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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BIN LADEN

Show open and Act 1

VO FYFIELD-SHAYLER (bin Laden's English teacher)
He was a Young gentleman. Very gentle. Very polite.

VO ED GIARDET (journalist)
He said if I see you again, I'll kill you

VO MIKE SCHEUER (former head of CIA's bin Laden unit)
He is the most popular Muslim leader // in the Islamic world today.

MALIKA (widow of al Qaeda suicide bomber)
when you hear his voice, it makes you want to stand up right away // to join him and fight.

VO GARY BERNTSEN (former CIA officer)
What he's good at is killing civilians

VO SCHEUER
It's extraordinarily important that we kill bin Laden.

VO AMANPOUR
Osama bin Laden is the world's most wanted terrorist. He haunts Americans and millions of others around the world.

STANDUP AMANPOUR
HE ALSO INSPIRES MANY TO FIGHT...IN A WAR THAT HE INTENDS TO BE LONG,
COSTLY AND BLOODY.

I'M CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR IN PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN ... THE BIRTHPLACE OF BIN
LADEN'S TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, AL QAEDA.

NOT FAR FROM HERE ... JUST ACROSS THE BORDER IN AFGHANISTAN ... HE
DISAPPEARED SHORTLY AFTER 9-11.

AND NOW, FIVE YEARS LATER, WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS ... OR WHEN HE
WILL STRIKE AGAIN.

VO AMANPOUR
He wasn't a born leader ...and he didn't always despise the west. So what changed bin Laden, what shaped this son of Saudi wealth, into the most feared terrorist of our time?

To know more about Osama bin Laden, to bring you his whole story, we visited his homes ... his headquarters ... his hideouts.

We journeyed in his footsteps...

We searched for answers from those who actually know him.

His childhood friend...

SOT KHALID BATARFI

HE NEVER TALKED ABOUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN A NASTY WAY.

VO AMANPOUR

His English teacher ...

SOT BRIAN FYFIELD-SHAYLER

HE UNDERSTOOD A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF ENGLISH. BUT HE WAS RATHER RETICENT IN EXPRESSING HIMSELF.

VO AMANPOUR

The man who married his sister and was bin Laden's closest friend.

JAMAL KHALIFA (bin Laden's brother-in-law)

OSAMA ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HIS FATHER, ALL THE TIME. HIS FATHER IS HIS MODEL.

VO AMANPOUR

Men who fought with him in the early days and saw another side of Osama bin Laden.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM (lived with bin Laden for 8 years)

WHEN BIN LADEN USED TO HEAR // THE EXPLOSIONS // HE USED TO, TO JUMP AND HE USED TO RUN AWAY. // AND I STILL REMEMBER THAT ME AND MY ELDER AND YOUNGER BROTHER, WE USED TO LAUGH

SOT MALIKA EL AROUD

OSAMA HAD A BEAUTY IN HIS FACE ...

AMANPOUR VO

We met those who revere him...

SOT/VO MALIKA EL AROUD

HE IS THE ONE WHO STOOD UP AGAINST THE BIGGEST ENEMY IN THE WORLD, THE UNITED STATES. AND WE LOVE HIM FOR THAT.

SOT OSAMA BIN LADEN

If avenging the killing of our people is terrorism then history should be a witness that we are terrorists.

VO AMANPOUR

Those who have prayed with him, lived with him, and fought for him... share the story of his gradual but deadly transformation ...from a quiet, religious boy to the angry voice of holy war.

Act 2

VO AMANPOUR

Osama bin Laden grew up in the boom town of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia ... a town his father helped build.

VO/SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

Saudi Arabia in the 1960's was // of course a fantastically wealthy kingdom. // Jeddah was its main door to the west, its main port on the Red Sea, and a, a huge amount of building had taken place // I'M BRIAN FYFIELD-SHAYLER, I TAUGHT OSAMA BIN LADEN ENGLISH IN SAUDI ARABIA IN 1968 TO 1969.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

OSAMA SAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY BACK ON THE RIGHT, BY THE WINDOWS

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

HE WAS NOT AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT, ACADEMICALLY ON THE OTHER HAND HE // WAS A VERY BRIGHT BOY.

VO AMANPOUR

Although Arabic and religious instruction took priority, the al Thagr school -- one of the top schools in the kingdom -- was surprisingly progressive.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

THE BOYS HAD A WESTERN UNIFORM. UH, THEY HAD TROUSERS AND SHIRTS AND JACKETS AND SHOES.

VO AMANPOUR

Fyfield-Shayler had taught a number of bin Laden brothers. Osama's family was well-known in Saudi Arabia. His father's career was the stuff of legend.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

THE BIN LADEN'S WERE // ALMOST A STORYBOOK SUCCESS

VO AMANPOUR

In Saudi Arabia, the bin Laden name is everywhere. It's a vast empire with humble beginnings.

The family patriarch, Mohamed – seen here in rare photographs -- rose from a menial laborer to head one of the largest and most successful construction companies in the Middle East.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

HE BUILT THE AIRPORT. HE BUILT VIRTUALLY ...EVERYTHING THAT WAS STANDING MORE THAN TWO METERS HIGH HAD BEEN BUILT BY BIN LADEN.

VO AMANPOUR

What makes this rare glimpse of Mohamed bin Laden so extraordinary is that he is seen here with Faisal al-Saud, the man who would become the Saudi King. It highlights bin Laden's very close relationship with Saudi royalty, a connection critical to his extraordinary success.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

HE WAS QUITE A ROUGH, UNSOPHISTICATED CHARACTER. AND NO AIRS AND GRACES.

VO AMANPOUR

... unsophisticated, but fabulously wealthy. And Mohammed bin Laden had many wives – about 20 all told – repeatedly divorcing and marrying.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

THE OLD MAN WAS KNOWN TO HAVE AN EYE FOR, UH, ALARM, ALARMINGLY YOUNG WIVES. THESE WERE VERY OFTEN QUITE UNSOPHISTICATED SIMPLE GIRLS FROM THE, UH, FROM THE VILLAGES.

VO AMANPOUR

He had more than 50 children. Osama was born in 1957, here, in this Riyadh neighborhood. He was the only child his mother had with Mohammed bin Laden before they divorced.

Then Bin Laden and his mother, Alia, moved to Jeddah and lived here ... apart from the other wives and children.

Mohamed bin Laden died when Osama was just 10 years old.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

THE SCHOOL WAS ABUZZ WITH THE NEWS THAT MOHAMED BIN LADEN HAD BEEN KILLED IN A PLANE CRASH.

VO AMANPOUR

With so many siblings it's hard to say how close Osama was to his father or how the loss affected him.

This photograph from the early 1970s, shows some of the many bin Laden brothers and sisters on a vacation in Sweden. We have blurred the women's faces at a family member's request.

Although it's not certain, some believe that this smiling boy ... second from the right ... is Osama when he was about 13 years old.

He was quiet and shy. His teacher says he rarely spoke up in class.

SOT FYFIELD-SHAYLER

HE DIDN'T SHOW ANY PARTICULAR SIGNS OF BEING A—A LEADER AMONGST MEN.

VO/SOT KHALID BATARFI (bin Laden's childhood friend)

Yeah, well, Hh was a shy boy // He wouldn't talk unless he needed to. He would listen more. // I'M DR. KHALID BATARFI, I MET UH, OSAMA BIN LADEN IN THE EARLY 1970s WHEN WE LIVED IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

VO AMANPOUR

This non-descript middle class Jeddah neighborhood is where Batarfi, then age 12, and bin Laden, three years older, became neighbors and best friends ... going to the mosque together ... playing together ... watching TV together. Among their favorite shows ... American westerns and Bruce Lee movies.

SOT KHALID BATARFI

WE WOULD WATCH // COWBOYS, MOVIES // YOU KNOW, KARATE MOVIES. THINGS THAT, YOU KNOW, ACTION MOVIES.

VO AMANPOUR

Batarfi took us to the field where he and bin Laden played soccer as teenagers.

SOT KHALID BATARFI

AND JUST LOOKING I THINK A LOT OF MEMORIES. // AND I ENJOYED BEING A CAPTAIN REALLY. YOU KNOW, TELLING PEOPLE WHAT TO DO

VO AMANPOUR

On the soccer field, Batarfi was the leader, Osama the follower.

SOT KHALID BATARFI

BUT I WOULD TELL HIM WHAT TO DO AND HE WAS A GOOD SOLDIER. HE WOULD FOLLOW ORDERS // #57A [7:20] USUALLY BECAUSE HE WAS TALLER THAN MOST OF US, AND OLDER, UH, HE WOULD PLAY IN THE FRONT. UH, BECAUSE THIS WAY HE COULD USE HIS HEAD TO, YOU KNOW, SCORE.

VO AMANPOUR

Batarfi says the teenaged Osama would usually take the high road ...he remembers a time his friend was being bullied.

SOT KHALID BATARFI

SO I WENT RUNNING TO, TO THE GUY AND I PUSHED HIM AWAY FROM OSAMA AND SOLVED PROBLEM THIS WAY. BUT THEN OSAMA CAME TO ME, AND SAID, "YOU KNOW, IF YOU WAITED A FEW MINUTES, I WOULD HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM PEACEFULLY." SO, THIS WAS THE KIND OF GUY, WHO WOULD ALWAYS THINK OF SOLVING PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY.

VO AMANPOUR

While Batarfi took the lead on the playing field....when it came to religion, there was no question....Osama was in charge.

SOT KHALID BATARFI

(hear call to prayer in background)
YOU KNOW THAT'S THE MOSQUE WE USED TO, TO PRAY IN. YES. YES.

VO AMANPOUR

Five times every day, devout Muslims face towards the holy city of Mecca, to pray. Osama was always among them.

SOT KHALID BATARFI
FOR HIM IT WAS A MUST.

VO AMANPOUR

It is something of a mystery why this son of a wealthy family was drawn to such rigid religious beliefs. Over time Batarfi saw his best friend become even more of a fundamentalist ... striving to live according to his ultra-strict interpretation of the Holy Koran.

SOT KHALID BATARFI
NO PICTURES, NO MUSICS. AND AFTER THAT, NOT EVEN TV. UNLESS THERE'S NEWS.

VO AMANPOUR

Osama's religious devotion went beyond living a simple, pious life. He had begun to believe it was his duty to prepare to one day fight for, and defend Islam.

Osama's training ground: the desolate Saudi desert. The son of a multi-millionaire was now preparing for a life without luxuries or even basic essentials...a life as a holy warrior.

SOT KHALID BATARFI
UH, I HEARD FROM HIS BROTHERS THAT UH WHEN THEY GO THERE, THEY SLEEP ON THE SAND, THERE'S NO // BLANKET IF IT'S COLD // AND YOU KNOW, LIKE SOLDIERS.

VO AMANPOUR

Batarfi had no desire to join Osama's "army". So the two friends began to drift apart.

SOT KHALID BATARFI
I WOULD PREFER THE BEACH. I WAS MORE ROMANTIC, UH, YOU KNOW, I WAS THINKING OF LOVE. HE WAS THINKING OF LOVE OF GOD.

Act 3

SOT BIN LADEN 1997

THE HEARTS OF MUSLIMS ARE FILLED WITH ANGER AND HATRED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND TOWARD THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT.

VO AMANPOUR

What changed Osama Bin Laden from a quiet, well-bred young man ... into the world's most "wanted terrorist"? What was the turning point?

