

New day of infamy

Thousands feared dead after planes hit towers, Pentagon



AFP PHOTO/DOUG KANTER

Alone amid the ruins of the first World Trade Center tower, a man called out an offer of help yesterday. "It looked like nuclear winter," said one nearby worker.

By Mitchell Zuckoff
and Matthew Brelis

GLOBE STAFF

Terrorists hijacked four passenger jets and turned them into guided missiles yesterday, striking at US government and financial capitals, in choreographed attacks that left thousands feared dead and that shredded the nation's sense of security.

With chilling precision in under two hours, two suicide jet crashes destroyed the landmark twin towers of New York's World Trade Center. A third crumpled a section of the Pentagon, and a fourth plowed into a grassy field in Pennsylvania. A congressman said the target of the fourth jet may have been Camp David, the presidential retreat, 85 miles away in Maryland.

A somber President Bush vowed in a prime-time address that the United States would use all its resources to "find those responsible and bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

While Bush spoke, federal aviation, intelligence, and law enforcement authorities struggled to understand how they had been caught so completely by surprise. A worldwide investigation began even before the chaos had eased in New York and Washington, before the plumes of ash had settled, before the victims had been counted and cared for, and before the enormity of events could be absorbed by stunned and grieving Americans.

Two of the commandeered flights had originated at Logan Airport, making Greater Boston a

ATTACKS, Page A4

The attack on America

Washington aftermath

The image of a hole torn in the headquarters of the world's most powerful military stuns many. **A3.**

The top suspect

As a worldwide search begins for those responsible, specialists say early signs point to Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden. **A8.**

Security worries

Lawmakers and analysts question the state of airport protection and the readiness of the military to defend institutions. **A9.**

Playing fields empty

Major League Baseball cancels an entire slate of regular-season games for the first time since World War II. **Sports, D1.**

Wide disruptions

Financial markets close, office buildings and retail centers are evacuated, and many forms of commerce halt. **Business, F1.**

Guiding the children

Assurances of safety are adults' first and most important responsibility. **Living/Arts, G1.**

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Also inside

It's Lynch vs. Sprague

The primary narrows the field for the 9th Congressional District seat. **City & Region, B1.**

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REUTERS PHOTO

New York workers evacuating a victim. Officials said it would take days to tally the casualties.

In unfathomable way, we now know terror and vulnerability

DAVID M. SHRIBMAN

National Perspective

WASHINGTON — It was a day of infamy, but Sept. 11, 2001, was a day of infamy unlike any other.

It marked the most lethal attack on the United States in history. It marked the end of a period of incomparably carefree American optimism and openness. It marked the beginning of a period of incomprehensible domestic fear and vulnerability.

It was a day of violence, rage, mystery, grief, and, above all, the very terror that gave this form of warfare its name.

The multi-pronged assaults on the World Trade Center, the most

potent symbol of American economic power, and on the Pentagon, the most formidable symbol of American military power, brought the nation into a war — the phrase was tossed around the capital with increasing frequency as the day progressed — unlike any the nation has fought before.

It also brought the nation to a breathless, terrified standstill.

And in that standstill — in a hushed moment of trembling fright, sensed coast to coast, shared by millions — there was the unmistakable feeling that a barrier had been crossed, that the country, and all of its sunny assumptions of safety and its feeling of breezy confidence, had changed.

This is a different country this morning.

The two towers of the World

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE, Page A3

Crashes in NYC had grim origins at Logan

By Peter J. Howe
and Matthew Brelis

GLOBE STAFF

Long-standing concerns about the adequacy of security at Boston's Logan International Airport gained new weight yesterday after two jets that had taken off from Boston were hijacked and later crashed into the twin World Trade Center towers in New York.

By last evening, airport and law enforcement officials had offered no information about who seized the Los Angeles-bound American Airlines Flight 11 and United Air Lines Flight 175 or how, or whether the hijackers had help from others on the ground who could have smuggled in weapons before takeoff. The flights left within the same 15-minute span as jets leaving Newark and Dulles International Air-

port that were also hijacked and crashed, one into the Pentagon, in a terror campaign of astonishing precision.

As the Federal Aviation Administration shut down all US air travel yesterday, Logan officials began evacuating and sealing the airport. Logan was expected to remain closed "indefinitely."

Last evening, Massachusetts Port Authority aviation director Thomas Kinton said whenever Logan reopens, there will probably be "very significant" security changes, including no more curbside luggage check-in and a ban on anyone except registered passengers passing checkpoints.

Massport security director Joseph Lawless, a longtime state trooper who was former governor William F. Weld's chauffeur in the

LOGAN, Page A6

LA-bound flights left trail of grief in New England

By Thomas Farragher
and Bella English

GLOBE STAFF

The hellish glass-and-steel shards that rained from New York's storied skyline sliced painfully through New England yesterday in the homes of dozens of passengers who boarded planes in Boston and died in twin fireballs over Manhattan.

A man from Dracut piloted American Airlines Flight 11.

A driving force of Boston's new economy was among his 81 passengers.

Bishop Kenneth A. Angell, the Roman Catholic bishop of Vermont, held a Mass at noon yesterday to pray for the people who had been killed. Within hours, he learned that his brother and his

sister-in-law were among them.

Garnet "Ace" Bailey, a member of the Boston Bruins Stanley Cup championship teams in 1969-70 and 1971-72, died in the attack.

So did a family of three from Groton, a mother, father and their 3-year-old child.

As did a young mother of two from Worcester, an infrequent flyer who fretted about leaving her children behind.

"She was very into being a mom," said John Creamer, who kissed his wife, Tara, goodbye before dawn as she headed for Logan and her flight to Los Angeles. The couple have two children, Colin, 4, and Nora, 1. "She was just a kind and loving wife and mother. And she was everything to me and my

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AP PHOTO

A jetliner crashing in a ball of fire into one of the World Trade Center towers yesterday morning.