

Documented Articles of Flight 93:

Recorder reveals details of Flight 93 struggle

September 22, 2001 Posted: 11:34 AM EDT (1534 GMT)

By Kelli Arena
CNN Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Officials familiar with the cockpit voice recorder on United Airlines Flight 93 -- the hijacked jet that crashed September 11 in western Pennsylvania -- say there was a "definite struggle" described as desperate and wild between hijackers and some of the passengers.

An official has said there was some shouting, but it is not clear who was in control of the plane before it crashed. Several family members of passengers previously have described cell phone conversations saying there might be an attempt to retake control of the plane.

Officials say the voice recorder was able to pick up scuffling sounds.

While visiting the crash site Thursday, FBI Director Robert Mueller said translators were helping to work on a transcript of the tape -- confirming that more than one language is heard on the tape. Officials say there are shouts heard in Arabic and English.

"We and the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) are in the process of transcribing and, in certain cases, translating the dialogue, what little dialogue there is on that voice recorder," Mueller said.

Without going into details, Mueller seemed to confirm that the passengers attempted some type of takeover.

"I think ... both the attorney general and I and the attorney general of Pennsylvania have indicated we believe those passengers on this jet were absolute heroes and their actions during the flight were heroic," Mueller said.

Terrorists hijacked four commercial jets early September 11. Two of them slammed into the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York, and a third hit the Pentagon in Washington.

But Flight 93 -- which departed Newark, New Jersey, en route to San Francisco, California, and turned around over Cleveland, Ohio, to head back toward the east -- never reached its target, which remains unknown.

Instead, the jet slammed into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

September 11: Chronology of terror

September 12, 2001 Posted: 12:27 PM EDT (1627 GMT)

8:45 a.m. (all times are EDT): A hijacked passenger jet, American Airlines Flight 11 out of Boston, Massachusetts, crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center, tearing a gaping hole in the building and setting it afire.

9:03 a.m.: A second hijacked airliner, United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston, crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center and explodes. Both buildings are burning.



Plane hits WTC.

9:17 a.m.: The Federal Aviation Administration shuts down all New York City area airports.

9:21 a.m.: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey orders all bridges and tunnels in the New York area closed.

9:30 a.m.: President Bush, speaking in Sarasota, Florida, says the country has suffered an "apparent terrorist attack."

9:40 a.m.: The FAA halts all flight operations at U.S. airports, the first time in U.S. history that air traffic nationwide has been halted.

9:43 a.m.: American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon, sending up a huge plume of smoke. Evacuation begins immediately.

9:45 a.m.: The White House evacuates.

9:57 a.m.: Bush departs from Florida.

10:05 a.m.: The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses, plummeting into the streets below. A massive cloud of dust and debris forms and slowly drifts away from the building.

10:08 a.m.: Secret Service agents armed with automatic rifles are deployed into Lafayette Park across from the White House.



Pentagon burns.

10:10 a.m.: A portion of the Pentagon collapses.

10:10 a.m.: United Airlines Flight 93, also hijacked, crashes in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh.

10:13 a.m.: The United Nations building evacuates, including 4,700 people from the headquarters building and 7,000 total from UNICEF and U.N. development programs.

10:22 a.m.: In Washington, the State and Justice departments are evacuated, along with the World Bank.

10:24 a.m.: The FAA reports that all inbound transatlantic aircraft flying into the United States are being diverted to Canada.

10:28 a.m.: The World Trade Center's north tower collapses from the top down as if it were being peeled apart, releasing a tremendous cloud of debris and smoke.



Pennsylvania crash scene

10:45 a.m.: All federal office buildings in Washington are evacuated.

10:46 a.m.: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell cuts short his trip to Latin America to return to

the United States.

10:48 a.m.: Police confirm the plane crash in Pennsylvania.

10:53 a.m.: New York's primary elections, scheduled for Tuesday, are postponed.

10:54 a.m.: Israel evacuates all diplomatic missions.

10:57 a.m.: New York Gov. George Pataki says all state government offices are closed.



First tower falls.

11:02 a.m.: New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani urges New Yorkers to stay at home and orders an evacuation of the area south of Canal Street.

