

The Augusta Chronicle

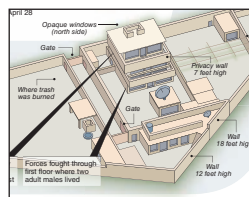
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Tuesday, May 3, 2011

New spirit of unity



Hunting down bin Laden

► Graphic shows details of raid that killed al-Qaida leader/5A



The compound where he lived

► Hideout raises suspicion of whether Pakistan sheltered bin Laden/5A



Heightened level of security

► Most places don't change security, but expect lines at Fort Gordon/5A



Jessie Bennett (right) cries as she hugs her husband, Spc. John Bennett, during a departure ceremony at Fort Gordon.

RAINIER EHRHARDT/STAFF

News of firefight cheered

By Adam Goldman and Chris Brummitt
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After nearly a decade of anger and fear, America rejoiced Monday at the demise of Osama bin Laden, the terrorist 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 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 photos were not immediately released.



Bin Laden

"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 a middle-of-the-night raid on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. 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.

The CIA already was poring over confiscated hard drives, DVDs and other documents looking for inside information on al-Qaida, including clues that might lead to his presumed successor, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

"Last night's news unified our country" much as the terrorist attacks of 2001 did, Republican House Speaker John Boehner said earlier in the day. Obama

Please see **BIN LADEN** on **PAGE 5A**

MORE ON OSAMA BIN LADEN

- Jihad fades across Mideast/3A
- Officials cite DNA match/5A
- Teams, fans show support for military/1C

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Families say farewell to troops

By Susan McCord
Staff Writer

"Osama bin Laden is no more," Lt. Col. Keith Garwold said to cheers Monday at the deployment of about 125 Fort Gordon soldiers to Afghanistan, hours after bin Laden's death in a U.S. raid on his Pakistan hideout.

While Garwold reminded "there is still much work to be done" by Alpha Company, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion during a quick farewell ceremony on post, many felt a sense of unease at the unit's deployment to the 9-11 mastermind's long-time refuge.

"It's kind of weird that he's gone,

WATCH THE 63RD'S DEPLOYMENT

VIEW VIDEO from the departure ceremony for the Alpha Company 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion at augustachronicle.com.

and that he got killed the day of our deployment," said Pvt. 1st Class Tommie Culp, one of many making their first deployment today. "There's going to be a lot of turmoil over there."

Culp, 19, said tearful goodbyes to his mother, father, sister, girlfriend and 2-year-old daughter Lyliana, all of whom traveled 12 hours from Philadelphia to see him off Monday.

"I don't care; it's worth it," Culp's mother Edith Daniels said of making the drive.

Lisa Deal traveled from LaGrange, Ga., with daughter Senise, 2, to send her husband Tashawn Deal, 23, away for the first time since Army basic training. The family learned he was leaving for the yearlong mission about a month ago, she said.

"I don't know whether to be relieved or upset," Lisa Deal said of bin Laden's death. "It could make it worse or it could make it better."

As the unit from Alpha Company, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, boarded three charter buses, Lisa

Deal had a message to her husband: "Tell him I love him and I'll see him when it's over," she said.

Atlanta-area relatives of William Russell Wallace traveled to see him deploy; other members from the Birmingham, Ala., area weren't able to come because of last week's devastating storms.

"It's very sad but we're very proud," said Wallace's mother, Joanne Wallace Cofer. As her youngest son departed, Cofer was reminded of her late husband's deployment to Vietnam.

"It feels exactly like it felt when we sent his father off," she said, add-

Please see **TROOPS** on **PAGE 4A**

World reacts to news of al-Qaida leader's death in Pakistan



Pfc. William R. Strange III was killed by an improvised explosive device in 2004.

IN GEORGIA

After her son, Pfc. William R. Strange III, was killed in Iraq in 2004, Lillie Jenkins had been waiting for a day like Sunday for seven long years.

So, she could barely contain her joy when her daughter roused her from bed with a phone call that Osama bin Laden had been killed.

"I said they finally got the SOB," Jenkins said from her home outside Metter, Ga., on Monday. "It's been a long time coming."

She gave credit to President Obama for living up to his promise to catch or kill the mastermind behind 9/11.

"I told my husband that Obama said they were going to hunt him down," Jenkins said. "I

really believe in my president."

Jenkins struggled to come to terms with her son's death from an improvised explosive device outside Baghdad on April 2, 2004. She believes that bin Laden's death will give some closure to her grief and that of other families who have lost loved ones. As for the man who caused her suffering, her feelings about his final resting place were succinct.

"He got a rude awakening (Sunday)," Jenkins said. "He took his last breath here and woke up on the other side, Hell-bound."

—Mike Wynn, staff

► Read more local reactions to the news/4A

ACROSS THE NATION

There were joyful cries of victory. There was skepticism from those who demanded to see a corpse. There were huge crowds waving U.S. flags outside the White House and people erupting into chants of "USA!" on the dark streets around ground zero in New York. And there were the bitter words of a mother still mourning the son lost on Sept. 11, 2001. There was no shortage of reaction across the nation to the news late Sunday of Osama bin Laden's death in Pakistan.

► Most celebrate; some hesitate/4A

AROUND THE WORLD

Congratulations poured in from around the globe. From London and Paris, to Nairobi and New Delhi, nations touched by the scourge of terrorism hailed the news of Osama bin Laden's elimination. But some nations remained silent Monday, unnerved by the U.S.' demonstration of its ability to project power with stealth and deadly force against its foes. British Prime Minister David Cameron said bin Laden's death will "bring great relief to people across the world."

► More on how the world responded/4A

WEATHER

Partly sunny
High: 86
Low: 54

More weather on Page 8C

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New court now in session in Augusta

METRO, 1B

DEATHS

Mrs. Martha A. Bentley Augusta
Mrs. Ramona W. Gay Atlanta
Mr. Jerry Johnson Sr. Graniteville
Col. Wayne S. Lethgo Augusta
Ms. Linda H. Morgan Edgefield, S.C.
Mr. Bobby J. O'Neal Augusta
Mrs. Alice D. Perry Hephzibah
Mr. Nickie Reeves Augusta
Mr. Murray Shapiro Augusta
Mrs. Rosalie T. Storey North Augusta
Mrs. Vera M. Usry Thomson
Mr. Leroy Washington Augusta
Mr. Paul S. Whittenberger Sr. Augusta



ZACH BOYDEN-HOLMES/STAFF

Daily Deal: Get new and gently used clothes for half off. 2A

