

Watertown Daily Times

*The 25th Anniversary 2001 • 2026*

# REMEMBERING 9/11



The 10th Mountain Division spearheaded Operation Anaconda in March 2002, marking the U.S. military's first major pitched battle of the war in Afghanistan during the Global War on Terror. U.S. Army photo.



# How to discuss 9/11 with children

Twenty-five years ago, parents across the United States faced the delicate situation of discussing 9/11 with their children. Many adults watched their televisions with a sense of disbelief and horror on September 11, 2001, and parents were forced to explain the inexplicable events of that day to their youngsters.

As the world prepares to commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11, many people who were children or adolescents on the morning of September 11 now have children of their own. Parents may need help explaining the significance of 9/11 to youngsters who were not alive when the attacks occurred. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum recognizes how difficult such conversations may be for parents and offers the following tips that can serve as broad guidelines to facilitate discussions about 9/11 and terrorism.

- Be ready to listen.

The museum notes that some children will want to discuss 9/11 and terrorism and some won't. Discussions should not be forced if kids do not want to talk about 9/11. Parents can let kids know they're ready to listen whenever kids want to talk. Kids who want to speak can be encouraged to share their thoughts and ask questions. Parents are urged to actively listen to kids' concerns, noting their body language and validating their emotions.

- Encourage discussions with kids who are ready to engage. Children who don't want to discuss 9/11 and terrorism should not be forced to do so. But parents should not avoid discussing 9/11 and terrorism in general solely because of the difficult subject matter. The museum urges parents to invite conversations if children express an interest in learning about terrorism and 9/11. Ask children, "What would you like to know?" or "How does that make you feel?"

- Remain calm and avoid appearing anxious. Adults should be aware of their tone when discussing 9/11 and terrorism with children. Make a



concerted effort to remain calm and not appear anxious. Answer questions honestly, but do so in a way that is developmentally appropriate. Ask children if they have any concerns and provide appropriate, realistic reassurance. Let kids express their feelings and focus on how to cope with those feelings rather than suggesting their feelings are unfounded. If necessary, share what's been done since 9/11 to keep the country safe and prevent future attacks.

- Learn about 9/11 so you can answer questions truthfully. The images of 9/11 are indelible, but even adults who lived through the tragedy may not know the answers to questions kids may ask. In anticipation of such questions, parents can visit 911.memorial.org to learn more about 9/11 so they're better prepared to answer kids' questions. Resolve to find answers to questions together if need be.

- Emphasize hope.

Acts of terrorism are often so horrific that they contribute to a deep sense of despair. But parents can explain to children that events like 9/11 also tend to bring out the best in people who are inspired to help and support family, friends and strangers alike. Emphasize the ways this happened on 9/11 and express to kids that their own acts of compassion may help to prevent future acts of violence and intolerance.

The 25th anniversary of 9/11 may inspire curiosity in children who want to know about the attacks and other acts of terrorism. Parents can employ various strategies to ensure such conversations are constructive and supportive.

# BOOKS

## written to help children understand the attacks on 9/11

As countries across the globe acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, children who were born after 9/11 may have questions about the day. Parents can make their own decisions about what to share with their children regarding the attacks on 9/11, and some may want to encourage young readers to look to these books as a means to understanding September 11 more fully.

### **Nine, Ten,**

by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Goodreads characterizes Baskin's 2016 book as a "touching look at the days leading up to the tragic events of September 11, 2001" and the effects of the day on the lives of four middle school students. The four children do not know one another and live in different parts of the United States, but their lives intersect in the aftermath of the attacks.

### **Towers Falling,**

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

This 2016 book looks at the events of 9/11 through the eyes of children who were not alive when the attacks took place. The story follows Déja, a fifth grader in New York City whose interest in learning about the attacks is piqued during a classroom discussion. With two new friends by her side, Déja is determined to learn about the events of 9/11 and why her father becomes so upset any time she mentions the fallen towers that once helped to define the city skyline.

### **The Survivor Tree:**

**Inspired by a True Story,**

by Cheryl Somers Aubin

Goodreads notes this 44-page tale takes readers "on a journey of hope and healing" that parallels the United States's own journey following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The story focuses on a tree found amidst the debris of the



Twin Towers one month after the attacks on September 11. The tree is transported outside of the city and soon begins to flourish before being returned to the 9/11 Memorial Plaza.

### **I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001,**

by Lauren Tarshis

The wildly popular I Survived series includes this 2012 book about Lucas, a football-loving child whose love of the game was inspired by his Uncle Benny, who works with Lucas's father at a New York City firehouse. When Lucas's parents tell him he can no longer play football because the sport is too dangerous, the youngster secretly takes a train into the city to speak with Uncle Benny, only to find himself in the middle of a day that changes America forever.

### **Just A Drop of Water,**

by Kerry O'Malley Cerra

This 2014 book focuses on Jake Green, a 13-year-old living in Florida, and his best friend, Sam Madina, as they navigate the aftermath of the attacks on September 11. When Sam is beaten up for being an Arab Muslim and Sam's father is detained by the FBI, Jake must navigate family turmoil and loyalty to his friend.



# 911

25<sup>th</sup>

## ANNIVERSARY



## Did you know?

According to the National Park Service, 2,996 people were killed during the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Those who lost their lives included 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers, and 37 Port Authority police officers. Tens of thousands of additional individuals have suffered in the aftermath of September 11 due to exposure to chemicals and industrial debris.

In recognition of that, the United States government helped to establish the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). The VCF is a federally funded program that was established to compensate for physical harm or death caused by the terror attacks on September 11. As of April 30, 2026, victims have been awarded \$17.79 billion since the inception of the fund.

## Watertown Daily Times

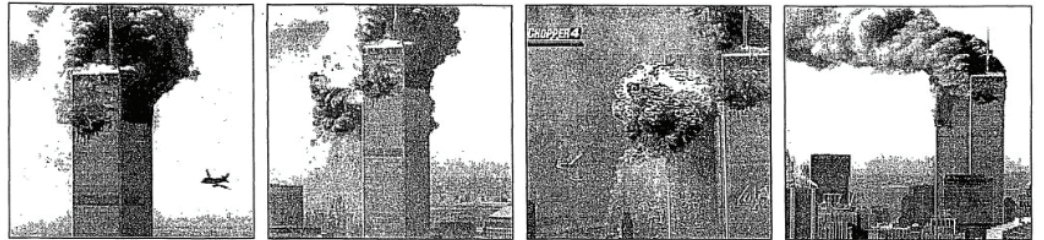
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Last Edition

50 Cents

# U.S. Under Assault



A hijacked airliner, left, nears the World Trade Center towers in New York City today. The next two photos show the explosion and, at right, the towers burn before collapsing. Earlier, a small plane hit the tower in the foreground.

## Hijacked Planes Aimed at D.C., N.Y.



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# A timeline



## of the morning of September 11, 2001

The attacks of September 11, 2001, shook the world and have continued to affect global politics and international relations well into the 21st century. While that impact was not on the minds of Americans in the early hours of September 11, this timeline of that fateful morning, courtesy of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, shows that it was not long after the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center that authorities recognized the United States was under attack.

• **5:45 a.m.:** Two of the hijackers pass through security at Portland International Airport in Maine. The men will take a short flight to Boston Logan International Airport, where they will join three other hijackers and board American Airlines Flight 11.

• **6:00 a.m.:** Polling stations open in New York City for primary elections.

• **7:59 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 11 takes off from Boston with 11 crew members, 76 passengers and five hijackers on board. The plane, which will eventually crash into the North Tower at the World Trade Center, is filled with more than 76,000 pounds of fuel.

• **8:15 a.m.:** United Airlines Flight 175 takes off from Boston with nine crew members, 51 passengers, and five hijackers on board. This flight also is loaded with 76,000 pounds of fuel.

• **8:19 a.m.:** American Airlines ground personnel are alerted by flight attendant Betty Ann Ong that Flight 11 is being hijacked. This call lasts roughly 25 minutes and Ong reports that the cockpit is unreachable. In the moments before Ong's call, one of the hijackers stabbed Daniel M. Lewin, who was sitting in front of him in first class. Lewin is likely the first person killed in the 9/11 attacks.

• **8:20 a.m.:** American Airlines Flight 77 takes off from Washington Dulles International Airport. The flight has 49,900 pounds of fuel and is carrying six crew members, 53 passengers and five hijackers.

