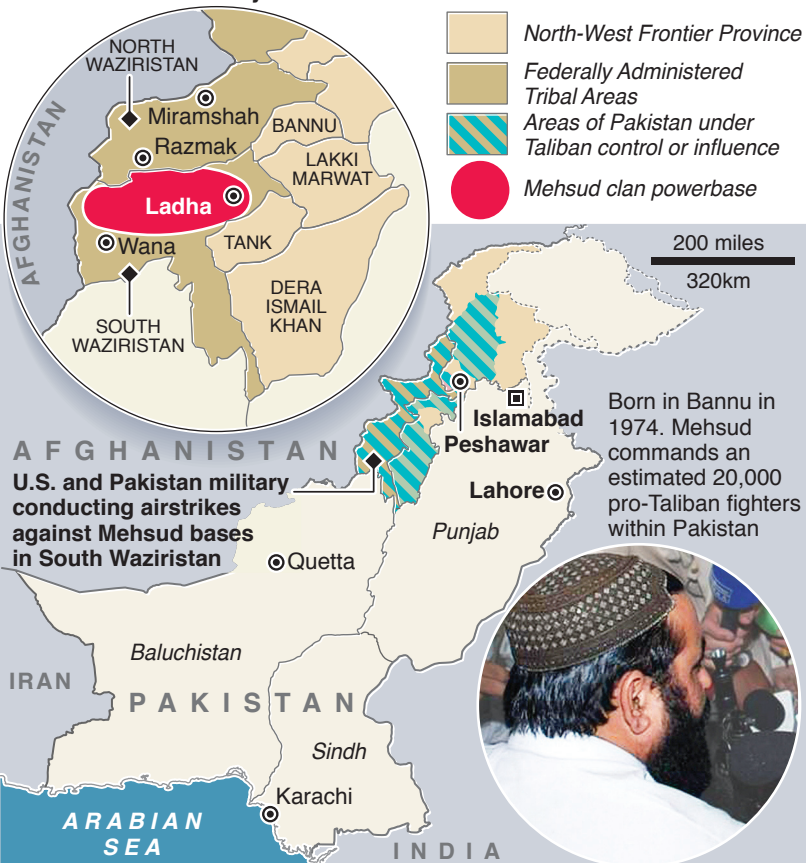


# Baitullah Mehsud: Pakistan's most wanted

Baitullah Mehsud, commander of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan militant group, is believed to have been killed by a U.S. drone. Washington branded Mehsud "a key Al Qaeda facilitator" in Pakistan's tribal belt



U.S. and Pakistan military conducting airstrikes against Mehsud bases in South Waziristan

Born in Bannu in 1974. Mehsud commands an estimated 20,000 pro-Taliban fighters within Pakistan



- **1989:** Reported fights during Soviet occupation of Afghanistan
- **1996:** Fights alongside Taliban militias as they sweep into Kabul
- **2004:** Rises from relative obscurity following death of Wazir commander, **Nek Muhammad**, who is killed by U.S. Predator drone
- **2005:** Agrees **Srarogha peace accord** under which Pakistan army withdraws from South Waziristan. **Aug:** Peace deal collapses. Mehsud's forces takes 200 soldiers hostage. Three are beheaded on video
- **2006:** Mehsud orchestrates wave of suicide bombings across Pakistan
- **Jan 2007:** Militants loyal to Mehsud attack Marriott Hotel in Islamabad
- **Dec:** Accused by government of masterminding assassination of former Prime Minister **Benazir Bhutto**
- **2008:** Mehsud's fighters kill an estimated 2,000 people in Pakistan
- **Feb 2009:** U.S. drones attack Mehsud's Waziristan powerbase
- **Mar:** Mehsud linked to twin attacks on Sri Lankan cricket team and police training academy in Lahore. **U.S. puts \$5 million reward on his head**
- **May:** Attack in Lahore kills 35
- **Jun:** Suicide attack on Pearl Continental Hotel in Peshawar kills 17, including two UN employees
- **Aug 5:** Mehsud reported killed in U.S. drone attack on home of father-in-law north-east of Ladha