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A military helicopter leaves the Pentagon in the days after a hijacked plane hit the building.



PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT CAMPUS

People attend a memorial service for the military and civilian workers who were killed at the Pentagon.



PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT CAMPUS

Workers put the finishing touches on reconstruction of the most severely damaged areas of the Pentagon.

Ground Zero

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Conditions where damage was greatest were marked on a three-dimensional map. Some areas were destroyed, and others just "needed cleaning," in what Davis called a huge understatement.

In some cases, emotion took over at Ground Zero.

According to Davis, if the geographical photos weren't current, the rescue teams would

"Any time you exited Ground Zero wearing a respirator or some indication that you were working there, there were 50 people celebrating you."

BRUCE DAVIS
USC ALUMNUS

Working in the center of the destruction, Davis saw firsthand the buildings that survived the attack. The buildings were draped with red to prevent broken glass from spilling onto workers. He said teams of firefighters rested under awnings of buildings with infrastructure constantly dangling overhead. At night, Davis said, Ground Zero was "lit up like a stadium" so that workers



PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

USC alumnus Bruce Davis of NASA speaks at USC Wednesday afternoon about remote sensing at Ground Zero.

could continue efforts until the sun clocked back in.

But the American attitude was what stood out in Davis' mind. As family members constantly posted messages about missing loved ones on police doors, emergency workers handed out food and water to all working at the site. When the workers did finally break, they were presented with the utmost adoration.

"Any time you exited Ground Zero wearing a respirator or some indication that you were working there, there were 50 people celebrating you," Davis said.

Davis said the federal response plan didn't operate as

designed because New York City took the lead. In some instances, he said, expertise was questionable, as those directing the effort were very connected to the situation. Davis thinks better communication could have saved more lives, especially after the first tower fell.

Despite all the death and destruction surrounding the scene, Davis said the focus of Ground Zero was life.

"If a worker heard a noise, all engines were turned off, and everyone stood frozen until the all-clear was given," Davis said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

Warning

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eral buildings and more inspections and searches.

Americans should use their common sense and be more alert to possible threats, Ridge said. "Be wary and be mindful," Ridge cautioned.

Ridge had spoken earlier Tuesday with governors and their staffs, preparing them for the new alert, said George Vinson, the anti-terror chief in Gov. Gray Davis' administration in California.

"New information has become available very recently," including information provided to the U.S. intelligence community by a senior al-Qaida official, Ashcroft told reporters. He added that the intelligence that led to the new warning came within the last 24 hours. The plans are believed to be linked directly to al-Qaida, rather than one of its affiliates, said another official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The al-Qaida leader that provided some of the information has been in U.S. custody for several months, the official said.

Ashcroft said intelligence has concluded that "the most likely al-Qaida targets are the transportation and energy sectors." Ridge added that U.S. sky marshals would be out in force over the next few days to foil any possible new hijacking attempts.

Bush, speaking with reporters after a visit to the Embassy of Afghanistan, said the new threat

level "means our government will be providing extra security at key facilities and that we'll be increasing surveillance."

"Americans need to go about their lives. They just need to know that their government, at the federal and state and local level, will be on an extra level of alert to protect us," he added.

Meanwhile, the General Services Administration, which operates and provides security for most of the government's buildings, immediately alerted federal agencies and put in place new security procedures. The agency declined to specify changes, citing security concerns.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta was operating 24 hours a day, said spokeswoman Von Roebuck.

The FBI had issued a warning

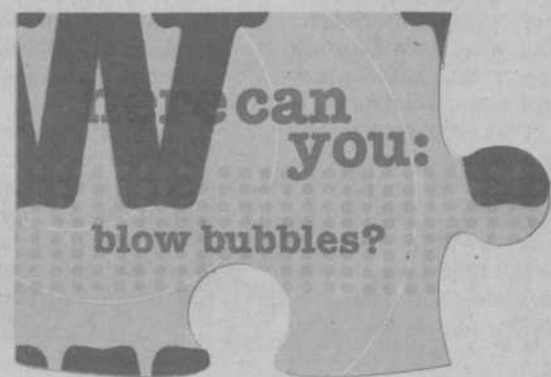
that became public Monday asking operators of computer networks, utilities and transportation systems to be wary during the anniversary observance.

Since the administration created a five-color coded threat system in March, the government had kept the warning at code yellow, signifying an elevated condition of alert and a significant risk of terrorist attacks.

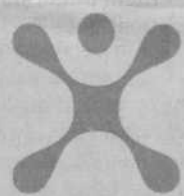
At the Pentagon, security was already heightened. A mobile surface-to-air missile launcher — part of an exercise announced Monday — was parked several hundred yards away Tuesday morning.

And U.S. Navy officials in Bahrain issued a warning to ship- pers Tuesday following unconfirmed reports that al-Qaida may be planning attacks on oil tankers.

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(further details will be given in upcoming issues.)



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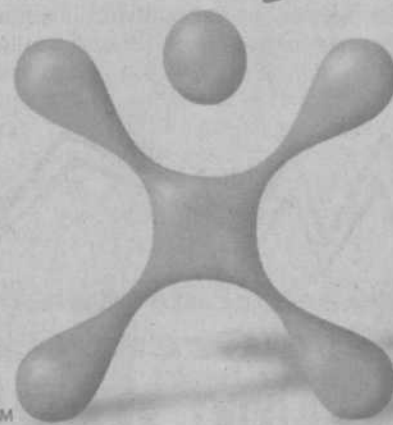
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