

Letters to the editor

Commanding general offers condolences Youngster wants answers on terrorism

I and my wife Leslie offer our heartfelt concern to the friends and families of those who have been injured or killed by the tragic events of the last several hours. These horrific activities remind us that we must always be vigilant.

As commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, my first concern is your safety. I want to ensure that Redstone Arsenal

remains a safe place to work and live.

Accordingly, I decided to cancel the Oktoberfest celebration that was scheduled for Sept. 13-16.

Please join me in offering your thoughts and prayers to all whose lives have been affected.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen
commander,
AMCOM and Redstone

Union extends heartfelt sympathies

The American Federation of Government Employees extends its heartfelt sympathies to all those affected by this American tragedy.

As Americans, we understand the critical need to keep our government running at full capacity during this crisis. Our military bases and personnel must remain protected, services for America's citizens must continue and the readiness of our armed forces must be maintained.

AFGE is proud of the public employees who continue to exemplify — and will in the days ahead — America's values for all the world to see. We encourage all AFGE members to participate in blood drives at federal facilities by donating blood and volunteering to help over the next several weeks, as the American labor movement rises to meet our country's critical needs.

AFGE encourages those who wish to help the federal employee victims and

survivors of Tuesday's (Sept. 11) tragedies to donate to the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) at 1-800-323-4140 or (303) 933-7580.

Donations to the fund may be made via credit card by calling FEEA at (303) 933-7580 or by sending a check to: FEEA World Trade Center/Pentagon Fund, 8441 West Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, Colo., 80123-9501.

The American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, is the largest union for government employees, representing over 600,000 federal workers in the United States and overseas, as well as employees of the District of Columbia. For more information about AFGE, visit the following web site:

www.afge.org.

Jim Brothers
president,
AFGE Local 1858

On Sept. 11, the United States of America was attacked by terrorists. People all around America ask questions. Why did this have to happen? What did we do to deserve this? Who did this? Where are they?

We all want to know about why you did this. What kind of coward would try to tear the United States of America apart from our freedom? You crashed our planes in the twin towers. You crashed another airplane into the Pentagon. You have killed our children, our mothers, fathers, our families and friends. You have led our people to death. You have bullied us the wrong way.

While you were doing this, you knew that this would lead to serious consequences and it will lead to war. Apparently that is what you are trying to tell us. Tell us who you are. Don't be cowards. Now that you have started it, finish it like men. Tell us what led you to do such a sinister act. Do you want attention? What are you trying to tell us? Why do so much evil in one day? Well as you know, we will hunt you down and you will pay for what you have done. You have started a crisis. Hundreds of

policemen and firemen missing. People running, crying, acting and doing hysterical things. The United States will be stronger, healthier and more powerful than ever, as long as God and the Lord Jesus Christ are with us. You have reunited the United States. Your plan has worked as well as you have planned but your plan will backfire. Your game will end. The United States will win. You have not separated America. You have put us back together. You will not get away from what you have done. Tell us who you are.

Robert Lewis III
age 11,
Huntsville

Editor's note: Robert, a sixth-grader at Westlawn Middle School, wrote this as he watched television with his grandparents Tuesday night, Sept. 11. He constantly asked questions and returned to the computer to type. He is the son of Robert and Spnyia Lewis, and the grandson of retired 1st Sgt. Clinton and Mary Clifton. Mary is an education technician at the Child Development Center. His paternal grandfather, Robert Lewis Sr., works at the Pentagon.

Foreign national officers offer view

Once again a group of terrorists struck their targets, suddenly and without any warning. Only this time with a magnitude and brutality that exceeds all human imagination.

We as a group of foreign national officers and government representatives assigned to Program Executive Office Tactical Missiles, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office, would like to express our sincere sympathy to all members of Team Redstone and their families, who are personally affected by this brutal act of terrorism.

Official reactions in our home countries show beside perplexity, sorrow and solidarity, also a strong desire to fight as a community of free and democratic nations against all kinds of terrorism and forms of violence. There can't be the

slightest sign of doubt or even tolerance.

In these dark and painful hours, may our Lord guide the leaders of this nation and their advisers.

Lt. Col. Manfred Mertes
German Army

Rainer Fuhr
Germany

Lt. Col. Manrico Scipioni
Italian Army

Maj. Christian Helmstetter
French Army

Dave Moore
United Kingdom

Col. (retired) Dr. Jim Ross
(NAMSA representative for
MLRS/ TOW)

Personnel instructed daily on when to report to work

As of Monday, the Force Protection Condition for Redstone Arsenal was Charlie.

Until further notice, all mission essential personnel should report for duty on time. All other personnel should report two hours later than their normal start times.

All normally open gates, except Gate 8, will be open; but delays should be expected. Carpooling is encouraged. Liberal leave is authorized.

Commercial delivery vehicles are

being instructed to use Gate 1, Martin Road East.

There are several media available to make Team Redstone personnel aware of daily reporting instruction. Phone the Redstone Arsenal Alert Hotline at 955-8445. Access the Team Redstone internet web site as follows: <http://www.redstone.army.mil> and click on the Force Protection Condition button in the upper left side of the page. Stay tuned to your local news media, especially local television.

Redstone Rocket

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