11:16 a.m.: CNN reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is preparing emergency-response teams in a precautionary move.

11:18 a.m.: American Airlines reports it has lost two aircraft. American Flight 11, a Boeing 767 flying from Boston to Los Angeles, had 81 passengers and 11 crew aboard. Flight 77, a Boeing 757 en route from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles, had 58 passengers and six crew members aboard. Flight 11 slammed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. Flight 77 hit the Pentagon.

11:26 a.m.: United Airlines reports that United Flight 93, en route from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco, California, has crashed in Pennsylvania. The airline also says that it is "deeply concerned" about United Flight 175.

11:59 a.m.: United Airlines confirms that Flight 175, from Boston to Los Angeles, has crashed with 56 passengers and nine crew members aboard. It hit the World Trade Center's south tower.

12:04 p.m.: Los Angeles International Airport, the destination of three of the crashed airplanes, is evacuated.

12:15 p.m.: San Francisco International Airport is evacuated and shut down. The airport was the destination of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania.

12:15 p.m.: The Immigration and Naturalization Service says U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico are on the highest state of alert, but no decision has been made about closing borders.

12:30 p.m.: The FAA says 50 flights are in U.S. airspace, but none are reporting any problems.



Second tower falls.

1:04 p.m.: Bush, speaking from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, says that all appropriate security measures are being taken, including putting the U.S. military on high alert worldwide. He asks for prayers for those killed or wounded in the attacks and says, "Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts."

1:27 p.m.: A state of emergency is declared by the city of Washington.

1:44 p.m.: The Pentagon says five warships and two aircraft carriers will leave the U.S. Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia, to protect the East Coast from further attack and to reduce the number of ships in port. The two carriers, the USS George Washington and the USS John F. Kennedy, are headed for the New York coast. The other ships headed to sea are frigates and guided missile destroyers capable of shooting down aircraft.

1:48 p.m.: Bush leaves Barksdale Air Force Base aboard Air Force One and flies to an Air Force base in Nebraska.

2 p.m.: Senior FBI sources tell CNN they are working on the assumption that the four airplanes that crashed were hijacked as part of a terrorist attack.

2:30 p.m.: The FAA announces there will be no U.S. commercial air traffic until noon EDT Wednesday at the earliest.

2:49 p.m.: At a news conference, Giuliani says that subway and bus service are partially restored in New York City. Asked about the number of people killed, Giuliani says, "I don't think we want to speculate about that -- more than any of us can bear."

3:55 p.m.: Karen Hughes, a White House counselor, says the president is at an undisclosed location, later revealed to be Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, and is conducting a National Security Council meeting by phone. Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice are in a secure facility at the White House. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is at the Pentagon.

3:55 p.m.: Giuliani now says the number of critically injured in New York City is up to 200 with 2,100 total injuries reported.

4 p.m.: CNN National Security Correspondent David Ensor reports that U.S. officials say there are "good indications" that Saudi militant Osama bin Laden, suspected of coordinating the bombings of two U.S. embassies in 1998, is involved in the attacks, based on "new and specific" information developed since the attacks.

4:06 p.m.: California Gov. Gray Davis dispatches urban search-and-rescue teams to New York.

4:10 p.m.: Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex is reported on fire.

4:20 p.m.: U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Florida, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, says he was "not surprised there was an attack (but) was surprised at the specificity." He says he was "shocked at what actually happened -- the extent of it."

4:25 p.m.: The American Stock Exchange, the Nasdaq and the New York Stock Exchange say they will remain closed Wednesday.

4:30 p.m.: The president leaves Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska aboard Air Force One to return to Washington.

5:15 p.m.: CNN Military Affairs Correspondent Jamie McIntyre reports fires are still burning in part of the Pentagon. No death figures have been released yet.

5:20 p.m.: The 47-story Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex collapses. The evacuated building is damaged when the twin towers across the street collapse earlier in the day. Other nearby buildings in the area remain ablaze.

5:30 p.m.: CNN Senior White House Correspondent John King reports that U.S. officials say the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania could have been headed for one of three possible targets: Camp David, the White House or the U.S. Capitol building.

