

**EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA**

**St. Petersburg Times**

*Florida's Best Newspaper*

TUESDAY, September 11, 2001

**AMERICA  
UNDER ATTACK**



As smoke billows from one World Trade Center tower hit by a plane shortly before 9 a.m., another aircraft heads for the second tower, crashing into it moments later. AP

**PLANES CRASH INTO WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PENTAGON  
OFFICE TOWERS COLLAPSE; HUNDREDS ARE MISSING  
ALL FLIGHTS GROUNDED; TWO UNITED PLANES CRASH  
MARKETS CLOSE; DISNEY SHUTS PARKS; U.S. ON ALERT**

# AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

## Bush hears news in Sarasota

By VICKIE CHACHERE  
Associated Press Writer

SARASOTA, Fla. — On a day meant for celebrating achievement, President George Bush instead found himself and a school full of children trying to grasp one of the nation's worst tragedies.

The first sign something was wrong Tuesday came just before the president stepped into a second grade class at Emma E. Booker Elementary School.

Minutes later, he politely excused himself and set to the business of managing a national crisis.

"This is a difficult moment for America," Bush told the children who had waited nearly two hours to see him.

Florida Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan said he was standing next to the president when the first word of the attack came. Until then, Brogan said it had been a routine presidential visit.

Brogan said that all he knew at first was there was trouble in New York and clearly it was bad.

He said the president wanted to stick to his schedule of promoting his reading initiative and after a few moments of conferring with his chief of staff spoke briefly to a classroom of second-graders who had prepared to read him a story about a goat.

Bush then went on to the school's library where scores of children, their parents and local officials had been waiting despite the delay.

Their noisy anticipation had turned solemn as word of the attack had spread from reporters gathered in the back of the room.

"Reality has an ugly way of setting in," Brogan said. "It was so obviously a most serious situation, one that all these children will remember where they were on this particular day."

Gov. Jeb Bush was in Tallahassee at a Cabinet meeting.

Brogan found himself stranded in Sarasota when all flights were canceled.

"I don't think a lot of them are really aware," said Kassine Henry, who was at the school to see her 10-year-old son Ricky meet the president. "I'll break it down later to him as a parent."

"Everyone knew he (Bush) was going to be spending the day here at a school. Of all things for this to happen. It's so sad."

Victor Johnson, 10, was supposed to meet the president, too. He was picked by his teacher for the honor because of his good behavior.

"I'm a little sad," the fifth grader said. "They told us about the plane crash."

Principal Gwendolyn Tose-Rigell said some teachers will try to explain what they can about the attack, using it as a lesson on the difference between good deeds and bad.



In Sarasota, as President Bush had been reading for children at Emma E. Booker Elementary, his chief of staff, Andrew Card, interrupts to tell him about the attack on the Trade Center. Bush briefly turned somber but then resumed reading.



Before departing from Sarasota, President Bush bows his head for a moment of silence after the attack on the World Trade Center and targets in Washington. Bush has vowed to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

EDITORIAL

## A day of loss

Terrorist attacks have shattered lives and our sense of security, but not our values.

The United States is at war. Our enemies have assaulted the symbols of our economic and military power, and the magnitude of the loss — in human life, in economic devastation, in damage to the national psyche — is almost beyond comprehension. Sept. 11, 2001, takes its place alongside Dec. 7, 1941, as the most evil dates in American history.

We are at war — and yet the enemy is unseen and unknown for now. The shadowy savagery of the modern world can be even more frightening than the earlier era of known adversaries. While our government tracks down the enemy responsible for this act of war, the rest of us can do our part to seek out and reassure our friends and loved ones, so many of whom are in pain today.

Americans mourn for the thousands of fellow citizens whose lives were ripped apart by the coordinated acts of terrorism at the Pentagon and World Trade Center. We also mourn for our collective loss. Our sense of security, personally and as a nation, may never be the same.

At the same time, we will muster the will as a people to identify and punish those responsible for these acts of savagery, and to take all possible steps, consistent with our democratic values, to bolster our national security. As we struggle in the days and weeks to come to terms with our almost unimaginable loss, let us cling even more closely to the values for which the United States has long stood — and which no enemy can destroy.



For the latest news on today's attacks along with interactive photo galleries, go to our Web site at [www.sptimes.com](http://www.sptimes.com).

### St. Petersburg Times

# AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

More coverage in Wednesday's St. Petersburg Times



## AMERICA UNDER ATTACK



World Trade Center towers before attacks.



With one tower already burning from first plane attack at 8:45 a.m., second plane approaches.



