

# U.S. ATTACKED

## President Bush: 'Freedom will be defended'



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## Hijacked jets crash into NYC towers

Terrorists hijacked four U.S. passenger jets, including two departing from Boston's Logan International Airport, yesterday morning and used them to launch attacks at the heart of America's governmental and financial capitals.

The two aircraft from Boston crashed minutes apart into the landmark twin towers of New York's World Trade Center.

The force of the impact was so great that both buildings eventually crumpled and collapsed. Thousands are feared dead in the disaster, including more than 250 firefighters crushed as they attempted to rescue victims.

The third hijacked jet smashed into a section of the Pentagon, outside Washington, D.C.; the fourth plane plowed into a grassy field in Pennsylvania. In a national broadcast from the White House last night, President Bush vowed that the United States would use all of 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." A-3

## A stunned R.I. tightens its security

Flights were halted at T.F. Green Airport, in Warwick, and security was tightened at government buildings, power plants and office towers as Southeastern New England confronted yesterday's wave of terrorism.

Throughout the day, anxious area residents clogged phone circuits and the Internet to check on friends who work in lower Manhattan and see whether loved ones may have been on one of the hijacked flights.

Others were preparing to head to New York to help. A-5

## 3 from R.I. are victims

Among the casualties of yesterday's terrorist attacks were a 25-year-old man from Pawtucket, a North Smithfield woman who worked as a United Airlines flight attendant and a Cranston woman who was a passenger-service agent for American Airlines. A-9

PHOTO BY SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

FLAMES EXPLODE from the World Trade Center's south tower yesterday, moments after a hijacked jet hits it. Another jet struck the north tower 18 minutes earlier.

### We must not let our foes steal our freedom

Yesterday's acts of war against the United States, will, we trust, have the very opposite effect intended by our foes. As Imperial Japan discovered after an earlier Day of Infamy, Americans grit their teeth and press on to victory when attacked. But we must do this while taking care, as best we can, to protect such basic American principles as democracy, liberty, tolerance and openness.

Our enemies must not be allowed to weaken the foundations of a free society virtually unique in human history. They should only be allowed to unify us in righteous outrage. Secretary of State Colin Powell was eloquent yesterday:

"They can destroy buildings, they can kill people, and we will be saddened by this tragedy, but they will never be allowed to kill the spirit of democracy. They cannot destroy our democracy." Americans will, we trust, not let themselves be swept away by fear, including the xenophobia that always hovers at such times.

#### EDITORIAL

Today, citizens will take heart from the strength Americans have shown in past crises as they do what they can to help the direct victims of yesterday's attacks, to identify and pursue the guilty, to take such reasonable steps as can be taken to improve security — and to go about their daily business. This last imper-

ative is crucial because the sense of freedom to come and go undergirds so much of what makes America unique among great nations. We must not let our fanatical foes paralyze this freedom.

As Franklin Roosevelt said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." While we must be aware that everyone always is vulnerable to evil, we must also keep in mind that that evil can be defeated.

Our enemies yesterday murdered many of our compatriots, as they attacked symbols of our political, military and economic strength. But America is as strong as ever because its ideals and the courage and good sense of its people are undamaged.