

# Houston Chronicle

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## TERRORISTS SLAM JETLINERS INTO WORLD TRADE CENTER, PENTAGON

### DEATH TOLL MAY REACH INTO THOUSANDS; HOSPITALS FLOODED WITH INJURED

### BUSH VOWS TO USE 'FULL RESOURCES' OF GOVERNMENT TO TRACK DOWN THOSE RESPONSIBLE

# TERROR HITS HOME

By **BENNETT ROTH**  
Houston Chronicle Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Terrorists hijacked U.S. commercial jets Tuesday and hurtled them into the Pentagon and New York's World Trade Center in a fiery, coordinated attack that stunned a disbelieving nation and may have killed thousands.

President Bush vowed to bring to justice those who plowed two aircraft into the 110-story twin towers in New York's financial district and slammed another plane into the five-sided military complex across the Potomac River from the White House. A fourth plane was hijacked and crashed in Pennsylvania.

In a hastily arranged televised address from the Oval Office, Bush sought to reassure the nation that the atrocious acts would not intimidate the United States.

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America," he said. "These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

About an hour after the planes hit in New York, the skyscrapers collapsed, trapping rescue workers and police still trying to evacuate workers from the buildings.

"All this stuff started falling and all this smoke was coming through. People were screaming, falling, and jumping out of the windows," Jennifer Brickhouse, 34, from Union, N.J., told The Associated Press after the south tower was hit.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent eight urban search and rescue task forces from around the nation as the extent of the tragedy became clear. Debris clogged streets, and smoke and dust drifted for blocks as parts of the city shut down.

It was estimated that as many as 50,000 people worked in the World Trade Center complex. After reports of possible cell phone calls from victims, New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said late Tuesday that some people could be alive but trapped in buildings near the collapsed towers.

While the number of tower workers who died was not known, New York fire officials estimated that more than 100 firefighters who responded to the scene — including a deputy fire chief — are presumed dead. Police officials said at least 78 officers are missing.

Officials said 266 people were on board the four planes that were hijacked and crashed. All of those on board were presumed dead.

Fire officials said at least 100 and as many as 800 people may have died at the Pentagon. The Federal Aviation Administration took the unprecedented action of grounding all commercial flights in the nation until noon today.

See **ATTACK** on Page 6A.



Kelly Guenther / The New York Times

A second aircraft nears the World Trade Center, top, moments before hitting the south tower Tuesday.

Within a span of 18 minutes, both New York landmarks were hit by hijacked airliners in what

President Bush called "a national tragedy and an apparent act of terrorism against our country."

## Vicious attacks shock Houston

By **TONY FREEMANTLE**  
Houston Chronicle

Though deliberately and carefully aimed at the seats of commerce and power, Tuesday's deadly terrorist attacks sent waves of shock and horror across America. In Houston, the most devastating terrorist attack in the nation's history penetrated deep into the psyche.

There were no direct threats, no clear evidence that any of the city's buildings or institutions were targeted, no indications that any great peril was forthcoming. But rush hour in the nation's fourth-largest city was barely over before it began again in the opposite direction. By afternoon, Tuesday felt like Sunday.

Parents pulled their children out of school. High-rise offices and shopping malls were evacuated. Airports, normally bustling and noisy, were quiet and somber as stranded passengers watched the drama unfold on television. The Johnson Space Center was closed to nonessential personnel. Hospitals tightened

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### WEATHER

**Houston and vicinity:** Skies mostly sunny today with hot conditions. High 92. Skies clear tonight. Low 64. More data on **Page 8B**.



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### TO OUR READERS

The Houston Chronicle has reconfigured today's editions in order to bring our readers complete coverage of Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

There is a separate 16-page special section on the attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. There is no Metropolitan section; local coverage begins on Page 13A. More stories on the fallout from the attacks, including cancellation of Major League Baseball games and the closing of financial markets, are in the combined Business and Sports section.

## Bush expresses nation's grief

By **KAREN MASTERSON**  
Houston Chronicle Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A somber President Bush responded Tuesday night to attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon by vowing to hunt down the terrorists responsible and hold those harboring them accountable.

"I've directed the full resources for our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and bring them to justice," Bush said. "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

The president added: "Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature."

And he invoked an Old Testament psalm to offer comfort to those who lost loved ones: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me."

Neither Bush nor Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld would name the terrorist organization

See **BUSH** on Page 6A.



Associated Press

Two women weep as they watch the World Trade Center burn Tuesday in New York City. "I looked at the Manhattan skyline and thought there's no more beautiful place in the world. And now it's gone," said one New Yorker.