6 p.m.: Explosions are heard in Kabul, Afghanistan, hours after terrorist attacks targeted financial and military centers in the United States. The attacks occurred at 2:30 a.m. local time. Afghanistan is believed to be where bin Laden, who U.S. officials say is possibly behind Tuesday's deadly attacks, is located. U.S. officials say later that the United States had no involvement in the incident whatsoever. The attack is credited to the Northern Alliance, a group fighting the Taliban in the country's ongoing civil war.



Bush: "Attacks cowardly."



New York Mayor Giuliani



Soot-covered man

6:10 p.m.:Giuliani urges New Yorkers to stay home Wednesday if they can.

6:40 p.m.: Rumsfeld, the U.S. defense secretary, holds a news conference in the Pentagon, noting the building is operational. "It will be in business tomorrow," he says.

6:54 p.m.: Bush arrives back at the White House aboard Marine One and is scheduled to address the nation at 8:30 p.m. The president earlier landed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland with a three-fighter jet escort. CNN's King reports Laura Bush arrived earlier by motorcade from a "secure location."



Stunned onlookers

7:17 p.m.: U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft says the FBI is setting up a Web site for tips on the attacks: www.ifccfbi.gov. He also says family and friends of possible victims can leave contact information at 800-331-0075.

7:02 p.m.: CNN's Paula Zahn reports the Marriott Hotel near the World Trade Center is on the verge of collapse and says some New York bridges are now open to outbound traffic.

7:45 p.m.: The New York Police Department says that at least 78 officers are missing. The city also says that as many as half of the first 400 firefighters on the scene were killed.



WTC devastation

8:30 p.m.: President Bush addresses the nation, saying "thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil" and asks for prayers for the families and friends of Tuesday's victims. "These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve," he says. The president says the U.S. government will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed the acts and those who harbor them. He adds that government offices in Washington are reopening for essential personnel Tuesday night and for all workers Wednesday.

9:22 p.m.: CNN's McIntyre reports the fire at the Pentagon is still burning and is considered contained but not under control.

9:57 p.m.: Giuliani says New York City schools will be closed Wednesday and no more volunteers are needed for Tuesday evening's rescue efforts. He says there is hope that there are still people alive in rubble. He also says that power is out on the westside of Manhattan and that health department tests show there are no airborne chemical agents about which to worry.

10:49 p.m.: CNN Congressional Correspondent Jonathan Karl reports that Attorney General Ashcroft told members of Congress that there were three to five hijackers on each plane armed only with knives.

10:56 p.m.: CNN's Zahn reports that New York City police believe there are people alive in buildings near the World Trade Center.

11:54 p.m.: CNN Washington Bureau Chief Frank Sesno reports that a government official told him there was an open microphone on one of the hijacked planes and that sounds of discussion and "duress" were heard. Sesno also reports a source says law enforcement has "credible" information and leads and is confident about the investigation.

Pentagon: Air Force Was in Position to Down Hijacked Jet

September 14, 2001 7:09 pm EST

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Air Force was tracking the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania on Tuesday after other airliners slammed into the Pentagon and World Trade Center and had been in a position to bring it down if necessary, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said on Friday.

"We were already tracking that plane that crashed in Pennsylvania," Wolfowitz said in an interview with public television's "Newshour with Jim Lehrer" program.

"I think it was the heroism of the passengers on board that brought it down but the Air Force was in a position to do so if we had to," he said. He did not give details about the Air Force's action.

Accounts from telephone calls to relatives from passengers aboard the plane, which has taken off from Newark in New Jersey and was bound for San Francisco, indicated they tried to take back control from the hijackers before the plane crashed.

Asked if rules of engagement would have allowed the Air Force to shoot the plane down, Wolfowitz said: "I think it was pretty clear at that point that that airliner was not under the pilot's control and that it was heading to do major damage."

He said any military intervention would have ultimately been the decision of President Bush.

Referring to the passengers who appear to have moved against the hijackers, preventing the plane from being crashed into another target, Wolfowitz said: "There's been so many great Americans doing great things and the people on that plane were clearly among them."

There were initially rumors that the Air Force may have actually shot down the United Airlines flight, which crashed in a rural area near Shanksville, 80 miles southwest of Pittsburgh.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other officials have denied the Air Force brought it down.

