

**Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI**

**From:** Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 9:03 PM  
**To:** Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Flournoy, Michèle A HON OSD POLICY; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; Thomas F. Vietor (b)(6) Lapan, David COL OSD PA; Benjamin J. Rhodes (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Rangel, Robert CIV SD  
 Re: This a problem....

Josh has confused several things however there was some further clarity later in the day adding to a fuller understanding. I will give you a call.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 08:46 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Flournoy, Michèle A HON OSD POLICY; Wilson, Douglas HON OSD PA; 'Vietor, Tommy' <Thomas F. Vietor (b)(6)> Whitman, Bryan SES OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; 'Rhodes, Benjamin J.' <Benjamin J. Rhodes (b)(6)> Rangel, Robert CIV SD  
**Subject:** This a problem....

Can we make sense of this?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Josh Gerstein [<mailto:igerstein@politico.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 8:42 PM  
**To:** Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA  
**Subject:** clarifications re: weapon and woman killed in UBL raid

Geoff:

We're putting up a story tonight about some clarifications from the White House to earlier briefings on the UBL raid.

Brennan said earlier: "He [bin Laden] was engaged in a firefight with those that entered the area of the house he was in. And whether or not he got off any rounds, I quite frankly don't know,

At a Pentagon briefing earlier in the day, a senior defense official said bin Laden used a woman as a human shield in order to fire shots. "He was firing behind her," the official said.

However, during a background, off-camera briefing for television reporters later Monday, a senior White House official said Bin Laden was not armed when he was shot and a White House official told us: "I'm not aware of him having a weapon."

Also there seems to be some confusion about who acted as a human shield for UBL, if anyone, and whether that individual was killed.

At the on-the record briefing, Brennan as "my understanding" that a woman who acted as a shield for Bin Laden was killed and was one of his wives.

However, at the TV reporters' briefing a senior official said the woman killed was not bin Laden's wife. "A different guy's wife was killed," an official familiar with the briefing said Monday night. Bin Laden's wife was "injured but not killed." It's now unclear who if anyone acted as a human shield.

Also can you provide any clarity on how UBL could have resisted or "engaged in a fire fight" without taking up or grabbing for a weapon?

Thanks

--Josh

Josh Gerstein

Reporter

POLITICO

703-647-7684 (o)

703-980-5029 (c)

**Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI**

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**From:** Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 6:14 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** Raycom News Service story

Sir, Updated story is out there without names. Vr/Bob

Couriers led US to bin Laden compound

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp%3F5%3D14551639&ct=ga&ad=CAcOAhgAIAAoATAAQABA7oP77ORIAVgBYgJlbg&cd=KK7S1M6tpqE&usg=AFQjCNFhmkCutffQL1oavRZF7 FCrNHDHw>

WTOL.com

Bin Laden resisted the assault force and was killed in a fire fight, according to Mike Vickers, under secretary of defense for intelligence. ...

Commander Bob Mehal  
Public Affairs Officer  
Defense Press Operations  
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)  
Washington, DC 20301-1400  
(703) 697-4162

**Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI**

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**From:** Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 6:01 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** Talking Points

The successful operation that resulted in the death of **Usama bin Laden** was made possible by the extraordinary operational cooperation between the intelligence community -- CIA in particular -- and the Department of Defense. This level of integration would have been unthinkable when I was DCI.

Our special operators had to adjust their plan within fractions of a second on the objective. They did so seamlessly. The raid was conducted with extraordinary precision and care with minor collateral damage.

One special operator performed an incredible act of courage and sacrifice. As he approached where **Usama bin Laden** was located on the third floor of the residence, **UBL** ducked back into the room. When the operator arrived at the room, two of **UBL's** daughters rushed toward him. Thinking that the girls were suicide bombers, the operator grabbed them and rushed them to the back of the room away from his teammates coming behind him. While the girls turned out not to be suicide bombers, he did not know that at the time. The girls were later released unharmed.

**Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI**

**From:** Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 5:13 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Cc:** Marrs, James R BrigGen OSD OUSDI; Lowery, Todd R CIV OSD OUSDI; (b)(3) 50 USC § 403  
 SES OSD PA; Morrell, Geoff Mr OSD PA; Lapan, David COL OSD PA; (b)(6)  
 James, Darryn C CAPT OSD PA; Turner, James Mr OSD PA; (b)(6)  
 (b)(6) Gregory, James LTC OSD PA  
**Subject:** FW: ALERT: Please remove  
**Importance:** High

Sir, Corrective action is being taken. This was the result of last night's conf call. Wire service ran the story and various outlets picked it up (i.e., PSU, etc..) Vr/Bob

CDR Bob Mehal  
OASD(PA)  
703-697-4162

**From:** Jones, Michelle  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 3:35 PM  
**To:** Jones, Michelle  
**Subject:** ALERT: Please remove  
**Importance:** High

**ATTENTION ALL RAYCOM INTERNET CONTENT:**

This story was changed last night to remove the name of a sensitive source. If you have an old version of this story, for example, if you COPIED the story instead of assigning it to your site, PLEASE REMOVE THE STORY FROM YOUR SITE ASAP.

The name of the source that was removed from the story was to be used on background only. Exposing his name compromises his safety.

Here is the story number and headline:

U.S. tracked couriers to bin Laden compound  
<http://www.raycomnewsnetwork.com/story/14551639/us-tracked-couriers-to-bin-laden-compound>

If you have assigned the story directly, the story has been updated and it is fine.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Thanks,  
Michelle

Michelle Jones  
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
 RNN Digital Hub  
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 (b)(6)  
 (Hub) 334.229.0320  
[http://home/newrdg/RAYCOM\\_CORPORATE\\_LOGO\\_DATABASE/Raycom\\_color.jpg](http://home/newrdg/RAYCOM_CORPORATE_LOGO_DATABASE/Raycom_color.jpg)  
 Raycom Media Corporate Office  
 RSA Tower, 201 Monroe Street

Montgomery, AL 36104

**Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI**

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**From:** Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 4:08 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. tracked couriers to bin laden compound

Sir, Let me try and walk these back. From what I can tell they were written from the conference call arranged by the WH/NSS.

Vr/  
Bob

Commander Bob Mehal  
Public Affairs Officer  
Defense Press Operations  
1400 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2D961)  
Washington, DC 20301-1400  
(703) 697-4162

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 3:38 PM  
**To:** Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA  
**Subject:** Fw: U.S. tracked couriers to bin laden compound

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Sent from my wireless handheld

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 02:24 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** U.S. tracked couriers to bin laden compound

names you and morell. you need to make them take it down and erase all copies of it. your pa ppl also need to look at all the others, there are many.

<http://www.myfoxa1.com/story/14551639/us-tracked-couriers-to-bin-laden-compound?clienttype=printable&redirected=true>

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**Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI**

**From:** Dempsey, Jack M DISES OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 3:27 PM  
**To:** Ferguson, Thomas A CIV, OSD OUSDI  
**Cc:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI; Marrs, James R BrigGen OSD OUSDI; Smith, Heidi A CIV, OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) OSD OUSDI; Weinstein, Douglas E Mr OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) Maj OSD OUSDI; Borowec, Katherine L CIV OSD OUSDI; Dempsey, Jack M DISES OSD OUSDI; Dreuth, Louise Ms OSD OUSDI; Fitzpatrick, Kelly M DISL OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) CTR, OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) CTR OSD OUSDI; Kozik, David A Mr OSD OUSDI; Mehal, Robert S CDR OSD PA; Millard-Harkema, Elizabeth Ms CIV OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) OSD OUSDI; Willard, S.R. DISL OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) OSD OUSDI; Koziol, Craig LtGen OSD OUSDI; Matthews, Thomas E DISES OSD OUSDI; Wenchel, Rosemary S DISES OSD OUSDI; Allen, Rebecca J DISL OSD OUSDI; Burgess, Laurence K SIS OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) CTR OSD OUSDI; Greene, Gus E DISL OSD OUSDI; Hyde, Reginald D SES OSD OUSDI; Johnson, Virginia, CIV, DISL, DSS; (b)(6) COL USA OSD OUSDI; Sullivan, Troy DISES OSD OUSDI; Voelker, Laura DISES OSD OUSDI; Lyons, Steve W DISL OSD OUSDI; Martin, James R DISES OSD OUSDI; Meiners, Kevin CIV OSD OUSDI; Montgomery, Robert DISL OSD OUSDI; (b)(6) CTR OSD OUSDI; Tuilar, Misty SES OSD OUSDI

**Subject:** HPSCI Chair Mike Rogers Praises Obama on bin Laden Capture

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6) Mr OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 2:17 PM

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ABC's Sara Just reports:

Republican House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-MI, says that when the special forces unit that conducted the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound found out who they were training to target on the mission, they let out an enormous cheer.

