

AFTER THE ATTACKS: THE PENTAGON

# AFTER THE ATTACKS: THE PENTAGON; Defense Department Says 126 Are Missing, Raising Total of Crash Victims to 190

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**ARLINGTON, Va., Sept. 13**— As rescue workers clawed through wobbling wreckage, the Pentagon announced today that 126 service members and civilians were missing and, officials said, presumed dead, raising the death toll from Tuesday's terrorist attack near Washington to 190.

The toll, including 64 passengers and crew members aboard American Airlines Flight 77, was comparatively low, given officials' initial fears and the exponentially higher number of casualties in New York City. Even so, the toll near Washington exceeded the 168 deaths in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, which had been the worst terrorist bombing on American soil.

Officials inside the Pentagon and rescue workers laboring outside for a third day held out hope that some of the missing might yet be found in the charred ruins of the Pentagon's western side or otherwise accounted for, but that hope was dwindling.

The Army suffered the heaviest losses, including Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude, a three-star general who led the Army's personnel division, officials said.

Altogether, 21 Army soldiers and officers and 53 civilians who worked in the Department of the Army were killed, many of them from the services budget and personnel offices.








The Navy reported that 33 sailors and officers, with 9 civilians, remained missing. They worked in a variety of offices, including the Navy's operation center, which was damaged in the attack. Ten other missing people were from other defense agencies, including seven from the Defense Intelligence Agency.


The hijackers slammed the American Airlines 757 into a newly renovated wedge of the Pentagon. Many of the building's survivors credited new defense features, like shatterproof windows, for saving many lives and keeping the toll lower than it might have been.










By late afternoon, firefighters and rescue workers had removed only 70 bodies from the building, their work hampered first by smoke and fire, then by unstable debris and another tense, lengthy evacuation this morning, this time because of a bomb threat.

Firefighters who had worked round-the-clock shifts spoke of how their efforts had been hampered by repeated evacuations, including one in the first frantic hours on Tuesday when authorities believed a second attack was imminent.


"We were there about 14 hours straight, battling smoke in the dark. But the most frustrating thing was we had to keep dropping our gear and running for our lives when we wanted to stay and save

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other lives," said Andrea Kaiser, a firefighter from Arlington County.

Capt. Robert F. Wirtz, also of the Arlington County Fire Department, said the military authorities had twice warned that radar stations had detected airplanes headed toward the Pentagon, forcing rescuers to drop their hoses and axes and race from the building, raising the question of whether other victims could have been saved in early hours.

"That was everyone's biggest fear: another attack on the Pentagon like the World Trade Center," Captain Wirtz said.

The damage to the Pentagon was extensive, compounded by smoke and water damage from the tenacious fires that burned for a day and a half after the attack. About 40 percent of the building remained closed today, though most of the Pentagon's 24,000 workers returned to work, doubling up in offices either in the Pentagon or in spaces nearby.

"Everyone who needs to or wants to is working today," the Pentagon's spokeswoman, Victoria Clarke, said.

The fire flared after 9:30 tonight, but was contained by 10:20, said a spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Ginger Blazicko. No evacuation was ordered, she said.

One official said the scope of the structural damage was still not clear, because engineers had not been able to reach the core of the wreckage. But there was little doubt that the Pentagon's distinctive, five-sided building would be restored.

"We are starting to clean those up and to move back into those," the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard B. Myers, said in his Senate confirmation hearing, referring to the smoke and water-damaged corridors.

"Almost a wedge of the Pentagon," he added, would need to be rebuilt.

Officials said it would take at least a week for workers to remove all remains of the victims -- some may never be found, they said -- and begin the effort to shore up the building. All day, trucks carried off tons of rubble along a gravel road newly built on the Pentagon lawn. President Bush declared parts of Virginia a disaster area, releasing money to underwrite the rescue effort.

The entire crash area is still a crime scene, with F.B.I. agents searching the debris for evidence. Fire officials said they were close to recovering the voice and data recorder, or "black box," from Flight 77 but fears that parts of the badly damaged building would collapse prevented them from reaching it.

"It's like the old pick-up-stick game," said Chief Edward Plaugher of the Arlington County Fire Department. "If we pull out the wrong cable, the whole building could collapse and then we'd lose our rescue workers."

At a counseling center, in a hotel near the Pentagon, dozens of friends and relatives arrived in desperate search for news, many of them clutching photos of those missing.

Floyd Rasmussen came shortly after two soldiers showed up at his door in Woodbridge, Va., confirming what had already begun to sink in: his wife, Rhonda Ridge, who worked in the Army's budget office, was among those presumed dead.

Mr. Rasmussen, who also works for the Army, as a management analyst, was among those evacuated from the building. He expected to meet his wife, to whom he had been married 26 years, at home Tuesday. She never arrived.

"There's always hope for a miracle and faith," he said, "but then reality overcomes them."

Photo: In the Pentagon ruins, a computer monitor still stood on a desk, while hope of finding survivors dwindled. (Susanna Raab for The New York Times) Chart: "Protecting the Pentagon" American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into an area of the Pentagon that had recently been renovated and included new designs to minimize damage from an explosion. Renovation officials believe that because of the reinforcements, some people in the damaged area were able to flee before it

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collapsed. **THE REINFORCEMENTS STEEL BEAMS** New vertical steel beams were installed on each side of every exterior window. **DEBRIS-CATCHING MATERIAL** A very strong mesh material, similar to Kevlar, was stretched between the stabilizing steel beams to contain debris in a blast. **BLAST-RESISTANT WINDOWS** Every exterior window and frame was replaced, with new panes an inch and a half thick. Diagrams show: Each window, with its frame, weighs 1,600 pounds. Cutaway view of renovated area Area of collapse Area recently renovated (Source: Pentagon Renovation Program)

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