

**Naval Historical Center  
Oral Interview Summary Form**

**Interviewers:**

CDR Carol O'Hagan  
YNCS(AW) Kathleen Wright

**Interviewer's Organization:**

Naval Historical Center  
Naval Historical Center

**Interviewee:**

YN2 Kevin Hazelwood

**Current Address:**

██████████  
██████████

**Date of Interview:**

28 JAN 02

**Place of Interview:**

Navy 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; evacuation; lessons learned; Defense Protective Service; FBI; carnage; Navy Command Center; search and recovery; awards; Pentagon rescue

**Abstract of Interview:**

**Interviewee Information:** YN2 Hazelwood was born and grew up in and around ██████████, VA in 1978. His father was a Vietnam veteran in the Air Force. He had four uncles on his father's side who were all in the Navy. One uncle had served as a yeoman in the surface fleet. He always knew he wanted to be in the military since he was little, and always wanted to be able to make a difference. During high school he had a friend in JROTC who gave YN2 Hazelwood's name to a recruiter. He visited the Navy recruiter who got his interest. He graduated from high school in June 1996 and left for the Navy in July 1996 enlisting as a yeoman for submarines on 16 July 1996. He went to boot camp, then yeoman "A" school in Meridian, MS and then on to sub school in Groton, CT. He reported to King's Bay, GA for sub duty on the *USS Maine* in Jan 1997. In June 1999 he transferred to OPNAV. He works there directly for the secretariat. A few months later he was transferred within the code to Special Events coordinating all the conferences as well as acting as the Command Master Chief's leading petty officer for all the N codes in the office.

**Topics Discussed:**

In his office there were about 14 military personnel and 8 civilian personnel. On 11 Sep his office was located in the Pentagon at the Director Navy Staff's front office in 4E637. There was an immediate front office that was immediately adjacent the secretariat. There was access from either the hallway or inside.

On 11 Sep he drove to work and parked at the Pentagon. He arrived around 0730. He was looking at this email and planning his day in the immediate front office. There is a TV there that they use to monitor CNN. One of his coworkers came in telling people the World Trade Center

had been hit by a plane. They turned to a channel on the TV with the news coverage. As they were watching the coverage live he saw the second plane come in and hit the second tower. He immediately knew it was a terrorist attack. He looked over at a Commander and said, "You know sir, we're next." The Commander told him not to worry about it because they were on the opposite side from the airport. YN2 Hazelwood went back to work but shortly afterward heard a noise like you would hear at an airport. This was instantaneous with a loud explosion like a bomb had gone off. Dust and debris flew in the open windows and he flew across his desk.

He looked around to see if everyone was okay. He thought to himself that they had been hit. He knew it was an airplane because of the engine sound he had heard. He made sure everyone was okay and as he was trained on the sub he proceeded towards the scene by himself. When he ran out in the hallway he met Lt Kelly Ennis coming from the VCNO's office. They immediately ran towards the scene. As soon as they rounded the corridor and looked down the passageway there was a big ball of black smoke engulfing everything. Eventually the ball of smoke hit them and they couldn't see anything, not even their hands in front of their faces. He could smell the jet fuel and had to feel his way down the side of the hall. It was dark and he could hear people screaming and yelling and he tried to make his way as close as he could. It was getting hotter and harder to breathe. He used a cloth over his mouth so he could breathe. When he got as far as he could go some of the screaming stopped and cries got fainter. He felt he was in jeopardy and made his way back down the hall.

ADM Tracey came walking down the hall and he told her they needed to get out. At the same time the Commander was telling people to get back in their rooms and shut the door. YN2 Hazelwood told them everybody needed to get out now because there was a fire raging down the hall. He kept thinking there was probably another airplane on the way as well.

The Vice Chief of Naval Operations came down the hall. YN2 Hazelwood informed him of what had happened and that they needed to leave as well. YN2 Hazelwood escorted the Vice Chief and ADM Tracey down through the mall parking entrance where they are supposed to muster when there is any type of evacuation. The whole time he thought about all the people he knew down where he had tried to go to help. He had a sinking feeling and knew he had lost a lot of friends.

