

# 9/11 and the 'War on Terror'

On September 11, 2001 at 8:45AM Eastern Time, hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 struck the north tower building of the World Trade Center (WTC) in lower Manhattan. Commercial television networks immediately covered unfolding events, broadcasting live as a second plane collided with the WTC south tower, and documenting two additional attacks by hijacked planes targeting the Pentagon and White House. In the days following September 11, local and national network television news divisions provided extended coverage of rescue and recovery operations at the collapsed WTC towers and the severely damaged Pentagon building. Profiles of those who had lost their lives in the attacks also featured prominently during the news coverage.



Official investigation of the attacks focused on *al-Qaeda*, an international terrorist organization previously held responsible for assaults targeting United States military personnel and U.S. embassies. In response to the events of September 11, the United States government launched a military invasion of Afghanistan and initiated a global manhunt for *al-Qaeda* leader Osama Bin Laden and other prominent members of his international organization. Television news coverage of these actions was extensive.

UCLA Film and Television Archive's News and Public Affairs Collection (NAPA) holds extensive television news coverage related to the events of September 11 and consequent 'War on Terror.' This material is available for on-site viewing at UCLA by advance arrangement through the Archive Research and Study Center.

For more information about the NAPA Collection, please contact the Archive Research and Study Center at 310-206-5388, [arsc@cinema.ucla.edu](mailto:arsc@cinema.ucla.edu) or

Consult the NAPA database online:

- <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/collections/NAPA/napasearch.html>

Detailed abstracts of the contents of network newscasts are available to UCLA-based internet users through the Vanderbilt University Television News Archive:

- <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/>

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**2001**

**September 11, 2001:**

**8:45am (Eastern Time):** A hijacked American Airlines commercial jetliner crashes into the 110-story north tower of the World Trade Center (WTC) in lower Manhattan.

**9:03am:** A second hijacked plane strikes the south WTC tower.

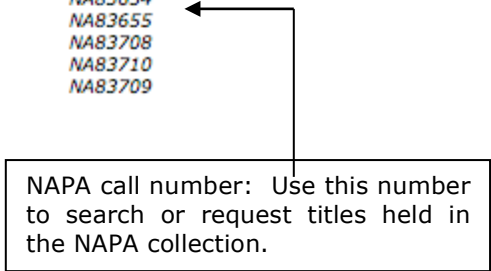
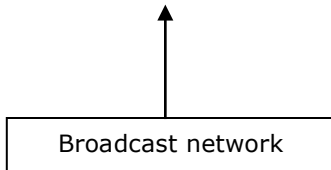
**9:43am:** A hijacked commercial jetliner collides into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The impact partially topples one side of the building.

**9:58am:** The south WTC tower collapses.

**10:10am:** A fourth hijacked jetliner crashes in western Pennsylvania, about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

**10:28am:** The north WTC tower collapses.

<i>KCBS Action News</i>	5:00am – 5:53am	NA83664
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	5:53am – 7:00am	NA83664
<i>NBC. Today in L.A.</i>	5:00am – 5:52am	NA83653
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	5:52am – 7:00am	NA83653
<i>ABC News Special Report</i>	7:00am – 9:00am	NA83656
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	7:00am – 9:00am	NA83654
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	7:00am – 9:00am	NA83655
<i>ABC News Special Report</i>	9:00am – 3:00pm	NA83708
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	9:00am – 3:00pm	NA83710
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	11:00am – 5:00pm	NA83709



## NAPA – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*How do I search the NAPA collection?*

NAPA Holdings are searchable online via the Archive's website:

- <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/collections/NAPA/napasearch.html>

*How do I request NAPA items to view?*

From the Archive website (<http://www.cinema.ucla.edu>) you can search NAPA holdings, compile a research request list, and submit your viewing requests to the Archive Research and Study Center via the online database.

*Where do I view items I've requested?*

After you have received confirmation of your title requests, primary viewing of NAPA items takes place in the Instructional Media Lab (IML), located in room 270 of the Powell Library on the UCLA campus.