In the mid-70's, Bin Laden married his cousin, the first of five wives with whom he would have at least 20 children. He became a student here at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

I AM JAMAL KHALIFA, THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF OSAMA BIN LADEN. FIRST TIME I MET HIM AT KING ABDUL AZIZ UNIVERSITY IN 1976.

VO AMANPOUR

The twenty-one-year-old Khalifa and bin Laden became very close.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

HE LOVED HORSES A LOT. // ESPECIALLY THE ARABIAN HORSES

VO AMANPOUR

When Bin Laden would journey on horseback into the Saudi desert, he would travel with few supplies ... always testing himself ... perhaps in preparation for a different life.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

WE HAVE OUR DATES WITH US IN OUR POCKETS. AND, AND WATER. THAT'S IT. (smiles) // WE SLEEP ON THE SANDS.

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden also took his children -- seen here -- into the desert, subjecting them to the same regimen.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

SO AT LEAST THE CHILDREN WILL FEEL // THAT SOMETIMES THEY HAVE TO BE TOUGH.

VO AMANPOUR

Despite his wealth, bin Laden also insisted on few comforts at home.

SOT KHALID BATARFI (bin Laden's childhood friend)

I WENT TO VISIT HIM AND I, I NOTICED THAT THE APARTMENT WAS VERY BARE. THERE WAS NO PICTURES, UH, THE CARPET WAS CHEAP // THINGS WERE, YOU KNOW, I WOULDN'T LIVE THERE MYSELF.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

HE LIKES TO BE VERY, VERY, VERY SIMPLE.

BERGEN SOT

IN HOLLYWOOD TERMS BIN LADEN HAS A GREAT BACK STORY. // Tape 1, 1:17 MY NAME IS PETER BERGEN, I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN IN MARCH OF 1997.

VO AMANPOUR

Peter Bergen, a CNN consultant, is the author of *The Osama bin Laden I Know*. This documentary is based, in part, on his groundbreaking reporting.

BERGEN SOT

HERE'S THE SON OF A BILLIONAIRE WHO LIVES A VERY FRUGAL, SIMPLE LIFE. HE'S SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR, HE'S NOT USING AIR CONDITIONING, WON'T EVEN DRINK COLD WATER. AND I THINK THIS SORT OF UH SIMPLE LIFE IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT HIS FOLLOWERS FIND HIM ATTRACTIVE.

AMANPOUR VO

Bin Laden may not have lived the lifestyle of a wealthy man, but according to his close friend he did use his wealth to save the life of his son.

SOT KHALID BATARFI

HIS FIRST CHILD NEEDED UH SOME MEDICAL ATTENTION.

VO AMANPOUR

Batarfi was told that bin Laden took his son to the United States.

SOT KHALID BATARFI

IN WASHINGTON AIRPORT, DULLES AIRPORT, PEOPLE WERE // SURPRISED AT THE WAY HE DRESSED // HIS WIFE DRESS // SOME OF THEM WERE EVEN TAKING PHOTOS. AND HE WAS KIND OF JOKING ABOUT IT // "WE WERE LIKE IN A ZOO."

BERGEN SOT

UNDOUBTEDLY BIN LADEN TOOK HIS SON FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT TO A WESTERN COUNTRY, AND IT'S EITHER THE UNITED STATES OR THE UNITED KINGDOM. THERE'S SOME KIND OF CONTROVERSY ABOUT THAT. BUT THIS WOULD'VE BEEN ONE OF THE, ONE OF THE VERY RARE OCCASIONS WHEN BIN LADEN ACTUALLY TRAVELED TO THE WEST

VO AMANPOUR

During this period, while studying for his degree, bin Laden worked construction projects for his father's company.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

OSAMA ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HIS FATHER, ALL THE TIME. // OSAMA, UH, REALLY LOVES HIS FATHER A LOT. AND ALWAYS, HE IS TRYING TO IMITATE HIM, IN HIS BUSINESS, AND HIS WORK.

VO AMANPOUR

Construction worker ... university student ... husband, father ... and survivalist ... Osama bin Laden was leading one life while preparing for another. An heir to one of Saudi Arabia's wealthiest families, he did not want to stand out, at least not yet.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

HE DOESN'T LIKE REALLY TO BE A LEADER. NEVER PUT HIMSELF IN A POSITION TO BE A LEADER.

VO AMANPOUR

But that would soon change ... bin laden was about to be swept up in a movement that would carry him from student to the leader of a holy war.

It was a religious movement ... one that would pit young Muslims against the establishment. It was called Sah-wa, or the Islamic awakening.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA

IT WAS THE SAHWA. // AT THAT TIME, IT'S ALL, UH, ABOUT RELIGION, AND ABOUT HOW TO PRACTICE ISLAM.

SOT BERGEN

THE SAHWA WAS THE ISLAMIC AWAKENING OF THE 1970s. IT WAS PARTICULARLY APPEALING TO SOMEBODY LIKE BIN LADEN WHO IS ALREADY VERY RELIGIOUS. BECAUSE ISLAMIC AWAKENING SUGGESTED WE ARE GOING TO CREATE MORE JUST ISLAMIC SOCIETIES, UH, AROUND THE MIDDLE EAST.

SOT JAMAL KHASHOGGI

HE COMES FROM A GENERATION OF ANGRY ISLAMISTS WHO WANTED TO CHANGE THE MUSLIM WORLD. // MY NAME IS JAMAL KASHOGGI. I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN IN 1987 IN JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

VO AMANPOUR

Khashoggi was himself caught up in the "awakening." As a Saudi journalist, he spent time with bin Laden in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, and later in Sudan.

SOT CHRISTINE AMANPOUR

HOW WAS OSAMA BIN LADEN INFLUENCED BY THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD?

SOT JAMAL KHASHOGGI

HE STARTED WITH THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN SAUDI ARABIA. HE WAS, UH VERY MUCH INFLUENCED.

BERGEN SOT

THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD WAS BORN IN EGYPT, AND AGAIN AND AGAIN BIN LADEN IS INFLUENCED BY EGYPTIAN IDEAS, EGYPTIAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AND THEY TEND TO MOVE HIM IN A MORE RADICAL AND MILITANT DIRECTION OVER TIME.

VO AMANPOUR

This man -- Sayyid Qutb was an inspiration for the Muslim Brotherhood. He was executed in 1966 for what many believe was a trumped of charge of attempting to overthrow the Egyptian government. His book, *Milestones* was "must" reading for jihadists and it still is today. It challenges the long-accepted belief that holy war should only be waged in response to an attack. Qutb justifies something new holy war that attacks the enemy first.

BERGEN SOT

ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE NOW COMING TOGETHER FOR BIN LADEN. THE ISLAMIC AWAKENING, THE FACT THAT HE'S JOINED THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, THE FACT THAT HE'S READING SAYYID QUTB, // AND THESE ARE POLITICIZING HIM AND GIVING HIM THE IDEA THAT WE NEED TO CREATE MORE PERFECT ISLAMIC STATES AROUND THE MUSLIM WORLD.

AMANPOUR VO

1979 would be a critical year for the Islamic awakening.....

The Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah of Iran ... Americans were taken hostage at the U.S. embassy. Muslim militants around the world were electrified.

That same year, the grand mosque in Mecca, the holiest of sites, became a battleground when militants seized it and the Saudi government sent in troops. Osama Bin Laden was appalled that such a holy place had been defiled.

And then, one month later, the final blow. The Soviet Union, godless and communist, invaded Afghanistan -- a Muslim country. It was an affront to Islam.

One year, three monumental events that would change bin Laden forever. Now, it was time for him to answer the call to jihad.

Act 4

NAT SOT SOVIET – AFGHAN WAR

VO AMANPOUR

1979 ... Afghanistan.

Soviet troops invade an Islamic nation.

A call for jihad against the infidels sounds throughout the Muslim world ... A call raised by men like Abdullah Azzam, a Palestinian cleric... charismatic and deeply spiritual ... He is the man who would mentor and shape Osama bin Laden throughout much of the 1980s.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

MY NAME IS, UH, HUTAIFA AZZAM. I HAVE, UH, BEEN LIVING WITH BIN LADEN, FOR MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS CONTINUOUSLY YOU COULD SAY.

VO AMANPOUR

Hutaifa is Abdullah Azzam's son. This is his first interview for western television.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

MY FATHER WAS TEACHING ISLAMIC AND ARABIC STUDIES. AND OSAMA BIN LADEN WAS STUDYING ENGINEERING AT THAT TIME.

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden was drawn to the influential cleric, seen here in Afghanistan. He was the ideological force behind the call for jihad. And he implored the young and impressionable Osama to follow him.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

THE END OF 1984, IN THE SUMMER, MY FATHER TOLD HIM, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE WITH ME. I AM LEAVING TO PAKISTAN OR AFGHANISTAN.

VO AMANPOUR

But bin Laden was hesitant to follow.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

HE SAID, NO // I CANNOT LEAVE SAUDI ARABIA, WITHOUT HAVING THE PERMISSION OF KING FAHD.

VO AMANPOUR

At this time bin Laden was still deeply loyal to his family, with its strong ties to the ruling House of Saud. But the King encouraged volunteers to go fight with the Afghans. Bin Laden responded ... he made the move from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan.

SOT ABDULLAH ANAS (Former Arab Fighter)

PEOPLE CALL ME ABDULLAH ANAS // I REMEMBER I MET OSAMA IN NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR IN ABDULLAH AZZAM'S HOUSE IN ISLAMABAD.

VO AMANPOUR

Anas was one of many Arab Muslims recruited by Abdullah Azzam to wage jihad in Afghanistan. He is seen here with Azzam and two of his sons, Ibrahim and Hutaifa.

SOT ABDULLAH ANAS

SHEIK ABDULLAH WAS THE...THE FATHER FIGURE OF ALL OF US // YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HE LOVED OSAMA BIN LADEN.

SOT BERGEN (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

THE PICTURE YOU GET OF BIN LADEN AT THIS POINT IN HIS LIFE, HE'S SHY, HE'S RETIRING, HE'S MONOSYLLABIC, PEOPLE BARELY GET A WORD OUT OF HIM AND HE'S COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED BY HIS MENTOR ABDUALLAH AZZAM, WHO'S A LARGER THAN LIFE CHARISMATIC FIGURE AND SOMEBODY WHO REALLY HAD A FATHER – SON RELATIONSHIP WITH BIN LADEN.

VO AMANPOUR

I traveled here to the city of Peshawar, Pakistan, on the border with Afghanistan, to find out more about bin Laden and his mentor, Abdullah Azzam.

Peshawar is a bustling frontier town, the perfect gateway for smugglers, spies, mercenaries and mujahideen ... those holy warriors who came to fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

SOT ABDULLAH ANAS

YOU CAN FIND THE ARMS, YOU CAN BUY KALASHNIKOV, YOU CAN SELL IT. IT'S AN OPEN AREA, COMPLETELY OPEN AREA.

AMANPOUR OC

IT WAS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD THAT OSAMA BIN LADEN AND ABDULLAH AZZAM SET UP THE HEADQUARTERS OF AN ORGANIZATION THEY CALLED THE "SERVICES BUREAU." IT WAS TO ASSIST MUSLIM FIGHTERS HEADING INTO AFGHANISTAN ... AND ALSO AFGHAN REFUGEES FLEEING THE SOVIET ARMY.

