

"We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!"

A PASSENGER ABOARD UNITED FLIGHT 93 TO AN EMERGENCY DISPATCHER IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PA.

A DAY OF TERROR

UNITED FLIGHT 93

THE AIRLINES

ACCIDENT PROFILES

Here are details on the four jetliners that crashed Tuesday:

◆ **American Airlines Flight 11:** A Boeing 767 en route from Boston to Los Angeles. The plane was carrying 81 passengers, nine flight attendants and two pilots. It crashed into a tower of New York's World Trade Center about 8:45 a.m. EDT.

◆ **United Airlines Flight 175:** A Boeing 767 en route from Boston to Los Angeles. It was carrying 56 passengers, seven flight attendants and two pilots. It crashed into the second tower of the World Trade Center shortly after 9 a.m. EDT.

◆ **American Airlines Flight 77:** A Boeing 757 en route from Washington Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles. The plane was carrying 58 passengers, four flight attendants and two pilots. It crashed into the Pentagon about 9:40 a.m. EDT.

◆ **United Airlines Flight 93:** A Boeing 757 en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco. The plane was carrying 38 passengers, five flight attendants and two pilots. It crashed southeast of Pittsburgh about 10 a.m. EDT.

UNITED AIRLINES

United Airlines Chairman and CEO Jim Goodwin issued the following statement Tuesday:

"On behalf of all of us at United Airlines, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the individuals, employees and families who had friends or loved ones onboard United Flight 93 or United Flight 175. ...

"... United is working with all the relevant authorities, including the FBI, to obtain further information on these flights.

"We have pledged our full cooperation with the authorities.

"We will be posting all news, statements and other information related to the flights on (the airline's) Web site as soon as it becomes available.

"In closing, let me say again that our hearts go out to everyone who was on board these flights and to their loved ones, as well as anyone on the ground who may have been involved in the tragic events.

"We will hold them all close in our thoughts and our prayers."

AMERICAN AIRLINES

American Airlines issued the following news release Tuesday:

American Airlines confirmed Tuesday that it lost two aircraft in tragic incidents this morning.

American said they were Flight 11, a Boeing 767 en route from Boston to Los Angeles with 81 passengers, nine flight attendants and two pilots; and Flight 77, a Boeing 757 operating from Washington Dulles to Los Angeles with 58 passengers, four flight attendants and two pilots.

Because of the heightened security due to the nature of Tuesday's events, American said it is working closely with U.S. government authorities and will not release more information at this time. ...

"... We are horrified by these tragic events," said Donald J. Carty, chairman and CEO of American Airlines. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of all involved."

WHERE TO CALL

◆ For American Airlines, relatives of passengers may call 800-245-0999.

◆ For United Airlines, friends or relatives of passengers may call 800-932-8555. United also said it would post information on its Web site, www.united.com.

◆ For the Federal Aviation Administration, the public may call 800-255-1111. The FAA halted all U.S. air traffic for the first time in its history at 9:43 a.m. Tuesday and said the ban would not be lifted until noon EDT at the earliest.

— From wire reports



DAVID LLOYD/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emergency workers investigate Tuesday's crash of a United Airlines Boeing 757 near a strip mine in rural Shanksville, Pa. None of the 45 people on board survived.

Man aboard jet phoned dispatchers

The plane circled from its westbound path and headed toward Washington

By **STEPHEN BRAUN** and **AARON ZITNER**

LA TIMES-WASHINGTON POST SERVICE

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. — A United Airlines jet carrying 45 people crashed Tuesday in a rural field in western Pennsylvania just after a man, apparently a passenger, called emergency dispatchers by cell phone to say the plane was being hijacked.

Local officials said there were no survivors.

The Boeing 757 crashed at 10:06 a.m. EDT, two hours after it left Newark, N.J., for San Francisco.

There were strong indications that the crash of United flight 93 was connected to three airborne terrorist attacks carried out Tuesday in Washington, D.C., and New York City. But officials said there was no definitive evidence.

Jeff Killeen, special agent in charge of the Pittsburgh office of the FBI, said the agency was treating the crash site as a crime scene, but he would not detail what the agency thought was the criminal nature of the case.

"It's the totality of the circumstances of all the cases," Killeen said, referring to the New York and Washington crashes. "It would be pure folly for us to assume at this point that this was an accident."

Killeen said Tuesday night that 20 agents were working at the scene and that an additional 30 would likely join them before the night was over.

Rep. James Moran, D-Va., said lawmakers were told the plane had diverted from its westbound route and swung back toward Washington.

Moran, who said he had been briefed by the Capitol Police and other agencies, said the plane's intended target in Washington, if any, was unclear.

"It was on an arc that was headed toward the capital," Moran said. "But that was also an arc in the vicinity of Camp David," the presidential retreat in Thurmont, Md.

Data from Flight Explorer, a Virginia-based flight-tracking service for airlines, show Flight 93 passing north of Pittsburgh and turning around over Cleveland. The plane

then passed just south of Pittsburgh before crashing about 25 miles south of Johnstown.

At 9:58 a.m., about eight minutes before the crash, emergency dispatchers received a cell phone call from a man who said he was a passenger locked in the plane's bathroom.

The man said "basically, it was a hijacking," said Edward Milliron, an emergency dispatcher in Westmoreland County. "Then we sort of concentrated on getting a flight number, where they left, where they were going, and then we lost them. Two or three minutes later, we lost them."

