

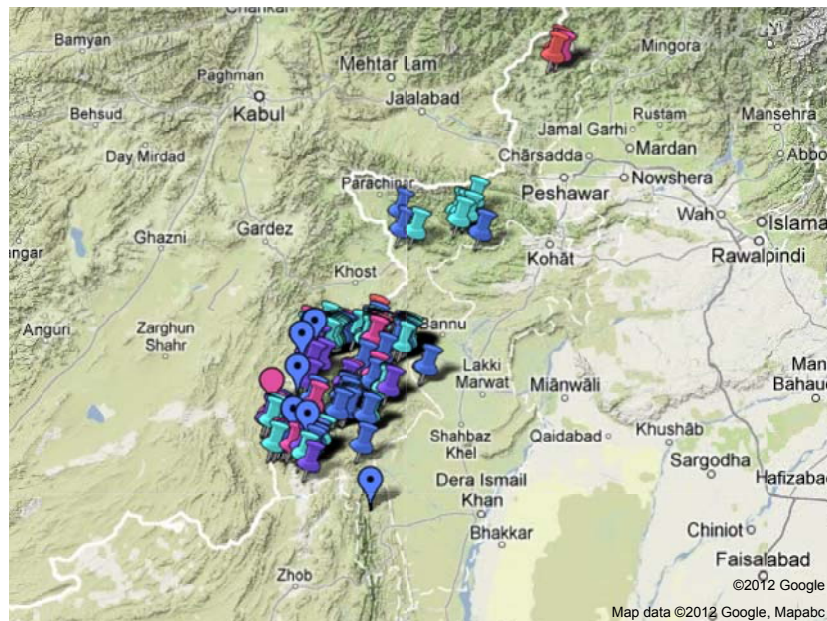


## Counterterrorism Strategy Initiative

# The Year of the Drone

An Analysis of U.S. Drone Strikes in Pakistan, 2004-2012

[2012](#) | [2011](#) | [2010](#) | [2009](#) | [2008](#) | [2004-2007](#)



View [all U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan](#) in a larger map. Note: strikes reported after November 19, 2010 appear on [page 2](#) of the Google map.

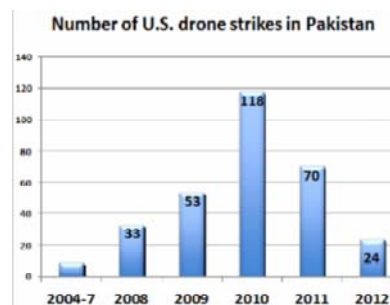
Click each pin to see the details of a reported strike. Red pin=2004-2007; Pink pin=2008; Dark blue pin=2009; (Green pin=Bush in 2009); Light blue pin=2010; Purple pin=2011

This research was last updated on June 14, 2012. For a full analysis of the repercussions and results of U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan, please [click here](#) for "The Year of the Drone," by Peter Bergen and Katherine Tiedemann, February 24, 2010, [click here](#) for "The Hidden War," December 21, 2010, [click here](#) for "Washington's Phantom War," July 2011, or [click here](#) for "CIA drone war in Pakistan in sharp decline," March 2012.

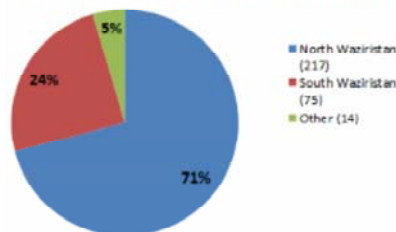
[2012](#) | [2011](#) | [2010](#) | [2009](#) | [2008](#) | [2004-2007](#)

The research on these pages, which we have created in a good faith effort to be as transparent as possible with our sources and analysis and will be updated regularly, draws only on accounts from reliable media organizations with deep reporting capabilities in Pakistan, including the New York Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal, accounts by major news services and networks—the Associated Press, Reuters, Agence France-Presse, CNN, and the BBC—and reports in the leading English-language newspapers in Pakistan—the Daily

U.S. DRONE STRIKES 2004 - 2012



Location of drone strikes 2004-2012



Times, Dawn, the Express Tribune, and the News—as well as those from Geo TV, the largest independent Pakistani television network.

