



## OPERATION NEPTUNE SPEAR

Osama bin Laden, the founder and first leader of the Islamist group Al-Qaeda, was killed in Pakistan on May 2, 2011 by United States Navy SEALs of the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Development Group ([SEAL Team Six](#)). The operation, code-named [Operation Neptune Spear](#), was carried out in a CIA-led operation with the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) coordinating the Special Mission Units involved in the raid. Other units included the [160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment](#) ("Night Stalkers") and the [CIA's Special Activities Division](#). The operation ended a nearly 10-year search for bin Laden. The raid on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan was launched from Afghanistan. After Bin Laden was killed, the commander on the ground reported "For God and country, Geronimo, Geronimo, Geronimo." Although several officials who were present in the Situation Room incorrectly told reporters that the code name for bin Laden was "Geronimo". Each step of the mission was labelled alphabetically in an "Execution Checklist", which is used to ensure all participants in a large operation are kept synchronized with a minimum of radio traffic. "Geronimo" indicated the raiders had reached step "G", the capture or killing of bin Laden. A fictional account of the story is told in the 2012 film ["Zero Dark Thirty."](#)