

[10 October 2001]

NARRATIVE ACCOUNT OF THE PENTAGON ACCOUNT

Name: LT Cindy [Cynthia F.] Campbell

Command: Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) N4

Billet: Administrative Aide to Deputy CNO N4

Location: 4E374

I was standing near the door of our office (4E374) when the plane hit. I felt the building shake and heard a resonant "boom...boom....boom". I later understood that the three different "shakes" or "booms" that I felt and heard were the E, D and C ring being hit. I was in the passageway, just at the corner Apex, and noticed that minute debris, drywall particles, dust, etc. were floating in the air. Personnel were running away from the blast site. My PO1 (YN1 Kim Saunders) and I were in the passageway and immediately started toward the nearest exit. At this point I was near the exit on the 3rd corridor, outer E ring. I tried to get others in the passageway with us to follow us out what I felt like was the closet exit out of the building, out the E ring. I was surprised to see that everyone was heading toward the A ring down corridor 3. My PO1 and I proceeded down the stairwell to the outer E ring emergency exit.

We both exited out of the E ring emergency door and found ourselves in the contractor fenced-in area. We were unable to turn left. We had to turn right and proceed through the smoke in order to exit the fenced-in area. At the Apex corner we could visibly see material burning and the smoke and flames from the blast zone. At this point I still did not know it was an airplane. I assumed that it was a bomb. As I went through the black smoke I noticed that my face and lips were numb/tingling. Still not sure why...guess it was the jet fuel. We ran quite swiftly through the smoke, reached the fence exit area, and then proceeded to South Parking.

I was surprised to hear it was an aircraft. I expected to visibly see pieces of wing, fuselage or something when I ran past the Apex. Of course, at that impact and with all the fuel there was nothing to see, at least from my vantage point to the right of the impact zone.

We tried to find our remaining N4 front office staff in the parking lot but were only able to find YNCM Rieger. Our original muster location was unavailable since it was near the heliport.