

# WHITTIER DAILY NEWS

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# 'The world is safer'

## Families of fallen seek end to wars

By Thomas Himes Staff Writer

While the killing of Osama bin Laden offers little comfort to local residents who lost loved ones in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the family members of some servicemen said his death has given them cause to hope for the quick withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Middle East.

News Sunday that bin Laden was killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan after a decade-long manhunt gave Leticia De La Pena reason to reflect on her son, and his life and death, she said.

Esau De La Pena-Hernandez, a La Puente native, was on his fifth combat tour when he was shot and killed in a battle outside Chak, Afghanistan, on May 15, 2009. He was 25.

De La Pena said bin Laden's demise offered little solace to her and her family.

"The death of this person isn't going to replace my son or the other young people who gave their life for this country," she said.

The nearly decade-old war in Afghanistan and eight-year-old war in Iraq reached a grim milestone last month when the Department of Defense reported 6,000 U.S. servicemen and women had been killed in the conflicts.

Wayne Hiltz also said Monday that bin Laden's death has

FAMILIES A4

## Hunting down Osama bin Laden

The raid that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden took shape after detainees identified a bin Laden courier.

### First information

- After 9/11, CIA chases leads about bin Laden's inner circle
- Detainees repeatedly mention one courier's pseudonym, identifying him as one of the few trusted by bin Laden; true name, location unknown
- Courier's true identity learned in 2007
- Two years later, locations where courier and his brother operate in Pakistan are learned

### Narrowing in

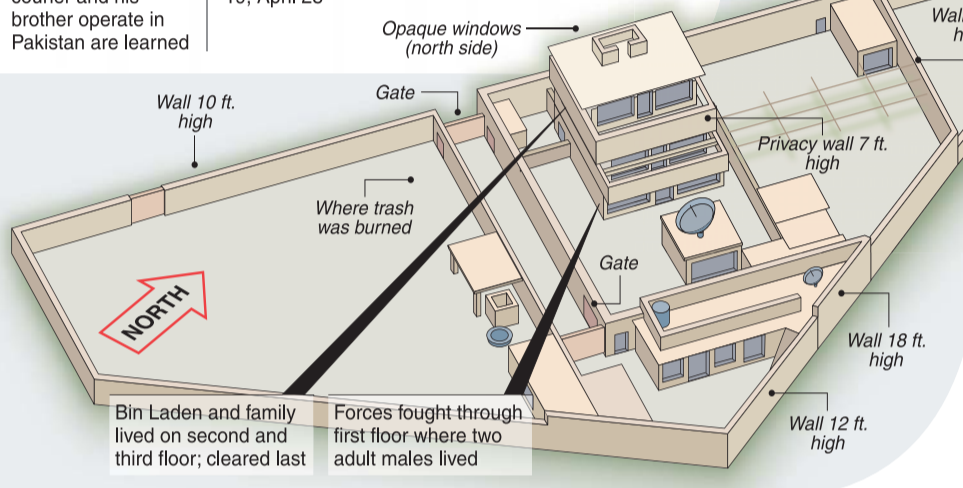
- August 2010 Courier's residence found: high-security compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan
- September 2010 U.S. thinks bin Laden may be hiding in compound
- February 2011 U.S. thinks intelligence is strong enough to begin developing plan for going after bin Laden
- March 2011 First of five National Security Council meetings on capturing or killing bin Laden; other meetings: March 29, April 12, April 19, April 28

### The operation

- April 29, 2011, 5:20 a.m. PDT Obama authorizes operation
- May 1, 11 a.m. Top advisers gather at White House
- Around 12 p.m. (midnight in Pakistan) Helicopters heard over Abbottabad
- Two dozen Navy SEALs drop into high-walled compound; inside for 40 minutes
- Bin Laden killed in last five or 10 minutes of siege; shot twice in the head on third floor of main building

### Inside the compound in Abbottabad

- Built in 2005; about 3,000 sq. ft. of space; but no telephone or Internet service to avoid detection
- Two men lived on first floor
- Exterior walls topped with barbed wire



### Outcome and aftermath All times PDT

- One U.S. helicopter lost because of mechanical failure; destroyed for security purposes
- Along with bin Laden, three adult males killed: bin Laden's son and two al-Qaida facilitators
- Woman identified as bin Laden's wife used as human shield, killed; two others injured
- 12:32 p.m. Obama returns for update
- 12:50 p.m. Obama told bin Laden appears to be one of those killed during raid
- 8:35 p.m. After confirmation, Obama announces in televised address that U.S. forces killed bin Laden and are in custody of his body
- Bin Laden's body put aboard the USS Carl Vinson, then placed in the North Arabian Sea

Sources: U.S. government, The White House, AP, Reuters, ESRI, NationalJournal.com

Graphic: Robert Dorrell, Judy Treible, Melina Yingling

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## Unwary call led U.S. to bin Laden

By Adam Goldman and Matt Apuzzo 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

MANHUNT A4



### Extra vigilant

Sheriff's Deputy Kiley Hayden patrols a subway platform at Union Station in Los Angeles on Monday. Security in public areas has been raised after the killing of Osama bin Laden. Story / A7

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WHITTIER A3

### Going Uptown

Businesswoman Sandra Hahn, the newly elected president of the Whittier Uptown Association, looks to improve the district.

## D.A.: Inquiry not an 'investigation'

By Bethania Palma Markus Staff Writer

A public corruption prosecutor said Monday she was mistaken last week when she referred to an inquiry into Montebello bank accounts as an "investigation."

On Friday, Deputy D.A. Jennifer Lentz Snyder said the case of two off-the-books city bank accounts was under investigation.

At least two complaints were submitted to the L.A.

County District Attorney's Public Integrity Division since the accounts were discovered in February. The D.A.'s office has opened a review, Deputy D.A. Dave Demerjian said Monday.

An investigator has been assigned, and his office has obtained city documents, but Demerjian said he is still reviewing the case — not investigating.

"We can't designate it an investigation until we determine a crime has occurred, which we have not done," Demerjian said.

### ONLINE EXTRA

For previous stories about Montebello's financial woes, visit our website at: www.whittierdailynews.com

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If the D.A.'s office opens an investigation it would be the third agency to scrutinize Montebello.

Officials with the U.S. Depart-

ment of Housing and Urban Development announced last week that they have launched a criminal investigation on how the city used federal money that was meant to build low income housing.

State Controller John Chiang announced two weeks ago he will audit Montebello's finances, saying he believes city financial reports submitted in the past are "false, incomplete or incorrect."

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