Negative Brief: Pakistan Alliance - Good

By Vance Trefethen with some evidence contributed by Matthew Baker

REVERSE ADVOCACY 2

Even if Pakistan is helping some of our enemies, we still should not disengage 2

Despite Pakistan turning a blind eye to terrorists, U.S. should remain engaged 2

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE 2

Even if Pakistan is friendly with the Taliban, it’s still better to work with Pakistan than to have them outside the process 2

Pakistan is pressuring al-Qaeda and militants: They’ve lost thousands of soldiers fighting this war 3

“Pakistan supports terrorist groups” – Response: They did, but that’s changing. Now they’re fighting them 3

Pakistan is critical to success against terrorism: We must work through differences with Pakistan 3

DISADVANTAGES 4

1. Lost drone capability 4

Link: AFF shuts off drone access in Pakistan 4

Link: Without Pak drone campaign, Al Qaeda will stage a resurgence 4

Impact: Al-Qaeda will attack another big Western city 4

2. Negotiations in Afghanistan harmed 4

Link: Pakistan is a key partner in negotiating with the Taliban and bringing peace to Afghanistan 4

Impact: Delaying negotiations will force a higher price for peace in the end - lives and money will be lost 5

3. Pakistan Financial Instability 5

Link: Cutting aid would boost Pakistan’s deficits and plunge them deeper into economic trouble 5

Brink: Pakistan is on the brink of instability 5

Brink: Pakistan is passing through one of the most dangerous periods of instability in its history 6

Impact: Destabilized Pakistan promotes terrorism 6

4. Loose Nukes 6

Link: Cutting assistance to would reduce confidence in the disposition of Pakistan’s nuclear assets 6

Link: U.S. maintains ties with Pakistan keeps nuclear weapons out of terrorist hands 6

Link: U.S. Military aid to Pakistan is trending down but includes counter-proliferation and counter-narcotics aid 7

Link: Pakistan has received $100 million from the U.S. to secure its nukes including technical assistance 7

Brink: Possibility of a very serious breach of Pakistani nuclear security before too long 8

Uniqueness: U.S. efforts help Pakistan safeguard its nukes have met with success 8

Uniqueness: U.S. currently has snatch and grab plan if terrorists were to get access to nukes 8

Impact: Nuclear terrorism remains the greatest threat to global security 8

5. Terrorism in Pakistan 8

Link: US must support Pakistan in its fight against the TTP (Pakistan Taliban) – the violence is escalating 8

Impact: Violence and deaths 9

REVERSE ADVOCACY

Even if Pakistan is helping some of our enemies, we still should not disengage

Admiral Mike Mullen 2011. (US Navy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) STATEMENT BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ SEPTEMBER 22, 2011, <http://intellibriefs.blogspot.fr/2011/09/sullen-mullen-signals-us-break-with.html>

History teaches us that it is difficult to defeat an insurgency when fighters enjoy a sanctuary outside national boundaries, and we are seeing this again today. The Quetta Shura and the Haqqani Network are hampering efforts to improve security in Afghanistan, spoiling possibilities for broader reconciliation, and frustrating U.S.-Pakistan relations. The actions by the Pakistani government to support them—actively and passively—represent a growing problem that is undermining U.S. interests and may violate international norms, potentially warranting sanction. In supporting these groups, the government of Pakistan, particularly the Pakistani Army, continues to jeopardize Pakistan’s opportunity to be a respected and prosperous nation with genuine regional and international influence. However, as I will discuss later, now is not the time to disengage from Pakistan; we must, instead, reframe our relationship.

Despite Pakistan turning a blind eye to terrorists, U.S. should remain engaged

Lisa Curtis 2011. (Senior Research Fellow at The Heritage Foundation, focusing on analyzing America's economic, security, and political relationships with India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal), August 29, 2011, “Drone Strikes Protect America from al-Qaeda’s Terror,” THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION, August 29, 2011, <http://blog.heritage.org/2011/08/29/drone-strikes-protect-america-from-al-qaedas-terror/?query=Drone+Strikes+Protect+America+from+al-Qaeda's+Terror>

