

Messages from bin Laden revive questions

Because he rarely moves in both videos, many are curious about his health and location

BY LEE KEATH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, Egypt — Two messages from Osama bin Laden in a matter of days have revived the game of questions over his health and whereabouts, but they also made clear he is al-Qaida's propaganda "top gun," able to draw attention in the West and strike a chord among sympathizers.

In a new video released Tuesday, bin Laden's voice was heard commemorating one of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers and calling on young Muslims to follow his example in martyring themselves in attacks.

It came on the heels of a video released Saturday containing the first new images of the terror movement's leader in nearly three years. It showed him urging Americans to convert to Islam and railing against capitalism, globalization and democracy as failed philosophies.

Both releases on Web sites used by Islamic extremists may in part be an attempt to use bin Laden's charisma to win over

supporters in an audience of growing importance for al-Qaida — Muslim converts and immigrants from Muslim countries living in the West, particularly Europe.

Militants from both groups have been implicated in several plots inside Europe in recent years, and the anti-globalization rhetoric could be aimed at giving disenchanted Muslims there further reason to join his cause, along with his traditional condemnation of U.S. policy in the Mideast.

The two videos, timed to mark the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, also made a splash in the U.S. at a time when the presidential campaign and falling support for the war in Iraq have prompted a debate on how America should be fighting terrorism.

Presidential candidates weighed in on the question of whether the man President Bush once vowed to take "dead or alive" remains a threat.

Republican Fred Thompson called bin Laden a "symbolic" fig-



Photo courtesy of Intel Center

This frame grab taken from an undated video message carrying the logo of al-Qaida's production house As-Sahab and provided Tuesday by IntelCenter, a U.S. government contractor monitoring al-Qaida messaging, shows Osama bin Laden raising his finger while speaking.

ure, while Rudolph Giuliani insisted the al-Qaida leader needed to be taken down.

U.S. intelligence agencies, meanwhile, are poring over bin

Laden's messages, looking for clues to the 50-year-old's health and location.

Little was immediately evident, except for bin Laden's new

beard — dyed a dark black from the mostly gray of previous videos.

The images in Saturday's video were clearly recent — made at least since June, because bin Laden mentioned British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who took office that month, and perhaps done as recently as early August.

Because bin Laden's image moves for only a few minutes in the first tape and not at all in the second, questions are being raised about his health.

Magnus Ranstorp, a terrorism expert at the Swedish National Defense College, said trying to guess at bin Laden's physical condition from the images is pure speculation. But it is clear that the al-Qaida leader is plugged in, he said.

"He's very much up on current events, but it is more than that. Bin Laden has learned to skillfully package and tap into issues that have political currency and a wide resonance outside his normal constituency," Ranstorp said.

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MOFFETT FIELD
Restoration Advisory Board
Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field will be held:

On: Thursday, September 13, 2007
7 to 9:30 p.m.

At: Moffett Field, Building 943, Mountain View, CA
Building 943 (Public Affairs Building) is located just before the main gate on NASA Parkway.

The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities under way at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement. To review documents on Moffett Field cleanup projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View, CA 94041, 650-903-6887. For more information, contact Mr. Darren Newton, Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at 619-532-0963 or darren.newton@navy.mil.

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October 22, 2007

William Schaal
TN & Associates
3150 Hilltop Mall Road, Suite 55
Richmond, CA 94806



RE: Community Relations Support for Former NAS Moffett Field
Transmittal: Paid advertisements announcing the 12 July 2007 RAB Meeting

Dear Mr. Schaal:

This letter serves to inform you that ads announcing the 12 July 2007 RAB meeting were published in the newspapers listed below. Enclosed are tear sheets for proof of publication.

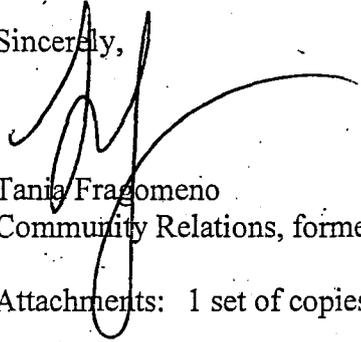
- ❖ Sunnyvale *Sun* – published 12 September 2007
- ❖ San Jose *Mercury News* – published 12 September 2007
- ❖ Mountain View *Voice* – published 07 September 2007
- ❖ Palo Alto *Daily News* – published 12 September 2007
- ❖ San Mateo *Daily News* - published 12 September 2007
- ❖ Redwood City *Daily News* - published 12 September 2007
- ❖ Burlingame *Daily News* - published 12 September 2007
- ❖ San Mateo *County Times* – published 12 September 2007

In addition to the paid advertisements, a news release announcing the RAB meeting was faxed to 45 television and radio stations and to the 25 following newspapers:

<i>Alianza Metropolitan News</i>	<i>Los Altos Town Crier</i>	<i>The Santa Clara Weekly</i>
<i>The Campbell Reporter</i>	<i>Los Gatos Weekly Times</i>	<i>Saratoga News</i>
<i>Campbell Times</i>	<i>Milpitas Post</i>	<i>Palo Alto Daily News</i>
<i>Cupertino Courier</i>	<i>Morgan Hill Times</i>	<i>Palo Alto Weekly</i>
<i>The Daily News</i>	<i>Mountain View Voice</i>	<i>San Jose Mercury News</i>
<i>The Dispatch</i>	<i>Metro News</i>	<i>Sunnyvale Sun</i>
<i>El Observador</i>	<i>Nuevo Mundo</i>	<i>Viet Mercury</i>
<i>India Currents</i>	<i>San Jose City Times</i>	
<i>La Oferta Review</i>	<i>San Jose Peninsula Reporter</i>	

Please note I have sent the originals and one set of copies to Diane Silva for the Administrative Record file and one set of copies to Darren Newton. Photocopies are included in this package. If you have any questions about this transmittal, please do not hesitate to call me at 858-926-4022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tania Fragomeno', written over the typed name and title.

Tania Fragomeno
Community Relations, former NAS Moffett Field

Attachments: 1 set of copies

cc: D. Newton, BRAC PMO West
D. Silva, Records Manager (originals + 1 copy)