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THE DEATH OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

'The world is safer'



Christopher Larrabee of Rancho Palos Verdes was killed in the World Trade Center attack.



Army Capt. Matthew Ferrara of Torrance was killed while fighting in Aranus, Afghanistan.



Vice President Joe Biden and President Barack Obama, on the left, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on the right, join members of the president's national security team to receive updates Sunday on the mission against Osama bin Laden. This image, released by the White House, was digitally altered by the source to conceal the content of documents.

RAID: Navy SEALs who killed architect of 9-11 also seized data.

By Adam Goldman and Chris Brummitt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After nearly a decade of anger and fear, America rejoiced Monday at the demise of Osama bin Laden, the terror mastermind behind the horrific 9-11 attacks. Navy SEALs, who killed the world's most-wanted terrorist, seized a trove of al-Qaida documents to pore over, and President Barack Obama laid plans to visit New York's Ground Zero.

Bin Laden, killed in an intense firefight in a daring raid at his fortified hideout in Pakistan, was hunted down based on information first gleaned years ago from detainees at secret CIA prison sites in Eastern Europe, officials disclosed.

His body was quickly taken away for burial at sea, but not before a DNA match was done to prove his identity. A U.S. official said there also were photos showing bin Laden with the fatal wound above his left eye, a gunshot that tore away part of his skull.

"The world is safer. It is a better place because of the death of Osama bin Laden," Obama declared, hours after U.S. forces killed the al-Qaida leader in the middle-of-the-night raid on his compound in Abbottabad. Obama was expected to visit New York, the site of al-Qaida's attack on the World Trade Center, and meet with the families of those killed, an administration official said.

"I think we can all agree this is a good day for America," the president said.

The CIA already was poring over confiscated hard drives, **VICTORY A11**

South Bay reacts in joy, satisfaction

By Larry Altman, Douglas Morino and Melissa Evans
Staff Writers

San Pedro native Jeff Clare was studying for an economics final with George Washington University classmates when their cellphones began buzzing.

President Barack Obama would be making a rare late-night televised announcement, the text messages read.

"We knew it was either going to be news about Osama or we're declaring war on someone," said Clare, an international affairs and history major at the Washington, D.C., university. "We knew it was going to be big."

And it was. When Obama announced bin Laden was dead, cheers erupted from dorm rooms. Students streamed from campus halls. Clare and a group of 40 Sigma Chi fraternity students walked to Lafayette Square, steps from the White House lawns, where thousands of people sang the national anthem and "God Bless America" and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

"It was remarkable," said Clare, a 2010 graduate of San Pedro High School who was 8 at the time of the 9-11 attacks. "It's a closing of a chapter in a lot of our lives. There was a lot of emotion here."

Across the South Bay and the United States, local residents reacted with cheers and relief. Some, who lost family members in the terrorist attacks and subsequent war in Afghanistan, expressed joy that

REACTION A11

HOW THE U.S. PULLED IT OFF

LEGWORK: Interrogations at CIA prison and a courier's phone call provided the clues that led to bin Laden.

By Adam Goldman and Matt Apuzzo
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When one of Osama bin Laden's most trusted aides picked up the phone last year, he unknowingly led U.S. pursuers to the doorstep of his boss, the world's most wanted terrorist.

That phone call, recounted Monday by a U.S. official, ended a yearslong search for bin Laden's personal courier, the key break in a worldwide manhunt. The courier, in turn, led U.S. intelligence to a walled compound in northeast Pakistan, where a team of Navy SEALs shot bin Laden to death.

The violent final minutes were the culmination of years of intelligence work. Inside the CIA team hunting bin Laden, it always was clear that bin Laden's vulnerability was his couriers. He was too smart to let al-Qaida foot soldiers, or even his senior commanders, know his hideout. But if he wanted to get his messages out, somebody had to carry them, someone bin Laden trusted with

his life. In a secret CIA prison in Eastern Europe years ago, al-Qaida's No. 3 leader, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, gave authorities the nicknames of several of bin Laden's couriers, four former U.S. intelligence officials said. Those names were among thousands of leads the CIA was pursuing.

One man became a particular interest for the agency when another detainee, Abu Faraj al-Libi, told interrogators that when he was promoted to succeed Mohammed as al-Qaida's operational leader he received the word through a courier. Only bin Laden would have given al-Libi that promotion, CIA officials believed.

If they could find that courier, they'd find bin Laden.

The revelation that intelligence gleaned from the CIA's so-called black sites helped kill bin Laden was seen as vindication for many intelligence officials who have been repeatedly investigated and criticized for their involvement in a program that involved the harshest interrogation methods in U.S. history.

"We got beat up for it, but those efforts led to this great day," said Marty Martin, a retired CIA officer who for years led the

HUNT A11

Tense White House watched raid unfold

By Erica Werner
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — From halfway around the world, President Barack Obama and his national security team monitored the strike on Osama bin Laden's compound in real time, watching and listening to the firefight that killed the terrorist leader.

Gathered in the White House Situation Room, members of the group held their breath and barely spoke as they waited to see whether a carefully crafted yet extremely risky plan would succeed, said White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan. Obama had been playing golf but returned to the White House for the suspenseful watch Sunday.

Brennan said he would not reveal details "about what types of visuals we had or what type of feeds that were there but it was — it gave us the ability to actually track it on an ongoing basis." Typically, members of the Navy SEAL team that conducted the operation wear helmet cameras that trans-

RAID A11

More inside

Law enforcement tightens security around Los Angeles. **A11**

Events offer teachable moments for local schoolchildren. **A12**

U.S. uses "multiple methods" to ID body. **A12**

Will killing Osama bin Laden kill the movement he inspired? **A13**

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Runway alternatives focus on safety, LAX capacity

By Art Marroquin and Kristin S. Agostoni
Staff Writers

Westchester and Playa del Rey residents are not pleased with Los Angeles International Airport's latest proposal to shift the northernmost runway 260 feet toward their communities, saying it could wipe out local businesses and homes.

Calling the idea a "compromise," airport officials believe the northern runways need to be separated to make room for a centerline taxiway as a way to accommodate larger planes while also reducing the risk of collisions between arriving and

departing aircraft. "We're trying very hard to find something that would meet the community's interests and the airport's needs," Gina Marie Lindsey, executive director of LAX, told the Board of Airport Commissioners on Monday.

The concept is among four separate alternatives that will be examined and detailed in an environmental impact report set for release in January, Lindsey said.

Several Westchester and Playa del Rey residents told the airport commission that they opposed the runway shift, fearing it

could exacerbate noise from overhead jetliners while also increasing traffic in airport-area neighborhoods.

Additionally, moving the runway north could affect sewer lines running through the area, said Denny Schneider, president of the Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion.

"The bottom line is, you can choose a low-risk plan or a very high-risk plan," Schneider said. "There are so many problems with going north."

Moving the runway 260 feet to the

RUNWAYS A11

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