About 9 a.m., plane plows into the other tower.



10:30 a.m. second tower collapses.

# BLASTS SHUT DOWN NATION

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a horrific sequence of destruction, terrorists crashed two planes into the World Trade Center, and the twin 110-story towers collapsed Tuesday morning. Explosions also rocked the Pentagon and spread fear across the nation.

It was not immediately known how many people were killed. Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers, but many were thought to be trapped. About 50,000 people work at the Trade Center.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list. . . . I would name at the top of the list Osama bin Laden."

President Bush ordered a full-scale investigation to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

Within the hour, an aircraft crashed on a helicopter landing pad near the Pentagon, and the White House, the Pentagon and the Capitol were evacuated.

In Pennsylvania, a large plane, believed to be a Boeing 747, crashed about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. The fate of those aboard was not immediately known and it was not clear if the crash was related to the disasters elsewhere.

Authorities went on alert from coast to coast, halting all air traffic, evacuating high-profile buildings and tightening security at strategic installations. The Situation Room at the White House was in full operation.

"Everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone," said Mike Smith, a fire marshal. "It's like a war zone."

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Ioan, shaking in shock outside City Hall, a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Center behind him. "I just saw the top of Trade Two come down."

Nearby a crowd mobbed a man on a pay phone, screaming at him to get off the phone so that they could call relatives. Dust and dirt flew everywhere. Ash was 2 to 3 inches deep in places. People wandered dazed and terrified.

Evacuations were ordered at the United Nations in New York and at the Sears Tower in Chicago. Los Angeles mobilized its anti-terrorism division, and security was intensified around the naval facilities in Hampton Roads, Va.

One of the planes that crashed into the Trade Center was American Airlines Flight 11, hijacked after takeoff from Boston en route

to Los Angeles, the airline said.

The planes blasted fiery, gaping holes in the upper floors of the twin towers. A witness said he saw bodies falling and people jumping out. About an hour later, the southern tower collapsed with a roar and a huge cloud of smoke; the other tower fell about a half-hour after that, covering lower Manhattan in heaps of gray rubble and broken glass. Firefighters trapped in the rubble radioed for help.

"Today we've had a national tragedy," Bush said in Sarasota. "Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack on our country." He said he would be returning immediately to Washington.

The crashes at the World Trade Center happened minutes apart, beginning just before 9 a.m.

Heavy black smoke billowed into the sky above one of New York City's most famous landmarks, and debris rained down on the street, one of the city's busiest work areas. When the second plane hit, a fireball of flame and smoke erupted, leaving a huge hole in the glass and steel tower.

John Axisa, who was getting off a commuter train to the World Trade Center, said he saw "bodies falling out" of the building. He said he ran outside, and watched people jump out of the first building. Then there was a second explosion, and he felt heat on the back of neck.

WCBS-TV, citing an FBI agent, said five or six people jumped out of the windows. Witnesses on the street screamed every time another person leaped.

People ran down the stairs in panic and fled the building. Thousands of pieces of what appeared to be office paper drifted over Brooklyn, about three miles away.

Several subway lines were immediately shut down. Trading on Wall Street was suspended. New York's mayoral primary election was postponed. All bridges and tunnels into Manhattan were closed down.

David Reck was handing out literature for a candidate for public advocate a few blocks away when he saw a jet come in "very low, and then it made a slight twist and dove into the building."