Pakistani officials have long tolerated terrorist groups that are linked to al-Qaeda, which in turn facilitate the organization’s ability to use Pakistan as a launch pad for its international terrorist campaign. Pakistani officials have sought to argue that they can “better control” or “keep tabs on” the terrorist groups if their intelligence agencies retain links to them. However, if such groups were able to protect the world’s most wanted terrorist without the Pakistan military’s knowledge, who is keeping tabs on whom? As the Heritage Foundation Counterterrorism Task Force has argued in its August 24 report, U.S. officials should reject Pakistani assertions that they are incapable of shutting down groups linked to al-Qaeda, such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is responsible for the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, and the Harakat-ul-Mujahideen, whose leader was in contact with bin Laden’s courier before the May 2 raid. Indeed, the U.S. should never settle for Pakistani excuses for avoiding a full-throttle approach against these terrorist groups and instead demand that Pakistan be accountable for the activities of all terrorist groups on its soil. Despite the severe differences between Islamabad and Washington over terrorism, it is in the interest of the U.S. to remain engaged with Pakistani leaders and demonstrate U.S. interest in the development of a prosperous and moderate Pakistan free of the terrorist scourge. Pakistani leaders are slowly waking to the costs of tolerating terrorism on their soil, and the U.S. should be in a position to support the state against the terrorists’ designs.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

Even if Pakistan is friendly with the Taliban, it’s still better to work with Pakistan than to have them outside the process

P. J. Crowley 2012. (former US Assistant Secretary of State) “Viewpoint: US and Pakistan alliance is for good” 10 July 2012 BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-18788452>

That said, increased co-operation with Pakistan on Afghanistan is possible and necessary. While the United States has long encouraged a role for Pakistan in an Afghan-led reconciliation process, this needs to be more formalised and more public. It is unclear whether the Taliban is prepared to negotiate with the Karzai government or the US but no-one has more influence with the Taliban than Pakistan. It is better to have Pakistan inside the process with a real role and stake in the outcome than pursuing its own interests from the outside.

Pakistan is pressuring al-Qaeda and militants: They’ve lost thousands of soldiers fighting this war

Admiral Mike Mullen 2011. (US Na vy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), “Posture Statement of Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Before the 112th Congress Senate Armed Services Committee,” February 17, 2011, <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/dod/posture_17feb11mullen.pdf>

A key component of our partnership is to help enable the Pakistani Military’s counter-terror and counter-insurgency operations. The series of offensive operations undertaken by the Pakistani Military in the tribal areas expanded dramatically in 2009. Since then, the Pakistanis have fought bravely and sacrificed much—losing thousands of soldiers in the process. We have faithfully supported them in a variety of ways, primarily in the development of the counter-insurgency capabilities of Pakistan’s security forces. This development and the military’s operations have kept pressure on al-Qaeda’s senior leadership and the militant groups threatening Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“Pakistan supports terrorist groups” – Response: They did, but that’s changing. Now they’re fighting them

Ahmed Rashid 2014. (former Pakistan mountain guerilla fighter; currently a journalist and occasional commentator on CNN) “Pakistan: Worse Than We Knew” 5 June 2014 <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2014/jun/05/pakistan-worse-than-we-knew/>

Two years ago all the states in the region would have publicly or privately accused Pakistan’s military and Interservices Intelligence (ISI) of supporting, protecting, or at least tolerating almost every terrorist group based in Pakistan. The ISI had links with all of them and often collaborated with them. Recently those relations have changed. Governments in the region now accept that Pakistan is in some ways trying to fight terrorism on its soil.

Pakistan is critical to success against terrorism: We must work through differences with Pakistan

John Brennan 2011. Remarks of John O. Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, on Ensuring al-Qa'ida's Demise -- As Prepared for Delivery, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies 29 June 2011 <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/06/29/remarks-john-o-brennan-assistant-president-homeland-security-and-counter>

In recent weeks we’ve been reminded that our relationship with Pakistan is not without tension or frustration. We are now working with our Pakistani partners to overcome differences and continue our efforts against our common enemies. It is essential that we do so. As frustrating as this relationship can sometimes be, Pakistan has been critical to many of our most significant successes against al-Qa’ida. Tens of thousands of Pakistanis—military and civilian—have given their lives in the fight against militancy. And despite recent tensions, I am confident that Pakistan will remain one of our most important counterterrorism partners.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Lost drone capability