• **8:21 a.m.:** The transponder on Flight 11 is turned off. This device is meant to allow air traffic controllers to identify and monitor the flight path of a plane.

• **8:24 a.m.:** One of the hijackers of Flight 11 unwittingly broadcasts a message to air traffic controllers alerting them to the attacks. The hijacker was attempting to communicate with passengers and crew within the cabin.

• **8:30 a.m.:** Around this time, roughly 80 people have already begun gathering on the 106th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center for a financial technology conference. The conference is one of many events on the Trade Center schedule that day.

• **8:37 a.m.:** The Boston Air Traffic Control Center alerts the military that a hijacking is under way.

• **8:42 a.m.:** United Airlines Flight 93 takes off from Newark International Airport. The flight was due to take off at roughly the same time as the other hijacked planes, but was delayed due to routine

traffic. Seven crew members, 33 passengers and four hijackers are on board. The flight is filled with 48,700 pounds of fuel.

• **8:46 a.m.:** Five hijackers crash Flight 11 into floors 93 through 99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Hundreds, including everyone on board the flight, are killed instantly. The crash severs all three emergency stairwells, trapping hundreds of people above the 91st floor.

• **8:46 a.m.:** Police, paramedics and firefighters are sent to the North Tower.

• **8:50 a.m.:** While visiting an elementary school in Florida, U.S. President George W. Bush is notified that a small plane has hit the North Tower.

• **8:52 a.m.:** A flight attendant aboard Flight 175 reaches a United Airlines operator in San Francisco and reports the flight is being hijacked. By 9 a.m., various passengers on Flight 175 have called family members.

• **8:55 a.m.:** The Port Authority informs people inside the South Tower via a public address system that the building is secure and there is no need to evacuate.

• **8:59 a.m.:** The Port Authority Police Department orders both towers evacuated. One minute later, Captain Anthony Whitaker expands the order to include all civilians in the entire World Trade Center complex.

• **9:02 a.m.:** An evacuation order is broadcast in the South Tower.

• **9:03 a.m.:** Five hijackers crash Flight 175 into floors 77 through 85 of the South Tower. All on-board the flight are killed, as are an unknown number of people inside the building. Two of the three emergency stairwells are impassable and most elevator cables are severed, trapping many people above the impact zone and inside elevator cars.

• **9:03 a.m.:** A second call for mobilization brings the total number of New York City Police Department officers responding to the scene to roughly 2,000. In addition, the FDNY issues a fifth alarm and deploys several hundred additional firefighters to the scene.

• **9:05 a.m.:** President Bush is informed that a second plane has crashed into the World Trade Center.

• **9:12 a.m.:** Flight attendant Renée A. May calls her mother and tells her that hijackers have seized control of Flight 77. When May's call is disconnected, she calls American Airlines.

• **9:30 a.m.:** Amidst reports of additional hijacked

planes, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management at 7 World Trade Center is evacuated.

• **9:37 a.m.:** Hijackers crash Flight 77 into the Pentagon. All 53 passengers and six crew members perish, and 125 military and civilian personnel on the ground are killed in the fire caused by the crash.

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• **9:42 a.m.:** The Federal Aviation Administration grounds all flights, ordering all civilian planes in United States airspace to land. Departures also are prohibited.

• **9:45 a.m.:** Evacuations at the White House and the U.S. Capitol begin. Both the House of Representatives and Senate are in session at the time the evacuation begins.

• **9:58 a.m.:** Flight 93 is flying so low to the ground that passenger Edward P. Felt is able to reach an emergency 911 operator in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

• **9:59 a.m.:** The South Tower collapses after burning for 56 minutes. The tower collapses in just 10 seconds.

• **9:59 a.m.:** Continuity-of-government procedures are implemented for the first known time in American history.

• **10:03 a.m.:** Four hijackers crash Flight 93 into a field near the town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All 33 passengers and seven crew members on board perish. Passengers and crew had stormed the cockpit, and the plane ultimately crashes just 20 minutes' flying time from Washington, D.C.

• **10:15 a.m.:** The E Ring of the Pentagon collapses.

• **10:28 a.m.:** The North Tower collapses after burning for 102 minutes. More than 1,600 people are killed as a result of the attack on the North Tower.

• **11:02 a.m.:** New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani urges the evacuation of lower Manhattan.

• **12:16 p.m.:** The last flight still in the air above the continental United States lands. Within two and a half hours, U.S. airspace has been cleared of roughly 4,500 commercial and general aviation planes.



# North Country Tightens Security, Prepares To Dispatch Assistance

## Watertown Daily Times

*This story was published on the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001 in the Watertown Daily Times*

North country governmental and institutional took special precautions and law enforcement and emergency personnel pledged to mobilize to New York City following the terrorist attacks this morning.

Richard E. Madlin, Jefferson County emergency services director, said he has been on alert since this equipment became available. He said no helicopters being asked to send assistance.

State troopers in Canton and elsewhere were gathering in anticipation of being assigned to assist in the New York City area.

Other troopers had been asked to increased security oversight at the county's international bridges in Ogdensburg and Massena and New York Power Authority facilities in Massena.

The Black River Valley Chapter of the Red Cross was asked this morning by state Red Cross officials to start lining up non-essential disaster relief volunteers to send to New York City.

"We've got call 20 minutes after we find the plane crashed into the World Trade Center," said Mark Pacilio, deputy director. "That was the first wave we ever sent out."

As of late this morning, four volunteers, including Mr. Pacilio, were preparing to depart for New York City if needed.

An official deployment order had not yet been made, however, because logistics were being worked out by Red Cross officials as to how volunteers throughout the state would get into the city, Mr. Pacilio said.

"We've got logistical issues close to the ground and waiting for our next instructions," he said. "We will be there when needed."

The Red Cross has volunteers trained in providing mental health counseling,

family services and mass care, including food distribution.

The Dulles State Office Building in Watertown was ordered locked down shortly after 10 this morning and access clearly shut down.

James A. Leven, building manager, said all of the building's doors, with the exception of the front door, were locked after the attacks. He said no outside deliveries were being accepted at the building and no unauthorized personnel allowed without an appointment.

Later, Gov. George E. Pataki ordered all state office buildings closed.

All doors leading into the St. Lawrence County courthouse complex were also locked and staffed by armed sheriff's deputies.

The public entrance to the county's Public Safety complex across Court Street from the courthouse was also locked. Visitors were being scrutinized before admission.

State Attorney General Eliot L. Spitzer was in his office this morning at 130 Broadway, a block or two from the World Trade Center. The building was evacuated at 9:22 a.m., Mr. Spitzer said, forced to stay, and his employees, Mark S. Weitzel. There was no word from that office as of 10:30 a.m.

Gov. Pataki was en route to New York City this morning when the attack occurred. He was still in New York City this morning, but Joseph F. Conway, his spokesman, would not reveal his location.

As a precautionary measure, the state has closed all non-emergency-related state government offices in New York City.

At Fort Drum, emergency services managers were meeting to work out security recommendations for Maj. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck and the Mountain Division command.

"We will start initiating a force protection working group meeting and they'll be

making a recommendation to the CG," said Maj. Kenneth W. McDermott, post public affairs officer.

"This gives us the spread of responsibility to all our force protection, fire, ambulance and security agencies. Gen. Hagenbeck would make a decision on the need for increased security measures based on their report in combination with directions from higher headquarters, regional and local."

The threat conditions at Drum was still normal as of this morning, Maj. McDermott said.

"I wouldn't say jobs numbers as usual, but we're taking it cautiously," he said.

St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. officials were discussing methods of the agency's close ties to the St. Lawrence River but said measures are in place. She would not say whether the Seaway was open or closed.

Emergency preparedness plans were implemented at both the Thousand Islands International Bridge and Ogdensburg-Prescott Bridge by Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Executive Director Curtis Shaughnessy.

The explosions in New York City and Washington have local and state agencies, organizations and churches responding to the crisis as well.

Jefferson County officials said the county was tightening security but did not intend to close county facilities as extensive action. County emergency officials were contemplating criminally driving to the city as part of a team to be transferred to be triggered by the terrorist attacks.

At St. Lawrence University in Canton, no extra or special effort by the disaster team yet was to be taken, according to Dean-At-Land and additional centers were to be established at the dormitories, said Maureen A. Doyle, spokeswoman for the university.

As 8 p.m. classes in Gun- nison Memorial Chapel were

scheduled.