They were forced to exit the Metro entrance and YN2 Hazelwood was worried that a terrorist would be there. They made their way out to the parking lot and when he looked at the sky it was black. He told some of the staff members to go up under the underpass on the highway and muster as many people as they could. He wanted to go back inside to help people. At his last duty station (on submarines) they are all they have, and he didn't feel comfortable leaving the rescue up to someone else he didn't know.

He has hurt his arm and was rubbing it when a Chief saw him and put him in triage. He kept trying to tell the medical people he was fine. The Chief ordered him into a van going to the hospital at Ft. Belvoir. An Army Colonel got on the van and YN2 Hazelwood tried to tell him that he was okay, but to no avail. The traffic to go to Ft. Belvoir was at a standstill at Potomac Plaza. YN2 Hazelwood kept thinking about his friends that needed help and while they were stopped in traffic he jumped out of the back of the van. He made his way back to the Pentagon and could still see the sky full of smoke.

DPS had established a perimeter and in order to get to the side YN2 Hazelwood needed to get to he told DPS he was going to the Command Post and needed to get through. He was let through. As YN2 Hazelwood was trying to make it back he ran across the CNO, VCNO, Admiral Tracey and their EA's. ADM Tracey wanted him to make sure everyone was away from the Pentagon because they kept saying another plane was on the way. He started clearing personnel away from the Pentagon.

He then made his way over to the side by the crash scene. He was amazed to see that the windows where the plane had hit were still intact. He ran into some other people he knew and they started to make food brigades and pass out water to the rescue personnel.

Some time passed and he was made part of the morgue duty detail. They waited a few hours and were then told they weren't needed and could go home. It wasn't good enough for him. He and Lt Ennis made their way back to other side of the Pentagon and entered through the basement. All the passageways were completely filled with smoke. As they entered the Pentagon courtyard they had body bags lined up. They got to some firefighting personnel and he noticed a lot of them were from other cities and couldn't possibly know how the Pentagon is set up. They convinced one of the fire chiefs to let them have some of their gear. They suited up and got a picture of the Pentagon. They showed the fireman where they were in conjunction with the effected area and where SCIF's and airtight areas were where people might be stuck. He showed some firefighting personnel around inside. The closer they got they could smell burning flesh and stepped over some of the bodies. The FBI said they didn't want them to touch any of the bodies because they wanted to make them part of the crime scene. He knew they were at the Command Center area and he knew some of his friends were in there. They went in some areas, busted down some doors, but didn't find anyone. They made their way back out.

About 2200 they had moved from a rescue situation to where they knew there were no more survivors. It became a recon mission to survey for damages. YN2 Hazelwood went to the Navy Annex where his Admiral had gone and reported in, letting her know all he had seen and done.

The next day he reported to the Navy Annex. His staff was responsible for doing the Casualty Reporting. They started taking muster reports from various N codes, tried to salvage information from their old office. This didn't happen because the fire had basically destroyed their office. He went back to their office three days after 11 Sep to see if there was anything recoverable. He had to suit up and wear breathing equipment. Inside the Pentagon it was dark and the floors were wet. There was so much soot from the smoke when it mixed with water it was like mud. Everything was left like it was and time had stood still. Even with the mask they could smell the mildew and soot. There wasn't much they could salvage. They got the burn bags and classified information from the VCNO's office.

The front office has relocated back to the Pentagon to the same spaces. YN2 Hazelwood's office in Special Events is still in Crystal City, but should be moving back to the Pentagon in March.

He received the Navy Commendation for his efforts on 11 Sep.

He did lose some friends who had been in the Command Center, YN3 Barnes , ET3 Caballero and Chief Young.

