



The U.S. & The World SS.7.CG.4.4
The Significance of September 11th, 2001
VIDEO SCRIPT



Benchmark Clarification Four: The Timeline of Events

Please be aware that this video may contain graphic imagery and audio. Effort has been made to respect those that lost their lives on 9/11, and their families. If the imagery and audio in this video disturbs you, please note that you should use the script or reading for this video instead.

In order to remember and honor those who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001, it's important that we are able to recall the timeline of events of that day.

7:59 AM: **American Airlines Flight 11**, a Boeing 767 carrying 92 people, takes off from Boston's Logan International Airport, heading to Los Angeles, California. This meant it had a full fuel tank.

8:14 AM: Flight 11 is hijacked by 5 Islamic terrorists from al Qaeda.

Air traffic controllers learn of the hijacking when they overhear the terrorists talking to the passengers.

Air Traffic Controller Pete Zalewski: Is that American 11 trying to call?

Mohammed Atta: ...body. We have some planes. Just stay quiet and you'll be okay. We are returning to the airport.

Air Traffic Controller Pete Zalewski: [Unintelligible] Who's trying to call me here? [Beat.] American 11, are you trying to call?

Mohammed Atta: Nobody move. Everything will be okay. If you try to make any moves you endanger yourselves and the airplane. Just stay quiet.

Heroic flight attendant Betty Ann Ong called someone at American Airlines for help. In the following audio, number 1 and number 5 refer to her fellow flight attendants.

BETTY ONG: Hi, you're going to have to speak up, I can't hear you.

MALE VOICE: Sure. What is your name?

BETTY ONG: Okay, my name is Betty Ong. I'm number 3 on Flight 11.

MALE VOICE: Okay.

BETTY ONG: And the cockpit is not answering their phone, and there's somebody stabbed in business class, and there's - we can't breathe in business class. Somebody's got mace or something.

MALE VOICE: Can you describe the person that you said - someone is what in business class?

BETTY ONG: I'm sitting in the back. Somebody's coming back from business. If you can hold on for one second, they're coming back.

BETTY ONG: Okay. Our number 1 got stabbed. Our purser is stabbed. Nobody knows who stabbed who, and we can't even get up to business class right now 'cause nobody can breathe. Our number 1 is stabbed right now. And who else is?

MALE VOICE: Okay, and do we -

BETTY ONG: and our number 5 - our first class passengers are - galley flight attendant and our purser has been stabbed. And we can't get into the cockpit, the door won't open. Hello?

8:14 AM: **United Airlines Flight 175**, also a Boeing 767 with 65 people onboard and heading to Los Angeles, takes off from Boston.

8:20 AM: **American Airlines Flight 77**, a Boeing 757 with 64 people onboard, takes off from Washington Dulles International Airport, bound for Los Angeles.

8:42: **United Airlines Flight 93**, a Boeing 757 with 44 people onboard takes off from Newark International Airport, heading to San Francisco.

8:42-8:46 AM: Flight 175 is hijacked by 5 Islamic terrorists from **al Qaeda**.

Soon after, Brian Sweeney, a passenger on that flight, called his wife.

"Jules, this is Brian. Listen, I'm on an airplane that's been hijacked. If things don't go well, and it's not looking good, I just want you to know I absolutely love you. I want you to do good, go have good times. Same to my parents and everybody, and I just totally love you, and I'll see you when you get there. Bye babe. I hope I call you"

8:46:28 AM: American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the **North Tower** of the World Trade Center in New York City. This was the first attack, and set off massive fires and began structural collapse from the impact and explosion of the plane and its full tanks of fuel.

The brave men and women of the New York Fire Department immediately responded. The following audio is provided from a historical record from the Fire Department of New York. You can visit the address on the screen to hear the whole thing. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJS3vMN6ewM>

AUDIO FROM DISPATCH CALL

8:50-8:54: Flight 77 is hijacked by 5 Islamic terrorists from al Qaeda.

Soon after the hijacking, ground control out of Indianapolis ('Indy') lose contact with the flight and suspect something is wrong. The following audio is an excerpt of that effort.

Note the number of times ground control tries to get in touch with the aircraft. They then reach out to someone else to try.

AUDIO FROM GROUND CONTROL

9:03:02 AM: United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the **South Tower** of the World Trade Center.

Air Traffic Controllers in New York had noticed Flight 175 flying low.

AUDIO FROM GROUND CONTROL

9:28 AM: Flight 93 is hijacked by 4 Islamic terrorists from al Qaeda. The passengers on the plane were aware of the hijacking and crashing of the planes into the World Trade Center. This plane is believed to have been targeting the **US Capitol Building**.

Ground Control recordings capture a 'mayday' call from the flight cabin of Flight 93. 'Mayday' means a call for help or emergency.

MAYDAY CALL

Ground control and other airplanes try to figure out what happened to Flight 93 and are told by terrorists who seized the cockpit that there is a bomb is on board.

AUDIO FROM GROUND CONTROL

9:37:46 AM: American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the **Pentagon** in Arlington, Virginia.

9:57 AM: Passengers on Flight 93, aware of the other attacks, fight back against the hijackers in an effort to retake control of the plane.

Many passengers were able to call their families and say goodbye, and said that they were going to break into the cockpit.

Passenger Honor Elizabeth Wainio phoned her stepmother and told her that the plane had been hijacked. The call lasted 4 minutes, 29 seconds. According to her stepmother, Elizabeth expressed concern for her family, saying,

"This is going to be harder on you, and I want you to be okay." At the end of the call, Elizabeth said, "They're getting ready to break into the cockpit. I have to go. I love you. Good-bye.", and she hung up. (FBI, Trial Evidence, family statement)

9:59 AM: The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

10:03 AM: United Airlines Flight 93 crashes into a field near **Shanksville, Pennsylvania**. The heroic passengers are believed to have forced their way into the cockpit, which led to the crash.

"Are you ready? Okay. Let's roll." - Passenger Todd Beamer to others as they go to try and retake the plane.

10:28 AM: The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

All together, 2,996 people in the buildings and planes were killed by 19 hijackers. Most were killed in the collapse of the North and South Towers (**The Twin Towers**) of the World Trade Center. **Many of these were first responders who rushed in before the towers collapsed to try and save people.** We recall these events to remember the importance of our freedoms and liberties and why they matter.

VISIT THE NATIONAL 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM <https://www.911memorial.org/visit/museum>