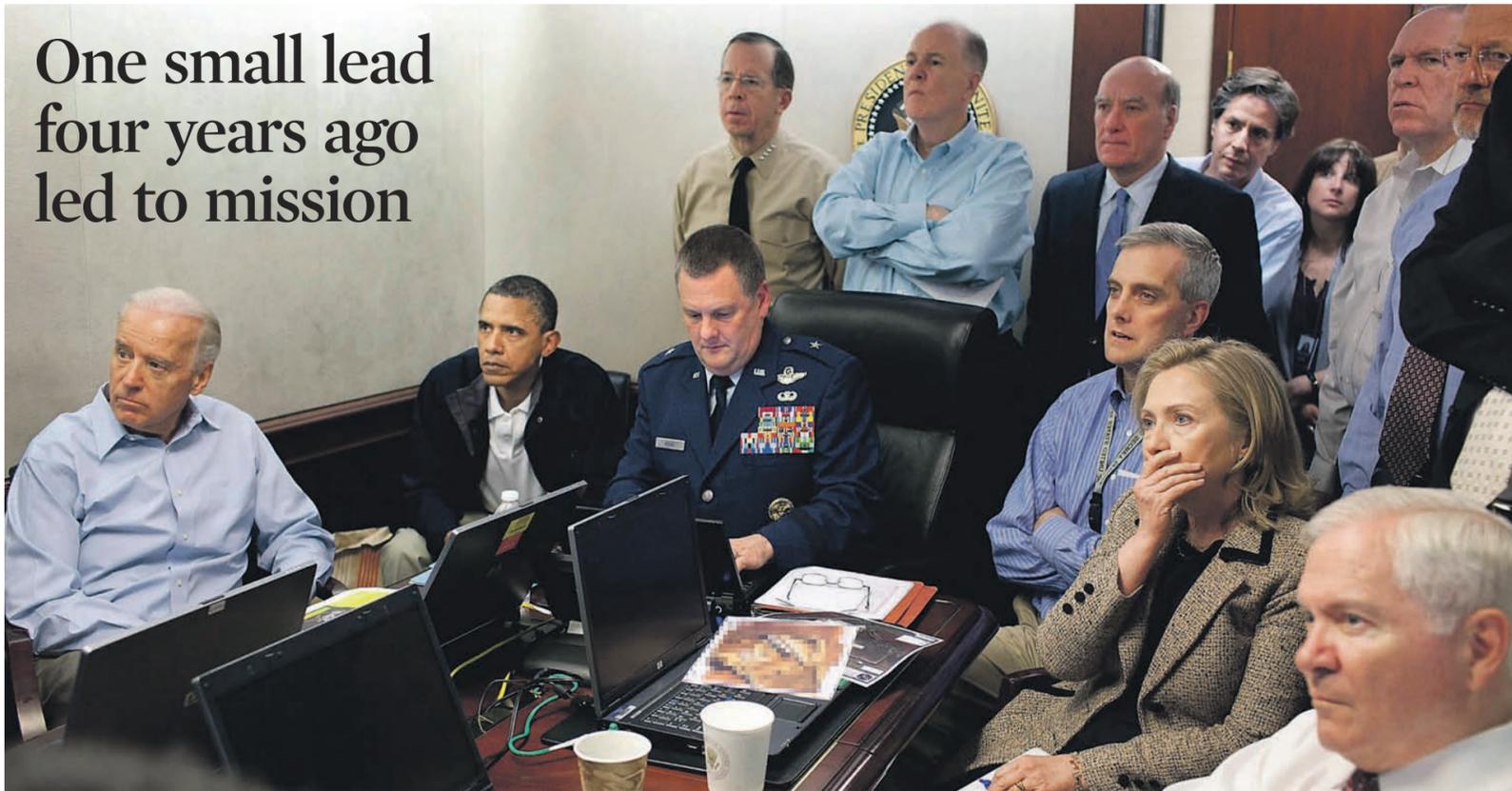
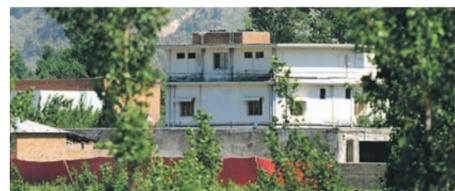


How U.S. got bin Laden



One small lead four years ago led to mission

ABOVE, PETE SOUZA/WHITE HOUSE PHOTO; INSET, FAROOQ NAEEM/AFP-GETTY PHOTO
President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, left, and other members of the national security team receive an update on the mission Sunday at the White House. Also visible are Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, second from right, and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, right. At top is the compound where bin Laden was caught.