Some members of Congress have criticized the military for being slow to react to the hijackings.

Forty minutes passed between the time New York's second World Trade Center tower was struck and another commandeered plane crashed into the Pentagon, and 27 more minutes elapsed before the plane went down in Pennsylvania.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, conceded inadequacies when he was questioned at the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday in a hearing into his nomination to take over as chairman of the body.

He noted that only a "handful" of jet fighters were on alert at any given time and their main mission was to defend against planes intruding from outside American borders.

"We're pretty good if the threat is coming from outside; we're not so good if it's coming from inside," Myers said.

Combat Planes Ordered to Gulf Bush to address Congress on terror fight

By **DAVE SALTONSTALL**
Daily News Staff Writer

President Bush, preparing to make a rare address to Congress tonight, ordered 100 combat aircraft to the Persian Gulf yesterday — the first concrete sign that the U.S. is preparing to strike back militarily for last week's assaults on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The military deployment — dubbed Operation Infinite Justice — came amid growing impatience with Afghanistan, whose senior Muslim clerics began another day of debate early this morning about turning over Osama Bin Laden, the terror kingpin thought to be behind the plane crashes in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania on Sept. 11. The country's Taliban rulers have given him refuge since 1996 and don't appear inclined to give him up. The clerics' decision was expected today.

"The President has made it clear: It's time for actions, not negotiations with the Taliban," said White House press secretary Ari Fleischer.

The military buildup — expected to include F-16 fighters, B-1 bombers and some of the world's most sophisticated spy planes — came on a wild day for Wall Street, which staged a modest afternoon rally amid news of the imminent troop movements.

After a torrent of job cuts in the airline industry, including 30,000 layoffs at Boeing and 20,000 at United Airlines, the Dow industrials rallied from 420 points back to close at 8,759, down 144. The Nasdaq composite dropped 27.43 points, to 1,527.65, rising from a low of 1,451.31.

"It's hard to look at headlines of 30,000 layoffs and more and not worry about what the impact is going to be on an economy that is already slowing," said Charles White, portfolio manager at Avatar Associates. "From a sentiment standpoint, we're starting to get to levels of despair among investors."

Pictures of Hijackers

The muddled economic picture came as the world got its first images of hijackers Mohamed Atta and Abdulaziz Alomari on Sept. 11 — the day the two men commandeered a fuel-laden plane from Boston and crashed it into the World Trade Center.



Hamburg NEWS

President Bush and Vice President Cheney talk to Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (l.) and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (2nd from l.) yesterday.

The grainy surveillance photo, taken at the airport in Portland, Maine, as the two men headed for their connecting flight in Boston, shows them passing casually through security, a small carry-on bag slung over Atta's shoulder.

Alomari walks behind, fumbling with what appears to be his ticket as security looks the other way.

Meanwhile, Attorney General John Ashcroft suggested that the terrorists who carried out the attacks received help from "a variety of foreign governments," not just Afghanistan.

"It is time for those governments to understand with crystal clarity," Ashcroft said, "that the United States of America will not tolerate that kind of support for networks that would inflict this kind of damage on the American people."

The comment suggested the U.S. probe into last week's attacks was broadening into a worldwide investigation with huge implications for the nation's military and diplomatic forces — a fact confirmed by Defense Department officials.

"This is not [just] a problem of Al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on CNN, referring to Bin Laden's terrorist organization. "It is a problem of a number of networks of terrorists that have been active across the globe."

Without singling out any nations, Rumsfeld added there is evidence Bin Laden and his associates are operating in 50 to 60 countries, including the U.S.

As the administration drew battle lines, the massive investigation continued, with agents proceeding to round up 200 people wanted for questioning in the attacks.

Among them were three Detroit men under arrest on charges of identity fraud and misuse of visas.

Court records said the FBI seized documents suggesting the men worked in food preparation for airlines at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and collected information about an American military base in Turkey, a U.S. "foreign minister," an airport in Jordan and diagrams of other airports and runways.

The affidavit did not explain the reference to the "U.S. foreign minister" by the three men, identified as Karim Koubriti, 23; Ahmed Hannan, 33, and Farouk Ali-Haimoud, 21.

