

# Drone-fired missiles kill 4 in NW Pakistan

## WEAPONS HIT IN AREA MILITANTS CONTROL

### Burial of fighters killed earlier draws crowd

BY RASOOL DAWAR  
The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Drone-fired U.S. missiles killed four people in a northwestern Pakistani region controlled by the Haqqani militant network on Friday, a day after a similar attack there killed a top commander of the group, Pakistani officials said.

The identities of the dead in the North Waziristan region were not known, the officials said.

The four were riding in a car close to Miran Shah town, the main base of the Haqqani network, when two missiles struck, said the offi-

cials, who did not give their names because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

U.S. intelligence believes the Haqqanis are the top threat to security in Afghanistan and that they enjoy the support of the Pakistani army. It wants the army to sever its ties and attack the group, something that Islamabad refuses to do.

The issue is a main cause of tensions between the two countries.

On Thursday, a missile attack close to Miran Shah killed Janbaz Zadran, who U.S. officials said was a top commander in the network that helped orchestrate attacks in Kabul and southeastern Afghanistan. They said he was the most senior Haqqani leader in Pakistan to be taken off the battlefield.

Earlier Friday, two militants killed alongside Zadran were buried in the town of

### Related development

**Al-Qaida official killed:** A missile strike Friday night killed the media chief for al-Qaida's branch in Yemen, that country's defense ministry said. Egyptian-born Ibrahim al-Bana and the six other people were killed in the southeastern province of Shabwa. Security officials said the strike from a U.S. drone aircraft was one of five targeting al-Qaida positions.

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Lakki Marwat, which lies just outside the tribal regions.

About 2,000 supporters attended the funeral of one of the men, Maulana Ifrikhar. They included Arab militants and a lawmaker from the country's largest opposition party.

The size of the funeral indicated significant support in



ISHLIAQ MAHSUD / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mourners in Lakki Marwat, Pakistan, carry the coffin of Maulana Ifrikhar, who was killed in U.S. missile strikes on Thursday. About 2,000 supporters attended the funeral.

that region for fighters battling the American presence just across the border in Afghanistan. The Pashun ethnic group that accounts for most of the resistance in Afghanistan straddles the frontier.