

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

CAPT Thomas Blake
Mr. Randy Papadopolis

Interviewer's Organization:

Navy Historical Center

Interviewee:

YN2 Chris Howk

Current Address:

OPNAV N79
4E542 - Pentagon
Washington DC

Date of Interview:

27 Sept 2001

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; triage; evacuation; lessons learned; Defense Protective Service; FBI; carnage; Navy Command Center; renovation

Abstract of Interview:

1. Worked in 4E542, E ring on the west side. He is assigned to OPNAV N79, Director of Naval Education and Training. He was the flag writer for Dr. Zeman, who is a Senior Executive Service (SES).
2. There were six people in the Pentagon office spaces from N79. They had just moved into those office spaces. Normal routine began with message traffic routing, down loading taskers from other codes and SECNAV, routing of those, and then spend the rest of the day putting out fires.
3. On September 11, at about 8:30, he went back to sit at CAPT Pruitt's desk who was not in that day. He logged onto computer and shortly after 9:00 received a phone call from his wife. He heard about the first plane hitting the WTC. He suggested to his boss that they ought to turn on the TV. They saw the first replay of the second plane hitting the WTC. They looked at each other and knew at that point it was no accident. He was a native New Yorker. They watched the TV for approximately 15-20 minutes. They were sitting in Dr. Zehman's office and Dr. Zehman commented they should be prepared to be the next target.
4. Three minutes after that comment the plane hit. His next memory was getting up off the floor. He does not remember hearing a plane or an explosion. He got up, stepped out of the office, and he and LT Weatherford got Dottie and Petty Officer Barnes out of the office. They went back into Dr. Zehman's office who was on the floor. They walked out of the office again – the window had come out in one whole piece although it was broken.

5. They got into the 5th corridor and headed out toward the courtyard at the center of the Pentagon. They were attempting to muster people in the courtyard, but Howk and his friends went toward the POAC. They all got separated in the center of the Pentagon because people were being shuffled to go to different exits. He went toward the closest exit. He found Dr. Zehman and Dottie. He was holding a friend's purse, at the backside of the River entrance. He began to walk toward South parking over the road. They were not allowing people into the parking lot. He began to walk into the tunnel that connects South parking and Pentagon City when a Navy Captain asked him to turn around, that they wanted everyone to muster in South parking. He said that they would form a line of all military people to attempt to block the media's access.
6. They headed towards the Pentagon, preparing to form a line, when civilian firefighters and medical types told them to turn around and leave; they had secondary explosions from a propane tank on the helo pad. He went back through the tunnel toward Pentagon City and toward the gas station near the Annex. When he got there he stood there looking at the Pentagon. An Air Force medical officer asked for his help. They took all of their ice, water, all liquids and took it to the firefighters at the helo pad. A store employee started to stop them, but there were fifty of them in uniform and they just started taking what was needed. He stood there for half an hour doling out water.
7. He ran into one of the officers in his chain of command. CDR Woodward made the comment that they had been looking for him, and that they knew where Petty Officer Barnes was located. He got a ride home from a former Navy sailor. He got home about 5:30 P.M.
8. The day seemed to go on forever. Time was in slow motion. It took him about four minutes to get out of the building. Lights in the fifth corridor were on. He does not remember if the lights in his spaces remained on. The new corridor's fire alarm was going off. The only damage he recalls in his area was the window. The room has been declared uninhabitable. He recalls smoke. He remembers being in a race with the big black smoke ball, similar to the rolling ball in the Indiana Jones movie.
9. The exit was fairly organized. When getting toward the courtyard, a woman had fainted and people paused to help her get up. From the time it happened to the time they were out of their office was no more than 30 seconds. When they turned the corner, medical and emergency personnel were already coming in. He recalls thinking they responded very quickly.
10. The military in the office responded, as they would have had they been aboard a ship. If you are a part of the fire fighting team, act, and if not get out of the way. There was no equipment available, so their priority was to help others in the office out. Their small office designated the helo pad as the fire and disaster location mustering point. There is no back up. Once outside, the Navy was the only group of people that seemed lost. Army and Air Force people had clipboards with names, with people lining up behind them. He found it odd then and it later hit him that Navy and Marine Corps were the only two services that advertised the 1-800 number to muster.
11. Chain of command was not really an issue, because there were so few of us. CAPT Pruitt wasn't in the office, we all agreed to "get the hell out of there." SN Michelle Gray was out of the office that day in South parking and saw the impact.