VO AMANPOUR

The Services Bureau was run by Azaam. Osama bin Laden was the financier, donating some of his own fortune and the money he collected from other wealthy Saudis.

AMANPOUR OC

ONE OF THESE HOUSES, WE'RE TOLD, USED TO BE A GUESTHOUSE WHERE THE RECRUITS WOULD COME BEFORE ENTERING AFGHANISTAN. THEY'D BE GIVEN WEAPONS AND CLOTHING, AS WELL AS MILITARY AND IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING. BIN LADEN HIMSELF TRAINED AT ONE OF THE CAMPS.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM (lived with bin Laden for 8 years)

THE TRAINING ON WEAPONS, AND HOW TO USE WEAPONS, HOW TO FIGHT, HOW TO JOIN THE BATTLES TOGETHER. AND WE WERE WITH, WITH BIN LADEN, YES.

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden's time in the shadow of his mentor -- Abdullah Azzam -- would be short lived. No longer content to merely fund the fight ... bin laden yearned to join it.

His countless hours and days in the harsh Saudi desert, without shelter and with few provisions, had prepared him for this moment. It was always his belief that he was destined to be a holy warrior...

SOT BERGEN

I THINK HE'S ALWAYS MODELED HIMSELF ON THE PROPHET MUHAMMED AND THE PROPHET MUHAMMED WAS NOT ONLY A GREAT RELIGIOUS FIGURE, BUT WAS ALSO SOMEBODY WHO PERSONALLY BATTLED THE INFIDELS. AND SO FOR BIN LADEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE IN THE PROPHET MUHAMMED'S FOOTSTEPS.

VO AMANPOUR

For Bin Laden the early days on the battlefield were terrifying.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

WHEN BIN LADEN USED TO HEAR // THE EXPLOSIONS // HE USED TO, TO JUMP AND HE USED TO RUN AWAY. // AND I STILL REMEMBER THAT ME AND MY ELDER AND YOUNGER BROTHER, WE USED TO LAUGH.

VO AMANPOUR

But several years on the battlefield would harden bin Laden. Fear gave way to ambition. He would want to command his own army, an *all-Arab* army in Afghanistan.

SOT ABDULLAH ANAS (Former Arab Fighter)

OSAMA STARTED TO THINK ABOUT GOVERNING ALL ARABS AS MUCH AS HE CAN, AND PUT THEM IN ONE CAMP, IN ONE FRONT

VO AMANPOUR

His mentor adamantly opposed this idea. It was the beginning of a rift that would never heal.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

BIN LADEN WENT AND HE BUILT UP HIS OWN CAMPS, HE BUILT UP HIS OWN FRONT. AND HE STARTED DOING HIS OWN BATTLES. // MY FATHER DOESN'T WANT ARAB TO WORK SEPARATELY, AND THAT, WHAT BIN LADEN DID IN 1987.

SOT BERGEN

BIN LADEN DECIDED TO CREATE THIS ALL-ARAB ARMY BECAUSE THE YOUNG ARABS HE WAS RECRUITING WERE WILLING TO MARTYR THEMSELVES, WILLING TO TAKE INCREDIBLE PERSONAL RISK, // AND IT WAS THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT BIN LADEN MOLDED TO TAKE ON THE SOVIETS DIRECTLY.

VO AMANPOUR

Their first test was the battle of Jaji in the spring of 1987. Hutaifa Azzam fought alongside bin Laden, who was suffering from low blood pressure in the thin mountain air.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

IT WAS A VERY, VERY HARD BATTLE. // AND HE JOINED THE BATTLE WHILE HE WAS ILL AND HE WAS HAVING THIS LOW PRESSURE AND MY FATHER TOLD HIM TO TAKE REST BUT HE REFUSES. AND HE JOINED THE BATTLE FROM, FOR MORE THAN FOUR DAYS.

VO AMANPOUR

The Russians fell back ... Jaji was the first victory for bin Laden's Arab Army.

SOT BERGEN

IT WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THE AFGHAN WAR. // BUT FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW IT WAS REALLY THE BEGINNING OF SORT OF BIN LADEN'S SORT OF, SORT OF ALMOST MYTHIC PERSONA BECAUSE A GROUP OF ARABS HAD HELD OFF THE SOVIETS AND IT WAS, IT GOT A LOT OF PLAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

VO AMANPOUR

The once reticent -- and terrified -- bin Laden, was now hailed as a fearless leader... a hero on the front lines of jihad.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM

HE'S BRAVE AND HE'S READY TO GIVE HIS LIFE. HE'S NOT A COWARD.

SOT JAMAL KHASHOGGI

I VISITED THE SITE OF THAT BATTLE WITH HIM IN JAJI

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden invited journalist Jamal Khashoggi to Afghanistan. It was a bit of P-R in his new campaign to become Osama, the General.

Khashoggi took this picture ... he says the first one ever published of bin Laden.

SOT AMANPOUR/KHASHOGGI

Amanpour:

SO, FOR OSAMA, JAJI WAS A RECRUITING TOOL.

Khashoggi:

IT WAS A RECRUITING TOOL. IT WAS THE START OF HAVING AN INDEPENDENT FRONT WHERE HE'D BECOME THE EMIR ... UH ... THE LEADER OF THOSE ARAB MUJAHIDEENS WHO ARE GATHERED AROUND HIM.

SOT BIN LADEN 1997 CNN INTVU

I HAVE BENEFITED SO GREATLY FROM THE JIHAD IN AFGHANISTAN THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BENEFIT AS MUCH FROM ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY.

VO AMANPOUR

In 1988, the Soviets, worn down and demoralized, began to withdraw from Afghanistan... and bin Laden—now battle-hardened—returned to Peshawar... a holy warrior ... without a war...

But this man would soon change that. Ayman al Zawahari ... a radical Egyptian ... with plans to spread his holy war around the world.

Act 5

VO AMANPOUR

Arab fighters—all smiles after the battle of Jaji. They made their stand. The Soviets ... the infidels ... were repelled.

Osama bin Laden emerged the hero. His exploits on this Afghan battlefield were immortalized in "Jihad Magazine..." published, of course, by bin Laden himself ... and his longtime mentor, Abdullah Azzam.

NAT SOT GUN FIRE

VO AMANPOUR

The battle of Jaji made bin Laden. And he was happy to exploit his new-found fame.

SOT JAMAL KHALIFA (bin Laden's brother-in-law)

EVERYBODY SAID THAT HE WON THE BATTLE AT JAJI. NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT IT. // HE BECAME A HERO.

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden's soaring confidence ... and abundant wealth ... would soon attract those looking to exploit this rising star. Militants... like Ayman al Zawahiri ... an Egyptian doctor... with plans to separate bin Laden from his money... and from his mentor—Abdullah Azzam.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM (son of Abdullah Azzam)

THE EGYPTIAN TOLD HIM THAT IF YOU COME WE WILL MAKE YOU THE LEADER SO WE CAN BUILD UP OUR OWN ORGANIZATION. WE CAN KEEP YOU, IN ARABIC WE CALL IT "EMIR" – WE CAN KEEP YOU THE LEADER OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

VO AMANPOUR

Zawahiri had spent three years in Egypt's notorious prisons for his jihadist activities.

NAT SOT ZAWAHARI BEHIND BARS (1983)

WE WANT TO SPEAK TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

VO AMANPOUR

Embittered after years of torture at the hands of the Egyptian government ...

NAT SOT ZAWAHARI BEHIND BARS

WHY DID THEY BRING US HERE?

VO AMANPOUR

... Zawahiri was determined to overthrow the secular regimes of the Middle East. His was not a battle for a piece of land. He wanted an Islamic world without borders.

NAT SOT ZAWAHARI BEHIND BARS

WE ARE MUSLIMS. WE ARE MUSLIMS WHO BELIEVE IN THEIR RELIGION.

VO AMANPOUR

But Azzam disapproved of Muslims fighting Muslims. For him, holy war was about defending Muslim lands against the infidels.

Two divergent influences ...one old ... one new. This is how bin Laden's transformation began ... from warrior... to extremist.

BERGEN SOT (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

BIN LADEN WAS INCREASINGLY BEING INFLUENCED BY EGYPTIAN MILITANTS AROUND, IN HIS CIRCLE WHO WERE SAYING LETS OVERTHROW ALL THESE SECULAR GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND ABDULLAH AZZAM WAS OPPOSED TO THAT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE PART OF ANYTHING THAT PITTED MUSLIMS AGAINST MUSLIMS.

VO AMANPOUR

Armed with a radical new ideology ... bin Laden was ready to step out from behind Azzam ... ready to lead his army on to the next war.

AMANPOUR OC

.... AND THAT ARMY WOULD TAKE SHAPE HERE, IN PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN ... IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE OSAMA BIN LADEN LIVED. MEETINGS WERE HELD. PLANS WERE MADE. THIS IS WHERE AL QAEDA WAS BORN.

VO AMANPOUR

.... and these are the actual minutes of those early meetings ... the written record of al Qaeda's creation ... found by police in Bosnia... seen here for the first time on television

SOT BERGEN

WHEN AL QAEDA WAS FOUNDED // THERE WAS NO THOUGHT OF ATTACKING THE UNITED STATES. THAT WOULD COME MUCH, MUCH LATER. THE PROGRAM WAS REALLY ABOUT TRAINING PEOPLE FOR JIHADS OUTSIDE AFGHANISTAN.

VO AMANPOUR

The minutes list bin Laden and the other attendees. There were strict requirements to join al Qaeda... some surprising ones. They must, for example, have good manners ... and good references ... and they must recite ... an oath "to listen and obey the superiors".

SOT BERGEN

BIN LADEN COMES OUT OF A BUSINESS BACKGROUND. HIS FATHER WAS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BIN LADEN HIMSELF STUDIED ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY. SO HE MODELED AL QAEDA IN A RATHER SORT OF, ON A BUSINESS MODEL. HE WAS SORT OF THE CEO. THERE WERE COMMITTEES FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, AND MEDIA AFFAIRS.

VO AMANPOUR

Al Qaeda made members sign an employment contract.

There was a benefits package ... vacations home, complete with round-trip airline tickets. Vacation requests had to "be submitted two and a half months before the travel date"

Recruits were soon put to the test. In February, 1989, the Soviets, in the last stages of their withdrawal, left behind a puppet Afghan communist government. For Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, victory in Afghanistan was not yet complete.

They joined the battle against the Afghan communists in Jalalabad, near the Pakistan border.

SOT ED GIARDET

MY NAME IS EDWARD GIARDET, AND I FIRST MET OSAMA BIN LADEN IN 1989 IN KUNAR PROVINCE OF AFGHANISTAN.

VO AMANPOUR

Giardet ... a British Journalist ... was covering the battle of Jalalabad. He remembers a chance but chilling encounter with bin Laden during the fighting.

SOT ED GIARDET

WE ARRIVE AT THE FRONT LINE, // AND THEN SUDDENLY THIS VERY TALL ARAB CAME UP TO ME, WALKED UP, AND SAID, YOU KNOW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? // AND HE SAID BUT THIS IS THE JIHAD, AND YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RIGHT TO BE HERE, AND YOU SHOULD LEAVE.

VO AMANPOUR

Giardet had never heard of bin Laden but for the next 45 minutes, the mysterious Arab warrior spoke in English. Religion was the topic of discussion.

