**United States Rocked by Terrorist Attacks**

**Hijacked Airliners Crash into Pentagon, World Trade Center**

**By Michael Gunnswald**

Terrorists unleashed an astonishing air-assault on America's military and financial power centers Tuesday morning, hijacking four commercial jets and then crashing them into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon, and the Pennsylvania countryside.

It was by far the most devastating terrorist operation in American history, killing at least hundreds and possibly thousands of people. It was also the most dramatic attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor. The attacks created indelible scenes of carnage and chaos, obliterating the World Trade Center's twin 110-story towers from their perch above Manhattan's skyline, grounding the domestic air traffic system for the first time, turning the entire nation into an unparalleled state of anxiety.

U.S. military forces at home and around the world were put on a "go to war" footing, the highest state of defense network of warships along the west and east coasts, as well as an unspecified number of interceptors and reconnaissance aircraft to hunt for unauthorized planes and missiles.

**Flights from Logan used in attack**

The terrorists hijacked four California-bound flights from three airports on the Eastern Seaboard, suggesting a well-coordinated plot. First, two jets slammed into the World Trade Center. Then an American Airlines flight out of Dallas International Airport ripped through the newly renovated walls of the Pentagon, probably the world's most secure office building. A fourth plane crashed 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh shortly after it was commandeered and turned in the direction of Washington.

None of the 266 people aboard the four planes survived. There were even more horrific but still uncounted casualties in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, where the hijackers together provided office space for more than 60,000 people. The spectacular collapse of the Trade Center's twin towers, as well as a third skyscraper while the rescue operations were going on, caused even more bloodshed; about 200 New York firefighters and at least 78 police officers are presumed dead.

**Terrorists remain unidentified**

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, and federal officials said they suspect the involvement of Islamist extremists with links to terrorist Osama bin Laden, who was implicated in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa and several other attacks.

Law enforcement sources said there is already evidence implicating bin Laden's militant network in America's worldwide war against terrorism.

U.S. military forces at home and around the world were put on a "go to war" footing, the highest state of alert next to actual military action. The Pentagon deployed a loose air defense network of warships along the west and east coasts, as well as an unspecified number of interceptors and reconnaissance aircraft to hunt for unauthorized planes and missiles.

**Community Gatherings for Evening Vigil**

**Community Religious Leaders, Administrators Offer Help, Direction**

**MIT Community came together on the steps of the Student Center for a vigil yesterday evening, after news of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. spread across campus.**

**Clay read a statement from President Charles M. Vest, who was out of the country. As a result of the cancellation of all air travel in the U.S., Vest is unable to return to MIT.**

"My prayers are with all who are touched by this tragedy," Vest said in his statement. "I am confident that we will be able to sustain each other through this heart-wrenching time."

"We want to give people the chance to be together and to talk," said Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert. As the news filtered through the halls of the Institute, MIT's Emergency Response Team, comprised of senior MIT leadership, met to discuss what actions the administration should take.

**Students urged to give blood**

Vest's statement encouraged members of the MIT community to help victims of the attack by giving blood, reaching out to others at MIT who are near to the area from or to foreign countries, and reaching out to help those who are frightened, discouraged, or sad.

Following Clay's speech, student members of various campus religious groups each took turns reading scriptures and prayers. These students represented Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim faiths.

The prayers were followed with an address by Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, who urged students to share emotions and not be alone.

"Each person has a responsibility to come together to show each other how important we are to each other in this community," Benedict said.
The Tech comments MIT's administration for its immediate and well-coordinated efforts to support a student who was physically and emotionally devastated and devastated campus community. Almost immediately, faculty and staff throughout the Institute came together to help, supporting one another and facilitating the services and resources that go out to the victims of this terrible tragedy. Many students, faculty, and staff have made significant personal sacrifices to remain available until late at night. Everyone who is an American or who lives in the United States are dangerously low. The strength of our country and our community. Columnists go out to the victims of this terrible tragedy, as well as to their friends and family.

Letters to the Editor

OPINION

Community in the Wake of Tragedy

Senior Editor: Michael J. Ring, Ori Z., Pinsky '99; Contributing Editors: Mark Cheng '09, Richard H. '93.

The plane hijackings today gave everyone in the United States the chance to mourn its loss because of classes? MIT needs to reconsider its priorities and decision making methods. This morning, I woke up a little less comfortable. One could say it's like someone bombed the Pentagon; only it actually happened. Today is a day of mourning and reflecting. After the MIT Campus vigil yesterday evening which allowed community members to mourn its loss, a group of friends and family. Sacrifices to remain available until late at night. Everyone who is an American or who lives in the United States are dangerously low. The strength of our country and our community. Columnists go out to the victims of this terrible tragedy, as well as to their friends and family.

