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**WAR ZONE:** Flames and smoke pour from a building at the Pentagon on Tuesday after a commercial jetliner hit it.

# Pentagon Attack Paralyzes D.C.

## Federal Government Buildings Emptied; State of Emergency Declared in City

Journal Staff and Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — Some of America's most prominent symbols of power, from the White House to the Washington Monument to the Capitol, were evacuated Tuesday morning after a plane crashed into the Pentagon.

All federal buildings were immediately evacuated.

Filthy smoke from the Pentagon fire rose into otherwise blue skies above the National Mall while fire trucks and ambulances, sirens blaring, tried to make their way in every direction along traffic-jammed streets in the city's center.

Secret Service, state and local police immediately shut down a two-block area around the White House. Tourists and office workers packed the sidewalks and parks or fled downtown. Museums, roads and parts of the subway system

were closed. F-16 fighter jets were patrolling the skies above the Pentagon and Washington.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Anthony Williams declared a state of emergency as the National Guard patrolled key landmarks in the city.

Charles Lewis, 30, was at work in the Pentagon's command center when he saw the news that the World Trade Center in New York City had been hit by two planes. He frantically tried to call his mother, who works in that area, when his own office shuddered and exploded.

Fellow workers pulled him through a hole in the wall to safety.

"I couldn't see anybody else inside. I was thrown up against the wall," said Lewis, a civilian employee at the Pentagon, as he limped along the grass outside the Pentagon, his white uniform soiled by blood.

Peggy Mencl of Alexandria, Va., tried in vain to call her relatives on her cell phone, but cell service was unavailable throughout most of the city.

Finally, when she was able to get through to her husband's voice mail at the State Department, Mencl left this message: "The Pentagon blew up. I'm OK. I'm outside."

There was a report of a bomb going off on the National Mall that proved incorrect. There was also a false report of a car bomb at the State Department.

Joe Moy was drawn to the window of his office across from the Pentagon Tuesday morning by the eerie absence of airplane traffic at nearby Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

That's how Moy, chief of retirement benefits for the U.S. Marshals Service and a member of the marshals team that counsels survivors

of disasters, saw a giant fireball erupt in the adjacent building.

Though he didn't see the plane crash itself, Moy said he saw a fireball 150 to 200 feet high in the five-story above-ground portion of the Pentagon.

The Marshals Service and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration have headquarters at 600 Army-Navy Drive, just across an interstate highway from the Pentagon and connected to the complex by an underground tunnel.

It was 10:10 a.m. EDT, and a fellow worker had just turned on a small television in her cubicle after hearing about the World Trade Center attacks.

Moy said the resulting boom from the crash was so severe "it surprised me we didn't lose any windows."

"I have to admit with initial impact to being terribly fright-

ened," he said in a telephone interview from his Vienna, Va., home.

Moy didn't linger at the window. He said he made sure workers were evacuated from his floor, then was distracted by a co-worker who fainted after learning about the attack because she feared her son, a Pentagon worker, had been killed. He had not.

Marshals Service and DEA employees eventually were sent home, dealing with gridlock on the highways.

At the Pentagon, as thousands of workers were walking or running in all directions to get away from the building or searching for trained medical personnel to help with the wounded, a red truck buzzed by on the road and, over a megaphone, the fleeing workers were told, "Get as far away from the Pentagon as possible."

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers were

evacuated from their offices by capital police.

First lady Laura Bush was on the Hill early today to address a committee hearing chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. But Kennedy announced that the hearing was being canceled and the first lady was whisked away from the Capitol.

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., one of the most senior members of Congress, stood on the lawn outside the Capitol and mused that he always imagined that the chaos and death would only be a matter of time.

"Sure I've imagined it," Byrd said. "I've long been fearful that something like this could happen."

Journal staff writers Michael Coleman and Scott Sandlin contributed to this story.

## Some vignettes from a day of agony

Jerome Giddings of Irvington, N.J., was doing some surveying work at Newark (N.J.) International Airport when he saw one of the towers collapse about 10 miles away.

"I was looking through the instrument at the smoke coming from the buildings, and, all of a sudden, one of them was gone. It just wasn't there," Giddings said.

