

# Nasser al-Wuhayshi, Yemen's Al Qaeda chief

Nasser al-Wuhayshi, a former secretary to Al Qaeda's late founder Osama bin Laden, dug his way out of prison in 2006 to become head of the Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)



**Nasser al-Wuhayshi**, also known as **Abu Basir**, pictured in 2012

■ **1976:** Born in southern Yemen. Spends time in religious institutions before travelling to Afghanistan in 1998 to join Al Qaeda

■ **1998-2001:** Serves as personal secretary to **Osama bin Laden** until U.S. invasion of Afghanistan

■ **2001:** Fights at battle of **Tora Bora** before escaping to Iran. Eventually arrested by Iranian authorities

■ **2003:** Extradited to Yemen and imprisoned. Escapes by tunnelling out of Sanaa jail in 2006

■ **2007:** Becomes leader of Al Qaeda in Yemen, then head of AQAP in 2009 when terror network's Yemeni and Saudi wings merged

■ **2008-2012:** AQAP blamed for string of attacks against West and inside Yemen, including foiled 2009 plot to blow up U.S.-bound airliner. U.S. steps up drone strikes against AQAP in Yemen

■ **Aug 2013:** Fears of new AQAP plot prompts closure of U.S. embassies in 19 countries. Al-Wuhayshi vows to free jailed Al Qaeda members