SOT ED GIARDET

AND THEN, AS OUR CONVERSATION CAME TO AN END, I REACHED OUT MY HAND TO, TO BID GOODBYE // [24:08] AND HE SAID, I CAN'T SHAKE YOUR HAND // //edit// AND AS I TURNED AWAY, HE SAID, IF I SEE YOU AGAIN, I'LL KILL YOU.

VO AMANPOUR

On the battlefield in Jalalabad, bin Laden was a dismal failure.

SOT HUTAIFA AZZAM (lived with bin Laden for 8 years)

WE LOST MORE THAN, UH, 45 KILOMETERS BECAUSE OF HIS MISTAKE.

VO AMANPOUR

... and he lost many soldiers. Among those in the militant community, like Egyptian Osama Rushdie, bin Laden's reputation took a hit.

SOT OSAMA RUSHDI (Former Egyptian Militant)

LOTS OF PEOPLE CRITICIZED OSAMA BIN LADEN BECAUSE HE LED THE ARAB FIGHTERS INTO THE BATTLE FOR JALALABAD IN A DISORGANIZED WAY. MORE THAN 300 OF THEM WERE KILLED.

VO AMANPOUR

Shortly after the battle, bin Laden returned home to Saudi Arabia.

SOT AL FAISAL (current Saudi ambassador to the United States)

MY NAME IS TURKI AL FAISAL. I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN IN PAKISTAN IN 1985.

VO AMANPOUR

Prince Turki Al Faisal was the head of Saudi Arabia's intelligence service. He told me that in 1990, bin Laden offered up his army to drive out the communists from neighboring Yemen. But the Saudis didn't take him seriously.

SOT FAISAL

Amanpour:

WHAT WAS YOUR RESPONSE WHEN HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO DO THAT?

Al Faisal:

MY RESPONSE TO HIM WAS THAT THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME. // THAT MILITARY CONFLICT IN SOUTH YEMEN WAS NOT ADVISABLE AT THAT TIME.

VO AMANPOUR

Later that year when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, bin Laden once again offered his troops to the Saudis.

SOT AL FAISAL

HE ASKED OTHER OFFICIALS IN THE KINGDOM FOR THE OPPORTUNITY AGAIN TO BRING HIS MUJAHIDEEN, AS HE CALLED THEM, TO DRIVE OUT SADDAM HUSSEIN FROM, FROM KUWAIT. AND AGAIN, HE WAS TOLD THAT THAT WAS NOT THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

VO AMANPOUR

Instead ...the Saudis turned to the West for help. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops ... in the land of the two holiest places ... Mecca and Medina.

To bin Laden ... it was sacrilege. He began to voice his outrage. When the Saudis tried to muzzle him, Bin Laden fled the Kingdom ... a man without a country ... a man on the run...

Act 6

NAT VO

Across from Saudi Arabia...Across the Red Sea... lies the nation of Sudan...

Its capital—Khartoum ... an ancient African crossroads...

It was here—in the early 1990s—that a radical Muslim government... hell bent on creating a pure Islamist state... opened its doors to bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

PETER BERGEN SOT (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

“IN 1991, ’92, BIN LADEN IS A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY AND HE DECIDES TO GO TO SUDAN BECAUSE THERE IS A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS RECENTLY COME INTO POWER WHICH IS SYMPATHETIC TO HIS VIEW AND HE BELIEVES THAT, UH, HE CAN HELP CREATE SOME KIND OF ISLAMIC UTOPIA...”

VO AMANPOUR

An Islamic utopia ... that Bin Laden set out to build from this—his new home in Khartoum. Here—he quickly started an array of businesses... Bin Laden wasn’t looking to foster the persona of an international terrorist.

SCOTT MACLEOD SOT (Time Magazine)

“He wanted to show that he was a businessman. And he was a legitimate businessman...”

SCOTT MACLEOD INTRO SOT

“My name is Scott Macleod, I met Osama bin Laden in Sudan in 1996...”

SCOTT MACLEOD SOT (Former FBI Agent)

“It struck me that he was very calm. Serene. Uh, almost like a holy man”

VO AMANPOUR

Though he'd been forced to flee Saudi Arabia for speaking out against the government and U.S. troops in the kingdom ... in the early 90s there were very few in U.S. law enforcement who knew of Osama bin Laden.

DAN COLEMAN SOT

“At that point in time, and particularly from the FBI, he hadn't attracted a great deal of attention.”

VO AMANPOUR

That would change...

--nat—

At 12:18p-m on February 26, 1993... The World Trade Center... an icon of American economic power... was attacked... by a powerful truck bomb.

The nation was in shock as it watched LIVE coverage of the chaos around the twin towers. For years Americans had watched news footage of the aftermath of terrorism abroad... but this was different... this was an attack on the homeland.

The manhunts that followed would eventually lead to the arrests and convictions of two men with suspected links to bin Laden: Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman... and Ramzi Yousef... the mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing.

BIN LADEN '97 ARNETT INTERVIEW

“I do not know Ramzi Yousef. What the American government has said is not true at all.”

PETER BERGEN SOT

“BIN LADEN HAS DENIED KNOWING RAMZI YOUSEF// BUT IN THE LARGER SENSE, BIN LADEN REALLY WAS RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE RAMZI YOUSEF HAD TRAINED AT AN AL-QAED TRAINING CAMP AND RAMZI YOUSEF'S UNCLE, KHALED SHEIKH MOHAMMED, WOULD BECOME THE GUY WHO WENT TO BIN LADEN IN '96 WITH THE BEGINNINGS OF WHAT WOULD TURN OUT TO BE THE PLAN FOR 9-11 ITSELF.”

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden may deny knowing Ramzi Yousef... but there is no denying the influence of Omar Abdel Rahman—a radical Egyptian cleric who preached at this Jersey City mosque across from the World Trade Center. Rahman—also known as the “Blind Sheik”—was the spiritual guide of the Trade Center bombers and would ultimately become the theological force behind al-Qaeda...

PETER BERGEN SOT

“TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE IS A SPIRITUAL GUIDE TO AL-QAEDA, I THINK, IT’S SHEIKH RAHMAN BECAUSE HE IS THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE FOR///THE EGYPTIANS IN AL QAEDA AND THE EGYPTIANS ARE SO IMPORTANT FOR THE GROUP IDEOLOGICALLY AND ALSO PERSONALLY.”

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden’s relationship with the Egyptian militants surrounding him... in particular Ayman al-Zawahiri... intensified in Sudan... Journalist Jamal Khashoggi met with bin Laden a number of times during this period...

KASHOGGI SOT (currently an aide to Saudi Ambassador to the U.S.)

“I felt the presence of the Egyptian radicals. There were there. Physically they were there. They would not sit with me...//We were in his garden, uh, sitting on the floor talking when somebody come and whisper something in...in his ear.//I couldn’t comprehend what they were saying, but I picked up the Egyptian slang//They were there...”

AMANPOUR/JAMAL KHASHOGGI Q&A SOT

Amanpour: And describe how he was changing then. And what he was doing?

Khashoggi: “there’s two Osama’s I met in Sudan. At the beginning there was a radical one, an angry one, an angry at his government who was trying to play a political role, who was trying to push for change, revolutionary type change in Saudi Arabia. A year later, particularly in 1995, I saw a more sub... sub... subdued Osama who began to speak more moderately. He even regretted some of the statements he put out against his government, some radical positions he did, and he seemed to me as he wants to go back. But I think he had a fight within.//between the way he was brought up as a moderate Muslim, and the predicament he found himself in allied with radical Egyptians. And, he couldn’t choose.

VO AMANPOUR

He couldn’t choose, says Khashoggi, so he let events choose for him...

By 1995, the Saudi government had frozen bin Laden’s assets and stripped him of his citizenship. His family had publicly disowned him. Privately, however, there were attempts to bring him back into the fold

BIN LADEN in 1997 CNN INTERVIEW

“They sent me my brother, my mother and my uncle almost nine visits to Khartoum... asking me to stop and return to Saudi Arabia and to apologize to King Fahd.// But, with Allah’s grace, this regime did not get its wish fulfilled.”

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden let his true feelings be known in this--an open letter to King Fahd... in it... he condemned the Saudi Royal family... calling them corrupt... he also called for a campaign of attacks to drive US forces out of the kingdom...

Bin Laden’s words were heard... Not long after his decree... a terrorist car bomb ripped through a joint US-Saudi military facility in Riyadh... killing five Americans...

PRINCE TURKIAL FAISAL SOT (Saudi Ambassador to the U.S.)

“A car bomb exploded in front of a National Guard training center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. And the perpetrators were captured. They said that they had been inspired by... by bin Laden.”

VO AMANPOUR

The Saudi Royal Family and the Clinton Administration had seen enough... both stepped up pressure on the Sudanese government to expel bin Laden... who—by this time—may have known his days were numbered in Khartoum. He’d already survived at least one assassination attempt by rival extremists...

ABDULLAH ANAS SOT (Former Arab Fighter)

“I was sitting in, uh, another guest house in//in Khartoum when I heard after uh sunset //that there is, uh, a clash// And they attacked the guest house of Osama.///in order to kill him.”

VO AMANPOUR

Under fire... and feeling the heat... Osama bin Laden and his followers take flight--again... In May of 1996—bin Laden returns to where his holy war began... the troubled lands that would spawn the unthinkable...

Act 7

VO AMANPOUR

The mountains of Afghanistan, where Osama bin Laden would feel most at home. The place he came to when he was in trouble ... safe behind these walls.

AMANPOUR OC:

BY 1996 OSAMA BIN LADEN WAS A MAN ON THE RUN. STRIPPED OF HIS SAUDI CITIZENSHIP AND BANISHED FROM SUDAN, HE CAME TO THIS NOW DESTROYED COMPOUND IN JALALABAD, AFGHANISTAN.

IT WAS FROM HERE THAT HE WOULD GALVANIZE HIS FOLLOWERS BY DECLARING WAR ON AMERICA.

HE HAD A CHILLING MESSAGE AND HE DELIVERED IT TO CNN IN HIS FIRST EVER TELEVISION INTERVIEW.

SOT/VO PETER ARNETT

MY NAME IS PETER ARNETT. I MET BIN LADEN AS A CNN CORRESPONDENT IN AFGHANISTAN IN MARCH, 1997. // WHILE BIN LADEN WAS NOT WELL KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OR TO THE WORLD, WITHIN THE NEWS MEDIA, THERE WAS QUITE A LOT OF COMPETITION FOR THAT INTERVIEW.

VO AMANPOUR

Spearheading CNN’s effort was then producer Peter Bergen. He negotiated for months with bin Laden contacts in London.

SOT PETER BERGEN (Former CNN Producer and Author, “The Osama bin Laden I Know”)
AND THEN WE BASICALLY GOT THE GREEN LIGHT. ABOUT A MONTH LATER I GOT A CALL SAYING, THE MAN IN KUWAIT WANTS TO SEE YOU, WHICH WAS THE CODE FOR, GO TO JALALABAD, SEE BIN LADEN.

VO AMANPOUR

Driving from Pakistan through the Khyber Pass, the crew made its way to the small city of Jalalabad.

VO/SOT PETER ARNETT

We drove to the Spinghar hotel. It was very old fashioned 1930s hotel. Clearly the hotel itself had not any restoration work in years. BUT IT WAS HOME FOR A WEEK OR SO.

VO BERGEN

And we waited.

VO AMANPOUR

I met with Bergen at the Spinghar Hotel ... where he told me about bin Laden’s new and very savvy media campaign.

