

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

Capt Gary Hall
Capt Michael McDaniel
CDR Carol O'Hagan
YNCS(AW) Kathleen Wright

Interviewer's Organization:

Naval Historical Center
Naval Historical Center
Naval Historical Center
Naval Historical Center

Interviewee:

FN Gary Maples
AE3 Nathaniel Artist
AA Andre Devone
SN Jennifer Arment
AN Jeffrey Robey
EW3 Michael Bannat
AN Della Kobbe
MS3 Stephan Smith
SN Matthew Berube

Current Address:

Navy Ceremonial Guard
Anacostia Annex
Washington, DC

Date of Interview:

20 Mar 02

Place of Interview:

Anacostia Annex

Number of Cassettes:

One

Security Classification:

Unclassified

Name of Project: Pentagon Terrorist Attack Incident

Subject Terms/Key Words: Pentagon; Terrorist Attack; 11 September 2001; Eyewitness

Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information:

FA Maples was born in Scotland. His father is a Navy Captain and he was raised in Fort Meade, MD. He is 26 and needed a career change so he joined the Navy.

Nate Artist was born in Arizona and raised in Colorado. He joined the Navy to get money for college.

SN Kobbe is from ██████████, OR. She joined the Navy to have a career and go to college.

SN Berube is from New Jersey. He joined the Navy after spending four years in college, not getting very far, he decided to go see and do some things.

MS3 Smith was born and raised in ██████████, IL. He joined the Navy after going to military school and enjoying the military lifestyle.

SN Robey was born and raised in the Maryland, Washington, D.C. area. He joined the Navy to see the world and get money for college.

SN Arment is from South Dakota. She joined the Navy because she didn't know what to do when she graduated from high school.

SA Devone was born and raised in [REDACTED], NY. He joined the Navy after one year of college. He was playing baseball on a scholarship but his grades slipped. He joined the Navy to get some more discipline.

EW3 Bannat was born in [REDACTED], Japan. He is third generation Navy. His father is a retired Commander. He grew up all over the world. He joined the Navy to get money for college. He is 26 and tried college, but it didn't seem right for him when he was there. He joined the Navy to see what opportunities were available there.

Topics Discussed:

On 11 Sep they were detailed for several standard honors funeral that day in Arlington. They were scheduled for 5 or 6 funerals; it was going to be a busy day. Their first funeral was at 0900. They did that funeral. It was a beautiful day. The funeral was over at 0915. They got back on the bus to go to the building where the bathroom and geedunk machines were located. They were headed toward that building. FA Gary Maples called his wife on his cell phone and she told him what was happening in New York. He got off the phone and told everyone that a plane had just hit one of the buildings in New York. Everyone became silent and then tuned into the radio coverage on their walkmans. They were in shock.

Aaron Robey commented on whether someone could hijack a plane and get it to Washington, D.C. They speculated about what would happen with a hijacked plane in Washington, D.C. Aaron Robey mentioned the Pentagon. They were right across the street from the Pentagon at this time, 5 or 600 yards from the Pentagon. Some of them commented someone would never be able to get a plane close to the Pentagon. They argued about whether there were missile defenses around the White House. Some remembered the plane a few years ago that landed on the White House lawn.

Some of the Guardsmen were inside the building and some were outside. They could hear the plane. It sounded like the asteroids in the movies, a loud whistling sound. It kept getting closer. One person looked up and saw a plane flying in the air. He thought it was bizarre because it is restricted airspace around there. It didn't register. The plane was high up and not descending. He thought maybe it was a military transport plane.

A few minutes later the plane hit the Pentagon. They felt it. It hurt. The whole bus started rocking. You could also feel the heat. SN Arment was still in the building and she thought it had been a truck or the building had collapsed. She came outside and everyone started telling her about the explosion. At first she thought they were messing around.

They saw the plane hit. They felt the blast before they heard it. From the position where the bus was, by the building, the Pentagon is barely visible. They were on the bus and the bus started shaking. The heat blast came toward them and right through the bus. It was a very noticeable change in temperature.

SN Berube was sitting in the front of the bus listening to the radio and didn't see or hear it. His head was down. All of a sudden the bus lurched back. He felt an actual physical blast on his chest like someone had punched him. He looked out the window. They couldn't see the Pentagon through the trees that line the perimeter of the cemetery but he looked over the trees and saw a roiling fireball.

SN Kobbe describes the fireball as being all red and all black above it. It was huge. SN Maples says when the plane hit it felt like everything just stopped. He was looking at his cell phone and it said 9:37.

SN Berube was on the front of the bus and saw the fireball. He yelled at everybody to get off the bus. They all looked at him like he was crazy. He thought it would be better to get off the bus to see what was going on. There were some people outside. SN Berube ran across a few lots to see where the fire was coming from. He saw the Pentagon on fire and describes it as looking at the mouth of hell. There was fire and smoke billowing out of the Pentagon.

SN Kobbe remembers huge helicopters flying above them right afterwards. She thought they were being bombed.

SN Bannat got on the phone to their detailer's office to let them know what had happened. He told them they were coming back and not going to finish the sets for the day. An Army Staff Sergeant came up to them and told them to leave.

Some of them who had seen the plane thought it was a Navy plane. It was very high up and then it started to angle down sharply. When it actually hit it was hard to tell that it was a plane. They saw the shadow cover the bus and then they heard it. They are in Arlington everyday all day long and they know where the planes go. They know the traffic patterns of the planes and knew this was out of the ordinary.

Initially SN Bannat thought it was a flyover. It sounded like three F-16's going very fast. Right before the plane hit someone heard the noise difference sounding like the plane was ramping up. Someone saw the plane started to turn to the left a little.

SN Kobbe had a hard time believing this had happened and was anything more than an accident immediately after.

When they were on the bus going back to Anacostia it dawned on some of them that they knew people who were at the Pentagon. They couldn't get in touch with them because the cell phones were all down. One person who was killed was Petty Officer Moss, who had been the LPO for training for many of them. Many had never known anyone who had died other than of natural causes. One of their people who is in the Auxiliary Security Force for the Pentagon came back to the Ceremonial Guard that day and told them those Guardsmen in the Pentagon acting as tour guides made it out. He also told them no one had heard about Petty Officer Moss.

The bus raced out of Arlington Cemetery as fast as it could. They passed the Chaplain and the Arlington rep standing graveside for the next funeral they were scheduled to do. The Chaplain

and Arlington rep watched the bus go past them. A few weeks later they were told the family actually showed up for the funeral, but it had to be rescheduled. None of the funeral attendees knew what was happening until they got stuck in the traffic trying to get out.

When the Guardsmen got to Anacostia it took an hour to get in the gate, and they were only ten cars back. They had a person with them who was part of the Auxiliary Security Force (ASF) that had been recalled. The Guardsmen had their pieces with them in the belly of the bus and were surprised that they weren't checked. Security only checked their ID cards. The only reason they got on base was because they had this ASF person with them who had to get on the base because of the recall.

The Command mustered everyone on the hour, every hour in front of the barracks. Watch bills were stood up. The Command was worried because there was a plane rumored to be in the area.

SN Kobbe always thought Washington, D.C. was a safe place and now she's scared to be there. Others agree.

Their watches were posted at every door and window. They had to walk the whole river to make sure no one came up from there. They checked under vehicles, between buildings. They had 24 hours watches with four hours on and eight hours off. This lasted for 2 days. They sent the same team that had been at Arlington Cemetery out to do these watches. There was no break. They felt they were treated badly, and that no one really talked to them about the incident. A while later some Chaplains came to talk to them about the incident but they felt it was more of an interrogation.

They kept hearing that ET2 Moss was unaccounted for. One by one they began to realize it was inevitable that he wouldn't be found alive.

They did funerals 6 days a week for the first few weeks for the Pentagon victims. They also had to provide people to help the Coast Guard with their funerals. Morale was down for quite a while. They would fall out all day and then get back and do watches. They would perform ceremonies after only 8 hours off.

Some of them also did CACO duty driving the CACO team to visit the families. FA Maples volunteered to do this. It was hard to sit there and listen to spouses learn a terrorist had killed their husband or wife.

The Ceremonial Guard receives training to put on a façade regardless of what's going on.

They were told they could go to any of their khaki or LPO's if they needed to talk. Their team was back out in the cemetery two days later as if nothing had happened. It made SN Berube and some of the others upset that they weren't given a break to grieve and let things sink in. There was nothing to alleviate the pressure. Eventually SN Berube got numb.

They find that they watch the planes overhead closely now. They shut down Reagan Airport for a while and there were no planes for that period. When the planes started flying again it was eerie.

They were upset because ET2 Moss couldn't have an 87-man funeral because he was no longer in the Ceremonial Guard. An 87-man funeral is the highest funeral, which only the President and Vice President get. If a Ceremonial Guard member dies while in the guard they are also afforded this honor. They ended up all going to his funeral. They did a high carry with his casket and a dead step to show honor. They have a lot of anger over not being allowed to give full honors to him at his funeral.

The other funeral that stands out in SN Berube's mind is Capt Burlingame's funeral. He feels that any military or ex-military member killed in those attacks deserved full honors funerals. That funeral was the only one where SN Berube didn't feel the emotion because he felt the funeral was coerced and had too much controversy behind it. SN Berube is mad that Capt Burlingame got things ET2 Moss didn't at his funeral because his family knew people. He was supposed to get a flyover and was buried in an exclusive area of Arlington. There was a lot of media coverage, it was like a show.

FA Maples felt so much hate and wanted so much revenge after 11 Sep. Three days later he put his chit in to get out of the Guard and go to A" school. It is in his contract to go to BUDS (Basic Underwater Demolition School). His father and brother are a SEAL. He grew up in a military family. The whole group felt the need to go do something. They felt the watches they were standing were useless, as they had nothing to defend with should they come across a threat. When they weren't doing anything a lot of them volunteered to go to the Pentagon, but were told they didn't need any more help over there. They wanted to feel like they were doing something useful. Instead they felt like they were doing worthless things. Some of them have come to terms with these feelings of wanting to do something by realizing what an honorable thing they are doing in their current jobs. They are rendering honors for people who have passed. All the families of those people will remember this. 11 Sep has helped them realize how honorable a thing they do.

SN Berube trains the newer guardsmen now. He uses his experience on 11 Sep to help instill in them the honor and pride they should have in doing their jobs.

FA Maples is planning to leave the Ceremonial Guard in one year and go to BUDS training. Nate Artist is planning to leave the Guard in about 6 months to for Pensacola to go to Avionics Electronics "A" School. SN Kobbe has another year with the Guard, and then she plans to go to Corpsman "A" school. She wants to be a Pediatrician. SN Berube has another year left in the Guard. He is contracted to go to Sonar Technician "A" school but wants to change that to something else. MS3 Smith has about 6 months left at the Guard. He will go to MS school at Lackland, AFB after this tour. SN Robey was in an accident in December and is due to go to Bethesda for a medical review board. After that he will go to Pensacola for Avionics Technician "A" School. SN Arment is due to rotate in August and plans to go to Cryptologic Technician "A" School. She hopes to then be a computer technician or electrician in the civilian world.

