




AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

EXTRA

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The Source

SPECIAL NOON EDITION

'Oh my God!'



A ball of fire explodes from one of the towers at the World Trade Center in New York after a plane crashed into it early this morning. The image above at right shows an airplane as it is about to fly into the Trade Center. The image is taken from television.

Associated Press

Terrorist attack on World Trade Center, Pentagon horrifies the nation



NEW YORK (AP) — In a horrific sequence of destruction, terrorists hijacked two airliners and crashed them into the World Trade Center in a coordinated series of attacks Tuesday morning that brought down the twin 110-story towers. A plane also slammed into the Pentagon, raising fears that the seat of government itself was under attack.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers, but many were thought to have been trapped. About 50,000 people work at the Trade Center. American Airlines said its two aircraft were carrying a total of 156 people.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list. ... I would name at the top of the list Osama bin Laden."

Crowds in New York watched in horror.

"People were jumping out of windows," said an unidentified woman. "I guess people were trying to save themselves. Oh my God!"

President Bush ordered a full-scale investigation to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

Within the hour, the Pentagon took a direct, devastating hit from an aircraft. The fiery crash collapsed one side of the five-sided structure.

The White House, the Pentagon and the Capitol were evacuated along with other fed-

eral buildings in Washington and New York.

Authorities in Washington immediately began deploying troops, including an infantry regiment. The Situation Room at the White House was in full operation. And authorities went on alert from coast to coast, halting all air traffic and tightening security at strategic installations.

"This is the second Pearl Harbor. I don't think that I overstate it," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

American Airlines identified the planes that crashed into the Trade Center as Flight 11, a Los Angeles-bound jet hijacked after takeoff from Boston with 92 people aboard, and Flight 77, which was seized while carrying 64 people from Washington to Los Angeles.

In Pennsylvania, United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco, crashed about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh with 45 people aboard. The fate of those aboard was not immediately known and it was not clear if the crash was related to the disasters elsewhere. In a statement, United said another of its planes, Flight 175, a Boeing 767 bound from Boston to Los Angeles with 65 people on board, also crashed, but it did not say where.

Evacuations were ordered at the United Nations in New York and at the Sears Tower in

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INSIDE

Reaction from Montana and Wyoming congressional delegation.

Billings federal, city and county buildings on alert.

Reaction from Billings schools

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Travelers at Logan Airport watch in horror as news of events unfold.

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Capitol on alert after crash into Pentagon.

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New York City's downtown looks like a war zone.

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