

9/11 Lessons

- SRA-211, Threat of Terrorism and Crime
- Penn State Altoona
- Larry Garvin

9/11 Lessons

- Many Muslims who do not belong to bin Laden's terrorists network consider the United States on a moral par with Genghis Khan.

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September 11, 2001

- 4 American passenger planes were hijacked and deliberately crashed
- The event brought America back to reality and the realization that we are under attack
- The first step to understanding these horrible events is to look at the commission report.

A NATION TRANSFORMED

- At 8:46 on the morning of September 11, 2001, the United States became a nation transformed.
- An airliner traveling at hundreds of miles per hour and carrying some 10,000 gallons of jet fuel plowed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan.
- At 9:03, a second airliner hit the South Tower. Fire and smoke billowed upward. Steel, glass, ash, and bodies fell below.

A NATION TRANSFORMED

- The Twin Towers, where up to 50,000 people worked each day, both collapsed less than 90 minutes later.
- At 9:37 that same morning, a third airliner slammed into the western face of the Pentagon.
- At 10:03, a fourth airliner crashed in a field in southern Pennsylvania. It had been aimed at the United States Capitol or the White House, and was forced down by heroic passengers armed with the knowledge that America was under attack.



A NATION TRANSFORMED

- More than 2,600 people died at the World Trade Center; 125 died at the Pentagon; 256 died on the four planes.
- The death toll surpassed that at Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

A NATION TRANSFORMED

- This immeasurable pain was inflicted by 19 young Arabs acting at the behest of Islamist extremists headquartered in distant Afghanistan.
- Some had been in the United States for more than a year, mixing with the rest of the population.
- Though four had training as pilots, most were not well-educated.

A NATION TRANSFORMED

- Most spoke English poorly, some hardly at all. In groups of four or five, carrying with them only small knives, box cutters, and cans of Mace or pepper spray, they had hijacked the four planes and turned them into deadly guided missiles.
- Why did they do this? How was the attack planned and conceived? How did the U.S. government fail to anticipate and prevent it? What can we do in the future to prevent similar acts of terrorism?

American Airlines Flight 11

- American Airlines Flight 11 was a domestic passenger flight that was hijacked by five al-Qaeda members on September 11, 2001, as part of the September 11 attacks.
- Mohamed Atta deliberately crashed the plane into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing all 92 people aboard and an unknown number in the building's impact zone.

American Airlines Flight 11

- The aircraft involved, a Boeing 767-223ER, was flying American Airlines' daily scheduled morning transcontinental service from Logan International Airport, in Boston, Massachusetts, to Los Angeles International Airport, in Los Angeles, California.
- Fifteen minutes into the flight, the hijackers injured at least three people (possibly killing one), forcibly breached the cockpit, and overpowered the captain and first officer.

American Airlines Flight 11

- Atta, an al-Qaeda member and licensed commercial pilot, took over the controls.
- Air-traffic controllers noticed the flight was in distress when the crew was no longer responding.
- They realized the flight had been hijacked when Mohamed Atta's announcements for passengers were transmitted to air traffic control.
- On board, flight attendants Amy Sweeney and Betty Ong contacted American Airlines, and provided information about the hijackers and injuries to passengers and crew.

American Airlines Flight 11

- The aircraft crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 08:46:40 [local time](#).
- Countless people in the streets of New York City witnessed the strike, but few video recordings captured the moment.
- Documentary film maker [Jules Naudet](#) captured the only known footage of the initial impact from start to finish.

American Airlines Flight 11

- Before the hijacking was confirmed, news agencies began to report on the incident and speculated that the crash had been an accident.
- The impact and subsequent fire caused the North Tower to collapse 102 minutes after the crash, resulting in hundreds of additional casualties.
- During the [recovery effort](#) at the [World Trade Center site](#), workers recovered and identified dozens of remains from Flight 11 victims, but many body fragments could not be identified.

United Flight 175

- Also departed Boston Logan Airport
- 5 member team lead by Marwan al Shehhi
- Not flagged by prescreening system
- Also used knives, tear gas and a bomb threat to gain control
- One flight attendant called in
- Several passengers called family members
- Crashed into South Tower

United Flight 175

- United Airlines Flight 175 was a scheduled domestic passenger flight from Logan International Airport, in Boston, Massachusetts, to Los Angeles International Airport, in Los Angeles, California.
- On September 11, 2001, the Boeing 767-200 operating the route was hijacked by five al-Qaeda terrorists and flown into the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing all 65 people aboard and an unconfirmed number in the building's impact zone.

