



# AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

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Spiritual and medical help arrive amid all the confusion. A priest kneels in prayer over a wounded man outside the western entrance of the Pentagon as emergency workers from all services mobilize to help the wounded.

## Leaders taken to secure sites

Capitol cleared, aid teams sent to NYC, medical help is called in

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush and congressional leaders were whisked to secure locations as the government evacuated federal buildings across the capital, sent out search-and-rescue teams in New York and called in volunteer doctors and nurses.

Government agencies sent in medical supplies, dogs to sniff for victims and portable morgues.

The government began implementing an emergency response plan that has been in the works for decades. It was launched immediately after two airplane attacks on New York's World Trade Center. Minutes later, a third plane crashed into the Pentagon.

Bush started his day at a Sarasota, Fla., elementary school. The president was flown to military bases in Louisiana and Nebraska before returning to the White House on Tuesday evening.

The Secret Service took immediate steps to ensure that the president, Vice President Dick Cheney and House Speaker Dennis Hastert were safe, said Karen Hughes, a top Bush aide. Agents also took precautions for members of the national security team, the Cabinet and senior White House staff.

Top congressional leaders were sent to a secure government facility 75 miles west of Washington. They returned Tuesday evening. The House and Senate each planned to convene at 10 a.m. today for the sole purpose of passing resolutions condemning the attacks. They will recess until Thursday morning, when nor-



Dennis Cook/Associated Press

**Capitol unity.** In the back row (front right) are Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., Sen. Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., and Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan. (left) hugs Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-Calif.



Kenneth Lambert/Associated Press

mal business resumes.

Across the globe, American forces and embassies went on high alert.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and other senior White House staffers gathered at a White House command center, where they coordinated with other branches of federal government. Secretary of State Colin Powell was returning to Washington from South America.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency activated eight urban search-and-rescue task forces for New York and four for the Pentagon. The 62-member teams provide emergency medical care, help stabilize damaged

buildings and include dogs trained to search for victims.

FEMA's emergency response has been plan in place since the early 1990s, spokesman Marc Wolfson said.

"We have had exercises, we have had training, we have had meetings with the agencies involved," Wolfson said. "Now it's a matter of getting through this situation. We will be here to help."

The Health and Human Services Department sent four teams of volunteer doctors, nurses and other medical staff to New York. Three teams of about 35 specially trained, private, volunteer medical professionals were on their way to Washington.

In an unprecedented move, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson activated a national medical emergency system that will send roughly 7,000 volunteer doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical staff to areas af-

fect by Tuesday's attacks.

Thompson said all the agency's 80 disaster teams, spread around the country, are ready to go where needed. It was the first time all the teams have gone on alert.

HHS was also sending teams of morticians, anthropologists and forensic scientists to New York City and the Pentagon to help identify the dead and prepare them for burial. It also was sending emergency supplies, including portable morgues.

The Federal Aviation Administration grounded all flights until at least 9 a.m. Arizona time today, the first time the nation's entire air traffic system had been shut down. Many international flights in the air were diverted to Canada.

The Federal Reserve operated during the day, and there were no reported disruptions to the banking system.

The President's Working Group on Financial Markets, made up of officials from the Fed, the Treasury Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, conferred throughout the day on developments in financial markets around the world.

Treasury spokesman Robert Nichols said that while Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill was in Tokyo, the last stop of an Asian tour, other top Treasury officials monitored developments at a "secure location."

Nichols said that the U.S. Customs Service, responsible for border operations, went to the highest alert level. Customs last went to a Level One alert in December 1999 after federal authorities stopped a car loaded with explosives entering from Canada.

At the Justice Department, officials set up a hotline for families who feared their relatives may have been victims of one of these attacks.

## Rumsfeld won't guess on deaths

'Pentagon is functioning,' Defense chief emphasizes

Republic news services

**WASHINGTON** — Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld predicted Tuesday night that the number of casualties from the attack on the Pentagon by a hijacked jetliner "will not be a few."

The Defense secretary's comments came after the terrorists crashed one hijacked airliner into the Pentagon and two into the World Trade Center in New York City. Rumsfeld and other officials were hesitant to estimate the number of casualties among the three attacks.

The attacks on the Pentagon inflicted major damage on the nation's military command center. Glenn Flood, a Pentagon spokesman, said Tuesday that there were "extensive casualties and an unknown number of fatalities."

Forty-two people were taken to Virginia hospitals, authorities said, and nine others were being treated in Washington, mostly for burns.

The surprise terrorist assault, the first in the history of the 58-year-old building, came within an hour of the attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and set off a state of emergency in the nation's capital that swiftly shut down the government. All federal office buildings were closed, and F-16 fighter jets and helicopters scrambled to police the skies.

The choking, acrid smell of smoke engulfing the area and the sight of men and women trained for war fleeing in shock and fear underscored the vulnerability of the American military and the inability of the most sophisticated early warning systems in the world to stop a low-tech form of terrorism: hijacking.

American Airlines flight 77, a Boeing 757 carrying 64 passengers and six crew members, was on a flight from Dulles International Airport west of Washington to Los Angeles when it flew low and slammed into the five-sided, five-story concrete-walled structure at about 9:30 a.m., when Pentagon workers are already deep into their workday.