AMANPOUR

To me it sounds odd that he would have a media advisor. I mean, I know Osama Bin Laden as hiding in a cave, on the run, raw.

BERGEN

WELL YOU KNOW, I THINK BIN LADEN’S HAD A MEDIA STRATEGY FROM THE DAY HE WOKE UP, ALMOST. I MEAN, HE’S, HE’S KEENLY AWARE OF IT. HE WANTS TO GET HIS MESSEGE OUT. HE DECIDED THAT CNN WAS THE VEHICLE FOR HIS FIRST TELEVISION INTERVIEW. // AT A CERTAIN POINT ANOTHER MEDIA ADVISOR CAME, A KIND OF GUY WITH LONG HAIR, A YOUNGER GUY, LOOKED AT ALL OUR CAMERA EQUIPMENT, AND SAID ‘YOU CAN’T USE ANY OF THIS.’

VO AMANPOUR

Peter Jouvenal, a British free lance photographer, joined the team.

SOT/VO PETER JOUVENAL

I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN IN AFGHANISTAN IN NINETEEN NINETY-SEVEN // ONE DAY AN ARAB CAME TO MY ROOM, WANTED TO CHECK OUT MY CAMERA. He seemed to be concerned that there might be some sort of tracking device. Or some sort of device that could harm Osama. // SO THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD PROVIDE A CAMERA FOR US TO USE.

VO BERGEN

After about five days, uh, a van pulls up. It’s dusk.

VO/SOT JOUVENAL

We all piled in the back and then they gave us these um, uh, sunglasses that had bits of CARDBOARD STUCK, CUT OUT AND STUCK INTO THE LENSES SO WE COULDN’T SEE THEM.

VO/SOT BERGEN

At a certain point they slow down, they tell us, if you have a tracking device, now is the time to tell us, otherwise it’s a problem. I TOOK THE PROBLEM TO BE, YOU KNOW, EXECUTION.

VO JOUVENAL

Well what they did is they drove us around Jalalabad in circles, I think trying to disorientate us.

VO/SOT BERGEN

Then we started going to the mountains. Change of vehicle into a four wheel drive. // Finally we arrive at a place where we're searched VERY PROFESSIONALLY. THEY SWEEP US WITH A TRACK...WITH SOME KIND OF ELECTRONIC THING I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE, BUT I TOOK IT TO BE, IF YOU HAD A TRACKING DEVICE, THEY WOULD FIND IT.

VO/SOT ARNETT (Former CNN Correspondent)

We'd move on for 20 or 30 minutes, another group would stop us, just RUN IN FRONT OF THE CAR. AND I THOUGHT THERE WAS A VERY IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF SECURITY.

SOT BERGEN (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

AND THEY WERE VERY PLEASANT AND I WASN'T CONCERNED. I MEAN, THEY'D INVITED US FOR AN INTERVIEW. I DIDN'T, THIS IS LONG BEFORE JOURNALISTS WERE BEING KILLED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

VO AMANPOUR

After a rocky climb, the crew set up on a mountaintop in a small hut.

SOT JOUVENAL

AND SOMEONE SAID THAT HE'S COMING

VO BERGEN

And suddenly out of the darkness bin Laden appears.

NAT SOT ARNETT IN 1997 INTERVIEW

... MORE INTO THE SUBJECT ...

VO/SOT ARNETT

And he was carrying an AK-47. SO SITTING THERE, LOOKING UP AT THIS GIGANTIC FIGURE WAS SOMEWHAT INTIMIDATING.

VO/SOT JOUVENAL

He gave a very limp handshake.

VO BERGEN

He came in, he was all business, you know, hello, no, no, very little chit chat, sat down and started the interview.

SOT 1997 CNN INTERVIEW

Arnett:

MR. BIN LADEN, YOU HAVE DECLARED A JIHAD AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. CAN YOU TELL US WHY?

Bin Laden:

YES, BECAUSE THE U-S GOVERNMENT IS UNJUST, CRIMINAL AND TYRANNICAL.

VO BERGEN

Basically he was declaring war against the United States for the first time to western reporters. That was the message.

VO/sot ARNETT

He basically talked about, you know, removing American presence from the Middle East. Specifically, from, say, Saudi Arabia. He didn't talk compromise. "Leave now while you have the chance. We destroyed the Russians, THE SOVIET UNION. IF YOU STAY WITH US, IF YOU STAY AROUND HERE, WE'LL DESTROY YOU."

SOT 1997 CNN INTERVIEW

Arnett:

WHAT ABOUT U.S. CIVILIANS IN ARABIA OR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES?

SOT 1997 INTERVIEW

Bin Laden

EVEN THOUGH AMERICAN CIVILIANS ARE NOT TARGETED IN OUR PLAN, THEY MUST ALSO LEAVE. WE WILL NOT GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.

VO AMANPOUR

Soon afterwards, Bin Laden was gone.

VO/SOT ARNETT

He appeared and disappeared. You know out of the blue, out of the night, he came into the hut, disappeared into the night. That's his style.

SOT JOHN MILLER

MY NAME IS JOHN MILLER. I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN IN MAY OF 1998 IN AFGHANISTAN.

VO AMANPOUR

A year after bin Laden met with CNN, ABC News correspondent John Miller was also given an interview.

Bin Laden was using the media for both his message and his image.

VO/SOT JOHN MILLER

Bin Laden arrived in ... a motorcade of three SUVs. // During this time, everybody shoots their guns up into the air with tracer rounds and machine-gun fire

NAT SOT GUNFIRE

SOT/VO MILLER

AS DR. ZAWAHIRI SAID, when Mr. bin Laden comes, there is always great celebration. // He had an AK-47, which he kind of gently propped up against a map of the world that had been taped up on the wall behind him. Again, I THINK VERY PURPOSEFULLY, TO SHOW THAT AL-QAEDA WAS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION.

SOT 1998 ABC INTERVIEW

Miller:

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY AND LARGE DON'T KNOW THE NAME BIN LADEN, BUT THEY SOON LIKELY WILL. DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE?

bin Laden:

THE GREATEST TERRORIST IS AMERICA.

VO/SOT MILLER

In the interview he declared war on America. // It sounded a, a little hyperbolic // BUT, I DON'T THINK WE UNDERSTOOD THE DEPTH OF HIS PLAN OR THE CREATIVITY INVOLVED. What he was doing was he was foreshadowing a plan that was already in effect. The die was cast. He was just doing a little advance publicity.

BIN LADEN SOT 1998 ABC INTERVIEW

We do not differentiate. Those dressed in military uniforms and civilians ... they are all targets...

VO AMANPOUR

Now, no one would be safe. Bin Laden was upping the ante in a way Americans would understand all too soon.

MILLER SOT

HE SAID, I PREDICT A BLACK DAY FOR THE UNITED STATES AFTER WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

NAT SOT GUN FIRE

Act 8

VO AMANPOUR

Masked men... Al-Qaeda... under the cover of night... final preparations.

Daybreak... the main event... a heavily guarded SUV suddenly arrives in the town of Khost (pronounced HOST), Afghanistan... gunfire erupts everywhere... Osama bin Laden performs for the cameras...

It's an explosive beginning to his first and only press conference... witnessed by Pakistani journalist Ismail Khan...

ISMAIL KHAN SOT

"ALL OF THE SUDDEN THEY WERE SHOOTING AND THEN 'BOOM, BOOM', ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADES, AND FIRING... AND FOR ONCE I THOUGHT 'WE HAVE COME UNDER ATTACK OR SOMETHING'..."

VO AMANPOUR

May 26, 1998... this was bin Laden's videotaped call for war... against America...

BIN LADEN SOT FROM 1998 PRESS CONF.

“BY GOD'S GRACE, WE HAVE FORMED AN ORGANIZATION WITH OTHER ISLAMIC GROUPS AND ISLAMIC NATIONS, A FRONT CALLED THE ISLAMIC FRONT, TO DO JIHAD AGAINST THE CRUSADERS AND JEWS.”

VO AMANPOUR

In this press conference, bin Laden goes public with al-Qaeda's plans to attack the United States.

BIN LADEN SOT FROM PRESS CONFERENCE

“THE JEWS AND THE CHRISTIANS WORK TOGETHER AGAINST MUSLIMS...”

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden had turned a corner with his declaration of war...

AMANPOUR STAND UP

“NO LONGER WOULD HE JUST ATTACK THE U-S MILITARY OR U-S LEADERS. NOW HE WAS SAYING THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD BE LEGITIMATE TARGETS.”

HAMID MIR

“MY NAME IS HAMID MIR, AND I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN FIRST TIME, IN TORA BORA MOUNTAINS...”

VO AMANPOUR

Journalist Hamid Mir is writing an authorized biography of bin Laden... He interviewed the al-Qaeda leader three times during the 1990's...

AMANPOUR/MIR INTERVIEW

AMANPOUR: “HOW DID HE JUSTIFY THE KILLING OF INNOCENT AMERICANS?”

MIR: “HE SAID THAT/ ‘YES. THE KILLING OF, UH, INNOCENT CHILDREN AND WOMEN, IS NOT PERMITTED IN ISLAM. BUT, UH, IF THEY ARE KILLING OUR INNOCENT CHILDREN// IF THEY ARE PROVIDING WEAPONS TO THE ISRAELIS//AND TO THE OTHER ANTI-MUSLIM FORCES—TO KILL MUSLIMS—THEN WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESPOND BACK IN THE SAME MANNER. ”

VO AMANPOUR

While bin Laden believed he had a political justification for killing American civilians... he needed the trappings of clerical legitimacy. That would come in the form of a fatwa... a religious decree from Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman... the blind radical Egyptian cleric... the spiritual guide of the 1993 World Trade Center bombers. When the fatwa was handed out at bin Laden's press conference... Rahman was already imprisoned in the United States on terrorism charges.

BERGEN SOT (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

“NEITHER BIN LADEN NOR AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI, HIS NUMBER TWO, ARE RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS. AND, UH, THEY KNOW THAT. AND SO—THEY NEEDED THIS FATWA FROM SHEIKH RAHMAN TO KIND OF GIVE THEM CLERICAL COVER FOR THIS UNPRECEDENTED THING, WHICH WAS ATTACKING AMERICAN CIVILIANS.”

VO AMANPOUR

This laminated card... with its Arabic script... outlined with chilling accuracy al-Qaeda's terrifying new course... It is seen here on television for the first time

HAMID MIR SOT

“IN THAT FATWA, IT WAS WRITTEN THAT, ‘KILL AMERICANS, IN THE SEA. KILL AMERICANS IN THE AIR. KILL AMERICANS EVERYWHERE...’”

VO AMANPOUR

Rahman's significance to al-Qaeda is underscored by its fervent preoccupation with freeing the Blind Sheik from his American prison cell. Osama bin Laden vowed as much in this video...

BIN LADEN FROM 2000 PRESS CONFERENCE

“WE PROMISE TO WORK WITH ALL OUR POWER TO FREE OUR BROTHERS EVERYWHERE AND IN ANY PRISON, ESPECIALLY IN AMERICA, LIKE SHEIKH SHEIK OMAR ABDEL RAHMAN.”

VO AMANPOUR

There's even a training exercise aimed at springing Rahman outlined in the “Encyclopedia of Jihad”... al-Qaeda's massive guide on everything from guerrilla warfare and terrorist tactics to how to recognize a rattle snake, or treat a scorpion sting...

