

**THE KILLING OF OSAMA BIN LADEN**

**AN EVIL ELIMINATED**

**World is a safer place, President Obama says**

BLADE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — Declaring the killing of Osama bin Laden “a good day for America,” President Obama said Monday the world was safer without the al-Qaeda terrorist and mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

His administration used DNA testing to help confirm that American forces in Pakistan had in fact killed bin Laden, as U.S. officials sought to erase all doubt about the stunning news.

“Today we are reminded that as a nation there is nothing we can’t do,” Mr. Obama said of the news bound to help define his presidency. He hailed the pride of those who broke out in overnight celebrations as word spread around the globe.

An elite crew of American forces killed bin Laden during a daring raid capping the world’s most intense manhunt.

The White House counterterrorism adviser said the U.S. forces would have taken bin Laden alive if they had the opportunity.

Adviser John Brennan said the White House thought bin Laden would resist but that there was a “remote” possibility he could be captured alive.

Mr. Brennan said it only would have happened if bin Laden didn’t pose any threat to the Americans sent to take him out. Since he fought back, he was killed.

It took years for the U.S. military to track down bin Laden, finding him not in a cave in the inaccessible tribal regions of Pakistan, but in a sumptuous luxury compound built just six years ago in the same city that is home to Pakistan’s most prestigious military academy.

The raid that killed him lasted just 40 minutes.

U.S. officials said the raid involved a helicopter assault on a compound

in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad by a small U.S. military team.

Bin Laden, 54, resisted the U.S. team and was shot in the head, they said. Also killed were bin Laden’s most trusted courier and one of bin Laden’s sons, as well as a woman one of the men tried to use as a human shield, they said.

“Bin Laden was killed as our operators came into the compound,” said one senior administration official, who like the others, spoke on condition they not be further identified.

Only U.S. personnel were involved in the raid, and the President’s decision to launch it wasn’t shared with any other country, including Pakistan, whose most powerful intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, has long been suspected by U.S. officials of maintaining links to extremist groups close to al-Qaeda.

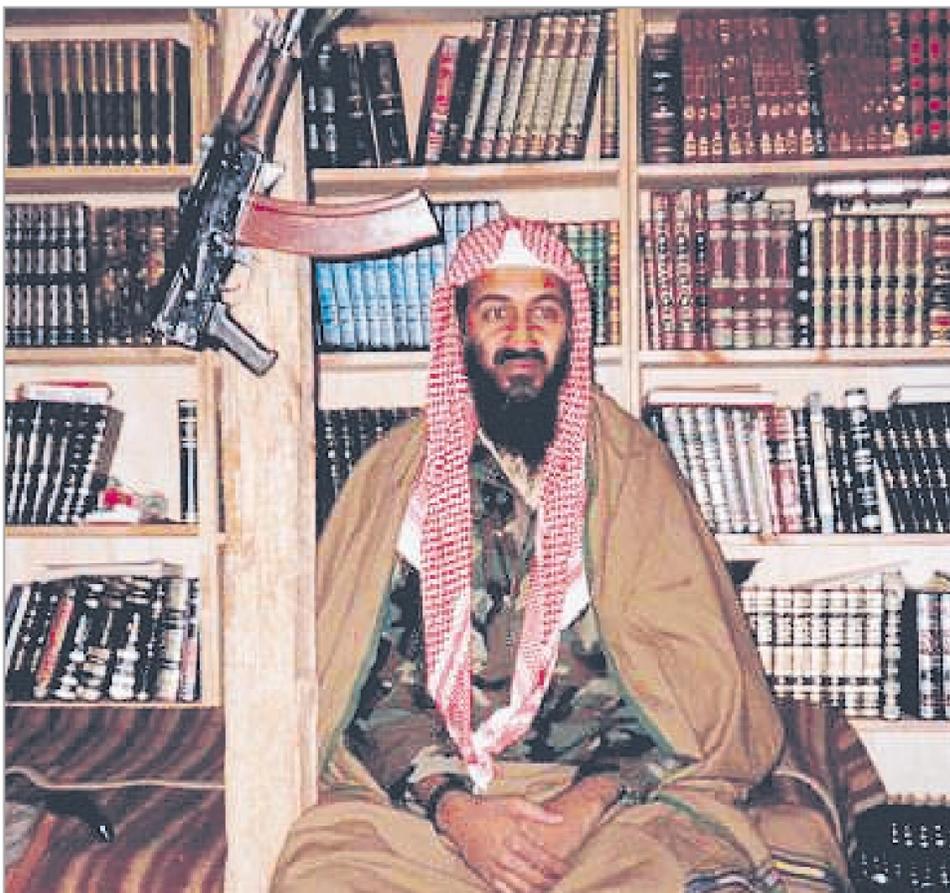
One Obama Administration official indicated that the United States was pursuing with the Pakistani government the question of whether any Pakistani officials were aware of bin Laden’s presence.

“We are very concerned that he was inside Pakistan,” he said.

The compound was uncovered after years of effort by the CIA, which had been gathering leads on individuals in bin Laden’s inner circle, including his couriers.

Some of their names were provided by al-Qaeda members captured by the United States.

“One courier in particular had our constant attention,” said a second senior administration official, who declined to release his name, but described him as a “protege” of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged architect of the 9/11 attacks who was captured in Pakistan in March, 2003,

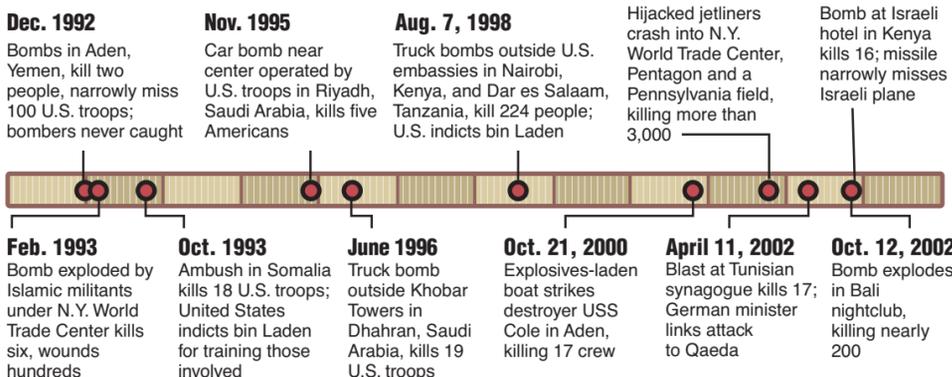


ASSOCIATED PRESS

**It took years for the American military and intelligence community to track down Osama bin Laden. Officials disclosed Monday that, despite shoot-to-kill orders, bin Laden would have been taken alive if possible.**

**ATTACKS LINKED TO BIN LADEN**

Terrorist attacks with actual or suspected links to Osama bin Laden’s terrorist network between 1992 and 2002:



SOURCE: Associated Press

McCLATCHY

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**REACTION IN NEW YORK**

**Visitors reflect at World Trade Center site**

BY ROD LOCKWOOD  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK — When the word broke that Osama Bin Laden was finally dead, Greg Packer made the journey to Ground Zero from Long Island.

