baitullah Mehsood the successor of Nek Mohammed (International Crisis Group, 2006, p 17). Baitullah and his associates were given amnesty by the government in the six point agreement. It was decided that the militants will not only pledge loyalty to the state of Pakistan but also agreed to stop attacking Pakistan's security forces. The government also agreed to remove troops from Baitullah Mehsood's controlled areas and the compensation of raised or damaged homes of the militants during the military operation. Another subsequent peace deal was signed between the government of Pakistan and militants on September 5, 2006. The governor of KPK Lt. General (ret) Ali Mohammed Jan Orakzai reached to an agreement with a tribal grand Jirga in Miran Shah a small town in South Waziristan. The militants committed that they would not attack government officials either Pakistani or Afghani. Furthermore they also assured not to kill pro-government tribal chiefs or impose their certain ideology by force. This peace accord pledged to stop cross border movement and to stop attacks on government installations and the security forces of Pakistan. The three-page deal was consisted of sixteen clauses and four sub clauses (Hayes, 2008, p. 231).

#### **The Operation Silence July 2007:**

President Musharraf ordered a military operation against the students and Clerics of Lal Masjid in the down town of Islamabad in response to increasing criminal activities, destabilizing and challenging the writ of the government. The red mosque administration flushed out the radicals hold up in the complex. The operation silence was a counterproductive action which resulted in a huge number of casualties on both sides (Jones & Fair, 2010, p. 57). The militants groups reacted by unleashing the wave of suicide attacks against Pakistan armed forces in different areas of the country which has created an environment of fear, terror and chaos in the entire country including the capital city Islamabad. The Taliban commander molvi Abdul Khaliq Haqani stated on July 21, 2007, "Mujahideen of the north and south Waziristan agencies will avenge the martyred brothers, sisters and sons. Praise be to Allah, Mujahideen have launched activities and have been conducting guerilla and suicide attacks against the army and paramilitary forces. They will take revenge of the Lal Masjid and Jamia Hafsa operation" (Dawn, 2007, July 22 and Elahi, 2010, p. 140).

#### **Operation Rah-e-Haq (the Path of Truth) October-November 2007:**

The operation Rah-e-Haq was conducted by the security forces of Pakistan in swat district of KPK. The swat valley had been one of the prized tourist resort and destination of Pakistan with beautiful mountains. TNSM under the control and command of Sufi Mohammed gradually established its political and military strength in the areas of swat valley. The security forces of Pakistan conducted the first episode of the operation in November 2007. Consequently the

dissidents began to re-infiltrate in the major cities of Pakistan. Pakistan army restarted the operation Rah-e-Haq in middle of 2008 that lasted through the year (Naseer, 2010, p. 200). The security forces of Pakistan initiated a third round of operation Rah-e-Haq and decided to shoot on sight in the populated areas of Swat region. The rebellion forces receded back after demolishing schools and hitting over military troops. The encounter between Pakistan security forces and militants was concluded by a peace contract i.e. "Malakand Agreement" (Khan, 2014, pp. 15-20 & International Crisis Group, 2009, p. 1).

**Operation Zalzal (Earthquake) Jan 2008:**

After reviving the Shakai agreement Pakistani forces turned their attention towards the Mehsood tribe of the South Waziristan. Pakistan army designed an operation namely 'operation Zalzal (earthquake) against the chiefs of Mehsood tribe i.e. Abdullah Mehsood and Baitullah Mehsood who were wanted to Pakistan army accused in different terrorist activities especially attacks on Pakistan army. The operation Zalzal was aimed at clearing the area from the hold of Mehsood tribe forces (Jones & Fair, 2010, p. 60). The terrorists had captured the Sararogha Fort which became the significant motive to start the operation Zalzal in South Waziristan. A few military soldiers died and many wounded in clash with the Mehsood tribe forces. The operation Zalzal continued from January to May 2008 and army vacated most of the area till May 2008 and decided to withdraw after claiming its victory (IRIN News, 2011, May 30).