12. SN Sean Witmarsh worked with others to pull about twelve people out of the fire. He now works for N76.

13. Lessons learned: Joint medical people on the helo pad all worked very well together. Uniform and rank did not mean anything – everyone fully participated.

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Transcript of Interview:

Interviewee Information:

Worked in 4E542, E ring on the west side. He is assigned to OPNAV N79, Director of Naval Training and Education. He was the flag writer for Dr. Zeman, who is a Senior Executive Service (SES).

Topics Discussed:

Q. (03:54) How many people work in your office spaces?

A. The one in the Pentagon we had six. The whole staff is thirty-five. So it's, I think we're the smallest code on the OPNAV staff.

Q. (04:08) Are all six of them located in the same office?

A. Divided by a wall internally for the boss.

Q. (04:13) OK, and of the six, who are the six people that would be working there with you?

A. DOTTY POWELL who is DR. ZEMAN's personal secretary. DR. ZEMAN who is the director, SES4. YN1 MELISSA BARNES who is his new flag writer. She's actually, that day was only her second day at work, and SEAMAN MICHELLE GRAY, who is a yeoman also on our staff.

Q. (04:53) How do you interface with those people? Where are you in the chain of command?

A. Actually PETTY OFFICER BARNES is my relief and SEAMAN GRAY worked for me, and DOTTY didn't work for anybody but DR. ZEMAN, so.

Q. (05:09) As secretary (_____Inaudible)

A. Right.

Q. (05:11) Can you describe your office space as far as how it was arranged with probably desk, chairs, walls.

A. Sure, we actually just moved into this space, because we had the offices right next door, because we were N7 and with the reorg they just, we became N79 and they had a new N7. So actually what we did was we took the back space of our old, the back office of our old space. We used to have basically that whole wing, and they closed off the door to the other spaces. They put a new wall in there and the way our office is set up now, is when you walk in from the passageway there's a desk immediately right there in front of you. Then coming into the doorway to your right, there's a desk there and then right behind that is another desk. Then

there's a wall that takes half the office with a doorway and that's DR. ZEMAN's office in there. Then on the other side of that wall is where the Deputy Director sat by the other window in the back.

We also have a skiff in there that wasn't used for a skiff anymore. We used it basically to store uniforms and stuff now, and that's in the back by where CAPT PRUITT's desk would be.

Q. (06:23) What would be your normal workday? A normal day, walk us through a normal day from when you show up until you leave.

A. Come in about 7:30. Run through the morning, our morning routine is just basically having some message traffic ready for the boss, and then deal with any kind of administrative stuff that the staff has brought in maybe late in the afternoon the day before. Kind of clean up loose ends from what happened the day before, and then we go into usually downloading any taskers that have come in from other codes or SECNAV or anything during that part of the day. Sort through those. Get them routed. Get them out to the people who need to work on them, and then all through the day we put out fires, pretty much all through the day. Deal with hot issues that come up, budget issues, any kind of stuff that happens at any of the schoolhouses that we own, stuff like that.

Q. (07:25) Are you assigned any other collateral duties?

A. I'm our staff security officer. I'm our Passin (phonetic) Liaison Representative. We have a rotational collateral duty list, too for like CFC, and stuff like that and I've done, I've done just about all those I think, since I've been here.

Q. (07:48) Basic Passing on Officer (phonetic)

A, Sure, every, you know they come once a year and every year it's somebody different, you know. You don't usually do them two years in a row.

Q. (07:56) For September 11th then, let's start your normal day there, how it started out.

A. I was actually pretty happy when I showed up that morning, because I got the best parking spot in G, which is a big deal. I got the very first parking spot in G, which is in South Parking. Walked in through the Metro. Came up to the office. Basically, this is probably about 8:30, sitting there BSing with the folks in the office for a little bit. Went back, CAPT PRUITT wasn't there that day, so I went back and sat at his desk because PETTY OFFICER BARNES, like I said, it was her second day, so she was sitting at my old desk. Sitting there, logging onto the computer, checking my email. About a little after nine o'clock my wife called me, knowing that I'm a native New Yorker and asked me if I had seen what had happened to the World Trade Center and I said, "No."