As travel became possible, the university will help coordinate transportation, she said.

As an intellectual response, the university is trying to put together faculty and staff with expertise in the international affairs for a discussion Wednesday to give perspective on what has happened.

Students with specific questions about family members are being asked to call the university switchboard. It isn't clear how many individuals connected to the university might be personally affected by the event.

"That could be anyone. Certainly, we have alumni who work in those buildings. We have students whose family addresses are close to those buildings," she said. "I would say the potential is there for everyone to be affected."

Canton College of Technology and Potsdam State University College canceled classes for this afternoon. Potsdam College has postponed all athletic events, both home and away, scheduled for today.

Canton Tech will hold classes starting at 6 p.m. and cease at 10 if Massena Education Center will be held as scheduled.

Clarkson University, Potsdam, is accepting regular schedule but students and teachers can choose not to attend classes.

"We want to maintain a normal routine to try our community together," said Michael Griffin, Clarkson spokesman.

Canton Tech and Potsdam College had been routinely sending students affected by the previous Eastman Industries fire in New York City and Washington, D.C., areas. Canton Tech estimated it had between 150 and 200 NYC students. Clarkson estimated community College were to be canceled as of 2 p.m., said college President John W. Deans. Distance

were being encouraged to be able to watch the television when there were more reports.

Lorraine Irwin, office manager for the Potsdam Activities Office, said the college has made freely available mental health counselors.

Mildred Rhoads, deputy superintendent for the Jefferson-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services, said that BOCES' District Superintendent Charles H. Bohlen is in Albany to meet for a scheduled meeting with State Education Commissioner Central School District, though canceled afternoon activities.

The Rev. Arthur A. Lafleur, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Watertown, announced this morning that because of today's dismissal, the church would be open from noon to 10 p.m. for Eucharistic prayer and adoration.

There will also be a prayer service at 7 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church, 818 Arsenal St.

## World Trade Center Facts

Associated Press

■ Seven buildings, including the twin 110-floor towers that were the world's second tallest buildings.

■ 50,000 workers in the two towers.

■ First buildings opened in 1970; towers and plaza not completed until 1976. Last building completed in 1988.

■ The towers were 1,350 feet tall. Each has 21,800 windows, 104 elevators, and an acre of rentable space per floor.

■ 10 million square feet of office space.

■ Dedicated in 1973, the center is owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. It is home to commodity exchanges, two major investment firms, banks, law firms, a hotel and an underground shopping mall.



# WPBS documentary explores early and late days of 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan

## “FOR COUNTRY: First In/Last Out” now on PBS Passport app, with local screenings later

# We Remember

Twenty-five years later, we pay tribute to those we lost and those who survived in the September 11th terror attacks on America, and to the extraordinary responders who risked their own lives and safety to help others. We also remember the spirit of courage, compassion, determination and unity that prevailed across our nation in the wake of disaster, and makes us so proud to be Americans.



[jeffersonhospice.org](http://jeffersonhospice.org)  
315.788.7323



A scene from “For Country: First In/Last Out.” U.S. Army

By Chris Brock

[cbrock@wdt.net](mailto:cbrock@wdt.net)

WATERTOWN — About five years ago, officials at WPBS-TV and the 10th Mountain Division Museum began conversations about some sort of documentary to tell a story about a component of the division that would exemplify its unique qualities, capabilities and experiences of its soldiers.

With the help of one of North America’s leading documentary filmmakers who specializes in military subjects, the project envisioned will premiere Friday with, “For Country: First In/Last Out.” It focuses on the soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) - (4-31 IN), known as the “Polar Bears.”

The battalion was among the first American units deployed to Afghanistan in the Global War on Terror following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S., and, two decades later, included soldiers who participated in the final evacuation and security operations at Hamid Karzai In-

ternational Airport during the withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021.

WPBS turned to Anthony J. Towstego, one of North America’s leading documentary filmmakers specializing in military subjects, to write, produce and direct the project. The one-hour film features exclusive interviews with many veterans and active-duty soldiers who served with the battalion.

“For Country: First In/Last Out” premiered Friday on-demand online and on the PBS app with the Passport member benefit. Passport, for a minimum contribution of \$5/month, supports the WPBS community while unlocking extended access to PBS shows, films and specials.

Towstego is president of Thomega Entertainment Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. His four-decade career has included producing feature films, dramatic television series, documentaries, corporate, commercial, and educational films and videos nationally and internationally.

See WPBST7



Gen. Stephen J. Townsend was interviewed for the WPBS documentary. Thomega Entertainment

# GYMO

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# WPBS

From T6

“Being asked to consider producing this story about the 10th Mountain Division was a great honor,” Towstego said Tuesday in a phone interview from Saskatchewan. “The reason why I felt equipped to do the job is that my first war-related documentary was over 35 years ago and I felt I could do this program a lot of justice.”

Towstego said the documentary team did “deep research and development” before filming.

“Initially, we interviewed three or four veterans who literally were the first ones in after 9/11,” he said. “I’ve interviewed hundreds of veterans. But after interviewing these gentlemen, I came away quite impressed with their articulation, memory, their passion for their unit and how they worked like a band of brothers.”

Also interviewed for “For Country: First In, Last Out” was Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, former Battalion Commander, 4-31 Infantry Regiment. He served four tours in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom culminating as Commander, 10th Mountain Division.

“We were very privileged to have him in our documentary,” Towstego said. “He talks about the United States’ immediate response, Canada as an ally, and many other allies.”

In a statement to WPBS about the documentary, Gen. Townsend, who retired in 2022, said, “Despite how Afghanistan ultimately turned out, these soldiers should be very proud of their service. For more than twenty years, they helped keep our nation and the world safer from attacks originating from Afghanistan, which was our primary mission.”

“The documentary chronicles the humanity, leadership, and difficult moral decisions faced by those on the ground during some of the most intense and challenging days of the war in Afghanistan,” Towstego said.



**“The documentary chronicles the humanity, leadership, and difficult moral decisions faced by those on the ground during some of the most intense and challenging days of the war in Afghanistan,” said Anthony J. Towstego, writer and producer of “For Country: First In/Last Out.” U.S. Army**



**A scene from “For Country: First In/Last Out.” U.S. Army**



# WE REMEMBER. WE HONOR. WE SERVE.



For generations, Watertown International Airport has connected the people who protect our nation with the people waiting for them at home.

Twenty-five years after September 11, we stand together as New Yorkers to remember the first responders who gave everything, honor the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division who answered the call, and recognize the families who have carried that sacrifice forward.

As part of the Fort Drum community, we're honored to play a small role in those meaningful journeys.



*Proudly Serving Those Who Serve.*

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# Fort Drum provides first conventional force to respond to 9/11 attack, terrorist attack defines deployments

## U.S. Army

### War on Terrorism — Afghanistan

In 2001, the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) provided the first conventional combat forces to deploy in response to the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. Division soldiers secured critical facilities in the United States and the Middle East, as well as a key forward operating base in Uzbekistan, before deploying to

Afghanistan as the first conventional force to reinforce special operations units on the ground.

During Operation Anaconda in March 2002, elements of the division headquarters, commanded by Maj. Gen. F.L. "Buster" Hagenbeck and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth C. Lopez, led more than 1,700 U.S. and 1,000 Afghan troops in fighting in the Shahi-Kot Valley. The force included the 3rd Brigade, 101st Air-

borne Division (Air Assault); 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division headquarters; 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment; 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment; and the 3rd Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. U.S. forces estimated 500 fighters were killed during the battle.

Elements from across the division returned to Afghanistan in 2003. The division headquarters, led by Maj. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III and

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Carey, assumed command of Coalition Joint Task Force 180, supervising fighting brigades throughout Afghanistan. The division's 1st Brigade joined other coalition forces conducting combat operations to eliminate terrorist elements in the region and provide security and humanitarian relief to the Afghan people. The 2nd Brigade provided forces as part of Task Force Phoenix

to train the Afghan National Army. The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade deployed to Afghanistan for the first time, providing aviation support across the country. During 2003, more than 6,000 10th Mountain Division soldiers deployed in support of the war on terrorism.

### War on Terrorism — Iraq

In July 2004, only six months after returning from

See FORT DRUM T13

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# Key figures in the American response to the attacks on 9/11

In a speech delivered to a shaken nation on the evening of September 11, 2001, United States President George W. Bush noted Americans' response to the deadliest terror attacks in world history reflected "the best of America." President Bush also indicated the search was already under way for the perpetrators of the attacks, a hunt the president noted would benefit from the full resources of the American intelligence and law enforcement communities.