**Operation Sirat-e-Mustaqem (Right Path) June 2008:**

Pakistan army decided to launch another operation named 'Sirat-e-Mustaqem' (right path) into Khyber Agency on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The Khyber Agency had emerged as a sectarian conflict prone area between two sectarian groups i.e. Bareilvi Ansar-ul-Islam and Deobandi Lashkar-e-Islami. Resultantly this area became center of terrorist activities. The operation Sirat-e-Mustaqem was unable to dislocate militants (Adnan, 2012, pp. 2-5).

**Operation Sher Dil (Lion heart) Sep 2008:**

The security forces of Pakistan launched another operation in Bajaur known as 'Operation Sher Dil' (lion heart) in September 2008 (Jones & Fair, 2010, p. 65). This operation was initiated against the militant networks led by Zia ur Rehman and Faqir Mohammed both of whom were believed to have links with al-Qaeda network. Baitullah Mehsood provided armed services and weaponry support to militants in Bajaur and Swat to accelerate insurgency and the attacks on Pak army, government officials and security agencies. The operation Sher Dil was commenced against the TNSM another terrorist group and the militants of TTP. The local police was engaged to launch the operation and to vacate the Swat valley from the militants (Rahmanullah, 2010, pp. 2-10). The major objective of Lion Heart operation was to curb the militant factions which had challenged the writ of the state. The operation Sher-Dil was conducted and concluded in the use of aerial bombing and heavy ammunition along with a potential infantry troops in the areas of Loesam, Nawagai, Alizai and Khar that had become a major hub of militant activities against the government and troops of Pakistan army. During the operation Pakistan's security forces found out an extensive tunnel system in the village of Loesam. Every house was razed, connected to the tunnel that was used

as sanctuary of militant and the ammunition storage. Pakistan army got success in clearing several villages of militants in the areas of Bajaur connecting with the north-south corridor. Pakistan army required the support from local inhabitants to protect the roads from the militants which were to be used as protective shield by the terrorists. Pakistan army conveyed leaflets in different areas of Mohmand Agency to persuade the people following the example of tribes in the areas of Bajaur. On November 4 and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the military authorities dropped leaflets in some areas of Mohmand agency calling for people to follow the example of tribes in Bajaur, Darra Adam Khel, and Orakzai and to assemble lashkar against the dissidents.

#### **Operation Rah-e-Haq-III (January 2009):**

Pakistan security forces initiated the final phase of operation Rah-i-Haq in January 2009 with the motto of ‘shoot-on-sight’ in the densely populated cities of Swat. The FC infantry troops assisted with four army Infantry brigades (Ahmad Naeem, 2014, p. 9). Militants, as a result, attacked security forces and destroyed girls’ schools. Unfortunately, unlike the primary two expeditions, the final phase was not a big success to eliminate terrorism from the Swat region. In response, it signed a peace treaty with militants (Daily Times, 2009, April 14).

The accord did, however, provide Islamabad the moral authority to move in by force when the militants violated it. In May 2009, the Pakistani military launched Operation Rah-e-Rast to clear out TTP militants in Swat District (Fleischner, 2011, PP.6-13).

#### **Operation Sher Dil: Battle for Bajaur (September 2009):**

Operation Sher Dil was propelled in Bajaur Agency between August 2008 and February 2009. It brought about slaughtering of no less than 1000 Taliban aggressors and the removal of a huge number of local people in the battle zones. The high-force showdown between the military and Taliban aggressors and subsidiary gatherings in FATA in 2008 prompted the passing of 3,067 individuals (Dawn, 25 February, 2009).

Baitullah Mehsood gave some contenders and help to militants in Bajaur and Swat as a feature of his methodology to better facilitate the insurgencies through his Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan. In any case, the militants relentlessly invaded into the real urban areas (Yusuf Moeed, 2014, pp. 74-75).

This was one of the largest operations. Bajaur is Northernmost Agency lying close to Afghanistan’s Kunar province. This agency was hub of foreign militants with round about 2,000 militants including local as well.

