

State

Page 8

THE BATTALION

Friday, September 14, 2001

DFW Airport prepares to open

GRAPEVINE (AP) — Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport officials were preparing Wednesday to allow air flights to resume, conducting intensive sweeps of the terminals and outlining heightened security measures passengers will encounter.

Airport officials waited for word on whether an American Airlines flight of stranded passengers in Canada might be allowed to complete its trip to Dallas late Wednesday.

Most of the nation's airplanes remained grounded, and federal transportation officials said they will not allow the planes to take off until they can ensure the safety of the passengers. Federal officials said diverted flights could continue under tightened security.

"Passengers at DFW will notice heightened security at every turn when they return to the airport," said Jim Crites, DFW airport's executive vice president of operations and security. "With uniform security and canine units patrolling the terminals, no garbage can, no ashtray, will go unmonitored."

The FAA grounded all air traffic Tuesday after two jetliners crashed into the World Trade Center, bringing down the twin 110-story towers. A fourth jetliner crashed in Pennsylvania.

Two of the jetliners belonged to Fort Worth-based American Airlines.

Southwest Airlines announced it would not fly planes until Thursday. Both American and Delta airlines indicated they had intended to resume flights Wednesday.

Spokesman Rashaan Johnson said Houston-based Continental Airlines had suspended all regularly scheduled flights for Thursday. Continental will try to complete some of the diverted flights Thursday and may add flights for stranded customers if the

government allows. Johnson said he did not know how many of the thousands stranded by 2,000 grounded Continental planes would get in the air.

Johnson said Continental is now in compliance with the new FAA security procedures.

Officials at the state's airports were combing their terminals for security breaches and readying for tough new safety measures.

Ernie DeSoto, spokesman for Bush Intercontinental and Hobby airports in Houston, said both facilities were secured

"Passengers at DFW will notice heightened security at every turn when they return to the airport."

— Jim Crites
DFW's executive vice president of operations and security

Wednesday after explosive-sniffing dogs and special law enforcement teams swept "every inch" of the facilities overnight.

Similar sweeps at DFW turned up nothing out of the ordinary.

At San Antonio International Airport, stern-faced security guards nearly outnumbered would-be passengers. One of them taped up signs banning "knives, pointed objects or blades of any kind" from carry-on bags.

Spokeswoman Lisa Burkhardt-Worley said barricades had been installed around the control tower and certain parking areas as a precaution. She also said the airport had

stepped up its patrols and other surveillance, though she would not specify how.

"Through these security measures, some seen, some unseen — we're trying to prevent anything from happening," she said.

Airport officials outlined a number of changes passengers should expect:

—Uniformed officers and dogs will be patrolling the terminals

—Ticketless travel, curbside baggage check-in and one-hour parking will be prohibited

—Only passengers with tickets will be allowed at the gates

Also, passengers are advised to arrive at least two hours before their scheduled departure time; to limit their carry-on items; to be prepared to show photo identification; and to expect to undergo extra questioning.

Displaying a tiny pocketknife, a small cutting instrument in a carry-on bag, will be seized.

"Patience is the order of the day, but safety is priority one," said Kevin Cox, DFW airport executive vice president.

At the El Paso International Airport, spokeswoman Liz Bellegarde noted the new security measures also will affect people assisting the elderly and disabled.

"For those persons who need assistance, they will need a pass for the person going to help them get through the security checkpoints," she said.

When asked how passengers should respond to the security measures, which may stay in place indefinitely, Cox said: "The traveling public is a fairly well-educated and I believe they'll understand the situation that we're in."

DeSoto, of the Houston Airport System, agreed.

EARN A DEGREE
TEXAS
YOU CAN
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com
TUITION FREE

CBI
Chicago Bridge & Iron has been a world leader in Engineering, Fabrication and Construction of storage tanks and related systems for more than 100 years. Our Corporate headquarters are located in the Woodlands, Texas.
CBI has career opportunities and a two-year management training program for:
Civil Engineers • Mechanical Engineers • Construction Engineers
Visit our booths at the:
SEC Career Fair September 18-19
Construction Science Career Fair September 24-25
www.chicagobridge.com

ATTENTION AGGIE MEN
Hear Dr. Ed Cole
Saturday, September 15,
8:30 a.m. at Rudder Theatre
Dr. Ed Cole....
Promise Keeper
Speaker & Author of
"Maximized Manhood"
A man's man who tells it like it is.... "Ed Cole has this incredible appeal to men of all races and nationalities."
Dallas Morning News
Dr. Ed Cole
CALL 779-1591 FOR TICKETS
FREE TICKETS TO FIRST 50 CALLERS
Adults \$20 in Advance
Students \$10 in Advance
Order On-Line at www.edcole.org