# 9/11 AND THE 'WAR ON TERROR' A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

## 2001

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<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	<i>5:53am – 7:00am</i>	<i>NA83664</i>
<i>NBC. Today in L.A.</i>	<i>5:00am – 5:52am</i>	<i>NA83653</i>
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	<i>5:52am – 7:00am</i>	<i>NA83653</i>
<i>ABC News Special Report</i>	<i>7:00am – 9:00am</i>	<i>NA83656</i>
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	<i>7:00am – 9:00am</i>	<i>NA83654</i>
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	<i>7:00am – 9:00am</i>	<i>NA83655</i>
<i>ABC News Special Report</i>	<i>9:00am – 3:00pm</i>	<i>NA83708</i>
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	<i>9:00am – 3:00pm</i>	<i>NA83710</i>
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	<i>11:00am – 5:00pm</i>	<i>NA83709</i>

**Sept. 12, 2001:** President George Bush holds a live briefing from the White House's Cabinet Room.

<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	<i>5:00am – 7:00am</i>	<i>NA83672</i>
<i>ABC News Special Report</i>	<i>7:00am – 9:00am</i>	<i>NA83675</i>
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	<i>10:00am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>NA83733</i>

**Sept. 13, 2001:** President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visit hospitalized survivors of the Pentagon attack. Secretary of State Colin Powell publicly identifies Osama Bin Laden as the prime suspect in organizing the events of September 11.

<i>ABC News Special Report</i>	<i>4:30am – 5:00am</i>	<i>NA83700</i>
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	<i>10:00am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>NA83760</i>
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	<i>10:00am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>NA83761</i>

**Sept. 14, 2001:** President Bush visits 'Ground Zero,' the former site of the WTC towers and declares a national emergency. The U.S. Congress grants President Bush consent to use force against the parties responsible for the attacks. The Justice Department releases the names of the nineteen alleged hijackers and the Treasury Department creates a special group to track terrorist financing. The U.S. military is granted the authority to call up reservists to active duty.

<i>ABC News Special Report</i>	<i>12:30pm – 6:00pm</i>	<i>NA83755</i>
<i>CBS News Special Report</i>	<i>2:00pm – 7:00pm</i>	<i>NA83745</i>
<i>NBC News Special Report</i>	<i>3:00pm – 8:00pm</i>	<i>NA83746</i>

## TIMELINE (continued)

**Sept. 17, 2001:** In a televised statement, President Bush declares that the military will “defend freedom at any cost,” and vows to bring “the terrorists” to justice, “dead or alive.”

<i>ABC World News Tonight</i>	<i>5:30:50pm – 5:43:10pm</i>	<i>NA83775</i>
<i>CBS Evening News</i>	<i>5:37:00pm – 5:41:50pm</i>	<i>NA83772</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:35:30pm – 5:40:10pm</i>	<i>NA83773</i>

**Sept. 19, 2001:** Military movement of aircraft into the Persian Gulf under orders from the Pentagon initiates “Operation Infinite Justice,” (later renamed “Operation Enduring Freedom”).

<i>ABC World News Tonight</i>	<i>5:30:40pm – 5:36:40pm</i>	<i>NA83812</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:30:40pm – 5:39:40pm</i>	<i>NA83810</i>

**Sept. 20, 2001:** President Bush addresses the nation and demands that Bin Laden be handed over by Afghanistan. Military build-up picks up in the Gulf, with increased U.S. and British presence.

<i>ABC World News Tonight</i>	<i>5:32:40pm – 5:38:40pm</i>	<i>NA83832</i>
<i>CBS Evening News</i>	<i>5:30:50pm – 5:34:10pm</i>	<i>NA83829</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:30:30pm – 5:41:20pm</i>	<i>NA83830</i>

**Oct. 7, 2001:** Air strikes begin against military targets and terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan.

<i>ABC World News Tonight</i>	<i>5:30:30pm – 5:41:50pm</i>	<i>NA84064</i>
<i>CBS Evening News</i>	<i>5:00:40pm – 5:11:40pm</i>	<i>NA84068</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:30:30pm – 5:43:50pm</i>	<i>NA84061</i>

**Oct. 26, 2001:** President Bush signs an anti-terrorism law granting the government expanded power to track suspected terrorists. The law allows for greater wiretapping and surveillance and stricter detention laws. It also redefines what crimes constitute terrorist acts.