Aided by a federal grand jury in White Plains, the investigation has detained 115 people for questioning and has four people under arrest as material witnesses.

Sense of Sorrow

In New York, Mayor Giuliani remained a visible presence as searchers marked a seventh straight day without finding any survivors in the twisted mountain of metal and dust that was once the World Trade Center.

"It is no different than it was yesterday," Giuliani said at an afternoon briefing. "We continue to conduct a rescue and recovery effort."

Down at Ground Zero, however, a deepening sense of sorrow was settling over the area, just as smoke from the two attacks was finally beginning to clear.

The following Daily News writers contributed to our coverage today:

Michael O. Allen, Mila Andre, Kenneth R. Bazinet, Maki Becker, Donald Bertrand, Michael R. Blood, Nicole Bode, Russ Buettner, Timothy J. Burger, Joe Calderone, Leslie Casimir, Mike Claffey, Larry Cohler-Esses, Lisa L. Colangelo, Sherryl Connelly, Luke Cyphers, Michael Daly, Thomas M. Defrank, Peter Demarco, Courtney Dentch, Robert Dominguez, Pete Donohue, Joe Dziemianowicz, Peter Edelman, Bill Egbert, Tamer El-Ghobashy, Bill Farrell, Austin Fenner, Susan Ferraro, Camille Finefrock, Kristoffer A. Garin, Robert Gearty, Alison Gendar, Emily Gest, Greg Gittrich, Dave Goldiner, Melissa Grace, Juan Gonzalez, Pete Hamill, Brian Harmon, Bill Hutchinson, Robert Ingrassia, Dawn Jackson, Brian Kates, Celeste Katz, Nancie L. Katz, Helen Kennedy, Jonathan R. Lemire, Frank Lombardi, Alissa Macmillan, Joe Mahoney, Jose Martinez, John Marzulli, Michelle Megna, Martin Mbugua, Michele Mcphee, Alice Mcquillan, Joanna Molloy, Brian Moss, Lan N. Nguyen, Patricia O'haire, Ralph R. Ortega, Patrice O'shaughnessy, Donna Petrozzello, Ryan S. Pienciak, Thomas Raftery, Clem Richardson, Candace Rondeaux, Derek Rose, Barbara Ross, Dave Saltonstall, Roberto Santiago, Michael Saul, Judith Schoolman, William Sherman, Scott Shifrel, Paul H.B. Shin, Corky Siemaszko, Richard Sisk, Greg B. Smith, Leo Standora, Teri Thompson, Joanne Wasserman, Richard Weir, Joe Williams, Greg Wilson Warren Woodberry Jr. and

The grim tally remained as incomprehensible as ever: 5,422 missing and 233 confirmed dead, of which 170 have been identified.

The fact that so few bodies have been identified points to the intense heat and pressure of the collapse. Sources told The News that searchers have been finding upward of 4,000 body parts a day — and anticipate finding as many as a million — all of which will have to be painstakingly matched against DNA or dental records.

Several towering new cranes were brought into the disaster area, which has been broken down into sectors and parceled out to individual contractors for cleanup.

"Everybody in there is going to heaven — because they have already been in hell," said William Harris, a contractor brought in to help, as he surveyed the damage from near Liberty St.

Giuliani also got some uplifting words from French President Jacques Chirac, who toured the area by helicopter with the mayor as part of an effort to build international support for rebuilding the once vibrant economic nerve center.

Chirac referred to Giuliani as "Rudy the Rock" in praising his level-headed yet compassionate response to the attacks.

"I want to say, Bravo," Chirac told the mayor as he reached for his hand. "You did that for New Yorkers, but also for the whole free world, for the dignity of humankind. And we know that and are beside you."

Later, Chirac said he had trouble controlling his emotions as he flew over the devastation.

"When you see it, you feel like crying," he said. "When you imagine all those men and women and, perhaps, children — they were evaporated, not just killed."

Service Canceled

Looking ahead to this weekend, Giuliani announced new plans for a memorial service Sunday. Plans had been laid for a huge gathering in Central Park this weekend — expected to draw more than 1 million people — but because of the strain such a gathering would place on the city's already overburdened Police Department, it has been canceled, the mayor said.