She told me that one plane had hit. I talked to her for a couple more minutes and hung with her. I went into my boss's office and said, "Hey," you know, "Let's turn on CNN, because they hit the World Trade Center."

He said, "Well, OK." So we turned it on. I think when we turned it on we saw the first replay of the second plane hitting. We watched that and at that point we all kind of looked at each other and knew that, that it wasn't an accident. Me being a native New Yorker as well and have been to the World Trade Center hundreds of times probably throughout my childhood, and teenage years, also knew that planes of that size don't fly in that area anyway.

So we sat there and watched that for probably about fifteen or twenty minutes and we had a LIEUTENANT MIKE WEATHERFORD was, happened to be in the office at that time, and we were all sitting there in DR. ZEMAN's office talking about it, and DR. ZEMAN, ironically enough turned around and looked at me and said, "I think we should get ready to," you know, "possibly be a target, if this is something that's ongoing," because we had, they had gotten reports over the TV that other planes had been hijacked and stuff like that that we had been listening to. Probably not three minutes after he made that comment, my next memory is getting up off the floor. I don't remember hearing an explosion. I don't remember hearing the airplane, which is uncommon because the helo-pad is right there and we hear helicopters coming in and out all the time. So it's probably not something that we pay attention to anymore because we're just so use to it.

I remember getting up off the floor. Everyone else was on the floor and I stepped out of DR. ZEMAN's office. LIEUTENANT WEATHERFORD and I got DOTTY and PETTY OFFICER BARNES out of the office. We turned around and went back into DR. ZEMAN's office and he was, when we walked into his office we didn't see him, which kind of scared us, but as we walked around his desk he rolled over and looked at us and we asked him if he was OK, and he said, "Yes."

We got up and started to walk out of the office. It was pretty filled with smoke at that time. The window had come out in one complete piece. It was one whole window. It was broken but it was, the stuff that they had put on it for the anti eavesdropping stuff had been put on there and it, it stayed in one complete however tall they are, two-inch thick window.

(chuckles)

So we started to walk out. We got out into the 5th corridor. We walked probably ten steps and PETTY OFFICER BARNES was coming back toward us. She said she needed her purse. LT. WEATHERFORD and I turned around and went back to the office and grabbed her purse. Then we headed out, back down the 5th corridor, and ended up in the courtyard in the center of the Pentagon, where they were actually trying to muster people to stay in the courtyard, which was very odd to me, but, anyway we just said, “No way, we’re going out 8th corridor by the POAC.” So we headed out that way.

Got outside and I had lost track of, the only person I was with when I got outside was LT. WEATHERFORD. I didn’t see anybody else from my office at that time. We kind of all got separated in the, in the center of the Pentagon, because they were shuffling people, you know, either direction to go to the different exits and we just happened to go to the 8th corridor, because I knew that one was the closest, and quite frankly I was worried that we were going to get hit again, so. The quickest way out as far as I was concerned was the best way to go.

Ended up on the backside of the POAC where I actually ran into DR. ZEMAN and DOTTY. I had a friend of mine who also worked in the Pentagon who came by and said that he could get me a ride home if I needed one. I still had PETTY OFFICER BARNES’ purse, because I hadn’t seen her, and we decided that it was probably just a good idea for me to stick around until I could find her. So I started walking. I was at the backside of River Entrance at that time, the executive parking back there. So I started walking toward South Parking over the hill, over the road on the outside.

Q. (13:40) On the east.

A. On the east side, right. I ended up on the hill right behind where the furthest parking lot is out there. They weren't allowing people into the parking lot, which that's where my car was parked, so. I walked around South Parking into the back of it, basically looking at right where the corridor 2 and civilian walkway bridge is, but on the backside of that parking lot. I was going to go through the tunnel that goes from South Parking into Pentagon City, goes underneath the highway. I took about two steps down the tunnel and a Navy Captain was coming back in my direction and yelled that he wanted everybody in uniform with him back in South Parking. So I turned around and went back with him. At that time he told us that he was going to form a line of all military people, extending from the side of the Pentagon all the way through the parking lot to block media from getting around that corner to right where the plane hit.

