

TERROR AT HOME

Coverage of the unprecedented terrorist attack on U.S. targets and the impact on Americans. Front page, Special Section B

The Post and Courier

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THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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ATTACKS SHATTER NATION

Hijackers use passenger jets as bombs, World Trade Center destroyed, Pentagon hit

TO OUR READERS

Today's editions of The Post and Courier are focused on the one story occupying every American's attention. As a result, the configuration of the newspaper is different. Space normally allocated to local news and business news contains coverage of Tuesday's hijackings and terrorist attacks. Obituaries, which regularly appear on Page 4B, are on Pages 10A and 11A. Even Sports, in Section C, is a part of this story. We hope the information below will help guide you through today's newspaper.

WEDNESDAY

September 12, 2001

Inside this edition:

- ▶ Local people receive rare good news, as friends and relatives are unhurt in attacks. **1B**
- ▶ Airports closed nationwide. More than 1,000 travelers stranded in Charleston. **10B**
- ▶ New York and Washington reel after attacks. Transportation shut down. Senior officials unhurt. **8A**
- ▶ Lax airport security gets the blame. **1B**
- ▶ American freedoms could decline. **3B**
- ▶ In the Mideast, Palestinians dance in the streets, cheering the attacks. **8B**
- ▶ Analysts fear terrorism could nudge economy into recession. **6B**
- ▶ U.S. markets remain closed today. Overseas share prices drop while oil and gold soar in panic buying. **6B**
- ▶ Local commerce slowed, while some businesses closed for respect or safety. Openings planned today. **7B**

▶ Sports: Some games canceled. More decisions today. **SECTION C**

Obituaries 10A
No Markets today
Local News 11A

 Sunny.
High 84.
Low 66.

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Associated Press

NEW YORK—As a stunned nation watched on television, hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, destroying its twin 110-story towers. Another hijacked plane slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed outside Pittsburgh.

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

It was described as the worst terrorist attack in history. Establishing the death toll could take weeks, but it was expected casualties would be in the thousands. The four airliners alone had 266 people aboard, and there were no known survivors. Some 50,000 people work in the trade center towers, which also draw hordes of visitors. Many workers didn't make it out. One official estimated 800 deaths at the Pentagon.

In one of the more horrific images, the dead and the doomed plummeted from the skyscrapers, among them a man and woman holding hands. To add to the emotional toll, late reports indicated there were survivors buried in the rubble, some making phone calls.

A somber President Bush addressed the nation Tuesday, vowing to "find those responsible and bring them to justice."

Bush said the United States would retaliate against "those behind these evil acts" and any country that harbors them.

No one took responsibility for the audacious events that rocked the seats of finance and government, but federal authorities identified Osama bin Laden — who has been given asylum by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers — as the prime suspect.

More than nine hours after the U.S. attacks began, explosions could be heard north of the Afghan capital of Kabul, but American officials said the United States was not responsible. "It isn't us. I don't know who's doing it," Pentagon spokesman Craig Quigley said.

For the first time in its history, the nation's entire aviation system was shut down as officials considered the frightening flaws that had been exposed in security procedures.

Government and industry officials said at least one flight attendant and two passengers called from three of the planes as they were being forced down in New York and Washington — each describing similar circumstances.

The callers indicated hijackers armed with knives, in some cases stabbing flight attendants, *See ATTACKS, Page 7A*

A shell of what was once part of the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center rises above what remains.

SHAWN BALDWIN/AP

Death toll... It could be weeks before searchers can account for all bodies. Officials will only estimate.

- ▶ Thousands injured at World Trade Center. Possibly hundreds dead.
- ▶ 265 firefighters, 85 police officers missing after towers collapsed.
- ▶ 266 passengers and crew dead on 4 hijacked airliners.
- ▶ 100 to 800 injured or missing at the Pentagon.

Minutes ticked, America changed Pieces of puzzle point to bin Laden

BY TONY BARTELME
Of The Post and Courier Staff

The morning sky over Lower Manhattan was perfect: a deep clear blue punctured by the city's jagged, spectacular skyscrapers. Sunlight glinted off the Hudson River into the two tallest buildings, the World Trade Center, where Peter Dicerbo and 44 other employees of First Union National Bank were starting their workday.

Suddenly, at 8:42 a.m., "I just heard the building rock," said Dicerbo, whose office was on the 47th floor. "It knocked me on the floor."

What happened next stunned and outraged the nation.

Like Pearl Harbor, the care

"I'm traumatized for life. Someone needs to take responsibility for this. This was somebody's father, this was somebody's sister, somebody's mother."

Clemant Lewin

fully orchestrated attacks on the twin towers and the Pentagon created a seismic shift in how Americans view themselves and the world. Late Tuesday, the bodies were still being counted and the story was still unfolding. But here is how

it began:

Shortly before 8 a.m. Tuesday, American Airlines Flight 11 left Boston for Los Angeles. Thirty minutes after takeoff, knife-wielding hijackers commandeered the jet. Instead of climbing well aloft and heading west, the plane swept to the south, toward New York.

At the same time, thousands of workers and tourists streamed into the Trade Center, two of the world's most famous buildings. The box-like pillars were home to 1,200 businesses and immense in every detail — 43,000 windows, 99 elevators, 1,350 feet tall. On a typical day, the buildings housed 50,000 workers, and 90,000 tourists *See CHANGED, Page 9A*

BY KAREN GULLO
AND JOHN SOLOMON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—U.S. officials began piecing together a case linking Osama bin Laden to the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history, aided by an intercept of communications between his supporters and harrowing cell phone calls from victims aboard the jetliners before they crashed on Tuesday.

U.S. intelligence intercepted communications between bin Laden supporters discussing the

attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, according to Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"They have an intercept of some information that included people associated with bin Laden who acknowledged a couple of targets were hit," Hatch said in an interview with The Associated Press. He declined to be more specific.

Hatch also said law enforcement has data possibly linking one person on one of the four *See BIN LADEN, Page 6A*