The American response to the attacks of 9/11 was a multifaceted effort that involved an assortment of key officials whose roles are worth noting as Americans reflect on the tragic events of 9/11 25 years after the attacks shook the world.



**President George W. Bush**

President Bush had not even been in the Oval Office for a full year when the attacks of 9/11 occurred. After the attacks, President Bush inspired confidence among the American people. The Miller Center at the University of Virginia notes that President Bush's approval rating in the weeks after the attacks rose to 90 percent. President Bush deemed Friday, September 14, a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance.

## **Donald Rumsfeld**

Donald Rumsfeld was roughly nine months into his second stint as the United States Secretary of Defense when the 9/11 attacks occurred. Rumsfeld, who also served in the role under President Gerald Ford from 1975 to 1977, directed the actions of the Department of Defense in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. According to the United

States Department of War, in the wake of the attacks on 9/11, Rumsfeld proposed a reorganization of the worldwide defense command structure. Rumsfeld also initiated a global restructuring of the U.S. forces that included shifting forces from Europe and the Korean peninsula.

## **George Tenet**

George Tenet served as the Director of Cen-

tral Intelligence (DCI) for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from late 1996 until mid-July 2004. The Council on Foreign Relations notes that, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, President Bush granted Tenet and the CIA open-ended authority to capture and detain anyone who the intelligence branch considered a "continuing, serious threat" to the United States.

## **Condoleezza Rice**

Condoleezza Rice served as the National Security Advisor to President Bush from 2001 to 2005. Chapman University notes that Rice played a crucial role in the Bush administration's response to the 9/11 attacks, including the decision to invade Iraq in 2003, which Rice advocated for. Rice continued to play an influential role in shaping America's post-9/11 foreign policy while serving as President Bush's Secretary of State from 2005 to 2009.

## **General Tommy Franks**

United States Army General Tommy Franks was Commander of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), a role he took on in July 2000. General Franks was tasked with orchestrating the military response to the attacks, including guiding the war in Afghanistan. General Franks also led the invasion of Iraq in 2003.



# President George W. Bush's *address to the nation* on September 11, 2001

On the evening of September 11, 2001, millions of Americans were struggling to make sense of the events that occurred earlier that day, when hijackers commandeered four commercial airplanes, ultimately crashing two into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in a field near the town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and crew attempted to regain control of the plane from the hijackers. The attacks were the deadliest terrorist attacks in world history. All passengers and crew on board all four flights died on September 11, and thousands of others on the ground lost their lives that day as well. In what seemed like the blink of an eye, Americans were forced to confront the unsettling reality that America was under attack.

**That was the situation confronting United States President George W. Bush when Mr. Bush addressed the nation that evening.**

“Good evening. Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed; our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted

for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America — with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C. to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight, and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business, as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism. Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night, and God bless America.”



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# Fort Drum

From T9

Afghanistan, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade secured contested areas of western Baghdad for the Jan. 31 national elections, preventing enemy attacks from disrupting Iraq's first democratic election.

Following the return of the division headquarters and 1st Brigade from Afghanistan, the 10th Mountain Division began transforming into a modular division. The division officially transformed into a modular unit during a ceremony Sept. 13, 2004. As part of the ceremony, seven units were inactivated and 13 were activated, including the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. The 4th Brigade Combat Team was activated at Fort Polk, Louisiana, on Jan. 16, 2005.

In August 2005, the 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed to western Baghdad. The brigade was responsible for security during the Oct. 15 constitutional referendum and the Dec. 15 national election. The division headquarters, 3rd Brigade Combat Team and two battalion task forces from the 4th Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in 2006.

The division headquarters, led by Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley and Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph C. Borja, assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force 76 and supervised operations to defeat enemy extremist movements, establish enduring security and set conditions for long-term stability in Afghanistan. During the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's deployment, soldiers executed four significant combat operations during 12 months in the Pech Valley, Kunar Province, Helmand Province and throughout eastern Afghanistan.

While serving in Afghanistan, Staff Sgt. Jared C. Monti became the division's second soldier to earn the Medal of Honor for combat operations in Nuristan Province on June



**Soldiers in the 10th Mountain Division bow their heads for a moment of silence during a 9-11 memorial service held at Bagram airfield in Afghanistan, September 11, 2003. Michael Fagans/ Watertown Daily Times**

21, 2006.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team again deployed to Iraq in August 2006, moving into an area known as the "Triangle of Death" for a 15-month deployment as part of the troop surge. In winter 2006, the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade deployed again to Afghanistan as the only aviation brigade in the theater, providing support for International Security Assistance Force assets throughout the country. The 10th Sustainment Brigade also deployed to Afghanistan in 2006. As part of Task Force Muleskinner and the Logistics Command, the brigade assumed the mission of tracking and coordinating the movement of supplies, equipment and personnel throughout the region.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team returned to Iraq in 2007, conducting stability and security operations in northern Iraq and training the Sons of Iraq to protect their neighborhoods from insurgent violence.



**An AH-64 Apache helicopter pulls into the forward arming and refueling point at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in this undated photo. During a 2013 deployment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade soldiers manned the station 24 hours a day. US ARMY Photo**

In 2008, the 4th Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq and participated in large-scale operations, including Operation Phantom Phoenix. The headquarters

of the 10th Mountain Division deployed to Iraq for the first time in April 2008. Led by Maj. Gen. Michael L. Oates and Command Sgt. Maj. James W. Redmore, the divi-

sion served as the command element for southern Baghdad until late March 2009, when it moved to Basra to

**See FORT DRUM T17**



# Acclaimed documentaries

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## Telling the stories of 9/11

The terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001, shocked countless people across the globe. Questions regarding the perpetrators of the attacks and their motivation confounded mourners in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, and many of those questions have since been answered.

But in the quarter century since the attack, people who were alive that day and those who were yet to be born may still have questions about the deadliest terrorist attack in human history. Over that period, numerous documentary films and series have been made in the hopes of educating the public about the 9/11 attacks and their lasting effects, and those productions can offer significant insight as the United States and the world reflects on the events of September 11, 2001, on the 25th anniversary of that horrific day.



**“9/11: Inside the President’s War Room”** (2021)  
This film offers viewers insight into what it was like to be a member of the administration of President George W. Bush on 9/11. Narrated by Emmy Award-winning actor Jeff Daniels, this film features interviews with key Bush administration officials, including President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

**“Saint of 9/11”** (2006)  
Among the earliest documentaries to emerge from the tragedy of 9/11, “Saint of 9/11” tells the story of Father Mychal Judge, the chaplain of the New York City Fire Department. Narrated by legendary actor Sir Ian McKellen, this moving portrait of Father Mychal, who was wildly popular among FDNY firefighters, portrays the many facets of his life and ministry. Tragically, Father Mychal was the first certified fatality of the attacks on 9/11, and “Saint of 9/11” endures as a moving testament to his life and legacy.

**“Generation 9/11”** (2021)  
This PBS documentary connects viewers with seven children of expectant fathers who were killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The brave young adults share what it was like to grow

up without their fathers and their own approaches to confronting the events of 9/11 and how that tragic day shaped their worldview.

**“Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror”** (2021)  
This five-episode Netflix series chronicles the events of September 11 and its aftermath, including an examination of the resulting war on terror. In addition to recollections from key Bush administration officials, “Turning Point” features interviews with American service members as well as members of the Taliban and other figures who offer unique insight on 9/11 and the events that unfolded as the U.S. responded to the attacks.

**“9/11: Four Flights”** (2021)  
This documentary recounts the lesser known stories of the 9/11 victims who were aboard American Airlines Flight 11, United Airlines Flight 175, American Airlines Flight 77, and United Airlines Flight 93. Family members of the victims as well as air traffic controllers and military officers share their experiences of the day.

Many additional documentary films and television series can serve as invaluable resources for anyone looking to learn more about the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath.



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# Health issues affecting 9/11 survivors and first responders



The American spirit was on full display in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. While the nation and the world looked on in horror on that morning 25 years ago, thousands of brave men and women refused to sit still. First responders came from far and wide on September 11 and in the ensuing days and months, with some estimates suggesting as many as 400,000 individuals arrived to provide assistance at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan in the aftermath of the attacks.