Link: AFF shuts off drone access in Pakistan

Link: Without Pak drone campaign, Al Qaeda will stage a resurgence

Bruce Riedel 2013. (senior fellow and director of the [Brookings Intelligence Project](http://www.brookings.edu/about/projects/intelligence" \t "_blank); senior fellow in the [Center for Middle East Policy](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/middle-east-policy" \t "_blank); retired from Central Intelligence Agency; was a senior advisor on South Asia and the Middle East to the last four US Presidents; former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Near East & South Asia at the Pentagon and senior advisor at NATO) The United States and Pakistan: Divided They Stand 28 Oct 2013 <http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2013/10/28-united-states-pakistan-riedel> (brackets added)

Without the drones, President Obama would have no means to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaeda in Pakistan, which is the goal of his Afghanistan-Pakistan policy. We have tried relying on the ISI before to fight al-Qaeda. Then we found Osama bin Laden hiding in plain sight in Abbottabad, just outside the army's top military academy. Obama rightly decided he could not trust Pakistan with intelligence about bin Laden's hideout and ordered a secret commando raid to kill him. Other al-Qaeda operatives turned over to the ISI, such as Hassan Ghul, the man who first told the CIA about bin Laden's key courier network, were freed by the ISI. Ghul was finally killed by a drone strike. Ilyas Kashmiri, the terrorist bin Laden ordered to assassinate Obama, was killed in a drone strike. If there is no American pressure on al-Qaeda in Pakistan after 2014, al-Qaeda and its associates will regenerate there fast and furiously. So the future of American-Pakistani relations will be heavily influenced in the next couple of years by what happens in Afghanistan and what happens with al-Qaeda in Pakistan itself. If [Pakistan Prime Minister] Sharif can help arrange a political end to the war and allows American counter-terrorism operations to keep al-Qaeda in check, then relations will get better. If not, they will probably deteriorate further.

Impact: Al-Qaeda will attack another big Western city

Dr. Frederick W. Kagan 2012. (PhD in Russian/Soviet military history; former professor of military history at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; resident scholar and the director of the Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute) 3 Apr 2012 Al Qaeda Allies Remain Strong, NEW YORK TIMES <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/04/03/should-the-us-leave-afghanistan-now/al-qaeda-allies-remain-to-be-defeated-in-the-east>

Ryan Crocker, the United States ambassador to Afghanistan, recently told The Telegraph, “Al-Qaeda is still present in Afghanistan. If the West decides that 10 years in Afghanistan is too long then they will be back, and the next time it will not be New York or Washington, it will be another big Western city.”

2. Negotiations in Afghanistan harmed

Link: Pakistan is a key partner in negotiating with the Taliban and bringing peace to Afghanistan

Aryn Baker 2011. (Pakistan and Afghanistan Bureau Chief for TIME Magazine) May 12, 2011, “Why We're Stuck with Pakistan,” TIME MAGAZINE, <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2071131,00.html> (brackets in original)

Still, the awkward truth remains: The U.S. needs Pakistan. U.S. officials believe that bin Laden's death offers an opportunity to peel the Taliban away from al-Qaeda. And when that happens, Pakistan will be perfectly poised to offer its assistance. Though routinely denied by Pakistani officials, it is hardly a secret that Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar has been using Pakistan as a base of operations ever since he fled the U.S. invasion in 2001. With the target date for turning over responsibility for Afghan security to the Afghan army in 2015 approaching, there is near universal agreement that the Taliban will have to be involved in some sort of political reconciliation. "The Americans need the Pakistanis to negotiate in Afghanistan," says a senior Western diplomat in Islamabad. In Pakistani eyes, that justifies the policy of maintaining relations with the Taliban, says Senator Azim. "We are the only ones who are accused of keeping close ties, so Pakistan is the only country that [the West] can rely on."