EW3 Bannat has another year in the Guard. He will then go to Electronics Warfare or Cryptologic Technician "A" School. He plans to stay in the Navy for life.

Abstracted by:
CDR Carol O'Hagan
22 Mar 02

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

Capt Gary Hall
Capt Michael McDaniel
CDR Carol O'Hagan
YNCS(AW) Kathleen Wright

Interviewer's Organization:

Naval Historical Center
Naval Historical Center
Naval Historical Center
Naval Historical Center

Interviewee:

FA Gary Maples
Nathaniel Artist (E-4)
SA Andre Devone
SN Jennifer Arment
SN Jeffrey Robey
EW3 Michael Bannat
SN Della Kobbe
MS3 Stephan Smith
SN Matthew Berube

Current Address:

Navy Ceremonial Guard
Anacostia Annex
Washington, DC

Date of Interview:

20 Mar 02

Place of Interview:

Anacostia Annex

Number of Cassettes:

One

Security Classification:

Unclassified

Name of Project: Pentagon Terrorist Attack Incident

Subject Terms/Key Words: Eyewitness, Navy Ceremonial Guard, Petty Officer Moss, Pentagon; Terrorist Attack; 11 September 2001

Transcript of Interview:

Interviewee Information:

FA Maples was born in Scotland. His father is a Navy Captain and he was raised in Fort Meade, MD. He is 26 and needed a career change so he joined the Navy.

Nate Artist was born in Arizona and raised in Colorado. He joined the Navy to get money for college.

SN Kobbe is from ██████████, OR. She joined the Navy to have a career and go to college.

SN Berube is from New Jersey. He joined the Navy after spending four years in college, not getting very far, he decided to go see and do some things.

MS3 Smith was born and raised in ██████████, IL. He joined the Navy after going to military school and enjoying the military lifestyle.

SN Robey was born and raised in the Maryland, Washington, D.C. area. He joined the Navy to see the world and get money for college.

SN Arment is from South Dakota. She joined the Navy because she didn't know what to do when she graduated from high school.

SA Devone was born and raised in ██████████, NY. He joined the Navy after one year of college. He was playing baseball on a scholarship but his grades slipped. He joined the Navy to get some more discipline.

EW3 Bannat was born in ██████████, Japan. He is third generation Navy. His father is a retired Commander. He grew up all over the world. He joined the Navy to get money for college. He is 26 and tried college, but it didn't seem right for him when he was there. He joined the Navy to see what opportunities were available there.

Topics Discussed:

Q. (03:54) I guess what I like to do is start with the morning of September 11th. Would somebody start off and tell us maybe where you were. What you were doing at that point, and then we'll kind of let it go from there.

A. (04:08) (Matthew Berube) We were in Arlington Cemetery and everybody in this room was detailed for several standard honors funerals that day in Arlington. I think we had like five or six. Looking to be a pretty busy day. We were just out in the cemetery. The first funeral I believe was at nine o'clock and we went out there and did that funeral, and I just remember it being a really, really beautiful day. I actually went out there, I said to myself, I remember this particularly, that it was a real great day to be out in the cemetery. I mean if you had to pick one to be out there all day long, that would have been the day. It was gorgeous out.

We were out there nine o'clock in the morning, finished the funeral pretty early I guess. About 9:15 or so. It wasn't, they don't take very long. We finished that funeral and got back on the bus

and we—there's a building in one part of the cemetery that we go to. They've got geedunk machines and bathrooms and everything, and you can smoke there. So we were headed over to that, that building and Gary called his wife on the phone and she told him, I guess she was watching TV and she told him what happened in New York.

We were just all sitting there kind of BSing and he got off the phone and kind of interrupted everybody and said, "Hey," you know, "A plane just hit one of the buildings in New York. They think it was a hijacked plane and it hit the building."

I remember I was sitting behind the driver, very first seat behind the driver up front and I wasn't, I didn't hear him at first you know. I mean I heard him, but it didn't register what he said, and being from New Jersey, the World Trade Center was very close. I only live about twenty minutes from Manhattan and I can see the World Trade Center you know, as I drive up and down the Garden State Parkway and what not.

It didn't register, and then all of a sudden I realized that he said that you know, a plane flew into the Pentagon. I don't remember if he said one or two, but I remember he remarked, that you know, on what happened and I turned around and I was like, "What are you saying?" He repeated himself, and everybody just kind of like went silent for a second. Went dead, and most of us had Walkman's or radios or something and pretty much after that we all just tuned into whatever radio station we could pick up that was covering it. The bus driver had the radio on and we were all listening to the coverage and we got over to the building and we were sitting there listening and I think you know, all of us were in shock at what was going on.

I know I couldn't believe you know, that they had actually crashed the plane into the Pentagon, or not into the Pentagon, into the World Trade Center, or two planes into the World Trade Center.

Q. (07:32) At that point had it been one, or did you hear the second one, -

A. (07:36) (Gary Maples) I was on the phone with her for a second when she told me about the first one, on the phone with her when the second hit, so I was telling MATT and everybody about the planes.

Q. (07:49) What were some of the other reactions, anyone?

A. Well actually ROBEY brought up, "Well if that's a hijacked plane, do you think that they could come here to D.C.?" And we're all arguing about if they could actually get a plane into DC area and what would happen. Not even five minutes later, not even five minutes later.

A. (?) (08:05) He had actually said, he actually said the Pentagon, too.

A. (?) He said, I'll go leap, -

A. (08:14 (Female) And the side that hit, too, we were right across the side of the building.

A. (Matthew Berube) Yeah, that building's five, six hundred yards from the Pentagon. I think even somebody, we were like, "No," you know, "You'd never be able to get it that close, " you know, to DC, to the White House, the Pentagon you know, with a plane just because of the security and whatnot.

A. (?) Because we were arguing about defenses. If we had the missile defenses actually anywhere around the White House.

A. (?) Right.

A. (?) Because back a couple of years ago when that one plane hit the White House you know, we brought that up. So we were all talking about that.

A. (08:52) (Matthew Berube) So we got to that building. We were all sitting there. Some people had gone to the building. Think you and some other people were standing outside.

A. (?) Actually the Bearers were out practicing cold.

A. (Matthews Berube) Yeah.

A. (?) I was standing out there talking to GENERAL MOODISH (phonetic), and everybody. You could hear it come.

Q. (09:11) What did it sound like?

A. It was going (Note from typist: put your tongue to the top of your mouth and blow from the throat, you'll get a similar sound).

A. (?) It sounded almost, almost sounded like in the movies when you hear meteors or spheroids coming down. It almost kind of had this really loud whistling sound.

A. (?) (9:27) He was going (can't duplicate that sound.)

A. (?) Just kept getting closer, because I remember, I remember when I was out there, because I was to go, (____ Inaudible 09:34) here, and I was coming back and I remember looking up and seeing a plane flying in the air, and I remember thinking that it was bizarre because it's restricted air space around there, but it didn't register. I mean, it was really high up. It wasn't you know, it wasn't coming down or anything at the time. But I remember seeing – I just thought it might have been like a military transport plane you know, flying to Andrews or coming in somewhere else, or maybe over at Bolling (phonetic). Just a couple of minutes later is when we, I guess actually hit and we felt it kind of –

A. (?) (10:06) I've been in an earthquake before.

A. (?) I kind of image, I mean the whole bus just started rocking.

A. (10:14) (Female A) You can feel the heat also.

A. (10:15) Following upon that, there was the heat blast.

A. (Female B) I was down in the building. I thought like a truck, I thought the building collapsed all the way. I was down in the basement. I was like, I thought like a truck ran into the building or something.

Q. (10:28) The building you were in.

A. (10:26) (Female B) Yeah, I thought it was going to cave in.

Q. (10:29) So what did you do? Did you run out the door?

A. I came outside and everyone's like, "Get on the bus! Get on the bus!"

I'm like, I thought they were just messing around, because we were late for this set. I'm like "Shut up." you're going to break, you know like, and I thought, it kind of got out of my mind, because I wasn't I don't know.

A. (10:47) (Gary Maples) We saw the plane actually hit, but we felt it before we heard it. We felt the blast before we heard it.

A. (10:55) Because of where, the position of where the bus was in the building, you can just barely see the Pentagon from where we were, the vantage point we were at, and like Gary was saying, we felt it before anything else and then the heat wave. I remember I was standing on the bus, kind of, I think I was right behind you actually, and the bus just started you know, shaking and then the heat blast just came toward us and came right into the bus. I mean it was definite, I mean it was September so it was still kind of warm, but it was just a very noticeable change in temperature from that, and just you know, the wind and the heat and everything else.

A. (?) I remember I was sitting in the front of the bus, right behind the driver and I had my head down. I was listening to the radio and I didn't see it or hear it or anything like that because I had

my radio on. All of a sudden the bus, like he said, just lurched back and you felt an actual physical blast on your chest like it you know, like just, like somebody just punched me right in the chest and that's when I looked out the window. I was like, "What in the hell was that," you know and I looked out the window. Like you said, you can't really see the Pentagon from where you're at. Especially in the summer because there's trees that line the perimeter of the cemetery. I looked out and over the trees there's just a roiling fireball just coming out of the –

A. (12:19) (Female) They're like, "Get out of the bus. Get out" I just thought they were messing around. This can't be happening you know, because we were just talking about like, it's impossible you know, no one could ever get to DC. Like, holy crap they were so wrong.

Q. Describe that there was a fireball and smoke, or?

A. (12:38) There was, yeah, there was a fire –

A. (12:37) (Female) The whole side was covered in black. There was like all red and then it was all black above it, and it was a huge – I've never seen something like that before.

A. (?) (12:47) It seemed like when it hit, it felt like everything just stopped. Other people were in the cemetery and everybody just looked around like time stopped. Just like in a movie pretty much.

Q. (12:59) Anybody remember looking at their watch? What time –?

A. (13:03) Seven something, wasn't it, 9:30 or something.

A. (13:05) I don't remember looking at my watch, I just remember –

A. (?) It was before 10.

A. (?) It was 9:37, because I was looking at my cell phone. It was 9:36. I looked at it. And this Army Staff Sergeant came running down and told us to leave, but two people came running, ran off.

A. (13:18) Like I said, I was in the front of the bus and everybody came running to the front of the bus and I looked out and saw the fireball and everything and I yelled at everybody to get off the bus and they all looked at me like, “What the fuck you talking about, get off the bus?” I'm like, “Get off the bus,” because I thought if this is an attack who knows what it is you know. I don't want to be on a bus where I can't move you know, so I figured it would be best at least if we could see what was going on. So I got off the bus and there was some people outside and we were standing there and me and another guy, like I said, we couldn't see the Pentagon so we both ran like across a couple of lots so that we could see. And I ran across as soon as I could see that it was the Pentagon, I just froze. I was standing there, and I mean it was like, it was looking at the mouth of hell. I mean it was just you know, fire and smoke billowing out of it. It was I mean it was pretty –

A. (?) (14:21) Have you ever seen that movie, like a comet, where the comet's getting ready to hit and everybody sits there and watches it. That's pretty much what it was like afterwards.

Everybody's sitting there amazing like, "What'll we do?"