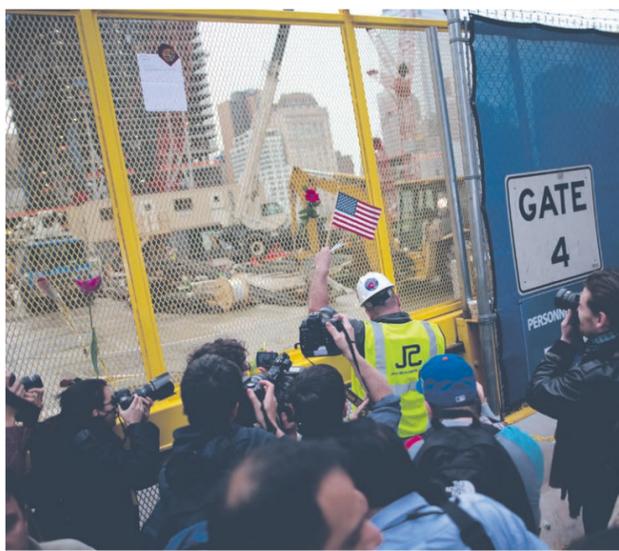
Gary Gone, a retired construction worker who worked on the World Trade Center site decades ago, came from the Bronx.

Actor Jack McGee took a break from filming an episode of Law and Order and spent a couple of hours

reflecting, the butt of a cigar jutting from his craggy face.

They were like tens of thousands of New Yorkers who were drawn to the former World Trade Center site Monday, the area teeming with humanity and news media for perhaps no other reason than if you were in New York on this gray, chilly day, Ground Zero seemed like the right place to be, if only for a few

Jack McGee



NEW YORK TIMES

**Paddy Garvey places an American flag at a construction area at the World Trade Center site hours after President Obama announced that Osama bin Laden had been killed.**

minutes.

Mr. Packer and Mr. Gone posed for pictures holding copies of the New York Post with the construction work to replace the buildings destroyed by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001, going on in the background.

“It’s beautiful,” Mr. Packer said, adding that he would’ve been glad to do the work of the Navy SEALs who killed Bin Laden in a Pakistan mansion Sunday. “It was a celebration and it’s the beginning of many more things to come. I wish I would’ve been the one that put it in him.”

Mr. Gone said Bin Laden’s death

proves there is justice for terrorists no matter how long it takes to bring it to fruition. “You can run, but you can’t hide,” he said.

At St. Paul’s Church in the shadow of the Ground Zero site in Lower Manhattan, a steady stream of visitors strolled through, looking at 9/11-related exhibits. They were silent as a bell tolled in four sets of five chimes, the New York Fire Department’s signal for a fallen comrade.

The pastor delivered a short service, noting the death of Bin Laden

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**Local, state leaders react to demise of terror boss**

BLADE STAFF

The spiritual leader of a West Toledo mosque said Monday that bin Laden’s death is an opportunity for America and Muslims to “make positive change in the world.”

Imam Ahmed About Seif of the Toledo Muslim Community Center, West Sylvania Avenue, said bin Laden was a murderer, not a martyr, and that he violated Islamic law by targeting civilians.

“Getting rid of Osama, that would be a great opportunity for both the Muslim people and the U.S. to work together toward the same goal,” Mr. Seif said through an interpreter, Mohammed El Nahal, chairman of the center’s board of trustees. “In addition, killing bin Laden would enable the U.S. to free itself from just working toward bin Laden. Wow we have bigger goals to work toward. The people in the Middle East love the American people. Islam condemns terrorism.”

He said those goals are to advance the cause of “justice and freedom, and equality.”

He said people in the Middle East initially looked at bin Laden as a defender of their interests, but turned against him because his tactics targeted civilians.

Toledo Fire Chief Mike Wolever,

vice chairman of the Ohio Homeland Security Advisory Council, said bin Laden’s death means a lot to the war on terror.

“Everybody’s been waiting anxiously for this to happen,” said Chief Wolever, who has been the vice chairman of the state-level group for about six years.

“We wanted to see him killed, not die of natural causes,” the chief said. “It’s just such an important facet of the war on terrorism to bring down the leadership. Everybody that’s been in the military knows that that’s not going to stop the wars, but it means a lot to everybody to see the people who masterminded [the terrorist attacks] fall.”

He said arresting bin Laden would have been a satisfactory conclusion but said it was widely predicted that bin Laden would not allow himself to be taken alive.

Chief Wolever said bin Laden’s death doesn’t end the threat. He said other terrorists will try to take bin Laden’s place.

“Some sect is going to step up and try to make a name for themselves,” Mr. Wolever said.

“There may even be an increase in threat, depending on what analyst

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Imam Seif



Mike Wolever

# Inside the raid to kill a terrorist

## 'Aggressive course of action' plotted in February

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Helicopters descended out of darkness on the most important counterterrorism mission in U.S. history.

It was an operation so secret that only a select few U.S. officials knew what was about to happen.

The location was a fortified compound in an affluent Pakistani town two hours outside Islamabad. The target was Osama bin Laden.

Intelligence officials discovered the compound in August while monitoring an al-Qaeda courier.

The CIA had been hunting that courier for years, ever since detainees told interrogators that the courier was so trusted by bin Laden that he might very well be living with the al-Qaeda leader.

Nestled in an affluent neighborhood, the compound was surrounded by walls as high as 18 feet, topped with barbed wire. Two security gates guarded the only way in. A third-floor terrace was shielded by a seven-foot privacy wall. No phone lines or Internet cables ran to the property. The residents burned their garbage rather than put it out for collection.

Intelligence officials believed the million-dollar compound was built five years ago to protect a major terrorist figure. The question was, who?