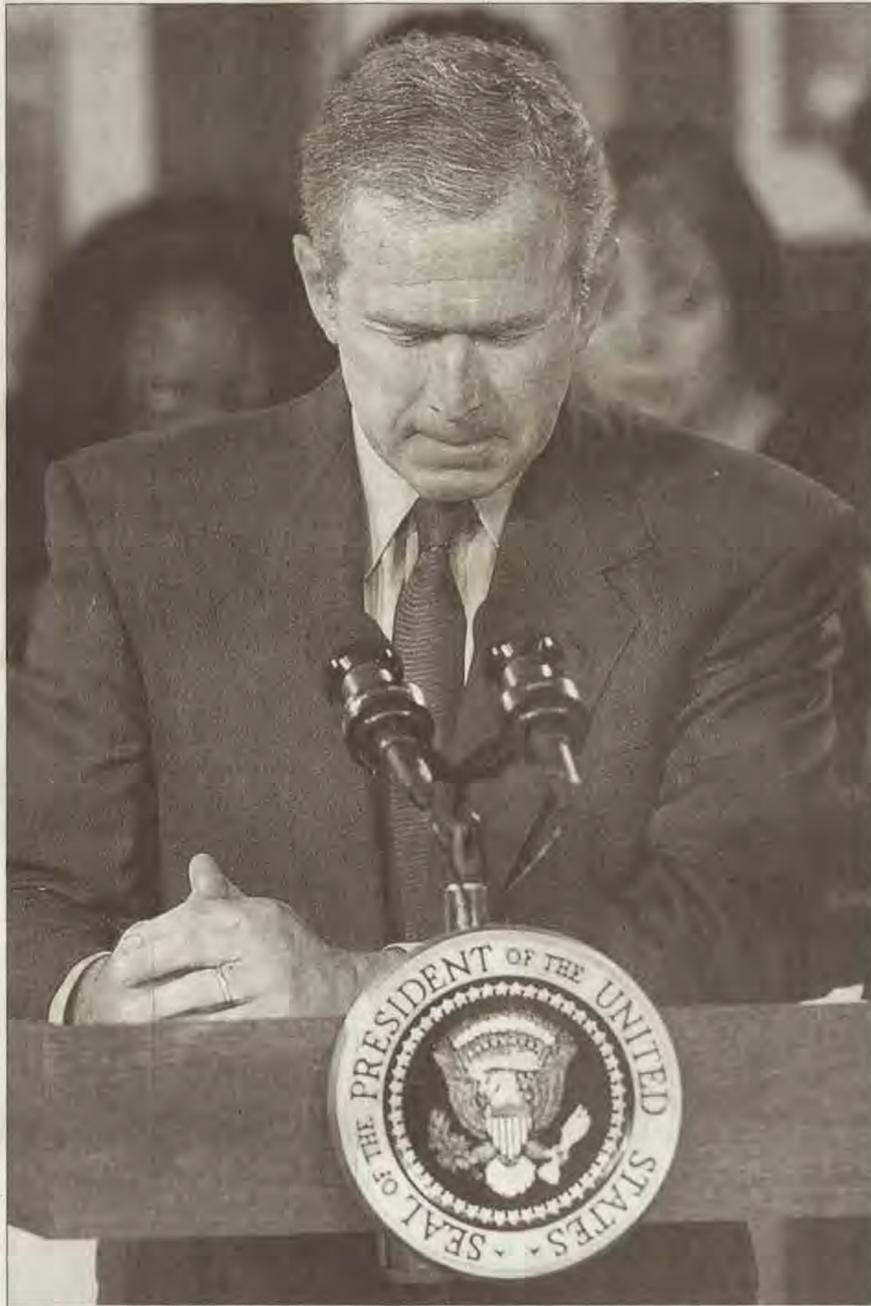
Terrorist bombers struck the World Trade Center in February 1993, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

"A second occurrence is just beyond belief," said Ira Furber, former National Transportation Safety Board spokesman.

"It's just sick. It just shows how vulnerable we really are," Keith Meyers, 39, said in Columbus, Ohio. "It kind of makes you want to go home and spend time with your family. It puts everything in perspective," Meyers said. He said he called to check in with his wife. They have two young children.

In New York, "we heard a large boom and then we saw all this debris just falling," said Harriet Grimm, who was inside a bookstore on the World Trade Center's first floor when the first explosion rocked the building.

"The plane was coming in low and . . . it looked like it hit at a slight angle," said Sean Murtagh, a CNN vice president, the network reported.



During a visit to Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota on Tuesday, President Bush bows his head for a moment of silence after the attack on the World Trade Center and targets in Washington. Bush has vowed to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

## What the president told the nation

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a difficult moment for America. I unfortunately will be going back to Washington after my remarks. Secretary Rod Paige and the lieutenant governor will take the podium and discuss education.

I do want to thank the folks here at the Booker Elementary School for their hospitality.

Today we've had a national tragedy. Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack on our country. I have spoken to the vice president,

to the governor of New York, to the director of the FBI, and I've ordered that the full resources of the federal government go to help the victims and their families and to conduct a full-scale investigation to hunt down and to find those folks who committed this act.

Terrorism against our nation will not stand.

And now if you join me in a moment of silence.

May God bless the victims, their families and America. Thank you very much.

## A morning of terror

**8:45 a.m.** An American Airlines cross-country flight believed to have been hijacked from Boston crashes into one of the World Trade Center towers, just as tens of thousands of people are reporting to work in lower Manhattan. Smoke is seen pouring from the hole in the tower's side.

**9:00** A second plane, apparently also hijacked, crashes into the other World Trade Center tower as America watches live TV coverage of the aftermath of the first crash. News cameras capture the plane as it swings around the building and hits the side of the tower, exploding into a fireball. CNN reports people jumping from both towers as chaos grips the area.