BERGEN SOT

“THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PAGES // IT DRAWS ON MANY SOURCES, INCLUDING U.S. ARMY MANUALS. AND, IS SOMETHING THAT OTHER THAN THE TRAINING CAMPS, I THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT AL-QAEDA GAVE THE GLOBAL JIHADIST MOVEMENT.”

VO AMANPOUR

The “Encyclopedia,” the years of recruiting, the training camps, al-Qaeda's murderous new ideology... All of it culminating in this—Osama bin Laden's official... and very public declaration of war on America and Americans...

BIN LADEN SOT

“WHOEVER COUNTS ON GOD, GOD WILL GRANT HIM VICTORY, AND WE ARE GIVING THE GOOD NEWS... THAT WE WILL GAIN VICTORY ON AMERICA... GOD WILLING...”

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden had spoken ... once again he had warned his enemy. But was anyone really listening? Did anyone take him seriously? Bin Laden was about to strike.

Act 9

VO / SOT GARY BERNTSEN (Former CIA Officer)

I THINK IT WAS MAYBE FOUR THIRTY IN THE MORNING WHEN MY PHONE RANG // A WOMAN WHO WAS IN OUR WATCH CENTER // SAID // THERE HAVE BEEN

DETONATIONS OF ... EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AGAINST OUR EMBASSIES, AGAINST TWO EMBASSIES IN EAST AFRICA.

VO AMANPOUR

Two American embassies...two truck bombs... two different countries... Kenya and Tanzania. Two terrorist attacks... just nine minutes apart. Gary Berntsen, a veteran CIA officer, rushed to headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

VO / SOT GARY BERNTSEN

AS WE WERE HAVING THIS MEETING // CNN WAS BEING BROADCAST // AND YOU HAD INDIVIDUALS WALKING AROUND ON THE WRECKAGE.

VO AMANPOUR

More than 200 dead ... More than four thousand injured ... Who was behind this carnage ... and why?

SOT GARY BERNTSEN

IT WAS ASSUMED RIGHT AWAY THAT THIS WAS A HEZBOLLAH ATTACK.

VO AMANPOUR

Hezbollah... because the militant group had attacked U.S. targets in the past. But the CIA was in for a surprise. Two investigative teams were dispatched to Africa. Berntsen led the search team in Tanzania.

SOT GARY BERNTSEN

WE GET THERE, FACE IS TORN OFF THE BUILDING. IT LOOKS LIKE A TORNADO HAS GONE THROUGH AND SUCKED EVERY PIECE OF FURNITURE OUT OF EVERY ROOM AND INTO THE HALLWAYS.

VO AMANPOUR

Within eight days there were leads and suspects ... and a stunning realization: that Osama bin Laden had lived up to his threat: his al Qaeda terrorists had just struck their first direct blows in their holy war against the United States.

The attacks were carefully planned. This man, Ali Mohammed, was no ordinary al Qaeda operative. He was in the U.S. Special Forces and appears here on a military panel. He married a Californian in 1985 ... and became an American citizen.

SOT BERGEN (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

ALI MOHAMMED IS A REALLY INTERESTING CHARACTER, SORT OF LIKE A DOUBLE AGENT. AT THE SAME TIME THAT HE WAS A U.S. ARMY SERGEANT AND ACTUALLY WORKING AT SPECIAL FORCES HEADQUARTERS IN FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA, HE WAS ALSO INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH AL-QAEDA, TRAINING BIN LADEN'S BODYGUARDS.

SOT DAN COLEMAN

ALI MOHAMED HAD DONE WHAT THEY CALL CASING OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN NAIROBI IN DECEMBER OF 1993. // A FIVE YEAR SPAN BETWEEN CASING AND OPERATION.

VO AMANPOUR

... and listen to what Ali Mohammed had to say in a U-S court.

SOT ACTOR'S VOICE

"...my surveillance files and photographs were reviewed by Osama bin Laden ... Bin Laden looked at the picture of the American Embassy and pointed to where a truck could go as a suicide bomber."

VO AMANPOUR

Nearly two weeks after the bombings ... the U.S. responded with force.

SOT PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

TODAY I ORDERED OUR ARMED FORCES TO STRIKE AT TERRORIST-RELATED FACILITIES IN AFGHANISTAN AND SUDAN.

VO AMANPOUR

In Sudan, the U.S. bombed what was supposed to be a chemical weapons plant.

BERGEN SOT

IT WAS A MISTAKE. IT WAS A PHARMACEUTICALS PLANT, AND THERE'S OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE FOR THAT BEING THE CASE.

VO AMANPOUR

In Afghanistan, the U-S target was bin Laden himself.

SOT PRESIDENT CLINTON

OUR FORCES TARGETED ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE TERRORIST BASES IN THE WORLD.
// WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A GATHERING OF KEY TERRORIST LEADERS WAS TO TAKE PLACE THERE TODAY.

VO AMANPOUR

But the U.S. would miss its target.

VO AMANPOUR

Abu Jandal was one of bin Laden's bodyguards in Afghanistan. In a rare recorded interview with the al-Quds al-Arabi newspaper, he described how bin Laden escaped the U.S. attack in the town of Khost.

SOT ABU JANDAL

I REMEMBER WHEN WE REACHED A CROSSROADS BETWEEN KHOST AND KABUL, BIN LADIN LOOKED AT ME AND SAID: "ABU JANDAL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, WHERE DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO? TO KHOST OR TO KABUL?" I TOLD HIM THAT WE SHOULD GO TO KABUL TO VISIT OUR COMRADES.

VO AMANPOUR

That chance decision saved bin Laden's life.

At the time of the U-S missiles attack, Prince Turki al Faisal, the head of Saudi intelligence, was pressing Afghanistan's government for bin Laden's extradition.

SOT TURKI AL FAISAL (currently Saudi ambassador to the U.S.)

I WENT THERE IN JUNE '98 AND I SPOKE TO MULLAH OMAR. INITIALLY HE WAS AMENABLE TO THE IDEA.

VO AMANPOUR

Mullah Omar was the leader of the Taliban ... a totalitarian regime that was fighting to turn Afghanistan into an uncompromising Islamic state. After the U.S. missile strikes, Prince Turki al Faisal met with Mullah Omar a second time.

SOT TURKI AL FAISAL

I WAS SENT BACK TO KANDAHAR, TO REMIND MULLAH OMAR OF HIS PROMISE. AND THIS TIME WHEN I, WHEN I DID THAT, MULLAH OMAR DENIED COMPLETELY THAT HE HAD MADE A PROMISE

SOT VAHID MOJDEH

MY NAME IS VAHID MOJDEH. I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN BETWEEN 1984 AND '85 IN PESHAWAR DURING THE JIHAD.

VO AMANPOUR

In the 1990s, Vahid Mojdeh worked in the Taliban's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I met him in Kabul, Afghanistan for his first interview on western television.

SOT AMANPOUR / MOJDEH

Amanpour:

HOW DID OSAMA BIN LADEN WIN THE SUPPORT AND THE BACKING OF THE TALIBAN LEADERSHIP?

Mojdeh:

OSAMA KNEW WHAT THE TALIBAN NEEDED. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THEY WANTED TOYOTA PICK UP TRUCKS ... OSAMA WOULD GIVE THEM TEN. THEN THE TALIBAN WOULD GO BACK AND TELL MULLAH OMAR THAT IT WAS OSAMA WHO WAS DONATING ALL THESE TRUCKS. // IN THIS WAY, BIN LADEN MADE HIMSELF EVEN CLOSER TO THE TALIBAN..

VO AMANPOUR

This is where, Mojdeh says, Osama bin Laden stayed when in Kabul ...

But bin Laden did not stay in this house or any place for very long.

SOT VAHID MOJDEH

OSAMA WAS CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE. AND HE WOULDN'T TALK ON A TELEPHONE, BECAUSE THERE WAS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING TARGETED.

VO AMANPOUR

In fact, bin Laden *was* a target. In 1996, Michael Scheuer helped create the CIA's "bin Laden unit" ... which pinpointed the al Qaeda leader's exact location on several occasions.

SOT MICHAEL SCHEUER

IN FACT, THE FIRST TIME WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAPTURE BIN LADEN, UH, EVERYTHING WAS ON TRACK UNTIL THEY SAW, UH, ... SOME SWING SET EQUIPMENT IN THE FARM WHERE ... WHERE BIN LADEN RESIDED. AND THEY SAID, 'OH GOD! THERE'S CHILDREN!' // THEY THOUGHT, 'OH MY GOD, WE'LL GET CRITICIZED IF WE DO THIS!'

VO AMANPOUR

So they didn't... Osama Bin Laden ... America's most wanted ... had escaped... and was free to continue his holy war against the United States.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks on the two U.S. embassies ... this man ... Abdal Rahim al Nashiri ... approached bin Laden with a new scheme.

Two years of planning followed. On October 7, 2000 ... In the Yemeni port of Aden ... two al Qaeda suicide bombers steered their small boat up to the USS Cole. Their bomb blew a gaping hole in the Navy destroyer and killed 17 American sailors.

SOT PRESIDENT CLINTON

TO THOSE WHO ATTACKED THEM WE SAY: YOU WILL NOT FIND A SAFE HARBOR. WE WILL FIND YOU AND JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL.

VO AMANPOUR

But the U-S did not retaliate ... and four months after the bombing of the Cole ... bin Laden praised his "holy warriors" at the wedding of his son in Afghanistan.

SOT BIN LADEN

IN ADEN, OUR YOUNG MEN ROSE UP... FOR OUR HOLY WAR. THEY DESTROYED THAT SHIP OF INJUSTICE.

VO AMANPOUR

Even then ... Osama bin Laden was already planning yet another attack ... more sinister ... more deadly ... than anyone ever imagined.

Act 10

SOT/VO MALIKA EL AROUD

MOST MUSLIMS LOVE HIM JUST LIKE I LOVE HIM MYSELF. // IT WAS OSAMA BIN LADEN WHO STOOD UP AGAINST THE BIGGEST ENEMY IN THE WORLD, THE UNITED STATES.

VO AMANPOUR

Malika el Aroud loves Osama bin Laden for the same reasons that inspire his followers around the world: Bin Laden's unquestioned piety, his choice of faith over fortune.

SOT MALIKA

HE SETS A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE, BECAUSE HE'S A MAN OF GREAT WEALTH WHO SHARED HIS MONEY AND KNEW TO SAY, VOILA, HERE, THIS ISN'T MINE.

VO AMANPOUR

Malika el Aroud was living in Belgium when she first saw Osama bin Laden ... on her television. His image mesmerized her, and her husband, Abdessater Dahmane.

SOT MALIKA

HE WAS WATCHING, AND WAS MESMERIZED // THERE WAS A FASCINATION, A LOVE. IT WAS VERY CLEAR. // AND I FELT THE SAME. // AH, OSAMA HAD A BEAUTY IN HIS FACE // IT IS A STUNNING FACE

SOT BIN LADEN

OH GOD, GIVE US THE PATIENCE AND GLORY, OH GOD GIVE US VICTORY OVER THE INFIDELS, OH GOD THE DEFENDER OF BELIEVERS

SOT MALIKA

WHEN YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, IT MAKES YOU WANT TO STAND UP RIGHT AWAY AND LEAVE. AND JOIN HIM.

VO AMANPOUR

And that's what her husband did when he traveled to Afghanistan in 2000. Malika el Aroud followed the next year.