<i>ABC World News Tonight</i>	<i>5:44:30pm – 5:46:50pm</i>	<i>NA84361</i>
<i>CBS Evening News</i>	<i>5:35:30pm – 5:37:50pm</i>	<i>NA84358</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:31:00pm – 5:35:50pm</i>	<i>NA84359</i>

**Oct. 28, 2001:** A memorial service is held at Ground Zero for the families of the victims of the World Trade Center attack. Recovery work at the site is suspended for the service.

<i>ABC World News Sunday</i>	<i>0:06:20 (runtime) – 0:09:30</i>	<i>NA84366</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:30:40pm – 5:33:30pm</i>	<i>NA84363</i>

**Oct. 31, 2001:** U.S. fighter jets bomb Taliban targets north of Kabul in Afghanistan.

<i>ABC World News Tonight</i>	<i>5:30:50pm – 5:37:00pm</i>	<i>NA84422</i>
<i>CBS Evening News</i>	<i>5:30:50pm – 5:35:10pm</i>	<i>NA84419</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:35:40pm – 5:38:50pm</i>	<i>NA84420</i>

**Nov. 10, 2001:** President Bush address the United Nations about the war in Afghanistan. Afghan rebels capture the city of Mazar-e Sharif in Afghanistan from the Taliban with help from heavy bombing by U.S. troops.

<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:30:40pm – 5:41:00pm</i>	<i>NA84563</i>
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**Nov. 16, 2001:** Mohammed Atef, Bin Laden’s military chief, is confirmed dead as a result of U.S. air strikes. Ground combat continues in Afghanistan.

<i>ABC World News Tonight</i>	<i>5:31:00pm – 5:40:10pm</i>	<i>NA84659</i>
<i>NBC Nightly News</i>	<i>5:30:50pm – 5:35:40pm</i>	<i>NA84657</i>

## TIMELINE (continued)

**Dec. 7, 2001:** U.S. jets bomb the suspected hideouts of Bin Laden loyalist in eastern Afghanistan. Taliban forces abandon Kandahar in Afghanistan.

ABC World News Tonight	5:31:00pm – 5:38:30pm	NA84959
CBS Evening News	5:31:10pm – 5:41:30pm	NA84956
NBC Nightly News	5:31:10pm – 5:37:00pm	NA84957

**Dec. 9, 2001:** A videotape of Osama Bin Laden surfaces in which he claims that al-Qaeda was responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

CBS Evening News	5:30:00pm – 6:00:00pm	NA84968
NBC Nightly News	5:31:00pm – 5:36:10pm	NA84961

**Dec. 18, 2001:** Tribal fighters and U.S. Special Forces pursue al-Qaeda guerrillas through the mountains of eastern Afghanistan after destroying suspicious caves and tunnels in Tora Bora.

CBS Evening News	5:30:50pm – 5:38:00pm	NA85098
NBC Nightly News	5:31:10pm – 5:38:40pm	NA85099

**Dec. 23, 2001:** Richard Reid, a citizen of England, is arrested after attempting to set off explosives hidden in his shoes on an American Airlines flight from France.

ABC World News Sunday	0:00:40 (runtime) - 00:10:10	NA85164
NBC Nightly News	5:30:40pm – 5:36:50pm	NA85161

### 2002

**Jan. 29, 2002:** President Bush delivers his State of the Union speech in which he condemns an "Axis of Evil" that includes North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

KCBS	8:00pm – 10:00pm	NA85692
KNBC	8:00pm – 10:00pm	NA85694
KABC	8:00pm – 10:00pm	NA85695
KCET	8:00pm – 10:00pm	NA85681

**March 11, 2002:** The six-month anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is commemorated with memorials in Boston and Pennsylvania and the lighting of the "Twin Towers of Light" at the WTC site in lower Manhattan.

ABC World News Tonight	5:30:30pm – 5:36:20pm	NA86292
CBS Evening News	5:30:50pm – 5:34:20pm	NA86289
NBC Nightly News	5:31:00pm – 5:34:40pm	NA86290

**March 18, 2002:** U.S. General Tommy Franks declares the end of "Operation Anaconda" in eastern Afghanistan, and calls it, "an unqualified and absolute success."

CBS Evening News	5:33:10pm – 5:35:50pm	NA86388
NBC Nightly News	5:31:00pm – 5:33:50pm	NA86389

**May 28, 2002:** At the WTC site the last steel beam standing is removed during a ceremony for Ground Zero workers. The death toll at the site stands at 2,823.

