

THE CHRONICLE

T E L E G R A M

24 pages

September 11, 2001

50¢

ATTACK ON U.S.

- 2 plane crashes level World Trade Center
- Explosions rock Pentagon, State Dept.
- All U.S. airports shut down
- Plane crashes southeast of Pittsburgh
- Cleveland on guard against terrorists



BEFORE THE COLLAPSE: The twin towers of the World Trade Center smoke this morning after being hit by two planes.

MORE INSIDE

People screaming around and jumping from the World Trade Center.

The world watches in horror. People questioned on the streets of Elyria this morning say U.S. should strike back. A look at the World Trade Center and the Boeing 767.

AM on B3

Our standard Page 1 was moved to Page A3 to accommodate this special late-breaking report.

Plane makes emergency landing in Cleveland; bomb feared on board

CLEVELAND (AP) — A Boeing 767 out of Boston made an emergency landing Tuesday at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport because of concerns that it may have a bomb aboard, said Mayor Michael R. White.

White said the plane had been moved to a secure area of the airport, and was evacuated. The airport also was evacuated, the mayor said.

White said airport officials reported that a second airplane in distress had passed through Cleveland airspace earlier Tuesday morning before being

handed off to Toledo.

White said air traffic controllers said they could hear screaming with the plane. Additional details were not available.

The mayor has ordered the evacuation of all major public buildings, such as City Hall, the Justice Center and the convention center. He has asked owners of large commercial high-rises downtown to evacuate.

"Terrorism against our nation will not stand."

"Today we've had a national tragedy. Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack on our country."

President George Bush



NEW YORK (AP) — In a horrific sequence of destruction, terrorists crashed two planes into the World Trade Center, and the twin 110-story towers collapsed this morning. An aircraft also crashed at the Pentagon in apparent coordinated series of attacks that spread fear across the nation.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "I don't know yet. Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers, but many were thought to have been 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.

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. American Airlines issued a statement saying it had "lost" two aircraft — Flight 11, with 92 people aboard, and Flight 77 from Washington to Los Angeles, carrying 64 people.

In Pennsylvania, United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco, 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. In a statement, the airline also said it was deeply concerned about another plane, Flight 175, a Boeing 767 bound from Boston to Los Angeles.

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.

At the World Trade Center, "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.

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

See ATTACK, A6