

KEY TERRORIST GROUPS IN PAKISTAN

WHAT IS THE PAKISTANI TALIBAN?

- The Pakistani Taliban (TTP) is a terrorist organization founded by Baitullah Mehsud in November 2007, which now operates along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).
- The TTP has firm links with Al Qaeda, the Quetta Shura (Afghan) Taliban, the Haqqani network, and Punjabi extremists groups, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.
- The Pakistani Taliban was led by Baitullah Mehsud until he was killed in a CIA drone strike in August 2009. There was reported infighting amongst the TTP leadership as to who would succeed Baitullah. Hakimullah Mehsud, a former driver of Baitullah's and senior commander of the TTP movement in the northern FATA was announced as the new leader in late August 2009.
- Hakimullah was the preferred choice of Al Qaeda to lead the TTP after the death of Baitullah.
- Hakimullah appeared in a video with the Al Qaeda-linked double agent and Jordanian suicide bomber responsible for killing 7 CIA employees at a military base in southeastern Afghanistan in December 2009.
- Hakimullah was reportedly killed on two occasions, once in October 2009 and again in January 2010 in a CIA drone strike. A senior Obama administration official said in January that intelligence reports suggested with about 90% certainty that Hakimullah was among the dead.
- In April 2010, rumors began surfacing that Hakimullah was alive. Subsequently, two recordings were released in early May, one video and one audio. The recordings demonstrate that Hakimullah is in-fact alive although he is no longer thought to be the primary leader of the TTP.
- The TTP has claimed responsibility for attacks in the U.S. previously, demonstrating a sincere desire to strike targets inside the U.S. in addition to U.S. military targets in Afghanistan. Only hours after the discovery of the Times Square car bomb, the TTP's suicide bombing specialist claimed credit for the failed attempt but this has not been corroborated by U.S. intelligence officials.

WHAT IS LASHKAR-E-TAIBA?

- Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is a terrorist group, primarily made up of Punjabi's, historically pitted against India in the disputed Kashmir region.
- Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair said in February 2010, "[LeT] is becoming more of a direct

threat and is placing Western targets in Europe in its sights,” and could “actively embrace” a more anti-western agenda.

- The group has strong ties to Al Qaeda. The founder of the group’s parent organization was a mentor to Osama bin Laden.
- The group ran training camps in Afghanistan during the 1990s and has increased collaboration with Al Qaeda since 2006.
- LeT maintains a Universalist ideology focused on establishing a universal Islamic Caliphate through jihad, much the same as Al Qaeda.
- The group was able to operate with impunity in Pakistani territory after 9/11 when many other groups experienced increased pressure. This made the organization’s training camps and facilities a destination for many would-be jihadists.
- Pakistani-American David Headley was indicted in 2009 on charges of conducting pre-operations surveillance for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, an incident attributed to LeT. Headley had strong links to LeT.

WHAT IS JAISH-E-MOHAMMED?

- Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) is a smaller outfit historically focused on the disputed Kashmir region with India.
- JeM was founded in 2000 by the radical Islamic scholar and jihadist leader Maulana Masood Azhar with substantial backing from elements within the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) directorate.
- JeM was founded with substantial support from Osama bin Laden and the Taliban and has grown increasingly close with the former along with LeT.
- JeM was linked with the abduction and murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002.
- JeM was involved in a plot to blow-up 10 U.S. bound airliners using liquid explosives in 2006.
- In June 2008, leadership of JeM, LeT, and other Punjabi militant groups met and resolved to concentrate on the Afghan conflict while continuing the Kashmir struggle as a lesser imperative.