Q. (14:31) Did you know that it was the plane that you had heard?

A. (14:35) (Female) Actually, no, because right after it happened, huge helicopters started like flying above us and so I thought we were getting bombed, because you just saw these helicopters and you couldn't see what it was. It didn't say Navy or military or anything so we just all thought we were getting under attack.

A. (?) (14:51) I got on the phone to our details office and let them know that one, that something happened in the Pentagon here. Something flew into it. There was an explosion, either it was bombed or something was dropped on it, or something ran into it, or whatever, and I said that we were coming back. We weren't going to stay and finish our sets that we had for the day.

My phone went out and then they called back and the person on the other end said, "Now, right now tell me exactly what happened."

I said, "I don't know what happened, but there's flames and smoke coming from the Pentagon. We're at the smoke, federal maintenance building, rather. We're coming home." And at that point, literally I think is when the government froze all satellite communications and we were unable to use our cell phones anymore, because that was pretty much the last word that we had gotten to hear, and I don't even think they even knew about here, until, because nobody had called.

A. (?) (15:41) Right, because we told them it was a commercial plane, because it was so close.

Q. (15:49) What time was it that you called? Do you remember?

A. (15:48) It was -

A. (15:49) (Female) Right after that.

A. (15:50) It was shortly after.

Q. (15:52) Like a minute or two?

A. (Gary Maples) It was really only -

A. I think it was more about five, because you went out running, you and Thomas went off running and then we were trying, we had basically decided that we were going to leave and then while we were ushering people back, or trying to get people back on the bus I guess it was either a Staff Sergeant or First Sergeant of the Army was running -

A. (16:06) Staff sergeant.

A. was running, was running through Arlington in his PT gear and stuff, and he came up to us and you know, gave us his name and said, "You guys are out of here. Go back. If anybody gives you any hard time, just tell them that Staff Sergeant or Sergeant First Class -

A. (16:23) Harris.

A. I can't even remember his name now.

A. (16:23) It was Harris, wasn't it?

A. (16:25) Yeah Harris, Harris.

A. Told you to, told you to get out of the bone yard, and at that point we got back on and that's when I made the phone call. So it must have been about five minutes after the initial – we didn't realize that something had happened.

A. (16:38) (Female) I don't think it would have been quite so intense other than the fact that the Trade Towers just got hit. Like I mean there's so many planes, so many things that go on in DC. I mean it's likely that once in a blue moon something's going to happen. It's going to hit something important. But just the fact that those two planes had already crashed there you know, we're like, just sure it was terrorists. We didn't know what else, we didn't know what to expect, because we were just discussing how impossible it was. All of a sudden it happened. We're like "Oh my God, what's going to happen to us now?" We were discussing how safe we were and how impossible it was and –

A. (17: 11) RAMOS (phonetic) was calling it a Navy plane. Remember that. RAMOS was like, "What's that Navy plane doing?" Because it was so, it wasn't –

A. (17:17) (Female) So low.

A. Right.

A. (17:19) It was so low, I remember seeing it.

Q. (17:22) Tell us about, about the flight path of that plane.

A. (17:23) Two things, at first he was kind of, not high high, but then he started to come down like this, such a steep angle, like EW-3 Bannat said.

A. (17:32) The reason why RAMOS thought it was a Navy plane was because when all of us got off the bus after Berube told us to, and we looked up, there was a US NAVY plane flying around up there.

A. (17:42) Circling around us.

A. So we were like OK what happened.

A. (17:43) But he was calling it a Navy plane, before, he's like "What's that Navy plane doing?" And we're like, "what are you talking about?" and then that's when you heard the wind –

Q. (17:50) Was it on final when you saw it, when you heard it or did it -?

A. (17:54) (Female) -You couldn't tell 'til it, when it actually hit. You couldn't tell it was a plane. Just saw like a figure kind of like going towards it. You couldn't. So that's why like I thought it was a missile or something, because that's all you can see is this thing coming toward it.

A. We saw the plane coming down.

A. (18:07) We saw the shadow.

A. (18:10) (Female) Yeah.

A. Right wing.

A. On the bus we saw a shadow just cover the bus, and then you heard –

A. (18:12) It happened so fast it was like, “Is that some missile or what happened?”

Q. (18:15) So it kind of flew over you –

A. (Female) No, it – because I looked out the window and I saw it.

A. (18:22) The shadow was over us.

A. (18:25) It's only, the Pentagon was what, a couple hundred yards away from us. Two hundred yards maybe.

A. female (_____ Inaudible 18:26)

Q. (18:28) Was right across from you, the Navy Annex?

A. Yes, right there.

Q. OK, so, because we know it went right over the Navy Annex almost.

A. (18:36) Well that's, the Navy Annex is 50 yards, a hundred yards away from us.

A. (Female) Like we're there, we're there everyday, all day like. Like a plane going there, we know where the planes go. We, you know, we'd be standing perfectly still for hours in a day watching the planes and we would know where a plane isn't ever—you know.

A. (18:54) Where it's supposed to have gone.

A. (18:56) (Female) We know the traffic patterns of the plane, you know, certain places in the cemetery the planes always fly over. You would know something out of the ordinary. We're there so much. That was definitely not normal.

A. (19:08) I remember thinking initially when the bus started shaking from the blast, I thought that, because sometimes the Arlington, for honors they'll have fly-oversee and I just thought at

first, honestly, that it was just a fly-over and I've never been in Arlington for a fly-over so I thought it was kind of cool.

A. (19:21) It sounded like three F16s right then, flying over.

A. (19:23) Yeah, it was coming down super low, super fast.

A. (19:26) Really, Really fast. That's what it sounds like. Real (makes a noise).

Q. (19:28) There was only one. You only saw one. Sounded like three, but it was –

A. Only one.

A. (19:32) Everything was, but it felt like actually it was so high up that you actually could feel like you know when a plane's really low, "Hey, I can feel, I can touch that." Then you know, because that's why RAMOS, "Why is that Navy plane flying so low? Why is it flying so low?" Which we know went right through the trees, like because the smoke shack, we look out the smoke shack and then you've got some trees to the left and that's where it hit, right there. You know it just happened to hit right there. Right by the trees.

Q. (19:58) How fast was it going would you think?

A. (20:00) It seemed like it came down full speed.

A. (20:02) (Female) It was going really fast then.

Q. (20:004) Did you hear it accelerate?

A. I remember you told me that, yeah.

A. (20:06) It was going full speed.

A. You told me right before it hit, you heard it like ramp up the speed.

A. Yeah, because you could hear it going (Sucks in breath) and then you just, you could hear the noise difference. Just, I mean I can't even explain it.

Q. (20:19) Did you notice anything about the wings?

A. They were, the left, it started turning like this. It was turned, like, except we're looking at it to the left a little bit. So facing us, so we can see the top part of the left wing, coming in. So it looked like he was kind of like angling in to make sure he hit a certain part of the Pentagon.

Q. (20:44) OK.

A. (Female) Even seeing all this happen, I still couldn't believe it happened. It's like, even when MAPLES called his wife and I was thinking that the World Trade Center was hit, I still couldn't believe it. I was like that didn't happen. It was probably you know, I didn't know what it was, but I just didn't believe it happened. Even after seeing it happen, I just couldn't believe that it was terrorism. I just kept thinking it was probably an accident, even though that's, how can that be an accident, but still it's hard to believe that someone can do something so horrible and effect

so many people's lives and not even feeling bad about it. You know, not even having any second thought about doing it.

A. (21:19) That's the thing whenever I watch, I watch "Dateline" all the time and "20/20" you know and then right after it happened I was like, "Man, I actually saw that happen." And then they have like, we did a couple of ceremonies for elementary school kids over here where the three elementary school kids got killed on the plane, the sixth graders had, we did a ceremony for their elementary school. So it was really weird doing a ceremony for the three young children who were killed on that plane, knowing, man, we actually saw that plane hit the Pentagon where these three young children were killed. So it was really, it was hard to do that, too, you know, talking to the kids friends and you know, listening to them on "Dateline" talking about it. I mean, because actually one of the kid's fathers was a Chief over at the Pentagon. You know I watch him on – he lives over in Bellevue housing. I remember that and I was like Man, you know.

Q. (22:06) CHIEF BROWN, I believe.

A. (22:12) I remember when we were coming back from working at the Pentagon, because we have probably about six or seven people that work over there. Still do as tour guides over there at the Pentagon. I remember when we were coming back, I think I was talking to you and ROBEY, and it just kind of dawned, I don't know if anybody had thought of it up to that point, I don't remember anybody saying anything, but that we had you know, people that we knew over there and that we, we couldn't even talk to them because the cell phones were all down.

That I think, for me was the first time that it really started to sink in that not only did that hit close to home, but it hit so close that the fact that people that I knew, the people that were my

friends, I went through training with here, could have been in there. That Petty Officer who passed, PETTY OFFICER MOSS, he was the LPO for training when I was here. And I've never known anybody that's died outside of old age, natural causes or whatever and this is the first time.

I remember talking and went, "Holy shit," you know, "We don't know if they're," you know, "in there. We don't know if they were able to get out." You know we have no way of knowing anything about them for the next couples of days. And it just so happened that one of the guys is a ASF he was on the Auxiliary Security Force here on base. He just happened to be coming back from the Pentagon. He was off duty that day and it was him and one of my last training (_____ Inaudible 23:40) he was in a car with him and he told us that for the most part all of the tour guides that we supplied made it out and none of them were hurt, but BRIAN MOSS, nobody knew, nobody knew where he was even then. But they were pretty sure that he was in the building when the plane hit.

Q. (24:03) Take us—once the Sergeant told you to leave what happened? Did everybody get on the bus, and -?

A. (?) We got back on the bus, and –

A (24:09) (Matthew Berube) Myself and that other guy THOMAS, we were standing over you know, across the way and I remember him yelling, and we turned around, and he's really what kind of snapped me out of it. I turned around and he's like, "Get back on the bus! Come on!"

A. So we hauled ass back to the bus and everybody jumped on and I mean we beat it out of Arlington Cemetery and you know as fast as we could with –

A. (?) Traffic.

A. (?) Traffic

(everyone's talking at once)

A. (24:38) (Matthew Berube) Yeah, it was like everything just flooded out into the street. You know, everybody was –

A. (?) (24:42) People were out of cars too, running.

A. (Female) Yeah.

A. (?) I wouldn't say it was funny, but it was humorous in a sense, because as we're you know, we're hauling ass out of there, everybody was, but we're leaving out of there. And on our right hand side of the particular road we're on you see the Chaplain, the Arlington lady rep, and the Arlington lady for the next funeral we're about to do and they're standing graveside and I don't even know if they were –

A. (25:06) (Female) They didn't even know.

A. - were even conscious that something had happened.

A. That it happened.

A. You know they see the bus go by, and think—they were expecting us to get off, and we just kind of kept going and I remember looking back, because we were on a bus that the windows wouldn't open and I remember looking back and they just kind of you know, did one of these as the bus shot pass us.

When we were talking to the Chaplain a couple of weeks later, and he said, that it was just you know, the family had actually showed up for it, and you know of course there were no bearers to do the flag part so they couldn't do anything with the casket so I guess it got rescheduled later on.