Impact: Delaying negotiations will force a higher price for peace in the end - lives and money will be lost

Lakhdar Brahimi and Thomas R. Pickering 2011. (co-chairs of the Century Foundation International Task Force on Afghanistan. Brahimi twice represented the United Nations in Afghanistan — first during the Taliban regime, where he negotiated with its top leaders, and again after its ouster, when he led the international effort to support a new, more open government. Pickering - served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, India, and Russia, as well as undersecretary of state for political affairs) Afghanistan - Negotiating Peace, The Report of The Century Foundation, International Task Force on Afghanistan in Its Regional and Multilateral Dimensions <http://www.scribd.com/doc/220265499/AfghanTCFTaskForce-BookComplete>

The large military effort undertaken since 2009 has provided the time and built the platform for achievement of core American objectives in a negotiation. Arriving at Afghanistan’s ultimate arrangements through a negotiating process—in which the United States plays a central role as the country’s most deeply invested ally—would seem now to be in order. Indeed, for all sides, the longer negotiations are delayed, the higher the price is likely to be for restoring peace at the end. Quite apart from the costs of waging war, in lives and money, during the period that leaders continue to put off peace talks, there are other important factors to bear in mind: higher reconstruction costs to repair the inevitably increased destruction from prolongation of war, bloated payrolls for ever-expanding security forces (which, even with a settlement, can safely be demobilized only gradually into a shattered and jobless economy), and the continued hemorrhaging of Afghan talent sufficiently trained to provide public administration or private-sector dynamism.

3. Pakistan Financial Instability

Link: Cutting aid would boost Pakistan’s deficits and plunge them deeper into economic trouble

Shuja Nawaz 2011 (Director of the South Asia Center at the Atlantic Council in Washington He is the author of "Crossed Swords: Pakistan, its Army, and the Wars Within" and “Learning by Doing: the Pakistan Army’s Experience with Counterinsurgency."), May 10, 2011, “Consider the Broader War,” NEW YORK TIMES, <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/05/09/should-the-us-cut-off-aid-to-pakistan/why-the-us-still-needs-pakistan>

Some in the U.S. Congress, meanwhile, are threatening to cut off aid to Pakistan. Both countries’ responses would be disastrous. The U.S. would lose primary access via Pakistan for its supplies to fight the war in Afghanistan at a critical stage in that conflict. The Pakistanis would lose the $2 billion to $3 billion of aid, including cash from the Coalition Support Funds that the U.S. provides Pakistan’s military to cover the costs of its operations in the western half of the country. It is not clear where Pakistan would find the money to finance the war against terrorism and the Pakistani Taliban. Its only option may be further deficit spending that would plunge it deeper into an economic hole, and fuel inflation and public unrest.

Brink: Pakistan is on the brink of instability

Ansar Abbbasi 2014. (journalist) THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS 18 July 2014 Moody’s warns against political instability in Pakistan (Moody’s is a credit rating agency that was evaluating Pakistan’s financial situation) <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31666-Moodys-warns-against-political-instability-in-Pakistan>

Moody’s, which has just changed Pakistan’s rating outlook to “stable,” has warned that the worsening political situation in the country could lead to a negative rating. While announcing the improved rating of Pakistan, the Moody’s warned that three factors could negatively affect the rating. These factors include “worsening political environment,” stalling of the ongoing IMF programme and deterioration in the external payment position.  Of these three factors, Pakistan is presently comfortable with its IMF programme and the external payments position. However, the political situation has already become uncertain and is feared to deteriorate in the coming weeks and months because of the agitational politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pakistan Awami Tehrik and Pakistan Muslim League-Q.

Brink: Pakistan is passing through one of the most dangerous periods of instability in its history

Aryn Baker 2011. (Pakistan and Afghanistan Bureau Chief for TIME Magazine) May 12, 2011, “Why We're Stuck with Pakistan,” TIME MAGAZINE, <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2071131,00.html>

Yet for all the anger in Islamabad and Washington, neither nation has much of a choice. However duplicitous and volatile it may be, the U.S.-Pakistan relationship is central to the interests of both countries. The U.S. needs Pakistan's help to be successful in Afghanistan. Pakistan provides, among other things, a vital transit link for goods destined for coalition troops in the landlocked country. But even without Afghanistan, the U.S. would need Pakistan to be stable. The alternative — a collapsing nation awash with terrorist groups and possessing a nuclear arsenal — is too awful to consider. How real is that prospect? "Pakistan is passing through one of the most dangerous periods of instability in its history," warns Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "[It] is approaching a perfect storm of threats, including rising extremism, a failing economy, chronic underdevelopment and an intensifying war, resulting in unprecedented political, economic and social turmoil.”