A second Westmoreland County dispatcher, Glenn Cramer, told reporters that the man said: "We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!" He repeatedly said the call was not a hoax.

The plane was carrying 38 passengers, two pilots and five flight attendants, United Airlines said. The airline did not immediately release names.

The plane crashed in a field near a strip mine in rural Shanksville, which has a population of about 700.

"I heard this noise like a dive-bomber, you know, one of those planes they use in war. And the house was shaking," said Paula Pluta, 33, who lives less than a mile from the crash site.

Pluta said she ran out to her porch, looked up and saw the plane plummeting at an angle close to 90 degrees.

"It looked like a silver bullet," she said.

The plane disappeared behind a line of maple trees, she said. Next came a tremendous roar, and flames erupted above the treeline.

"I felt it. My house was shaken by it. I thought a truck hit my house," said the Rev. Sylvia Baker of the Shanksville Assembly of God Church, who lives about two miles from the crash site. "When I saw it wasn't my house, I felt surely it had to be my neighbor's house."

The plane was largely obliterated in a crater about 30 feet by 30 feet and some 20 feet deep. Local officials said the largest piece found was a part of the fuselage about the size of a car door.

Local officials said no one on the ground was hurt.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge said Tuesday evening that authorities were trying to locate the plane's "black box," which would contain crucial flight data.

Joseph McKelvey, manager of the Johnstown Cambria County Municipal Airport, said the plane was spotted near Johnstown flying at about 6,000 feet. Airport officials were immediately concerned because that altitude was unusually low, he said.

McKelvey said controllers were also "alarmed" because the plane was heading toward them just after the air attacks in New York.

Then, a call came from officials at a Cleveland airport saying that there may be trouble with the flight, McKelvey said.

He said controllers in Johnstown tried to make radio contact with the plane, but they did not succeed.

The Pentagon denied a rumor, which had swept through the national security community in Washington early Tuesday, that the U.S. military had shot down the plane to prevent it from striking a target and taking additional lives.

Milliron said that while local residents called 9-1-1 dispatchers to report a jet flying low over their houses, no residents said they saw a military aircraft or second plane in the area.

Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania toured the crash site late Tuesday afternoon and called the deliberate downing of the plane "irrational, cowardly, despicable, unconscionable, immoral." He said his emotions ranged from rage to anger to sorrow to horror to a sense of nausea.

"The dictionary is inadequate," Ridge said. "There aren't enough words."

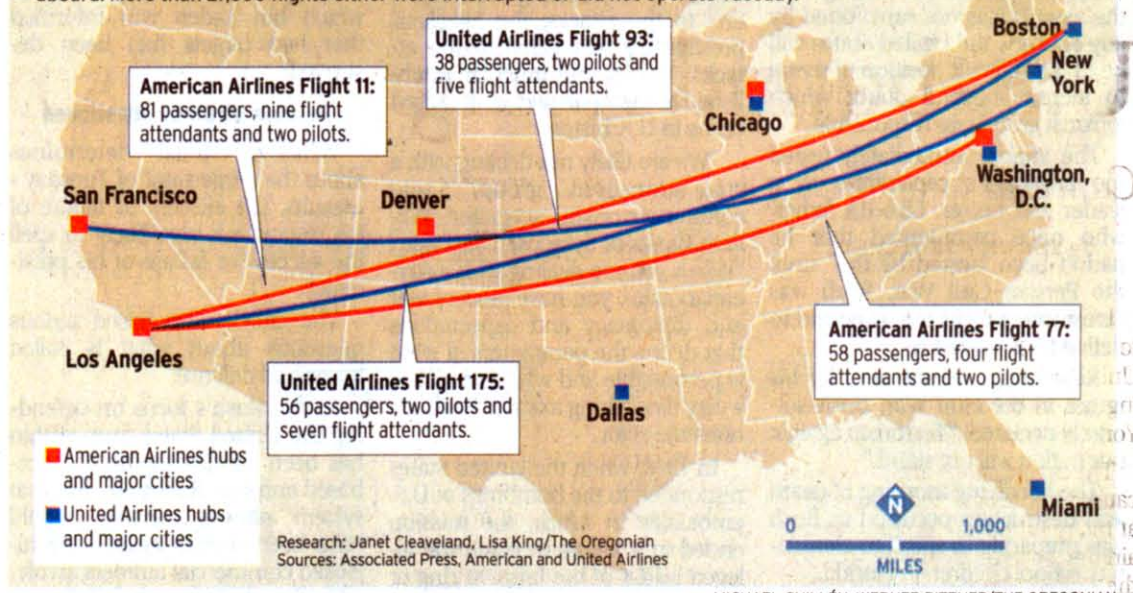
The New York Times News Service contributed to this report.

Crash in Pennsylvania



INTENDED FLIGHT ROUTES AND AIRLINE HUBS

U.S. air travel stopped Tuesday as all flights were grounded and all airports closed after four commercial jetliners were used in an unprecedented terrorist attack. The four hijacked planes, Boeing 757s and 767s, had 266 people aboard. More than 27,000 flights either were interrupted or did not operate Tuesday.



Research: Janet Cleaveland, Lisa King/The Oregonian
Sources: Associated Press, American and United Airlines

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