

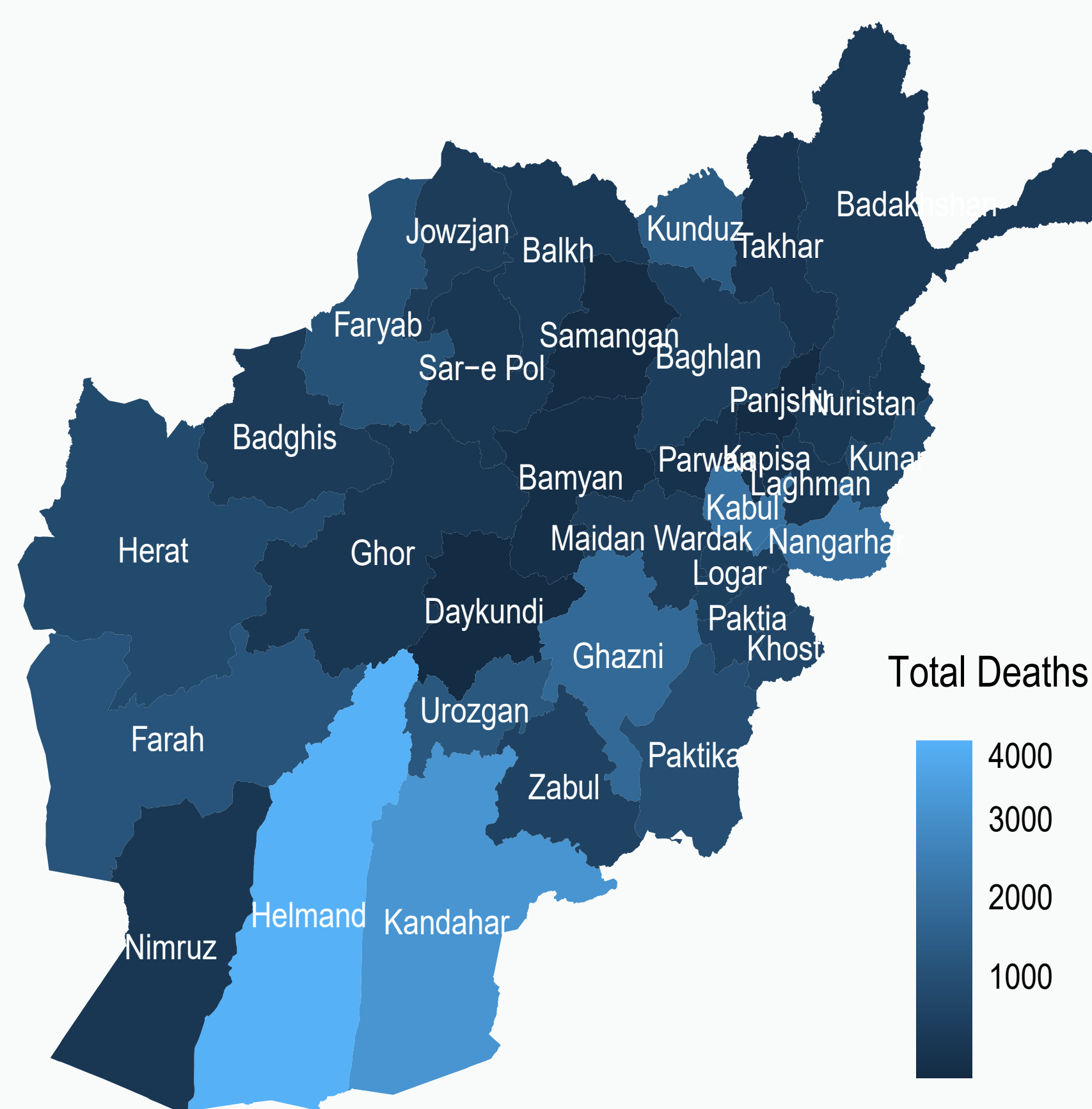
# The Never Ending War in Afghanistan

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IST 421

## Background

Global Terrorism has been the defining acts of the 21st century. Few countries around the world have been plagued by it worse than Afghanistan. This poster is to take a deeper look at where these acts are taking place, when specifically in the year, by whom and how they are conducting them. The findings suggest that Afghanistan's Helmand province is the most dangerous during the warmer months after the first harvest of opium.