**9:05** At an elementary school in Sarasota, President Bush is informed of the apparent attacks and decries the "national tragedy" before returning to Washington. New York Stock Exchange and other U.S. financial markets close. The London Stock Exchange closes.

**9:45** White House evacuated after the Secret Service receives threat of a terrorist act against the presidential mansion and residence. The U.S. Capitol and the Sears Tower in Chicago are evacuated as well. Congressional leaders sequestered in an undisclosed location.

**9:50** The Federal Aviation Administration shuts down all aircraft takeoffs nationwide. Shortly after, all planes in the air are ordered to land at the nearest airport.

**10:09** One of the World Trade Center towers collapses among a maelstrom of falling rubble, dust and fire. Another explosion is heard but it is unclear if it was another attack or stemmed from the collapse.

**10:25** An airplane crashes into the helipad at the Pentagon, just across the Potomac from Washington. A car bomb explodes outside the U.S. State Department in Washington.

**10:30** The second World Trade Center tower collapses. Firefighters and other rescue workers reportedly are trapped the rubble, are heard calling for help.

**10:30** Federal government closes offices in and around Washington. All 340,000 federal employees are allowed to leave at their discretion. National Park Service closes major landmarks and monuments, including the Statue of Liberty, Washington Monument and the St. Louis Gateway Arch. Other major facilities closed or evacuated, including the tallest skyscrapers in Boston, Cleveland and Minneapolis and Seattle's landmark Space Needle.

**10:45** A United Airlines plane, en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco, crashes in western Pennsylvania near the small Somerset County Airport, about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. It is unclear if the crash is related to the other attacks.

— Compiled from reports by the Associated Press, Washington Post and CNN.



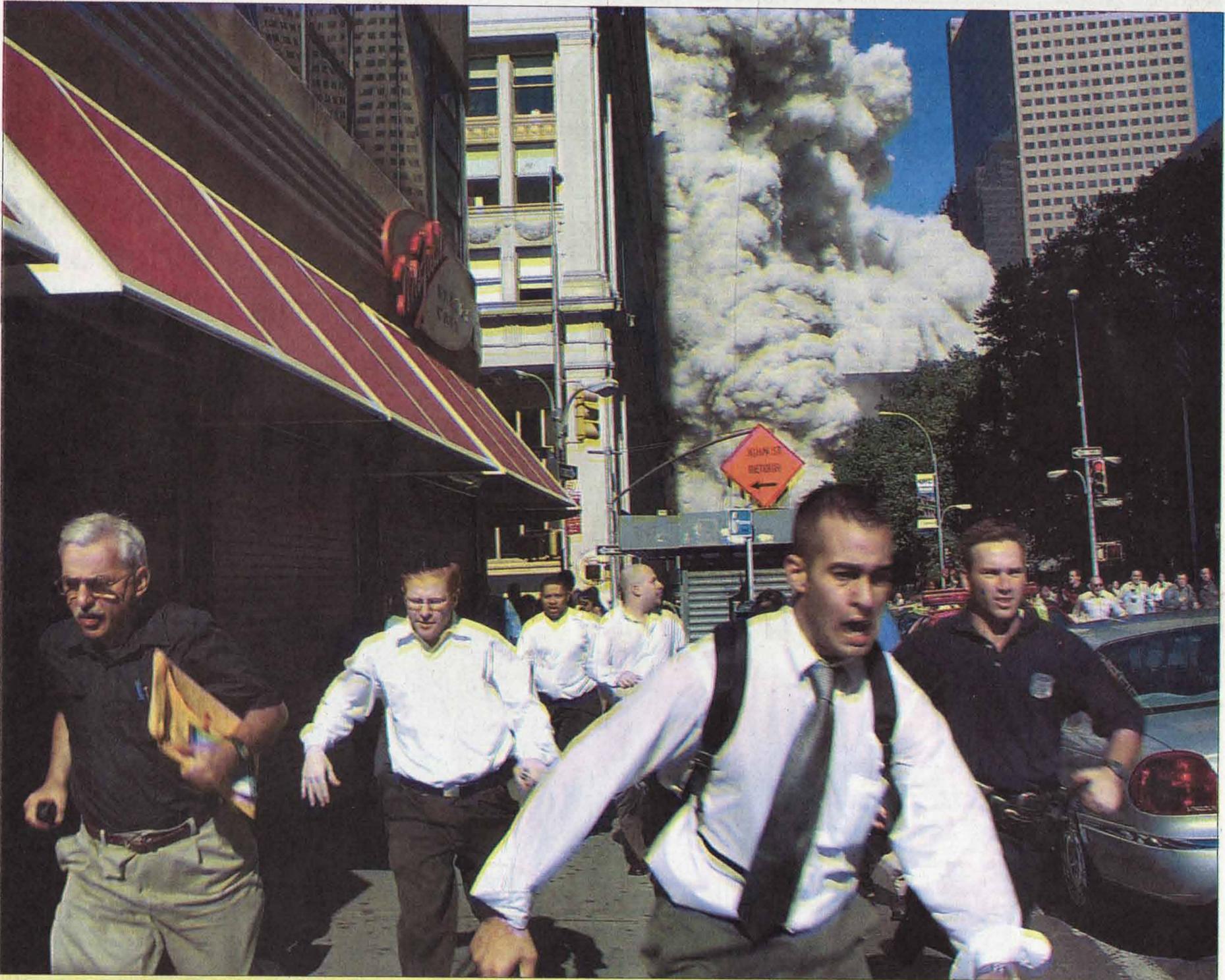
# AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