So we all started heading down toward the Pentagon and I was about, there was myself and two Army Majors, who were there closest to the Pentagon in this line that hadn't even formed yet. Because we got probably three feet from the civilian walkway and all the firefighters and medical people were running out saying, "Get out of here! Get out of here!" That's when they had secondary explosions from, by, I think I heard later that it was a propane tank or something on the heli-pad that had gone off.

So at that time we just hightailed it back out to the walkway under the highway. I walked through and came out in Pentagon City, and went to the right toward the gas station that's between the Annex and the Pentagon. When I got there, I stood there for probably about two minutes just kind of looking at the Pentagon, and an Air Force medical officer came out and asked me if I was doing anything.

I said, "No."

He said, "Well, come with me."

So I went with him and we went into the gas station and took all their coolers, took all their water, took all their fruit juice, took all their Gatorade, basically everything short of alcohol that was liquid, we took. We took all their ice out of their ice machine. Loaded it into the coolers and carried it down to the firefighters, down behind the heli-pad.

I stood there for, I don't know, probably a half-hour or so, down there just handing out water and stuff.

I still had, (chuckle) I still had PETTY OFFICER BARNES' purse with me. So I kept looking for her. After about a half-hour standing there, I walked back to North Parking down 110 on the backside of, back toward North Parking. Went back to North Parking where I ran into a bunch of people that I knew. Asked them if they had seen her. One person said yes they had seen her, but she left with a bunch of Air Force people. They don't know where they were, they didn't know where they were going, they just know that they were walking over toward South Parking.

So I kept walking around, back around River Entrance and back around the east side of the Pentagon back into South Parking. I ended up walking down, I think it's Fern Street that goes out through the tunnel on that side of South Parking into Crystal City. I walked through Pentagon City and Crystal City, through most of the malls and stuff to see if she was sitting in there somewhere.

As it turns out I ended up back over by the gas station eventually. I don't know how much time – I mean this whole day seemed like, when I finally realized that I have a nine-month pregnant wife at home that I haven't called, it seemed like it was like fifteen hours. In fact it was only like two in the afternoon. So my time was, everything was slow motion that whole day.

But I ended up back over at the gas station and I ran into my former boss's husband who works in the Pentagon, who I talked to him for a few minutes and then I turned around. There was one

of the officers from my staff that they had sent over from Crystal City. I don't think they were necessarily looking for me, but they had PETTY OFFICER BARNES and she knew that I had gone back to get her purse, and so I ran into CDR WOODWORTH, and I said, "Hey, I'm looking for PETTY OFFICER BARNES. Have you seen her?"

They're like, "Yeah, we've been looking for you. She's at Fort Myer with CAPTAIN KUNKLE, and Commander WOODWORTH had her cell phone and she called CAPTAIN KUNKLE, and about five minutes after that they came down and met us. You know, right from Fort Myer, right down to the front of the Annex where we were standing in between the Pentagon and the Annex. It only took about five minutes from the phone call for them to show up there.

Gave her her purse and then started figuring out how I was going to get home, because in the mess and chaos of leaving the office, I left my cell phone and my car keys on my desk. Walked back to Crystal City to try to catch the Metro and on the way there in PentagonCity, I ran into my former Master Chief who just retired in April who's a civilian contractor now, who lives, he also lives right down near me, and he, he ended up giving me a ride home.

So then I got home and –

Q. (19:24) What time did you get home?

A. About 5:30.

Q. (19:28) A couple of quick questions, about you said that you went down the 5th corridor as you were leaving the building and then stopped for a moment in the center of the Pentagon in the courtyard and then made your way out. About how long would you say it took you to get out of the building?

A. Completely out?

Q. (19:45) Yes.

A. I would say probably no more than four minutes.

Q. (19:50) OK, very good. And as you're walking down the corridors did you see any more smoke and were the lights on in the corridor as you walked down?

A. I don't remember our lights in our corridor being on, but the lights in the fifth corridor itself, in the actual corridor, in our ring, I don't remember them being on, but in the corridor they were on.

Q. (20:07) Those are the regular lights, not the emergency lights.

A. Right, right.

Q. (20:12) That's fine thanks.

A. Because there weren't any, I don't remember hearing the fire alarms or anything. Now once you got down to the new section, or in the A ring where they had just opened kind of, you know the new section kind of ends right where, right where the stairs are to get down to the courtyard there, you could hear the fire alarm from down there. But you couldn't hear the fire alarm, that I remember, I didn't remember hearing the fire alarm in our section.