Abstracted by:

CDR Carol O'Hagan  
31 Jan 02

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**Transcript of Interview:**

**Interviewee Information:**

YN2 Hazelwood was born and grew up in and around ██████████, VA in 1978. His father was a Vietnam veteran in the Air Force. He had four uncles on his father's side who were all in the Navy. One uncle had served as a yeoman in the surface fleet. He always knew he wanted to be in the military since he was little, and always wanted to be able to make a difference. During high school he had a friend in JROTC who gave YN2 Hazelwood's name to a recruiter. He visited the Navy recruiter who got his interest. He graduated from high school in June 1996 and left for the Navy in July 1996 enlisting as a yeoman for submarines on 16 July 1996. He went to boot camp, then yeoman "A" school in Meridian, MS and then on to sub school in Groton, CT. He reported to King's Bay, GA for sub duty on the *USS Maine* in Jan 1997. In June 1999 he transferred to OPNAV. He works there directly for the secretariat. A few months later he was transferred within the code to Special Events coordinating all the conferences as well as acting as the Command Master Chief's leading petty officer for all the N codes in the office.

**Topics Discussed:**

TAPE ONE-Side One

Q. (048) What do you there? What is your job?

A. I work directly for the Secretariat, when I first reported, Admiral TALBOT, who was the Director of Navy Staff at that time. Following a few months later I was transferred to the same staff, but just a different code working special events. I was helping to coordinate all the conferences for new flag office conferences, retired one, two and three star symposiums and things of that nature. Also, at the same time I was working as the Command Master Chief's Leading Petty Officer for all the N-Codes in that office.

Q. How many people do you work with there?

A. I work with 14 personnel.

Q. Are they a military and civilian mix?

A. Fourteen military personnel and probably around eight civilian personnel.

Q. Where is your office at?

A. My office now is located at NC One, Presidential Towers in Crystal City, Suite 7400.

Q. And on 11 September where was it?

A. I was working in the Pentagon in the Director of Navy Staff's front office in 4E637.

Q. Could you try to remember for us what the office spaces looked like there? When you walked into the office, what was the set up? What was the layout like?

A. In the front office?

Q. (051) Yes, please.

A. Well there's basically two offices. You had the immediate front office and then right next door to it was the Secretariat. You could have access from the way of the hallway or from inside. Walking straight into the office, you would find a desk to your immediate left, which would be the Direct Navy Staff's Flag Writer. And then straight ahead of you would be two desks adjacent to each other, where the executive assistant and flag aid sat. Once you go into the room and you, in your far left hand corner would be an entrance to the Secretariat where I worked at. And if you walked in there, there was basically a desk up against the wall with places for two personnel where myself and my supervisor sat.

Q. (060) Okay, let's go back to September 11<sup>th</sup>. Could you just walk us through that day?

Coming in, in the morning, how do you get to work in the morning? Let's start there.

A. It all started off to be a routine day that I perform the same everyday in the morning. I got up for work, performed the same tasks of getting ready, making sure my uniform was ready to go. And then I drive to work, so I drove to work and I parked--

Q. (065) And where do you live?

A. I live in Old Town Alexandria, probably about 10 minutes away from the Pentagon. It's a short ride to the Pentagon and after I get there it's probably like 15 minutes to get in after I'm there. Everything is normal, normal routine as usual. Once I go in, I'm checking everything to make sure everything is good.

Q. (069) What time was this would you say that you normally get there?

A. 0730 is about the normal time that I arrive. I arrived at the Pentagon, got my normal cup of coffee and come back to my desk and I'm going through my e-mail and pretty much planning out what I need to do for that day. At this time I was actually sitting in the immediate front office and I was at the desk. In the immediate front office, we have a TV in there that sits pretty much in the center of the room up against the wall and we always have it turned to CNN for the news and everything. Everything is going just like normal. You know, just another normal Navy day and one of my co-workers come running in the office a little bit later on in that morning screaming that the World Trade Center had been hit by a plane and there was no more information than that so we turned it to the channel that had all the news coverage. And had a picture of the World Trade Center with the smoke coming out the side of the building and obviously it had been struck. The first news of it was by a bi-plane and I didn't think much more of it. I just thought that maybe a bi-plane or somebody just got too close, lost control. So they're still talking about it.

