

# Yemen's Al Qaeda chief killed in U.S. strike

Nasser al-Wuhayshi, the head of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), has been killed by a U.S. airstrike in Yemen, according to a video statement released by the militant organisation



**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

■ **2013:** Made second-in-command of Al Qaeda's global network

■ **Jun 12, 2015:** Killed in U.S. drone strike on city of Mukalla. Succeeded by his deputy, **Qasim al-Raymi**