"We allowed these folks to train so that when they showed up they felt like they knew this place better than their own houses in some cases," Rogers said during an interview on ABC's Top Line. "There is nobody in the world better than our special forces community and they proved it again yesterday and they prove it every day in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The Republican congressman had nothing but praise for President Obama about the way the raid of Osama bin Laden's compound was carried out and the way Congressional Republicans were informed in the planning.

"All of the hours of arguing over budgeting and the things we debate at times all get washed away when it comes to getting the #1 bad guy in the world," he said.

Rogers said he and other members of the committee were first told about the bin Laden compound in January, shortly after he became chairman when Republicans took leadership of the House.

"We were briefed all along the way. The administration allowed us to weigh in on the debate about what we thought was the way to go about it. There were different plans, as you would imagine, about best way to approach this," Rogers said. "I give the administration credit on making the decision on going to act when they saw what was a good piece of intelligence."



Rogers was even more effusive in his praise of the intelligence services that diligently pursued Osama's capture. He noted that after years of criticism that the intelligence community did not share information and communicate effectively amongst itself, the bin Laden raid underscored just the opposite.

"Are we playing well in the intelligence business? Today I think the answer is clearly yes," Rogers said.

"This is a powerful moment. This is really the proof that the United States doesn't forget, the US won't give up and if you're involved in the slaughter of one or two or 3,000 of our citizens, we will be relentless in finding you and bringing you to justice," Rogers said.

But Rogers, who as chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is privy to some of the most highly classified information about the terrorist threat, acknowledged that the threat from al Qaeda and its loyalists is not eliminated by bin Laden's death.

"He was the titular head of al Qaeda and inspirational leader. He would come out with videos... and still had lots of cache within the movement of al Qaeda and so clearly this helps our cause," Rogers said, "It moves us one step closer to being safer but, we remember that there is someone already ready to step into his place, al Zawahiri... but any time we can disrupt the planners and operators it's a good day."

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 2:33 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** this one has the reporters email;

let me just say im extremely uneasy and unhappy at a personal level having this stuff out there. it is the fault of the pa people who let in child reporters who they didnt vet/dont know/shouldnt have trusted to respect terms. what do we do now?

**U.S. tracked couriers to bin laden compound**

Posted: May 02, 2011 2:17 AM EDT  
Monday, May 2, 2011 2:17 AM EST  
Updated: May 02, 2011 5:28 AM EDT  
Monday, May 2, 2011 5:28 AM EST  
By Joseph Neese - email <<mailto:jneese@raycommedia.com>>  
<<http://images.worldnow.com/RAYCOMGROUP/images/14551639 BG1.jpg>>

Osama bin Laden tried to resist U.S. fire, according to defense officials. (Source: CNN)<<http://images.worldnow.com/RAYCOMGROUP/images/14551639 BG1.jpg>> Osama bin Laden tried to resist U.S. fire, according to defense officials. (Source: CNN) WASHINGTON (RNN) - Senior Obama administration officials said U.S. forces were led to Osama bin Laden's million-dollar compound by two male couriers, both of whom were killed in the firefight that killed bin Laden.

According to a conference call with reporters in which defense officials released a more detailed account of the operation, the 40-minute attack was carried out early Sunday morning by what the officials called a "small U.S. team" with at least two aircraft.

While the officials would not say if the team was composed of military or CIA operativ

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 2:28 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** WATANDOST: A Blog About Pakistan and its Neighborhood: Latest: How Osama was taken out?

it's already in blogosphere as ppl copy the stories they find elsewhere

<http://watandost.blogspot.com/2011/05/latest-how-osama-was-taken-out.html>

**Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI**

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2011 2:27 PM  
**To:** Vickers, Michael G HON OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** U.S. tracked couriers to bin Laden compound - 14 WFIE, Evansville, Henderson, Owensboro

more copies of this same sty. it is by RNN whatever that is. they need to pull it all back and quickly. but damage may be done already.

<http://www.14wfie.com/story/14551639/us-tracked-couriers-to-bin-laden-compound?clienttype=printable>