



ACT OF WAR

WITH CHILLING PRECISION, TERRORISTS DELIVER DEATH AS AMERICA WATCHES HELPLESSLY



ARMED WITH NOTHING but a fire extinguisher, an unidentified man makes his way through the rubble of the twin towers of the World Trade Center, shouting for victims who needed assistance. The towers disappeared from the Manhattan skyline Tuesday after being hit by hijacked passenger airplanes.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

“If you can do this to the USA and get at two symbols of the strength of America, that tells you essentially we are at war.”

— SEN. CHUCK HAGEL, R-NEB.

By EDMUND H. MAHONY
COURANT STAFF WRITER

America's sense of security was smashed with apocalyptic fury Tuesday when the most destructive and meticulously planned terror attack in history shattered two of the country's most potent symbols.

Shortly after leaving Boston, Ameri-

can Airlines Flight 11 to Los Angeles banked south near Albany and raced down the Hudson River Valley. It plummeted from a crystal blue bowl of morning sky and punched a hole through the north tower of the World Trade Center, the heart of the nation's financial nerve center in lower Manhattan.

It was 8:45 a.m., the start of a series of calamitous attacks that brought the

nation face to face with its vulnerability. With the twin towers toppled in New York, the Pentagon burning, a jetliner down in Pennsylvania, the morning's cruel work ended the nation's normalcy.

“Today, our nation saw evil,” a grim-faced President Bush said Tuesday night during his first prime-time address from the Oval Office. He promised that the United States will avenge

its thousands of terror victims by retaliating against “those behind these evil acts,” and any country that harbors them.

There were four planes hijacked by presumed terrorists Tuesday, and four accompanying disasters that caused unfathomable carnage. Rescue experts would only speculate that the

PLEASE SEE DIRECT, PAGE A2

The latest updates,
photos galleries, video
reports and documents:

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Business	A14, A15
Classified	F1
Connecticut	B1
Editorial	A18, A19
Life	D1
Local News.....	B3-B7
Lottery	B2
Obituaries	B8
Public Notices	F16
Sports	C1
Weather	B10

Complete Coverage

They fatally struck our two capitals – financial and political – with no warning, devastating Americans and shocking much of the world. Reports from New York, Washington, Boston and Connecticut. **Pages A1 through A15.**

New Yorkers Grapple: “I’m scared,” said student Nicole Mitchell, 21, of Harlem. “They destroyed a part of our world.” **Page A6**

Inside The Plane: There wasn’t even the grace of instant death. Instead, there was time to call from the sky to loved ones, saying final good-byes. **Page A7**

Too Close: At an insurance firm in Simsbury, employees sat on the floor and cried. The tragedy hit close to home. **Page A14**

Nowhere To Run
America Struggles With The Psychic Fallout

Special Section

“Certainly this changes the country,” said one historian. “It has to have a shattering impact on the American people.” The Psychic Fallout, **Page AA1**