The CIA asked itself again and again who might be living behind those walls.

Each time, they concluded it was almost certainly bin Laden.

President Obama described the operation in broad strokes Sunday night. Details were provided in interviews with counterterrorism and intelligence authorities, senior administration officials and other U.S. officials. All spoke on condition of anonymity.

By mid-February, intelligence from multiple sources was clear enough that Mr. Obama wanted to "pursue an aggressive course of action," a senior administration official said. Over the next two and a half months, the President led five meetings of the National Security Council focused solely on whether bin Laden was in that compound and, if so, how to get him, the official said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nestled in an affluent neighborhood, the compound was surrounded by walls as high as 18 feet, topped with barbed wire.

Normally, the U.S. shares its counterterrorism intelligence widely with trusted allies in Britain, Canada, Australia, and elsewhere. And the U.S. normally does not carry out ground operations inside Pakistan without collaboration with Pakistani intelligence. But this mission was too important and too secretive.

On April 29, Mr. Obama approved an operation to kill bin Laden. It was a mission that required surgical accuracy, even more precision than could be delivered by the government's sophisticated Predator drones. To execute it, Mr. Obama tapped a small contingent of the Navy's elite SEAL Team Six and put them under the command of CIA Director Leon Panetta, whose analysts monitored the compound from afar.

Mr. Panetta was directly in charge of the team, a U.S. official said, and his conference room was transformed into a command center.

Details of exactly how the raid unfolded remain murky.

But the al-Qaeda courier, his brother, and one of bin Laden's sons were killed. No Americans were injured. Senior administration officials will only say that bin Laden "resisted." Then the man behind the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil died from an American bullet to his head.



VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

An image provided by an Abbottabad resident shows the wreckage of a helicopter near the compound.

## Security bolstered to halt reprisals

### Embassies brace, travelers warned of attack risks

NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS — The death of Osama bin Laden in a shootout with U.S. forces in Pakistan unleashed a wave of anger and relief Monday, raising concerns about potential reprisals and spurring doubt about Islamabad's commitment to fighting terrorism.

In the hours after President Obama broke the news of the killing, the worries about revenge attacks had begun, particularly for Americans who were urged to stay indoors in areas where passions were most likely to be inflamed.

"Given the uncertainty and volatility of the current situation," the State Department said in a travel advisory, "U.S. citizens in areas where recent events could cause anti-American violence are strongly urged to limit their travel outside of their homes and hotels and avoid mass gatherings and demonstrations."

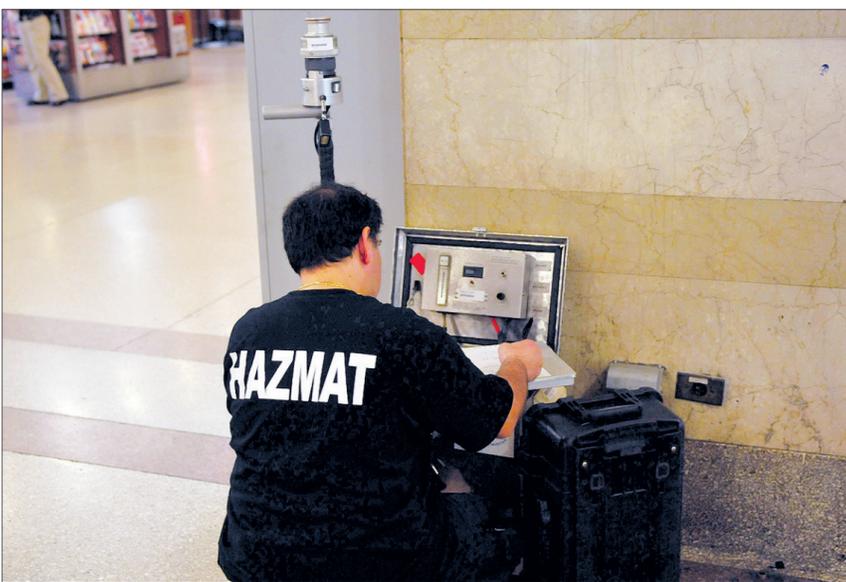
News reports said U.S. embassies around the world had been placed on a higher security alert, while British Foreign Secretary William Hague said he had instructed British missions to maintain greater vigilance.

France called the killing "a major event in the struggle against terrorism." But a statement from President Nicolas Sarkozy's office said: "It is not the end of al-Qaeda."

That assessment found an echo in comments from militant figures such as Sheik Omar Bakri Mohammed, the former head of the Al Mujahidoun group, who said bin Laden was "now a martyr and he will be a role model to Muslim youth. His death will be new inspiration to the Muslim youth."

The discovery that bin Laden was hiding out in Pakistan, near the capital Islamabad, also deepened India's suspicions about Pakistan's commitment to fighting terrorism.

A Pakistan foreign ministry statement said bin Laden's death "illustrates the resolve of the international community including Pakistan to fight and eliminate terrorism. It constitutes a major setback to terrorist organizations around the world."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A hazardous materials officer takes an air quality reading at Grand Central Station in New York City. Security was tightened nationwide to prevent reprisal attacks after the death of Osama bin Laden.

"Pakistan has played a significant role in efforts to eliminate terrorism," the statement said. "We have had extremely effective intelligence sharing arrangements with several intelligence agencies including that of the U.S. We will continue to support international efforts against terrorism."

In Britain, which has wrestled for years with terrorism linked to training camps in Pakistan, Prime Minister David Cameron said the death of bin Laden "will bring great relief to people across the world."

Britain has been a close ally of the United States in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq — both triggered by al-Qaeda's attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Osama bin Laden was responsible for the worst terrorist atrocities the world has seen — for 9/11 and for so many attacks, which have cost thousands of lives, many of them British," Mr. Cameron said, alluding to both British victims in the attacks in the United States and the suicide bombings of the London transit system on July 7, 2005, that killed 52 people and four bombers.

"Of course, it does not mark the end of the threat we face from extremist terrorism," he said. "Indeed, we will have to be particularly vigilant in the weeks ahead."

Beyond those statements, there was a current of skepticism about Pakistan's role in bin Laden's long effort to evade his U.S. pursuers.

"Some of them have been complicit in concealing Osama bin Laden for a very long time," said Sir Christopher Meyer, who was British ambassador to the United States at the time of the Sept. 11 attacks, referring to senior Pakistani officials.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock, who was Britain's ambassador to the United Nations when the hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, made a similar point.