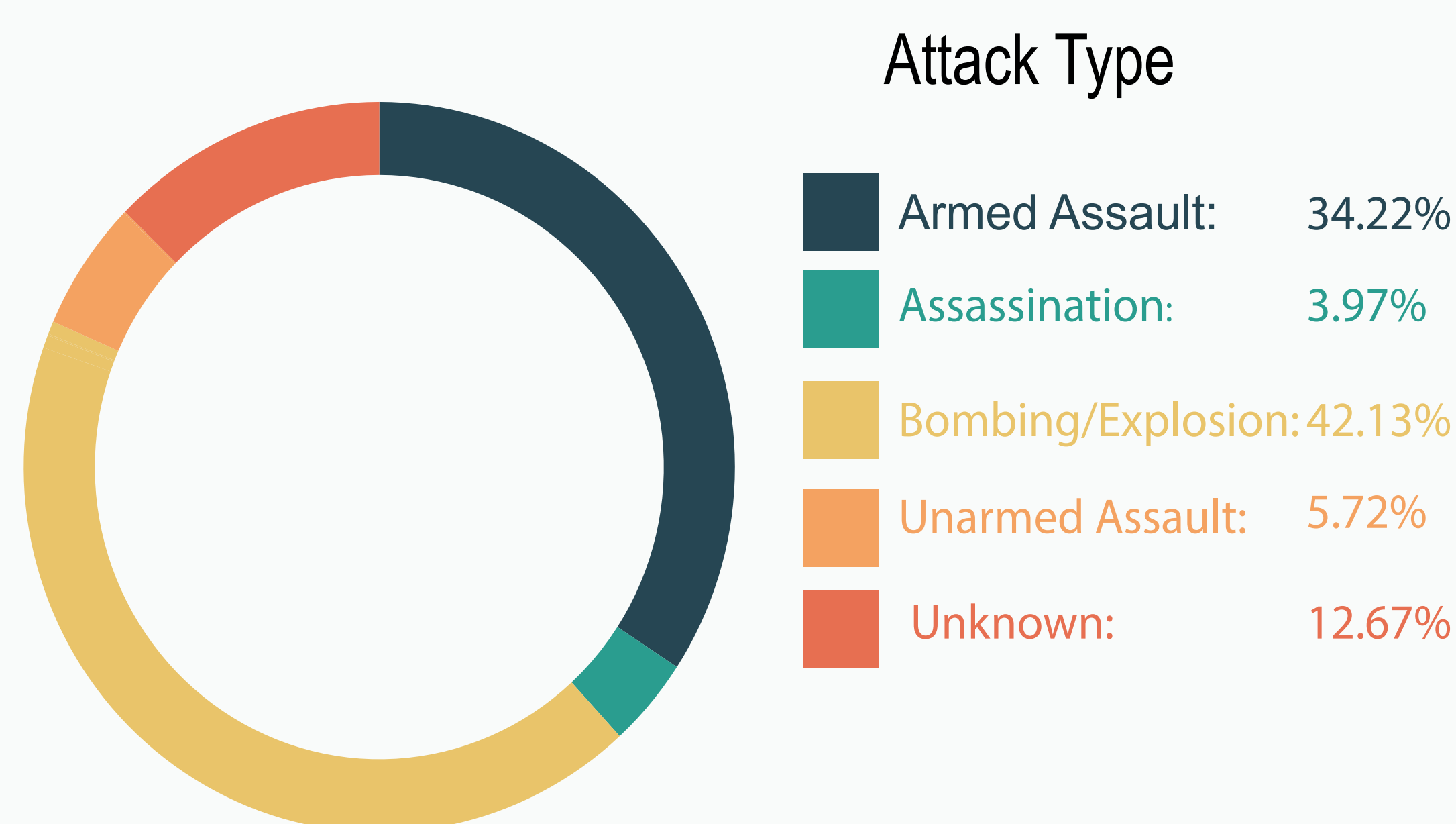
## Where is it happening?



