

# How they got him

**MONTHS OF PLANNING:** Navy SEALs practiced on compound replica. **BURIED AT SEA:** DNA confirms bin Laden was killed in 40-minute raid.

Washington Post

**H**alf an hour had passed on the ground, but the American commandos raiding Osama bin Laden's Pakistani hideaway had yet to find their long-sought target.

Two of bin Laden's protectors were already dead, shot by the Navy SEALs carrying out the raid, and one of the U.S. helicopters sat crippled in the courtyard. Pakistan's military, which had been kept in the dark about the operation, was scrambling to respond to reports of explosions and gunfire at the compound.

The commandos swept methodically through the one-acre compound's main building, clearing one room and then another as they made their way to the upper floors where they expected to find bin Laden. As they did so, Obama administration officials in the White House Situation Room listened to the SEAL team's conversations over secure lines.

"The minutes passed like days," said John Brennan, the administration's chief counterterrorism adviser. "It was probably one of the most anxiety-filled periods of time, I think, in the lives of the people who were assembled."

Finally, shortly before 2 a.m. Monday in Pakistan (Sunday afternoon in Florida), the commandos burst into an upstairs room. Inside, an armed bin Laden took cover behind one of his wives, Brennan said. With a burst of gunfire, one of the longest and costliest manhunts in modern history was over.

The operation, which was planned for months but hidden from all but a tiny circle of administration officials, marked the culmination of a search often seemingly so futile that top U.S. intelligence officials would answer questions about bin Laden's whereabouts with a helpless shrug.

It was a search that employed Predator drones, sophisticated signal interception equipment, networks of informants, and teams of analysts who scrutinized every video and audio recording from the al-Qaida leader for inadvertent clues.

In the end, the only resident taken from the compound was

» See RAID, 6A



Vice President Joe Biden, President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and members of the national security team receive an update Sunday in the Situation Room of the White House on the mission by U.S. special operations forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan, against Osama bin Laden.



## HUNTING 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.

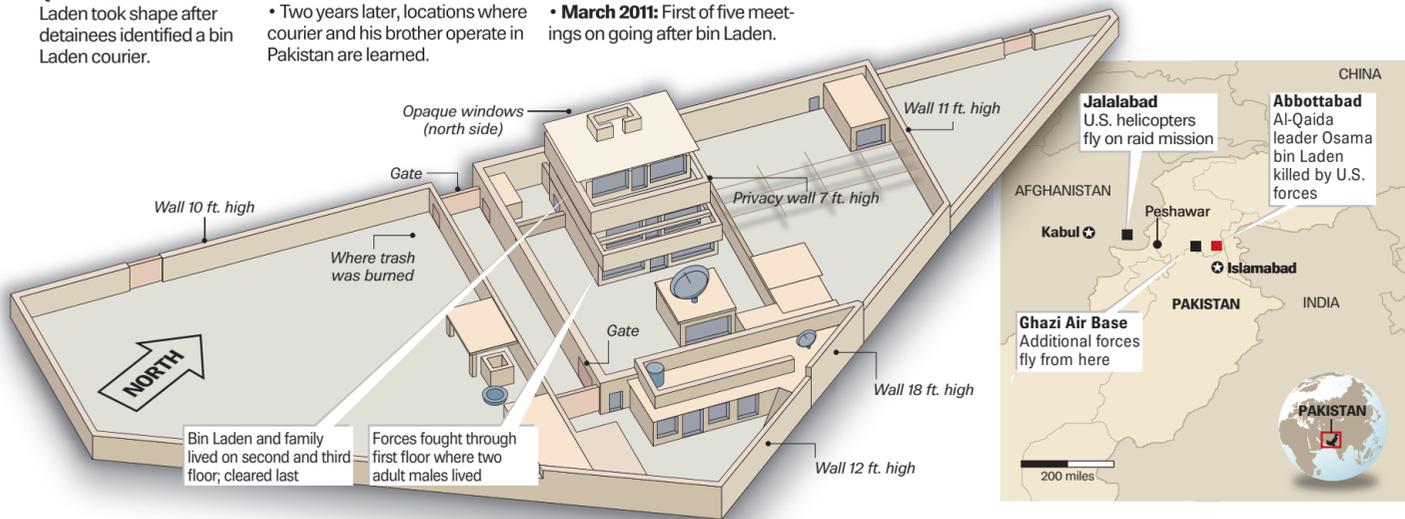
### NARROWING IN

- **August 2010:** Courier's residence found: high-security compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.
- **September 2010:** U.S. thinks bin Laden may be 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 meetings on going after bin Laden.