"There must have been people in Pakistan's intelligence system who must have suspected where he was hiding," he said of bin Laden.

In East Africa, where al-Qaeda was blamed for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi that killed 224 people, the Kenyan prime minister, Raila

Odinga, told Reuters, "Osama's death can only be positive for Kenya, but we need to have a stable government in Somalia." Somalia, Kenya's northern neighbor, has a weak government, and the powerful Shabab Islamic militant group has pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda.

While the death of bin Laden might upset the jihadist movement there, Mr. Odinga said, "it will regroup and continue."

Australia, which is among the coalition of forces fighting alongside U.S. troops in Afghanistan, said it would continue its operations there. "Whilst al-Qaeda has been hurt today, al-Qaeda is not finished," Prime Minister Julia Gillard said. "Our war against terrorism must continue. We will continue the mission in Afghanistan."

In Russia, where the Kremlin has long compared al-Qaeda's attacks on the United States with attacks by North Caucasian insurgents in central Russia, a statement from the office of President Dmitry Medvedev called the U.S. raid a "serious success" against international terrorism.

## U.S. adding precautions, but no threat is imminent

BLADE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — U.S. homeland security officials are at a "heightened state of vigilance" for possible retaliatory attacks in the wake of American forces killing al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Monday.

The Homeland Security Department has no plans to issue a specific advisory about credible or imminent threats at this time, she said.

"Our security posture, which always includes a number of measures both seen and unseen, will continue to respond appropriately to protect the American people from an evolving threat picture both in the coming days and beyond," Ms. Napolitano said.

U.S. law enforcement agencies added security measures out of what one official called "an abundance of caution."

In Los Angeles, police were stepping up intelligence monitoring, while New York was sending extra police to its subways, airports, bridges, and the World Trade Center site itself.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said it will add police at its facilities, which include the airports and Ground Zero.

"This response is not based on a current threat, but out of an abundance of caution until we have the chance to learn more," the agency said.

Washington's Metro transit system also stepped up security.

The head of the House Homeland Security Committee said the U.S. must temper victory with vigilance in the wake of bin Laden's assassination.

Rep. Peter King told NBC's *Today* show that the al-Qaida terrorist organization could "try to avenge this death" and said "we'll have to be on full alert."

Mr. King also said there will be "round-the-clock" government surveillance to determine if al-Qaeda is planning or organizing a retaliatory attack.

# U.S. put to use variety of means for a positive ID

## Visuals by troops, woman at scene, DNA confirm body as bin Laden's

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States used multiple means to confirm the identity of Osama bin Laden during and after the firefight in which he was killed, before placing his body in the North Arabian Sea from aboard a U.S. aircraft carrier, senior U.S. officials said Monday.

The al-Qaeda leader was identified by name by a woman believed to be one of his wives — bin Laden had several — who was present at his Pakistan compound at the time of the U.S. raid.

He also was visually identified by members of the U.S. raid squad, a senior intelligence official said. Under ground rules set by the Pentagon, the intelligence official and two senior defense officials could not be identified by name.

The intelligence official also said quite a bit of unspecified material was collected by U.S. forces during the raid. Without describing the material, the official said it is being analyzed by a team of people at the CIA.

The officials said bin Laden was killed toward the end of the firefight, which took place in a building at a compound north of Islamabad, the Pakistani capital.

His body was put aboard the USS Carl Vinson and placed into the North Arabian Sea.

Traditional Islamic procedures for handling the remains were followed, the officials said, including washing the corpse, and placing it in a white sheet. Preparations for at-sea burial began at 1:10 a.m. EDT Monday and were completed at 2 a.m. EDT, one official said.

The intelligence official said the DNA match, using DNA from several family members, provided virtual certainty that it was bin Laden's body.

Officials did not immediately say where or how the testing was done but the test explains why President Obama was confident to announce the death to the world Sunday night.

Mr. Obama provided no details on the identification process.

The United States is believed to have collected DNA samples from bin Laden family members in the years since the 9/11 attacks that triggered the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. It was unclear whether the United States also had fingerprints or some other means to identify the body on site.

Bin Laden was shot in the head during the firefight with members of an elite American counter-terrorism unit that launched a helicopter-borne raid on the al-Qaeda leader's compound, U.S. officials said. Officials said the U.S. Special Forces who stormed the compound came face to face with their prey.

U.S. officials also said bin Laden was identified through "facial recognition," a reference to technology for mapping unique facial characteristics, but it was not clear exactly how the Navy SEAL troops performed the comparison.

The body was photographed before being buried at sea, although no images have been released by the Obama Administration.

The U.S. official who disclosed the burial at sea said it would have been difficult to find a country willing to accept the remains. The President said the remains had been handled in accordance with Islamic custom, which requires speedy burial.

Positive identification of the remains is considered a critically important part of the U.S. operation, given the symbolic importance of bin Laden's leadership of the Islamic extremist movement that was based in Afghanistan until the U.S. invaded in October 2001.

When al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was killed in a U.S. airstrike in June 2006, DNA tests were performed by the FBI to positively identify the remains. The U.S. military also performed an autopsy, in part to dispel allegations in the immediate aftermath of the airstrike that the terrorist leader had been beaten or shot by U.S. soldiers while in American custody.

# Bin Laden sea burial violates tradition, Muslim clerics claim

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — Many Muslim clerics said Monday that Osama bin Laden's burial at sea was a violation of Islamic tradition that may further provoke militant calls for revenge attacks against American targets.

Although there appears to be some room for debate over the burial — as with many issues within the faith — a wide range of Islamic scholars interpreted it as a humiliating disregard for the standard Muslim practice of placing the body in a grave with the head pointed toward the holy city of Mecca.

Sea burials can be allowed, they said, but only in special cases where the death occurred aboard a ship.

"The Americans want to humiliate Muslims through this burial, and I don't think this is in the interest of the U.S. administration," said Omar Bakri Mohammed, a radical cleric in Lebanon.

A U.S. official said the burial decision was made after concluding that it would have been difficult to find a country willing to accept the remains. There was also speculation that a grave site could have become a rallying point for militants.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive national security matters.

President Obama said the remains had been handled in accordance with Islamic custom, which requires speedy burial, and the Pentagon later said the body was placed into the waters of the northern Arabian Sea after adhering to traditional Islamic procedures — including washing the corpse — aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

But the Lebanese cleric Mohammed called it a "strategic mistake" that was bound to stoke rage.