But they didn't even know about it until they got back and they got caught in all the traffic, that everybody else didn't get caught in. For some reason we just decided to get out of there at the right time and we actually didn't hit traffic until we were trying to get on the Bolling AFB.

A. (25:52) (Matthew Berube) Yeah it took us probably about an hour just to get in the gate.

A. (25:58) Yeah, we got there really like maybe ten cars back and sat there forever.

A. We, we had SENICAL (phonetic) with us.

A. (Female) Yeah, that's the only reason we even got on base, because we had a security person.

A. Yeah, because they weren't letting anybody on, and then they had the guy that was trained you know, to help them out, so he let us on the base.

A. (26:14) He called the auxiliary security force right in there.

A. They got recalled and you know, I remember it was really bizarre because we had our pieces with us and granted we fire blanks, but they're still pretty much considered to be live weapons, and –

A. They didn't check the bottom.

A. (26:26) They didn't check the bottom, you know. They checked our ID cards.

A. (26:32) (Female) We had seven and one hundred, seven reckles (phonetic) on his left, they didn't even –

A. Right, and they didn't even check 'em. But like Stephan was saying, the only reason we got on base was because we had somebody that was recalled for ASF, and we had to go, and I think actually DOBBIN (phonetic) or SUBICHECK (phonetic) ended up getting on our bus, too.

A. (26:50) (Matthew Berube) Yeah.

A. (Female) Yeah, yeah he didn't have.

A. DOBBINS was going back to the Pentagon.

A. Right, he went back and so'd SUBICHECK (phonetic), they pretty much, people in the Pentagon obviously when it happened, they just hightailed it out of there as fast as possible, and I guess he was changing in the locker room and didn't have time to grab his ID, so we kind of ran into a little bit of a bump trying to get him on without an ID.

But I just thought it very bizarre after just that had happened that they didn't even bother to, and they had the dogs out there too, but they didn't even bother to inspect our bus, and we told them point blank that we had those pieces underneath the you know, the belly, and they just went through and looked at our T-card and said, "All right, come on on."

Then we just came back to the building and were keeping our pieces because the armory was so busy –

A. (27:33) (Female) The armory was like –

A. -was so busy with ASF people passing out weapons and everything else like that that we just came back here.

Q. (27:41) So what happened the rest of that day?

A. The command mustered up everybody.

A. Everybody on the hour, we mustered up.

A. (27:51) Yeah, we had to check in in front of our barracks, and then they got watch bills set up at different duty sections and stuff.

A. (Female) Everybody stands four hours of watch.

A. There were still planes that were missing.

A. (Female) Twenty-four hours –

A. Female – four hours on, 8 hours off.

Q. Was this because the plane in Pennsylvania hadn't gone down yet?

A. That's why. There's was a plane that was rumored was in the area still that they didn't know what it was, so they were like, "Oh well," and we had the White House Communications building over here at DIA, so they were worried about that, so we did some watches.

A. (Female) It's so weird because you always think like, I always thought DC was like a safe place, because there's so, you know, the President lives here so it seems like they'd have so much extra stuff to make it safer, and then. That's the last thing I was thinking, "This is a safe place." Then all this happened and all this happened and now I was like scared to be here. I didn't want to be here anymore. I thought like this is the worst place to be ever. Such a big change you know, thinking you're safe and then to think you're in the worst spot.

Q. (28:47) What kind of watches were you standing?

A. (Female) Every watch.

A. Every door, in the –

A. Female Everything, windows, everything.

A. Every exit, everything.

A. (Female) The whole river. We had to walk along the whole river to make sure no one came up from there, it was just a –

A. We had people walking around checking under vehicles.

A. (29:03) (Female) Between buildings, everywhere you can think of.

A. Everywhere.

A. Like bags in the parking lot, anything.

Q. (29:09) Really.

A. (Female) We had four hours on, eight hours off.

A. (Female) Twenty-four hour watches like every four hours around the clock.

A. (Female) Stand four hours watch and get off for eight hours.

A. (29:16) Funerals, because of the funeral, like all ceremonies were –

A. (Female) Cancelled.

A. Until the next day.

A. With everybody doing the watches.

A. No, two days.

A. Yeah, it was two days.

A. It was two days, and then I think all of the same team was out there.

A. All of us have known.

A. I think that was, actually that was one of the thing that was brought up afterwards when they had, we'd gotten the other – I think it was one of the chaplains and they wanted –

A. Yeah, two chaplains came in.

A. They wanted to talk to us to find out just mentally how we were dealing with the whole thing and that was one of the things that was brought up that I really agreed with, was the fact that it happened, and then two days later you know, like you said, the same team, you know we were out there.

A. Yeah, the same team was out -

A. I mean there was no, I don't want to say break, because I know it's our job, but it was like we hadn't even skipped a beat and nobody had, nobody come up to me I know, to find out how I was doing or anything like that.

A. Nobody asked me.

A. (30:06) I don't think anybody did that to anybody else. It was just like they just threw us right back out there again, and it was really, really I won't say impersonal, but I felt that I was treated kind of crappy, because of it.

A. It was actually still smoking.

A. (30:22) (Female) Uh huh, it was smoking. Yeah.

A. It was still smoking.

A. (30:26) You could see it. You guys could see the smoke, too.

A. From here.

A. From here.

A. You look out over the levy and you see the smoke, just a column of it, just, and you knew exactly what you're looking at and exactly where it was.

A. (Female) (30:39) In our case we knew what happened.

A. But it's weird, I was like, when I would go, a couple days afterwards, every time, I'm not saying have nightmares, but you close your eyes and just wonder what really happened.

A. (30:48) (Female) I'm having nightmares.

A. That really just happened here, and you're sitting there, same when I was talking to my wife and I was you know just like, "Man, I can't believe that that just happened there." And then when it came to ET2, you know. ET2 at quarters, said he was missing.

Q. (31:04) When did you find out about that?

A. (Female) Not 'til like a week.

A. They didn't tell us about ET2 until three days later.

A. (31:11) (Matthew Berube) Well, he, yeah, -

A. Because they didn't want to say he was, they just said he –

A. (Matthew Berube) Yeah they came out with the preliminary numbers and every thing and they didn't say that these people are dead. They just said that they are unaccounted for and he was always unaccounted for. So we kind of had it in our head and a lot of the people that were close to him around here were like, "No, No, he's just unaccounted for," you know. I remember certain people like I said were close to him kept saying that and I'm like, I'm thinking to myself, "He's dead," like you know, and they keep, and I kept like wondering, or, or feeling sorry for them because it was like they were admitting it to themselves you know. He's dead.

A. (31:55) It wasn't realistic.

A. Yeah, it wasn't really.

A. A week, a week and a half would go by and he's unaccounted for, and I mean you just know that it's impossible for, that for him—it was a point where unaccounted for just meant that to me anyway that they knew that he was dead. They just didn't, they hadn't found the body yet, is

really what that started to mean to me. After a while, it's physically there's no way that you know, even if you didn't have any injuries, you know ten days, fourteen days without food, water or anything and you kept hearing about how, they were so, the rescue efforts were really slowed down by the fact that they had to remove the rubble, which they were afraid of it, you know, the rubble falling in on itself and making it even worse.

The more drawn out it seemed the more inevitable it was that day they weren't going to find him alive. Maybe not find him at all.

A. (32:51) Then we're doing everybody's funerals.

A. Yeah, we were busy, man.

A. We did a lot of them. We did all of them.

A. (Female) We did six days a week for a long time.

A. Funerals just piling up.

A. Six days a week for at least the first couple of weeks, after words, a lot of full honors.

A. Lot of, even then a lot of standards to do for a couple weeks.

A. That's another (___ Inaudible 32:60) for Guard, too, because I don't know the number of how many they lost, but I do remember seeing that we would have to provide sometimes firing party, sometimes body bearers. Sometimes both.

A. (33:25) Sometimes even troops for Coast Guard because they were bogged down with other commitments, not that they weren't going to be able to staff it, but they wanted to render the appropriate honors to whatever individual had passed on. We covered some of their work there for a while, too.

A. I think morale was down for quite a while, not only because what had happened and you know, losing one of our own, I mean. I didn't even think ET2 Moss was over there for a month.

A. (33:51) No he wasn't.

A. (Female) And he just got put back into that wing. He hadn't even been working there. They were renovating, and they just moved him back in there like just really earlier, the week before that. He hadn't even been working in the area for a long time.

A. (34:07) So we had the fallouts. We had, we were falling out all day, and then when you get back, you've got the watches.

A. (Female) Everyone was so tired everyday.

A. Everybody was exhausted, and morale was low.

A. We did ceremonies then had only eight hours off.

A. (Female) Can't leave base, the first four days. We were stuck on base.

A. I didn't go home.

A Yeah, the base was locked down. Nobody on and nobody off.

A. (Female) It was my birthday, can't leave.

A. Lot of us did CACO duty, driving like the officers and the Chiefs, you know, to visit the families and that was – I did one where, was a Lieutenant Commander, where I took our Lieutenant over there to see his family. That was really hard, just sitting there listening to his wife cry and just talk. That was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. Just sit there and listen to a wife, of somebody who just passed away got killed by a terrorist. That was tough. A lot of us did that and –

Q. Was that volunteered, or did you get assigned that?

A. (35:09) (Female) It was both.

A. I volunteered for it. I saw somebody like Senior Butler he was telling me he did it. I said, "I wouldn't mind doing that." I went to OS3 and he's gone now. I asked him if I could do it. He put me on it. I enjoyed doing what I did. I enjoyed driving and just liked meeting the different people, but it was hard listening to the families.

A. (35:35) (Female) Especially when, that's all we'd do all day long, and then in this particular, I'll tell you half of us have handed flags to the widows and things like that, and even people that have been killed in planes and whatever, but this is so much more of an impact.

A. Especially since we say it. That's another reason, since we saw it, because she asked me, you know, If I had seen it, and I didn't want to tell her no, or yes, I just said, "Well a lot of us saw the fire." I didn't want to sit there and get into it, because –

A. I'll tell you what too, that CACO driver doing that, funny you mentioned Butler, because that messed him up for a while. He was one of the first people that they asked to CACO drive, and that was pretty much all he did. I mean he didn't stand watch, but then again they were off at all hours of the night.

A. Yeah, I did forty hours straight.

A. And, so he pretty much didn't have the watch with the rest of us. But I remember at the end of that week was, because we'd been, we'd been, the base had been locked down all that week, and I think that Friday or that Saturday, they kind of let us go. We were all getting cabin fever

so to speak, and you know they said, “Go ahead, go out. Make sure, if you go out you have somebody that has a cell phone and a recall number and just keep a low profile. Don’t call attention to yourself being in the military and stuff like that.

I went out with, a lot of people actually, Butler, Tim Butler was there. And he was just talking about CACO and you know just like you’re saying being with the families was hard, and it just, it messed him up for a while.

I was glad, I wasn’t picked to do, that’s for damn sure, because I don’t think I’d be able to stand tight, so to speak to do all that, and talk to the families and sharing their grief.

A. (37:18) It’s not even, it’s what they would say about them. That’s what got me. It’s not, even, a couple of them they were talking about them in like past tense and that was really – I don’t know. I don’t know what I would do.

