

Sept 11 Recollections

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FMB/N82

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Time Line (Estimate)

0720 Arrived in the Pentagon Office RM 4D463

0915 Watching on TV the incident in New York

0930 Return to work desk

0938 Huge explosion, lights out, thick black smoke covered the office space

0940 Stood up, check the back office for any casualties

0945 Started evacuation of space

0947 Headed to the center of the building down to the courtyard

0950 Gathered in the courtyard

1000 Vadm Mc Ginn instructed all hands to leave the building except for essential emergency personnel.

1020 Evacuated the building thru the basement going to the south parking

Narrative.

I arrived at work that morning and started checking my email messages. Cdr Borrebach came in and asked me if I seen the news on TV about a plane hitting the World Trade Center. I said “No”, and he told me that it’s on CNN. I stood up and headed to the office space of FMBE where they have the TV. A couple of people are watching the TV and we saw the second plane hit the other WTC tower. We stood shock and just couldn’t believe what was happening. More people gathered around the TV and I decided to return to my desk. On my way to my desk, I saw Nicole Pelligrino and was visibly worried. She was worried about her friend working in the World Trade Center. I told her that I’m also worried the Pentagon might be hit next. She got upset and told me to stop thinking that way. I went back to my desk to send some email messages. Suddenly, there was this huge explosion and I saw a flash of light on my left side. The windows on Dick Reed’s and Janet Vernon’s office shattered, the office partition and part of the ceiling collapsed. There were thick smoke coming from the emergency exit door and sparks coming from the overhead. Somebody shouted to hide under the desk and I waited for a moment for any secondary explosion. I saw Mike Tracht; he was running from his office and shouting, “Let’s get out of here”. Dick Reed shouted for everybody to start evacuating the space. I saw John Riedel-Alvarez return to his desk to get some of his personal belongings. We both check the back office, the conference table for any casualties and headed out of the office. When we got out of the office there was thick black smoke coming from the E-ring. Everybody headed towards the escalator and some people were giving instructions to head towards the courtyard. In the courtyard, some groups started mustering their offices, a lot of people were visibly shock and hysterical.

A lot of people are using their cell phones but nobody seems to get good connection. I saw one male civilian coming out of the 4th corridor 2nd Floor, his clothes were torn, blood on his head and burn injuries on his back. People came in to help him down the stairs and he collapsed on the courtyard lawn. Somebody shouted that another plane is coming our way, there were minor confusion and tension and people worried about being in the building. Vadm Mc Ginn gathered everybody around and instructed for non-emergency personnel to evacuate the building. We headed out in orderly fashion using exit to South parking.