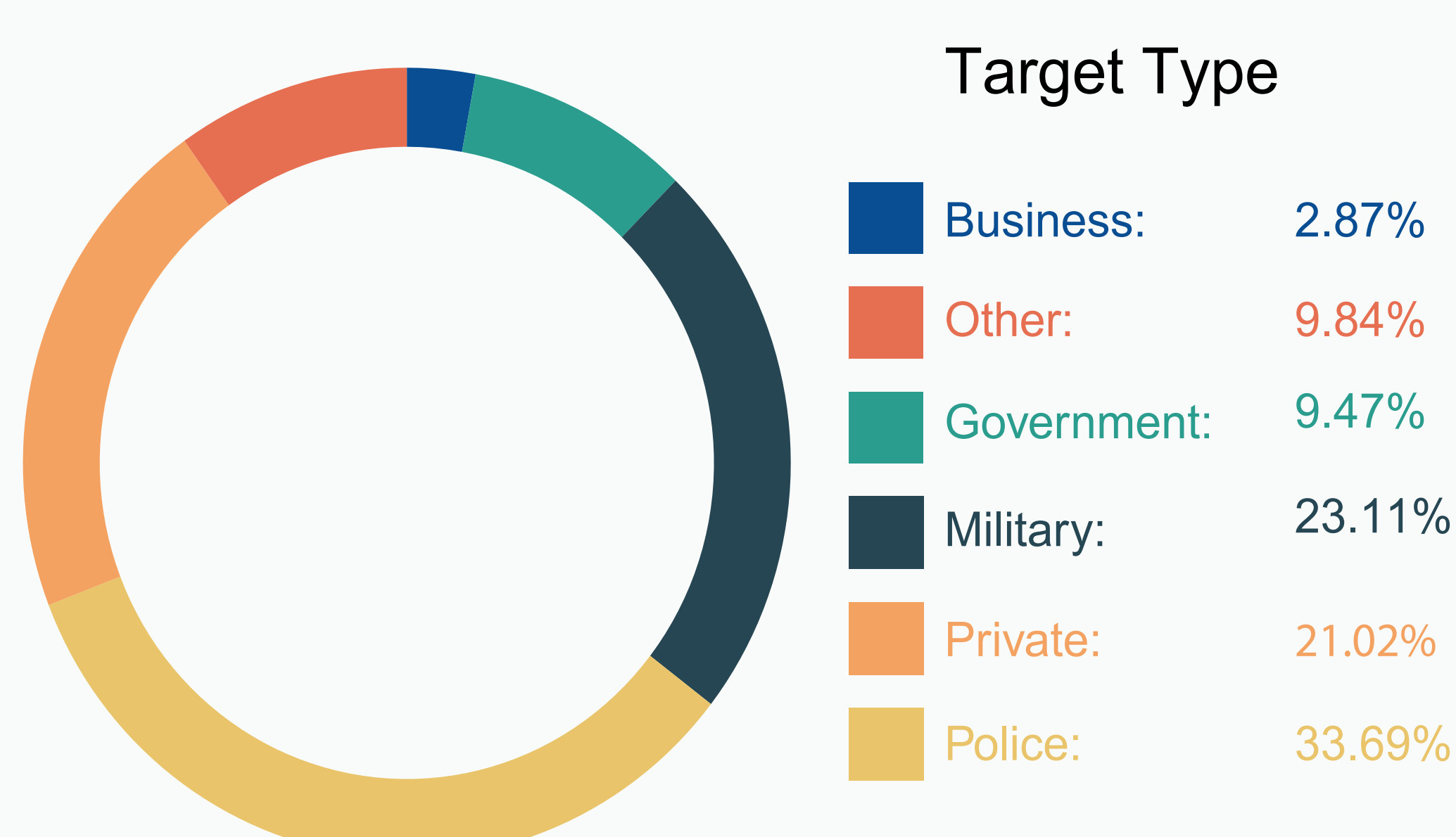
Helmand and Kandahar are the most violent areas of the country. They have been historical strongholds of the Taliban which is the largest operating group within the country.