Impact: Destabilized Pakistan promotes terrorism

Michael D. Rettig 2011. (MA in International Relations Candidate at New York University) “Preserving Pakistani Security,” September 29, 2011, <http://worldpress.org/print_article.cfm?article_id=4113&dont=yes>

Second, a destabilized Pakistan would facilitate the growth of regionally focused terrorist groups and undermine nascent security gains in Afghanistan and India. Militants based from within Pakistan have long waged war on India and are responsible for much of the violence in Kashmir as well as the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The remnants of the Afghan Taliban, the Quetta Shura, have made their home in Pakistan and direct much of the Afghan insurgency from there. The Haqqani network, responsible for this year's U.S. embassy attack in Afghanistan and closely tied to both al Qaeda and the Taliban (and Pakistani intelligence), is also based in Pakistan. Presently, many of these regionally focused terrorist cells operate within relative confines set by Pakistan's military-intelligence sector (despite U.S. objections). However, if Pakistani internal security were to further decline, the cells would have the opportunity to strengthen, expand and operate independently of any state control. This development would render these cells immune to any state-based negotiations, hinder democratization and peace in Afghanistan, and lead to a range of provocative situations involving India.

4. Loose Nukes

Link: Cutting assistance to would reduce confidence in the disposition of Pakistan’s nuclear assets

Marvin G. Weinbaum 2011. (Scholar-in-Residence at the Council on Foreign Relations and Director of Pakistan Studies, Middle East Institute), “Should U.S. Continue Aid to Pakistan?,” May 17, 2011, <http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/should-us-continue-aid-pakistan/p25015>

But to now abruptly reduce assistance to Pakistan would jeopardize American military forces in Afghanistan and weaken the Pakistani army's capacity to confront those domestically ensconced terrorist groups that threaten us both. It could also leave us less confident about the disposition of Pakistan's nuclear assets.

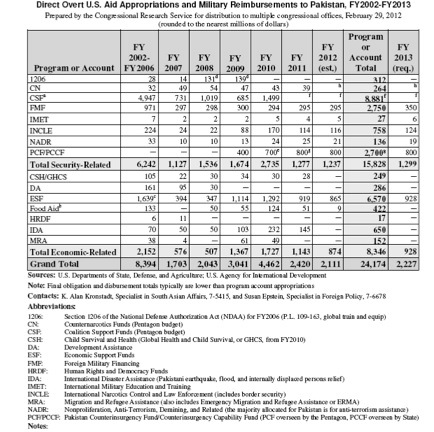
Link: U.S. maintains ties with Pakistan keeps nuclear weapons out of terrorist hands

Lisa Curtis 2011. (senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and former White House-appointed senior adviser to the assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, tracking India-Pakistan relations), “Suspend Aid, but Don’t Halt It,” May 10, 2011, New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/05/09/should-the-us-cut-off-aid-to-pakistan/suspend-aid-to-pakistan-but-don>

Abruptly cutting off all aid to Pakistan isn’t the answer, and would likely come at a steep price to United States interests in the region. In that event, Pakistan could play its own cards, perhaps cutting NATO supply lines into Afghanistan and kicking American intelligence officials out of the country. Moreover, maintaining ties — however frayed— allows the U.S. to help keep Pakistan’s nuclear weapons out of terrorist hands.

Link: U.S. Military aid to Pakistan is trending down but includes counter-proliferation and counter-narcotics aid

Federation of American Scientist 2012. (Document Prepared by the Congressional Research Service) “Direct Overt U.S. Aid Appropriations and Military Reimbursements to Pakistan, FY2002-FY2013,” <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/pakaid.pdf>



Link: Pakistan has received $100 million from the U.S. to secure its nukes including technical assistance

Dr. Harsh V. Pant 2011. (Lecturer at the Department of Defense Studies at Kings College, London with a Masters degree in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University and a PhD from the University of Notre Dame) “Why an unstable Pakistan is a danger to India,” January 7, 2011, Rediff News, <http://www.rediff.com/news/slide-show/slide-show-1-column-why-an-unstable-pakistan-is-a-danger-to-india/20110607.htm#3>

Pakistan has accepted US help since 9/11 in designing its system of controls for its nuclear arsenal and the prevention of theft. The US has reportedly spent about $100 million in helping Pakistan secure its nuclear arsenal, and some reports have suggested that Pakistan has also received technical assistance from the US.