Q. (085) And how many people were there watching the TV with you at that point?

A. There was five personnel in the office, including myself. It was myself and CDR HIGHSEE (phonetic) who was the Executive Assistant and then Captain SWEENEY, who was the Deputy Director of Navy Staff and then Chief DONAVAN who was Admiral TRACEY'S flag writer. And YN2 JACKSON was the person that come in and informed us of the World Trade Center being hit by a plane. So we were all watching it. Shortly thereafter, YN2 Jackson had left the office and every now and again I'm catching glimpses of the news report off the TV and as I'm watching it live, I actually see the other plane coming in and hit it. I saw it happen live.



Q. (094) What did you think when you were watching that happen? Do you remember?

A. I do remember. I immediately thought to myself that they were terrorists. It was not an accident. It was a terrorist attack. And I was speaking with CDR HIGHSEE (phonetic) and it was just no doubt in my mind what was going on. And a little bit later as we are still watching the aftermath of what was going on, leading up to the point until when it happened to us, I remember looking over at CDR HIGHSEE (phonetic) and kind of in a jokingly way, saying, "You know, Sir, we're next." And he tells me that we're not to worry about it because we're on the other side from the airport in conjunction with the Pentagon. So I turned back around on my desk and the windows are behind us and we're facing out the hallway. And shortly after that I just heard a noise that you would normally hear at an airport like when a plane is coming in is exactly the noise that I heard. And it was instantaneous with a loud explosion like a bomb had went off. And when the bomb had went off, dust and debris flew in the windows from where we had them open. I can remember the curtains flying in and I went across my desk. And immediately after it happened, I knew what it was. I knew that we had also been struck, as well. And I looked around the office to make sure everybody was okay and everybody was still laying on the floor from taking cover and I just thought to myself, "Oh, my God! We've been hit."

Q. (111) Did you surmise that it was an airplane or did you think maybe a truck bomb or did you even--

A. I knew that it was an airplane because after hearing the engines, I knew what it was. So after I gathered my wits, then I picked myself up and I made sure everybody in the office was okay. My first instinct, like I've always been trained on the sub, I proceeded immediately toward the scene by myself. I ran out of the hallway, however, and across from us was the VCNO's office and LT

KELLY ENNIS stepped out of the office as well and we both immediately ran toward the scene. And where were in conjunction with where the plane had hit--

Q. (119) How did you know which way to run? I mean how did you decide?

A. Basically, I was not too far from where the plane had struck and where the windows were open and the way the concussion came from, I knew that the quickest way would just be to go to the left to where the concussion and the explosion had come from. So I immediately went out after everybody was okay in the office, I immediately went out of the office and as I came out LT KELLY ENNIS came out and we both just knew, we both took off running down the hallway. And where we were at, we were basically on the corner from where it was so we couldn't quite see what had gone on just coming out the office but as soon as I rounded the corridor, and I looked down the passageway, it was just a big ball of black smoke just rolling down the hallway engulfing everything as it came out. And I could smell all the dust that it had stirred up. And as I got closer, the ball of smoke hit us and then I couldn't see anything. I couldn't see my hand in of my face. I could smell the diesel--not diesel fuel. I could smell the fuel, the jet fuel and I had to basically feel my way down the hall because I could not see anything else and it was dark. As I'm going down I could hear people screaming and yelling and I basically tried to make my way as close as I could. But the closer I got, it just kept getting hotter and it was hard for me to breath and I had taken a cloth and I had it over my mouth so I could breath. It was quite disturbing to hear people screaming and yelling and then as I was at, as far as I could go some of the screaming stopped and some of the cries would get fainter and I couldn't hardly breath hardly any longer and I felt that now I was in jeopardy. So I had to turn back and feel my way back down the hall. So after I made my way back down around the corridor, my

Admiral came walking down the hall, Admiral TRACEY and I told the Admiral that we needed to get out. She was trying to get back in her office. And also at the same time, my Commander was telling everybody to get back into their rooms and shut the door. And probably should have thought more, but I said that no, everybody needs to get out now because there is a fire raging down from the hall and there is no telling how long it would take to get here. And the whole time, I had thinking in the back of my mind that there's probably another airplane on the way, as well.