The bravery of the first responders and others who arrived at Ground Zero, the Pentagon and the site where Flight 93 crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, can never be forgotten. It's equally important to remember the challenges those individuals have faced since 2001. According to the World Trade Center Health Program, the number of individuals who have perished from 9/11-related illnesses now outnumbers the amount of people who were killed during the attacks on September 11.

While it's been a quarter century since the attacks of September 11, many people are still facing a range of illnesses and conditions associated with their experiences on that day. The World Trade Center Health Program provides medically necessary monitoring and treatment for certified WTC-related health conditions, and the following are just some of the conditions that first responders, survivors and others who worked to clean up and revitalize areas affected by the attacks may be confronting.

• **Cancer:** Exposure to toxic dust and other chemicals during and after 9/11 has been linked to dozens of types of cancer since the attacks. Examples of covered conditions include but are

not limited to cancers of the blood and lymphoid tissue, including lymphoma and leukemia; breast cancer; ovarian cancer; cancer of the head and neck; cancer of the digestive system, including the colon and rectum; prostate cancer; mesothelioma; cancers of the respiratory system, including lung cancer; and uterine cancer.

• **Aerodigestive disorders:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that aerodigestive disorders affect the breathing airways, including the sinuses or lungs. Such disorders also can affect the upper digestive tract, including the esophagus. Some examples of aerodigestive disorders include:

- Asthma
- Chronic cough syndrome
- Chronic laryngitis
- Chronic rhinosinusitis
- Interstitial lung disease
- New onset and WTC-exacerbated chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Sleep apnea

• **Mental health conditions:**

Many people continue to suffer from 9/11-related mental health conditions. One study published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine noted that nearly half of police-responders who suffered probable post-traumatic stress disorder also had depression and anxiety. Acute stress disorder, panic disorder, substance use disorder, and adjustment disorder are some additional mental health conditions that have been identified as 9/11-related illnesses among first responders.

Many individuals are still confronting 9/11-related illnesses. Support for such individuals and the programs that serve them is vital.

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# The reactions of world leaders to the attacks on 9/11

Americans were shocked by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Images of hijacked airplanes being flown into the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan and the attack on the Pentagon will never be forgotten, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Stoystown, Pennsylvania, serves as a reminder and a living testament to the bravery of the passengers who prevented the hijackers of that plane from reaching their intended target, which investigators believe was the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

As Americans coped with the tragic events of September 11, leaders from across the globe condemned the terrorists' brutality and issued statements of support for the United States in the hours and days following the attacks.



*"This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life, and we, the democracies of this world, are going to have to come together and fight it together."*



— **Tony Blair**,  
Prime Minister of the  
United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland

*"We, who know well the insanity of terrorism, manifest our support and solidarity... to all the citizens of the United States."*



— **Jose Maria Aznar**,  
Prime Minister of Spain

*"On behalf of the European Union, they condemn in the strongest possible terms this type of cowardly attack on innocent civilians. "*



— Joint statement from  
**Guy Verhofstadt**, Prime  
Minister of Belgium, and  
**Louis Michel**, Minister of  
Foreign Affairs for Belgium

*"My government condemns these attacks to the utmost. I want to express my heartfelt condolences and my unqualified solidarity to you and the American people."*



— **Gerhard Schröder**,  
Chancellor of Germany,  
  
in a personal letter to  
President George W. Bush

*"I want to tell President Bush, who is my friend, that we stand in total solidarity — we bring you the total solidarity of France and the French people. It is solidarity of the heart."*



— **Jacques Chirac**,  
President of France

*"Greece condemns, most categorically, these horrific acts. We hope that the culprits be located and brought to justice immediately."*



— **Costas Simitis**,  
Prime Minister of Greece

*"These terrorist attacks are a serious challenge not only to the United States, but to the freedom, peace and democracy of the world... We must stand up with firm resolve to acts of terrorism, together with other nations of the world. "*



— **Junichiro Koizumi**,  
Prime Minister of Japan

*"In the face of such unspeakable horror we cannot but be deeply disturbed. I add my voice to all the voices raised in these hours to express indignant condemnation, and I strongly reiterate that the ways of violence will never lead to genuine solutions to humanity's problems. "*

— **Pope John Paul II**

*"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless attacks which have just been perpetrated against the United States of America. These barbaric acts constitute intolerable aggression against democracy and underline the need for the international community and the members of the alliance to unite their forces in fighting the scourge of terrorism. "*

— **George Robertson**,  
Secretary General of NATO



# Fort Drum

From T13

coordinate security for Multinational Division South.

In fall 2008, the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and the 10th Sustainment Brigade also deployed to Iraq. The aviation brigade conducted personnel movements, resupply missions, air assaults, medical evacuations, and se-

curity and attack operations in support of Multinational Division North. The sustainment brigade orchestrated logistical support for more than 140,000 soldiers, Marines and civilians.

## War on Terrorism — Afghanistan and Iraq

In January 2009, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team deployed to Logar and Wardak provinces in Afghanistan, guarding the southern approaches to Kabul and bring-

ing security to both provinces.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team completed another tour in Iraq from 2009 to 2010 during the transition from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn. The 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 as part of the troop surge, becoming the first U.S. Army brigade combat team to operate in northern Afghanistan.

Both the division headquarters and the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade again deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. Led by Maj. Gen. James L. Terry and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher K. Greca, the division headquarters assumed responsibility for Regional Command South from October 2010 to October 2011, while the 4th Brigade Combat Team conducted combat operations in Wardak and Logar provinces and

the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade supported Regional Command East.

In spring 2011, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team deployed back to Regional Command South to quell rising tension in the Zhari and Maiwand districts of Kandahar Province. The brigade conducted multiple combat operations south of Highway 1, pushing through the "green zone" to

See FORT DRUM T24



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- Healthcare workers
- Veterans
- Family Members

\*This list of high-risk occupations is not exhaustive.



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First responders routinely face intense experiences that can have lasting impacts on mental health. Access to specialized support is essential for personal well-being and for continuing to serve the community safely and effectively.



# 9/11 Memorials across the United States



The shocking attacks of September 11, 2001, are unforgettable. Millions of Americans recall exactly where they were and what they were doing the moment they heard the United States was under attack. While the 19 terrorists who hijacked four commercial airplanes on the morning of September 11, 2001, aspired to crash the planes into cities in the eastern United States, the attacks resonated with Americans everywhere. The presence of 9/11 memorials throughout the United States serve as a reminder that every community was touched by the attacks of September 11. These monuments also endure as a testament to American resiliency and ensure that Americans born before and after the horrifying events of September 11 will never forget those who lost their lives that day and in the days, weeks and months following the attacks.

The Voices of September 11th Living Memorial Project was launched in 2006 and chronicles the 2,977 individuals who lost their lives on 9/11 as well as the six individuals and unborn children who perished in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. In addition to maintaining an extensive online collection of more than 87,000 photographs, the 9/11 Living Memorial also maintains a list of 9/11 memorials across the United States at [voicescenter.org/living-memorial/memorials/by-state](http://voicescenter.org/living-memorial/memorials/by-state). Americans interested in visiting a memorial near their homes can peruse this abridged rundown of memorials by state or visit the 9/11 Living Memorial website for a full list of memorials.

## Firefighters, Ambulance Crews Ready To Go If They're Called

By David C. Shampine

Times Staff Writer

*This was published Sept. 12, 2001 in the Watertown Daily Times.*

A team of 20 state troopers from the Watertown area was sent Tuesday afternoon to join colleagues from around the state to assist disaster relief efforts in New York City. Other fire departments and police agencies throughout Jefferson County appeared ready to help if called.

The county is ready to send 173 volunteer firefighters and 21 trucks to New York City, and the city of Watertown Fire Department already has a man assisting in lower Manhattan.

City Fire Capt. David M. Lachance was attending a mid-level fire chiefs school on an island off Manhattan when the terrorist blow was struck at the World Trade Center about 9 a.m. Tuesday, Fire Chief Daniel J. Gaumont said. The school was suspended, and participants were asked to assist at the scene, he said.

Capt. Lachance and the other volunteers from the New York City Fire Academy class were taken by boat to the city. He telephoned his wife Tuesday night to let her know that he is all right and is working with emergency medical technicians, Chief Gaumont said.

The chief added that "90 percent" of his department is volunteering to go to New York. If the call comes, send five firefighters and one engine at a time.

