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Obama: 'A good day for America'

Risky mission spelled end for bin Laden

By Ben Feller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Proudly declaring the killing of Osama bin Laden “a good day for America,” President Barack Obama said Monday the world was a safer place without the world’s most hunted terrorist. DNA testing helped confirm that American forces in Pakistan had in fact killed the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. officials said, seeking to erase any doubt about the news that riveted the globe.

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Acting on intelligence that bin Laden was holed up in a compound in the city of Abbottabad, Obama ordered a risky, unilateral mission to capture or kill the al-Qaida leader on foreign soil. His counterterror chief, John Brennan, said Monday that Obama had monitored the raid from the White House Situation Room and expressed relief that elite forces had finally gotten bin Laden without losing any more American lives.

“It was probably one of the most anxiety-filled periods of time in the lives of the people who were assembled here,” Bren-

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White House photo/Pete Souza

Vice President Joseph Biden and President Barack Obama, along with members of the national security team, receive an update on the mission against Osama bin Laden in the Situation Room of the White House Sunday. Seated beside President Obama are, from left, Brigadier General Marshall B. “Brad” Webb, Assistant Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command; Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough; Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. A classified document is pixelated in the foreground.

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