Consequently, on September 9, 2008 Operation ‘Sher Dil’ (Lion Heart) was launched. Main aims of this operation were, to eradicate militants from Bajaur, to clear and hold Bajaur population and to secure Lines of Communication (LOC). Faqir Muhammad was main militant leader. The foremost objective of civil and military authorities of Pakistan to conduct the operation Sher Dil was pinpoint the sanctuaries, militant and terrorist activities of the anti-state elements who had been grown up in the areas of Bajaur including the foreign fighters.



This operation was completed on the solicitation of provincial government. Pakistan utilized a brigade central command, four infantry brigades, one squadron, the base camp of the Bajaur Scouts, and seven Frontier Corps wings (Rahmanullah, 2010, pp. 2-10). The operation was ponderous and depended on elevated besieging fights, bulldozers, and tanks, which moved through Bajaur towns. Ground powers launched their campaign in the targeted areas of Loe Sam, Nawagai, Khar and Alizai to acquire maximum results of the operation. Resultantly, the security forces achieved reasonable success to destroy hideouts and tunnels of the enemy.

After completing Operation Sher Dil, Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps forces moved to Mohmand agency, where they conducted additional operations (Ahmed, Naeem, 2014, p. 8-9).

**Operation Rah-e-Rast (May 2009):**

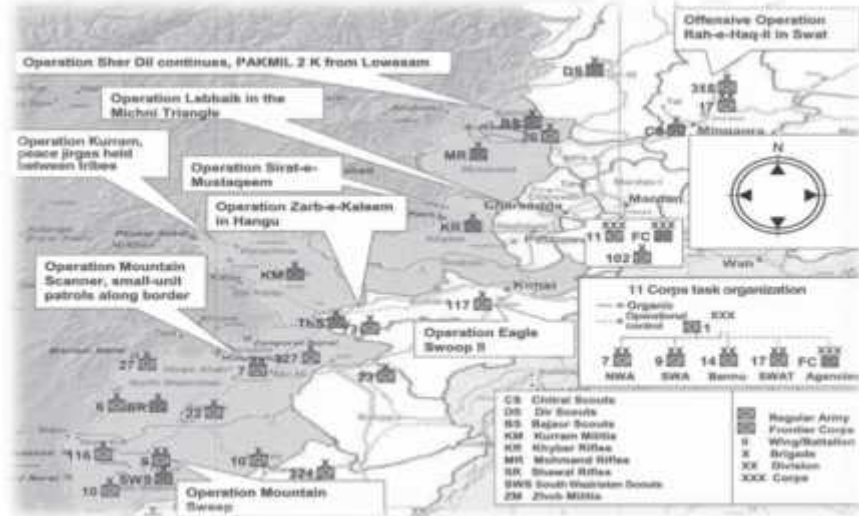
In May 2009, Pakistan army launched operation to vacate the areas of Swat and to kill the prime militants like Muslim Khan, Mahmud Khan and multiple faithful commanders of Moulana Fazlullah, Sufi Muhammad and Baitullah Mehsood. For operational purposes, Swat was divided into North and South Swat. In this operation three divisions were used, 52,000 troops were employed. Two wings of FC forces were also deployed in operation. Pakistani security forces used helicopter gunships, fighter jets, artillery (including 130-mm field gun batteries), and infantry advances to target militants (The News International, 2009, May 19).

Battling initiated in the biggest city, Mingora, between Special Services Group commandos and around 300 aggressors situated in forsook structures. Aggressors of TNSM utilized their insight into landscape and booby traps to bring about losses to the military. Extraordinary Services Group commandos, Pakistan's Special Forces, endeavored to keep aggressors from utilizing mountain goes to enter and way out the Swat Valley toward the north of Mingora. In spite of the fact that the arrangement had been to utilize air bolster in uninhabited territories to minimize blow-back, the military occupied with dangerous strategies that incorporated the utilization of "assault helicopters" to draw in aggressor forts in Mingora. The military additionally utilized gunship helicopters to draw in a "passage" that served as a "refuge of heels at Qamber Ridge" on 11 May. Operations came to their stature in mid-May, when the military reported up to 200 aggressors killed by security drives in a solitary day.

