

September 11, 2001



September 11, 2001 started out as a quiet, peaceful morning. In a span of four hours an ordinary day suddenly became a tragic day for America. The World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia were attacked by terrorists.

On this day nineteen al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners. (Osama Bin Laden is thought to be the leader of al-Qaeda). Each group of hijackers included a trained pilot.

The hijackers intentionally crashed two of the airliners (United Airlines Flight 175 and American Airlines Flight 11) into the World Trade Center in New York City. The hijackers crashed a third airliner (American Airlines Flight 77) into the Pentagon in Virginia, near Washington, D.C. Passengers and members of the flight crew on the fourth aircraft (United Airlines Flight 93) learned of the terrorists' plot from friends and relatives via cell phones during the flight. We think that because these passengers found out the intentions of these hijackers they attempted to retake control of their plane. The passengers crashed the plane into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This action saved the Capitol in Washington D.C. from destruction.

Here is a timeline of the 9/11 fights:

7:59 AM American Airlines Flight 11
takes off from Boston bound for
Los Angeles.

- 8:14 AM United Airlines Flight 175
departs from Boston
- 8:20 AM American Airlines Flight 77
departs Washington D.C. airport
bound for Los Angeles.
- 8:42 AM United Airlines Flight 93
takes off from Newark airport
bound for San Francisco.
- 8:45 AM American Airlines Flight 11
crashes into the north World
Trade Center Tower.
bound for Los Angeles.
- 9:03 AM United Airlines Flight 175
crashes into the south World
Trade Center Tower.
- 9:40 AM American Airlines Flight 77
crashes into the west side of the
Pentagon.
- 10:07AM United Airlines Flight 93
crashes near Shanksville,
Pennsylvania.

In a span of two hours and six minutes four commercial jets liners had crashed, killing all 19 hijackers, 2974 civilians, and many medical and emergency personnel. This tragedy left many families, friends, and citizens of the United States devastated.

