

EXPANDED IN-DEPTH REPORT The death of bin Laden

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 **BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY AT AJC.COM**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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WEATHER
Stormy
 High: 79, Low: 64
 80% chance of rain



Wednesday: Sunny, windy, 69/45
Thursday: Sunny, 72/45
Friday: Mostly sunny, 77/51

Details on the back of **Metro**

WAR ON TERROR

How we got him

Elite Navy specialists began training in April.

Operation rooted in an American intelligence discovery 4 years ago.

By **Bill Steiden**
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Trial runs began in early April at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan.

In a sealed-off area known as Camp Alpha, members of a secret group of elite hunters/killers began running through a seemingly impossible mission.

Without advance notice, they would fly through darkness deep into a military garrison city in the heart of Pakistan, assault a heavily fortified compound – then return with the world’s most wanted man, dead or alive.

They practiced on a one-acre mock-up of the compound, fighting their way in, fighting their way out, timing and coordinating every move as they tried to anticipate what they would encounter.

Within a few weeks, Navy SEAL Team Six was ready to go – whenever President Barack Obama gave the order.

The command came late last week.



In this White House handout photo, President Barack Obama (back to camera) meets with members of his national security team in the Situation Room at the White House on Sunday to discuss the mission to kill Osama bin Laden. **Pete Souza** White House via New York Times

A chopper, and a tweet
The clatter of a helicopter shattered the midnight silence, jolting Sohaib Athar.

An IT consultant in Pakistan, Athar had moved to Abbottabad last year to get away from the teeming megacity of Lahore, where his wife and son had been severely injured in a crash with a police van.

Social media kept the English-speaker connected to the outside world. So he sent a tweet: “Helicopter hovering above Abbottabad at 1 a.m. (is a rare event).”

Minutes later, a second tweet: “A huge window-shaking bang here in Abbottabad Cantt. I hope it’s not the start of something nasty.”

As Athar and the rest of the world would soon learn, the din rocking the valley enclave early Monday was more than just a military exercise or a skirmish with terrorists.

Detainees provided name
The operation that ended the decade-long hunt for bin Laden was rooted in a 4-year-old breakthrough by American intelligence officials: a nickname Abu Faraj al-Libi, No. 3 in the al-Qaida command structure until his 2005 capture, had given them for a top courier bin Laden used in order to avoid sending traceable electronic messages.

Got him continued on A4

VICTIMS OF SEPT. 11, 2001

Families react to news with mixed emotions

‘It doesn’t change that my father isn’t here.’

10 years since attack difficult for everyone.

By **Craig Schneider**
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Monday was Terrese Aiken’s 18th birthday, marking another family occasion without her father, who died in the 9/11 terrorist attack. But knowing that the man behind that plot had been killed made the day special.

“As wonderful as it is, it still doesn’t change that my father isn’t here,” she said in a text to her mother Monday.

Terrese was only 8 when her father was killed. Terrance Aiken had been working at the World Trade Center for only a few days when terrorist planes took down the skyscrapers. Kimberly Trimmingham-Aiken moved her kids to metro Atlanta five years ago.

Since her husband’s death, she said, she’s spent so much



Kimberly Trimmingham-Aiken holds a picture of her husband, Terrance Aiken, who died in the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001. “I’m able to start healing,” she said. **Bob Andres** bandres@ajc.com

time being the strong mother that she’s had little time to grieve. Seems the older the kids get, the more they need their father, she said. She said she almost broke down teaching her 15-year-old, Kanan, to tie a necktie.

“This is the start of closure for me,” she said. “I’m able to

start healing.”

For the families who lost relatives on Sept. 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden’s death is something very personal. The attack that tore at the heart of the nation stole away their loved ones. On Monday, many cheered bin

Families continued on A9

15 pages of coverage
Full reports on how the mission came about and who carried it out, how the world reacted, and what the impacts are likely to be in the United States and around the globe.

Key dates in life of hate
A chronology of events that made bin Laden the world’s most dreaded, and most wanted, terrorist. **A4-A7**

Low-profile raiders
The raid on bin Laden’s hideout in Pakistan was carried out by an elite Navy SEAL team you’ve probably never heard of. They take pride in their missions, but prefer to keep them quiet. **A2**

Problematic Pakistan
The discovery that bin Laden had apparently lived in relative comfort in plain sight in Pakistan is bound to raise questions about that U.S. ally’s commitment and increase strains in the nations’ relationship. **A3**

Washington applauds
Politicians in both parties praise the bin Laden mission, but it’s hard to predict how long the bump in Obama’s popularity will last. **A7**

Bonus Opinion pages
● **From the right and left:** Our columnists and cartoonist push the conversation forward. **A12-15**

Today’s news

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Army Corps prepares to blow up Missouri levee

BUSINESS
Southwest celebrates closing of AirTran deal

METRO
Georgia estimates losses from storms, tornadoes

SPORTS
Salazar incident proves dangers of foul balls

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A muddy torrent would swamp bid empty farms in a desperate attempt to save an Illinois town. **A20**

» **Libyan mourners vow revenge:** Moammar Gadhafi’s second-youngest son, killed in a NATO airstrike, is buried. **A20**

We tell travelers what to expect as Southwest Airlines arrives in Atlanta for the first time. **A21**

» **Chrysler is profitable again:** For the first time in nearly seven years, Detroit’s car companies are all making money. **A21**

The state insurance commissioner tells how he came up with the \$75 million figure, a number that’s likely to rise. **B1**

» **Cobb cuts pool hours:** How the county’s actions could affect children’s swim programs. **B1**

Braves players explain why they won’t let family members sit in vulnerable areas in the first rows of the ballpark. **C1**

» **Back to school:** Why golf pro and Georgia alum Bubba Watson is back at UGA again. **C1**