

U.S. Presidents who hunted Osama bin Laden

Feb 1993: Bomb attack at World Trade Centre in New York kills six people. Bomber linked to Al Qaeda

Aug 7, 1998: Bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kill 231 people – in response **President Clinton** orders missile strikes on what he calls terrorist bases in Afghanistan and Sudan

Oct 12, 2000: Attack on destroyer **USS Cole** in Yemen kills 17 sailors

Sep 11, 2001: Attacks on World Trade Centre in New York and Pentagon in Washington, plus aircraft in Pennsylvania, kill almost 3,000. 9/11 attacks precipitate U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan after Taliban refuses to hand over bin Laden

Oct 12, 2002: Bomb blasts on Indonesian island of Bali kill 202

Mar 11, 2004: Bombs on commuter trains in Madrid kill 191 people

Jul 7, 2005: 52 people killed by four suicide bombers in London

Dec 25, 2009: Attack on plane over Detroit by “underpants bomber” is foiled by fellow passengers



Bill Clinton:
“Our mission was clear – to strike at the network of radical groups affiliated with and funded by

Osama bin Laden, perhaps the preeminent organizer and financier of international terrorism in the world today” – August 1998

After leaving office, Clinton said he had authorized arrest or killing of bin Laden but lacked adequate intelligence to carry it out

George W. Bush:
“We get all kinds of reports – that he’s in a cave, that he’s not in a cave; that he’s escaped, that he hasn’t escaped, and

there’s all kinds of speculation. But when the dust clears, we’ll find out where he is and he’ll be brought to justice” – December 2001

Bush added that he wanted bin Laden “dead or alive, either way. It doesn’t matter to me”

Barack Obama:
“We are at war against Al Qaeda” – January 2010. “Capturing or killing bin Laden and Zawahiri would be

extremely important to our national security. It doesn’t solve all our problems but it remains a high priority to this administration” – September 2010

On May 1, 2011, Obama announces Osama bin Laden has been killed by U.S. special forces in Pakistan

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