United Flight 175

- Approximately thirty minutes into the flight, the hijackers forcibly breached the cockpit and overpowered the pilot and first officer, allowing lead hijacker and trained pilot Marwan al-Shehhi to take over the controls.
- Unlike Flight 11, which turned its transponder off, the aircraft's transponder was visible on New York Center's radar, and the aircraft deviated from the assigned flight path for four minutes before air traffic controllers noticed these changes at 08:51 EDT.
- They made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the cockpit.
- Unknown to the hijackers, several passengers and crew aboard made phone calls from the plane to loved ones and provided information about the hijackers and injuries to passengers and crew.

United Flight 175

- The aircraft crashed into Tower Two (the South Tower) of the World Trade Center at 09:03.
- The Flight 175 hijacking was coordinated with that of American Airlines Flight 11, which struck the top of Tower One (the North Tower) 17 minutes earlier.
- The crash of Flight 175 into the South Tower was the only impact seen live on television around the world as it happened.
- The impact and subsequent fire caused the South Tower to collapse 56 minutes after the crash, resulting in hundreds of additional casualties.
- During the recovery effort at the World Trade Center site, workers recovered and identified remains from Flight 175 victims (see the Aftermath section below), but many other body fragments could not be identified.

American Flight 77

- Departed from Dulles Airport
- 5 hijackers, 3 of which were flagged by the prescreening system
- Additionally, 3 hijackers set off the x-ray machine alarm, but were allowed to board after being scanned with a hand wand
- Used knives and box cutters
- Multiple passengers called family members
- Crashed into Pentagon

American Flight 77

- American Airlines Flight 77 was a scheduled American Airlines domestic transcontinental passenger flight from Washington Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia, to Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, California.
- The Boeing 757-223 aircraft serving the flight was hijacked by five men affiliated with al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001, as part of the September 11 attacks.
- They deliberately crashed the plane into the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, near Washington, D.C., killing all 64 people on board, including the five hijackers and six crew, as well as 125 people in the building.

American Flight 77

- Less than 35 minutes into the flight, the hijackers stormed the cockpit.
- They forced the passengers, crew, and pilots to the rear of the aircraft.
- Hani Hanjour, one of the hijackers who was trained as a pilot, assumed control of the flight.
- Unknown to the hijackers, passengers aboard made telephone calls to friends and family and relayed information on the hijacking.

American Flight 77

- The hijackers crashed the aircraft into the western side of the Pentagon at 09:37 EDT.
- Many people witnessed the crash, and news sources began reporting on the incident within minutes.
- The impact severely damaged an area of the Pentagon and caused a large fire.
- A portion of the building collapsed; firefighters spent days working to fully extinguish the blaze.

American Flight 77

- The damaged sections of the Pentagon were rebuilt in 2002, with occupants moving back into the completed areas that August.
- The 184 victims of the attack are memorialized in the Pentagon Memorial adjacent to the crash site.
- The 1.93-acre park contains a bench for each of the victims, arranged according to their year of birth and ranging from 1930 to 1998.

United Flight 93

- Departed from Newark
- 4 terrorists on board, one was flagged but allowed to board
- Plane was hijacked five minutes after crew had been warned to watch for cockpit intrusions
- Aware of World Trade Center attacks
- Used knives and threat of a bomb
- Crashed in Shanksville, PA

United Flight 93

- United Airlines Flight 93 was a domestic scheduled passenger flight that was hijacked by four Al-Qaeda terrorists on board, as part of the September 11 attacks.
- It crashed into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, during an attempt by the passengers and crew to regain control.
- All 44 people aboard were killed, including the four hijackers, but no one on the ground was injured.
- The aircraft involved, a Boeing 757–222, was flying United Airlines' daily scheduled morning flight from Newark International Airport in New Jersey to San Francisco International Airport in California.

United Flight 93

- The hijackers stormed the aircraft's cockpit approximately 46 minutes after takeoff.
- The flight crew apparently activated the autopilot, but Ziad Jarrah, who had trained as a pilot, took control of the aircraft and diverted it back toward the east coast, in the direction of Washington, D.C.
- Although the specific target is not known, it is believed that the hijackers intended to crash the plane into the White House or the Capitol Building.

al Qaeda's Expectations

- Al Qaeda thought that the terrain of Afghanistan would deter the conventional American war machine.
- Bin Laden was expecting the same kind of war in Afghanistan that the Soviet Union had which they had won.
- Bin laden also expected the Taliban to shelter and protect him.
- Al-Qaeda planners assumed Pakistan would come to their aid in a war against the US
- He also had hoped the Muslim community raise up against the United States.