Life with bin Laden meant living "without".

SOT/VO MALIKA

THERE WERE WINDOWS WITHOUT // GLASS. JUST A BIG HOLE IN THE WALL. AND IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF WINTER. THERE WAS NO BATHROOM, NO KITCHEN // WE REALLY THOUGHT WE HAD GONE BACK, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY CENTURIES, MAYBE BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGES

VO AMANPOUR

Her husband, who had spent 6 months in al Qaeda training camps ... was given a secret, deadly assignment – one that would move bin Laden closer to his ultimate goal.

SOT/VO MALIKA

HE TOLD ME HE'D BE HOME IN 15 DAYS.

VO AMANPOUR

That would be the last time she would ever see him.

SOT BAKER ATYANI (journalist)

MY NAME IS BAKR ATYANI. AND I MET WITH BIN LADEN ON THE TWENTY FIRST OF JUNE, 2001 IN KANDAHAR CITY, AFGHANISTAN.

VO AMANPOUR

In the summer of 2001, Baker Atyani was working for the Middle East Broadcasting Center in Pakistan when Al Qaeda contacted him and made him an offer: an interview with bin Laden. Atyani was taken to Kandahar.

SOT BAKER ATYANI

AND WHEN I ENTER THE ROOM YES OSAMA WAS THERE. // HE STAND UP AND HE SHAKE HANDS. AND HE SAID WELCOME.

VO AMANPOUR

Also there -- the Egyptian -- Ayman al Zawahari.

SOT BAKER ATYANI

Amanpour:

WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION OF AYMAN AL-ZAWAHARI?

Atyani:

I DON'T BELIEVE AYMAN AL ZAWAHARI IS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OSAMA BIN LADEN. #THE IMPRESSION WHICH I REALLY I GOT FROM THE MEETING THAT THEY HAVE TWO LEADERS AT THE SAME PLACE.

Amanpour:

SO THEY'RE EQUALS.

Atyani:

IT LOOKS LIKE THAT THEY'RE EQUAL BECAUSE EVERYONE IS HAVING THEIR OWN POINT OF VIEW.

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden told Atyani that he could not do the interview because his hosts, the Taliban, did not want him making incendiary public statements. But bin Laden and Zawahiri *did* sit for this photo opportunity. And they had a message -- a warning bin Laden wanted Baker Atyani to broadcast to the world.

SOT BAKER ATYANI

Atyani:

THEY SAID // NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL CARRY A BIG SURPRISE. WE WILL TARGET AMERICAN AND ISRAELI INSTALLATIONS // 3:30 NOW OSAMA HIMSELF LOOKS LIKE WAS HE WAS VERY HAPPY. AND UH HE SMILED.

Amanpour:

AND WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO THIS?

Atyani:

WELL, I THINK IT WAS A BIG NEWS. // I TOLD MY UH CHANNEL THAT HIS FOLLOWERS WERE TELLING ME THAT THE COFFIN BUSINESS WILL INCREASE IN THE STATES, THE UNITED STATES.

VO AMANPOUR

That warning was broadcast a little more than two months before the attacks on 9 – 11.

August 6th -- President George Bush received this highly classified memo: "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in US". In it, this paragraph:

"... FBI information since that time indicates patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijackings or other types of attacks, including recent Surveillance of federal buildings in New York"

VO AMANPOUR

Then, on September 9th -- in Afghanistan -- a final hint that bin Laden was about to keep his promise ... the assassination of Ahmad Shah Massoud -- the legendary leader of a formidable Afghan militia -- the Northern Alliance.

BERGEN SOT (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

MASSOUD WAS A BRILLIANT MILITARY COMMANDER . SOMEBODY WHO WAS FIGHTING THE SOVIETS VERY SUCCESSFULLY DURING THE EIGHTIES. SOMEBODY THAT BOTH BIN LADEN AND THE TALIBAN SAW AS A THREAT TO THEM, THIS CHARISMATIC BRILLIANT MILITARY COMMANDER. AND IN FACT, HE WAS THE LAST OBSTACLE THAT STOOD BETWEEN THE TALIBAN TAKING OVER THE WHOLE OF AFGHANISTAN BECAUSE HE KEPT FIGHTING THEM TO THE BITTER END.

VO AMANPOUR

Two men claiming to be television reporters arranged an interview with Massoud. They were suicide bombers, armed with explosives. One had them strapped to his body -- the other hidden in the camera.

SOT BERGEN

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT BIN LADEN ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF MASSOUD. // HE KNEW THAT THE 9/11 ATTACKS WOULD LIKELY PROVOKE SOME KIND OF AMERICAN REACTION AND HE NEEDED THE TALIBAN TO PROTECT HIM, SO WHAT HE GAVE THEM WAS THE ONE THING THEY DESIRED MOST, WHICH WAS MASSOUD'S HEAD ON A PLATE.

VO AMANPOUR

The explosion killed Massoud. It also killed one of the two attackers -- the cameraman. The other assassin was executed by Massoud's men. He was Abdessater Dahmane ... Malika el Aroud's husband. This had been his secret mission, and she was very proud.

SOT/VO MALIKA

OF COURSE IT'S A HEROIC ACT. // IT WAS A VERY COURAGEOUS ACT // PEOPLE CAME FROM FAR AWAY TO CONGRATULATE ME, TO HOLD ME IN THEIR ARMS, // IT'S THE PINNACLE IN ISLAM TO BE THE WIDOW OF A MARTYR. // IT'S EXTRAORDINARY

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden himself covered her husband's debts.

SOT/VO MALIKA

I RECEIVED A PAYMENT. // THE PERSON WHO GAVE ME THE ENVELOPE SAID THAT IT WAS FROM SHEIKH OSAMA.

VO AMANPOUR

Two Al Qaeda agents had calmly taken their own lives to kill Ahmad Shah Massoud.

And two days later, 19 other al-Qaeda terrorists would carry out bin Laden's promise to America.

Act 11

NAT SOT 9/11 MONTAGE

SOT BIN LADEN

THIS IS AMERICA... FILLED WITH FEAR

9/11 IMAGES

SOT BIN LADEN

FROM THE NORTH TO SOUTH AND EAST TO WEST.

9/11 IMAGES

SOT BIN LADEN

THANK YOU GOD.

9/11 NAT SOT building collapsing

VO AMANPOUR

September 11th, 2001--Osama bin Laden brings his bloody Holy war to America... A plan hatched years before. Nineteen al Qaeda members... four hijacked planes... a suicide mission that killed some three thousand people in New York... Washington D.C. ... and Pennsylvania ...

SOT BIN LADEN

WE CALCULATED IN ADVANCE THE NUMBER OF ENEMY CASUALTIES // I WAS THE MOST OPTIMISTIC OF THEM ALL

VO AMANPOUR

Osama bin Laden had once again made good on his threats...

SOT PETER BERGEN (CNN Terrorism Analyst)

BIN LADEN BELIEVES THAT HE IS DOING GOD'S WILL AND THAT IF HE DOESN'T DO WHAT HE'S DOING, THAT GOD WILL PUNISH HIM. // HE GENUINELY BELIEVES THAT GOD IS TELLING HIM WHAT TO DO.

VO AMANPOUR

Two months after 9-11, Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir interviewed Osama bin Laden near Kabul. It was the terrorist leader's only print interview since the attacks...

SOT HAMID MIR

Mir:

IN THAT INTERVIEW, UH, HIS MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO CONVEY A MESSAGE THAT, “THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE WAR. THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.” HE WAS SAYING IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

Amanpour:

HOW DID HE SEEM? WAS HE NERVOUS WAS HE ANXIOUS? DID HE LOOK LIKE HE WAS HUNTED?

Mir:

HE WAS NOT NERVOUS. HE WAS VERY CONFIDENT. SMILING.

VO AMANPOUR

Other 9-11 conspirators also sought out the media... Yosri Fouda ... the London bureau chief for Al Jazeera television was working on this documentary ... when an anonymous phone caller offered him a stunning exclusive.

SOT YOSRI FOUDA

THEY WOULDN'T SAY EXACTLY WHAT UH THIS SORT OF UH EXCLUSIVE STUFF WOULD BE // I SAID, “YES, I WOULD BE INTERESTED

NAT AL JAZEERA DOCUMENTARY

Fouda: ...

“SOMEONE CALLED ME AND SAID ‘GET ON A PLANE AND COME TO KARACHI.’ (SHORT PAUSE) I FOLLOWED THE ORDERS I WAS GIVEN.”

VO AMANPOUR

In Karachi, Fouda was blindfolded ... and driven to a building where his promised “exclusive” would be revealed.

NAT AL JAZEERA DOCUMENTARY

Fouda:

“AS I STOOD AT THE DOORSTEP, I REALIZED THAT THE MAN OPENING THE DOOR WAS NONE OTHER THAN (PAUSE TO EMPHASIZE UPCOMING NAME) KHALID SHEIKH MOHAMMED.”

SOT YOSRI FOUDA

KHALED, SHEIKH MOHAMMED INTRODUCED HIMSELF FIRST AS THE HEAD OF UM, AL-QAEDA, MILITARY COMMITTEE. AND THEN HE INTRODUCED RAMZI BINALSHIBH AS THE COORDINATOR OF UH SEPTEMBER 11.

VO AMANPOUR

Khaled Sheikh Mohammed – who’d studied engineering at a college in the United States – conceived the 9/11 attacks.

SOT YOSRI FOUDA

IN THE BEGINNING THEY DID CONSIDER TARGETING UM, A COUPLE OF UH NUCLEAR FACILITIES // THEY SAID, “WELL, WE CONSIDERED IT IN THE BEGINNING, BUT WE DECIDED NOT TO DO IT FOR NOW

VO AMANPOUR

Ramzi Binalshibh explained to Fouda that the targets were symbolic ... that the World Trade Center symbolized American economic domination.

SOT YOSRI FOUDA

AND THE PENTAGON WOULD BE THE SYMBOL OF UH THE MILITARY MIGHT OF AMERICA. CAPITOL HILL THE SYMBOL OF DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA.

VO AMANPOUR

Khaled Shiekh Mohammed had approached Osama bin Laden back in 1996 with the idea of hijacking planes and slamming them into U-S buildings. During the next five years of planning... bin Laden was involved in almost every detail.

SOT PETER BERGEN

HE SELECTED WHO THE LEAD HIJACKERS WERE GOING TO BE, HE SELECTED UH THE MAIN TARGETS, AND WHILE HE ALLOWED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE ATTACKS, UM, IT WAS YEAH, HE WAS CALLING THE SHOTS.

NAT SOT U.S. ATTACK TALIBAN

U.S. blitz the Taliban starting Oct. 7

VO AMANPOUR

On October 7th, the United States struck back... with lightning success... Afghanistan was overrun in weeks...

SOT PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

OUR MILITARY FORCES AND THE FORCES OF OUR ALLIES AND MANY AFGHANS SEEKING A BETTER FUTURE ARE LIBERATING AFGHANISTAN.

