TRIBE: BHITTANI

PRIMARY LOCATIONS:
The Bhittani Tribe resides in the area from the Gumal Valley in the south to Gabar Ghar Mountain in the north. On the political map, the area occupied by the Bhittani will include the territory between Waziristan and the Dera Ismail Khan District. Although most of the Bhittanis live in the above-mentioned areas, significant numbers also reside in the Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Districts.

RELIGION/SECT:
The Bhittani Tribe are of the Hanafi sect of Sunni Islam.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The Bhittannis claim descent from Baitan, the third son of Kais, the founder of the Pashtun group. Bhittanis are also referred to as Bitani, Bhitani, Battani, Bhetanni, or some similar variation thereof. Some families who reside in Baluchistan refer to themselves as Bottani.

The Bhittani hill territory is almost bare, rocky, and uncultivated, although some wheat is grown and the land supports small numbers of sheep and cattle.

ALLIANCES:
The Bhittani are the hereditary enemies of the Mahsuds, however, over the centuries they have joined with them during important battles against invaders. In August 2007, Bhittani tribesmen threatened a Lashkar against Mahsud tribesmen if they did not return 16 kidnapped Bhittanis.

Bhittanis have also worked as spies and guides for their Mahsud neighbors and historically harbored outlaws and fugitives. Mahsud raiders had to pass through Bhittani territory to enter the settled areas on several occasions, and were generally allowed to do so without opposition due to the numerical weakness of the Bhittani.

FEUDS:
The Bhittani Tribe maintains a long-standing feud with the Marwats, who may be “cousins” of the Bhittanis.

**KEY TERRAIN FEATURES:**
Valleys: Gumal, Tak Zam  
Mountains: Spin Ghar, Gabar (Gabbar)  
Rivers: Tak Zam, Larzan, Shuza

**WEATHER:**
The climate in the region is hot in summer, with high temperatures around 110 degrees Fahrenheit, and cool in winter, with low temperatures around 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The average annual rainfall amount is 10 to 11 inches, with most rainfall in July and August. The driest months are October and November.ii

**MAJOR TOWNS:**
Jandola  
Juma Gul and Nashkora Pall – villages of cave dwellings on the Spin Lindai Algad  
Bannu  
Lakkimarwat

**PERMANENT ARMY/FRONTIER CORPS/SCOUT LOCATIONS:**
The South Waziristan Scouts headquarters is located in Jandola.