## What are the methods?

### Deaths as a percentage of attack type



### Deaths as a percentage of intended target

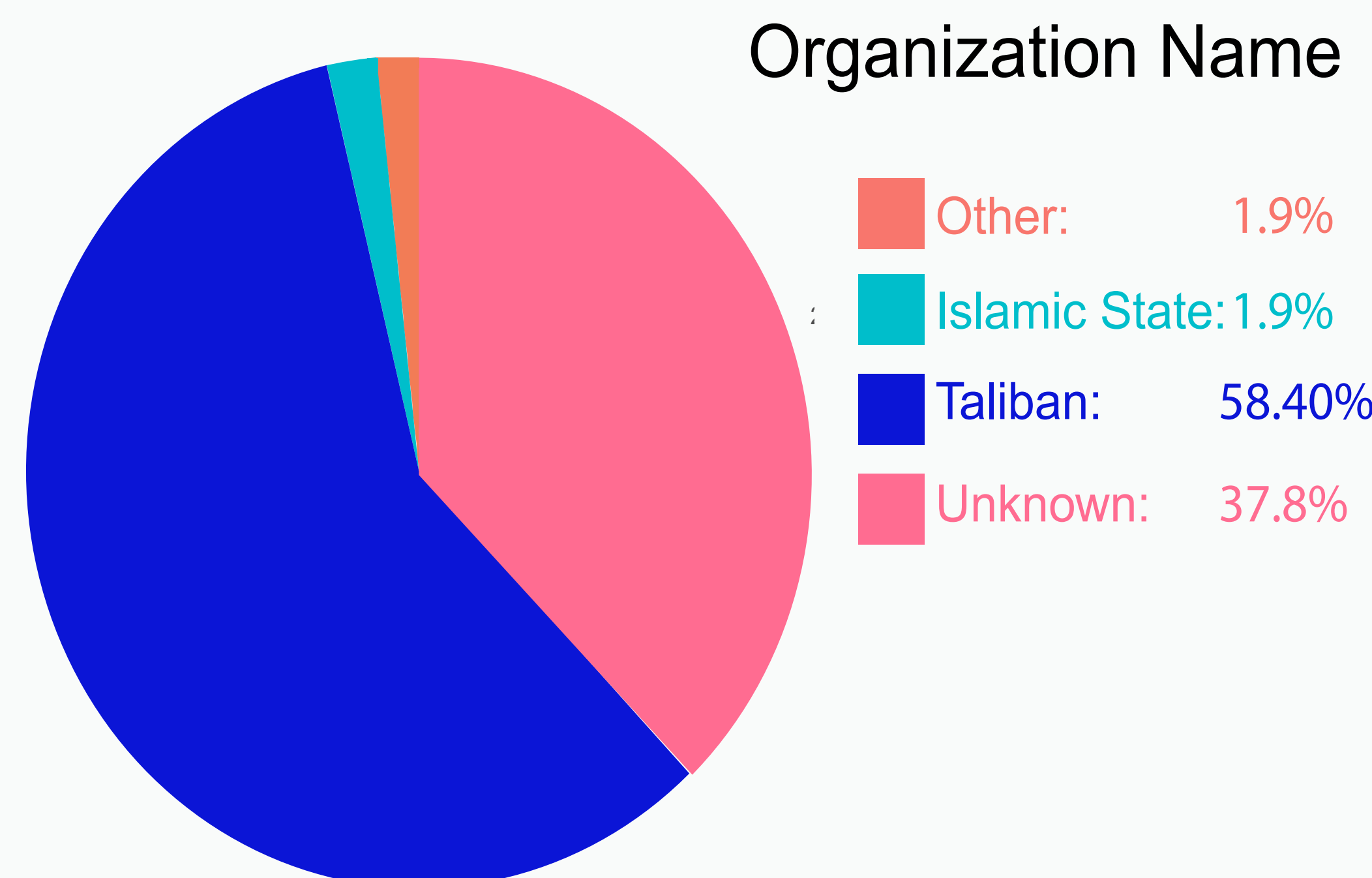


There is a methodological process by these groups in how they carry out attacks. Bombing/Explosions, Armed Assaults are the primary choices. Specifically targeting Police, Military and Private Properties