Our study shows that the 302 reported drone strikes in northwest Pakistan, including 24 in 2012, from 2004 to the present have killed approximately between 1,851 and 2,843 individuals, of whom around 1,558 to 2,372 were described as militants in reliable press accounts. Thus, the true non-militant fatality rate since 2004 according to our analysis is approximately 17 percent. In 2011, it was more like eleven percent.

We have also constructed a map, based on the same reliable press accounts and publicly available maps, of the estimated location of each drone strike. Click each pin in the online version to see the details of a reported strike. And while we are not professional cartographers, and Google Maps is at times incomplete or imperfect, this map gives our best approximations of the locations and details of each reported drone strike since 2004.

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### Estimated Total Deaths from U.S. Drone Strikes in Pakistan, 2004 - 2012

	Deaths (low)	Deaths (high)
2012*	134	163
2011	378	536
2010	607	993
2009	369	725
2008	274	314
2004-2007	89	112
Total	1,851	2,843

*\*Through June 14, 2012*

### Estimated Militant Deaths from U.S. Drone Strikes in Pakistan 2004 - 2012

	Deaths (low)	Deaths (high)
2012*	134	163
2011	362	500
2010	581	939
2009	266	502
2008	134	165
2004-2007	81	103
Total	1,558	2,372

*\*Through June 14, 2012*

## Estimated Militant Leader Deaths from US Drone Strikes in Pakistan, 2004-2012

2012	4
2011	6
2010	12
2009	7
2008	11
2004-2007	3
Total	43

*\*Through June 14, 2012. Included in estimated militants and estimated totals, above.*

## Militant leaders killed

### 2012

- June 4, 2012: Abu Yahya al-Libi ([NYT](#)).
- March 13, 2012: Shamsullah and Amir Hamza Toji Khel, two of Maulvi Nazir's senior commanders ([ET](#)).
- February 9, 2012: Badr Mansoor, thought to be al-Qaeda's most senior leader in Pakistan ([AFP](#))
- January 10, 2012: Aslam Awan (al Qaeda senior member from Abbottabad ([NYT](#), [Reuters](#)))

[2012](#) | [2011](#) | [2010](#) | [2009](#) | [2008](#) | [2004-2007](#)

## Strikes by Target

Target	2004-2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Taliban	6	12	27	42	29	5	120
Baitullah Mehsud (not Taliban generally)	0	1	16	n/a	n/a	n/a	17
Al Qaeda	5	10	9**	8	4***	3	39
Haqqani	1	2	4	16	5	1	29
Unclear/Other	0	12	4	68	33	15	132

*\*Count is more than the number of strikes in some cases because some targets fell into multiple categories.*

*\*\* Saad bin Laden, one of Osama bin Laden's sons, was killed by a drone in 2009 sometime before July 22, but it's unknown exactly when, so he is included in the targeting as al Qaeda but not in one of the individual entries listed below.*

*[Author note: Saad bin Laden was reported alive in December 2009 by his brother, Omar.]*

*\*\*\*Atiyah Abd al-Rahman, al-Qaeda's no. 2 leader, was reported killed in a*

*drone strike August 22, 2011. However, sources dispute where he was killed, and it is unclear if he was killed in a drone strike on a vehicle previously reported to have occurred to same day. He is included in the targeting as al-Qaeda but not in one of the individual entries listed below.*

In cases where a media report described a specific target such as Baitullah Mehsud or the Haqqani network, the target is counted as such. If a target was both al Qaeda and Taliban commanders, it is counted once under each category. Strikes against Baitullah Mehsud are not included in the overall Taliban count. We assume that strikes which kill a leader in a given group were targeted at that group.