### THE OPERATION

- **8:20 a.m. EDT Friday:** Obama authorizes operation.
- **1 p.m. Sunday:** Top advisers gather at White House.
- **About 3 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 minutes of siege.
- One U.S. helicopter lost because of mechanical failure; destroyed for security purposes.
- Bin Laden's son, 3 others killed.



Sources: U.S. government, the White House, AP, Reuters, ESRI, National Journal.com

MCT

## Operation underlines distrust of Pakistan

Pakistan insists it didn't know of bin Laden's location, but for analysts the denial rings hollow.

BY SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN  
Times Senior Correspondent

### Analysis

That the world's most wanted man died in a comfortable compound near Pakistan's main military academy underscores a long-held concern: Pakistan, a nuclear-armed country and

font of Islamic radicalism, is an extremely shaky partner in the global war on terror.

Though the Pakistani government had insisted it didn't know the whereabouts of al-Qaida

leader Osama bin Laden, "its position of plausible deniability has been blown apart" by his death, says Farzana Shaikh, an expert at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"What has happened deepens suspicion that Pakistan has con-

tinued to play a double game," she says. "The fact Mr. bin Laden was discovered not in a cave in Waziristan where one might think he enjoyed the protection of local tribal elders, but within a stone's throw of the capital in

» See PAKISTAN, 5A

### INSIDE AND ONLINE

» **EFFECT ON 2012 ELECTION:** How will the killing of bin Laden affect President Obama's chances for re-election? **5A**

» **WHAT NEXT FOR AL-QAIDA?:** Our PolitiFact team explores what this means for the terrorist organization and updates Obama's promises. **8A**

» **CHEERING THE NEWS:** Residents up and down the Tampa Bay area praise the work of U.S. forces in bringing an end to bin Laden. **1B**

» **FIND MUCH MORE ONLINE:** Interactive timelines of how the mission unfolded and key events in bin Laden's life, video from inside the Abbottabad compound and the latest developments can be found at [tampabay.com](http://tampabay.com).

### Chrysler says it turns a profit

Chrysler reports a net income of \$116M during the first three months of the year, giving the Detroit automaker, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2009, its first profit since 2006. **Business, 4B**

### Longoria back at the Trop

Evan Longoria has recovered from a strained left rib cage muscle and returns to the Rays lineup tonight against the Blue Jays, happy that the team (15-13) performed well in his absence. **Sports, 1C**

### Supreme Court split is rejected

House Speaker Dean Cannon is handed a partial victory by the state Senate as it votes for a few Florida Supreme Court changes, but not the controversial expansion plan. **Tampa Bay, 1B**

### Tornadoes set 24-hour record

There were 362 tornadoes during last week's outbreak, including a record-setting 312 in one 24-hour period, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says. **Nation, 2A**

### Lightning hosts Caps in Game 3

Tampa Bay resumes its playoff series against Washington tonight with a 2-0 lead and with Victor Hedman, 20, playing his best hockey of the season. **Sports, 1C**  
TV: 6:30 p.m., Sun Sports

### TODAY'S WEATHER

**Very warm again**  
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀  
8 a.m. 75° Noon 86° 4 p.m. 88° 8 p.m. 78°  
0% rain chance.  
**More, 7C**

### INDEX

Astrology	4F	Etc	2B
Business	4B	Lottery	2A
Classified	F	Movies	F
Comics	3F	Puzzles	4F
Crosswords	4F	Television	2F

