

September 11, 2001- A new day of infamy

A summary of some of the events that shook the nation

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The following is a recap of some of the major news events that have occurred since Sept. 11. Sources of some of this material have been extracted from major news magazines and newspapers.

Hijackers commandeer four domestic airliners, and in suicide attacks, crash the jumbo jets.

American Airlines Flight 11, leaves from Boston's Logan Airport and slams into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City at 8:45 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 175, which also departs from Boston, crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center at 9:03 a.m.. Major television networks capture all of the gruesome footage on tape.

American Airlines Flight 77, departing from Dulles International Airport in Washington D.C., crashes into the Pentagon in Washington at 9:43 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 93 departs from Newark International Airport and sees its flight abruptly end in a Pennsylvania field around 10:00 a.m. Rumors surface that that flight was headed for Washington D.C., to either the White House or the U.S. Capitol.

At 10:05 a.m., the south tower of the World Trade Center collapses

into a 60-foot high pile of rubble, spreading billows of gray ash and fumes throughout lower Manhattan in New York City.

At 10:28 a.m., the north tower of the World Trade Center follows its neighbor to the south, collapsing and burying hundreds of rescue workers.

The Federal Aviation Administration orders all airliners still flying to land at the nearest airfields. All inbound international flights are diverted to locations outside of the U.S. This is the first time that the FAA has ever taken this course of action in U.S. aviation history.

President Bush orders U.S. borders closed and sealed.

The U.S. military is ordered to Threatcon Delta worldwide, its highest level of alert.

President Bush addresses the nation at 6 p.m. PDT, reminding Americans that "we are a democracy, and our strength as a country will not allow America to be weakened by such cowardly acts."

The Securities and Exchange Commission closes the U.S. financial markets immediately after the attacks, and the markets will remain closed until Monday, Sept. 17.

Reaction around the world is one of shock and disbelief. Many U.S. allies put their security forces on high alert, some U.S. embassies around the world are evacuated. British Prime Minister Tony Blair

interrupted a major policy speech to give heartfelt comments concerning the events taking place in the United States "This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of life."

Americans react with stunned silence, shock and disbelief. But shortly after the tragedy, many are seen lining up at blood banks around the country, and many start contacting relief and disaster services, offering any help that they can.

Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, linked to terrorist acts throughout the world, is immediately linked to the events of Sept. 11. Bin Laden denies any role in the tragedy, although he is unrepentant about what happened, and believes that the United States is mostly to blame for what happened.

Sept. 12- The Federal Bureau of Investigation reveals that they have discovered the identities of many of the hijackers involved, saying that many of them had probably been in the country for some time, planning their activities of terror.

Bin Laden is believed to be holed up in Afghanistan, where his location and identity is being hidden by the Taliban regime in power in this Asian country.

Major relief efforts begin almost immediately after the attacks in New York City and Washington

D.C. Many firefighters, police officers and manual laborers begin the laborious task of trying to rescue those who may be trapped in the rubble. To date, only five people have been pulled out alive after the initial collapse of the World Trade Center.

The FAA gave the go-ahead to open all airports nationwide that have passed new guidelines for security. Many airports report long lines and tighter security.

President Bush orders approximately 35,000 military reservists to active duty. Most of the reservists called up are to perform duties relating to airport security and homeland defense. However, some reservists will be supporting military operations at home and overseas.

All major athletic events are cancelled on Sept. 11 and will not resume until Monday, Sept. 17. Major League Baseball postpones six days worth of games and made them up at the end of the season. The National Football League postponed the weekend schedule of Sept. 16-17 and will make those games up on the weekend of Jan. 6, 2002. The Super Bowl is moved to the first weekend in February. All NCAA Division I and I-AA college football games are postponed.

The stock markets reopen on Sept. 17 and the Dow Jones Average loses 580 points on the first day. Trading will shave almost 14 percent of the value off the Dow Jones in the first week.

Major airline companies announce severe cutbacks and flight reductions due to lost revenue from the grounding of flights after the attacks. The president announces that plans are in the works to help bail out the airlines with 15 billion dollars in aid.

The United States says that it has "irrefutable evidence" that Osama bin Laden and members of the al-Qaida terrorist organization was behind the attacks of Sept. 11, and will launch a long and relentless campaign to rid the world of these evil-doers.

The United States enters into diplomatic discussions with its allies and the nearby neighbors of Afghanistan, to gain support for U.S. military operations against terrorist organizations.

On Oct. 7, the United States, using Tomahawk cruise missiles and aircraft, attack selected command and control targets in Afghanistan. The United States, along with help from Great Britain, attacked communication centers, terrorist training facilities and other locations within Afghanistan. Major airports in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Kabul, the capital, are attacked. The United States had ordered the ruling Taliban regime in Afghanistan to "hand over Osama bin Laden and close down the terrorists' training facilities." When the Taliban refused to comply, President Bush ordered the bombings. "None of these demands were met, and now the Taliban will pay a price," Bush said.



PHOTO COURTESY /Space Imaging

Dramatic before-and-after pictures taken of the World Trade Center site by satellites in space. Hijacked commercial airliners flown by terrorists crashed into both the north and south towers on Sept. 11. The collapse of the 110-story towers created enormous piles of debris, which by some estimates may take up to a year to clean up.