## 2012

24. June 14, 2012

Location: Miran Shah, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 3

Others Killed: Unknown

Source: [AP](#), [AFP](#), [Aljazeera](#), [PakTribune](#)

Assumed Target: Building

23. June 13, 2012

Location: Isha, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 3-4

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn](#), [AFP](#), [ET](#)

Assumed Target: Vehicle

22. June 4, 2012

Location: Hassokhel, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 15

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [Reuters](#), [ET](#), [NYT](#), [AP](#), [BBC](#), [AFP](#), [CNN](#)

Assumed target: Compound (Unclear)

21. June 3, 2012

Location: South Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 9-10

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [CNN](#), [Dawn](#), [AP](#), [AJE](#)

Assumed target: Compound (Unclear)

20. June 2, 2012

Location: South Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 2-3

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AFP](#), [Guardian](#), [Dawn](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle (Unclear)

19. May 28, 2012

Location: Mir Ali, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 10

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AFP](#), [ET](#), [BBC](#), [AP](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle (Unclear)

18. May 28, 2012

Location: Mir Ali, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 10

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AFP](#), [ET](#), [BBC](#), [AP](#)

Assumed target: compound (Unclear)

17. May 26, 2012

Location: Miran Shah, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 10

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AP](#), [BBC](#)

Assumed target: Bakery (Taliban)

16. May 24, 2012

Location: Mir Ali, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 10

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [Post](#), [AP](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#)

Assumed target: compound (IMU)

15. May 23, 2012

Location: Datta Khel Kalai, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 4

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AP](#), [ET](#)

Assumed target: compound (Unknown)

14. May 5, 2012

Location: Shawal, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 8-10

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [Dawn](#), [ET](#), [BBC](#), [Reuters](#), [CNN](#), [AP](#)

Assumed target: compound (Taliban)

13. April 29, 2012

Location: Miranshah, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 3

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [Reuters](#), [NYT](#), [AJE](#), [Dawn](#)

Assumed target: Abandoned school

12. March 30, 2012

Location: Miranshah, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 4

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AFP](#), [CNN](#), [Reuters](#)

Assumed target: Compound

11. March 13, 2012

Location: Shawal, North Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 5-7

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [CNN](#), [ET](#), [Dawn](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle

10. March 13, 2012

Location: Uthghalai, South Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Shamsullah and Amir Hamza Toji Khel, two of Maulvi Nazir's senior commanders

Militants Killed: 6-8

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AP](#), [ET](#), [Reuters](#), [Dawn](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle used by militants (Taliban)

9. March 9, 2012

Location: Nishpa, South Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 6-8

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [CNN](#), [AP](#), [AFP](#), [BBC](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle

8. March 9, 2012

Location: Makin, South Waziristan

Militant Leaders: Unknown

Militants Killed: 8

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [CNN](#), [AP](#)

Assumed target: House

7. February 16, 2012

Location: Mir Ali, North Waziristan

Militant leaders: Unknown

Militants killed: 7-15

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AFP/ET](#), [CNN](#), [BBC](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle

6. February 16, 2012

Location: Spalga, North Waziristan

Militant leaders: Unknown

Militants killed: 5-6

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AFP/ET](#), [CNN](#), [BBC](#), [AJE](#)

Assumed target: Compound

5. February 9, 2012

Location: Miranshah, North Waziristan

Militant leaders: Badr Mansoor

Militants killed: 3-5

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [AP](#), [AFP](#), [CNN](#), [Tel](#)

Assumed target: House

4. February 8, 2012

Location: Spalga, North Waziristan

Militant leaders: Unknown

Militants killed: 10

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [Dawn](#), [AP](#), [AJE](#), [Reuters](#), [CNN](#), [ET](#), [BBC](#)

Assumed target: House

3. January 23, 2012

Location: Degan, North Waziristan

Militant leaders: Unknown

Militants killed: 4-5

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [BBC](#), [Reuters](#), [CNN](#), [AFP](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle

2. January 13, 2012

Location: New Aadda, North Waziristan

Militant leaders: Unknown

Militants killed: 4-8

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [ET](#), [AFP](#), [BBC](#), [CNN](#)

Assumed target: Vehicle

1. January 10, 2012

Location: Miranshah, North Waziristan

Militant leaders: Aslam Awan (al Qaeda senior member from Abbottabad)

Militants killed: 3-4

Others killed: Unknown

Source: [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [AFP](#), [Tel](#)

Assumed target: Building

*\*All of this research was reviewed and updated on June 14, 2012.*

[2012](#) | [2011](#) | [2010](#) | [2009](#) | [2008](#) | [2004-2007](#)

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