Almost a month after operations started; the military entered Mingora on 23 May, beginning the "most imperative period of Operation Rah-e-Rast. Security Forces burned through one week "moving from road to road" to secure the city. In the midst of Heavy Street battling, the Pakistan Army caught extensive parts of the city, including a few key convergences and squares. On May 24, the Pakistan Army declared that it had retaken extensive parts of Mingora. Pakistani troopers kept on captivating aggressors in road battling and to scan structures for contenders. Pakistani troops additionally retook a few close-by towns beforehand under activist control, despite the fact that the range was cleared, TNSM administration got away to Dir and afterward they got away to Afghanistan. On May 30, "the military declared it had recovered control of all of Mingora had demolished solid dugouts, and had take arms, ammo and explosives covered up in

hollows. The armed force and Frontier Corps had additionally retaken different urban communities in Swat; however consequent exercises proceeded around the region, especially in the Peochar Valley (Hasanie, 2013, pp. 110-119).

### Pakistan Military Operations 2008-2009



Source:

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND\\_MG982.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND_MG982.pdf)

#### Operation Rah-e-Nijat (2009-2010):

The disappointment of the Operation Zalzal turned out to be extremely clear as Baitullah Mehsood ran a dread in the years 2008-09 operating from his hideout in South Waziristan Agency. Baitullah Mehsood raised savagery crosswise over Pakistan in 2008 and 2009 from their headquarter in the region of South Waziristan. There were 2,148 terrorist, extremist and partisan assaults in 2008 in Pakistan. From that point, the Pakistani military propelled a fourth Operation Rah-e-Nijat, in South Waziristan on October 17, 2009 (Jones & Fair, 2013, p. 67).

Armed force was being extended thin over the locale, however the open risk by India's Home Minister of a "Heavy hammer" blow, simply after the operation started, couldn't be disregarded. Debilitated inside and remotely, Pakistan was set in a most troublesome circumstance as respect troop redeployment. It would be nearly basic in military terms to send 100,000 or significantly more troops to Waziristan -yet they would need to originate from the eastern outskirt and this wasn't possible given the earnestness of the notice conveyed by one of India's most noteworthy government pastors. The armed force and Frontier Corps were going to need to tackle aggressors with what they as of now had in both numbers notice gear. The primary focus of operation was secure key lines of interchanges and to decimate the alcoves of the terrorists and their base in South Waziristan Agency (Gunaratna, 2011, pp. 72-73). Both the Pakistan armed force and Air Force led introductory focusing on operations in South Waziristan amid the mid-year of

2009, with the some help from the US military and the CIA. The 11<sup>th</sup> Corps was in general order, with three divisions: the 7<sup>th</sup> situated in Miranshah; the 9<sup>th</sup> in Wana and the 14<sup>th</sup> corps forward sent to Jandola. Furthermore, two Special Services Groups contingents and two infantry detachments were sent from the Eastern outskirt with India, and also the FC and different units. Pakistan used defensively covered units, for example, fight tanks, and in addition infantry units- furnished with overwhelming big guns and mortars-that led standard foot watches. The primary goal of these operations was to obliterate TTP fortress at Laddha, Makin and Sararogha as the command and control structure of the Taliban existed in these ranges (Tipu Mehsud, Israr, 2014, pp. 5-7).

