

Lowans urge caution, then punishment

RESPONSE, from Page 1A

Who is the enemy?
How could this have happened?
How does the country retaliate?
Even Bantz, who heads the Iowa Peace Institute and advocates nonviolent solutions to the world's problems, says, "Violence will clearly lead to more violence, but how can the United States government not respond?"

Many lowans, particularly veterans, agreed with Joe Gross, 76, a World War II Navy veteran from Mount Ayr who attended a reunion in Des Moines this week with 60 shipmates from the USS Capps.

"I don't know whom we're going to fight, but we're going to fight somebody," Gross said.

Ready to return

His friend, 75-year-old Earl Beadle of White Hall, Ark., agreed: "It makes me want to join up again and see what we could do."

Other veterans said the country has more work to do than plan military strikes. The attack, they say, exposed gaping holes in the nation's intelligence-gathering and security systems.

"All of a sudden, it's brought to our shore," said Paul Nielsen, 66, of

Altoona, who served in the Navy during the Korean War. "Where was our intelligence? We're so busy looking at rank, worrying about promotions, that we've forgotten what we're there for."

Nielsen, an officer in the American Legion of Iowa, questioned an airport security system that would allow hijackers to board four different commercial flights and overwhelm the flight crews.

"It's no great shakes to get through airport security," he said. "If you've done any flying, you know that. When you're at war, then you've got to forget about human rights and civil liberties. If you have to trample on people to make sure that we're secure, then we'll have to do it. Nobody wants to hear that, though."

Assistant Police Chief McCarthy knows as well as any lowan the high price terrorists exact. His brother, James, was killed six years ago in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

"I want the response to be extremely serious, but I want it to be well thought out and fair, and to be seen by the world as fair," he said. "Right now is the time for us to comfort the families of the victims. That buys us time to get some

clear thinking. We're a great nation, and there should be no knee-jerk reaction to this."

White McCarthy believes Americans will accept tighter security measures at airports and public facilities, he also says. "I don't think we need to wholesale take away our liberties."

Mark Strack, program director for the American Legion, said he would like to know where to direct his anger.

"No defined enemy"

"My feeling is that we should move ahead cautiously," said Strack, who served on a Navy nuclear submarine during the Vietnam War. "Right now we have a sense that there's no defined enemy. I don't feel the anger yet as much, because it's not directed at anyone."

"People say we should go to war. Go to war against whom? I think we ought to analyze the situation before we go off making declarations of war."

The terrorists responsible for Tuesday's horrific events most want to turn world opinion against America, said Kenneth Quinn, 59, president of the World Food Prize Foundation and a 32-year U.S.

State Department diplomat. He believes investigators will prove that Islamic extremists are responsible.

"Their goal is to try to drive a huge wedge between America and Americans and everyone of Islamic faith," Quinn said. "They have a long-range goal of isolating America and bringing the many forces of the international world against the U.S."

Quinn said he worries that Americans will take out their anger on all Muslims, "and that's what the terrorists want."

He knows firsthand what terrorists can do. He said more State Department diplomats have been killed in the past 20 years than in the first 200 years of American history. As a diplomat himself, Quinn was wounded in Vietnam and bombed in Cambodia. He was threatened by terrorists in the Philippines and at the Gaza Strip.

This is what he learned: "You have to think every day that it could happen today."

Another native lowan, Nancy Powell, left this week to begin work as ambassador to Ghana. Powell grew up in LeMars and has worked previously as ambassador to Uganda, where the U.S.

Embassy was shut down in 1998 after terrorist bombings damaged embassies in neighboring Kenya and Tanzania.

It can happen anywhere

"You always worry about a child of yours," says Powell's mother, Maxine, who lives in Waukee. "She just left Sunday night from Washington, so she could have been there. Where are you safe? She always says it can happen in Des Moines, too."

At the Iowa Peace Institute, Bantz said he hopes the United States will consider options other than a massive military strike.

"The natural response for people is revenge and retaliate and let's go get them," he said. "I understand we might not be able to turn the other cheek, but I certainly hope we don't start blowing up cheeks without knowing who is responsible."

"I don't feel any anger. I understand why people do, but I mostly feel sadness and fear. I just fear what's going to happen next. It's a very difficult time."

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