

[CBS Local Events](#) | [CBS Local Pages](#) | [Search NY \(Beta\)](#)



22°
H: 31° L: 25°
7 Day Forecast »

View Traffic Report

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Best Of NY](#) [Watch + Listen](#) [Deals](#) [Fan Shop](#) [Directory](#) [Traffic](#) [Weather](#)

[Latest News](#) [Local](#) [Neighborhood](#) [Consumer News](#) [Politics](#) [Business](#) [Health](#) [Tech](#) [Entertainment](#) [National](#) [World](#)

NEWS

LISTEN LIVE

Feds: Times Square Mastermind Bigger Threat Than Bin Laden

Napolitano Says American-Born Al-Awlaki A Serious Concern

February 9, 2011 9:33 PM

Print Share 61 Recommend 90



Osama bin Laden is seen in this video footage recorded at an undisclosed location in Afghanistan aired by the Qatar-based satellite TV station al-Jazeera. (credit: Getty Images)

NEW YORK (CBS 2) — A terror power shift leads to a stunning warning from the Department of Homeland Security.

The American-born cleric behind the attempted Times Square bombing has now eclipsed Osama bin Laden as the biggest threat to American security, reports CBS 2's Marcia Kramer.

Say sayonara to Osama. Anwar al-Awlaki is now the "boss of all bosses" of the group al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. The feds said Wednesday he is now the number one threat — the most significant risk — to United States security.

National Counterterrorism Center Director Michael Leiter told the House Homeland Security Committee that America's war on bin Laden has allowed others to come to the forefront.

"It allows the franchises to innovate on their own ... and in the case of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Yemen, and folks like Anwar al-Awlaki, they've been quite successful at being innovators and that makes our jobs

FILED UNDER

[CT News](#)

[Local](#)

[News](#)

[NJ News](#)

[NY News](#)

[Seen On](#)

[Watch + Listen](#)

RELATED TAGS

[Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula](#)

[Anwar al-Awlaki](#)

[Janet Napolitano](#)

[Marcia Kramer](#)

[Osama Bin Laden](#)

[Peter King](#)

[Terrorism](#)

Ski Stop
Ski Stop On Long Island
PRESIDENTS WEEK
SALE
SAVE UP TO 50%
SHOP THE SALE

LOCAL OFFERS

NEW YORK

Get New York Daily Deal alerts by email.

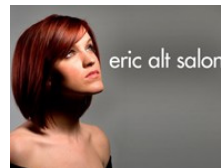
Please enter your email here.

SIGN UP

Brandmeyer's Mountainside Lodge



DEAL OF THE DAY
Get Away Weekend!
\$139 for a 2 Night
Stay at Brandmeyer's
Mountainside Lodge
(\$278 Value)



eric alt salon

ANOTHER GREAT DEAL
\$25 for \$50 Worth of
Services from Eric Alt
Salon

See more at CBS LOCAL Offers™

HOT CBSNY SLIDESHOWS



[Conservative Stars](#)



[Guess the Parents](#)

more challenging," Leiter said.

RELATED: [YouTube Removes Videos From Yemeni Cleric](#) | [Yemen Arrests Woman Accused In Mail Bomb Plot](#) | [Counterterrorism Chief Says The U.S. Remains Vigilant](#) | [Officials Say Bomb Plot Just Narrowly Averted](#)

Al-Awlaki's actions in masterminding attacks like the attempted Times Square bombing, the Fort Hood massacre, the Christmas Day 2009 attempted bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight by a man with a bomb in his underwear prompted Homeland Security chief Janet Napolitano to say that the threat to our shores is the highest since 9/11.

"The threat continues to evolve. And in some ways the threat today may be at its most heightened state since the attacks nearly 10 years ago," Napolitano said.

The threat is so great because al-Awlaki was born here, recruits here and has a different strategy than bin Laden.



Star Splits



Celebs' Real Names



Famous Siblings



Separated at Birth

"They have adapted their strategy and their tactics, so they are now recruiting from within the country, and they are looking for people who are under the radar, screen people who are living here legally, people who have green cards, people who are citizens, people who have no known terrorist activity," Long Island Rep. Peter King told Kramer.

Bin Laden hasn't gone away and is a "very determined enemy," authorities said. But his group is the weakest it's been in a decade. There have been five disrupted al Qaeda plots in Europe in the last five years.

Please offer your thoughts below.

Print Share 61 Recommend 90

61 COMMENTS

IDONTCAREFU

i will take this mosque down brick b y brick. Garanteed destruction overnight. Not by force, but with LOVE...the LOVE of pure HATE for anyone who thinks a mosque below chambers street at 100 million + isnt a FU to all the dead fvcking people this sick religion KILLED.... go preach peace and kill people. Ill preach FU and gladly rip inards out one by one.

February 10, 2011 at 9:48 pm | Reply | Report comment

Patriot

TOP TEN TALKERS TODAY

- Report: Boehner Had Warned Rep. Lee To Stop Partying (239)
- Bloomberg Apologizes For Joke About 'Inebriated Irish' (35)
- NYPD Proposes Fee On NYC Marathon, Other Races (27)
- Rosedale Teen Hunter Haymore Cured Of Sickle Cell Anemia (24)
- Mourners Say Goodbye To Nassau Co. Police Officer Califano (16)
- Long Island Bamboo Invasion Sparks Proposal Of Ban (13)
- Ex-Stripper-Turned-Teacher Petro Moves On (12)
- Bus Matron Arrested, Accused Of Hitting Autistic Student (12)
- NJ Woman Seeks Harsher Law For Phone Use While Driving (9)
- Poll: NJ Unfazed By National Buzz Over Christie (7)