That is in addition to the 173 volunteer firefighters in the county who have told Richard E. Madlin, county director of fire and emergency management, that they will go if asked. Mr. Madlin said he has 16 engine companies, five rescue trucks, three ambulances and three deputy coordinators waiting for the call.

No call has been made for any volunteers north of Westchester County, said Mr. Madlin's deputy, Gregory T. Brunelle, "but we could get the call today or in three weeks."

"It is important that we don't send too much because we don't want to leave our area unprotected."

Chief Gaumont said he has learned that two men with whom he sits at breakfast last week at a fire chiefs conference in New Orleans were among the firefighters killed Tuesday, including Chief Peter Ganci.

To fill the void left by the state troopers leaving for New York City, state police in the Watertown zone began today working 12-hour shifts, the longest considered "regular" time, Sgt. Michael Madison said. Twenty troopers remain in the zone.

National volunteers?

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department also sent 12 law enforcement personnel to the state domestic terrorism task force at the state police deployment.

"A majority of our members left Watertown to go to New York," Lt. Vincent P. Munn said, but the movement of state troopers, our primary goal is taking care of Jefferson County."

Some county corrections officers are volunteer firefighters, and they have asked the department if they will be allowed to leave their jobs to help in New York, said Lt. Donald P. Reed, jail supervisor.

"We can afford to, and if they work the time, we'll let them go," he said. "But we're cross-trained and we won't."

State troopers and members of the state police Bureau of Criminal Investigation and U.S. Customs and Immigration officers Tuesday and today inspected vehicles at the Wellesley







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## 5 Ways to Thank and Show Your Support for Our Community's First Responders

- 1 Say thanks to a first responder, in person or on social media.
- 2 Send a handwritten note expressing your gratitude to a local department or agency. Parents and teachers can help kids create hand-made thank-you cards to deliver to first responders.
- 3 Have breakfast or lunch delivered to a local department or agency, enlisting neighbors or coworkers to help finance the



gesture.

- 4 Consider making a donation to a local fire, EMS or police department, or to an organization that supports first responders and their families.
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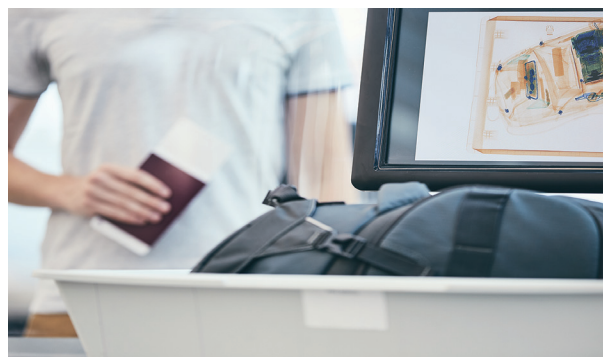


# How the attacks on 9/11 affected air travel

It's been 25 years since terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. The effects of those attacks were wide-ranging, and anyone who has traveled by air in the quarter century since the horrific events of 9/11 knows that the world changed forever on September 11.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, hijackers boarded four different airplanes they ultimately gained control of. Two of those planes were flown into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan while another was flown into the Pentagon in Virginia. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania after brave passengers stormed the hijackers, forcing them to crash the plane before it could reach what investigators believe was the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

The use of airplanes to attack the United States on September 11 forever changed both domestic and international air travel in various ways, and these are just some of the changes travelers have grown accustomed to over the last 25 years.



- The United States government created the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Within two months of the 9/11 attacks, President George W. Bush signed legislation that created the TSA, which was to be tasked with screening passengers. The TSA replaced private companies that had been handling security prior to the attacks on 9/11. After the establishment of the TSA, all who sought to become screeners for the new agency were subjected to strict background checks and detailed training.

- Everything going on a plane was now screened or inspected. One of the more notable components of the legislation that established the TSA was that all checked baggage and carry-on items were now to be screened for harmful devices, including explosives.

- Long lines at security checkpoints became part of the air travel experience. National Public Radio (NPR) notes that waiting times at gates increased dramatically after 9/11. Whereas before 9/11 it was possible, if not recommended, to arrive at the airport shortly before a flight was scheduled to depart and still make it to your seat on time, that flexibility largely vanished after 9/11 due to the heightened security at airports that created a need to arrive at the airport long before a flight was scheduled for takeoff.

- Friends and family could no longer escort you all the way to the gate. Many a Hollywood movie made prior to 9/11 includes a scene featuring a moving goodbye or a warm welcome home at a gate for a departing or arriving flight. However, after 9/11, no one other than ticketed passengers was allowed past security checkpoints.

- The Real ID Act was passed. According to MacDill Air Force Base, the Real ID Act was passed by the United States Congress in 2005 after the 9/11 Commission which investigated the terrorist attacks of September 11 recommended that the federal government set a more rigorous standard for the issuance of personal identification. A Real ID is now required for anyone who wants to use only a state-issued driver's license to board a domestic flight in the United States (a valid U.S. passport is also allowable for those who have yet to secure a Real ID).



While it's understandable to conclude the need to remove footwear at airport security checkpoints is a byproduct of the 9/11 attacks, that's not so. A little more than three months after the attacks on 9/11, British criminal and terrorist Richard Reid boarded a flight between Paris and Miami wearing shoes that were loaded with explosives. Reid was unsuccessful in his efforts to detonate the explosives, and was subdued by fellow passengers and ultimately sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. But in the ensuing decades most airline passengers were asked to remove their shoes at airport security checkpoints before the requirement was lifted in July 2025.





# How to continue to support families affected by 9/11

Nearly 3,000 people died in the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. But the death toll related to 9/11 has risen in the years since those attacks occurred, as the diseases tied to exposure to chemicals and industrial debris at and surrounding Ground Zero has claimed the lives of thousands more over the last quarter century.

The families of fallen heroes and the heroes who are still confronting the side effects of their involvement in rescue and relief efforts can never be forgotten. As the world commemorates the 25th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, people from all walks of life can take note of the many ways to assist the families affected by 9/11.

## • Support charities working to help 9/11 families.

Countless families were forever affected by 9/11, and various charities continue to provide much-needed support to those individuals. Donating to such charities can ensure they continue to have the means to meet their missions. Tuesday's Children ([tuesdayschildren.org](http://tuesdayschildren.org)) is a nonprofit organization founded and designed to support families who have been impacted by loss or illness related to 9/11. The organization also offers support to those who responded to the attacks on 9/11 and continue to be impacted. Additional organizations that offer support to 9/11 families and honor the legacies of fallen first responders include, but are not limited to, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation ([t2t.org](http://t2t.org)), the First Responders Children's Foundation

([1strcf.org](http://1strcf.org)), and the Voices Center for Resilience ([voicescenter.org](http://voicescenter.org)).

## • Support legislative efforts to assist 9/11 families.

Many nonprofit organizations offer assistance to 9/11 families and first responders, but government-sponsored programs remain crucial to individuals in need. Such programs must remain a priority for government officials, and voters and volunteers can play a key role by expressing their support for these programs and insisting that legislators keep existing programs intact and continue to fund them in the future.

## • Donate to museums and memorials.

In the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, government officials and others in positions of leadership emphasized the need to ensure that the victims of September 11 and their sacrifices remain part of the public consciousness. Museums and memorials accessible to the public

are critical to keeping the memories of 9/11 victims and the heroic efforts of first responders alive. But museums need funding to meet their missions and public memorials require maintenance to ensure they do not fall into disrepair. Financial donations from conscientious and grateful citizens help fulfill

those requirements.

As the world remembers the tragic events of September 11, 2001, on the 25th anniversary of that horrific day, it's vital that 9/11 families in need continue to get the support they deserve.

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# Fort Drum

From T17

the Arghandab River and increasing security and stability in the Kandahar region. As brigade combat teams began to redeploy, the 10th Sustainment Brigade assumed forward operations from October 2011 to October 2012, marking the final deployment under the Army's 12-month deployment cycle before transitioning to nine-month rotations.

## Army Modernization

In fall 2012, the Army designated two of the 10th Mountain Division's brigade combat teams to transition into Security Force Assistance Brigades. Brigade combat teams were reorganized into smaller combat adviser-focused units. The initial training concluded with the deployment of the 1st and 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigades to Regional Command East in January 2013. The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade and 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade also deployed to Regional Command East in 2013.

