

# A New Century, A New War

## Resource Packet

Contains: Glossary, Timeline, Images, Discussion Questions, Additional Resources

**Program Description:** A New Century, A New War presents the memories and emotions surrounding the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the Global War on Terror as experienced by Virginian veterans and family members. This 30 minute film addresses the questions: what happened on 9/11 and why were military service members sent to Afghanistan and Iraq in response? Through vivid memories, veterans explain what 9/11 meant to them, for the country, and what the wars that followed have meant for all of us.

**Copyright:** Virginia War Memorial Foundation, 2018

**Length:** 29:25

**Streaming link:** <https://vimeo.com/367017447>

### Featured Speakers:

COL John F. Agoglia, US Army (ret)  
COL Rich Anderson, US Air Force (ret)  
James B. Brindle, US Army Public Affairs  
Mary Beth Bruggeman, US Marine Corps  
LT Benjamin C. Freakley, US Army (ret)  
Capt. Paul C. Haebler, US Navy  
LTG David D. Halverson, US Army (ret)  
Opal Kocher, US Air Force  
Lyla Kohistany, US Navy  
Laurie Laychak

Michael J. Lebowitz, US Navy, JAG  
Keith W. "Mac" McIntosh, US Air Force (ret)  
BG Walter L. Mercer, VA Army National Guard (ret)  
LTG Paul T. Mikolashek, US Army (ret)  
LTC Charlie Reimer, US Army (ret)  
COL Daniel S. Roper, US Army (ret)  
LTC William C. Taylor, VA Army National Guard  
Phillip Trezza, US Army

**For a transcript of this program and more information on the Global War on Terrorism, please visit [vawarmemorial.org/learn/resources/gwot](http://vawarmemorial.org/learn/resources/gwot).**



# GLOSSARY

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## IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Flight 93:** the plane hijacked by al-Qaeda terrorists on September 11, 2001 that crashed into a field in Pennsylvania when passengers fought back.
- **Hijack:** to unlawfully seize a vehicle in transit and force it to go to a different destination or use it for one's own purposes.
- **Indigenous:** native populations of an area
- **Insurgent:** one who revolts against the established government or authority; a rebel or revolutionary
- **Kurds:** an ethnic group that inhabits a mountainous region spanning areas of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and Iran.
- **Shia:** the smaller of the two branches of Islam, practiced by approximately 10% of the world's Muslims.
- **Shock and Awe:** a tactic based on use of overwhelming power and displays of force to confuse
- **Sunni:** the larger of the two branches of Islam, practiced by approximately 90% of the world's Muslims.
- **Weapon of Mass Destruction:** a nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological, or other weapon that can kill and bring significant harm to numerous humans or cause great damage to human-made structures, natural structures, or the biosphere.

## IMPORTANT FIGURES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **Al Qaeda:** an extremist, militant organization founded by Osama bin Laden in the 1980s. Responsible for terrorist attacks in many countries, including the attacks on September 11, 2001.
- **George W. Bush:** President of the United States from 2001-2009
- **Coalition forces:** military command during the 2003 invasion of Iraq led by the United States, UK, Australia, Spain, and Poland. Officially called the "Multi-National Force - Iraq"
- **Saddam Hussein:** president of Iraq from 1979-2003.
- **Osama bin Laden:** founder of al-Qaeda, known for his role in masterminding the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
- **Barack Obama:** President of the United States from 2009-2017
- **Taliban:** a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist group in Afghanistan.



# GLOSSARY

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## AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS AND MILITARY TERMINOLOGY

- **Department of Homeland Security:** established in 2002, responsible for American public security.
- **Joint Staff:** group composed of personnel from each of the service branches of the US military to advise the President and others on military matters.
- **National Command Authority:** refers to the ultimate source of lawful military orders, comprised of the United States President and Secretary of Defense.
- **National Security Council:** a group of US military and political leaders that assist in advising the President in national security and foreign policy matters.
- **Operation Enduring Freedom:** the official name for the Global War on Terrorism, primarily referring to operations in Afghanistan following September 11, 2001. OEF was declared to be over in December 2014.
- **Operation Iraqi Freedom:** the official name for the Iraq War (2003-2011), during which a US-led coalition overthrew the government of Saddam Hussein, and fought insurgents.
- **Pentagon:** the headquarters of the United States Department of Defense, located in Arlington, Virginia.

