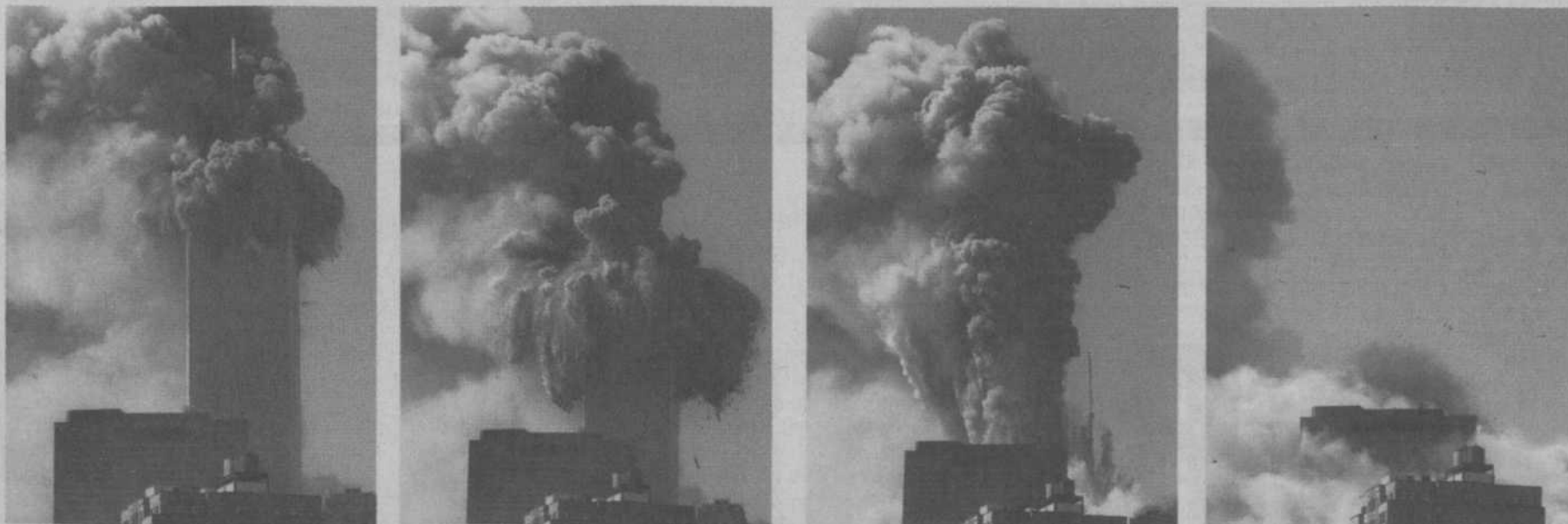


THE GAMECOCK

OUR WORLD



IS CHANGED

U.S. FACES WORST TERRORIST ATTACK IN HISTORY

President Bush says United States will 'hunt down' those responsible

BY DAVID CRARY AND JERRY SCHWARTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—In the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States, knife-wielding hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, toppling its twin 110-story towers. The deadly calamity was witnessed on television across the world as another plane slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed outside Pittsburgh.

"Today, our nation saw evil," President Bush said in an address to the nation Tuesday night. He said thousands of lives were "suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror."

Said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet: "We have been attacked like we haven't since Pearl Harbor."

Establishing the death toll could take weeks. The four airlin-

ers alone had 266 people aboard and there were no known survivors. Officials put the number of dead and wounded at the Pentagon at about 100 or more, with some news reports suggesting it could rise to 800.

In addition, a union official said he feared 300 firefighters who first reached the scene had died in rescue efforts at the trade center — where 50,000 people worked — and dozens of police officers were missing.

"The number of casualties will be more than most of us can bear," a visibly distraught Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Police sources said some people trapped in the twin towers managed to call authorities or family members and that some trapped police officers made radio contact. In one of the calls, which took place in the afternoon, a businessman phoned his family to say he was trapped with policemen, whom he named, the source said.

Because of fires and unstable debris, no rescue attempts were going on Tuesday night at the site of the towers, however.

No one took responsibility for the attacks that rocked the seats of finance and government. But federal authorities identified

Osama bin Laden, who has been given asylum by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, as the prime suspect.

Aided by an intercept of communications between his supporters and harrowing cell phone calls from at least one flight attendant and two passengers aboard the jetliners before they crashed, U.S. officials began assembling a case linking bin Laden to the devastation.

U.S. intelligence intercepted communications between bin Laden supporters discussing the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, according to Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The people aboard planes who managed to make cell phone calls each described similar circumstances: They indicated the hijackers were armed with knives, in some cases stabbing flight attendants. The hijackers then took control of the planes.

All of the planes were bound for California and thus loaded with fuel. At the World Trade Center, the dead and the doomed plummeted from the skyscrapers, among them a man and woman holding hands.

Shortly after 7 p.m., crews began heading into ground zero of the attack to search for survivors and recover bodies. All that remained of the twin towers by then was a pile of rubble and twisted steel that stood five stories high, leaving a huge gap in the New York City skyline.

"Freedom itself was attacked this morning and I assure you freedom will be defended," said Bush, who was in Florida at the time of the catastrophe. As a security measure, he was shuttled to a Strategic Air Command bunker in Nebraska before leaving for Washington.

"Make no mistake," he said. "The United States will hunt down and pursue those responsible for these cowardly actions."

More than nine hours after the U.S. attacks began, explosions could be heard north of the Afghan capital of Kabul, but American officials said the United States was not responsible. "It isn't us. I don't know who's doing it," Pentagon spokesman Craig Quigley said.

Officials across the world condemned the attacks but in the West Bank city of Nablus, thou-

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HOW TO FIND, GIVE HELP

Grief counseling

THE USC COUNSELING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER is offering grief counseling at 900 Assembly St. Walk-ins are welcome, or you can call 777-5223 to set up an appointment. Although no specific counseling groups have been set up, the center intends to create one soon.

Religious services

THE CAROLINA CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION will hold a special prayer meeting at 12 p.m. in Rutledge Chapel. The chapel will be open Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Staff will be there to offer counseling and other assistance. PALM will hold an all-campus prayer vigil over the attacks on the U.S. Wednesday at noon in Rutledge Chapel. PALM will also offer a reflection and service Wednesday evening at 5:30 in the Rutledge Chapel.

Blood bank information

Call 540-1214 if you're interested in giving blood. Call 251-6000 for general information and appointments. SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL CENTER, Wednesday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER, Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. THE VISTA COMMONS, Thursday from 3 p.m.-7 p.m.

Airline contact numbers for missing people

AMERICAN AIRLINES: (800) 245-0999
UNITED AIRLINES: (800) 932-8555
IMPORTANT WEB SITES: <http://helping.org> <http://www.ifccfbi.gov>

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PHOTO BY AARON HARK

Columbia community offers assistance

Citizens line up to donate blood at the Red Cross. ◆ PAGE 5



PHOTO BY AARON HARK

South Carolina reacts to terrorist events

City and state offices remain open under high security. ◆ PAGE 4



PHOTO BY JOSH SKIDMORE

USC community views coverage at GMP

Russell House is center of information on tragedy. ◆ PAGE 5