Q. (149) You had that thought?

A. I had that thought that there's another airplane on the way and even if there wasn't another airplane on the way, there was a fire ensuing down the hall. So I told the Commander, "No. We need to get everybody out of here. We need to leave now. We need to evacuate." So as everybody's coming out the Vice Chief came, Vice Chief of Naval Operations come down the hall and I informed the Vice Chief what had happened and that we needed to leave as well. So everybody started escorting out of the Pentagon and I escorted the Vice Chief and Admiral TRACEY down through the Mall Parking entrance where they were supposed to muster at when there is any type of evacuation. And the whole time we were doing this; I knew a lot of people that were down there.

Q. (159) Where you had gone to try to see what was going on?

A. Where I had gone to try to see if I could help get anybody out. I had a lot of friends that were down there and I just had this, you know, biggest sinking feeling, like you know, just after the sight of seeing and hearing--seeing all the smoke and everything and the sounds, I felt hopeless

and I knew that I'd lost a lot of friends. And also, I didn't want to lose any more because, like I said, I thought there might be another plane on the way. So after I evacuated my Admirals, they were forcing everybody to go out the metro entrance, which I didn't feel comfortable with. They were also trying to get personnel to evacuate in the courtyard, which, I didn't think was a safe situation. I felt that they needed to just get everybody out every entrance and away from the Pentagon and the whole time there was a lot of confusion as to whether it was a bomb or what the source of it was. So as we were forced to exit the metro entrance, escorting personnel, I was worried that there may be a terrorist, if you will, just waiting for a large crowd of people to come out. But we made it out and I made my way through the parking lot for the buses. I can just remember looking up at the sky and just it was black. I had the worst feeling that I knew; it wasn't going to be a good outcome for my friends that were in there. So after I escorted some personnel, I told some of my staff members to go up against the highway where the underpass was and to try to muster up as many personnel from the office that they could. Because I wanted to return inside to try to help some more. I had just come from my last duty station, you know, we're all we got. Those were my friends in there that I needed to be helping and that I didn't feel comfortable leaving it up to somebody else that I didn't know. So as I'm walking trying to make my way around, I had hurt my arm sometime during the process, not from the initial impact or anything and I'm walking across the street from the hotels that they have set across the street and I'm rubbing my arm and this Chief sees me and he comes and he steps in front of me and he asks me if I'm okay. I was kind of confused so I looked around, and I said, "Yes Chief, I'm fine." He's like well why don't you have a seat for me over here on the curb anyway. I was a little hesitant because I wanted to get back over there. I guess the more that I tried to fight him, the more I seemed confused. So he sat me down. The next thing I know, they've thrown a blanket

over me and put a bag of ice on my arm and they're doing a toe tag up on me for triage. They had thrown me in triage and I was fine. And they came over and they started asking—a civilian lady came over and sit down next to me and asked me my name. Asked me where I worked. And asked me where I was in conjunction with what had happened in the Pentagon or not. Then I kept trying to plead my case that I was fine and they told me, "No, you might have a concussion; you just don't know it and you won't know it until later on." So the next thing I know, this Chief is ordering me to get in this van to go to Ft. Belvoir to the medical hospital. This Army Colonel gets on the bus and I told the Colonel, I was like, "Colonel, look I'm fine. I could get out and do jumping jacks around this van. I don't need to be going to Ft. Belvoir and taking up some time from some doctors that they could be spending on some of these other people that were really in bad shape that were sitting near me." And the Colonel looked at me, he says, "The Chief says you're going, you're going!" So here I am stuck on this van and we're going to Ft. Belvoir now. A Marine Corps Sergeant was driving the van and the traffic was just crazy trying to get down there to Route 1 to go to Ft. Belvoir. Probably, I'm not quite sure how far it is down the road, but Potomac Yards Plaza Center down there; the traffic was just at a dead stop. I just kept thinking to myself that it would just be a complete waste of time for me to go down there and take some doctors time when I know he was going to have time that he needs to give to somebody else. At the same time my friends are still in there and they need help. So, I don't know if it's exactly right or not, but while we were stopped in traffic, I jumped out the back of the van. I could just hear the Colonel yelling at me and I turned and I looked and he just waves at me as in like you know, just let him go or whatever. So I've jumped out the back of this van that's going to Ft. Belvoir and I'm making my way back to the Pentagon. As I'm going back I could see the sky is just, just full of smoke. I make my way back to the Pentagon and DPS