Xcel Energy
REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.
Xcel Energy Inc. is a prominent U.S. electric and natural gas utility. It's our people that make this possible every day by providing the best service, value and information.
We have opportunities for you to energize your career in the following areas:
Electrical Engineers
Mechanical Engineers
For more information on available positions, please visit us at the Student Engineers' Council Career Fair or e-mail M. J. Griebler at mary.j.griebler@xcelenergy.com
Visit our website at www.xcelenergy.com
Xcel Energy is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Travelers stranded in Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Andrew Dockal was supposed to be at work Wednesday, but the paramedic from Jackson, S.C., was still hundreds of miles away from his job.

Air traffic around the country was grounded for a second day following an attack by terrorists that hijacked and crashed three commercial jets into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon outside Washington.

Dockal decided to rent a car in San Antonio to return home after visiting relatives in rural Mason.

He said he had been watching the television coverage of the attack aftermath with particular interest. The collapse of the twin World Trade Center towers dropped tons of steel and concrete on rescue workers on the ground below. Dozens of them remain missing.

"When you see brother paramedics or firefighters," he said, "you feel for them because it could be you."

The uncertainty about when air travel would resume has prompted many people in Texas and elsewhere to find other ways to reach their destinations.

Carol Baronet of San Antonio wanted to fly to Orlando on Wednesday to see her daughter, who

works at Walt Disney World. She changed her plans and caught a Greyhound bus to Houston, where her husband was on a business trip.

"I don't know what I'm doing — I've never done a bus ride before," Baronet said to a friend while dragging an overnight bag through the downtown San Antonio terminal.

Rene Fernandez, manager of the Greyhound terminal in El Paso, said he saw a smattering of people Wednesday.

Among them was Keith Gage, heading back to his Ozark, Ark., home after a four-year stint in the Marines. His original plan was to fly out of Los Angeles Tuesday morning.

"I should be home by now," Gage said. "I got my leave papers yesterday morning and I've been on a bus ever since."

High-tech consultant Sergio Mannarino of Miami was headed to San Francisco on Tuesday when his flight was diverted to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

Instead of continuing on to California, Mannarino said he now plans to return to Miami whenever flights are resumed.

"I want to be with my family," he said Wednesday as he stood in the lobby of the Sheraton hotel downtown.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murderer escaped from Texas prison

BEAUMONT (AP) — A convicted murderer assigned to administrative segregation because of his combative behavior escaped from a state prison and is believed to have stolen a pickup truck that contained a rifle and 500 rounds of ammunition.

Harold Laird, 26, escaped Wednesday from the prison near Beaumont. Larry Todd, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said neither Laird nor the missing truck had been located late Wednesday.

Officers checking on Laird discovered him missing shortly before 6:30 a.m., a few hours after he was served breakfast. They found a dummy he had tried to fashion in his cell.

WESTGATE SHOPPING CENTER 4353 WELLBORN ROAD 846-7652
Salty DOG CALENDAR
MONDAY: MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL \$3 PITCHERS FOR THE 1ST HALF
TUESDAY: OPEN MIC NIGHT
WEDNESDAY: THEME NIGHT COMING SOON
THURSDAY & FRIDAY: NORMAL 9-11 + \$1 DRAFTS & \$ SHOTS ALL NIGHT "WE'RE DRINKING, DAMN NEAR GIVIN' IT AWAY!"
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: DOORS OPEN @ 12 NOON FREE HOT DOGS, DRINK SPECIALS 30 SATELLITE T.V.'S
\$1 PINTS & WELLS \$2 LONG NECKS AND \$2 "YOU CALL IT" 9-11 EVERYDAY \$3 PITCHERS 1ST HALF OF ALL A&M, COWBOY, TITANS, & MNF GAMES CALL FOR DAILY DRINK SPECIALS, 846-7652

Ugotcall
Football phone & desktop phone
Visit us at www.ugotcall.com
Call us at (214)570-5680

"Excellence is not an act, but a habit." — ARISTOTLE
Make excellence your habit by participating in **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People** three-day workshop, an exciting, in-house workshop based on the best-selling business book of all time.
6-Week Course
September 17-October 24
Mondays and Wednesdays
3pm-4:30pm
For more information, call 845-1133 or visit <http://studentactivities.tamu.edu>
Registration Information
7 Habits of Highly Effective People course is FREE! Register through the Department of Student Activities website or visit the Department of Student Activities in room 125 of the Koldus Building. Space is limited, so hurry and sign up!