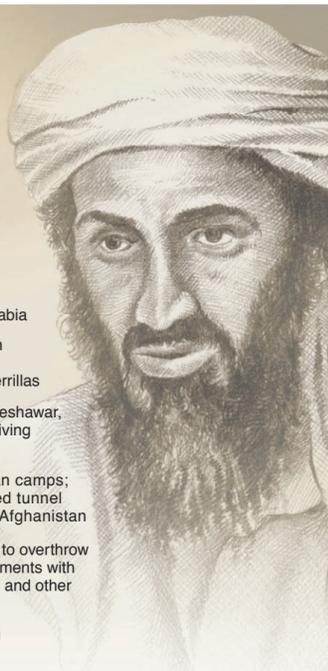
According to Islamic teachings, the highest honor to be bestowed on the dead is giving the deceased a swift burial, preferably before sunset. Those who die while traveling at sea can have their bodies committed to the ocean if they are off the coast, according to Islamic tradition.

"They can say they buried him at sea, but they cannot say they did it according to Islam," Mohammed al-Qubaisi, Dubai's grand mufti, said about bin Laden's burial. "If the family does not want him, it's really simple in Islam: You dig up a grave anywhere, even on a remote island, you

# Osama bin Laden

Events in the life of the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks:

- 1957 Born in Saudi Arabia
- 1979 Goes to Pakistan to meet CIA-funded anti-Soviet Afghan guerrillas
- 1984 Opens base in Peshawar, Pakistan, for Arabs arriving to fight Soviets
- 1986 Develops Afghan camps; helps build CIA-funded tunnel complex near Khost, Afghanistan
- 1988 Forms al-Qaeda to overthrow corrupt Muslim governments with Egyptian Islamic Jihad and other militant Muslims
- 1989 Returns to Saudi Arabia after Soviets leave Afghanistan
- 1990 Works in family construction business; criticizes Saudi government for inviting U.S. troops to expel Iraq from Kuwait
- 1991 Expelled from Saudi Arabia for anti-government activities; goes to Afghanistan briefly, then Sudan
- 1992 Bombing of hotel used by U.S. troops in Yemen; two Yemenis trained in Afghanistan arrested
- 1993 Car bomb at N.Y. World Trade Center kills six; 18 U.S. troops in Somalia killed; Somalis trained by bin Laden supporters suspected
- 1994 Saudi Arabia revokes bin Laden's citizenship, seizes much of his property
- 1995 Bombing of Saudi National Guard station in Riyadh kills five Americans, two Indians
- 1996 At U.S. request, Sudan expels bin Laden, who moves to Afghanistan; car bomb kills 19 at U.S. military housing in Saudi Arabia; Taliban rebels financed by bin Laden control Afghanistan
- 1997 U.S.-Saudi commandos recruit Afghans and Pakistanis to capture bin Laden; plot later called off
- 1998 Bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kill 220 people; U.S. missiles attack al-Qaeda headquarters in Afghanistan
- 1999 U.S. presses Taliban to turn over bin Laden; he is moved to secret location
- 2000 Bombing of destroyer U.S.S. Cole in Aden, Yemen, kills 17 sailors
- 2001 Four bin Laden followers convicted in U.S. embassy bombings
- Sept. 11, 2001 Hijackers fly jetliners into World Trade Center and Pentagon; U.S., U.K. and anti-Taliban Afghans mount air and land attacks on al-Qaeda and Taliban
- Dec. 22, 2001 Shoe bomber Richard Reid, a British-born follower of bin Laden, tries unsuccessfully to blow up a Paris-to-Miami flight
- 2002-3 Broadcast of video-, audiotapes of person who purportedly is bin Laden; Feb. 2003 message urges Muslims to attack
- 2004 For three days in March, U.S. and Afghan forces pound mountain caves in Tora Bora in search of bin Laden, but fail
- 2009 Accuses President Obama of planting seeds of "revenge and hatred toward America" in the Muslim world
- 2010 Purportedly claims responsibility for Dec. 25, 2009, attempted bombing of a U.S. plane
- May 1, 2010 Killed by U.S. forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan



U.S. mission in Somalia



al-Zawahri



USS Cole



World Trade Center

Source: PBS, Congressional Research Reports, Forbes, The New Yorker, The New Republic, Foreign Affairs, International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, "Taliban" by Ahmed Rashid, BBC, MSNBC  
Graphic: Elizabeth Donovan, The Miami Herald; MCT © 2011 MCT

say the prayers and that's it." "Sea burials are permissible for Muslims in extraordinary circumstances," he added. "This is not one of them." But Mohammed Qudah, a professor of Islamic law at the University of Jordan, said burying the Saudi-born bin Laden at sea was not forbidden if there was nobody to receive the body and provide a Muslim burial. Clerics in Iraq — where an offshoot of al-Qaeda is blamed for the death of thousands of people since

2003 — also criticized the U.S. action. One said it only benefited fish. "What was done by the Americans is forbidden by Islam and might provoke some Muslims," said an Islamic scholar from Iraq, Abdul-Sattar al-Janabi, who preaches at Baghdad's famous Abu Hanifa mosque. "It is not acceptable and it is almost a crime to throw the body of a Muslim man into the sea. The body of bin Laden should have been handed over to his family to look for a country or land to bury him."

# AL-QAEDA'S FUTURE Longtime deputy likely to become new leader

## Al-Zawahri has been group's top spokesman

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Ayman al-Zawahri, the man tipped to succeed Osama bin Laden as head of al-Qaeda after years as second-in-command, is often described as the terror network's ideologue-in-chief.

He also has been al-Qaeda's main spokesman in the past few years, issuing dozens of audio and video statements since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks as U.S. troops scoured Afghanistan and Pakistan for bin Laden.

An eye surgeon by training, al-Zawahri, 59, was born into a middle-class family of doctors and academics from the northern Egyptian governorate of al-Beheira and became politically active at a young age.

He joined Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, the country's oldest Islamist organization, as a teenager and later the more radical Egyptian arm of Islamic Jihad, which was behind the 1981 assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat.

Al-Zawahri was one of hundreds of militants arrested over the killing of Sadat, which was triggered by the president's signing of a peace deal with Israel. He spent three years in prison on charges of weapons possession — an experience that is said to have radicalized him.

On his release from prison in 1985 he left for Saudi Arabia and from there to Pakistan and Afghanistan, where he served as a doctor during the Soviet occupation and recruited young people into jihad.