security had established a perimeter and in order for me to get around to the side I was trying to get to, I told the DPS security agent that I was going to the Command Post and I needed to go through, so he lets me through and keeps everybody else back. Now I get back and as I'm going around to the back of the Pentagon where the mall entrance is, I'm trying to make it to where a big, good crowd of people were. I run across the CNO, the VCNO and my Admiral and their EA's. So they are all. My Admiral wanted me to make sure that everybody was away from the Pentagon because they kept shouting out on megaphones that there was another airplane on the way. So I done what my Admiral told me and I started clearing personnel away from the Pentagon. I kept noticing that there was a lot of civilians. I was guessing that they were news people and I was basically getting them away from the Pentagon. I made, I made my way around the Pentagon probably three times and my feet were hurting. But after that was done, I made my way over around to the side where the crash scene was and I ran--

Q. (237) Was that the first time you had seen it?

A. Right, that was the first time I had seen it. It was devastating. I was actually amazed though to see that the windows where the plane had actually hit were still intact. I guess they were the special bomb resistant windows. They were just hanging off of debris still in tack. But just to see the type of destruction and just the smoke. I could still smell the fuel and it was just overwhelming. But I ran into some of my friends from my office and from other offices that I know and we started to pass out food and make food brigades for the search and rescue personnel that were there. Handing out water and trying to keep them cool and everything. There were a lot of people that were out just sitting in the sun and they had buses and we were trying to get the people on the busses. By this time, it had been some time now and it was now in the

afternoon, and they had made me part of the morgue duty detail. We waited for a couple of hours and then they finally told us that we were no longer needed and that we could just go home. It wasn't good enough for me. So myself and LT ENNIS, from the VCNO's office, made our way back around, through the basement on the side of the Pentagon. We entered the Pentagon and went through the basement. It was just amazing to know that how huge the Pentagon is and that all the passageways were just completely filled with smoke and some were lighter than others. But we made our way through the courtyard, into the courtyard of the Pentagon. And as we entered the Pentagon courtyard, they had body bags lined up in the courtyard. It just looked like tombstones. We got to the corner to where firefighting personnel were--some of them were entering and leaving. I noticed that a lot of these firefighters were from other cities. They were ranging all the way down from Springfield and they couldn't possibly know how the Pentagon is set up because it's just an elaborate set of hallways and that it would be hard for anybody to navigate. It was hard for me to get around in when I first reported. I was concerned and I wanted to help out. So, finally we convinced one of the fire chiefs to get some of their gear and I suited up and I helped show--we got a picture of the Pentagon and we were showing them where they were in conjunction to where the affected area was. There is a lot of different SCIFs and offices that are air tight and maybe people could be stuck in there, as a last resort. So I went and I was showing some personnel around inside, some firefighting personnel that didn't have any idea of the layout. The closer we got, they could smell burning flesh and stepping over some of the bodies. The FBI had said that they didn't want us to touch any of the bodies because they wanted to make them part of the crime scene. And where we were, I knew we were at the Navy Command Center or around that area and I just, I knew some of my friends were in there. And we went in some areas. We busted down some doors and luckily, didn't find anybody, but I

guess everybody that made it out, had already made it out. So that went on for a little while and made my way back out and stayed there for a while. It was about 10:00 o'clock at night now and they had basically moved from a rescue type situation to where they knew that there were no more survivors and it was basically a recon type thing, where they were just going to go in and kind of just survey it now for damages or whatever they might do. So after I knew that there was nothing else for me to do there, I made my way up to the Navy Annex to where my Admiral had left to go and I reported in there. After I reported in, I let her know everything that I had seen and everything that I had done and if there was anything else from me that was needed and that was it.

