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WITNESS: D.C. 9/11

Planes slamming into the World Trade Center... The collapse of the Twin Towers... These are the icons of 9/11, the images that have engraved themselves into the minds of billions of people. Yet shortly after Mohammed Atta and his cohorts flew their hijacked jets into Manhattan's tallest buildings, another plane was wreaking destruction just outside of Washington, D.C. It is this terrorist attack – less spectacular, less documented, but highly important – that is the subject of this one-of-a-kind documentary.

At 9:37 a.m. on September 11th 2001, American Airlines flight 77 roared into the Pentagon at more than 800 kilometers an hour, tearing a gash into the building's western façade. In less than a second, the plane plowed through four of the Pentagon's five rings, killing 189 people and injuring hundreds more. The sight of a smoldering wound in the side of the Pentagon – the seat of U.S. military might – became a symbol of an America made suddenly and shockingly vulnerable.

Yet while the impact of 9/11 on Washington, D.C. became overshadowed by the carnage in New York City, fear was

spreading in the nation's capital: four planes were reported missing, and three were accounted for. The terrifying possibility that the fourth plane was heading for the Capitol or the White House became reality, causing widespread evacuations, panic and chaos.

Practically from the moment Flight 77 hit the Pentagon, news crews, tourists, amateur videographers, security cameras, and government agencies were recording the sights and sounds of the day. Using only this raw sound and video, "Witness: D.C. 9/11" reconstructs the events of 9/11 in and around Washington, D.C., as first the nation, and then the nation's capital, came under assault. From the Pentagon to the White House, from Air Force One to air traffic control, this one-hour documentary captures the mix of confusion and fear, as well as heroism and courage, that profoundly shook the nation's capital – and deeply influenced America's response to the day's events.

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