## Who is doing this?

### Pie Chart of Organizations behind attacks



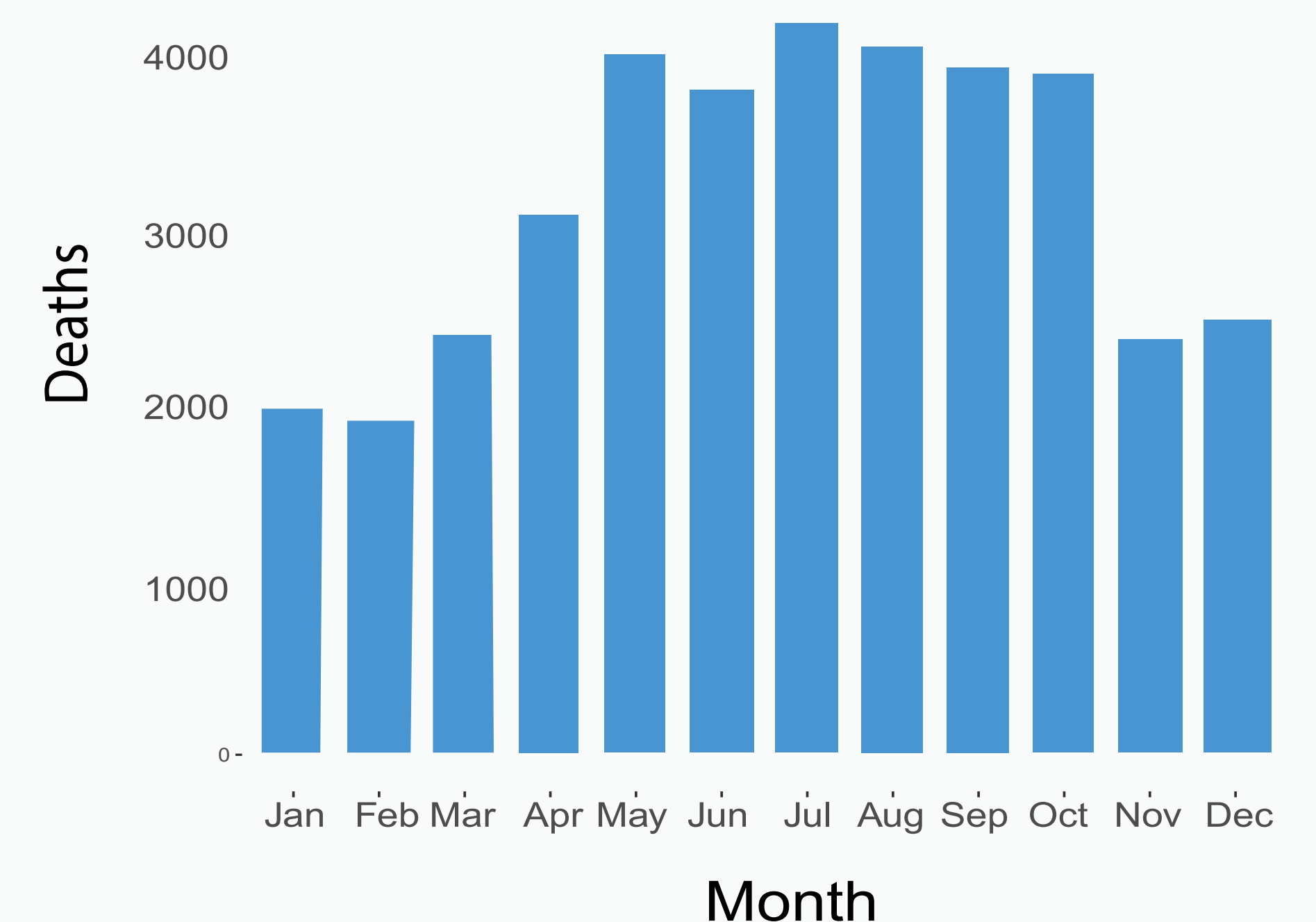
The Taliban operate as the main group in Afghanistan, with a large amount of attacks being unknown because of the plethora of factions that operate. The clear third group is a faction of ISIS that has recently started to operate since 2016.

## Data

The data is retrieved from Kaggle's dataset of Global Terrorism from 1970 to 2017. Which is then subsetting into two datasets one of Afghanistan being the primary and Pakistan. The Pakistan one serves as a contextualizing dataset to give a better understanding of the events occurring in Afghanistan. The primary data set contains 12,731 rows and 55 variables with region, nkill (number killed), gname (group claiming attack), typeattack1\_txt (method of attack) being the primary variables. This data is subsetting throughout the project to aggregate type of attacks, targets of attacks, regional death counts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As well as grouping by organizations names.