Al-Zawahri switched his attention back to Egypt in the mid-1990s, where Islamic Jihad led a campaign to topple the government and install an Islamic state. While his attempts failed, the group has been blamed for the deaths of scores of Egyptians and was also blamed for an attack on tourists in Luxor in 1997.

For his role in the campaign, al-Zawahri was sentenced to death in absentia by an Egyptian court.

In 1998, he merged forces with bin Laden's and other Islamist groups calling for jihad against "Jews and Crusaders."

Al-Zawahri is believed to have exerted considerable influence over al-Qaeda strategy, convincing bin Laden to broaden his sights beyond ending the U.S. military presence in bin Laden's native Saudi Arabia to global jihad, or holy war.

That year saw al-Qaeda terrorists mount simultaneous attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 223 people. Bin Laden and al-Zawahri were indicted for the attack in the United States.

In 2001, al-Zawahri was named No. 2 after bin Laden on Washington's most-wanted list, with a \$25 million reward offered for information leading to his arrest.

He is believed to have survived at least one attempt on his life by the U.S. since then.

From hiding, believed to be in Pakistan, he has repeatedly spoken out, to taunt the United States and launch diatribes against Washington and Israel.

Whether al-Zawahri can impose himself as a successor to bin Laden at the head of the disparate al-Qaeda network is unclear.

A senior U.S. official on Monday said he believed al-Zawahri was "far less charismatic [compared to bin Laden] and not as well respected within the organization."

The official said he was going on "comments from several captured al-Qaeda leaders."

# bin Laden

Continued from Page e1

and is in U.S. custody at Guantanamo.

The CIA positively identified the courier four years ago and two years ago identified areas of Pakistan where the courier and his brother were operating. But because they employed such tight operations security, the agency was unable to pinpoint their residence until last year.

The captured al-Qaeda members only knew the courier's nom de guerre, but they told U.S. intelligence officers that he was "one of the few ... trusted by bin Laden," and that the pair might be living together, he continued.

The courier and his brother were tracked to a massive, palatial compound built in 2005 at the end of a dirt road in an isolated and "affluent" suburb of Abbottabad favored by retired Pakistani military offi-

A senior administration officials said the operation complied with U.S. and international law and stressed that the President had repeatedly put Pakistan on notice that the United States would act if it received actionable intelligence on the whereabouts of bin Laden or other terrorist threats

cers, said the second senior administration official, who added that it was believed that the residence was constructed specifically for bin Laden.

"We were shocked by what we saw," he said, describing the compound as being eight times larger than any of the area's other homes, surrounded by 12- to 18-foot walls topped by barbed wire.

Different sections of the structure were walled off from each other. The "extraordinary security measures" also included two electrified security gates.

Trash was burned before being taken out for disposal, he said.

The compound was built at a cost of \$1 million — a great deal for a residence in impoverished Pakistan —

yet it had no telephone or Internet connections, and the third floor was surrounded by a "seven-foot privacy wall" for its occupants.

The courier and his brother, meanwhile, "had no explainable source of income," said the second administration official, who added that "we soon learned that more people were living at the compound" than just the two men and their families.

CIA analysts, working with the eavesdroppers of the National Security Agency and experts at the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency, which analyzes satellite imagery, concluded "with strong probability" that a third family — bin Laden, his youngest wife, and several family members — also were living there,

he said.

The compound's massive security, its isolated location, and its size "was consistent with what our experts had expected bin Laden's hide-out would look like," he continued. "No other candidate fit the bill as well as bin Laden did."

Months of planning went into the helicopter-borne operation, said a third senior administration official, who declined to provide many details, including how many personnel and aircraft participated.

Mr. Obama met with a close circle of top national security aides five times since March 14 to review the intelligence assessment and plans for the operation before giving the final go-ahead.

The compound's high walls, secu-

rity precautions, suburban location "and proximity to Islamabad made" the operation extremely risky, he said.

The third senior administration official described the operation as "a surgical raid by a small team designed to minimize collateral damage."

"Our team was in the compound for under 40 minutes," he said.

The senior administration officials said the operation complied with U.S. and international law and stressed that the President had repeatedly put Pakistan on notice that the United States would act if it received actionable intelligence on the whereabouts of bin Laden or other terrorist threats.

A fourth senior administration official warned that "there may be a heightened threat" of terrorism against the U.S. homeland and Americans overseas as a result of bin Laden's killing.

But he called bin Laden's death "the single greatest victory" in the long campaign to crush al-Qaeda.

# Nation reacts with outpouring of joy, relief

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Joyous at the release of a decade's frustration, Americans streamed to the site of the World Trade Center, the gates of the White House, and smaller but no less jubilant gatherings across the nation to celebrate the death of Osama bin Laden — cheering, waving flags, and belting the national anthem.

Ground Zero, more familiar these past 10 years for bagpipers playing "Amazing Grace" and solemn speeches and arguments over what to build to honor the Sept. 11 dead, became, for the first time, a place of revelry.

"We've been waiting a long time for this day," Lisa Ramaci, a New Yorker whose husband was a freelance journalist killed in the Iraq war, said early Monday. "I think it's a relief for New York tonight just in the sense that we had this 10 years of frustration just building and building, wanting this guy dead, and now he is, and you can see how happy people are."

She was holding a flag and wearing a T-shirt depicting the twin towers and, in crosshairs, bin Laden.

Nearby, a man held up a cardboard sign that read, "Obama 1, Osama 0."

Dionne Layne, 44, of Stamford, Conn., spent the entire night at Ground Zero with her two children, ages 9 and 11. "They can't get this in a history class," she said. "They have to be a part of this."

Ms. Layne said she witnessed the second tower come down on Sept. 11 from Brooklyn, where she lived at the time.

Uptown in Times Square, dozens stood together on a clear spring night and broke into applause when a New York Fire Department vehicle drove by, flashed its lights and sounded its siren. A man held an American flag, and others sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

On an overcast morning in Shanksville, Pa., where a hijacked plane apparently meant for Wash-

ington crashed in a field after passengers fought back, a few visitors gathered Monday at the overlook that serves as a temporary memorial while a permanent one is built.

"I thought of Sept. 11 and the people lost," said Daniel Pyle, 33, of Shanksville, who stopped at the site on his way to work at a lawn care company. "I wanted to pay homage to the people lost that day. I think this brings a little bit of closure."

In Washington, in front of the White House, a crowd began gathering before President Obama addressed the nation Sunday night to declare, "Justice has been done."