Q. (37:32) Do you all get any training or help with, beyond this sort of situations. I mean their not the, normally they’re to CACO, but even the whole funeral thing, that’s not part of your training?

A. No, the training we get is training that allows us to kind of put on a façade regardless of what we’re feeling, and

A. Separate our emotions from the world no matter what.

.

A. (38:00) And I mean, you know, a lot of, like when I tell people what I do, you know, especially I guess probably this would be the best group to ask, because we do funerals all the

time. That's pretty much what we do all the time. And people say, "Oh, doesn't it get morbid, you know, or doesn't that get depressing?" and

I say, "No, honestly, " you know, "going out and just doing a funeral, you know. I love doing my job.

A. (38:21) (Female) It's pretty easy.

A. They don't, people think well you know, but it's from the training that we get that we go out there. We're pretty much, you know, sometimes, sometimes the funeral does you know for one reason or another, if it's a widow who's extremely emotional that usually gets me, but it's, it doesn't show, you know, it doesn't show.

A. It can't.

A. Even if it does, I remember the first time I gave away a flag, you know, I dropped down on one knee, you know, you have this speech and you know that you have to stand tight or present it tight and you don't waiver, you just you know, "On behalf of the President of the United States, a grateful nation, and a proud Navy," and as soon as I dropped down, I didn't plan on looking her in the eye. I was trying to look at her forehead or the top of her head, and she was just a little shorter than I thought she was and I ended up looking her right in the eye, and she just started crying and I mean I started crying at it. But I don't think, like standing tight is not, is not saying that you can't cry or that you can't get emotional. I mean you do your best not to, but we're all human. It happens, but the aspect of our training is that you don't sit there and you know, wipe

your tears away, or you know wipe the snot away, of you've got snot running down your nose and tears coming down your eyes, you take care of it on the bus. You don't do it in front of the family. You maintain –

A. Carry on.

A. (39:44) (Female) You can, you can be very emotional though.

A. Military bearing and that prestige and that honor that your displaying, you don't ruin that or negate that by you know trying to take care of your own personal needs at the time, because there's going to be time for that later. That's really all the training we get, is just stand tight and-

Q. (40:00) what about, was there any special counseling or assistance offered to you because this was different?

A. Well they said that they had people, you know, they said, yes, you can come to anybody, any of the khakis or LPOs, but they didn't have any, like first of all like he said and this is my, honestly I had a gripe. I had a big problem with it that, what was it the very next day or two days later?

A. Two days later.

A.(40:28) They had—bang out in the cemetery like nothing every happened.

A. This team right here, we went out together.

A. Yeah, and –

A. We went out together right after this.

A. (Female) Actually we were supposed to fall out the next day. We were scheduled to, the same teams but then they cancelled it, so we were supposed to fall out exactly the next day that happened.

A. (40:43) (Matthew Berube) Yeah we would have been out there the next day, and it, honestly it pissed me off. It really did. It was like can you give me, just give me a break, please? You know, because I didn't get a chance to kind of let it sink it. You know, came back and when we got back I was like, myself and I think a lot of people were just like, let's go, let's do something, you know, let's I mean –

A. We even tried to volunteer.

A. (Matthew Berube) It's like, "Shit. We're under attack here." Can we can we fight back somehow. At least let me help, you know, at the Pentagon I don't care you know, and got back here and had to stand around. Wound up standing around a lot, you know and then that, that kind of frustrated me and then had no break after that. Had to go back out and do these funerals. It was like, can I just get a little break to let this sink in and you know, honestly I want to grieve a

little bit. You know, I just want to grieve a little bit, and there was really nothing to kind of alleviate that pressure and eventually just got numb. I mean I just got numb about the whole thing. It was just like, and still to this day I'm a little, I'm a little numb about it you know, I wish like, I look at those pictures and I wish I felt a little more, you know.

A. It sounds cliché, but I think you kind of just fall back on I mean the training that you have. You know, just stand tight, not get emotional, you know doing your job. And I agree with BERUBE a hundred percent that, you know, I'm still numb to it. I mean I drive by almost everyday and I've seen it in the stages of being rebuilt and still, I mean I still remember the day, but I don't think I ever actually felt that I grieved in the way that would make me feel better, because there was no time. There was no, there was just no time for it.

A. (42:25) It's funny that you say that, because like a lot of the new people who come through training now, they're in marching platoon, we'll drive by the Pentagon, and someone says, "Hey, weren't you there?"

And we just say, "Yeah, I was there." But it's not like cool or anything like that.

A. (42:39) (Female) – that was cool like. I know some people wish they saw it, and it's like how dare you say that you know. That's something you don't want to see, or ever want to remember.

A. (42:52) You know, that they wish they saw, "Ah, I wish I would see it." And then you're sitting like, "How the hell do you wish that you saw that because, I mean, I rather we didn't see you know, I'm glad I didn't see anybody go. Like you know, like anybody get killed. I know

people did, but didn't actually see somebody get killed. Be totally different but it's still the same thing. And then people were like ah, you know, actually last week I was on a bus, and I was march platoon and I heard somebody say, you know, "Man, that would be really neat." It was not.

A. (43:15) (Female) – for a long time after that any loud sound would scare the living crap out of you.

A. (43:21) Whenever I, I look at a flight pattern, whenever I'm doing an incident, I was standing at Present one time. We were firing fours and I saw a plane going over and I watched the flight pattern. I watch the flight patterns sometimes.

A. (43:32) Whatever you see, everybody will make sure that its on the right flight pattern.

A. (43:33) (Female) Yeah, I always notice that also.

A. If I see a plane come down the wrong the way, you know.

A. Always look to see where it is, because we all know the flight patterns there, we see it.

A. Yeah, we've seen everything.

A. All of us have been here over a year, or at least a year so we all know the flight patterns and we know that they do not go over the Naval Annex. You know, we know that they don't go over Arlington where that plane was. So if I ever see a plane go that wrong way, I know. That's what I always wonder whenever I see it. Is it going the right way? Just watch it, you know.

A. Even if they go the right way I still get the chills all the time. For the longest time after it happened I still get all nervous and scared.

A. (44:06) (Female) And one thing, too like after that there wasn't any planes, and when the planes finally started going again, because every single funeral you hear planes going over and for the longest time they stopped. They shut down the airport, and when they started again it was really eerie to hear the planes.

A. (44:19) Yeah, Reagan, Reagan shut down for like a month and a half, two months.

A. (44:20) (Female) It was almost as eerie when they stopped as when they restarted, because when they stopped you didn't hear, it was just dead silence during the funerals and that was really weird. When they started again, then it was almost as weird as when there wasn't any sound. Because we were used to hearing those planes.

A. (44:32) And also because we're right across the river, too, from the airport and that was the eeriest thing, because I mean we had the Marine 1 hanger right over here. Helicopters are, I think purposely sometimes buzzing the building on the way in.

(female laughs)

A. (44:45) Yeah.

A. (44:46) But they fly –

A. Fifty feet off the roof.

A. But you would hear the planes take off and at night, you know, because there's no wind, you can hear the screech of the tires as it came down, and when the airport was closed it was just, it was just so bizarre because we were so used to having the planes fly and the helicopters fly overhead, and for that period they just stopped. It was, -

A. Like eerie feeling.

A. Yes, exactly.

A. (45:10) I was out there one time. We were firing and this was a long, this was months afterwards, probably December. It was cold out and a plane came over our head and actually went, (makes a sigh) I actually breathed, actually had a sigh of relief. I was like, "Man, I'm glad that plane's going that right way," and it was Pentagon funeral actually and I was standing next to MATT and MATNEY (phonetic) and I was like "Phew!"

MATNEY (phonetic) asked me like what are you Phewing about. I said, “Man,” we were all getting in the bus again, “What were you doing that for?”

I said, “Man, I just had a sigh of relief. I’m glad that went over that way.” Because we were standing at “Present” (arms) and they were playing taps, and that’s what got me. Made me choke up and I never really show emotion. I mean, never really, you know we’re trained. I never, ever get choked up. Not even when I, when I give the flag away I have once or twice, but that time I was like you know, got a lump in my throat.

A. (45:59) (Female) There’s a few times when we were doing funerals, the marching platoon goes by, you can see the American flag, you know up high. My friend sat there holding a flag and you see the Pentagon you know, smoking in the background. During the funeral someone, we were standing up there, when there’s a woman up there dead you know. It’s really weird.

A (46:17) There was, what you were saying, we started on it earlier, but I’m going to say something about it again, like when it happened, you know being thrown back in the grind, I remember for a while, and I actually remember writing down that for the longest time it didn’t even seem like it happened. Like I would wake up in the morning and look out my window and expect to not see you know, the column, the tower of smoke coming from the Pentagon like it had all just been a dream. And you know, I still, I think that’s kind of why I feel a little, but numb to it and I remember watching the Super Bowl, I think it was the Super Bowl when U2 was doing a halftime show and they had that banner in the background with all the names of the people in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that had died, and I remember looking at,

and first of all I noticed that ET2's name wasn't on there, and that kind of pissed me off a little bit.

A. (47:03) It wasn't.

(Now the girl is talking but I can't make it out)

A. But the other thing that got me, I saw it and I knew that I should have felt bad, I knew that I should have felt something. And I just, I just said, "OK, there's the people --"

A. (47:14) You know that's the gripe that I have about, because he's military, because there was no military names on there, on that banner. It was all civilians and that made me mad. It really bothered me. Because I was actually sitting there and I was watching with my wife, I said, I'm there watching. I was looking for his name. I even taped it and I went over and over and over it, and I said, "I cannot believe this, that they don't have his freaking name on there." Nobody's military name. Nobody in the military was on there.

Granted I understand because we're military you know, I'm not saying were paid to die, but we're paid to serve our country and all that.

A. (47:41) (Female) Kind of expendable in a way.

A. But they should at least have put our names on there, or his name, or our military personnel's name on there. That really irked - maybe it's because --

A. (47:53) (Female) – or at least put like “Those men and women who died –“ or something you know.

A. Right, maybe it’s because he’s our LPO, and we knew ET2. But I don’t even think it was that. I think it was just mainly because I was so mad that there was no military names on there.

