

SPECIAL LATE EDITION

UNDER ATTACK

8:42 A.M.
NEW YORK



GETTY IMAGES PHOTO BY SPENCER PLATT

Two hijacked American Airlines jets crash 18 minutes apart into the World Trade Center twin towers. The 110-story buildings collapse shortly afterward. Page 3A.

9:40 A.M.
WASHINGTON



AP PHOTO BY WILL MORRIS

The Pentagon is struck and heavily damaged by an aircraft. The White House, Capitol and all federal offices are evacuated and closed.

THE LATEST
AROUND THE U.S.

- **A fourth plane crash:** A United 757 jet bound from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco crashes near Pittsburgh. Page 6A.
- **President Bush's reaction:** "Terrorism against our nation will not stand." He returns to Washington from Florida.
- **Security:** All U.S. flights are grounded; borders have been closed.
- **Casualties:** They are expected to be catastrophic; 50,000 people worked in the Trade Center, and more than 250 were aboard the four planes.

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REACTION
THE TRIANGLE



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSANA VERA

RDU shuts down, businesses close, parents pick up students and after-school activities are canceled as the Triangle reels in disbelief. Page 7A.



A second aircraft approaches the World Trade Center moments before crashing into the skyscraper. Within 18 minutes, two planes hit the towers in what President Bush called 'an apparent act of terrorism.'

NEW YORK TIMES PHOTO BY KELLY GUENTHER

Trade Center, Pentagon devastated in 'audacious' event

By JERRY SCHWARTZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

Thousands could be dead or injured, a high-ranking city police official said, speaking on condition they not be identified.

Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers, but many were thought to have been trapped. About

50,000 people work at the Trade Center and tens of thousands of others visit each day.

American Airlines said its two hijacked planes were carrying 156 people. Two United airliners carrying a total of 110 passengers also crashed — one outside Pittsburgh, the other in a location not immediately identified.

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

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

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

The White House, the Pentagon and the Capitol were evacuated along with other federal buildings in Washington and New York. Authorities in Washington immediately began deploying troops, including an infantry regiment. The Situation Room at the White House was in full operation. And authorities went on alert from

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