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The Takedown of Osama bin Laden

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by
Natalie Lunis

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The Takedown of Osama bin Laden



by Natalie Lunis

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Blake Midnight, Chris Whittle/Splash News/Newscom, U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Scorza, and U.S. Navy/Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua T. Rodriguez; 4, © Visual News Pakistan/SIPA/Newscom; 5, © Ted Carlson/Fotodynamics.com; 6, © Masatomo Kuriya/Corbis; 7, © U.S. Air Force/Tech Sergeant Cedric H. Rudisill; 8L, © Balkis Press/ABACAUS/Newscom; 8R, © Chris Whittle/Newscom; 9, © AFP/Getty Images; 10, © AP Photo/Doug Mills; 11, © Russell Boyce/Reuters /Landov; 12, © Reza/Getty Images; 13, © Simon Klingert/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 14, © U.S. Air Force; 15, © Robin Nelson/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 16, © DigitalGlobe/Reuters /Landov; 17L, © Bettmann/Corbis; 17R, © AP Photo/Charles Dharapak; 18, © U.S. Navy/Petty Officer 2nd Class George R. Kusner; 19, © U.S. Navy; 20, © Pete Souza/White House/EPA/Landov; 21T, © U.S. Air Force/Paul Ridgeway; 21B, © Gary Fabiano/Sipa Press/Newscom; 23, © EPA/Landov; 24, © AP Photo/ Gene J. Puskar; 25, © Bay Ismoyo/AFP/Getty Images; 26–27, © Kevin Lamarque/Reuters/ Landov; 28TL, © Ted Carlson/Fotodynamics.com; 28TR, © Ted Carlson/Fotodynamics.com; 28B, © U.S. Marine Corps/Gunnery Sgt. James Frank; 29TL, © BankingBum; 29TR, © Rex Features via AP Images; 29BR, © Reuters /Landov; 29BL, © KrisfromGermany.

Publisher: Kenn Goin
Editorial Director: Adam Siegel
Creative Director: Spencer Brinker
Design: Debrah Kaiser
Photo Researcher: James O'Connor

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lunis, Natalie.

The takedown of Osama bin Laden / by Natalie Lunis ; consultant, Fred Pushies.

p. cm. — (Special ops)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-459-6 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-459-9 (library binding)

1. Bin Laden, Osama, 1957-2011—Death and burial—Juvenile literature. 2. United States. Navy. SEALs—Juvenile literature. 3. Terrorists—Biography—Juvenile literature. 4. Terrorism—Juvenile literature. I. Pushies, Fred J., 1952- II. Title.

HV6430.B55L86 2012

958.104'6092—dc23

[B]

2011040472

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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Swooping In

The dark early morning of May 2, 2011, was a quiet time in Abbottabad (uh-BOT-uh-bod), a small, pleasant city in northern Pakistan. Then, shortly after midnight, two helicopters moved in and swooped down on a house in a tree-lined neighborhood. This home was not like the others. It was larger and had a small separate guesthouse. Both of these buildings were mostly hidden behind a set of high maze-like walls.

The house in Abbottabad was about eight times larger than those in the rest of the city.



As each helicopter reached the ground, a group of American fighters spilled out. Soon, loud blasts filled the air. The **commandos**—all members of a group known as the Navy SEALs—blew apart walls and doors as they shot their way into the **compound**. Moments later, they entered the main house. Once inside, the SEALs were closer than ever to carrying out their mission—to hunt down the world’s most wanted **terrorist**, Osama bin Laden.



One of the helicopters—an MH-60 Black Hawk like the one shown here—crashed as it tried to land. Luckily, the SEALs inside were not harmed and continued on with their mission.



“SEAL” stands for sea, air, and land.

Navy SEALs are sailors who are trained to carry out missions in all these environments.



This map shows the location of Abbottabad, the city where the SEALs’ raid took place.



September 11, 2001

How had Osama bin Laden become the world's most wanted terrorist? On the morning of September 11, 2001, at 8:46, an airplane carrying 92 people flew into one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Then, at 9:03 A.M., another airplane, this one carrying 65 people, flew into the other tower.

Fuel from the planes caught fire after the crashes, causing the twin towers to burn and then collapse.



By 10:30 A.M., both towers had burst into flames and collapsed. By the end of the day, military and law enforcement officials had learned that the two planes had been **hijacked** by terrorists as part of an attack on the United States. The terrorists were members of a group called **Al Qaeda**, which was led by a man named Osama bin Laden.



About 3,000 people died as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.



Two other planes were also hijacked by Al Qaeda terrorists on September 11, 2001. The hijackers crashed one of the planes into the Pentagon (shown above) in Washington, D.C., killing 184 people. The other plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Forty people were killed.

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About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written many nonfiction books for children.
She lives in New York's lower Hudson River Valley.

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In the dark early morning of May 2, 2011, two helicopters swooped down on a home in Abbottabad, a small city in northern Pakistan. As the helicopters reached the ground, a group of American fighters spilled out. Soon, loud blasts filled the air as commandos—all members of a group known as the Navy SEALs—blew apart walls and doors as they shot their way into the house. Once inside, the SEALs were closer than ever to carrying out their mission—to hunt down the world's most wanted terrorist. Look inside to find out more about the highly trained fighters and how they risked their lives to capture Osama bin Laden—a fugitive who had been hiding from the U.S. government for more than ten years.

Army Rangers
in Action

Green Berets
in Action

Navy SEALs
in Action

Delta Force
in Action

Marine Force Recon
in Action

Pararescuemen
in Action

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-459-6

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9 781617 724596