Instead, there will be a private service at Yankee Stadium, mostly for the families who lost loved ones, with a larger public memorial to be held later. Tickets will be required for this weekend's memorial, scheduled for Sunday at 3 p.m.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf sought to reassure his country yesterday that the war against terrorism does not target Islam. While Musharraf has pledged to help the U.S., his nation has seen a rash of anti-American rallies in recent days as Bush steps up his verbal attack against Bin Laden.

"Pakistan is passing through a very delicate phase," Musharraf said. "If we make a mistake now, it will affect our future."

In a nationally televised speech, he confirmed the U.S. is seeking Pakistan's help on intelligence gathering and logistics, as well as permission to use its airspace.

No Decision

A council of Afghanistan's most senior clerics ended a first day of deliberation on Bin Laden's fate yesterday without a decision — despite a warning from their spiritual leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, that the United States was bent on destroying them.

"The enemies of our country look on us as a thorn in their eye and seek different excuses to finish it off," said Mullah Omar, a reclusive, one-eyed former guerrilla fighter who claims to have met only two non-Muslims in his life.

Congress also scrambled yesterday to develop plans to shore up the nation's airline industry, which was buffeted by bad news all day.

The parent company of American Airlines, the world's largest carrier, said it would lay off at least 20,000 employees. Hours later, United Airlines, the nation's No. 2 carrier, announced its own plans for 20,000 job cuts.

House leaders worked to push a \$24 billion relief package for the industry, where job losses could top 100,000 this year.

"We have to get this done as soon as possible," said House Transportation Committee Chairman Rep. Don Young (R-Ala.), "or we will not have an air transportation system."

Bush calls for justice "at any cost"

By [The Associated Press](#)

Special to CNET News.com

September 17, 2001, 10:10 a.m. PT

WASHINGTON--President Bush said he wanted Osama bin Laden "dead or alive" and warned Monday of American casualties in the gathering war on terrorism. The Federal Reserve cut interest rates to shore up the economy as the nation grappled with the aftermath of the worst terrorist strike in its history.

"We will win the war and there will be costs," the president said in a midday visit to the wounded Pentagon, where military planners were readying call-up orders for 35,000 reservists. He said he was confident the armed forces were prepared to "defend freedom at any cost."

The president spoke as Attorney General John Ashcroft called on Congress to help authorities track elusive terrorist networks such as those that carried out last week's destruction of the World Trade Center twin towers and attack on the Pentagon.

The stock market opened, for the first time since last week's attacks, but with a sharp slide in prices.

Bush used unusual force as he spoke of bin Laden, named as the chief suspect behind the attacks, which killed as many as 5,000 people.

"I want justice," the president said. "There's an old poster out West that said: 'Wanted, dead or alive.'"

He spoke as halfway around the globe, Pakistani diplomats traveled to Afghanistan at the urging of the United States, seeking to have bin Laden turned over to American authorities.

"The people who house him, encourage, provide food, comfort or money are on notice. The Taliban must take my statement seriously," Bush said of the ruling regime in Afghanistan.

After meeting with officials at the Pentagon, Bush adjourned to a cafeteria to greet workers, one of whom began softly singing "God Bless America." Soon, the entire crowd, including the president, joined their voices to hers.

Bush greeted hundreds and paused to speak with a pregnant woman holding a photo of her husband, who was killed in Tuesday's attack.

He rubbed her back a little and gave her a peck on the cheek as he said goodbye. She and two other family members stood crying.

The wreckage of the World Trade Center smoldered still nearly one week after hijackers flew jetliners into the twin towers. Officials said the cost of repairing the Pentagon, hit by a third jetliner, would reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

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White House: No negotiations with Taliban

By [The Associated Press](#)

Special to CNET News.com

September 19, 2001, 9:05 a.m. PT

WASHINGTON--The United States will not negotiate with Afghanistan's Taliban government to get custody of Saudi exile Osama bin Laden or members of his terrorist network, the White House said Wednesday.

"It's time for actions, not negotiations, with the Taliban," spokesman Ari Fleischer said. He also ruled out presenting the United Nations with evidence of bin Laden's involvement in the devastating Sept. 11 attack.