# TERROR FROM THE SKIES



Reuters

After the second tower collapses, two onlookers comfort each other. "This is the second Pearl Harbor. I don't think that I overstate it," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., after the attacks in New York and Washington.



AP

People run to escape the collapse of one of the Trade Center towers. "People were screaming and diving for cover," said one witness.



AP

In front of St. Patrick's Cathedral, onlookers react with horror as the Trade Center towers burn in the distance.



AP

"It's like a war zone," said one witness after the buildings collapsed. People wandered the streets, covered in gray dust and debris.

# AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

*"This may be one of the worst tragedies ever to strike this country."*

— JOHN SIEGENTHALER

MSNBC



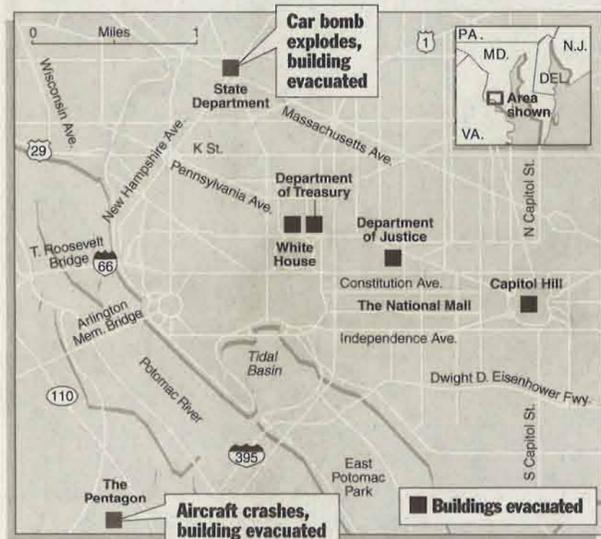
One of the Trade Center towers falls in on itself about an hour after being hit by a plane in a terrorist attack.

Reuters

# AMERICA UNDER ATTACK



In this image from television, smoke billows from the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., after an aircraft crashed there Tuesday morning.



## Stock markets shut down

**NEW YORK** — Wall Street exchanges did not open, and other U.S. markets halted trading Tuesday after planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers and government buildings in Washington, causing extensive damage. President Bush called it "an apparent terroristic attack."

"As a safety precaution while the tragic events of today are sorted out, the securities markets have decided not to open for trading today," SEC chairman Harvey Pitt said in a statement. "We strongly support that decision."

In Canada, the Toronto Stock Exchange also shut down.

The New York Stock Exchange is located in lower Manhattan near the trade center, and many of the major brokerage houses are nearby. The Nasdaq Stock Market, a computerized trading system, initially said it would open late, but then decided not to open at all. Chicago exchanges opened, then shut down in mid-morning.