Brink: Possibility of a very serious breach of Pakistani nuclear security before too long

Mike Shuster 2011. (Journalist) “As Pakistan Expands Nuke Arsenal, U.S. Fears Grow,” National Public Radio, July 7, 2011, <http://www.npr.org/2011/07/07/137651918/as-pakistan-expands-nuke-arsenal-u-s-fears-grow> (brackets added)

Recent developments have deepened concern among Pakistan experts in the United States. A growing nuclear infrastructure, an expanding weapons stockpile and ever more dangerous domestic attacks are a lethal combination, [David] Albright [director of the Institute for Science and International Security] says. "Particularly the most recent attack is really chilling," he says. "And you have to worry that nuclear sites could be targeted, and the attackers could muster the resources to do it." [Shaun] Gregory [expert on Pakistan at the University of Bradford in Britain] is willing to go so far as to predict an attack on a nuclear weapons site — soon. "I think we are looking at the possibility of a very serious breach of Pakistan's nuclear security before too long," he says.

Uniqueness: U.S. efforts help Pakistan safeguard its nukes have met with success

Mike Shuster 2011. (Journalist) “As Pakistan Expands Nuke Arsenal, U.S. Fears Grow,” National Public Radio, July 7, 2011, <http://www.npr.org/2011/07/07/137651918/as-pakistan-expands-nuke-arsenal-u-s-fears-grow>

U.S. efforts to help Pakistan safeguard its growing nuclear arsenal have met with some success, says Feroz Khan, who worked for many years inside Pakistan's nuclear directorate, known as the Strategic Plans Division. "The United States is the most advanced nuclear power with the best practices in the world," Khan says, "and the Pakistani system actually tries to emulate them and learn from them. They have not been shy of doing that."

Uniqueness: U.S. currently has snatch and grab plan if terrorists were to get access to nukes

The Times of India 2011. “US has 'snatch-and-grab' plan for Pak's nuclear weapons,” August 6, 2011, <http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-08-06/pakistan/29858131_1_nuclear-arsenal-pakistan-army-abbottabad>

The US has a contingency plan to "snatch-and-grab" Pakistan's nuclear weapons, if and when the President believes they are threat to either America or its interests, a media report has said, amid strains in bilateral ties. Plans have been drawn up for dealing with worst-case scenarios in Pakistan, NBC news reported quoting current and former US officials, who say that ensuring security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons has long been a high US security priority even before 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Impact: Nuclear terrorism remains the greatest threat to global security

President Barack Obama 2012. “Remarks by President Obama at Hankuk University,” March 26, 2012, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/03/26/remarks-president-obama-hankuk-university>

We know that just the smallest amount of plutonium -- about the size of an apple -- could kill hundreds of thousands and spark a global crisis. The danger of nuclear terrorism remains one of the greatest threats to global security.

5. Terrorism in Pakistan

Link: US must support Pakistan in its fight against the TTP (Pakistan Taliban) – the violence is escalating

Lisa Curtis 2014 (senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and former White House-appointed senior adviser to the assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, tracking India-Pakistan relations), 11 June 2014 Escalating Taliban Attacks Put Pakistan on Crisis Footing <http://dailysignal.com/2014/06/11/escalating-taliban-attacks-put-pakistan-crisis-footing/>

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is escalating its campaign of violence against the state as tentative peace talks with the government break down and the Pakistani military conducts air strikes against the group’s bases along the Afghan border. The U.S. must support Pakistan in its fight against the TTP, which seeks to overturn the Pakistani government and install a theocratic state similar to that which the Taliban formed in Afghanistan in the 1990s.

Impact: Violence and deaths

Lisa Curtis 2014 (senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and former White House-appointed senior adviser to the assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, tracking India-Pakistan relations), 11 June 2014 Escalating Taliban Attacks Put Pakistan on Crisis Footing <http://dailysignal.com/2014/06/11/escalating-taliban-attacks-put-pakistan-crisis-footing/>

Late Sunday evening ten heavily armed militants stormed the Karachi airport. A six-hour gun battle with Pakistani security forces ensued inside the airport’s cargo terminal. The attacks resulted in nearly 36 killed, including the ten attackers. The TTP immediately claimed credit for the attack, saying it was retaliation for the U.S. drone strike that killed TTP commander Hakimullah Mehsud last November.