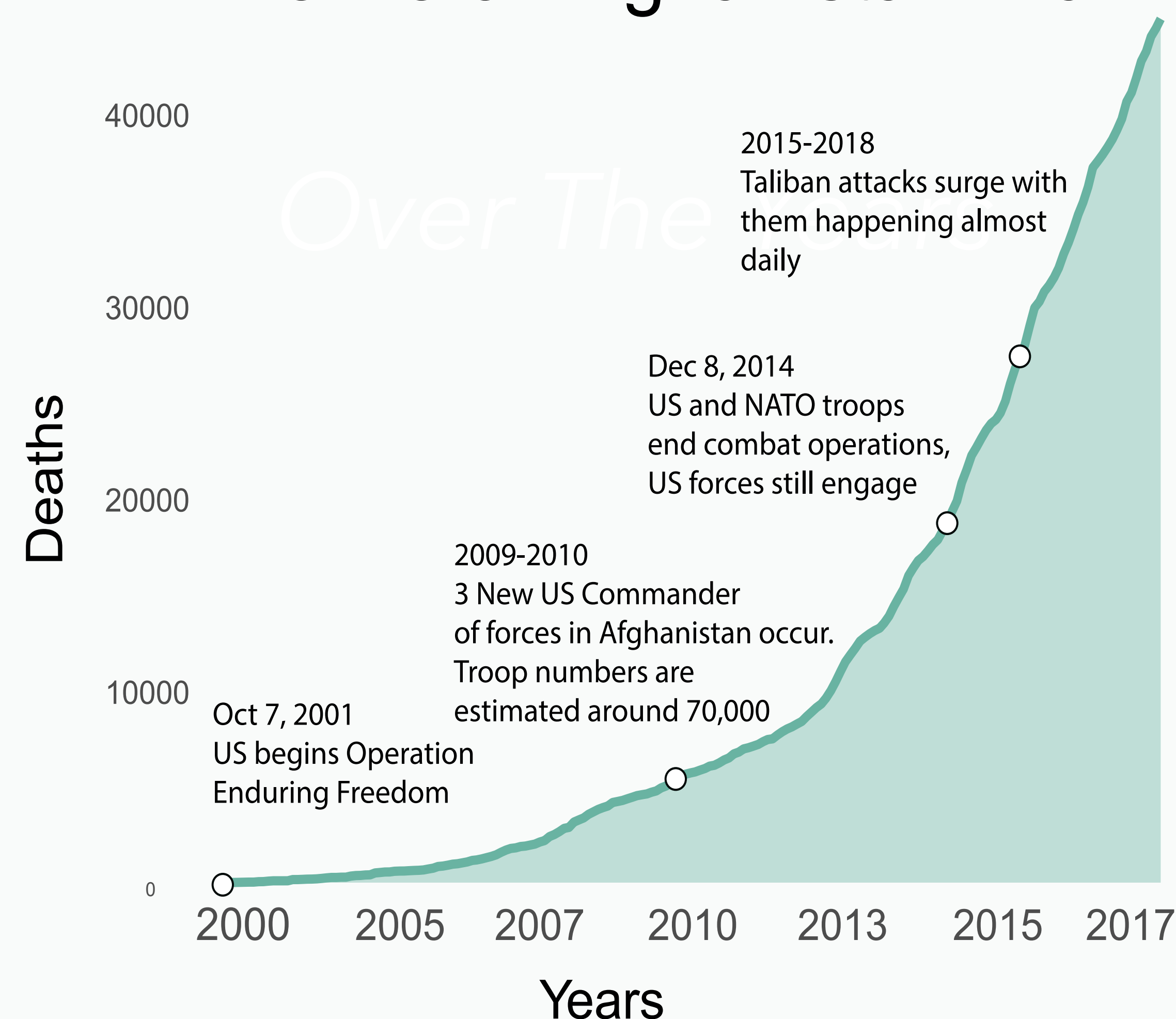
## How Frequent?