"The two explosions were incredible and at the point of explosions all you could see outside were personal belongings and office supplies raining outside," said Bob Rendine, an American Stock

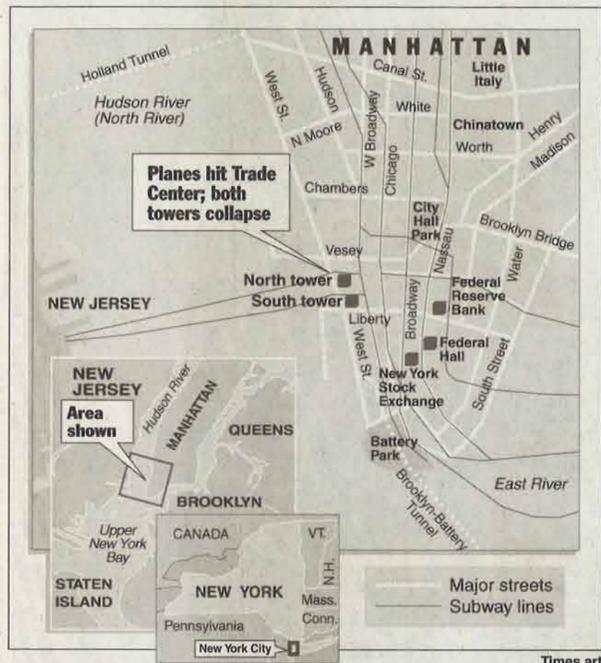
Exchange spokesman, whose office is down the block from the NYSE. "We're staying here. We think it's safer to stay inside than go outside at this point."

Business and trading in other parts of the country also were affected. The Chicago Board of Trade suspended trading at 10:15 a.m.

Around the country and world, the investment community was focused on the fate of people working in the buildings affected by the apparent terrorist attacks.

"I'm just worried about people who are there," said Robert Harrington, head of listed block trading at UBS Warburg's office in Connecticut.

### TARGET: AMERICA



Previous terrorist attacks on U.S. targets:

**MARCH 1, 1999:** Congo-based Rwandan rebels kill two Americans along with six other foreign tourists in Uganda.

**FEBRUARY, 1999:** Three Americans are abducted and killed by Colombian guerrillas.

**AUGUST 7, 1998:** Terrorists bomb U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in Africa, killing 224 people — including 12 Americans — and injuring thousands.

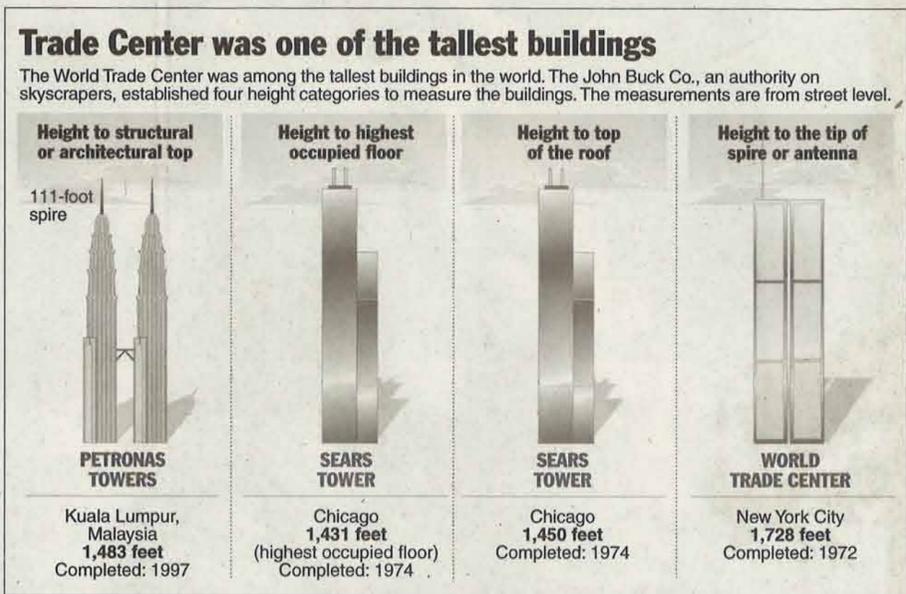
**JUNE 25, 1996:** Terrorists attack the U.S. military complex at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Americans and wounding hundreds.

**APRIL 19, 1995** — Bomb rips through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, killed 168 and injured more than 500. Timothy McVeigh was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in June.

**FEB. 26 1993:** Bomb explodes two stories beneath World Trade Center in Manhattan, killing six and injuring 1,000.

**OCT. 12, 2000:** USS Cole was refueling in the Yemeni port of Aden when a small harbor skiff pulled alongside it and detonated explosives, killing 17 sailors, injuring 39.