Problems in expectations

- The war was not like the one with the Soviet Union
- Pakistan did not aid al-Qaeda because their government views the Islamists as dangerous to them
- There were riots in the Muslim world in support of al-Qaeda just after the attacks. Celebrations might be a better term, but this did not translate to broad support with regard to Afghanistan or Iraq

Outcomes

- Damage to the American economy
- Did not demoralize the American public
- The US did not launch a conventional war in Afghanistan. They used guerrilla techniques
- Impact on Taliban
- Muslim support

Impact on al Qaeda

- Terrorists leaders have been killed or captured
- Terrorist chain of command is in disarray
- al Qaeda's operational effectiveness hindered
- al Qaeda has been forced to use a decentralized chain of command

American Policy

- It is important to look at what motivated al Qaeda to launch the attack in the first place, and whether or not the attack could have been avoided with a different American foreign policy
- Our failure to respond with force fostered an al-Qaeda belief that America could be easily defeated or moved out of the Middle East
- One school of thought is that America demonstrated weakness by failing to respond to decades of violence

Ten Deadly Sins of Non-deterrence

- **The Iranian hostage crisis in 1979** - 52 hostages, 444 days, botched rescue, Carter's lack of assertiveness
- **Bombing of the American embassy in Beirut on April 18, 1983** - Shi'i terrorists blew up the American embassy in Lebanon, killing 63
- **Marine barracks bombing on October 23, 1983**, killed 241 Marines

Ten Deadly Sins of Non-deterrence

- **Attack on Gold Mihor Hotel by al Qaeda in Yemen** - American soldiers were supposed to be in the hotel, but they had left earlier. No response
- **Mogadishu in December, 1992** - A military international relief effort in Somalia resulted in a battle in which 18 Americans were killed in a battle with a local warlord.
- Clinton withdrew American forces.
- Osama Bin Laden even vilified the administration's decision to prematurely depart the region stating that it displayed "the weakness, feebleness and cowardliness of the US soldier"

Ten Deadly Sins of Non-deterrence

- **World Trade Center bombing in 1993** - A truck bomb killed 6 and injured about 1000 when it was set off in the parking basement of the North Tower
- **Planned bombing of American passenger plans uncovered in 1995** - Islamic terrorist Ramzi Yousef was arrested while planning to hijack and American plane and crash it into the CIA. He was also planning to blow up 11 airplanes over the Pacific Ocean
- **Khobar Towers were bombed on June 25, 1996 by Muslim terrorists** - The Khobar towers were a housing complex in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi's essentially barred Americans from participating in the investigation

Ten Deadly Sins of Nondeterrence

- **Attack on American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania on August 7, 1998, by al Queda** - Both embassies were destroyed.
- Clinton responded with an ineffective cruise missile attack in Afghanistan's
- **Suicide bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen on October 12, 2000** - There was no retaliation for the Cole attack, which might have had something to do with Monica

Al Queda's True Goals

- **Two schools of thought**
 - Genuine grievances and rational objectives
 - World domination

Genuine Grievances/Rational

- Support for Israel
- Presence of American troops on sacred lands
- Occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq
- Support of secular, oppressive Arab regimes
- Artificially low oil prices as a result of American pressure on Muslim countries

Genuine Grievances/Rational

1. This Genuine Grievances, Rational Objectives point of view suggests that bin Laden is part of a worldwide Muslim perspective that represents a broad, grass roots consensus among Muslims.
2. The problem is that while support for violence among Muslims is in the minority, there is a fairly large and dangerous element
3. Note that al-Qaeda's goal of getting Americans to leave the Middle East actually resulted in more Americans in Middle Eastern countries

World Domination

- The grievances are a smoke screen
- There can be no appeasement, reasonable negotiations, or lasting peace with Islamists
- The grievances are ill-posed, self serving and dysfunctional
- They don't want to negotiate; they want to kill everyone
- The message they preach is that entire earth must be subject to Islam

Islam and Government

- al-Qaeda theologian and official spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith wrote “The Entire Earth Must be Subject to Islam,” in which he stated that the Muslim nation “was created to stand at the center of leadership, at the center of hegemony and rule.”
- The problematic aspects of Islam is its determination to mix religion with politics.
- There is an insistence that governments be structured according to the law of Islam, and general efforts to this effect such as in Sudan, Afghanistan and Iran have been deeply disturbing.
- Islamist goal is eventual world domination

Solution?

- The Bush administration's thinking in getting involved in Iraq was likely to get physically involved in the Middle East to clean up the mess there once and for all.
- To "dry the swamp" of anti-American Islamic agitation
- Other solutions?



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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjiKD-MN4YE>