# IMPORTANT SPEECHES AND LEGISLATION

## **George W. Bush - 9/11 Address to the Nation, (September 11, 2001)**

Video: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?165970-1/presidential-address>

Transcript:

<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010911-16.html>

## **Joint Resolution - Authorization for Use of Military Force (September 18, 2001)**

<https://www.congress.gov/107/plaws/publ40/PLAW-107publ40.pdf>

## **George W. Bush - Announcement of the Beginning of the War in Afghanistan (October 7, 2001)**

Video: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?166534-1/us-military-strikes>

Transcript: <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2001/10/20011007-8.html>

## **George W. Bush - Announcement of Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 19, 2003)**

Video: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4523378/user-clip-bush-announces-war-iraq>

Transcript: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/mar/20/iraq.georgebush>

## **George W. Bush - Mission Accomplished Speech (May 1, 2003)**

Video:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4783286/user-clip-president-bush-mission-accomplished-speech>

Transcript:

<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2003/05/20030501-15.html>

## **Barack Obama - Presidential Address on Death of Osama bin Laden (May 2, 2011)**

Video: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4737298/presidential-address-death-osama-bin-laden>

Transcript: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2011/05/02/osama-bin-laden-dead>





## Afghanistan

Operation Enduring Freedom  
(2001-2014)

Capital: Kabul

Major Figure: Osama bin Laden

Religion: majority Sunni Muslim

Population (2001): 21.6 million

Ruled by Taliban at time of invasion

Home of al-Qaeda during 9/11 attacks

Initial coalition goal: overthrow Taliban to deny al-Qaeda a safe base in Afghanistan

Followed by Operation Freedom's Sentinel (2015-present)



## Iraq

Operation Iraqi Freedom  
(2003-2011)

Capital: Baghdad

Major Figure: Saddam Hussein

Religion: majority Shia Muslim

Population (2001): 24.2 million

Ruled by Ba'ath Party and Saddam Hussein at time of invasion

Marked by religious and ethnic division: Sunni and Shia Muslims, Kurds and Arabs

Initial coalition goal: overthrow anti-Western governments, discover weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)

Followed by Operation Inherent Resolve (2014-present)



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Explain the title “New Century, New War.” What was new about this war compared to those before it? What is similar about the Global War on Terrorism to wars the United States has fought in the past, and what is different?
2. What is counterinsurgency, and how does it differ from conventional warfare?
3. How would you define terrorism?
4. What surprised you about how the speakers felt about the purpose of the Global War on Terrorism?
5. Keith McIntosh says that 9/11 was a pivotal point, and that people “need to be aware of what happened, how it happened, [and our response to what happened.]”
6. How did Afghanistan being a landlocked country affect the United States’ strategy?
7. What does it mean to “win” a war? Do you think that the United States won either the war in Afghanistan or Iraq? Why or why not?

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about the experiences of Virginians in the Global War on Terrorism, view *Virginians at War: Operation Iraqi Freedom* at [vawarmemorial.org](http://vawarmemorial.org). Looking to do more research? Check out the links below.

- Who are the Iraqi Kurds? (2014)  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/08/20/who-are-the-iraqi-kurds/>
- The Sunni-Shia divide (2014)  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/06/18/the-sunni-shia-divide-where-they-live-what-they-believe-and-how-they-view-each-other/>
- Veteran Panel Discussion: The Global War on Terrorism (2020):  
<https://vimeo.com/423319537>
- George W. Bush: Foreign Affairs:  
<https://millercenter.org/president/gwbush/foreign-affairs>

