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512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

U.S. kills Osama bin Laden in intelligence-driven operation

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An intelligence-driven U.S. operation in Pakistan killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden yesterday, President Barack Obama announced in a televised address from the White House late May 1.

"Today, at my direction, the United States launched a targeted operation against that compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan," President Obama said. "A small team of Americans carried out the operation with extraordinary courage and capability.

"No Americans were harmed," he continued. "They took care to avoid civilian casualties. After a firefight, they killed Osama bin Laden and took custody of his body."

President Obama noted that bin Laden had been al-Qaida's leader and symbol for more than 20 years and continued to plot attacks against the United States and its allies.

"The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat al-Qaida, yet his death does not mark the end of our effort," Obama said. "There is no doubt that al-Qaida will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must, and we will, remain vigilant at home and abroad."

The president revealed that shortly after taking office in January 2009, he ordered CIA Director Leon E. Panetta to make bin Laden's death or capture the top priority of the U.S. war against the al-Qaida terrorist organization.

"Then, last August, after years of painstaking work by our intelligence community, I was briefed on a possible lead to bin Laden. It was far from

certain, and it took many months to run this thread to ground," he said. The president said he met repeatedly with his national security team as information developed indicating bin Laden was at a compound in Pakistan, and that last week he determined enough information was available and authorized the operation.

The president emphasized that the war against al-Qaida is not a war against Islam.

"Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader," he said. "He was a mass murderer of Muslims. Indeed, al-Qaida has slaughtered scores of Muslims in many countries, including our own. So his demise should be welcomed by all who believe in peace and human dignity."

Counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped in finding bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding, the president said.

"Indeed, bin Laden had declared war against Pakistan as well, and ordered attacks against the Pakistani people. Tonight, I called [Pakistani] President [Asif Ali] Zardari, and my team has also spoken with their Pakistani counterparts. They agree that this is a good and historic day for both of our nations, and going forward, it is essential that Pakistan continue to join us in the fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates."

The president praised those who worked to find bin Laden and those who carried out the operation that killed him.

"We give thanks for the men who carried out this operation," he continued, "for they exemplify the professionalism, patriotism, and unparalleled courage of those who serve our country. And they are part of a generation that has borne the heaviest share of the burden since that September day."



U.S. Air Force photo illustration

An intelligence-driven U.S. operation in Pakistan killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden May 1, 2011, President Barack Obama announced in a nationally televised address from the White House late May 1, 2011.

Reserve Pay Office announces two new filing methods for electronic payment

On May 1, the 512th Reserve Pay Office implemented two new features which affects how reservists can file their orders for electronic payment.

A new feature called Tour of Duty Certification is now operational in the Air Force Reserve Order Writing System-Reserves, also known as AROWS-R. This new feature allows reservists and the person who has to certify their orders to do so digitally using the "Statement of Tour Duty" section on the AF Form 938, Request and Authorization for Active Duty Training/Active Tour.

This option also lets the member and approving official electronically submit the order to the finance section for payment. The pay section will only process short tours, less

than 30 days, that are "will commute" status using the TODC. There is no need to print the TODC order, because the pay process occurs automatically.

For example, members performing duty in annual tour status and live within the commuting area do not file a travel voucher instead can file using the TODC in AROWS-R.

Also, AROWS-R is implementing a new feature for RPA and MPA orders that will allow members to submit mileage only orders to the Reserve Pay Office for reimbursement using the TODC. Mileage only orders will have a statement directing the member to submit the order to the RPO.

For example, a member on an order for 29 days or less, and filing a mileage only claim,

can file using the TODC in AROWS-R.

"Using these new tools, ultimately speeds up the entire pay process," said Mike Primo, 512th Reserve Pay chief. "Another bonus is it allows the member to use the AROWS-R program to track the progress of the order they submitted."

These changes will also reflect in service-members' Leave and Earnings Statements as there will be a Mileage Only statement under the entitlements section.

Additional guidance on how to submit using TODC can be found on the wing's Enterprise Information Management system under Wing Staff Agencies, FM, FMFP. Further inquiries can be directed to Mr. Primo at (302) 677-3435. (Courtesy 512th AW Public Affairs)