

# Last Year President Obama Reportedly Told His Aides That He's 'Really Good At Killing People'

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This will not go over well for the [2009 Nobel Peace Prize winner](#).

According to the new book "[Double Down](#)," in which journalists Mark Halperin and John Heilemann chronicle the 2012 presidential election, President Barack Obama told his aides that he's "really good at killing people" while discussing drone strikes.

Peter Hamby of The Washington Post reported the nugget in [his review of the book](#).

The claim by the commander-in-chief is as indisputable as it is grim.

Obama oversaw the [2009 surge](#) in Afghanistan, [145 Predator drone strikes](#) in NATO's 2011 Libya operations, the May 2012 raid that [killed Osama bin Laden](#), and drone strikes that [killed leader of the Pakistani Taliban leader](#) and [a senior member](#) of the Somali-based militant group al-Shabab this week.

His administration also [expanded](#) the drone war: There have been [326 drone strikes](#) in Pakistan, [93](#) in Yemen, and [several](#) in Somalia, compared to a total of [52](#) under George Bush.

Two of those strikes killed American-born al-Qaeda propagandist [Anwar al-Awlaki](#) and his American-born [16-year-old son](#) within two weeks.

Under Obama U.S. [drone operators](#) began practicing "signature strikes," a tactic in which targets are chosen based on [patterns of suspicious behaviour](#) and the identities of those to be killed aren't necessarily known. (The administration counts all "[military-age males](#)" in a strike zone as combatants.)

Furthermore, the [disturbing trend](#) of the "double tap" — bombing the same place in quick succession and often [hitting first responders](#) — has become [common practice](#).

Needless to say, a lot of [innocent people](#) have [been killed](#).

Obama has also embraced the expansion of capture/kill missions by Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) after it developed into the [primary counterterrorism tool](#) of the Bush administration.

One JSOC operator told investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill, author of "[Dirty Wars: The World Is A Battlefield](#)," that operations became

“harder, faster, quicker with the full support of the White House” under Obama.

Scahill, who also [made a “Dirty Wars” documentary](#), told [NBC News](#) that Obama will “go down in history as the president who legitimized and systematized a process by which the United States asserts the right to conduct assassination operations around the world.”

So it is true that President Obama is “really good at killing people,” but he has demonstrated that is not necessarily noble.

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