A key Pakistan military offensive Operation Rah-e-Nijat, to demolish the Mehsood led Taliban bases in South Waziristan was coordinated some place around 2009 and 2010 with some support from the US military and the CIA basically through encouraged machine strikes. TTP aggressors retaliated. On June 30, activists trapped a Pakistani guard close to the Afghani fringe, slaughtering 12 Pakistani troopers. On 5 August Baitullah was killed as a result o CIA Drone in South Waziristan. Hakimullah Mehsood became his successor, who was slaughtered by a Drone attack in January 2010. On 5 October, a suicide bomber wearing a Frontier Corps uniform assaulted the World Food Program office in Islamabad, executed five staff individuals. On 9 October, a suicide assault in Peshawar slaughtered more than 50 regular citizens. On 10 October an almost twelve activists wearing armed force regalia raged Pakistan Army General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, assuming control more than 40 hostages. Amid this operation, the Pakistan military initiated ground operations in South Waziristan, sent covering units with guideline battle tanks, infantry units equipped with considerable weapons and mortars, helicopter gunships, and fixed-wing aerial shuttle. Pakistan's operation focused on clearing the TTP strongholds of Ladha, Makin and Sararogha. Pakistan ground units started by directing inquiry and-leeway operations along a few key streets in South Waziristan, for example, the Central Waziristan Road and the street going through Ahmadwam and Ragha. On 12 November Pakistani military experienced solid resistance and losses were substantial in the Alizai Mehsood town of Kaniguram. Be that as it may, the next week, the 7th Division progressed into the town of Makin with little restriction (Ahmad, Naeem, 2014, pp. 8-9).

On 19 November, the 14th Division entered Janata with obvious exemption, again showing little resistance. As in different operations, Pakistani units leveled parts of a few towns in South Waziristan (Cloughley, 2009, p.16).

#### **Operation Koh-e-Sufaid (White Mountain) July 2011:**

Pakistan security forces launched the 'operation Koh-e-Sufaid' in Kurram agency on 4 July 2011 against the militants of TTP (The News, 2013, July 2). The TTP's activists had captured the Thal-Parachinar road, the main artery that connects the Kurram agency to Peshawar. The Taliban forces claimed the occupation of Kurram agency overwhelm the local Shiite population of the agency. Pakistan army continued 'operation White Mountain' with 4000 troops, heavy artillery and air power. The military forces continued their untiring efforts to afflict TTP militant till June 2013 when the operation Koh-e-Sufaid was concluded. Pakistan military forces claimed to regain the control of Khyber

agency and also cleared the Maidan area of Tirah valley that was conceded a strong center of the TTP militants and a major sanctuary of the terrorists. Moreover Pakistan rangers, police and intelligence agencies carried out different swift man hunt operations in the context to capture the al-Qaeda leadership to encourage and strengthen the momentum of Pakistan military operations against al-Qaeda and Taliban (Ahmed, Naeem, 2014, pp. 9-10 & Daily Times, 2013).

#### **Implications of Military Operations:**

Military operations drove now and again to turbulent circumstances in different factions of the nation. The establishments of the social, economic and political structure, have been demoralized, of Pakistan by and large, and Khyber Pakhtunkhawa specifically. The people of tribal regions assume the military operations as a threat to their ethnic values. Additionally, the military mediation into tribal zones is seen by tribal pioneers as a danger to their power and conventional tribal values. The ascent of Maulvi Fazlullah is one of such examples of the prevailing mindset. The Islamabad administration confronted an extreme emergency of of about three million dislocated people who were left their homes due to the threat of encounter between security forces and the insurgents (The Express Tribune, 2013, March 27).

The security operations also caused the denial of education among the young kids in the war hit areas due to the environment of horror and uncertainty because 120 young girls and 80 different schools were targeted and demolished by the terrorists merely in the Swat Valley. Instructive organizations when all is said in done and girls' schools specifically were assaulted, shelled and decimated by guerillas. The war engaged rivals increased the ratio proportion of school leaving children particularly the young girls were halted to continue their schools and colleges that ultimately decreased the literacy rate of the nation. Female instruction has endured most as young ladies are not permitted by the aggressors to go to schools and colleges (Dawn, 2012, June 12).