Q. (20:40) OK, thank you.

Q. (another) (20:38) Was there any damage done to your office area?

A. The window was blown out. We haven't had the opportunity to go back in there. We're in the area that's been deemed un –

Q. (20:53) Uninhabitable right now, yeah. How about just in your recollection of what just –

A. Other than filled with smoke and the window being blown out I don't remember seeing anything else broken. I don't remember any pictures that fell off the way or anything like that.

Q. (21:09) How about on your exit through the different hallways, it's where you keep going opposite –

A. Yeah, the 5th corridor was, we were actually in a race against the big smoke ball. That's what we called, you know, one of the guys that was in there with us, said it reminded him of like an Indiana Jones moving, where the balls chasing him down the thing. He said, you know when he turned around he just saw the big black rolling smoke ball coming at us and we, we just went. I didn't turn back after that.

Q. (21:40) On your exit, did you, was it, did it look like a planned exit. Everybody walking, were there people running, any chaos going on?

A. It was pretty organized until I got down to the second floor where the exit into the courtyard is, because a woman whether she had fainted or I don't know just lost control or whatever was laying on the floor and there was a big group of people stopping around her to, to see if she was OK, but at the same time there was a couple of people there, that were like, you know, "You need to get out of here. I know you're confused and upset, but it's time to go."

Q. (22:15) Did people help pick her up and carry out.

A. Some people helped pick her up and if I remember correctly she walked out of the building, but there was people with her, and probably the one things that stands out in my mind about being in the 5th corridor is by the time, you know, my best guess is from the time this happened to the time we were actually out of our office was probably no more then thirty seconds. And when we turned the corner to go into the 4th corridor, the medical and security people were already coming in the other direction off the 5th corridor to where our office spaces were. And to me that just seemed really fast that they were there that quickly.

Q. (23:00) Any type of training that you received in the Navy school-wise or anything kind of prepare you for, or that you used the experience you've had prior to this situation.

A. Well, you know, on board our ship I've had the unfortunate experience or maybe in this case the fortunate experience of being on board a ship at sea that had a fire, where we lost all power. So I think in a lot of respects and the fact that I don't remember hearing an explosion or anything like that, I wasn't really aware of what happened, although I thought I knew, that we reacted a lot, a lot the same. The military people that were in the office that had been on board ship before acted and responded the same way I think that most people would respond onboard a ship to that kind of situation. If you, if you're part of the fire fighting team, you know you're going to get your stuff and get to the fire. If you're not, you're basically getting out of the way, going to man whatever station you're supposed to man, and you know we didn't have equipment. We didn't have respirators, hoses, fire extinguishers, nothing like that immediately in front of us. So our priority was to get the other folks that were maybe having a little bit of trouble get out of the office, get out.

Q. (24:24) Did your office have like a disaster plan as far as where to meet once you leave the building?

A. That was my other, my other big observation about the whole thing is first of all, our fire and disaster location is the helo-pad. There's no secondary as far as we knew. The other observation that I made is that once out side Navy was the only group of people that seemed lost.

Everywhere you went on either side of the building, when I was there, there was Army and there was Air Force people with clipboards with names, and Army and Air Force people lined up there behind them and people checking off names to make sure who was there.

I guess that didn't really, I mean it hit me then that it was odd that I didn't see a big grouping of Navy people on either side of the Pentagon, but it made me really think about it when I got home and Navy and Marine Corps were the only two who had the 1-800 number to call the muster on TV. I said, "Well, that's because," you know, "the other organizations seemed to have it together as far as that stuff goes."

Q. (25:39) Do you think that had anything to do with the fact that the mustering area was out right where the –

A Well that was just our mustering area. I mean that was our specific one little section of the Pentagon, because the rest of the OPNAV staff spans you know, the rest of the 6th corridor. –

Q (25:51) OK, so there was no organized anywhere.

A. And I just didn't see, if they did it was, they did it really quick and before I got out of the building or on the opposite side of the building when I was on the other side, but I never saw one

big single grouping of Navy people and somebody there with a clipboard with names saying, "Are you here? Are you here? Are you here?" Like I saw the other services doing.