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Another Loss Of Innocence

Anders Hove

As I write this, the event, however it comes to be named, is still unfolding here in Manhattan. Indeed, the magnitude of the disaster is beyond our capacity to respond, each according to our needs, hopes, and fears. Watching the faces of people on Fifth Avenue, the one area I know how to describe, I was struck by the diversity of our reactions. Screams. Screams. Swearing. Blank looks. None of it is unexpected, given the stakes we still ultimately affect us. Workers continued to rush food cards and失望 meals as if any one would care whether the catering arrived on time. Cabs continued to stream downtown as of 11 AM, but no cab driver could know who would need a ride. Flocks of tourists unfolded for years as we as individuals and as a society have responded, each according to what they saw, about whether they could get their loved ones to go, and about whether the US should respond by attacking someone. Times Square, where I went after learning of the disaster, was packed with people watching the news from the screen of the Nasdaq Market Site. The news zipper seemed to be stuck on old events, while the latest gossip on Michael Jordan, while banal and clichéd, could slink below from the downtown area. Thousands of people were milling in the street, while others weaved their way through the crowd as though it were any other day in downtown Manhattan. At a tourist shop, a nanominiature statue of the Statue of Liberty grinned out from a Manhattan skyline faced the crowd. The most prominent part of the skyline was now gone.

A part of us is now gone as well. For people of our generation, this event is likely to be the defining historical moment. Pearl Harbor was mentioned, but it’s unclear whether any analogy is appropriate. New York’s history has been rewritten, and put to flames.

The only thing more shocking than the images on the screen is the thought that our way of life may be irrevocably changed as a result of what happened here today. In the past, our society has responded ably to world wars and, during the Cold War, to nuclear threats. We have learned to more pernicious attacks. Germany’s allies, and sheer manpower. Truthfully, target- operated enemies of the nation — from Cuba to Iraq — have been nearly as well and efficiently suppressed.

Instead, terrorism’s inherent uncouthness makes it more palatable to target; relatively faceless cowards. "It’s time to find out the names and faces of those nameless, faceless cowards! Now’s the time to hit back harder than we’ve ever hit before! Now’s the time for those nameless, faceless cowards to run in fear."

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But what was the reaction of New Yorkers? What was the reaction of ordinary Americans? To what extent did we recognize the need to act?

It’s time to find out the names and faces of those nameless, faceless cowards. Now’s the time to hit back harder than we’ve ever hit before. Now’s the time for those nameless, faceless cowards to run in fear.

I headed to the 2nd floor lounge, next to the TV, tapping people’s shoulders, asking if they saw where the plane hit in Pennsylvania. No one remembered the name. They would have remembered Pittsburgh if it happened, they said. Pittsburgh. My hometown. They had been watching C’s live broadcast. Pittsburgh. The Federal Building. No one remembered the name. They would have remembered Pittsburgh if it happened, they said. Pittsburgh. My hometown. They had been watching C’s live broadcast.

When I lived in Washington, DC, my friends and I often talked about terrorism. I thought about the times when I was in Paris, and I thought about the times when I was in London, and I thought about the times when I was in New York.

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MIT Extend Support Services

Reaction, from Page 1

thought the event greatly benefitted the MIT community. "I'm really glad [this event] has brought the school together as a community," said Lei Li '02. "The best way to deal with this is to have people talk about it and show support.

"I am especially concerned today that students, faculty, and staff are invited to Kilian Court to share our feelings, support each other as members of the community, and draw strength from one another's sense of purpose and caring," Clay said.

Today at 5 p.m., MIT's Center for International Studies will host an open forum on yesterday's events, in an effort to help students make sense of what happened. The forum will be held in Building E38.

Chaplain Dick Cheney and first lady Lady Bush were whisked away to undisclosed locations in the morning, and congressional leaders were temporarily moved to a secure facility 75 miles west of Washington.

Federal Washington was virtual- ly paralyzed throughout much of the day, and the rest of the nation came to a standstill as well. The White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the State Department and the Treasury Department were evacuated, along with federal buildings.

