

Spot Report of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research

Attack on Pakistan Air Force (PAF) base camp in Peshawar

On 18 September, 13 Pakistani Taliban members attacked the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) base camp in the Badaber area of Peshawar, killing 29 civilians and military personnel and injuring 30 others. The military forces managed to kill all 13 militants and prevented the terrorists from entering the residential quarters of the base camp.

Location & Target:

The Badaber base camp is located at a distance of 10 kilometres south to the city of Peshawar. The militants reached the entrance of the PAF base camp on their vehicles and tried to enter the main residential quarters. However, despite hurling hand grenades and firing at the military forces, the militants were restricted to the Mechanised Transport Section and the guardroom. They only managed to enter the mosque where they shot dead 16 PAF personnel indiscriminately.¹ The evident targets of the militants were the PAF and military personnel.

Details:

The 13 terrorists were dressed in black and were not wearing any suicide vests. However, they were carrying grenades, rifles, Kalashnikovs, AK-47s and Improvised Explosive devices (IEDs). They divided themselves into groups of three and attacked various parts of the base camp.² Since they were not suicide bombers, the attackers

¹ Manzoor Ali. "Afghanistan-based TTP men sneak into Peshawar, storm PAF camp," *Dawn*, September 19, 2015, accessed September 21, 2015, <http://www.dawn.com/news/1207975/afghanistan-based-ttp-men-sneak-into-peshawar-storm-paf-camp>.

² "At least 29 killed, including army captain, as militants attack PAF base in Peshawar," *Express Tribune*, September 18, 2015, accessed September 19, 2015, <http://tribune.com.pk/story/959024/militants-attack-pakistan-air-force-base-in-peshawar/>.

had intended to put up a fight for an extended duration of time. Moreover, out of the 29 PAF personnel killed in the attack, 16 were killed inside a mosque on the base camp.³

The attack was planned and facilitated by Khalifah Omar Mansoor, who was the mastermind behind the APS Peshawar attack on 16 December, where more than 135 children were killed. In a video released by the Pakistani Taliban, revenge against the military operation Zarb-e-Azb is stated as the motivation for the attack.⁴

Images:



Soldiers take their positions to attack outside the PAF camp

Source: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1207975/afghanistan-based-ttp-men-sneak-into-peshawar-storm-paf-camp>



Spokesperson for the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) tweets updates regarding the attack

Source: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/959024/militants-attack-pakistan-air-force-base-in-peshawar/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Video: "PAF camp feyadeen,"

<https://ia801509.us.archive.org/29/items/PAFCampFedayan/PAF%20Camp%20Fedayan%20.mp4>.