

MIDDLE EAST

White House Confirms Death of Chief al Qaeda Bomb Maker

Ibrahim al-Asiri was killed two years ago in a U.S. counterterrorism strike

By Vivian Salama

Oct. 10, 2019 11:11 am ET

WASHINGTON—Al Qaeda’s chief bomb maker, who was behind the failed 2009 Christmas Day underwear bomb plot to down an airliner over Detroit and other attacks, was killed two years ago in a U.S. counterterrorism strike, the White House confirmed.

Ibrahim al-Asiri also built an explosive device intended to be used against a passenger aircraft in 2012, and the device used in the attempted assassination of the former Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, the White House said in a statement.

Al-Asiri’s death “significantly handicapped al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula,” White House the statement said, adding that the U.S. continues to hunt other operatives that may pose a threat.



The death of Ibrahim al-Asiri, al Qaeda's chief bomb maker, was first reported last year. Yemeni officials at the time said he was killed in a U.S. drone strike. PHOTO: FBI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

His death had first been reported last year, but not confirmed by the U.S. Yemeni officials at the time said he was killed in a U.S. drone strike.