A. (48:01) (Female) Yeah, and if his wasn’t, there was probably tons of other people that wasn’t on there.

Q. (48:09) Did you all participate in the one month anniversary service? Or did you attend?

A. The one month anniversary?

A. (Female) We had participated at the sixth month.

Q. (48:14) Memorial Services.

Q. (Another) Memorial service –

A. (48:16) At the White House?

Q. (48:18) No at the, on the Pentagon lawn.

A. Some of us did.

A. (48:22) Most of us were working.

Q. (48:20) October 11th, yeah.

A. (Female) Most of us were working.

A. We're real busy during the week.

A. (48:25) (Female) We did a six-month deal at the White House the other day.

A. Yeah, we had a lot of people that did the six months, but some of us (_____ Inaudible
48.32)

(everyone laughs)

A. (48:34) (Female) (_____ Inaudible)

A. (48:37) Some of us are going to be here though to, I guess they're, I've heard evidence, this, sure or not, but I've heard that they're going to try, they're shooting the time to have the Pentagon completed, rebuild is –

A. The one year –

A. (48:49) The one year mark and I know we're going to do something for that.

A. Just hoping that –

A. I hope this team –

A. (48:53) Especially us.

A. I hope this team gets back there.

A. We'd be able to get back out there, not even at this side of the Pentagon, man. I just would mind being back at Arlington, knowing that –

A. (49:04) A year ago.

Q. (49:10) Did you all participate in the funeral for ET2?

A. (49:12) We weren't allowed to.

A. We weren't allowed to unfortunately, and this is another thing that really burned everybody was that some –

A. (49:17) It had to be standard honors, because he's enlisted.

A. Yeah, some –

A. (49:18) Couldn't even march to the tune.

A. Yeah, they really—and he wasn't, he wasn't attached to the Guard anymore.

A. (49:26) That was another thing, because when you're, if you're in the Guard and for some reason, whatever reason you pass away while you're in the Guard then you're given what's called the 87 Man Funeral .And that's pretty much –

A. (49:35) (female) I think the highest.

A. Yeah, that's the highest and I think the President, or the Vice President are the only other people who get an 87 Man Funeral, and that is everybody in the Guard pretty much, and we all felt that, everything we do in training, that all of us, that we've done in training has been a direct result of ET2 MOSS.

A. He was great –

A. (49:54) He was a great team man.

A. (49:57) I'm not saying, I'm not saying that he was a friend of mine. I didn't really care for him that much. I thought he was –

A. But he was a good LPO.

A. - kind of sarcastic. He was a good LPO, but we just, our personalities didn't get along, but I still remember being really upset when we found out that he, I don't know if it came down from the Admiralty, it might have come from Arlington.

A. (50:14) It came from Arlington.

A. That, because he was not in the Guard, all they wanted to give was a standard honors funeral, and that pissed everybody off.

A. (50:20) (Female) He was barely, it was just like, it was as soon as he got detached from the Guard.

A. (50:28) I got that on tape on the news, all of us on news.

A. (50:28) (Female) It wasn't very fair.

A. (50:29) (Female) But what we did, we all ended up going to his funeral, so we all stood around, so –

A. (50:33) Behind the Chapel.

A. The body bearers, did like the bearers do, and so we marched.

A. (50:36) Did something different.

A. They did a dead step, they held the casket up in the air. They did.

A. (50:40) That was awesome. That was awesome.

A. (Female) They did, yeah, it was really cool. That was a long carry, too. They carried it up in the air the whole time.

A. The high carry and the dead step.

A. (50:49) (Female) They stepped like they do, real slow.

A. There's actually a picture, I saw a picture of it, that his little boy was behind, was walking behind the casket doing the dead step, as the bearers were carrying the casket out there. His little boy was right behind them. I thought that was kind of cool.

But I remember WALLER, it was Waller who, that was on the casket, once they got it in the chapel and SEAMAN WALLER was I guess – Was he a lead Seaman?

A. (51:15) Of the bearers, yeah.

A. Yeah, he was the leading Seaman of bearers. He left a couple of months ago, but a really cool guy, but I mean, I know that there's certain hijinks, and things that go out on sets, but I've never

actually seen him break tightness in the sense of just pretty much loosing you know, some of his composure when he's been out on a set. When they walked the casket up – the Chapel at Fort Meyer, the old chapel, there's the aisle that goes up the center and then we'll come down the side. They brought the casket up and they broke off and the two of them walked down the sides and I was feeling pretty good considering what was going on, but when he came around the corner and was coming to walk toward the back of the chapel, I mean his face was just covered in tears. I mean the only thing that he wasn't doing was just like openly just crying, like he did when he got to the back. He started with the sniveling and the you know, the real heavy breathing and almost sobbing. You know I can't put it any other way than that. When I saw that that's when I lost it and started crying.

A. (52:21) Something about SEAMAN WALLER also is he's so big so you wouldn't think that he would break down like that. He's huge.

A. Yeah, he weighs about 300 and some pounds. He's a nice guy.

A. (52:28) (Female) I think the hardest part was watching his kids.

A. I saw, yeah, listening to his kids get up there and talk about –

A. (52:33) (Female) Like me and my friend babysat his kids lots of times.

A. – That was hard.

A. (52:33) (Female) Me and a girl at the (____ Inaudible 52:38) with me, we babysit his kids, you know. I know his kids, I know his family and everything I was like one of the people that did his honors and so was she. It was weird.

Q. (52:57) Any other of the funerals stand out in your mind?

A. (Female) What stood out in my mind all the time about it, there was so many cars. We'd count like a hundred, over a hundred cars sometimes when we're standing out there when they come to the funerals, and just kind of hurtful there like, because they come from everywhere. We'd look at their license plates and those from all over the place and it's just kind of sad that that's the time that they had to get together.

A. (53:22) I remember every single one of them. I did eighteen, eighteen of the Pentagon funerals.

A. (53:27) I lost count. I lost count of all the standards and everything. I don't remember.

A. I kept track of how many Pentagons I did. I did eighteen.

A. (53:37) The other one that really sticks out in my mind, besides PETTY OFFICER MOSSES, and besides the first two, because I was lucky enough I got to fire on the first two full honors Pentagon funerals, just by a fluke. But the other one that really sticks out was the, can't remember his first name, BURLINGAME?

Q (53: 50) CAPTAIN BURLINGAME.

A. Yeah, that one, that one really stuck out. In my opinion anybody that was, any military member that was killed in those and yeah, any military member really, any ex-military member that was killed in those, those, those attacks deserved full honors. Hands down, you know, I don't care and you can justify it you know, any other way, you know, that no you know, as far as the regulations, to me it's bullshit. No, they were unduly taken and they deserve full honors funeral, and you know there's all that controversy and everything and even though I feel like yes, they did deserve that, doing that funeral was probably the only one that I felt was not necessarily undeserved, but it just didn't have the, it didn't have the emotion behind it, just because of all the controversy and the fact that it was like coerced. And he got things that PETTY OFFICER MOSS didn't get because he had, he knew people, or not him. I'm sorry I don't mean to disgrace him like that, but his family knew people, and that honestly, that really it pissed me off. PETTY OFFICER was only a month out of the GUARD and he wasn't allowed to be buried the way the Guard wanted to bury him and the way that he deserved to be buried and yet this guy who was a Reservist and, I mean he, I think he spent like two years active duty and then the rest was Reserve. Didn't retire, he got, was supposed to get a fly over.

A. (55:33) He didn't get a fly over.

A. No, he was supposed to. It was cancelled because it was cloudy. Was suppose to get a fly over. He got, he was buried in like this really exclusive part of Arlington cemetery and you know, there was all this media coverage there, and I was standing there and I'm thinking, you know, no disrespect to him, honestly, no disrespect to him. He gets all the respect, but it just

wasn't fair. It wasn't fair at all. I really felt that way and all the media coverage there it was like, it was like a show. It was like a TV show.

Q. (56:01) Is that unusual?

Q. Were there not as much media coverage?

A. (56:05) No there was a lot of media coverage, but I mean, they had, we were standing the way they had it set up imaging like a square. OK, and on the right side of the square you've got the family who is sitting like sort of in front of the casket. You've got the casket and the family is sitting over here. At the top of the square you've got firing party. At the bottom of the square, you've got the marching platoon and then over here, they had a roped off area and there had to be over a hundred TV cameras and photographers there. As soon as, I mean as soon as, you know, as soon as the caisson pulls up you just hear, you know, all the snapping and popping of the flashes and everything, and you know, they just, the media just went nuts. I mean as soon as they showed up and it was like. –

A. (56:45) That was after the first funeral that got, I mean my mom, I mean I got family all over the country and my aunts and uncles you know, called me up.

“You were on the front page of the paper.”

I was like, “What the hell are you talking about?”

They were just like, “The Navy Ceremonial Guards on the front page of the paper,” and they sent me clippings, they emailed me clippings and everything else like that. You know, the job I do, I'm not, I don't fall out anymore, I work in an office now, but you know, I had my whole family swearing up and down that they saw me fire, and you know, I had people from high school call

me saying, you know, “you’re in the Ceremonial Guard. You guys were on the front page of the paper.” And there were some really good pictures of the bearers that were on the casket for that, but it was the first real time that, since all this had happened that I remember like just a huge amount of media exposure that was brought to my attention. I kind of agree with BERUBE that I don’t think that a lot of it was really warranted.

A. (57:38) Right, that’s what, there was an Admiral and his wife that was on the plane in the Pentagon. (Editors Note: Reference is to RADM Wilson “Budd” Flagg and his wife Darlene Flagg)

A. Why?

A. We did his funeral at the Naval Academy. It wasn’t –

A. (57:48) (Matthew Berube) Was that the one we did the fly over?

A. Yes.

A. (Matthew Berube) Or they did the fly over.

A. Right, they didn’t have, that’s what I don’t understand he got, he got a big, the Captain got a big funeral from us, but the Admiral and his wife didn’t get anything. That’s why – he got, got

five of us, or how much, eight of us marching for, firing party marching down the street, the marchers and the Chaplain. That really irritated me. That really irked me.

A. (58:14) (Matthew Berube) Yeah, it felt very produced like it was a Hollywood production, you know. It really was, it was like –

A. There was all kinds of –

A. (Matthew Berube) Yeah, scripted, very scripted.

A. It seemed like the media came and went when they wanted to come. Well, I guess it was just Pentagon, who it was, but there was Admirals. We did funerals for Admirals that there was no media coverage there at all. We did funerals for you know, a couple of others that there are cameras everywhere. You know so, just –

A. Seemed to be a lot of politics.

A. It just seemed -

A. It seemed that, in my opinion that people that should have gotten the full honors and the rendering of full honors at their gravesite didn't and the people that maybe should have gotten standard honors are the ones that you know seemed to get all the attention, all the exposure.

A. (59:03)Every funeral I did for somebody who was in the Pentagon, I remember, I can remember their rank. Oh, yeah, somebody a Chief, was a Lieutenant Commander, Commander, I remember them all, all eighteen. I don't remember their names, but I remember their ranks, and if they got a full honors or if they got standard.

A. (59:18) (Female) That's why I don't think, like why they wouldn't let us do what we wanted, for, that's the only funeral I've ever done and probably anyone else who's ever going to do, someone that we knew. Someone who, I don't know, someone who actually got out there and done funerals with us. They wouldn't even let us. They wouldn't allow us to do that.

Q. (59:33) Was there discussion about that?

A. (Female) Yes, they -

A. I think they were willing to mutiny.

A. The Commander tried as hard as he could to get the -

A. The CO, the Skipper he tried doing it.

A. (58:41) There was even talk of all of us, just so happened that there was going to be, originally it was, was going to be standard honors, but if you want to go to the funeral you can. There are some of us that took that to mean OK, well, if we go to the funeral if we want to, then

we'll just make sure there's 87 of us. We happened to be in our ceremonial gear and our pieces and we just happen to be standing in marching platoons.