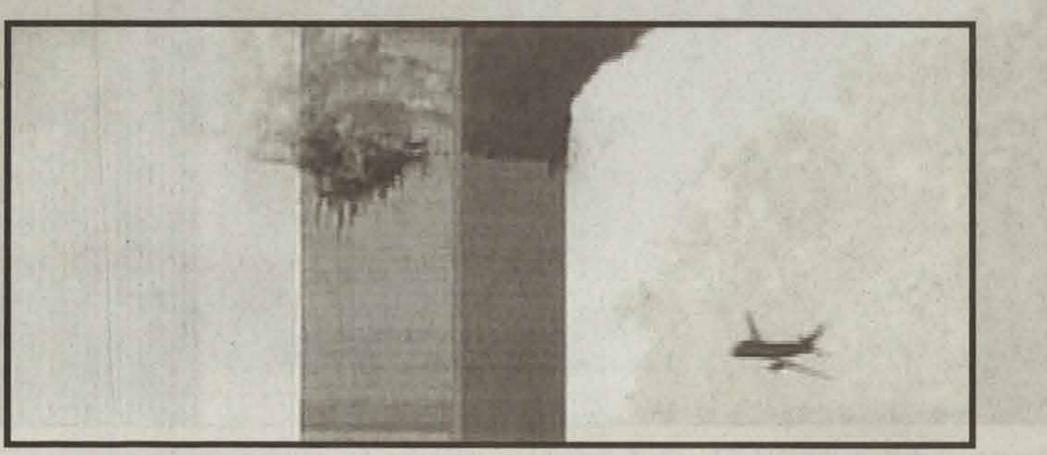
— Associated Press



St. Petersburg Times

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More coverage in Wednesday's St. Petersburg Times



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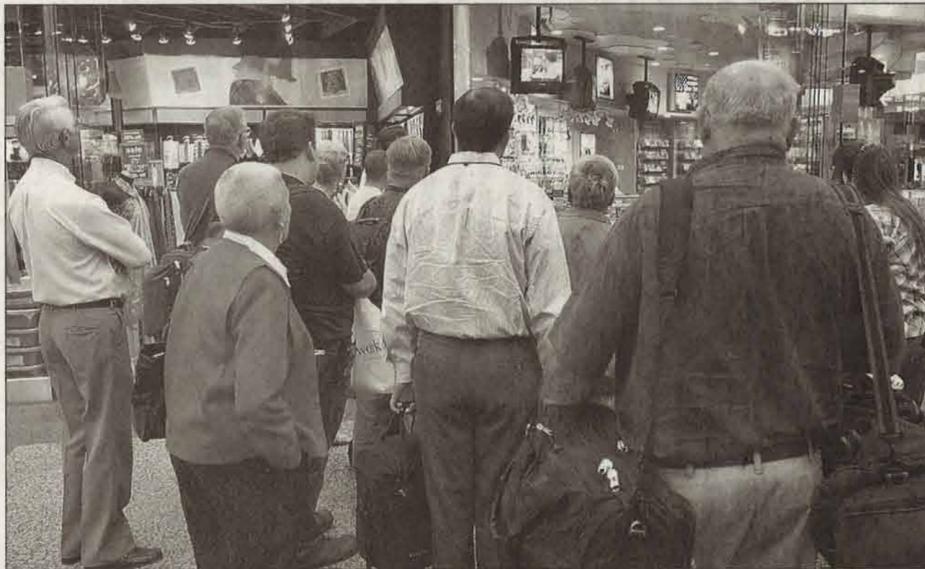


Times photo — DAN McDUFFIE  
Michele Forrest of Land O'Lakes looks pensive as she listens to news of the bombing while at breakfast at the Laker Cafe there.

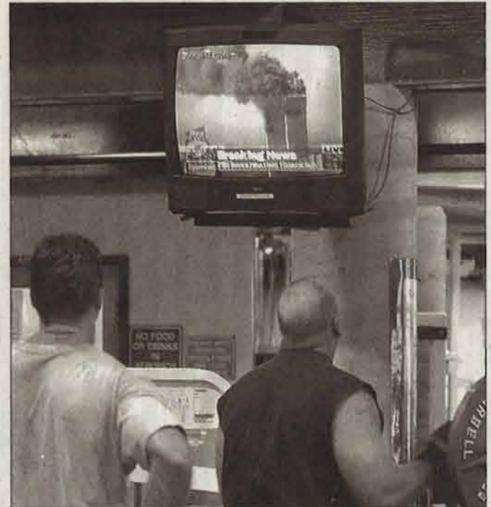
# FEAR ECHOES ACROSS TAMPA BAY



AP photo  
Members of the Secret Service with bomb sniffing dogs inspect the luggage of the media travel pool on the tarmac of Sarasota/Bradenton International Airport on Tuesday. President Bush had had an early morning appearance at an elementary school in Sarasota.



Times photo — FRASER HALE  
Travelers at Tampa International Airport watch TV reports of the attacks Tuesday morning after departing flights out of TIA were halted.



