

[Received October 02, 2001]

This responds to the call for narrative accounts of the incident.

I am a DoD (non-Navy) civilian who works in Crystal Gateway North across the highway from the Pentagon.

At the time of the incident, I was sitting on a sofa facing the side window of my office. My view is of the side of the Pentagon farthest from the crash. I saw a fireball wash over the top of the Pentagon and heard the explosion. Initially I thought the power plant had exploded. I walked to my window and saw smoke that appeared to come from the center courtyard of the Pentagon.

I dialed Arlington County 911. I may have been the first 911 caller because the operator was somewhat incredulous when I said there was an explosion at the Pentagon. I had to repeat it and suggest she send fire trucks and ambulances. This may have been the first act to trigger an emergency response.

Mark Scher