More than 10 hours after the attack, Rumsfeld struggled to give the impression of business as usual in a brief appearance in the Pentagon press room. Noting that the briefing was taking place in the Pentagon, Rumsfeld announced, "The Pentagon is functioning. It will be in business tomorrow."

He called the terrorist act a "vicious, well-coordinated massive attack against the United States of America" and said, "We have taken a series of measures to prevent further attacks and to determine who is responsible."

He would not answer a question about whether the Penta-

gon had any advance knowledge that such an attack was planned, saying he did not discuss intelligence matters. He also said he could give no reliable estimate of casualties.

Rumsfeld was joined by Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who returned to Washington from Europe on Tuesday afternoon. Shelton condemned what he called an

"outrageous act of barbaric terrorism carried out by fanatics against both civilians and military people, acts that have killed and maimed many innocent and decent citizens of our country." He added, "Make no mistake about it. Your armed forces are ready."

Many of the Pentagon's more than 20,000 civilians and military men and women were already on edge when the attack came. News of the crashes at the Trade Center had shot through the corridors, and it seemed as if every office television was turned on. Military and civilian employees watched in astonishment and horror as smoke engulfed the two towers and shock enveloped New York City.

When the Pentagon was built as a fireproof, air-conditioned headquarters for the American military in a record 16 months in the early 1940s, it was touted as an engineering marvel. Even now, the five-sided, five-story building, which has three times the floor space of the Empire State Building and houses 24,000 employees, is considered one of the architectural achievements of the 20th century.

Over the years, a number of terrorist bomb threats resulted in tightened security at the Pentagon. But never before, even in the tensest days of the Cold War, had there been a terrorist attack against it.

Police officers immediately blocked all highways and roads leading into the Pentagon, and the Metro mass transit lines were detoured to avoid the underground station at the Pentagon and several stations around it.

The Pentagon converted one area into a field hospital that looked like a MASH unit, filling it with ambulances, fire engines and other emergency vehicles.

But at the Pentagon building itself, rescue workers, blocked by fire and smoke, could not reach the central site of the crash for several hours.

Pentagon officials said many casualties were averted because the plane exploded in a newly renovated area of the Pentagon where many offices were not yet occupied.



Donald Rumsfeld

## U.S. military around globe on highest possible alert

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force F-16s patrolled the skies over Washington, Navy warships were sent to Manhattan and military commanders ordered forces on highest alert after Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

President Bush, in an Oval Office address, vowed to find those responsible.

"We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them," Bush said.

At a Pentagon briefing earlier, Joint Chiefs Chairman Henry H. Shelton said, "I have no intention of discussing what comes next. But make no mistake about it, your armed forces are ready."

About 10 hours before that

briefing, a Boeing 757 plowed into the Pentagon, after two hijacked airliners had struck the towers of New York's World Trade Center.

But what would happen next, including potential retaliatory strikes, wasn't exactly clear.

President Bush put U.S. forces around the globe on the highest possible alert, "Threatcon Delta."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld denied that U.S. forces were responsible for the explosions heard Tuesday night near Kabul, Afghanistan's capital.

"In no way is the U.S. government connected," Rumsfeld said at the Pentagon briefing.

A senior defense official said the aircraft carrier USS

Enterprise, which was due to come home from the Persian Gulf, was ordered to remain in the area indefinitely. A second carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, also remains in the area, the official said.

Officials at military installations across the country reported that only essential military personnel would be permitted on their bases. All unnecessary military flights were canceled, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, NORAD, took steps to protect the military's computer systems from hackers, a spokesman said.

Around the country, fighters, airborne radar and refueling planes were scrambled, according to an Air National Guard spokesman at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

"We have all of our air sovereignty aircraft — fighters, surveillance and other support aircraft — ready to respond."

North American Aerospace Defense Command

NORAD was on its highest alert.

"We have all of our air sovereignty aircraft — fighters, surveillance and other support aircraft — ready to respond," a NORAD statement said.

Air Force fighter jets scrambled over Washington shortly after the attack.

"We did have F-16s up," Pentagon spokesman Adm. Craig Quigley told reporters who had gathered across a highway in

full view of the still-smoking Pentagon.

The Navy dispatched the carriers USS John F. Kennedy and USS George Washington to New York to assist with defense and medical needs.

"We have been attacked like we haven't since Pearl Harbor," said Adm. Robert J. Natter, the commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet at Norfolk Naval Station.

The carriers, bristling with

dozens of fighter aircraft, also contain full medical units and operating rooms. The Comfort, a Navy hospital ship in Baltimore harbor, also was being sent into action, Navy officials said.

Natter put all installations under his command on the highest security condition. He is in charge of 188 ships, 1,223 aircraft, 37 shore stations and more than 125,000 sailors, Marines and civilian employees. The Atlantic Fleet provides combat-ready forces to support American and NATO commanders in regions of conflict throughout the world.

Missouri Rep. Ike Skelton, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said he had been told by military officials there were about 100 casualties at the Pentagon.