A. (01:00:05) As a matter of fact, we did a –

A. And that was squashed pretty quickly.

A. (01:00:09) We did a funeral for somebody out of Quantico, Pentagon victim, Chief Chapo (phonetic), we got that one and Kobbe, you were out there, you caught hell for that one. We were all the way back from that to go to ET2s funeral and they told us to stay in Levins, because they were going to try to give us a full honors funeral. And at the last second they said it's a no go.

A. (01:00:28) I remember I was going on leave, I went on leave that day and I showed up and I had you know, I knew that they weren't wearing leggings, but I had my brass and my dickey and I was ready to rock and roll and when I got there, there was no brass, there was no agullet (phonetic), there was some dickeys and that was it.

A. (01:00:35) And I was just like, "What the hell."

A. (01:00:46) (Matthew Berube) You know what, as a matter of fact, we got there and we had all that stuff with us. I remember we were carrying all that stuff and we put it on and then we took it off, and then we put it back on, and then they told us to take it off finally. It was like, I don't know.

A. (01:01:01) (Female) I don't know how they can make that, I probably don't understand. Well, I don't know how they can force us not to do that. Just like I said, we knew him. He was out there with us. He trained us.

A. (01:01:12) Yeah, he trained us.

A. He stood tight and his brass and his uniforms was the most squared away I've ever seen of anybody in the Guard.

A. (01:01:21) (Female) Yeah, as Petty Officers and stuff. He was one of the tightest Petty Officers.

A. (01:01:26) If you forgot your brass, I mean I was in training so I never forgot my brass. If you ever did forget your brass, he'd be the first one to loan it to you, and you don't loan your brass out to people. You just don't do that.

A (01:01:36) Not here.

A. Not here, you do not loan your brass out. It'll come back you know, it can come back scratched, dented. Take a long time getting pits and scratches out of your brass. We work hard on our brass, but he would always you know, he'd loan out stuff, you know. His brass, he didn't care, and you could always go to him and just shoot the shit with him. You could go to, I was in

training in Marching Platoon I could go sit down in his office and just chat with him. I mean I wasn't like, we weren't like friends. If I were, "Hey, you see that basketball game last night. You see that baseball game."

"Oh, yeah." You know, "See Cal Ripkin," you know. He's sit there. He's a nice guy when it came down to stuff like that. I wasn't a big fan of him, well because especially when I was in training.

A. (01:02:14) Female. He was a hard-ass in training.

A. (Matthew Berube) I remember he screamed at me one night.

A. He had a really bizarre sense of humor, man. He had a really bizarre sense of humor.

A. (01:02:18) (Female) He was sarcastic -

A. Very sarcastic. Like it was hard for me, and maybe this is why -

A. (Matthew Berube) To know when he was fooling around.

A. (01:02:23) (Female) Joking or not.

A. To actually know if he was fooling around or if he was being serious just because he kind of talked in a monotone and there was, you couldn't really tell, you can say, "Ok, he's messing around."

A. (01:02:33) (Matthew Berube) Yeah, and he would put this face on. He would put this face on and you'd be like –

A. (Female) And you'd be like joking. You'd be like just joking around.

A. (01:02:41) Yeah, yeah, exactly, he's like "Hey, calm down I'm messing with you," and you're like, "Oh."

A. (Maples) I remember when I was walking into his office he was like, "Maples, how do you enter an office?"

"Ahhh, sorry Petty Officer," so I went out and he started making me do it over and over again. He goes, "Can't you tell I'm kidding?" So I had to knock on the door three times like I was in boot camp again. I was walking to the door, and standing tight, looking at him, and he's just laughing at me.

He says, "You know I'm just kidding."

That was his bizarre sense of humor. Here I am in front of two Chiefs, a Petty Officer, a Second Class and here I am an E1 at the time, don't know anything, was face red. He's laughing at me. That's his sense of humor.

He says, "Come on, sit down."

A. (01:03:18) I remember when we were in training this guy left his locker open and I think it was his first time, I guess. Navy-wide, if you leave an area with your stuff, you don't leave

anything unlocked. You know, you didn't get picked up and location gets switched on you something like that, and this kid left his locker unlocked, and was up in the dressing room for a while and ET2 MOSS came in and saw that it was unlocked, and he set his locker up exactly the way it was supposed to be except everything was backward. Everything that was supposed to be on the bottom he put on the top. Everything that was supposed to be dressed from left to right was inside out and dressed from right to left. And you know when the kid came back, he put everything in there and he didn't even notice and the next day they had locker inspection. And ET2 MOSS made sure that he inspected his locker, and he's just say, "What the hell. What the hell's going on?"

This kid just, I guess you didn't see it, but he brought BERUBE's to him.

A. (01:04:10) (Matthew Berube) Yeah.

A. He brought his locker to him.

A. (01:04:11) (Matthew Berube) Yeah, we were playing "dress a sailor," one time.

A. He brought his locker into him, and "Hey, what did I tell you about -?"

A. (01:04:15) (Matthew Berube) -and ran into the locker room. Got dressed, put on my uniform. Thought I closed my locker. Run outside. We're standing there huffing, puffing, right.

All of a sudden –

A. (01:04:24) Female – Changed uniforms.

A. (01:04; 26) (Matthew Berube) ET2 goes in there and he's like, "Ahhh, you." And he's at the locker. "Ahhh, somebody didn't close the locker."

And I'm thinking to myself, "Ah shoot. Oh man, who's the dumb, who's the poor bastard that didn't close their locker?" Right.

And he's like, "Ahhhh."

I'm like "Ah man, I feel sorry for the schmuck who did that," because he's like, he told us, he's like "If you ever leave your locker, I'm going to bring it to you. So wherever you are, I'm going to bring it to you. I don't care if you're in the galley, I'm going to bring it to you."

A. (01:04:50) (Female) And you work so hard for your locker. Takes forever to get it.

A. (Matthew Berube) Yeah, and so we're standing there and he's like, "Ahhh, I guess I'm going to have to bring it to him." He comes out and dumps the stuff. "BERUBE!" And I'm like, (everyone laughs, he must have made a face)

Man, it was like, that was shitty.

A. (01:05:06) That was the worst. I was always scared he'd go in there and check lockers and make sure they were locked. I'd say, "Please let me have locked my locker when he goes in there. I don't want that to happen."

A. (01:05:15) He had a lot of good motivating –

A. He did.

A. He was a motivator. He *was* a motivator.

A. (01:05:26) (Matthew Berube) Can I say something for the record?

Q. Please.

A. Especially historical record. This is going to sound stupid, but it was a plane that hit the Pentagon. This group right here saw it. Anybody else wants to dispute that you come talk to us. I got an email the other day from somebody. There's apparently a website that's going around disputing the fact that it was a plane that hit the Pentagon. Trying to stir up some kind of controversy –

A. Conspiracy.

A (01:05:57) conspiracy that it was a truck or a missile or something. Supposedly they have and it's quoted as you know "absolute proof" that the Pentagon was not hit by a plane, and I mean, if I ever caught the person who decided to come up with that load of bull. I mean you don't do that. You don't do that. Especially since there's people, there's children who don't have fathers and mothers, because of that, and it's the most disgraceful thing that I've seen yet. I'm telling everybody, you know, that's that what it – I have friends asking me, "Hey, " a friend sent it to me, "What do you think about this?"

I just about jumped out of my skin. I mean it was disgusting and that's the God's honest truth. There is no, there is no questioning that. There is absolutely no question about the fact that it was a plane that hit the Pentagon. We saw it.

A. (01:07:05) There's, I don't know about everybody else, but when that happened, I'd say about three days later, I put my chit in to get out of here and to go to "A" School, because it's in my contract to go to BUDS. My father was a SEAL, my brother's a SEAL now. I wanted so much revenge, I felt so much hate for every single person that had something to do with that. I really do. I mean I had so much hate. Not even just because I knew ET2, because I grew up in a military family, you know. That was, I think a lot of us here, wanted to get out of here at that time and go do something.

A. (01:07:39) Well, we just wanted to do something.

A. Not just stand here.

A. (____ Inaudible 01:07:46)

A. We were standing watches and I mean yes, security is, especially at that time is you know one of the most important things.

A. (01:07:52) Female) The thing about the watches though, when we stood, we'd stand by like a door. If someone came after us, what are we going to do throw our belt buckle at them or something, you know that's the thing about the watches.

A. (01:08:04) We didn't even have walkie-talkies so that we if did see something, what are we supposed to do –

A. (01:08:05) (Female) We didn't have anything.

A. – make a big scream like, “Oh, we're here.”

A. (Female) Yeah exactly.

A. I remember a bunch of us when we weren't doing anything, we volunteered you know, the watch, you know, “Can we go over to the Pentagon,” and I mean –

A. (01:08:18) That's why I did CACO. That's why I did it.

A. Even if it's doing the same thing over there, at least we'd feel that we were doing something.

A. (01:08:24) They wouldn't let us.

A. And they wouldn't let us, no they've got all the help they need, and I remember thinking you know, the building just, you know a section of this building just got hit by a plane, how can they say that they don't need an extra pair of hands. You know to do something. To give out water, to do laundry for people, or something. It was real frustrating because we weren't doing anything. What we did, I mean CACO's very important, don't get me wrong. But whenever they had some piddle-shit little thing that they needed somebody to do, they came here. It was just like –

A. (01:08:56) (Female) It's like we're a worthless bunch of bodies that they're, "Oh, these kids aren't doing anything. You can just not—watch this door for a while. You can do it."

A. (01:09:02) I got a good friend, one of my good friends is on the *Enterprise*, and he was over there, and he wrote me a letter, and he came back and came back, and he wrote me a letter and called me, and told me what was going on. It made me so mad that I wasn't over there. I wish I was just over there doing something. I mean granted we were doing it here. We were doing a lot here afterwards you know. After we started doing the ceremonies. After we did the ceremonies for people we lost in the Pentagon, after ET2s funeral. You know, and CACO and everything else, and the ceremonies for the children at the elementary schools, but we did do something, but at that time I was like you know, "what am I doing here?" This place isn't for me. I wanted out so bad.

Now like I ride the train to and from home, and like I—my wife is from Bolling (phonetic) and that's where a lot of the terrorists live. I know what apartment complex they live in. I have some good friends that live in that apartment complex. A lot of them travel on the Amtrak trains, and my wife works for Amtrak. She's a chef, and I'll get on a plane, I mean maybe it's being you

know, whatever, discriminating, I personally I don't care. I sit there and I will watch and I will look. You know, if I look at them I'll make sure. I watch the scene sitting around me at all times. I don't care where I'm at. Planes, train, car, classroom. Doesn't matter. I watch. I watch to see who sits next to me. I watch everybody's movement mainly because of that. A lot of it has to do with that. You know, and I was –

A. (01:10:32) And being a military member.

A. (Matthew Berube) Oh, absolutely.

A. (01:10:35) Right, three days ago I was on the train.

A. (Female) These guys are obviously military.

A. Right! There was an Arab, or a Middle East, a guy who's from, I guess the Middle East, came over sat next to me. I was like, looked at him, and watched him. Looked him up and down and made sure, and I – and I can watch my own first, when I saw I can watch EW3, but I can see what everybody else is going on around me. That's how we are. That's what we're trained to do. I can see the fly bumping over the ceiling over there, and I watch him out of the corner of my eye. That irritates me sometimes, and I, it's getting that bad, that it makes me get like that.