The military expeditions profoundly bothered the psychological approach of the society. Subsequently, the general climate stays strained. The savagery has directly affected mental condition of populace of Pakistan generally and the individuals living in the war prone zones of PATA and FATA in specific. The consistent introduction brutality incited numerous mental issues, sometimes as genuine mental sickness. The awful hints of gun shelling on aggressors refuges by the armed force stays stark in the brains of individuals, particularly ladies and kids, who are experiencing proceeding with mental issues and injury. Sorrow, uneasiness, bad dreams and self-destructive propensities have been cited to as a portion of the normal side effects, frequently taking after the passing of a family member. On the other hand emotions like shakiness, vulnerability, trepidation and anxiety have been widely observes among kids and grown-ups alike, the effect has been more on the emotional wellness of kids. Abundant youngsters in Swat saw brutality and savagery of the activists that included the demolition of schools and homicides of their crew individuals and educators. These incidents created sadness, affected mental conditions that required advising. Overall Pakistan faced social, economic and political deteriorating situation in its territory (Javed Umbreen, 2013, pp. 144-45).

The campaigns of security forces in the tribal areas have generated numerous inquiries with respect to the hugeness of guaranteeing the customary legal framework for the regular citizen populace. The tribal individuals have consistently requested to seek life and property security. The authorities have, notwithstanding, neglected the above said demands of legitimate equity. Meanwhile, numerous scandalous factions have mushroomed in these areas that enjoy wrongdoings like robbery, plundering, burglarizing, looting, seizing and slaughtering of honest individuals. Social and political rights of the locals of tribal region have been compromised. This sense of deprivation of the political rights has frustrated the people of FATA and PATA. Such predominant circumstance in northern areas favors Taliban who endeavor intrinsic auxiliary shortcomings in the tribal political and managerial framework in request to make divisions in the tribal society where a few individuals have begun seeing them as their guardian angels. Resultantly, such uncertain, chaotic and the environment of dismay has instigated anti-American sentiments and accelerated terrorist activities in general and suicidal attacks in particular (Thakur, 2012, 89). This represents an immediate test to the writ of the government. The civilian government no more practiced power more than 24% of FATA and some unpredictable, ineffectively represented locale of the region, where the Taliban practiced immediate and roundabout control. Government hold its control on 38% area whereas Taliban controlled different shops schools and police headquarters along with other government institutions. Destitution, treachery, a crumbling lawfulness circumstance and broad unemployment the nation over, especially, in FATA and PATA, have enormously added to the ascent of militancy in Pakistan. Furthermore, a weakening lawfulness circumstance, particularly in FATA and PATA, has made grave security attentiveness toward the government (Ahmad, 2010, pp. 10-12).

Pakistan has endured an aggregate loss of \$45 billion because of military operations from September 2001 to 2009 and estimated at \$70 billion including thousands of civilians and military lives till the end of 2012 (Sattar, 2014, p. 284). That has had an unfavorable effect on the general economy as it resulted in huge deprivation of outside speculation, flight of capital, conclusion of commercial enterprises in clash regions, misfortune in the tourism area and horticultural field, in industry decrease in fares and ascends in swelling. Pakistan has endured a heartbreaking death toll because of brutality and turbulence the nation over. The time period during 2001 to 2011 has observed developing numerous setbacks. The security adventures imprinted noteworthy effect on country's security i.e. ongoing terrorist incidents has multiplied inside Pakistan. Since Pakistan joined the global coalition against terrorism as a non NATO ally in 2001, it has to bear a multiple complications, uncertain situation of decision making, socio-economic instability, the drone warfare and its domestic effects, backtracking of Pakistan's economy especially poverty, inflation, unemployment, power and energy shortage and insufficient security measures, making of Durand Line as a volatile border, infiltration of militant and jihadi culture into China, Iran and India have victimized regional and international image of Pakistan. The regional neighbors of Pakistan and international community got serious concerns towards the expansion of TTP, al-Qaeda and other associated faction of militants which have sanctuaries and sympathy inside Pakistan (Javed, Umbreen and Ali, 2013, pp. 52-56).

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