

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Seals speak out: How we killed 'Bert' Laden

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Bin Laden buried at sea from USS Carl Vinson CVN-70

US NAVY Seals have revealed for the first time that they killed Osama bin Laden within 90 seconds of entering his fortress-like home in Pakistan. The men who killed the al-Qaeda chief have decided to speak out because they are tired of their "shabby treatment" by politicians who claim they were on a "kill mission". They insisted there was no lengthy gun-fight in the compound and claimed they would have captured Bin Laden if he had surrendered. The Sunday Times in the UK reports (behind a paywall). They were not on a "kill mission", they said, and fired only 12 bullets in the entire operation. The details of the raid, which was codenamed Operation Neptune's Spear, are revealed in a book by the Seals' former commander, Chuck Pfarrer. "I've been a Seal for 30 years and I never heard the words 'kill mission'. It's a fantasy word. If it was a kill mission you don't need Seal Team 6; you need a box of hand grenades." He said the men were angry with President Barack Obama for announcing Bin Laden's death on TV just hours after they completed the mission on May 1. "There isn't a politician in the world who could resist trying to take credit for getting Bin Laden but it devalued the 'intel' and gave time for every other Al-Qaeda leader to scurry to another bolthole," he said. "The men who did this and their valorous act deserve better. It's a pretty shabby way to treat these guys." Pfarrer's books also reveals that the Seals' nickname for Bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri were Bert and Ernie, after the two Muppets in Sesame Street (Bin Laden was tall and skinny like Bert and al-Zawahiri was short like Ernie). When they were first

told they were going to Pakistan to pick up a high-value person who was holed up in high-walled compound, they asked: "So is this Bert or Ernie?" Pfarrer said the squad's nickname was Jedi. His account of the mission makes for terrifying reading. Here is an extract from The Sunday Times report, detailing the death of Bin Laden: Bin Laden's bedroom was along a short hall. The door opened; he popped out and then slammed the door shut. "Geronimo, Geronimo, Geronimo," radioed one Seal, meaning "eyes on target". Two Seals kicked in Bin Laden's door. The room, they later recalled, "smelt like old clothing, like a guest bedroom in a grandmother's house". Inside was the al-Qaeda leader and his youngest wife, Amal, who was screaming as he pushed her in front of him. "No, no, don't do this!" she shouted as her husband reached across the king-size bed for his AK-47 assault rifle. The Seals reacted instantly, firing in the same second. One round thudded into the mattress. The other, aimed at Bin Laden's head, grazed Amal in the calf. As his hand reached for the gun, they each fired again: one shot hit his breastbone, the other his skull, killing him instantly and blowing out the back of his head.

New Coast Guard Cutter visits Annapolis

The Capital Nov. 1, 2011 by Scott Daugherty



On any other U.S. Coast Guard cutter of its size, the maneuver would have been impossible. But yesterday Petty Officer 1st Class Marika Benggio easily lined up her 23-foot Short

Range Prosecutor runabout with the stern of the USCGC Stratton and drove it inside the vessel's 418-foot hull. "It's very nerve-racking," the 14-year Coast Guard veteran admitted. "But it just takes a little bit of practice. A little bit of skill." Among yesterday's visitors: Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the newly appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Adm. Robert J. Papp Jr., the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Stratton, which will be stationed in Alameda, Calif., is the third of eight planned Legend-class cutters to take to the water. The first two, the Bertholf and the Waesche, were commissioned in 2008 and 2010 respectively and are already patrolling the Pacific Ocean. The Stratton is equipped with an MK110 57mm gun, a 20mm Close In Weapon System capable of targeting incoming missiles and surface vessels, and four 50-caliber machine guns. It also can carry two MH-60T medium-range recovery helicopters and three 23-foot Short Range Prosecutor rigid-hull inflatables - two in the stern and one in a starboard davit. "This thing is a Cadillac compared to a 378," Benggio said. The Legend-class cutters will all be named for "legends" of the Coast Guard, officials said. The Stratton is named for Capt. Dorothy Stratton, the founder of the Coast Guard's women's reserve program during World War II. Whether or not any of the new cutters will ever see action in the Atlantic Ocean is still an open question. The plan, Papp said, is for all eight to be stationed on the West Coast. He is, however, considering keeping two of them on the East Coast. "There is still a need for (large vessels) on the East Coast," he said.

Pearl Harbor anniversary postmark revised



Our original artwork for the postmark read Pearl Harbor, HI 96820 but we were asked to change the city and zip by the USPS in Honolulu. Above shows the final version submitted. You can send covers up to January 7th for the cancel.