## War on Terrorism Continues

In January 2014, the division headquarters and the 10th Sustainment Brigade deployed once again to Afghanistan. On Feb. 6, 2014, the headquarters, led by Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney R. Lewis, assumed command of Regional Command East with the mission of advising and assisting the Afghan National Security Force. The division concluded its fifth deployment to Afghanistan in November 2014, ending 13 years of Operation Enduring Freedom and transitioning to Operation Resolute Support.

In February 2015, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Resolute Support Mission and returned to Fort Drum in March 2016. Between late summer and



**Gov. George E. Pataki shakes hands with soldiers in Oct. 2004 after the ceremony at Fort Drum for the departure of the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry, which is going to Iraq. Watertown Daily Times**

early fall 2015, 300 soldiers from the division headquarters deployed to Afghanistan under Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Bannister and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles W. Albertson in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, along with about 1,000 troops from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. In February 2016, the Taliban launched a new assault on Sangin, Helmand Province. The United States responded by deploying the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment to support the Afghan Army's 215th Corps, joining U.S. and British special operations forces already in the area.

In October 2015, "Six Shooters" from the 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade became the fourth air cavalry squadron to deploy to South Korea on a nine-month rotational mission.

In April 2016, the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment deployed to Iraq as Task Force Dragon, supporting operations throughout Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Jordan. In October 2016, Task Force Dragon AH-64D helicopters fired the first shots of the Mosul offen-



**In this Sept. 26, 2002 photo Jon E. and Rebecca E. Magoun, husband and wife, are Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilots with the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Brigade at Fort Drum. He leaves for Iraq this week; she leaves in about three weeks. Norm Johnston/ Watertown Daily Times**

sive and supported the Iraqi Army's assault and seizure of Mosul. The task force returned to Fort Drum in December 2016.

In August 2016, the 1st Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. During its nine-month deployment, the brigade sup-

ported campaigns to retake Ramadi, Fallujah and Mosul from the Islamic State group. The brigade also provided security force assistance teams to the Iraqi Army and Kurdish government in Erbil. Additionally, the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment provided interagency security cooperation to the U.S.

Department of State in Baghdad.

The 10th Mountain Division continues its mission of providing trained, combat-ready forces for rapid global deployment to prevent, shape or win ground combat operations.



# Drum Soldiers Remain on Highest Alert; National Guard Troops To Head for NYC

By Paul Hokam

Times Staff Writer

*This was published Sept. 12, 2001 in the Watertown Daily Times*

FORT DRUM — Soldiers here remain in Threatcon Delta — "high alert" is the barracks term — as the undeployed remnant of the 10th Mountain Division awaits orders from its parent unit. Gate guards were checking all vehicles for bombs.

But otherwise the post was striving to conduct business as usual under tightened security. Some training was continuing.

"We're prepared to answer the call," said Col. John J. Kelly, garrison commander.

He said the immediate focus of Drum's efforts will be to help the state National Guard get on the road to Manhattan. The Guard's 27th Infantry Brigade, whose far-flung part-time soldiers are based in Syracuse, was expected to collect Humvees and trucks from the post's storage yards, Col. Kelly said.

As of this morning no National Guard troops had arrived, however.

Some 10th Division units were called in from training ranges after Tuesday's terror attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., and commercial vehicles were banned from all but one entry gate. Military police were searching every vehicle whether or not they bore Defense Department security stickers.

Everyone entering the installation was required to show picture ID.

But it was left to lower-level commanders to confine their troops to post or not. According to the Public Affairs Office, most soldiers living in surrounding towns were to be allowed to go home that night.

Maj. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck, division commander, who was at Fort Bragg, N.C., on an unrelated visit, was to return to Drum today. Bragg is home to the 18th Airborne Corps, from which Drum takes its marching orders.

A flight of 170 soldiers scheduled to depart for Bosnia today

was postponed until Thursday or possibly Friday, said Maj. Kenneth W. McDermott, public affairs officer. Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, known as the "Triple Deuce," are to travel by a civilian contract air carrier, not military aircraft.

A similar-size contingent took off for Bosnia just after 1 a.m. Tuesday from Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield. The post had not been notified of departure.

Delayed or not, deployments to the Balkans, which by November will involve nearly half the division's 10,000 troops, are to go on as planned, post officials said. Soldiers are to perform peace-keeping duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, the southern province of Serbia.

A battalion is already serving in the southern Sinai Peninsula, enforcing provisions of the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel. That 600-soldier element is to conclude six months overseas at the end of the year.

"We are all saddened by what happened in New York and D.C. and to our comrades," Col. Kelly said. "But that's the kind of thing terrorists do. They target what means the most to a nation."

In a press conference Tuesday afternoon at the post's main gate, Col. Kelly avoided overplaying the heightened security. He said that although Threatcon D was the maximum classification, the post was at liberty to omit as many measures as it wished.

"There were no concrete barriers at gates, just cones.

But Col. Kelly said measures will be stiffened as needed. Today, "key leaders" reported at 6 a.m. and soldiers' start times were staggered between 7 and 9 a.m.

"We have always paid attention to force protection but we're at a higher level of threat protection now," he said.

Drum went to a heightened security posture in April in step with the rest of the Defense Department "because the world protection situation has changed so much," Col. Kelly said. Some

gates were closed, armed MPs were posted at the others and car windshield stickers were issued to soldiers and civilians. Drivers no longer identify themselves verbally but show identification.

"We are really concerned with commercial vehicles," he said.

Because of the terror attacks, the fort has closed two gates formerly open six hours a day and is admitting commercial and delivery vehicles at the Route 26 Oneida Avenue gate only.

Northern, Nash Boulevard, Mill Street, Nash Boulevard, Military Road (Black River) and Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield gates remain open as usual, but officials are urging "minimum travel on post."

Col. Kelly said he expected the division eventually to be surrounded to aid cleanup efforts in New York.

"We have great soldiers that have many talents, who can provide consequence-management," he said.

He specifically mentioned explosive ordnance disposal teams that would help locate bombs.

Lower-level commanders were briefing their soldiers on emergency plans, which every unit is required to have on hand and practice periodically. The division's last installationwide force protection drill was last spring.

Col. Kelly said National Guard soldiers would be arriving at Drum by military bus. The 27th Brigade draws troops from all over the state, including small numbers from Ogdensburg and Carthage.

The unit's office in Syracuse was conferring all inquiries to state National Guard headquarters in Latham.

People planning to enter Drum today were warned to expect delays at gates. The following post facilities are closed until further notice: Outdoor Recreation, Pennant and Spinners clubs. The Commons restaurant complex was to open for lunch only and the Bowling Center would be closed for a week.

# In Washington, Left Wandering

By Marc Heller

Times Washington Correspondent

*This was published Sept. 12, 2001 by the Watertown Daily Times.*

WASHINGTON — Clouds of smoke darkened just a corner of the sky above the nation's capital Tuesday. But a fog enveloped the entire city.

Cars jammed downtown streets as workers were sent home early. Congressional staffers in jackets and ties walked the peopled paths of the National Mall or lingered at pubs near vacant congressional office buildings or gathered in front of row houses on Capitol Hill. Tourists wandered the sidewalks after the Smithsonian museums closed for the day.

Life did not stop in Washington, as the truth of the nation's worst terrorist attack settled in. It just lost all sense of direction.

"We had a Capitol Police officer come to our door and say, 'You've got to get out of here,'" said Dana L. Johnson, deputy chief of staff to Rep. John M. McHugh, R-Pierrepont Manor, who was in the congressman's office in the Rayburn Building, following news accounts. "It was like a fire drill."

Of course, at that time, the evacuation was anything but a drill; the latest reports suggested another hijacked plane might be on the way to Washington, with the Capitol or the Pentagon as a target. All government buildings on Capitol Hill were evacuated.

Top congressional leaders were whisked away by helicopter. Others, including Mr. McHugh, were directed to meet at an undisclosed location for briefings. He called his mother in Massena before he left the office, Ms. Johnson said.

By lunch hour, Capitol Police officers were stationed outside Hill House, an apartment building occupied by several members of Congress. They brought one police dog

into the building and another around the grounds while pedestrians stared from across the street.

Even the National Press Building, home to many of the country's Washington news bureaus, went on a partial shutdown. The National Press Club, on the building's upper level, was closed. All but two of the 13-story building's seven elevators were turned off, and people who do not work in the building were stopped at the doors by security guards.