### Number of Killed per month since US Invasion of Afghanistan



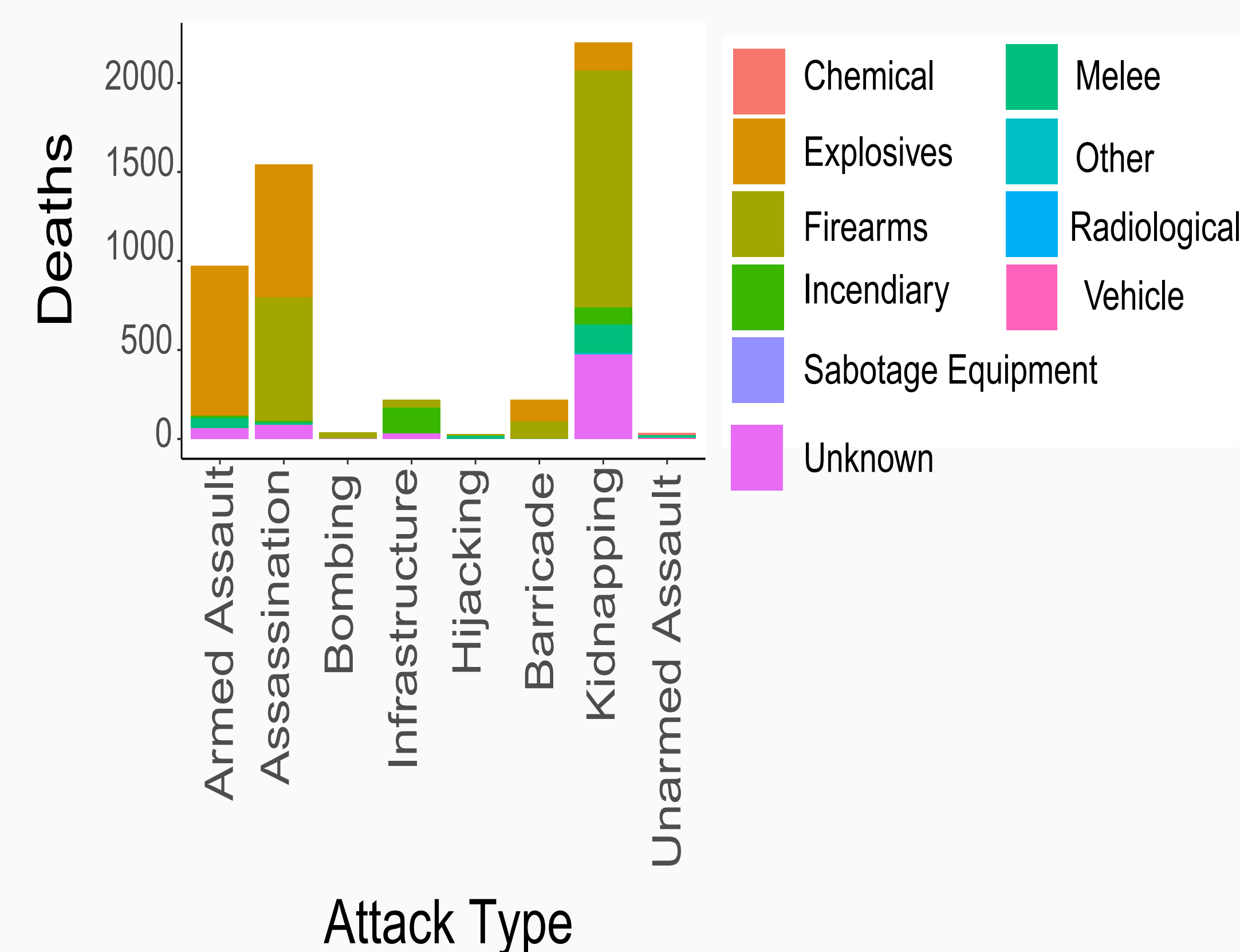
There is a clear trend that shows the summer and warmer months result in more deaths. This is directly related to the climate which can inhibit the ability of certain groups to operate. As well as the production of poppy seeds can only happen in warm months which is a major source of revenue for groups.

## Timeline of Afghanistan War



This graph represents the cumulative death toll. In the beginning phases of the war there wasn't much action from terrorist groups but as it entered the early 2010's certain policy decisions increased attacks. Represented above are some of the landmark moments in the war as well. From the beginning stages of the invasion in late 2001 to some of the most recent actions. Note, US forces are still stationed in Afghanistan and the Taliban still have a presence.

### Weapons used in attacks grouped by Attack Type



I excluded the data for Armed Assault that used a Firearm, Bombing that used an Explosive and the Attack type Unknown. This data is obvious to the attack type and only distorted the bar chart. Now you can see where certain weaponry line up with attack type.

Packages: Dplyr, Tidyverse, ggplot2, plyr, hrbrthemes, lubridate, tidyr, maptools, raster, rgdal  
Source: Global Terrorism Database, Kaggle  
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