

Pittsburgh passengers' heroics may have curbed tragedy



Firefighters look upon the wreckage of the hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed near Somerset, PA on Tuesday. Government officials speculate that this plane was headed for Washington D.C. while under the control of terrorists.

by Charles Lane
The Washington Post

As United Airlines Flight 93 entered its last desperate moments aloft, there was terror and violence on board - but also heroism.

Minutes before the giant airliner smashed into a field south-east of Pittsburgh, passenger Jeremy Glick used a cell phone to call his wife at home in New Jersey and told her that he and several other people on board had come up with a plan to resist the terrorists who had hijacked the plane, according to Glick's brother-in-law, Douglas Hurwitz.

"They were going to stop whoever it was from doing whatever it was they'd planned," Hurwitz said. "He knew that stopping them was going to end all of their lives. But that was my brother-in-law. He was a take-charge guy."

Anticipating his own death, Glick, who celebrated his 31st birthday on Sept. 3, told his wife, Lyzbeth, that he hoped she would have a good life and would take care of their three-month old baby girl, Hurwitz said.

Glick explained to his wife that the plane had been taken over by three Middle Eastern men wear-

ing red headbands. The terrorists, wielding knives and brandishing a red box they claimed contained a bomb, ordered the passengers, pilots and flight attendants toward the rear of the plane, then took over the cockpit.

The story of Glick's words adds to the account of passenger resistance already given by another passenger's mother on NBC's Today show Wednesday morning. Alice Hogle of California says her son, Mark Bingham, also spoke of a plan to tackle the hijackers in a last-minute cell-phone call to her.

Flight 93 was the only one of four hijacked planes that did not smash into a major target on the ground, and some officials are already saying that the actions of people on board may have prevented an even greater tragedy.

Pennsylvania Rep. John Murtha, the ranking Democrat on the congressional defense appropriations committee, said at the crash site that he believes a struggle took place in the plane's cockpit and that the plane was headed for a significant target in Washington, D.C.

"There had to have been a struggle and someone heroically kept the plane from heading to Washington," he said.

Top firefighters are among the dead

by William Murphy
and Elizabeth Moore
Newsday

New York City's fire department apparently lost some of the best of its ranks when the towers of the World Trade Center collapsed Tuesday morning after being rammied by two planes.

More than 300 firefighters were missing, but Mayor Rudolph Giuliani confirmed only the deaths of some of his top commanders:

- William Feehan of Queens, the first deputy fire commissioner, and the second-in-command to Fire Commissioner Tom Von Essen.

- Peter J. Ganci Jr., the chief of department and its highest-ranking uniformed officer.

- The Rev. Mychal Judge, a Catholic chaplain who often presides at funeral masses for firefighters.

- Capt. Raymond Downey of Deer Park, N.Y., a well-known expert on search and rescue who led the city's team to help Oklahoma City after its federal building was bombed in 1995.

The extent of the losses were staggering. Von Essen said still missing were all members of the department's five elite rescue units who were working Tuesday. The number of dead firefighters will be hard to establish immediately, the sources said, because an unknown number who were getting off work at 9 a.m. stayed on and rode out with the day shift to help.

James Boyle, former head of the Uniformed Firefighters Association, said his son, Michael, was among the missing.

Michael had been scheduled to get off the night tour, Boyle said, but stayed on. Boyle said he found out when he got to his son's firehouse and saw his son's car outside and his civilian clothes in his locker.

Bush, Putin seek to set aside differences, focus on common foe

by Susan B. Glasser
and Peter Baker
The Washington Post

President Vladimir Putin spoke Wednesday as the two sought to put aside recent policy disputes and forge a new relationship built on a joint battle against terrorists responsible for Tuesday's devastating attacks on the United States.

Putin offered two plane loads of medicine and supplies as well as 70 rescue workers, and promised to share any intelligence information gathered about the origins of the airborne assaults on landmark buildings in New York and Washington. In deference to the U.S. tragedy, Putin canceled a military exercise simulating warfare with the United States and ordered a nationwide moment of silence Thursday.

Russia is likely to welcome, and even join, any military action against the militant Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which has been harboring accused terrorist Osama bin Laden. In televised comments Wednesday night, Putin blamed bin Laden and his associates for helping Chechen rebels who have been waging a war of independence inside Russia for most of the past seven years and were blamed for

a series of 1999 apartment bombings centered in Moscow.

"We have reason to believe that bin Laden's people are connected with the events currently taking place in our ... Chechnya," said Putin. "We know his people are present there. Our Ameri-

Council chief Vladimir Rushailo consulted with his U.S. counterpart, Condoleezza Rice, about "a united international front in the war on terrorism."

For one day, at least, both sides were speaking from the same script. "We

Russia has justified its campaign of repression in Chechnya as a necessary response to acts of domestic terrorism it blamed on Chechen rebels. Now, Russian officials say, Americans should sympathize more with Russia's determination to bring Chechnya to heel.

