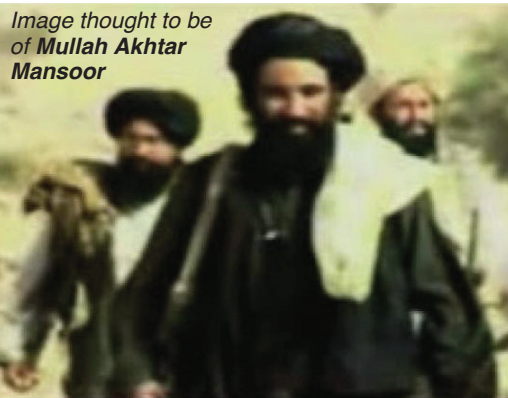


Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor

The Taliban has elected Mullah Akhtar Mansoor as its new leader, after the group confirmed the death of their founder Mullah Omar

Image thought to be of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor



■ **1960s:** Born in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan. Details about his exact age and family are largely unknown

■ **1996-2001:** Serves as aviation minister during Taliban's period of rule over Afghanistan

■ **2001:** Put in charge of political and military affairs in seven-member, Pakistan-based **Shura**, or Supreme Council – Taliban's top decision-making body – following U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan

■ **2010:** Becomes Taliban's deputy leader after capture of **Abdul Ghani Baradar** in Pakistan

■ **Apr 2013:** Taliban founder **Mullah Omar** (above right) believed to have died, according to Afghan officials. Mansoor probably becomes effective leader of group

■ **Jun 2013:** Taliban agree to peace talks with U.S. over Afghanistan

■ **Jul 30, 2015:** Taliban confirm Mullah Omar died "some time ago". Mansoor named as new leader

■ **Future:** Mansoor's closeness with authorities in Pakistan places him in good position to revive Afghan-Taliban peace talks hosted by Islamabad but put on indefinite hold by news of Mullah Omar's death