CBS Evening News	5:30:50pm – 5:31:10pm	NA87419
NBC Nightly News	5:58:30pm – 5:59:00pm	NA87420

**May 30, 2002:** Recovery efforts officially conclude at the WTC site. A bell rings at 10:29am, commemorating the moment that the north WTC tower collapsed.

ABC World News Tonight	5:32:40pm – 5:35:30pm	NA87461
CBS Evening News	5:32:50pm – 5:38:00pm	NA87458
NBC Nightly News	5:42:30pm – 5:45:50pm	NA87459

## RELATED RESOURCES

### PRINT RESOURCES

(for more information consult the UCLA Libraries collections)

- Baudrillard, Jean. "L'esprit du Terrorisme." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 101, no. 2 (Spring 2002): 410.
- Calhoun, Craig, Paul Price, and Ashley Timmer eds. *Understanding September 11*. New York: New Press, 2002.
- Crotty, William, ed. *The Politics of Terror: The U.S. Response to 9/11*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 2004.
- Giroux, Henry A. *Beyond the Spectacle of Terrorism: Global Uncertainty and the Challenge of the New Media*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm, 2006.
- Healing the Nation: The Arab American Experience After September 11*. Washington, D.C.: Arab American Institute Foundation, 2002.
- Hershberg, Eric and Kevin W. Moore, eds. *Critical Views of September 11: Analyses from Around the World*. New York: New Press, 2002.
- Heyen, William, ed. *September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond*. Silver Spring, MD: Etruscan Press, 2002.
- Kellner, Douglas. *Media Spectacle and the Crisis of Democracy*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Press, 2005.
- Leone, Richard C. and Greg Anrig Jr. eds. *The War on our Freedoms: Civil Liberties in an Age of Terrorism*. New York: BBS Public Affairs, 2003.
- Levitas, Mitchel, Dan Barry, Nancy Lee and Lonnie Schlein. *A Nation Challenged: A Visual History of 9/11 and its Aftermath*. New York: New York Times/Callaway, 2002.
- Nacos, Brigitte Lebens. *Mass-Mediated Terrorism: The Central Role of the Media in Terrorism and Counterterrorism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.
- Norris, Pippa, Montague Kern, and Marion Just, eds. *Framing Terrorism*. New York: Routledge, 2003.
- Retort. *Afflicted Powers: The State, the Spectacle, and September 11*. New York: Verso, 2006.
- Smith, Dennis. *Report from Ground Zero: The Story of the Rescue Efforts at the World Trade Center*. New York: Viking, 2002.
- Talbott, Strobe and Nayan Chanda, eds. *The Age of Terror: America and the World After September 11*. New York: Yale Center for the Study of Globalization, 2001.
- United States Congress House Committee on Science. *Learning from 9/11 – Understanding the Collapse of the World Trade Center: Hearing Before the Committee on Science, House of Representatives*. One Hundred Seventh Congress, Second Session, March 6, 2002. Washington: U.S.G.P.O., 2002.
- Weber, Samuel M. "War, Terrorism, and Spectacle: On Towers and Caves." *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 101.3 (2002) 449-458.
- Weimann, Gabriel and Conrad Winn. *The Theater of Terror: Mass Media and International Terrorism*. White Plains, New York: Longman, 1994.

## RELATED RESOURCES (continued)

### AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

(the following materials are available through the Archive Research and Study Center)

*America – A Tribute to Heroes* (2001-09-21). Producer, Joel Gallen. Directors, Joel Gallen, Beth McCarthy Miller. Writers, Eli Attie, Bill Clark.

Study Copy: VA6018 T

*9/11* (2002-03-10). CBS. Directors, James Hanlon, Gédéon Naudet. Writer, Tom Forman.

Study Copy: VA3890 T

*Reflections from Ground Zero* (2002). Showtime. Producer, Julie Corman.

Study Copy: DVD232 T

*WTC: The First 24 Hours* (2002). ISIS. Director, Étienne Sauret.

Study Copy: VA20239 M

*Anatomy of 9/11* (2003-11-25). A&E.

Study Copy: VA5418 T

### INTERNET RESOURCE

*The September 11 Web Archive*. Produced by the Library of Congress, the Internet Archive and webArchivist.com. Available: <<http://september11.archive.org>>.