

'HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT'

U.S. accuses Bin Laden of cowardice at end; Al-Qaida chief given burial at sea

By SCOTT WILSON and ANNE E. KORNBLUT
Washington Post

The Obama administration presented new details Monday about the death of Osama bin Laden, portraying the spiritual leader of Al-Qaida as a reclusive figure who had lived in relative luxury and whose final moments had finally exposed his cowardice.

As Americans solemnly remembered those killed at Bin Laden's command, senior administration officials sought to reframe the image he had cultivated among his followers. They stressed that he had been discovered not in a remote cave, but in a mansion in a wealthy Pakistani city. They also suggested that, as he tried to escape U.S. special operations forces, he may have used one of his wives as a "shield."

"Here is Bin Laden, who has been calling for these attacks, living in this million-dollar-plus compound, living in an area that is far removed from the front, hiding behind women who were put in front of him as a shield," said John Brennan, President Obama's deputy national security adviser for counterterrorism. "I think it really just speaks to just how false his narrative has been over the years."

U.S. officials quickly buried the Al-Qaida leader — the most hunted man in the world — at sea, put overboard from the U.S. aircraft carrier Carl Vinson in the North Arabian Sea in what was clearly an effort to prevent his grave becoming a shrine to his followers. His body was washed in accordance with Islamic custom, placed in a white sheet and then inside a weighted bag, a defense official said.

Obama declared "the world is safer" now that the terrorist mastermind is dead. "I think we can all agree this is a good day for America," he said. "Our country has kept its commitment to see that justice



PETE SOUZA • White House via Associated Press (photo digitally altered by White House to blur documents)
President Obama met Sunday with his national security team — including Vice President Joe Biden, deputy national security adviser Denis McDonough of Stillwater, Minn., Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates — in the Situation Room of the White House.

A RAID MONTHS IN THE MAKING

By GREG MILLER and JOBY WARRICK
Washington Post

Half an hour had passed on the ground, but the U.S. commandos had yet to find their long-sought target.

Two of Osama bin Laden's protectors were already dead, shot by the Navy SEALs carrying out the raid in Pakistan, 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 FACILITY] WAS ... WHAT OUR EXPERTS EXPECTED BIN LADEN'S HIDEOUT TO LOOK LIKE. » U.S. official

• After years of dead ends, U.S. officials finally hit a big break. It started months of painstaking work to end one of history's biggest manhunts.



ABC News via Associated Press
ABC News had an exclusive look inside the bloody compound after Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

the people who were assembled."

Finally, shortly before 2 a.m. in Pakistan, 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. "He was more or less

hiding in plain sight," a senior U.S. intelligence official said. "The only resident of the compound that was taken from the site was Osama bin Laden. He died — almost certainly — from a bullet to the head" as he tried to resist the assault force.

Raid continues on A9 ►

ANALYSIS: AL-QAIDA

Arab Spring had eclipsed Bin Laden

By DAVID E. SANGER • New York Times

In the early days of the Arab Spring, President Obama frequently told his aides that the movement sweeping from Cairo to Yemen — one place where Al-Qaida found its intellectual roots, the other where it has taken refuge — created what he called an "alternative narrative" for a disaffected generation.

There were no pictures of Osama bin Laden being paraded through the streets, he noted. Nor were there chants of "Death to America." The question now is whether Bin Laden's death at the hands of American special operations forces and the CIA spurs the movement to promote democracy in the region or — a very real alternative — fuels the Islamist forces now trying to fill the new power vacuum in the Arab world.

The White House, not surprisingly, argued late Sunday that the killing of Bin Laden came at just the crucial moment, when the Arab world was turning its back on Al-Qaida's ideology.

"It's important to note that it is most fitting that Bin Laden's death comes

Al-Qaida continues on A14 ►

Bin Laden continues on A15 ►

INSIDE COVERAGE

Terror timeline

A guide to major events and attacks in the life of a terrorist mastermind. **A10-A11**

Pakistan's position

Raid seems certain to inflame U.S.-Pakistani tensions. **A6**

City stunned after raid

Residents were shocked to learn of most-wanted neighbor. **A8**

At Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Sarah Friedman left a penny atop Burnett's gravestone Monday. She "wanted to leave something of myself behind." Her grandmother is buried nearby.



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'FINALLY, WE GOT THAT GUY'

For Flight 93 hero's parents, a sense of justice at long last

By RICHARD MERYHEW
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NORTHFIELD, MINN. — Tom Burnett didn't cheer when his wife delivered the remarkable news shortly after he awoke Monday morning.

But as he walked to the front door to grab his newspaper, the 82-year-old retired English teacher was quietly thinking

what much of America was thinking after learning that Osama bin Laden was dead: "Finally," he said to himself. "Finally, we got that guy."

His subdued reaction, a decade in the making, was a sharp contrast to the horror of that sunny September morning in 2001 when Burnett and his wife, Beverly, learned that their only son, Tom Burnett Jr., 38, was

a passenger on a jetliner that had been hijacked by terrorists shortly after takeoff from Newark, N.J.

In the chaos of the flight that followed, Burnett Jr., a Bloomington native, husband and father who was headed home to California after a business trip, helped organize a passenger re-

Burnett continues on A12 ►



Tom Burnett Jr. and others died trying to retake airliner.

INSIDE TODAY'S STAR TRIBUNE

WEATHER



Sunny and warmer

Today should be better. High 58. Low 33. **B8**

Trucker indicted in 35W crash

A Buffalo man faces three counts of vehicular homicide for the accident nearly a year ago. **B1**

Target logo vs. Target logo

Bull's-eye or maple leaf? The discount giant and a Canadian retailer sue over the trademark. **D1**

Studies favor mammograms

Three studies by radiologists show risks of breast cancer decrease with regular exams. **A2**

Libyan leader absent from funeral for son

Moammar Gadhafi's son Seif al-Arab Gadhafi was buried amid heated calls for revenge. **A4**

LOCAL NEWS

Farmers market location the cream of the crop
The site is the best choice, key investor says, beating the Dome option in nearly every way — except land-purchase price. **B1**

Santa Muerte increasingly popular, worrisome
The patron saint of death is raising concerns. "She is evil." **B1**