"It's not over, but it's one battle that's been won, and it's a big one," said Marlene English, who lives in Arlington, Va., and lobbies on defense issues.

The celebrations began to come together late Sunday, after Americans began hearing about the death of bin Laden from bulletins on television, texts, and calls from family and friends, and posts on social networking sites.

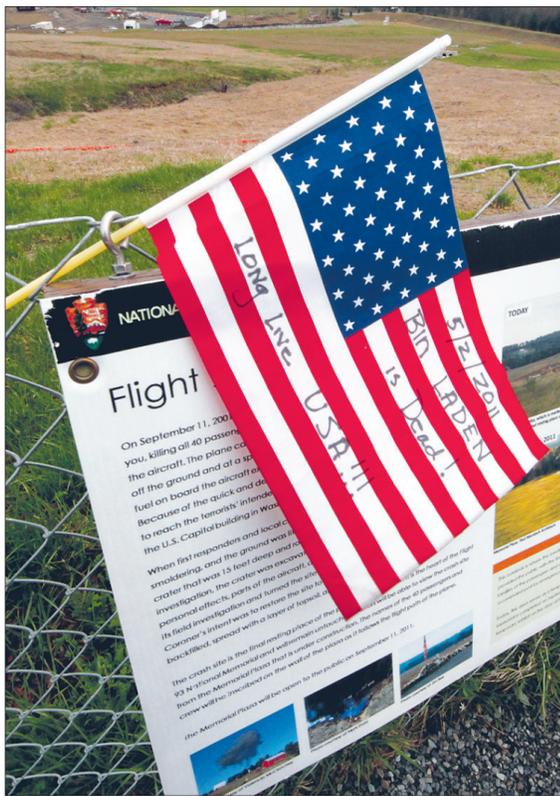
Bin Laden was slain in his luxury hideout in Pakistan in a firefight with American forces.

Mr. Obama said no Americans had been harmed in the operation.

Even before the President made the official announcement, news of bin Laden's death filtered across the country. As the New York Mets played the Philadelphia Phillies in Philadelphia, chants of "U-S-A! U-S-A!" began in the top of the ninth inning at Citizens Bank Park. Fans all over the stadium checked their phones and shared the news.

That chant — "U-S-A! U-S-A!" — echoed in Dearborn, Mich., a heavily Middle Eastern suburb of Detroit, where a small crowd gathered outside City Hall and waved American flags. Across town, some honked their car horns as they drove along the main street where most of the Arab-American restaurants and shops are located.

At the Arabica Cafe, big-screen



**An flag with a message about Osama bin Laden's demise is placed at the temporary memorial to United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TVs that normally show sports were all turned to news about bin Laden. The manager there, Mohamed Kobeissi, said it was finally justice for the victims.

There were smaller, spontaneous gatherings around the nation — a handful of Idahoans who made their way to the state Capitol in Boise, a

small group that waved flags and cheered on an I-5 overpass south of Seattle known as Freedom Bridge.

People said they were surprised that bin Laden had finally been found and killed.

John Gocio, a doctor from Arkansas who was gathering what details he could from TV screens at O'Hare

Airport in Chicago, marveled: "After such a long time, you kind of give up and say, 'Well, that's never going to happen.'"

The celebration in New York came precisely one year after a militant from Connecticut spread panic by driving a bomb-laden SUV into the heart of Times Square. As the most intense manhunt in history wore on, year after year after 9/11, the city dealt with smaller scares — the Times Square plot, subway and bridge threats, orange alerts.

Over that same decade, the city has lived on with the pain from the day itself, more distant but never erased.

Stephanie Zessos, who lives in the neighborhood and works for the fire department, said sadness also was mixed in with the late-night celebration.

"I texted a friend of mine who's a firefighter who lost a brother on 9/11, and he said the pain will never go away," she said.

After hearing of bin Laden's death, Mike Low, of Batesville, Ark., sat down in his daughter's bedroom in front of a glass case holding her remains and shared the news. The daughter, Sara, was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center.

He described his reaction as mixed — satisfaction for the loved ones left behind but continuing pain over his daughter's death.

"This is something we struggle with and will the rest of our lives," said Mr. Low, 67.

With final exams looming, thousands of Penn State University students gathered in State College, Pa., the student newspaper reported. One was dressed as Captain America, fireworks were set off and colorful chants rose up from the crowd.

At Ohio State University, some students, including the student body president, jumped into a lake on campus to celebrate, according to The Lantern newspaper.

## React

Continued from Page e1

you listen to," Mr. Wolever said. "We always knew that getting him wasn't going to change the risk or the threat; it was our job to change vulnerability and harden the target."

The Homeland Security Advisory Council reports to the governor on issues involving planning and capability and responding to terrorist attempts.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio) hailed bin Laden's death as a victory for all Americans.

"As Americans, we will never forget the Sept. 11 attacks, the 3,000 lives lost, and the effect on countless families across our nation," Mr. Brown said in a statement distributed by his office.

"But now, nearly 10 years after that tragic day, the world's most wanted terrorist will no longer threaten our nation's democracy and freedom. This is a victory for all Americans and a testament to the sacrifice of

## Bell: 'We still need to keep our guard up'

BLADE STAFF

Toledo Mayor Mike Bell was the city's fire chief when the terrorist attacks occurred in September, 2001.

Shortly afterwards, he was appointed by then-Mayor Carty Finkbeiner to lead a regional homeland security effort.

He said Monday that he be-

lieves the nation is safer with bin Laden dead but, he added, America must remain vigilant against terrorism.

"I think the concern I have is that for every action there is a reaction," the mayor said. "Although I believe we are safer with the demise of Osama bin Laden, I am still concerned about the reaction al-

Qaeda might take in reaction to his death. So I think we still need to keep our guard up."

Mr. Bell said it was understandable some people would cheer the al-Qaeda killing. "Regardless of how evil — or perceived evil — is, I get no celebration out of someone's death," he said.



Bell

our service members and their families, and the American intelligence community."

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) highlighted the country's persistence in going after the mastermind of the 2001 attacks on the United States.

"America has been waiting almost a decade for this moment. It closes a major chapter in the struggle against those who attacked the United States. This effort owes so much to

the thousands and thousands of soldiers who have died or been wounded since 9/11. We salute the courage and skill of those who carried out this operation," Miss Kaptur said in prepared remarks.