A. (01:11:13) (Female) That's sad because my dad who's from the FIJI Islands so he has like dark colored skin and everything, it's sad, because my mom said even he would like get

discriminated you know, going to work and stuff. People would like look at him different. Even though he's not even from you know, Afghanistan. Not even to discriminate none, but he has like the skin color and everything. So like, it's like anyone that was like, was brown you know, was getting discriminated. It's kind of sad that people started looking at other people differently.

A. (01:11:41) (Matthew Berube) I didn't discriminate against anybody. I mean I even took taxis what just like he said, man, after that I just kept a real watchful eye. I –

A. Me and MATT talked about it plenty times. Me, you and AARON (phonetic) talked about it plenty of times because I wanted out so bad.

A. (01:11:56) (Matthew Berube) Yeah, I know yeah, a lot of us, I pretty much, as soon as that happened and on the way back, I was like "Ok, you know, my life is over," right? I'm going to war. That's what I said, "I'm going to war." I was this close to walking into NC1's office saying, "Cut my orders for "A" school." I'm a sonar technician, that means I'm on a boat. "Cut my orders. I'm going to "A" school. Put me on a ship and I'm going to the Gulf or wherever and you know, let's get it on."

A. I walked into the Chief's office –

A. (01:12:32) (Matthew Berube) I was pretty conflicted because I was like you know I don't want to go to war. I really don't want to, but this is my duty and they attacked my homeland and you know that's what I got to do.

A. (01:12:44) I think a lot of people felt like that, but I think everybody did here. I was kind of glad that, I mean I didn't know, I knew it was my initial reaction and it wasn't too well thought out, it was definitely more of a knee jerk reaction than any kind of rational thought, but I'm happier that orders, we couldn't cut our orders. We couldn't get out of here, because you know the Senior Chief, when we started he said that this for everybody here, I think it's really the first major significant event in our lives that you know, it's something that we'll remember to the day we die. Now more so I think, me personally when I do, I don't do funerals that much, but when I do do them now it has, a little bit, it means a little bit more to me and one of the reasons I came, the reason I like First Division which is the body bearers and the firing party was because we do, we do, I think one of the most respectable things. That is we give full honors, or we render honors to people that have passed. And that will be remembered by families for the rest of their lives. Everybody here agrees with me that we're in countless photo albums of families that we don't even know. We're not going to remember, but they're going to remember us for the rest of their lives. And now after September 11th, that kind of for me that sits in the forefront of my mind. Whereas before it kind of got pushed away. But you do it so much, it becomes so routine and just this place kind of gets to you after awhile.

A. (01:14:11) (Matthew Berube) Absolutely.

A. Now, but now that I doing them, it's just like hey, this is honorable and this is going to be remembered long after I'm gone.

A. (01:14:18) (Matthew Berube) Even though I had that feeling you know, like you said it was kind of knee jerk, and I'm glad that I did kind of like think about it and say, "All right," you know, "No," you know, "that's not the way I need to go, " you know.

Now, with that experience I'm a squad leader, training squad leader. That means I train the new Guardsmen that come in, and I am very, not thankful that that happened, but I'm thankful that I had that experience because that is something that I bring to the training. I was out there. I've told them you know and I tell them constantly, "Look," you know, "there is a huge honor in what we do, and it needs to be realized all the time," and you know, "I watched this happen. I saw it happen. I was there, " you know, "and this is why we do what we do, " you know. It brings an extra impact to the training, and I hope you know, it's something that I try and instill in them, you know. I hope it's something that is, is picked up on their part, you know. I'm thankful that I can do that now and that I haven't you know, gone and done anything else. You know, that I can use that experience in this way. You know, that's basically the way I see it is just, that's the outlet for it right now.

A. (1:15:49) Ever heard one of the boots —that's what we call them boots. Yeah, it is. That had just gotten out of training. I think it might have been Gogg (phonetic) but I'm not sure. I don't know their name, or correct I don't know their face, I know their names, but it's hard for me to put a face to the name, but he said we had gone on a funeral I think two weeks ago. He actually was, he was standing in front of one of the tombstone from one of the Pentagon victims. Yes you

stand tight, but when you get out there and the family's not there, you look around because there's a lot of real live history on the tombstones of a lot of people from a lot of different places.

A. (01:16:28) We compare –

A. You know, I mean you go out there. I mean I'm still looking for Lee Marvin's (phonetic) tombstone out there somewhere out in the cemetery when I go out.

But you just like, yeah, it was really bizarre because it's something that happened in his lifetime and you know, something that if he were to join the Navy you know, a year, six months even earlier there's a good chance that he would have been performing that funeral.

I just thought that it was bizarre that it happened so quickly that somebody could be standing you know, looking at a tombstone from the Pentagon attack victim.

A. (01:17:01) We did a Pentagon what was it, two weeks ago?

A. Yeah.

A. Two weeks ago.

A. Yeah we did a Pentagon funeral.

Q. (01:17:13) As we wind down maybe what we, I'd like you to do is say your name again and then tell us what's next for you. How much longer do you have here, and then what's the next step and then I'll give anybody an opportunity to say any final words.

A. (01:17:25) My name's GARY MAPLES. Been in the ceremonial Guard for, April 1st will be a year for me. I'm a, just changed my rate to CB. I go to BU, to my contract to go to BUDs. From there on, who knows.

Q. (01:17:43) When will that happen?

A. (01:17:47) Gary Maples – Next April, not this April, a year from now.

Q. (01:17;47) You stay two years?

A Gary Maples – I have one more year here. Yes, sir.

A. (01:17:52) NAT ARTIST. I've been in the Guard for about a year and a half. I guess next I'll be going to Pensacola to "A" School.

Q. What for?

A. (Nat Artist) Aviation electronics.

Q. In six months.

A. Yeah, hopefully six months.

A. (01:18:13) I'm DELLA KOBBE. I've been in the Guard for a year and I have three years left in the Navy and I'm going to go to Corpsman School and after that I plan to be a pediatrician. So that's my goals.

A. (01:18:24) My name's MATHEW BERUBE and along, I'm with GARY in the same training platoon, and DELLA in the same training platoon and we've got just about a little more than a year left. Like to finish out my tour here and make it as successful as I can. Right now I've got a couple of different "A" schools that I'm looking at. I'm contracted for Sonar Tech, but I'd like to change that to something else and I'm just researching right now. Just like to go on and get as much experience and knowledge and observation that I can from the Navy and then go on well just do the rest of my life.

A. (01:19:10) Names STEPHAN SMITH I was – been here since October 2001 so I've only got about, I came with ARTIST. So I've only got about six months left and going to go to MS school in Lackland, AFB and hit the fleet and check out the real Navy.

A. (01:19:29) I'm JEFF ROBEY. I came in with SMITH and ARTIST. I had an even shorter time than them, because I was in an accident November 7th. So they kicking me out of the Guard and staged me up at Bethesda and then from there I'll be going down to Pensacola, once I get through with a limited medical review board and then I'll be hopefully going down to Pensacola for my AT "A" School.

A. (01:19:59) My names SANDRA ARMENT. After I get done here I should be done August, sometime there after, and going to Cryptologic Technician School, and hopefully pursue a career in that in a civilian role as a computer technician or electrician or something in that field.

A. (01:20:14) My names MICHAEL BANNAT, hit my year mark in the Guard just in January, so I've still got a little bit of time left. After this I don't know if I'm going to EW or CT school. They're having that merger and I'm still waiting on [REDACTED]. So depending on how that goes I'll either be going down to Pensacola for EW or CT School, and I'll probably end up a life career in the Navy and things, like my old man.

Q.) (1:20:47) OK, great. Anybody have anything else that they want to say for the historical record?

A. (01:20:53) I just want to say I think it's pretty cool that somebody came to us and talked to us about it, because a lot of it was aimed on the World Trade Center and justly so because you know the damage and the loss up there is so much more as far as numbers is concerned, but we're all, I think the Pentagon was always kind of, fell into the shadow of the World Trade Center, and I was kind of surprised that somebody didn't come and ask us and speak to us a while ago about it. Not to say, oh yeah, we're officially on record, but just because I think that you know, we were there and what we saw and what we experienced should be on you know, be of some kind of record. I'm not saying that my name specifically has to be in there, but it's one of those stories that I think needs to be written down and needs to be told just because, you know, it's a major event that happened and not many people were privy to the situation experience that we had.

A. (01:21:48) I think that there's a lot of talk about the World Trade Center. I think Flight 93 and the Pentagon that follow are just as important as the World Trade Center. I argue with my wife all the time about this, just because the World Trade Center lost more people doesn't mean it's more devastating. I think all three of them are devastating enough, and like Michael said, I'm glad somebody at least came to talk to us, because I think a lot of us got a lot off our chest, even though you know it is the first time we really even talked about it.

A. (01:22:18) Yes, I feel better talking about it now than I did when they sat us down with the Chaplain. We can –

A. (01:22:24) Chaplain talked as if we were being interrogated, so.

A. Yeah, yeah.

A. (01:22:27) (Female) After seeing all this happen and everything it made me realize that you know, I always knew anything could happen, but it made me really realize that anyone, you know, I can lose one of my family members at any given time. So I always make an attempt to you know, call my parents more often than I did before, and call my friends and stuff and tell them how much I love them and stuff, because you know I could have been in the Pentagon or I could have been one of the victims and not been able to tell a bomb, say like you know, tell them I love them. So I just make it a more habit to tell them that, instead of —before I just feel like, oh I'll call them tomorrow, but you know we never know when tomorrow is.

A. (01:23:22) (Matthew Berube) Like Bannat said it feels good to talk about this because personally I see a lot of forgetting going on. At least it's perceived that way and this is something that I won't ever be able to forget. I don't want to forget you know. You know, it's something that I carry around and being in the DC area, doing the job that I do, you go out there and you see it, you can't forget. You can't forget what happened. It's something that changed my outlook on the world and my own life and sort of kind of put a little different spin on things, and I thought that it would do that for a lot of other people as well, and I kind of see people just kind of getting, you know, complacent about it and I want, I want something there. You know there's been a lot of, I mean I work at Barnes and Noble and I see a lot of books and everything with pictures and so on and so forth, and they just get passed by. You know people just walk by them all the time and it's something that is a part of our history. It's part of our culture now you know as Americans. I think that it's something that needs to be embraced as, it's an American experience and it's something that I embrace as an American and if I can contribute, we can contribute to something that will help or at least something that will contribute to a resource for others to go to and experience second hand, third hand then I think that's really a prized and cherished thing, and I'm glad that I had an opportunity, that we had an opportunity to do. It makes me very proud to me an American and to do this kind of thing.

Q. (01:25:32) Thank you all for coming today. Appreciate you taking your taking your time to tell your story. I thank you for what you do. You guys do make a difference. We've seen you in action, those of us that have gone to a couple of the funerals that we've seen what you do and

you should be proud of what you do, because you do make a difference. Thanks for talking to us today.

A. (01:25:54) Thank you, sir.

Transcribed by:
Ethel Geary
August 4, 2002