They have been equally quick to note that Bush's proposed nuclear shield would have done nothing to stop the hijacked planes that plowed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Vershbow, however, stressed that the newfound togetherness on terrorism would not change Washington's concerns about Russian brutality in Chechnya. "There is a terrorist dimension to the Chechnya conflict," he said, "but we also have to say that the Russian approach to solving that conflict is leading them down the wrong path."

Neither side provided many details about the Bush and Putin telephone calls. The White House said the first one lasted about five minutes and the second about seven minutes. A Kremlin spokesman said the leaders discussed concrete plans for mutual action against terrorism.

One thing Russia might be able to provide Washington is information.

"So we have a common foe, the common foe being international terrorism."

-Russian President Vladimir Putin

can partners cannot but be concerned about this circumstance. So we have a common foe, the common foe being international terrorism."

Putin dispatched his senior ministers to emphasize to an international audience the point of common struggle. "We should learn together the lessons of the tragedy in the United States," said Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

"We are both victims already, both the United States and Russia; what we need is closer ties and efforts in fighting terrorism," Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov told CNN. Security

both face a common enemy, the enemy of international terrorism, and it's important that the international community as a whole unite against it," U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow said after meeting with the foreign minister.

The calamitous events on American territory might provide an opening for Russia to redefine its relationship with the United States. The Kremlin has tried for some time to shift the international dialogue away from divisive issues such as missile defense and Russian abuses in Chechnya to the global threat of Islamic terrorism.

BEHREND UNITES

scheduled for students who were closely affected by Tuesday's events.

These meetings were conducted more personally and confidentially than Wednesday's meetings. CIRT also offered sessions for resident advisors, giving them advice on how to handle the situation and gaining feedback from the reactions the RAs were observing in students.

Daley said team will meet again Friday morning to decide the next steps and to review what has taken place so far. Since Tuesday the team members have been meeting mainly in small numbers and haven't assembled as a whole.

At Friday's meeting CIRT will decide what the plan will be for next week. Daley would like to hold meetings with faculty and staff, offering advice on how to assist students. Future meetings with RAs may also be planned. More emails, posters, and in-class announcements may also be organized to keep students informed of the teams' resources and offerings.

"This is just an incredible act that's just going to keep unfolding," Daley said. "Therefore, we will keep going as long as we are needed.

Nobody needs to be suffering silently."

Ken Miller, director of student affairs and also a member of CIRT, stressed that the team was formed with a more localized tragedy in mind. "We were thinking more of a student or faculty death" when we decided to create this team, Miller said.

"We wanted to have a team in place so there wasn't a lot of scrambling should a situation arise," Miller explained. "We needed to have a specific game plan and idea of who would do what."

Miller enumerated three main concerns CIRT has kept its focus on. Initially, the team wanted to assist students whose friends and family were directly impacted by the crisis, especially those connected to New York City.

Second, CIRT wanted to provide support for the community. RAs were asked to look for students who seemed more withdrawn than normal. Faculty were to keep an eye out for students not attending classes.

"We want students to know they don't have to be alone."

Finally, CIRT is now watching out

for an abusive mentality toward international students. Though Daley, Miller, and Bill Donahue,

reports of problems at other locations, including University Park. "We want students to know you



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE

The campus ministries held an ecumenical prayer service in Reed 114 at noon on Tuesday. The ministries have since held several more, smaller services and a large ceremony is being planned for next Wednesday, Sept. 19.

manager of Police and Safety Services, all have heard of no specific incidents of harassment, it is still a concern. There have been

can't generalize just because someone is from or looks like they are from another country," Miller said. "It is a scary time for everyone,

but just imagine not being from this country and being far from home right now."

Donahue said while Police and Safety haven't heard of any problems on campus with harassment, they are being sensitive to hate crimes. He said he hasn't had to add on any extra staff at this point, but it is an option. He has also been in continuous contact with University Park Police Services for advice and protocol.

Daley said she is concerned that students may become more intolerant this weekend if alcohol use comes into play. Donahue said he has taken that into consideration, and that he has already been adding extra staff on the weekends due to the nice weather and the events being scheduled.

The Office of Student Affairs took the responsibility of fielding calls from concerned parents. Miller said many just wanted to get messages to their children that they were okay. Many others were questioning whether classes had been canceled on Tuesday. Also, he received several calls from parents wishing to get their children from the Child Care Center early.

Miller said initially the Office of Student Affairs was considering pulling the names of all the students from New York City and assisting them. However, he soon realized that more and more people would be affected because so many members of the Behrend community were connected to people in New York City.

"The world is shrinking. We are more connected than we think we are."

Miller said Chris Rizzo, director of student activities, was to meet with several campus organizations Thursday night to help organize disaster relief efforts, fund raising, and blood donations on campus.

The Campus Ministries have also united to hold several ecumenical services on campus, said Kathy Coleman, interim coordinator of the Protestant campus ministry. On Tuesday a large but informal prayer session was held in Reed during lunchtime. On Wednesday two more structured prayer services were held. And next Wednesday, September 19, a large evening service is being planned, though specific details were not available at press time.