



# WE REMEMBER 9/11

As we look back to the events of September 11, 2001, we remember the bravery, courage and humanity shown that day, and the many that have followed. Please join with us in remembrance of the lives that have been forever changed.

• September 11, 2001

An entire nation's lives were changed with one attack on our soil. Around 3,000 civilians and workers died that tragic day. It's considered the most horrifying attack on American grounds. Everyone remembers what they were doing at the time of the Twin Towers and Pentagon terrorist attacks. The images are forever seared into our minds. About a month after the attacks, the United States and its Allies were in a war against Afghanistan.

• September 11, 201

Our nation is rebuilding and healing as time goes on. The so called "mastermind" behind the 9/11 attacks, Osama Bin Laden, has been brought down. Our military is strong, and our faith in our country is stronger. The government has taken drastic measures in the last 11 years to help keep our country safe and protect the citizens from another attack.

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# Terrorists attack

## Hijackers target towers, kill thousands

By Jerry Schwartz

AP National Writer

NEW YORK — In one of the most horrifying attacks ever against the United States, terrorists crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center in a deadly series of blows today that brought down the twin 110-story towers. A plane also slammed into the Pentagon as the government itself came under attack.

Thousands could be dead or injured, a high-ranking New York City police official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers when the glass-and-steel skyscrapers came down in a thunderous roar within about 90 minutes after the crashes, which took place minutes apart around 9 a.m. But many people were thought to have been trapped. About 50,000 people work at the Trade Center and tens of thousands of others visit each day.

American Airlines initially said the Trade Center was hit by two of its planes, both hijacked, carrying a total of 156 people. But the airline later said that was unconfirmed. Two United airliners with a total of 110 aboard also crashed — one outside Pittsburgh, the other in a location not immediately identified. Altogether, the planes had 266 people aboard.

"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."

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 a plane. The fiery crash collapsed one side of the five-sided structure.

The White House, the Pentagon and the Capitol were evacuated along with other federal buildings in Washington and New York.

Authorities in Washington immediately called out troops, including an infantry regiment. The Situation Room at the White House was in full operation. Authorities went on alert from



coast to coast, the U.S. and Canadian borders were sealed, all air traffic across the country was halted, and sealations.

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

In June, a U.S. judge had set this Wednesday as the sentencing date for a bin Laden associate for his role in the 1998 bombing of a U.S. embassy in Tanzania that killed 213 people. The courthouse had been set for the federal ter. No one from the U.S. attorney's office could be reached today to comment on whether the sentencing was still on.

Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban rulers condemned the attacks and rejected them, saying he does not have the means to carry out such well-orchestrated attacks. Bin Laden has been given asylum in Afghanistan.

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the Al-Quds al-Arabi newspaper, said he received a warning from Islamic fundamentalists close to bin Laden, but did it would be a huge and unprecedented attack but they did not specify," Atwan said in a telephone interview in London.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, thousands of Palestinians celebrated the attacks, chanting "God is Great" and handing out candy.

American Airlines initially identified the planes that crashed into the Trade Center as Flight 11, a Los Angeles-Boston 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. 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. The fate of those aboard the two planes was not immediately known.

United's pilots union said United Flight 175 crashed into the Trade Center. But the airline had no immediate comment.

An emergency dispatcher in Westmoreland County, Pa., received a cell phone call at 9:58 a.m. from a man who said he was a passenger locked in the bathroom of United Flight 93, said dispatch supervisor Glenn Cramer.

"We are being hijacked! We are being hijacked!" Cramer quoted the man as saying. The man told dispatchers the plane "was going down. He heard some sort of explosion and saw white smoke coming from the plane and we lost contact with him," Cramer said.

Evacuations were ordered at the



Workers fled down the streets of downtown New York City (left) with a cloud of dust and smoke behind them, after two hijacked airliners slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center within minutes of one another about 7 a.m. The first, an American Airlines plane, slammed into one tower about 7 a.m., and minutes later a second plane (above), identified as a United Airlines plane, flew into the second tower, causing a horrific fireball (right). At the same time another American Airlines plane crashed into the west side of the Pentagon, and another United Airlines plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

(AP photos)

## Kansas officials tighten security

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Planes were diverted to Kansas airports and security tightened at government buildings today following the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

State officials moved quickly to increase security around the

rity detail, normally one Kansas Highway Patrol officer, had been increased to four officers. She ordered security increased despite a lack of threats to the building.

"I'd rather be safe," she said. Graves was in Wichita, attending the Midwest U.S. ...

## Airplanes forced to land here

Sharon Corcoran

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