

# THE BATTALION

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## Two years later Former students witness WTC terror

By **Tori Foster**  
THE BATTALION

A loud explosion from the North Tower of the World Trade Center shocked former Texas A&M student Morriss Hurt out of his normal Tuesday morning routine on Wall Street. He looked up to see a fireball shoot out from the building and began to search for cover as glass rained down on him.

As Americans remember the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Hurt and other Aggies residing in New York, look back and remember the tragedy as well as their Aggie family that helped them through this time of terror in their lives.

"After I heard the explosion, the ground level of the tower began to explode and I didn't know what it was. Then, car alarms began to go off and car windows shattered," Hurt said. "I ran across the street under a construction scaffolding. There was a man sitting on the street injured and in shock. I got him up and found a police officer to ask for help."

Hurt was speaking with the police officer when he heard the second plane hit the South Tower.

"I didn't know originally that it was a plane, though foul play did enter my mind. As soon as the second plane hit I knew it wasn't just a mere accident," Hurt said.

Hurt then began to search for a phone to call his parents in Texas to let them know that he was OK.

"As I was trying to find a phone, I felt something like an earthquake



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as the South Tower fell," Hurt said.

When the streets around the World Trade Center were closed for cleanup and rescue for two and a half weeks many people who lived in the near vicinity such as Hurt, were left without a place to live. It was during these difficult times that rescue came to Hurt in the form of another Aggie.

"I didn't have anything but the clothes on my back and my briefcase," Hurt said. "A friend of mine, Peyton Mayes, who is also an Aggie, put me up in his living room for a week. Since the apartments in New York aren't very spacious I really appreciated that he let me stay with him."

The nation was brought together by tragedy in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The Aggies in New York were no exception.

"We were friends before 9-11, but like the rest of New York, the dreadful event drew us together," Hurt said. "Community and New York are not normally in the same sentence. You just don't normally see people on the street smiling and saying 'howdy.' But everything changed when this happened."

Through such a trying time, Hurt relied on his fellow Aggies and church as his safety net.

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## Stars and stripes



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Building Wednesday at dusk. Flags at the Academic and Administration Buildings will fly at half-staff today in remembrance of the second anniversary of Sept. 11.

## MSC to honor Sept. 11 victims

By **Sarah Szuminski**  
THE BATTALION

The Memorial Student Center, and Texas A&M student leaders will host a ceremony of remembrance today in honor of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Two years ago today at 8:45 a.m., hijacked passenger jet, American Airlines flight 11 out of Boston, crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. A second hijacked plane, United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston, struck the South Tower 18 minutes later. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m. and by 10:30 a.m. both towers had collapsed.

The day of remembrance will begin with Albritton Tower tolling at 8:40

a.m., and a ceremony in the MSC Flag Room that is scheduled at 11:30 a.m.

"It's important for students to remember the tragedy that happened and how it affected our lives," said Student Body President Matt Josefy.

Josefy, MSC Council President Elizabeth Dacus, International Student Association President Julio Jana and Associate Provost Mark H. Weichold will speak briefly at the ceremony, which will feature the Corps Honor Guard and Singing Cadets. Refreshments will be available in the Flag Room prior to the ceremony.

Jana, a native Brazilian, said he plans to share his experience after Sept. 11 from an international student's perspective.

"Many international students had an overwhelming feeling of sharing that moment with local students," he said.

In the wake of the attacks, local

students began asking students from other nations about their cultures, Jana said. Many members of the community offered to open their homes to international students who felt threatened.

"Overall, I believe the community had a great response," Jana said.

Unity March will follow at noon, starting in the Flag Room and winding through the Academic Plaza before returning to the MSC, Josefy said.

The Corps of Cadets will remember victims of the attacks with "Echo Taps," a ceremony similar to Silver Taps that typically honors cadets who pass away during the year, said Corps Public Relations officer Justin Woods. Echo Taps will be held on the quad at 10:30 p.m. tonight, and all of the student body is welcome.

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## Increased TEEEX funds reflect demand for disaster training

By **Bart Shirley**  
THE BATTALION

The Texas Engineering Extension Service, which houses Texas A&M's National Emergency Rescue and Response Training Center, has received \$157 million in funding since Sept. 11, 2001, up from \$11.7 million prior to that date.

"What Sept. 11 did was increase the demand for (TEEX) courses," said Charles Todd, director of domestic preparedness TEEEX. "It gave us a sense that this was nothing to be taken lightly."