"People who we are after would very much...love to remain in hiding, and know what we know and how we know it," Fleischer said. "We're not about to do that."

President Bush is intensifying efforts to gain concrete support for a war on global terrorism, meeting with allies and making overtures toward nations that shelter some of the world's most notorious terrorists.

For countries with tenuous relationships with the United States, the message has been clear: Support a crackdown on terrorism or face U.S. retaliation.

Bush was meeting Wednesday with the president of Indonesia, the world's most-populous Muslim nation, as well as the foreign ministers of Russia and Germany.

He called South Korean President Kim dae Jung, who promised to participate in the international coalition, and the two leaders indicated they still plan to meet in Seoul next month, Fleischer said.

At the same time, the administration is moving to get the money to pursue its effort. Bush signed into law Tuesday a \$40 billion package, most of which will go to recovery efforts in New York City, Washington and southwestern Pennsylvania--where four hijacked planes crashed last week, killing thousands of people--and to battle terrorism.

He was meeting Wednesday with Democratic and Republican lawmakers to discuss a financial plan for reviving an economy stung by the Sept. 11 attacks. Fleischer said Bush was likely to embrace some economic stimulus, though he was open to what form it would take.

The president also signed a congressional resolution authorizing him to use military force against the terrorists responsible for the attacks, the worst in U.S. history.

These efforts came as the exhausting search for victims and the cleanup continued at New York's World Trade Center, at the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pa., and as federal authorities intensified their hunt for collaborators of the terrorists who killed themselves and thousands others in the attacks. Authorities expect the total death count to exceed 5,400.

As the U.S. military moved toward a war footing, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Wednesday the nation's response to the attacks must reach beyond finding bin Laden, the Saudi exile in Afghanistan who is considered the prime suspect.

"This is not a problem of al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden," Rumsfeld said on CNN. "It is a problem of a number of networks of terrorists that have been active across the globe." He said there is evidence bin Laden and his associates are operating in 50 to 60 countries, including the United States.

As Rumsfeld spoke, the 15,000-strong USS Theodore Roosevelt battle group prepared to leave Norfolk, Va., for a long-scheduled deployment in the Mediterranean that has become more than routine in light of the terrorist attacks.

"There are great young American sailors and Marines on those ships," the commander, Rear Adm. Mark Fitzgerald, told ABC's "Good Morning America." "I've looked into the eyes of many of them this week and, boy, they are ready and determined...Whatever the president needs us to do, we're ready to do it."

A follow-up plot?

Administration officials on Tuesday made contact with leaders from Sudan and Cuba--nations on the State Department's terrorism warning list.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said late Tuesday after arriving in Washington: "It is becoming an imperative: unification of efforts of all the international community in the fight against the terrorist threat."

As the administration shored up support and drew battle lines, the massive investigation continued to find evidence of other plots against America.

Three Detroit men were arrested Tuesday on charges of identity fraud and misuse of visas. Court records said the FBI seized documents suggesting the men worked in food preparation for airlines at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and collected information about an American military base in Turkey, a U.S. "foreign minister," an airport in Jordan and diagrams of aircraft locations and runways.

Authorities have grown increasingly certain--from intelligence intercepts, witness interviews and evidence gathered in hijackers' cars and homes--that a second wave of violence was planned by collaborators. They said Sept. 22 has emerged as an important date in the evidence, but declined to be more specific.

The Sept. 11 attacks were "part of a larger plan with other terrorism acts, not necessarily hijacking of airplanes," said Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "Those acts were going to occur in the United States and elsewhere in the world."

In the face of the evidence, Attorney General John Ashcroft vowed to wage a "concerted national assault" on terrorists as he expanded the investigation to marshal the resources of every U.S. attorney in the country.

The investigation has detained 75 people for questioning and has four people under arrest as material witnesses, law enforcement officials said.

The government also announced a new policy that gives immigration authorities 48 hours, or longer in emergencies, to decide whether to charge an alien with status violations, up from 24 hours. Many of those questioned in the terrorist attack were being detained on immigration violations.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 178 points late Wednesday morning and the Nasdaq index was off 40 points.

Congress and the Bush administration told the nation's airlines they could expect quick, multibillion-dollar relief to help them recover from effects of the attack.