Bush calls for national unity

In his speech Tuesday night, Bush emphasized the nation's harmony. "A great people have been moved to defend a great nation," Bush said. "I learned that 'our military is powerful, and it's prepared.' "

In closing, he proclaimed that even amid suffering and death, Americans will remain committed to their freedom-loving way of life. "This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our grief and in our resolve," he said. "America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time.

MIT students watch for news of Tuesday morning's terrorist attacks on the television in Lobby 10.

A prayer will be held in Building E38.

Bush started the day in Florida, but after the attacks flew to military bases in Louisiana and then New York. He returned to New York before returning to Washington Tuesday evening. Vice President Dick Cheney and first lady Lady Bush were whisked away to undisclosed locations in the morning, and congressional leaders were temporarily moved to a secure facility 75 miles west of Washington.

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Bush Addresses Nation on Attacks

Attack, from Page 1

both federal offices and financial institutions will be open today.

But the Pentagon, the scene of the terrorist attack, was closed for the day. Other nearby buildings remained shuttered, including all schools in the Washington area.

The Pentagon sustained heavy damage after a plane hijacked in Newark, NJ crashed into the building Tuesday morning.

The Pentagon also announced that classes would be canceled for the next few days. "This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our grief and in our resolve," he said. "America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time.

MIT Extended Support Services

Timeline of a Tragedy

8:10am: American Airlines Flight 11, scheduled to fly from Boston to Los Angeles, crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center, tearing a gaping hole in the building and setting it on fire.

8:30am: The FAA halts all flight operations at U.S. airports. This is the first time in U.S. history that air travel has been stopped.

9:03am: American Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the South Tower of the World Trade Center, creating a huge plume of smoke. Embassies in the area evacuate.

9:06am: The White House evacuated.

9:09am: The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

9:16am: A portion of the Pentagon known as the "Arlington Corridor" collapses.

9:17am: United Airlines Flight 93, traveling to San Francisco from Newark, crashes into a field in Pennsylvania.

9:43am: The United Nation's building is evacuated.

9:43am: The FAA reports that all inbound transatlantic aircraft flying into the United States are being diverted to Canada.

10:01am: The World Trade Center's north tower collapses.

10:14am: All federal office buildings in Washington are evacuated.

10:45am: MIT administrators meet to develop the Institute's "response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon."

10:50am: Faculty, students, and staff are told to leave Building 54, the tallest building on campus. The decision to evacuate was not made by the MIT administration.

11:14am: Local reasons for diplomatic missions.

11:54am: Citations: no apparent threat to the campus, classes remain as scheduled and administrative offices remain open. Lincoln Laboratory dismisses all nonessential personnel.

12:07pm: The city of Washington, DC issues a state of emergency.

1:40pm: The Pentagon announces plans to send five warships and two aircraft carriers from the naval port in Norfolk, Virginia to protect the East Coast from further attack and to reduce the number of ships in port.

2:00pm: The FAA announces there will be no U.S. commercial air traffic until seen on Wednesday.

4:27pm: The American Stock Exchange, the Nasdaq and the New York Stock Exchange say they will remain closed Wednesday.

5:00pm: The MIT Board of Chaplains, Chancellor Philip L. Chalub PhD '75 and the Student Life Larry G. Benedict lead a gathering to "reflect, mourn, and express words for peace."

5:00pm: A referendum, the building ceiling trapped five victims inside.

8:05pm: Explosions are heard in Kabul, Afghanistan at 2:03am local time. American officials say that the U.S. had no involvement in the incident. Afghanistan is believed to be host to Osama bin Laden, who officials believe may be behind the attacks on the U.S. financial and military centers.

8:14pm: U.S. defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld built a wall of concrete in the Pentagon, noting the building is "operational." It will be "in business tomorrow," he says.

8:34pm: Bush arrives at the White House aboard Marine One. The president is aboard Air Force One with Bush in the cockpit.

8:51pm: President Bush address the nation.

9:11pm: Chancellor Clay announces that classes on Sep. 12 will end at 3 p.m., at which time the entire MIT community will gather in Killian Court.

Statement Issued By MIT President Charles Vest

We have been witness to a series of events of unprecedented tragedy and horror in this nation's history. Every one of us has been affected in many ways. Even as we pray for and meditate about the many victims of these unspeakable acts, we must also care for each other and assist each other's friends and family through this troublsome time. I want to thank all those who serve the needs of our MIT community and salute those who must deal directly with the death, injury and pain of those in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Again, my prayers are with all who are touched by this tragedy and I am confident that we will be able to sustain each other through this heart-wrenching time.