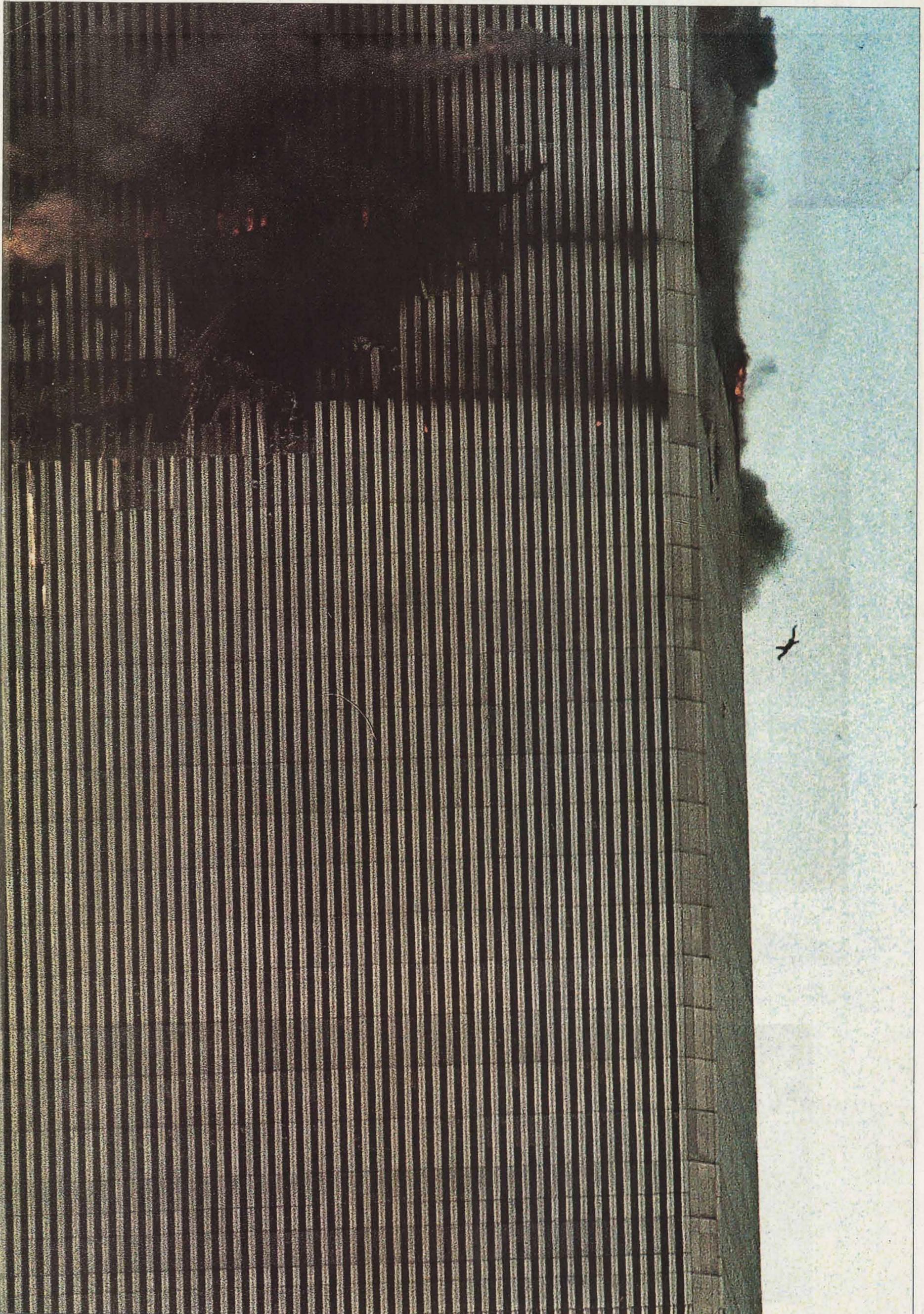
Times photo — JAMES BORCHUK  
At Gold's Gym in St. Petersburg, two men going through their morning workout pause to watch the television coverage as continuous images of the attacks are broadcast.

## AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

*"People were screaming, falling and jumping out of the windows."*

— JENNIFER BRICKHOUSE

Was on the escalator heading for her 76th-floor office in the World Trade Center



ROBERT GIROUX/Getty Images

A person jumps from smoke and flames at the World Trade Center after both towers were hit by airplanes. Authorities had been trying to evacuate the towers, but many were thought to have been trapped.