



Program for Culture and Conflict Studies

GURBAZ TRIBE
AKA: GURBUZ, GURBOZ

The Program for Culture & Conflict Studies
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA

Material contained herein is made available for the purpose of peer review and discussion and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Navy or the Department of Defense.



PRIMARY LOCATION

The Gurbaz live in North Waziristan, Pakistan and Khost, Afghanistan.

KEY TERRAIN FEATURES

Valleys: Mana valley in the Shawal

Mountains: Shawal

Rivers: Charkhai algal

WEATHER

Temperatures in the area range from a high of 105° F in the summer and to a low of 35° F in the winter. The area receives modest rainfall in July and August (summer) and January and February (winter), with some snow at higher elevations.

MIGRATORY PATTERNS

The Gurbaz are chiefly a nomadic, pastoral people who move to the heads of their valleys in summer where there is excellent grazing for their considerable flocks.¹

RELIGION/SECT

The Gurbaz are Sunni Muslims.

ALLIANCES

The Gurbaz have allied with the Utmanzai Wazirs and the Daur. In July, 2005 a jirga of the Utmanzai held in Miram Shah decided that the Gurbaz were a section of Daur and Wazirs and its elders would be included in any tribal jirga. They said Utmanzai could not ignore the the Gurbaz with a population of roughly 30,000 and decided the Gurbaz should be treated as part of Utmanzai. It was not clear whether this determination was limited to Gurbaz in North Waziristan, or if it also included Gurbaz living in Afghanistan. This is not without precedent, as the Sherkel Gurbaz were accorded Pakistani nationality in the 1970s and were provided government jobs and other incentives. In 2004 another sub-section of the tribe, Bangi Daur was given nationality and other incentives.²

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

They are a tribe of the Spin Ghund faction, occupying the territory on both sides of the Afghan border, north of Miram Shah. Given their location, they are also involved in considerable transportation trade between Khost and Tochi. They are therefore of special importance in the event of trouble in the Khost region.

¹ *Tribal Hierarchy & Dictionary of Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas*, First Edition, NGA Office of Counterterrorism, 2005.

² The News International- Pakistan, July 12, 2005.