

THE HUNT FOR OSAMA BIN LADEN

FROM 9/11 TO OPERATION NEPTUNE SPEAR

A decade-long pursuit. Through intelligence, patience, and a precise operation, the architect of 9/11 was found in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed on May 2, 2011.

INTELLIGENCE
PATIENCE
COOPERATION
EXECUTION
RESULTS

01 9/11 CHANGES EVERYTHING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



Nearly 3,000 people were killed in coordinated attacks by al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden. The U.S. made it a top priority to find him.

02 DISMANTLING AL-QAEDA 2001 – 2007



U.S. and partner forces disrupted al-Qaeda's leadership, captured key operatives, and exploited communications, financial networks, and human intelligence to narrow the search.

03 THE COURIER LEADS THE TRAIL 2007 – 2010



Intelligence identified Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti, a trusted courier. By tracking his movements and communications, CIA analysts followed him to a previously unknown compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

04 SURVEILLANCE CONFIRMS THE TARGET 2010 – EARLY 2011



Months of surveillance revealed unusual indicators: high walls, no phone or internet lines, limited movement, and burned trash. The pattern of life suggested a high-value target was likely inside.

05 PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION APRIL 29, 2011

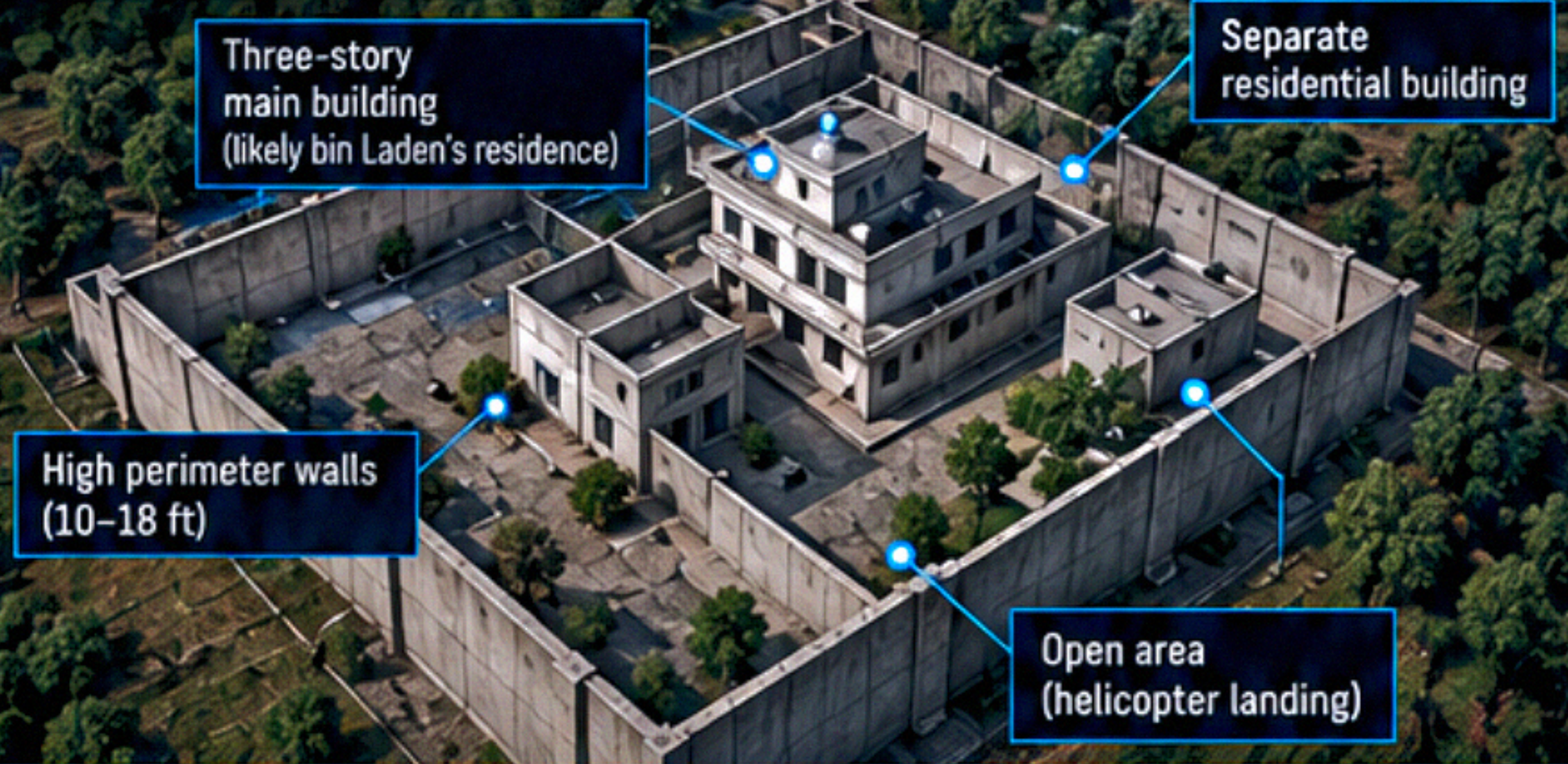


After reviewing intelligence and options, President Obama approved Operation Neptune Spear, a CIA-led mission with U.S. Navy SEALs, to capture or, if necessary, kill Osama bin Laden.

THE LOCATION ABBOTTABAD, PAKISTAN



THE COMPOUND (APPROX.)



OPERATION NEPTUNE SPEAR MAY 2, 2011 (PAKISTAN TIME)

01 DEPARTURE ~10:51 PM



Two stealth-modified Black Hawk helicopters departed from Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

02 APPROACH ~12:30 AM



The helicopters entered Pakistani airspace, flying low to avoid detection.

03 ASSAULT ~12:30 AM



SEALs inserted and breached the compound.

04 TARGET LOCATED WITHIN 9 MINUTES



Bin Laden was found on the third floor and killed. He was unarmed but resisted.

05 SITE SECURED < 40 MINUTES



The compound was cleared, intelligence materials were collected, and the site was prepared for exfiltration.

06 EXFILTRATION ~1:10 AM



The team departed Pakistan. One helicopter crash-landed inside the compound and was destroyed. No U.S. casualties.

THE AFTERMATH



IDENTIFICATION
Bin Laden's identity was confirmed through facial recognition, DNA analysis, and by family members on site.



DISPOSAL
Bin Laden's body was buried at sea on May 2, 2011 aboard the USS Carl Vinson. U.S. officials stated the burial was conducted according to Islamic practices.

INTELLIGENCE RECOVERED
Computers, hard drives, documents, and other materials provided valuable intelligence on al-Qaeda's networks, finances, and future plans.

STRATEGIC IMPACT
Removed the architect of 9/11, degraded al-Qaeda's leadership, and delivered justice to the victims. The operation demonstrated the value of intelligence, persistence, and precise execution.