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NEW YORK POST, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2001

PROBE NET WIDENS

- **Defiant Taliban refuse to surrender bin Laden**
- **Four nabbed by Scotland Yard for grilling**
- **Rudy won't be staying on; Pataki says primary is still Tuesday**
- **Stock market down 140 yesterday; worst week ever**
- **Senate approves $15 billion airline-industry bailout**

By Tracy Connor, Deborah Orin, David Seifman and Larry Celona. Written by Devlin Barrett.

German authorities charged two fugitives with 5,000 counts of murder for helping hijacker Mohamed Atta and other members of a terror cell plot strikes on U.S. landmarks.

Ramzi Binalshibh, a 29-year-old college dropout, shared a Hamburg apartment with Atta and traveled with him to Venice, Fla., to take flying lessons. He was last seen in the city in August, investigators said.

Authorities were already hunting for Said Bahaji, 26, an electronics student at Hamburg Technical University who also lived in the apartment — dubbed a "house of supporters" by cell members.

Bahaji fled Germany for Pakistan on Sept. 3, turning over legal control of his affairs to his wife's stepfather "in case something should happen to me," Germany's chief prosecutor said.

Both men are wanted on charges of forming a terrorist organization two years ago and at least 5,000 counts of murder, officials said.

Atta and fellow kamikaze pilots Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah all studied in Hamburg, and the city has emerged as a major focus of the worldwide probe and hunt for collaborators.

The international probe also gained momentum in London, where an anti-terrorism squad arrested three men and a woman on charges stemming from the Sept. 11 attacks.

Two men and a woman, all in their 20s, were arrested at their homes in west London yesterday morning.



JOHNNY ON THE SPOT: Arizona Sen. John McCain consoles a trader yesterday on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. AP

The fourth suspect was nabbed in Birmingham, 100 miles north of London.

The arrests came as war efforts intensified in America and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers formally refused to hand over Osama bin Laden.

Three people were killed in pro-bin Laden rioting in the Pakistan city of Karachi yesterday after several Muslim clerics there praised the terror boss.

To the north, Taliban soldiers massed at the Pakistan border in preparation for battle, officials said.

The Pentagon continued to send heavily armed personnel across the world to wage and support a war.

Gung-ho Marines shipped out from Camp Lejeune, N.C., for a previously planned tour in the Mediterranean that may lead to direct fighting.

"We are the tip of the spear," said Marine Col. Andrew Frick. "If Marines are called upon in the Mediterranean, we would be the first to go."

American soldiers in desert fatigues were also rolling from New Jersey's McGuire Air Force Base.

"They're standing tall and ready to rock," said Col. Kip Self. "Morale is sky-high."

The Air Force, already mobilizing more than 100 fighter jets, B-1 and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf, added dozens more aircraft to the list yesterday.

While soldiers prepared to meet the enemy overseas, the heads of the Justice Department and the FBI toured the site of the World Trade Center attacks here.

The close-up glimpse of the disaster site stunned and angered Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI boss Robert Mueller, according to someone who was with them.

"It's unspeakable, it's just unspeakable," Ashcroft said when he saw the wreckage where 6,333 are still missing and where 252 have been found dead.

Mueller became visibly upset as he viewed the mountains of rubble.

"We'll get 'em," he said vehemently.

Meanwhile, stadiums and entertainment complexes are boosting security amid warnings that terrorists may strike at Hollywood studios.

In other developments yesterday:

■ The stock market slumped again after wild swings, with the Dow Jones industrial average finally closing down 140 points for the biggest one-week point drop ever.

■ The president released over $5 billion to put sky marshals on flights, increase military spending, and post rewards for information about terrorists.

■ The House and Senate pushed to complete a $15 billion aid package to help the struggling airline industry, which announced 100,000 layoffs this week.

High-tech weaponry for newest kind of war

By NILES LATHEM
Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces will descend on Afghanistan with an exotic new generation of weapons aimed at fighting a mobile and hidden enemy on high plains — and underground, The Post has learned.

Intelligence reports indicate that about 3,000-5,000 fighters loyal to terror master Osama bin Laden have left their camps and command posts and may now be dispersed in an extensive network of mountain caves and tunnels known as "Karez" throughout rugged southern Afghanistan.

Locating bin Laden and his henchmen — and then routing them from their hideouts — presents U.S. military planners with an entire new set of challenges, requiring a massive deployment of mobile, highly skilled troops and the latest technology.

The Pentagon is rushing to complete development of new cave-busting "earth penetrator" bombs to be dropped on suspected terrorist lairs in Afghanistan.

Known as the GBU-28, the 2,000-pound bomb is long and thin and is the latest modified version of the so-called "bunker busters" used in the Persian Gulf war, according to Robert Sherman, head of the Strategic Security Project at the Federation of American Scientists.

After being dropped from B-2 Stealth bombers, the bomb is guided to a target by the latest laser and infrared technology, and relying on momentum, it is being designed to penetrate up to 22 feet through the earth before exploding and incinerating everything inside a tunnel.

To help locate bin Laden, U.S. forces will also be using newly modified J-Star surveillance aircraft, which is equipped with large antennas that produce high-quality images of movements of convoys on the ground, according to military experts.

Pentagon officials have made clear that much of the work in the upcoming military operation will be performed by elite commando units from the U.S. Special Forces Command who are trained in stealth and speed to operate behind enemy lines.

For ultimate high-risk missions, some special forces units have what is known as HALO training — High Altitude, Low Opening — in which they drop out of the bomb bays of B-2 Stealth planes at 50,000 feet.

Inside Afghanistan, small commando teams are expected to roam areas of the countryside hunting for targets, possibly with the aid of anti-Taliban rebels and other friendly militias to try to pinpoint enemy locations.

The commandos can call in the paratroopers or airstrikes, using special laser sensors that "paint" a target with a light that can't be seen by the naked eye but can guide a bomb or missile launched from an aircraft.

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