Q. (305) What happened the next day?

A. I didn't get no sleep that night. Actually I didn't get no sleep for the next three nights. The next day I reported to the Navy Annex. My staff was responsible for doing the Casualty Report. We just reported here at the Navy Annex and basically started taking reports and muster reports from various increments and try to establish a new front office and try to salvage any type of information that we could from our old office which, was not going to happen because the next day the fire had burned all the way down the hall and basically destroyed our office in the process too so there was hardly anything that we could recover.

Q. (318) Did you go back to the office at some point to try to recover things?

A. Yes, I did, Ma'am. Three days after it happened I became part of the detail, actually the only person from our office that was going to go in and see if there was anything that we could recover. I suited up--had some breathing equipment issued and I suited up and we went in. Going



into the Pentagon, into some of the spaces that had already boarded up and closed off, it was just dark. The floors were just wet and there was so much soot from the smoke and mixed in with the water on the floor it was almost like walking through mud. I remember walking through some of the areas to get to where we needed to go and the power would stop and everything was just left like it was. It was basically like time had stood still and it was very eerie to know that human life had flourished in these passageways. I remember walking through and there was a birthday cake sitting in an office, still had pieces of cake sitting on some of the plates, still had pocketbooks sitting around. The electricity had stopped at that time when the plane had hit and the clocks were frozen on that time. We finally were able to make it to my office and we went in there and just, it was--some of the things were burned and soot and just water damage and you could still smell--even though we had the mask, we could still smell like it had already started to mildew. You could still smell how dirty it was from the soot and basically there was not too much that we could salvage from our office. What we could and I was mainly concerned with the security. I wanted to get the burn bags and some of the classified information that we could get out of there in the Vice Chief's office. So we got that out of there and that was how it was once we went back in.

Q. (350) So now you're at NC 1?

A. Yes, Ma'am.

Q. (351) You moved over there, when? When did you move to NC 1?

A. Right after we had to relocate to the Navy Annex on September 11<sup>th</sup>. One of the N-codes in our staff had become severely undermanned. It went from a five officer staff that was headed up

by a Captain down to just two Commanders. So they sent me there to help them out and it was sometime in mid-October. So it was in mid-October that I moved over there and I've been there since.

Q. (359) And are you going to go back to the Pentagon at some point? Is your office planning on going back there?

A. Yes, Ma'am.

Q. (361) Do you know when that's going to be?

A. Admiral TRACEY'S front office have relocated back over the Pentagon. They've demo'd out the spaces and they've made them where they could use them. So they are back there now.

Q. (364) To the same spaces that they were in?

A. Yes, Ma'am.

Q. (365) Wow.

A. It basically ended right there so just that corridor, that's it you know. They were able to demo them out. They ripped everything out and basically threw in some carpet and everything. But my office where I'm working at with OPNAV Special Events, we're still located at NC 1 in Crystal City. We're supposed to be coming back in March, is what they're telling us. Sometime in March of this year.

Q. (372) Going back to September 11<sup>th</sup> when you got back to the Pentagon, after your adventures on the van, and you came around to the site and you saw the people and then you went further and you saw where the destruction actually was. Can you, in your words, describe, were the people like in shock? Were they communicating and yelling back and forth? Was it calm? Eerie quiet? Can you kind of give us a word description of how people were reacting to each other and trying to deal emotionally with what they were seeing?

A. By the time I had made it back around to the crash area, everything seemed kind of calm and collective. Everybody had pretty much had gotten settled in to the fact of just trying to do what they needed to do at that time. There was just a lot of personnel standing around trying to do what they could. There was a lot of waiting because some of the personnel couldn't enter that particular area to do anything and only the firefighters were allowed in there. So by the time I had gotten around there, it was calm.