It almost seemed like a stream of refugees. Pentagon employees walked several miles down a closed highway, next to the graves of Arlington National Cemetery, looking for a way to get home. Many of those walking through the Iwo Jima Memorial and next to the cemetery were trying unsuccessfully to call friends and family on jammed cell-phone lines.

The workers described the same scene: a deafening blast that shook the building. Those who could glimpse outside saw a huge fireball. Terry Yonkers, a civilian with the Air Force, was in the building at the time of the attack.

"All we heard was a huge blast. The whole building shook," Yonkers said.

Clemant Lewin, a banker who works across street from the World Trade Center towers, said that, after the



KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**UNBEARABLE:** A woman standing on the Promenade in Brooklyn, which normally offers a stunning view of Lower Manhattan, could no longer bear to look after the third explosion Tuesday at the World Trade Center.

initial explosion, he looked out the window and saw people jumping from the building from as high as the 80th floor, including a man and a woman holding hands as they fell.

"I'm traumatized for life," Lewin said. "Someone needs to take responsibility for this. This was somebody's father, this was somebody's sister, somebody's mother. We should have seen this coming. I'm disgusted."

Clayton Hill, 23, who works for an Internet company, was ordered out of a Manhattan subway just after the first plane hit the World Trade Center. He joined a crowd of hundreds looking up at the gaping hole, then saw bodies tumbling out, one after the other.

"Everyone would just let out a gasp" as each victim fell, Hill said.

Then the tower collapsed and the crowd panicked.

"People started running like crazy," he said. "I was running and looking back. It was insane."

Joan Feldman, an employee of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods in the second tower, said the evacuation was orderly after the first plane hit the other building.

She walked down from 88th floor to 78th, then took an elevator down from there.

"We had just gotten out the door when the second plane hit," she

told WABC-TV. "There were a lot of police in the lobby level and they were directing people out."

"I was with a co-worker who was not able to move very quickly. I ran into the street and pushed her under a car because there was falling debris."

The Rev. Distefano Simeon, the pastor of St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in Greenwich Village, stood on a corner watching the passing crowd with amazement.

"Which way to the Brooklyn Bridge?" asked a woman.

"That way," Simeon said. "But it's a long way. You've got a lot of walking to do."

In Brooklyn, Hasidic Jews from a local synagogue stood in the burning sun in black garb, handing out cups of water to tired refugees coming over the Williamsburg Bridge. One man gave out free Italian ice.

Frank Salumn said he injured his knee when he grabbed a little girl and jumped onto a tugboat to get out of New York. His pants were ripped and he had an ice pack on his knee as he sat at Newark, N.J.'s Penn Station.

He was on the promenade outside the World Trade Center when he saw the second airplane crash.

"The whole thing came down like a glass house," said Salumn, 36, of Brooklyn.

Robert James, 43, manager of a Modell's sports store near the Trade Center, was in the basement when he heard the explosion, then emerged to see at least five bodies fall from the skyscraper.

"They looked like rag dolls," he said. "It was like the kind of thing you see in movies."

He was nearby for the 1993 Trade Center bombing, James said, adding, "I don't think I'll work down here anymore."

Many workers from lower Manhattan were taken across the Hudson River on ferries and stranded in New Jersey. Their cell phones went dead, so they lined up at pay phones, hoping to get rides home.

Ann Ventra of Staten Island used a pay phone to call a relative.

"I have no money; I don't even have a quarter," she said on the phone. From her office in Manhattan, she said she saw people on fire jumping from the towers.

"Seven, 10 people jumping out of

the building. I think I'm just in shock," Ventra said.

Along Fifth Avenue, people clustered outside their office buildings, some because the offices had been closed, some just to talk about the tragedy with others.

Alicia Pioto, a book editor, said the TV pictures "made me fear for my life. How do we know this building isn't next? I wish we had one of those tornado cellars."

Residents far away from New York City listened to radios, watched TV and made calls on cell phones to loved ones. It was the talk of elevators, bank lines, street corners and restaurants.

In West Virginia, fear about terrorism was real.

"If it made people in small towns afraid to go to work in the morning, I think they really accomplished something in their minds, probably," Russell Kitchen, a legislative staffer at the state Capitol, said during a mandatory evacuation there.

"If somebody in West Virginia can be afraid to get up in the morning, I think they feel like they've accomplished something."

— The Associated Press