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Balochistan CTD Eliminates Three Terrorists in Mastung Shootout

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On July 21, 2025, three suspected militants affiliated with the banned Islamic State group (Daesh) were killed in a shootout with the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Mastung district of Balochistan. The encounter highlights the persistent threat of militancy in the province and the continued efforts by Pakistani security forces to restore stability.

The CTD launched an intelligence-based operation in the Dasht area, targeting individuals linked to the kidnapping and murder of Musawir Kakar. During the operation, while escorting a detained suspect to a suspected hideout, the CTD team came under fire from armed accomplices. The suspect was killed in the crossfire. Two additional militants were killed in the ensuing exchange. A cache of weapons, ammunition, and explosives was recovered at the site, believed to be intended for future attacks.

Militant activity has been on the rise, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan has seen a sharp increase in terrorist incidents, with a significant number of attacks targeting security personnel and civilians. The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic State affiliates have been especially active since the end of a ceasefire in late 2022.

Earlier in the same district, a deputy superintendent of police and a constable were killed in a separate attack, further underscoring the deteriorating security environment. Security sources report that over 200 personnel have been killed in the line of duty so far in 2025.

The CTD has recently conducted multiple successful operations in Balochistan, including actions in Duki and Kalat that resulted in the elimination of several militants. These efforts reflect the increasing resolve of law enforcement agencies to dismantle militant networks operating in the region.