Created in 1998, the emergency response training center was formed to train police, firefighters, hazardous materials officers, city managers and others involved in public works from across the nation to handle emergencies more professionally and efficiently. The center offered classes and courses to assist local governments in their preparation. The mission was

clear and simple, and it established TEEEX as a leader in the emergency preparedness field.

"A&M has been a pioneer in homeland security, filling a critical need in emergency response training," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Everything changed on Sept. 11. The focus of the organization shifted to the training of personnel for response to chemical, biological and other terrorist attacks. This year, as part of its ongoing grant through the Department of Homeland Security, the training center received a grant for \$31.4 million. Last year, the grant totaled \$15.2 million.

"The grant went up," said Bill May, associate director of TEEEX. "We have \$5 million extra for training. The technical assistance budget went up \$11 million because we are now the prime provider (of technical assistance) to jurisdictions in the United States."

TEEX has three primary arms: national, which encompasses the training center; state, which encompasses the Texas Response Team,

who trains at Disaster City, an apparatus that allows instructors to simulate almost every form of disaster; and its response role, which is the maintaining of Texas Task Force One, a group which assisted at Ground Zero in New York.

The training center is part of a larger national body, called the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, which is a group of five locations that each researches and trains personnel in a particular aspect of homeland security.

The demand increase is as dramatic as the increase in funding. Prior to Sept. 11, only 95 jurisdictions in the United States assessed themselves and made use of TEEEX's advising services. Now, 900 jurisdictions have received TEEEX training regarding terrorism.

"When you dissect who responds, it's typically local (personnel) because that's where it happens," May said. "People really want to take advantage of what we have. It's an opportunity to spread the vitality of Texas A&M."

### NERRTC Training Budget

TEEX increased training funds after Sept. 11.

\$ 3.5 million in 2000

\$ 5.2 million in 2001

\$ 15 million in 2002

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: TEXAS ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE

## Students protest TS service changes

By **Esther Robards-Forbes,**  
**Sarah Szuminski & Sarah Walch**  
THE BATTALION

Southside garage permit holders received an e-mail Tuesday informing them that Transportation Services plans to sell an unannounced number of additional permits to the faculty, creating a parking free-for-all in a garage that currently offers Southside residents reserved spaces.

TS Director Rodney Weiss was scheduled to give a presentation to the Student Senate Wednesday to discuss recent parking changes but did not show.

About 20 students were turned away before the meeting began, disappointed that Weiss was not present to hear their complaints.

"No one was contacted in our office," said Speaker of the Senate Matthew Wilkins. "The suspicion is that (Weiss) was not here because

he didn't want to answer questions."

One angry permit holder, junior Amy Bronowitz, waited patiently until the 2-hour meeting concluded to discuss her frustrations with student leaders and TS representative Chris Owens.

"They think it's reasonable to double-book spaces, but I think leaving campus is reasonable," she said. "We pay a first-rate price for a second-rate service."

Permit holders currently pay \$390 for a 24-hour guaranteed space in the garage, but TS' new plan will reduce customers to fighting for a place to park.

"By removing the requirement to park in a specific space within the garage, this convenience, shelter and safety can be offered to a number of other customers in our Aggie family," said Transportation Services officials in the

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### Southside Garage Stats:

Transportation Services plans to oversell garage permits and take away reserved spaces.

● Southside garage permits cost \$390.

● Red lot residence hall permits cost \$141.

● The Southside garage has 1,974 spaces.

● More than 500 customers are waiting for a Southside garage permit.



ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
PHOTO COURTESY: WWW.TAMU.EDU

## Senator proposes return of Southwest Conference

By **Sonia Moghe**  
THE BATTALION

The Southwest Conference may return if Texas Sen. Kim Brimer can get permission from Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to conduct a study determining if Southwest Conference restoration would benefit smaller schools.

The SWC athletic contract between Texas A&M, the University of Texas, Baylor University, Southern Methodist University, Rice University, Texas Christian University, Texas Tech University and the University of Houston dissolved in 1994 because of differing budgets between the

bigger and smaller schools within the conference.

It was later replaced by the Big 12 Conference which includes A&M, UT, Texas Tech, Baylor, the University of Kansas, Kansas State, Oklahoma University, Oklahoma State University, Nebraska, Iowa State and Missouri. The formation of the Big 12 left the remaining four Texas universities — SMU, TCU, Rice and Houston — with the task of finding another conference to join. SMU and Rice joined the Western Athletic Conference while Houston and TCU opted for Conference USA.

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