"This is a long struggle and I'm glad this particular chapter is closed," she added.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, a former U.S. senator, issued the following statement Monday morning:

"Today, we remember all of the men and women who have died at the hands of the world's most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden. We pray for them and for their families.

"As we approach the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, America must remain vigilant in our anti-terrorist and counterintelligence activities. As a member of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee both before and after 9/11, I know how vital American intelligence efforts are to

maintaining our safety and security.

"Our nation is grateful to our special operations team for their courage, bravery, and willingness to act in the name of global security, and we thank all our men and women who, against very difficult odds, have worked diligently over many years to achieve justice."

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R., Ohio), who noted that he visited troops in Afghanistan last week, issued a statement of thanks to the military and the intelligence community who made the operation a success.

"This welcome news follows years of tireless efforts by our government to bring to justice those responsible for attacking this country on Sept. 11, 2001 and the numerous attacks before and since," Mr. Portman said. "While this is a milestone that we have all awaited, we must remember that al Qaeda and its affiliates are not dependent on one man and we must remain vigilant in our efforts to disrupt and destroy terrorist networks that threaten our nation and allies," he said in a prepared statement.

### AN EDITORIAL

## Justice done

OSAMA bin Laden is dead, a victim of the violence he unleashed when he chose to follow the path of extremism. But the fight to eradicate the terrorism he gave birth to will continue.

The United States made clear after Sept. 11, 2001, that no matter where bin Laden ran to ground, American forces would find him and capture or kill him. At that time, he already was wanted in connection with attacks on American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998, in which 224 people died, and the bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000 that killed 17 U.S. servicemen.

In the nearly 10 years since the infamous 9/11 attacks that killed about 3,000 people in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in western Pennsylvania, the U.S. vow sometimes rang hollow. Bin Laden eluded President George W. Bush, as he had Bill Clinton. He continued to elude President Obama. His very existence remained a taunt.

Early Monday in Pakistan, four helicopters carrying U.S. forces, including elite Navy SEALs, converged on a compound in Abbottabad, a city with a heavy military presence about 65 miles from the capital, Islamabad.

The million-dollar compound had come to the attention of U.S. forces last August, when a trusted bin Laden courier was discovered living there, behind massive walls topped with barbed wire.

Over the next eight months, U.S. officials became convinced that bin Laden was living in the compound, not in some border-area cave. The intelligence gathering and assault plans were kept secret, even from the Pakistani government.

According to U.S. officials, when American forces surrounded the compound, bin Laden resisted and was shot in the head. Also dead were the courier, his brother, one of bin Laden's sons, and a woman used as a human shield.

Crowds gathered at Ground Zero in New York City and outside the White House to celebrate word that the man President George W. Bush

had declared nearly a decade ago was "wanted, dead or alive" had been killed. His death was confirmed by facial recognition techniques and DNA testing, although that probably won't stop some people from questioning whether he is really dead.

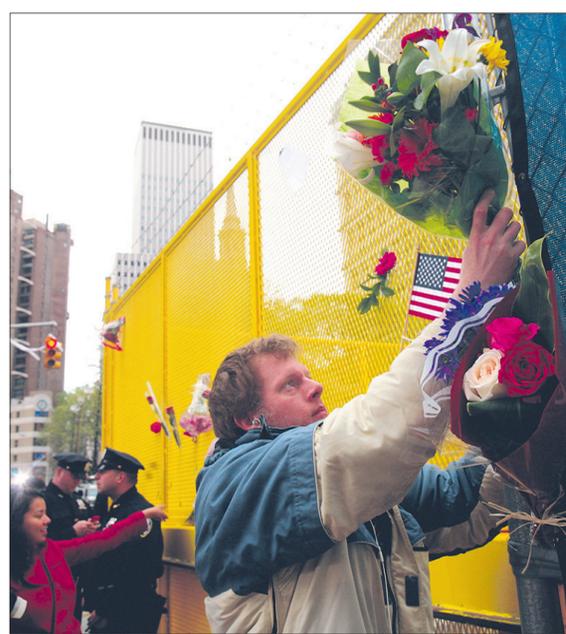
He was speedily buried in accordance with Islamic practice, but at an unknown location at sea, in part so that bin Laden's grave can't become a pilgrimage site for his misguided followers. Already, some Muslim clerics claim the sea burial was an insult to Islam.

The attacks on 9/11 dealt the United States a psychological blow. Americans' faith in themselves had been partially restored by the fact that through a combination of good intelligence, good police work, and good luck, there have been no more such outrages. Bin Laden's death will provide some closure and healing for the people who lost family members that day, as well as for the survivors whose lives were forever changed.

The terror leader's death deals al-Qaeda a psychological counterpunch, but the war on terror isn't over. The United States and other countries raised security at their embassies around the world to safeguard against revenge attacks. The State Department warned American travelers to be alert. The threat remains, and may even be greater as terror cells plot revenge for their leader's death.

It is less clear what bin Laden's death will mean to al-Qaeda's future. His leadership had evolved over the past decade, becoming largely symbolic as affiliates independently devised terror plots and set them in motion. A new leader likely will emerge, perhaps Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's second in command, or Anwar al-Awlaki, a leader of Yemen's active al-Qaeda organization who has been tied to several terror plots.

Still, the death of bin Laden — brought to summary justice by the United States — has damaged the terror group. It is reason for all peace-loving people, not just Americans, to celebrate.



NEW YORK TIMES

**A man places a bouquet of flowers on the fence surrounding the World Trade Center site in New York City. On Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaeda terrorists crashed two jetliners into the Twin Towers there.**

## New York

Continued from Page e1

by saying his death brought a "measure of justice to this terrible tragedy."

Outside the church, Mr. McGee sat in silence. He's a former New York firefighter and an actor who is on *Rescue Me*, the FX series that features Denis Leary as a New York firefighter dealing with life post-9/11.

"I came down here just to sit and reflect," he said, before being interrupted by Dan Daly, a retired FDNY battalion chief. The two old friends got reacquainted before Daly dis-

cussed how he felt when he learned that Bin Laden was dead.

His words seemed to reflect the overall mood of the scene Monday afternoon — neither jubilant, nor overly solemn — but aware of the sense of closure and harsh justice that Bin Laden's death brings.

"It was bittersweet. You know the words to that song, 'The wicked witch is dead'? I just felt that buoyancy and at the same time I felt for all the firefighters and citizens who died."

And then he returned to the theme of the day: "Sooner later your karma returns and it's all going to come back to you. Sooner or later."

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