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U.S. UNDER ATTACK

BUSH: 'NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TERRORISTS . . . AND THOSE WHO HARBOR THEM'



A BALL OF FIRE ERUPTS from the upper floors of the south tower of the World Trade Center after a second plane hit the complex on Tuesday. Thousands are feared dead from the massive act of terrorism that stunned and saddened the nation. KRISTEN BROCHMANN/NEW YORK TIMES

Community, nation mourn day of terror

Miami Valley residents offer prayers, assistance, blood

By Tom Beyerlein Dayton Daily News

DAYTON — As security tightened around public places throughout the Miami Valley, local residents offered their prayers, their assistance and even their blood to the victims of Tuesday's nightmarish terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base went on high alert, sending home all but essential personnel, and

Dayton International Airport was part of a nationwide airport shutdown. Schools, businesses and shopping malls closed early, and sporting events and community activities were canceled throughout the region.

The FBI issued a news release Tuesday afternoon saying it "has no credible information that any location" within the 48-county Cincinnati FBI Division, including the Dayton area, has been targeted for terrorist attack.

Still, Dayton police barricaded downtown streets surrounding the Federal Building, City Hall, the courthouses, the county administration building and sheriff's and police headquarters. Dayton Municipal Courts closed down, trials were postponed in county Common Pleas Court and Dayton police took the unusual step of locking the doors to the Safety Building on a weekday.

The Dayton Fire Department, which sent seven workers to New York City to help with rescue efforts, also increased staffing and security.

One by one, local, state and federal offices closed, but federal investigative agencies, including the FBI, remained fully staffed. At 1:55 p.m., the doors to the Federal



AN EMERGENCY WORKER helps a woman after she was injured in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York on Tuesday. GULNARA SAMIOLAVA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some trapped survivors contact families, authorities

By Scott Shepard and Shelley Emling Washington Bureau and The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States, knife-wielding hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, toppling its twin 110-story towers. The deadly calamity was witnessed on television across the world as another plane slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed outside Pittsburgh.

"Today, our nation saw evil," President Bush said in an address to the nation Tuesday night. He said thousands of lives were "suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror."

Said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet: "We have been attacked like we haven't since Pearl Harbor."

Establishing the U.S. death toll could take weeks. The four airliners alone had 266 people aboard and there were no known survivors. At the Pentagon, about 100 people were

believed dead.

In addition, a union official said he feared half of the 400 firefighters who first reached the scene had died in rescue efforts at the trade center — where 50,000 people worked — and dozens of police officers were believed missing.

"The number of casualties will be more than most of us can bear," a visibly distraught Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Police sources said some people trapped in the twin towers managed to call authorities or family members and that some trapped police officers made radio contact. In one of the calls, which took place in the afternoon, a businessman phoned his family to say he was trapped with policemen, whom he named, the source said.

Because of fires and unstable debris, no rescue attempts were going on Tuesday night, however.

No terrorist organization immediately admitted responsibility for the carnage. But speculation centered on Osama bin Laden, an exiled Saudi millionaire indicted in the United States on charges of masterminding the bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa in 1998.

But amid the disbelief and sadness surrounding the tragedy, there were inevitable questions of how

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