REFLECTION

9/11, 5/1 — and everything that has come in between

By Jean Marbella
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The news that the U.S. had killed Osama bin Laden arrived Sunday night with bracing clarity — the kind rarely seen since 9/11 itself.

It's been almost 10 years since terrorists killed nearly 3,000 Americans on a single day, a shocking event that instantly seemed to divide life into before and after: Pearl Harbor, the JFK assassination, Antietam — no historical antecedent seemed too overstated.

And yet, somehow, unless you lost someone to the terrorist attacks or the subsequent wars fought in its name, 9/11 eventually lost its hold on the ever-fleeting American attention span. For most it soon was only experienced as an annoyance at the airport, yet even there, each new security measure piled up so gradually, in 3-ounce dribs and millimeter-wave drabs, that eventually they arrived divorced from their whole reason for being. See REFLECTION, page 12

9/11 FAMILIES

Victims' Maryland relatives find little solace in the news

By Liz F. Kay and Childs Walker
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Kathryn McNeal didn't believe the news scroll. The Ruxton resident didn't pay too much attention during the 11 p.m. news when she heard that President Barack Obama would give an important announcement. She assumed it would be about Libya or the latest unrest in Arab countries.

Then she read the words that Osama bin Laden was dead — bin Laden, the man who had orchestrated the World Trade Center attacks that killed her 29-year-old son, Daniel McNeal, nearly a decade ago.

"I thought this could not happen, not in my lifetime," McNeal recalled Monday.

Since the news of bin Laden's death broke late Sunday, McNeal and others who lost loved ones in New York, at the Pentagon and on the hijacked flights have wrestled with complex emotions. They feel relief that justice was See FAMILIES, page 11

THE RAID

Years of planning, then fear of new 'Blackhawk Down'

By Bob Drogin, Christi Parsons and Ken Dilanian
TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

The nail-biting moment, the period when absolute disaster loomed, was at the very start.

About two dozen Navy SEALs and other U.S. commandos were supposed to rope down from two specially modified Blackhawk helicopters in the predawn hours Monday morning in Pakistan, race into two buildings and capture or kill Osama bin Laden. But one chopper stalled as it hovered between the compound's high walls, unable to sustain its lift, and thudded into the dirt.

Half a world away in the White House situation room, the president and his war council watched nervously as intelligence feeds streamed in. The team needed a rescue chopper. Gunfire was blazing around them. No one wanted another "Blackhawk Down" debacle.

"A lot of people were holding their breath," recalled See BIN LADEN, page 10

Inside Seven pages of coverage (PGS 7-12) and updates online at baltimoresun.com. Text NEWS to 70701 and have alerts delivered

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TODAY'S WEATHER

STORMS LIKELY

80 **56**
HIGH LOW



Rain ends Wednesday SPORTS PG 10

Crime spike alarms Northeast neighborhoods

Rising violence has area leading city in homicides

By Justin Fenton
THE BALTIMORE SUN

For decades, veteran police officers viewed Baltimore's Northeast Police District, dominated by middle-class, low-crime neighborhoods, as a "country club" assignment.

But a rise in crime in some neighborhoods is changing that sentiment. Shootings and violence have been on the rise in

the district — the city's largest, spanning 17 square miles including Lauraville, Ednor Gardens and Belair Edison — and it leads the city in homicides this year. The Police Department recently designated two neighborhoods in the area as "violent crime enforcement zones," putting them on a par with some of the most troubled spots in the city.

At a town hall meeting last week, resident Maraizu Onyenaka pleaded with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to stop the drug traffic on her block.

"I live on a corner that is an open-air drug market," said Onyenaka. "We know

where they are. Everyone knows where they are. So why are they still there?"

Despite the spike in crime, the district largely remains a safe, middle-class enclave. And the violent crime around Clifton Park, an area long troubled by drug dealing, did not spring up overnight.

Nevertheless, Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, who represents the area of the district where most of the violence has occurred, said, "We all have a lot of work to do in the Northeast District. That's for certain."

With total crime up more than 20 per See NORTHEAST, page 18

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