Q. (394) Orderly?

A. It was calm and orderly. Everybody knew what they needed to do and they acted--everybody acted professionally. Everybody was coming together and everybody was working together. Army staff, Navy staff, Marine Corps, we were all acting as one. We all knew what we needed to do and we were just trying to lay out a plan to organize some of the things that needed to be done. After we were there for a little while, I remember that, it was some cars that were parked there at the helopad, where it struck and it was just nothing but a piece of a metal frame and everything was just black and charcoal or gone, no color or nothing. It was just black and gray. Then one of the prettiest sights that I think got everybody there was shortly thereafter, a firefighter raised a flag on one of the flag poles that was still standing there. And he raised the

flag and in midst of all the burnt, the black and the charcoal and nothingness was our flag that was there now. Made us proud and we were all, everybody was cheering it was just kind of comforting in that time of moment.

Q. (416) When did you get to talk to the SPRINT team? I imagine they came and talked to your office.

A. I didn't speak with the SPRINT team, Ma'am, until probably three weeks after I reported to my new office in Crystal City. So I believe it was sometime in early November that I spoke with them.

Q. (421) What did you think of that experience?

A. It brought us all together as a group and allowed us to talk and basically express our feelings towards the incident.

Q. (425) Did they have all the 14 people from your office together? How did that work for you?

A. When I was over there, Ma'am, I was the only person that was actually affected by the incident. Everybody else that was over there was already working there. They had already established their offices and their N-codes. My staff, or my Commanders that I work with, they were already there. Everybody that was in my front office in the Pentagon when it was hit was still working in the Navy Annex. So I didn't get to do any of the SPRINT team with my actual co-workers. I only was able to do it with the people in Crystal City that was also there. They had already been there.

Q. (436) How did you feel about that? Do you think that was still a good experience? Do you have any thoughts about that?

A. I believe that anytime that we were given the chance to kind of talk openly about anything that's negative in nature it always helps. So it helped me when I was able to talk about it and let me release a little bit, but it was always good. I feel it probably been better if I would have been able to be around some of the people that were still there and then talk about it, but nevertheless, it was a good experience for me.

Q. (447) Did you get an award at the award ceremony?

A. Yes, Ma'am.

Q. (447) Do you want to talk about that a little bit? How you found out about that and a little bit about how that was.

A. Well, basically, I guess a week prior to when the awards were issued; I was told that I needed, needed to be--I had planned on going on leave and I was told that I couldn't go on leave and I was confused. I had already spoken with them about my plans and they told me that I needed to be there in my Blues, for part of the ceremony. Once I was there, they told me that I was going to be in formation. So I didn't know what was going on. So now I'm here for this ceremony and it was thrown on me all of a sudden, so it's just kind of caught me blindsided. I was there and they told me I had to be in ranks. So I got in ranks and I knew--I didn't know maybe if we were just going to be recognized. The Secretary of the Navy was going to recognize everybody for being there and kind of a pep talk type deal. The next thing you know, they called me up to award me the Navy Commendation Medal. It was quite an experience and didn't expect it.

Q. (469) You hadn't known before at all?

A. Didn't know.

Q. (470) Are you glad you didn't know or do wish you had known beforehand?

A. Well, it didn't really matter to me. It's a prestigious award and it's an award I'll never forget. But it's an award that I think I could have done without given the situation. Not that I would not always remember it, but now I know it will always be with me. I'll carry it with me and I'll remember.

Q. (478) You speak about your friends in the Pentagon; did you lose any?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. (480) A couple of them, several? Were they all in the Command Center?

A. They were all in the Command Center. YN3 BARNES was one of my friends. She was in the Commander Center. They promoted her to YN2. I had just spoken with her the day before and I was trying to help her get some exam study material ready for her and everything. One of my other friends CABALLERO was in there and Chief YOUNG was in there. I knew Chief pretty good. He was actually probably 30 minutes from where I'm from. He was from Roanoke, Virginia. We, kind of, could talk a lot. He always helped me out. You know, kind of, helped temper me, you know for my future career in the Navy.

Q. (498) Do you have anything else that you want to add that we haven't asked you about?

Anything else that you'd like to have in the archives? Final thoughts?

A. None, that I haven't already said, Ma'am.

Q. (502) Well thank you very much for your time.

A. Yes, Ma'am.

Q. (502) We appreciate your time.

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Kim Lacik for Tim Ayoub  
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