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Bin Laden Killed

Mission's success brings relief, concern

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland residents seem to agree that the death of Osama bin Laden is a fitting end to a most destructive individual but have concerns about what it means for future threats against the United States.

The world's most wanted terrorist, the mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.; and to earlier bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa and against the USS Cole, was killed Sunday in a U.S. raid by armed forces in Pakistan.

Many residents we talked to hope bin Laden's death will finally give some measure of peace to the loved ones of the 3,000 U.S. citizens who were taken from their families on 9/11. Others had concerns about what this means for our national security.

Even though bin Laden's murderous campaigns as leader of the terrorist group al Qaeda redefined terrorism within the 21st century, his own death doesn't mean the end of terrorism.

One Portland resident, Terry Green said, "I'm kind of glad they captured and killed him, but I don't think it will make the U.S. any safer. I just hope the U.S. doesn't get too complacent and compromise national security."



Terry Green

Another local man also worried that by killing bin Laden, we have increased our vulnerability to retribution attacks.

"I think it is good that he is dead, but I think there are more people out there like him. 9/11 happened so long ago, and we kind of lost focus on all of the terrorism," said Matt



Matt Silcox

Silcox.

Another Portland resident expressed his emotional turmoil at seeing justice carried out at the end of a gun.

Orlando Sanchez said he was troubled by how Americans deal with death so easily, and how people are expected to support military action or been seen as traitorous.



Orlando Sanchez

Still, he said of bin Laden, "I feel that he was a bad guy, an extremist, and I am relieved that he is dead, and that's hard for me to say that about anybody—even for him."

The possibility of future terrorist acts was a high concern.

Matt Silcox said just because bin Laden has been killed doesn't mean that there aren't more terrorist groups out there.

"I think it is good that he is dead, but I think there are more people out there like him. 9/11 happened so long ago, and we kind of lost focus on all of the terrorism," he said.

Another Portlander expressed her disbelief in the entire state of affairs.

"I find a lot more freedom in third world countries than I do in the U.S.," said Jill Corley, whose distrust of the situation resides with her opinion that



Jill Corley



The residential compound where al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted terrorist and mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., was killed Sunday by U.S. forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

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