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War at home

Shaken nation awaits tally from Pentagon, Trade Center attacks; Bush vows to track down terrorists and 'bring them to justice'



DOUG KANTER/Agence France-Presse

New York's World Trade Center towers were reduced to rubble by hits from two hijacked jets. Another jet smashed into the Pentagon in Washington, and a fourth went down near Pittsburgh. No one immediately claimed responsibility.

'Today our nation saw evil, the very worst,' president says

By VICTORIA LOE HICKS
Staff Writer

Americans found themselves at war Tuesday with a shadowy enemy whose ruthless precision raised fears that more — or even

worse — might lie ahead.

A grim-faced President Bush vowed to find those responsible for flying hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon — claiming perhaps thousands of lives — and to "bring them to justice."

"Today our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature," Mr. Bush said.

Earlier, at a Pentagon briefing,

Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he would not discuss any possible military response, "but make no mistake about it, our armed forces are ready."

The suicide missions by the terrorists left Americans deeply shaken, as they watched the most potent symbols of the nation's financial and military might disintegrate, sickeningly, in billows of

black smoke.

A fourth airliner also crashed Tuesday, going down in a field near Pittsburgh. Some authorities speculated that it had been preparing to hit the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md.

A woman on the streets of New York captured the enormity in a single word: "Armageddon."

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A DAY OF TERROR

The four airliners had 266 people aboard; there were no known survivors.

At the Pentagon, about 100 people were believed dead.

An estimated 300 firefighters died in rescue efforts at the World Trade Center — where 50,000 people worked. At least 78 police officers died and about 30 are missing.

Air travel throughout the nation ceased, stranding thousands of passengers.

Trading on Wall Street was shut down.

A guide to *The Dallas Morning News'* full coverage of the tragedy appears on 2A

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EDITORIAL

America the resilient

During the early, dark days of World War II, when Britain stood virtually alone against Adolf Hitler's war machine, Prime Minister Winston Churchill took his advisers to a bombed-out quarter of London. Several houses stood amid the rubble. Smoke curled from the houses' chimneys. Mr. Churchill pointed to the smoke and told them that it signified the indomitable spirit of the British people who were still carrying on with their lives despite daunting difficulties, fear and uncertainty. He urged them to take heart from this example of bravery.

By that very same token, Americans must be united, not intimidated, by the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on Tuesday, in which thousands of people died. The great generosity and spirit of the American people were evident by midday as they rushed to donate blood and attended special prayer services around the country.

In the post-Cold War world, the most likely threat for the United States now comes from enemies operating surreptitiously, employing unconventional means and taking advantage of the openness of American society. With all possible speed, our country should pursue a homeland defense that gives the greatest emphasis to the kinds of attacks that turned the World Trade Center and the Pentagon into fiery hecatombs.

Until then, all citizens should dedicate themselves to addressing the immediate needs of the victims and their loved ones. The nation mourns grievously for the departed and their families; we have only begun to absorb the dimensions of this tragedy.

This moment is a test of our country's character. President Bush and Congress have put aside all partisan interests and now must respond with the same fortitude of Londoners 60 years ago. Our leaders must bind "we the people" together, mend and console the survivors, and call upon our great stock of moral strength.

The United States of America must continue to epitomize the values of democracy. Americans know we are a resilient people. Now, through our courage and resolve, we must remind the world of how precious freedom is and how relentlessly we will defend it.



CARMEN TAYLOR/KHBS/KHOG-TV



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JERRY TORRENS/Associated Press

Left: A jetliner heads toward a World Trade Center tower, about 20 minutes after another plane crashed into its twin. Center: A fireball explodes from the second tower. Right: That tower collapses; 40 minutes later, the other falls.

'The whole world's changed today'

Sadness, anger grip a nation that has lost all sense of security

By TODD J. GILLMAN
and MARK WROLSTAD
Staff Writers

Everything changed Tuesday. At work, home and school, Americans struggled to make sense of the horror.

"It's something I just can't

imagine," said 16-year-old Erica Ward, a high school junior in Garland. "It's like the world is coming to an end."

The devastation — of a nation's symbols of security and prosperity — gripped everyone, with a strong undertow of emotions: Shock. Disbelief. Anger. Fear. The flash of explosions, the downing of airliners, the collapse of skyscrapers shook Americans' sense of safety to the core.

In Dallas and across the country, the mood of the people grew

somber, dark and complex. In offices, colleagues gathered in a hush to watch the TV reports. In classrooms, teachers consoled weeping students. In airports, business executives and tourists tried to call home to let loved ones know they were all right.

Parents raced to pull their sons and daughters from school — then wondered how to explain the attacks to them. Others grew outraged and compared the attacks to Pearl Harbor, to the Kennedy assassination, to the Oklahoma City

bombing.

Cindy Smith, a mother in Mansfield, put it simply: "The whole world's changed today."

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