

Typed Summary

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Period 2

Operation Enduring Freedom began on October 7, 2001 as a response to the 9/11 attack on the twin towers. The operation was originally known as Operation Infinite Justice. However, the name was changed to Operation Enduring Freedom, so it wouldn't sound offensive to Muslims. The U.S. troops were sent to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban. Although we sent troops to other areas around the world, Afghanistan was our number one target. Our reason was to liberate Afghanistan from the Taliban. Under the Taliban, Afghanistan was a home for many terrorist organizations, including the al Qaeda. We went there to stop the Taliban from providing further protection to the al Qaeda, whom we believe was responsible for the attack of 9/11. Our top priority was to get Osama Bin Laden, the head of the al Qaeda. We used our special forces to land in hostile areas of Afghanistan and contact the northern allies within the country, that resisted the Taliban. Once they have done this, they overthrow the Taliban and establish a new government, one that will not support the al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. The U.S. received support from many countries including Britain, Uzbekistan, France, Germany, Turkey and Italy. Under the command of Lieutenant General Charles F. Wald, the Central Command Air Force of the U.S. Air Force made the airstrikes. We had elite land and air forces, but targeting and getting rid of the enemy proved to be a challenge. Afghanistan was a country with a population of approximately 24 million people, so finding the terrorists was definitely one of the greatest challenges that our forces faced. Another challenge was that Afghanistan was landlocked and the roads were not in good condition. Landlocked means that the country is surrounded by land and there are no coastal areas, so we could not supply our forces by sea. Because the roads were in poor condition, supply by ground had its limits as well. Despite, all these challenges the operation was mostly successful.

