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.

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

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, President Bush was at a school in Sarasota, Florida, where he was scheduled to meet with students and teachers. The news of the attacks was so shocking that Bush was unable to deliver his planned speech. Instead, he addressed the nation from the school, saying, "I want you to know that America will stand tall in the face of this evil. We will not let this act of terrorism dictate our future."

The school where Bush was located was quickly turned into a command center for the government. Reporters and photographers swarmed around the building, as Bush spoke to the nation from a makeshift podium. The scene was chaotic, with reporters and cameras crowding around the president, trying to capture the moment.

As Bush spoke, the nation watched in shock and horror. The attacks had changed everything, and the world would never be the same again.

More coverage in Wednesday's St. Petersburg Times
NEW YORK — In a bizarre sequence of events, two jumbo jet airliners crashed into the World Trade Center and the nation's tallest skyscrapers before attacks.

The towers collapsed Tuesday morning, frightening billions across the nation. Just how many people were killed and injured is not yet known. Authorities have not yet even begun to count the victims who were at work when the blasts destroyed the towers.

"I am deeply ultran that we have been the target of a terrorist attack," President Bush said in a statement. "These acts have no justification. It is our task to find out who did this and where they are and to make them face the consequences of their actions."

Bombs have been confirmed by officials. The New York City Police Department said there was a "possible terrorist attack" at the World Trade Center, site of many of the city's most famous landmarks and monuments.

"The man who carried out this attack is a terrorist," said a White House official. "We know that the people who carried out this attack are a terrorist group."

"This is perhaps the worst and least expected terrorist attack that our nation has faced," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at the National Reconnaissance Office. "It is a very small group of people involved in that is taking place in the world," said Yates. "It is a very small group of people involved in this.

"I just saw the building I work in jump out of the first building. Then the other building fell about a half-hour after that," said Mike Grimm, who was inside a building. "I have never seen anything like this before," he said. "It's like a ball of flame and smoke erupted, and debris rained down on the street, and the air is filled with a cacophony of sound."

"We are trapped in the rubble radioed for help," said Gabriel Lozado, shaking in shock outside. "I just saw the building I work in jump out of the first building. Then the other building fell about a half-hour after that," said Mike Grimm, who was inside a building. "I have never seen anything like this before," he said. "It's like a ball of flame and smoke erupted, and debris rained down on the street, and the air is filled with a cacophony of sound."

"Now we're a team," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at the National Reconnaissance Office. "I just saw the building I work in jump out of the first building. Then the other building fell about a half-hour after that," said Mike Grimm, who was inside a building. "I have never seen anything like this before," he said. "It's like a ball of flame and smoke erupted, and debris rained down on the street, and the air is filled with a cacophony of sound."

"The plane was coming in low and fast," said Mike Grimm, who was inside a building. "I have never seen anything like this before," he said. "It's like a ball of flame and smoke erupted, and debris rained down on the street, and the air is filled with a cacophony of sound."

"I saw a jet come in very low, and I just saw the building I work in jump out of the first building. Then the other building fell about a half-hour after that," said Mike Grimm, who was inside a building. "I have never seen anything like this before," he said. "It's like a ball of flame and smoke erupted, and debris rained down on the street, and the air is filled with a cacophony of sound."

"I do want to thank the folks here at the Federal Aviation Administration who helped the victims and their families and to conduct a full-scale investigation to hunt down those folks who committed this act."
TERROR FROM THE SKIES

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-Nebraska, after the attacks in New York and Washington.

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

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

"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.
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 terrorist 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."

Previous terrorist attacks on U.S.
targets:

MARCH 1, 1993: A car bomb at the World Trade Center killed six Americans along with six other foreign tourists in New York City, killed 168 and injured more than 1,000.

APRIL 19, 1995 — Bomb rips federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and injuring more than 500.

OCT. 12, 2000: USS Cole was refueled in Yemeni port of Aden. A suicide bomber killed 17 sailors, injuring 389. The explosion killed 17, injuring 399. Among them was a 12-year-old girl struck by shrapnel as she played with a toy her father gave her.


MARCH 1, 1999: Congo-based Rwandan rebels kill two Americans and executed in June.

FEBRUARY, 1999: Three Americans were abducted and killed in Yemen.

MARCH 1, 1999: U.S. military complex at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia.

JUNE 25, 1996: Terrorists attack the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, killing 17 Americans and wounding hundreds.


St. Petersburg Times

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FEAR ECHOES ACROSS TAMPA BAY

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 just had an early morning appearance at an elementary school in Sarasota.

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

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.
"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.