For those who work in the building, the main lobby was a popular stop because of its television monitors showing all the major news channels.

From McDonald's to coffee shops to card stores, many downtown businesses closed. But others kept going strong, including a restaurant called the American Tavern, which turned up the volume on its television sets to broadcast news out to the sidewalk.

Subways ran all day. Indeed, some may have been busier than usual as Capitol Hill workers who could not reach their cars were forced to use mass transit; transit police stationed more officers on the platforms to help riders along. At the Capitol South subway station — a popular stop for tourists as well as congressional staffers — an officer shined a flashlight into garbage cans and under benches.

At times, though, streaks of normalcy sprung from the day.

Vendors kept selling hot dogs on the street.

And while police were stationed on every corner near the National Mall, tourists walked where they always do, holding maps of the capital and snapping pictures of the places they always photograph — the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument, although this time with that black plume of smoke rising from the background.



# Terror

From T19

tion Systems watched from their office while the nearby north tower burned. As they watched, “We saw the explo-

sion of the second plane,” he said. “That’s when we knew it wasn’t an accident.” Their building was then evacuated.

Mr. Hirschey’s company also had offices on the 57th and 85th floors of the World Trade Center’s south tower. His co-workers, however, already had left the building before the second plane hit, he said.

Shaken at the sight of victims leaping, Mr. Hirschey, a 2000 graduate of Hamilton College, began the 40-minute walk to his Manhattan apartment on streets that seemed filled with pedestrians “in disbelief,” he said.

On his route home, Mr. Hirschey called his company’s headquarters in St. Louis, Mo. They connected him to a conference call to his father, Urban C. Hirschey, at his chairing office in Lowville.

“That was one of the happiest feelings, to talk to my dad,” he said.

Rachel E. Fleming, 19, a second-year student from Lowville at Parsons School of Design, moved into a new dormitory last month three blocks from the World Trade Center in the lower Manhattan financial district. She does not expect to be allowed to return soon to the 17-story hall housing 470 students, which filled with smoke and dust Tuesday from the collapsed towers.

Ms. Fleming, a 2000 graduate of Lowville Academy and Central School, was walking to a 9 a.m. class when she heard “a boom.” Looking from Broadway toward the World Trade Center, “You could see the indentation in the building in the shape of a plane,” she said.

A man walking beside her dialed 911 on his cell phone.

Standing on Fifth Avenue about 2 miles north of the twin towers, “You could feel it on your feet” when the second jet crashed into the south tower, she said. She said she saw a ball of flames burst from the building.

“You could see all the debris falling,” she said. Then someone who had walked up from the World Trade Center “said it wasn’t just debris, it was people going two by two” to their deaths, she said.

When the first tower collapsed, panic seized even the district crowds of onlookers, Ms. Fleming said. Men in business suits ran and students followed in confusion, she said.

“Everyone in the streets

went running. It was kind of like a stampede. Everyone was screaming, crying.”

Thomas V. Walsh, a 1993 graduate of Immaculate Heart Central School, was at his office four blocks from the World Trade Center when he heard the first Boeing jet fly overhead and heard the crash into the north tower.

He left his office at Burnham-Nastrovica to get a closer look. At a Broadway corner, he looked up and saw people jumping in desperation from the burning tower.

“I couldn’t believe it was happening,” he said. “They had to either be burned to death or jump from the 90th story. Then seeing them hit. It’s something I never want to see again.”

Then the second plane struck.

“It sounded like a frigging missile coming in and it exploded right in front of us,” Mr. Walsh said. “It looked like something out of *Armageddon*, a movie. *Die Hard*.”

“With the first one, no one knew what’s going on,” he added. “Everyone thought it was an accident, but when the second one hit, it was just chaos.”

He said people were crying and screaming, while some yelled, “We’re under attack.”

Mr. Walsh walked to Grand Central Station on 42nd Street, about 8 city blocks from his office. Despite a bomb scare at the station, he was able to catch a train to his home in White Plains.

William Ward Haynes, the son-in-law of Dr. Eugene M. Renzin of Watertown, worked on the 105th floor of a World Trade Center tower, and the family has heard no word of his fate.

Along with the many tragedies for families, there were the near-misses that brought relief for some.

Watertown City Councilwoman Roxanne M. Burns’ niece, Lynn M. Thibodeau, is a transportation planner and works at the state Department of Transportation’s office on the 82nd floor of the north World Trade Center.

Mrs. Burns said her niece is usually in her office before 9 a.m., but chose to work a later shift Tuesday. She arrived at the building just after the first plane hit.

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## How to honor first responders

This fall marks the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The attacks on September 11, 2001, remain the deadliest terror attacks in world history, and the families affected by the tragedy continue to confront its fallout each and every day.

The 25th anniversary of 9/11 will no doubt evoke responses that span the emotional spectrum. Sadness may dominate such responses, but the anniversary of 9/11 also is a great time to reflect on the heroic efforts of first responders. First responders played a vital role on 9/11, and many lost their lives and/or suffered long-term health consequences resulting from their selfless efforts to save innocent people.

In the two and a half decades since the 9/11 attacks, first responders have continued to make countless sacrifices to ensure their communities are safe and peaceful places to call home. The 25th anniversary of 9/11 is a great time to recognize the efforts of first responders and honor them for all they do.

- **Donate to local fire departments.**

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 52 percent of active firefighting personnel are volunteers. Many of those volunteer firefighters work for underfunded departments that are in need of regular financial support. Donating to such departments is a great way to show first responders how much their efforts are appreciated. Donations may be used to purchase new equipment, upgrade existing facilities, provide vital training, and/or improve response times, the latter of which can increase the likelihood that firefighters make it through calls safe and sound.

- **Support legislation to assist wounded first responders.**

Many first responders suffer significant mental and physical injuries while on the job. Various nonprofit organizations help wounded first responders who may need to make modifications to their homes or purchase costly equipment to get through their daily lives. But nonprofit organizations cannot go it alone in support of wounded first responders. Citizens can do their part by promoting and voting in favor of local, state and national legislation that makes it easy for wounded first responders to get the help they need, when they need it. In addition to urging local politicians to support such legislation, private citizens can utilize social media to promote proposals and other efforts to support wounded first responders. A vocal citizenry can be a strong asset as first responders seek assistance.

- **Commit to supporting first responders year-round.**

The 25th anniversary of 9/11 will call attention to the efforts of first responders on that day 25 years ago as well as the countless times since then that these brave men and women have served their communities. But first responders deserve vocal, year-round support. Make a concerted effort to thank policemen, firefighters, EMTs, nurses, and doctors in your community whenever you interact with them, and urge others to follow suit.

First responders play a vital role in communities across the globe. The 25th anniversary of 9/11 can serve as a catalyst for communities to express their support for first responders.

# Bravery

## marked the day at all three sites associated with the 9/11 attacks

Recollections of the devastation wrought by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, are affected by indelible images of the carnage that resulted from that brutality.

That carnage might have been far worse in lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, and Washington, D.C., if not for the heroism of first responders, ordinary citizens working at the sites and the brave passengers on Flight 93.

According to the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, an estimated 15,000 of the approximately 17,400 people who were present in the Twin Towers on the morning of September 11 were evacuated safely thanks to first responders, building staff, and civilians.

Similar acts of heroism unfolded when the Pentagon was struck at roughly 9:37 a.m. by an airplane traveling 500 miles per hour. The plane crashed into the western facade of the Pentagon, tore through the building's E-ring and penetrated three of the Pentagon's five concentric rings. The quick response of the Pentagon's on-site firehouse as well the arrival of firefighters from nearby Reagan National Airport and the Arlington County Fire Department within minutes of the crash undoubtedly saved countless lives.

Heroism also characterized the events that unfolded on United Flight 93, which ultimately crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, just 20 minutes' flying time from Washington, D.C. September 11 investigators suspect the hijackers of Flight 93 intended to crash the plane into the U.S. Capitol Building, which would have led to the deaths of many more innocent people. But the bravery of the Flight 93 passengers, who fought back against the hijackers and forced them to crash the plane in rural Pennsylvania, prevented that tragedy.

While images of the devastation wrought by the 9/11 hijackers and their cohorts can never be forgotten, neither should the memory of the incredible bravery of the many individuals who helped to save thousands of lives on September 11, 2001.

*This publication was made possible by a joint effort of the Watertown Daily Times and Metro Creative Graphics*





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