SOT BERGEN

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF INTERNAL CRITICISM WITHIN AL-QAEDA ABOUT THE 9/11 ATTACKS. THIS MAY BE SURPRISING I THINK TO MOST PEOPLE, BUT AL QAEDA INSIDERS WERE SAYING, YOU KNOW, THIS WAS A TACTICAL SUCCESS, BUT A STRATEGIC DISASTER. WE LOST OUR BASE IN AFGHANISTAN, WE, YOU KNOW, THE TALIBAN NO LONGER EXISTS MORE OR LESS, THE GROUP HAS BEEN VERY MUCH DAMAGED // BIN LADEN'S SON, OMAR, LEFT HIM // HE BASICALLY SAID TO HIS FATHER, THESE ATTACKS WERE DUMB, THEY WERE STUPID, WE'VE GOT THIS 800 LB GORILLA AFTER US NOW AND IN FACT I'M GOING TO LEAVE. AND HE LEFT AFGHANISTAN, AND HE WENT TO SAUDI ARABIA. AND HE'S BASICALLY I THINK WASHED HIS HANDS OF HIS FATHER.

VO AMANPOUR

On November 12, Kabul was overtaken by an Afghan militia allied with the United States. The Taliban were routed. And bin Laden ran to the one refuge he knew best ... the Afghan mountains.

SOT BERGEN

AS THE TALIBAN WERE FALLING, BIN LADEN WENT TO TORA BORA. AND IT'S NOT SUPRISING HE DID THAT. TORA BORA IS VERY DEFENSEABLE, IT'S 10,000 FEET UP, IT'S A PLACE HE KNEW VERY WELL. HE'S YOU KNOW BEEN GOING IN AND OUT OF THAT AREA FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.

VO AMANPOUR

In the 1990s One newspaper reporter was given a rare glimpse of bin Laden's mountain hideaway.

SOT ABDEL BARI ATWAN

MY NAME IS ABDEL BARI ATWAN. UH I MET OSAMA BIN LADEN IN AFGHANISTAN IN TORA BORA IN NOVEMBER 1996.

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden allowed Abdel Bari Atwan – editor-in-chief of the London-based al-Quds al-Arabi -- to shoot photographs.

SOT BARI ATWAN

HE LOVED TORA BORA BECAUSE HE FELT SAFE IN TORA BORA. THE CAVE ACTUALLY WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO ROOMS. THE FIRST ROOM WAS SOMETHING LIKE A LIVING ROOM YOU HAVE UH BEDS AND MATS ON THE FLOOR. AND YOU HAVE SHELVES OF BOOKS // MOST OF IT THEOLOGICAL BOOKS.

HE TOLD ME THAT HE FEELS SAFE IN THIS, UH, UH, CAVES. HE KNOWS IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ANYBODY TO COME AND, UH, FOLLOW HIM THERE

VO AMANPOUR

But bin Laden was wrong. He was followed ... tracked by U.S. intelligence and Afghan militias.

They had Osama bin Laden in their sights. He was cornered ... or so they thought.

Act 12

VO AMANPOUR

December 2001... A relentless bombing campaign... air strikes thundered through the treacherous mountains of eastern Afghanistan... The Battle of Tora Bora had begun. Osama bin Laden... the jackal of 9/11 and hundreds of al-Qaeda fighters had finally been cornered...

Or so it seemed...

BERNTSEN SOT (Former CIA Officer)

"WE BROUGHT IN SPECTOR GUN SHIPS, WHICH CAN PUT A BULLET ON EVERY INCH OF A FOOTBALL FIELD..."

VO AMANPOUR

Gary Berntsen was the leader of a secret CIA-paramilitary unit that had pursued bin Laden since he had fled Kabul. And now—the CIA was sure it knew where he was... thanks in large part to a radio taken off a dead al-Qaeda fighter...

BERNTSEN SOT

“WE LISTENED TO BIN LADEN FOR SEVERAL DAYS, USING THAT RADIO, LISTENING TO HIS COMMUNICATIONS AMONG HIM AND HIS MEN. WE LISTENED TO HIM APOLOGIZE TO THEM// FOR HAVING LED THEM INTO THIS TRAP. HAVING LED THEM INTO A LOCATION WHERE THEY WERE HAVING AIR STRIKES CALLED ON THEM JUST RELENTLESSLY’

VO AMANPOUR

More than two weeks of heavy bombing... solid intelligence ... But... somehow... somehow... it wasn't enough...

BERGEN SOT

“THE POLICY OF USING A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF U.S. SPECIAL FORCES ON THE GROUND, CALLING IN AIR STRIKES AND A LARGE NUMBER OF AFGHAN GROUND TROOPS WORKED BRILLIANTLY OVERTHROWING THE TALIBAN. BUT AT THE BATTLE OF TORA BORA IT WAS A TOTAL DISASTER”

AMANPOUR STANDUP

“THE PLAN WAS FOR AFGHAN AND PAKISTANI SOLDIERS TO BLOCK ANY ESCAPE ROUTES...

BUT OSAMA BIN LADEN MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS. AND THE MISSION TO CAPTURE OR KILL THE AL-QAEDA LEADER FAILED.

BY MOST ACCOUNTS, THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS NOT ENOUGH AMERICAN SOLDIERS ON THE GROUND...”

BERGEN SOT

“BY MY CALCULATION, THERE WERE MORE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS THAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS AT THE BATTLE OF TORA BORA—AND THAT FACT KIND OF SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.”

VO AMANPOUR

Also hunting bin Laden in Tora Bora... then Afghan militia leader—General Mohammed Zahir.

SOT ZAHIR

AMANPOUR:

“DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY AMERICAN SOLDIERS WERE AT THE BATTLE OF TORA BORA?”

ZAHIR:

“THERE WAS NOT MORE THAN 50, 60 I THINK. YEAH. THERE WAS NOT MORE AT THAT TIME.”

VO AMANPOUR

Osama bin Laden... the most wanted man in the world... once again got away...

VO AMANPOUR

What we know of bin Laden today... 5 years later... is gleaned from the numerous videos and audio messages that he and al-Qaeda have released since 9/11...

Bin Laden’s words... his threats... vitriolic rants to most Americans ... but to those who know him... to those who have chased him... bin Laden’s speeches and missives carry great meaning... and ominous revelations...

SCHEUER SOT (Former head of the CIA “Bin Laden” unit)

“I THINK PART OF THE REASON THAT THERE HASN’T BEEN AN ATTACK SINCE NINE-ELEVEN IS THAT HE WAS CRITICIZED AMONG HIS PEERS FOR THE ATTACK OF 9-11.”

VO

Criticized by fellow extremists for NOT following—as they see it--the guidance of the holy prophet Mohammed for attacking an enemy...

SCHEUER SOT

“SO HE’S SPENT THE LAST FOUR YEARS VERY MUCH ADDRESSING THOSE ISSUES WITH HIS AUDIENCE IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD. // FROM THE MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE, THE PROPHET ALWAYS DEMANDED THAT BEFORE YOU ATTACK SOMEONE, YOU WARN THEM..... AND YOU OFFER THEM A CHANCE TO CONVERT TO ISLAM ”

VO

And that’s exactly what bin Laden later did.

BIN LADEN SOT

I AM CALLING YOU TO THE PATH OF HAPPINESS ON EARTH ... TO REASCUE YOU ... I’M CALLING ON YOU TO FOLLOW ISLAM.

SCHEUER SOT

BIN LADEN ON THREE OCCASIONS – ZAWAHARI ON TWO OCCASIONS – HAVE OFFERED TO ... TO BE OUR GUIDES IN A CONVERSION TO ISLAM, SAYING THAT EVERYTHING IS FORGIVEN IF YOU CONVERT.

VO AMANPOUR

Scheuer says bin Laden also believes he’s fulfilled the prophet’s last requirement for launching another – even *more massive* -- attack.... a religious blessing to kill millions of Americans ...with weapons of mass destruction.

SCHEUER SOT

“A JUDGMENT FROM A YOUNG // CLERIC, IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE MUJAHIDEEN, WRITTEN LARGE, TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES UH CAPPING THE CASUALTIES AT TEN MILLION.”

AMANPOUR:

HE'S HAD A, AN APPROVAL, A RELIGIOUS APPROVAL FOR TEN MILLION DEATHS?

SCHEUR:

YES.

VO AMANPOUR

Even on the run... bin Laden remains the most powerful force in militant Islam... his influence all too apparent in the deadly bombings in Madrid in 2004...

...in London in 2005...

...And in the on-going bloodshed unleashed by al-Qaeda in Iraq...

The U.S. may have killed Al Qaeda's head man in Iraq ...Abu Musab al-Zarqawi....but bin Laden continues to taunt the United States....threatening revenge for Zarqawi's death....

anointing his successor...

and -- for the first time -- calling for Sunni violence against Shiites, whom he calls traitors and agents of the United States.

BIN LADEN SOT

THOSE WHO HOPE TO PERSUADE THESE APOSTATES (SHIITES)...ARE FOOLISH... THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THEIR AGGRESSION IS BY FIGHTING THEM.

VO AMANPOUR

But what if bin Laden were eliminated? What then?

BERGEN SOT

“I THINK IN THE SHORT TERM THERE WOULD BE A LOT OF ANTI-WESTERN, ANTI-AMERICAN REPRISALS FROM THE JIHADIST MOVEMENT AROUND THE WORLD. IN THE MEDIUM TERM, I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING TO WHAT REMAINS OF AL-QAEDA—THE ORGANIZATION. IN THE LONGER TERM, I THINK IT WOULD GIVE A TREMENDOUS BOOST TO THE POWER OF BIN LADEN'S IDEAS BECAUSE THIS IDEA OF 'MARTYRDOM' IS SUCH A POWERFUL ONE//I THINK IT WOULD INCREASE THAT MYTHICAL PERSONA.”

VO AMANPOUR

Bin Laden has long vowed that he will never be captured alive. Abu Jandal was once Osama's chief bodyguard. In a rare recorded interview with an Arabic newspaper, Jandal recounts bin Laden's strict orders to him...

JANDAL SOT (AUDIO ONLY)

“SHEIK OSAMA GAVE ME A PISTOL TO USE IN CASE HE WAS ABOUT TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS. THE PISTOL HAD JUST TWO BULLETS IN ORDER TO KILL HIM SO THAT HE WILL NEVER BE TAKEN ALIVE.”

AMANPOUR STAND UP

“DEAD OR ALIVE, WHAT WILL THE FUTURE OF OSAMA BIN LADEN’S JIHAD LOOK LIKE?

THOSE WHO KNOW HIM BELIEVE THAT HIS HOLY WAR AND THE VIOLENCE IT’S IGNITED WILL CONTINUE LONG AFTER HE’S GONE.
AND ALL OVER THE WORLD, PEOPLE ARE WONDERING WHERE HE WILL STRIKE NEXT.

BIN LADEN HIMSELF IS ALREADY WRITING THE NEXT CHAPTER. HE WANTS HIS OWN CHILDREN TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT...

VO AMANPOUR

From one generation to the next... a legacy of terror... For Osama bin Laden... His Holy War... is far... far... from over...

BERGEN SOT

“I THINK MOST MUSLIMS DON’T WANT TO LIVE IN A SORT OF BIN LADEN STYLE ISLAMIST UTOPIA. BUT I THINK BIN LADEN HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING A THOUSAND OTHER BIN LADENS. A GLOBAL JIHADIST MOVEMENT WHICH WE WILL BE DELAING WITH FOR AT LEAST A GENERATION.

SOT

Justice against my people all over the world

SOT

What you have witnessed now is only the beginning

BIN LADEN SOT

“YOU—THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO AVOID ANOTHER CATASTROPHE... // WE WANT TO RECLAIM OUR NATION. AS YOU SPOIL OUR SECURITY... WE WILL SPOIL YOURS...”

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