Q. (26:30) Did you think your chain of command in your individual office and on out, really worked?

A. I don't know if, I don't know if I can say that it did or didn't work. First of all DOTTY, who's the civilian secretary really had a hard, she's, she's you know in her fifties and she had a hard time with this from the gitgo. I mean as soon as we realized that we had been hit, she was kind of in a panic.

As far as chain of command I mean there wasn't really, it was just myself and BARNES really who kind of had ever been through anything remotely close to this I guess as close as you can get without actually doing it. So CAPTAIN PRUITT like I said, wasn't in the office and DR. ZEMAN, you know just, we made the suggestion that we get the hell out of there and he agreed.

Q. (27:36) Was SEAMAN MICHELLE GRAY there that day?

A. She's going to be one of the people that I tell you that you need to talk to, because she watched impact. We had sent her out of the office fifteen minutes prior to us getting hit, to head over to Crystal City and she was in South Parking at the bus stop and watched the airplane come in and hit the building.

Q. (27:56) OK. Anybody stand out in your mind as doing an exceptional, outstanding job. People using the word heroes, but you know, don't necessarily connote it to the John Wayne hero atmosphere.

A. Right. I didn't personally see anybody who did it, but the one person who use to work for us at N79 who now works for N76 I believe, is SEAMAN CEAN WHITMARSH and he actually was just invited to the speech that the President gave to the Joint Session of Congress as the result of his, I think he and one or two other folks pulled about twelve people out of the fire. Like I said, I didn't see that. They were in another section of the building at the time, but he's the one, probably because I know him the best, he's the one name that sticks out to me.

Q. (28:55) Any lessons learned that you noticed?

A. Well, I mean I don't necessarily know that you can ever be prepared for something like that. So I don't know what lessons you can take away from somebody, somebody doing something like that. Just hard to say what you could possibly learn other than I did, another thing that I observed that I thought was great was the joint medical people out on the heli-pad. They had a huge just mixture of all services, all medical people out there and they just seemed like they really knew what they were doing with each other. I mean they had it together the half-hour or so that I was out there. That was really impressive to me how they used, you know, uniform and rank didn't mean anything at that point in time. They just worked together. If they needed a body they'd run over and grab the closest colonel or the closest private. It didn't matter whoever was there, they were grabbing to do the job and people were doing it without question. So that was –

Q. (30:00) How do you think this all has effected your life and your stance in the Navy?

A. Well, I'm transferring in December. I've been here almost four years, and I'm going to a cruiser and sad to say, but I hope we get the opportunity to go over there while we're doing something about this. I really, I strongly feel like I would like to participate in anything that we

do, simply because I know that both of my brothers are probably at one point going to be participants in this and I don't know, I just I don't have any, I don't know what the word is. I'm not upset, I'm not upset that they hit the Pentagon, because I'm a realist and I'm actually surprised that it took this long for the Pentagon to get hit by a terrorist attack or any kind of attack for that matter.

The World Trade Center to me was another story. I think that that was a blatant murder, but I'm pretty indifferent on that whole region right now.

Q. (31:17) Where do you see the Navy and the nation going from here?

A. Well, I think that, I think that they've already, most of the people have already shown that they're not going to let it effect them the way that it was planned to effect them, and we're not the greatest country in the nation for no reason.

Q. (31:36) Anything else you'd like to add for the record?

A. No I don't think so.

Q. (31:41) Any other names of other people, we've been writing down the names as you mentioned so far.

A. Sure, I don't' know if you got LT. MIKE WEATHERFORD.

Q. (31:48) Got LT MIKE WEATHERFORD, CDR WOODWARD.

A. SUSAN WOODWARD.

Q. (31:50) Oh excuse me, SUSAN WOODWORD. There's a CAPTAIN KONKLE

A. KUNKLE, CAPT JEFF KUNKLE.

Q. (31:56) SEAMAN MICHEL GRAY, and there's a CAPTAIN PRUITT?

A. Right and he's actually our deputy. He just happened to, excuse me if was over in Crystal City at our other office spaces that day.

Q. (32:10) OK, Great. Anybody else you happen to think of, those one's I got.

A. CEAN WHITMARSH.

Q. OK, we got him.

A. Trying to think of who else was, who else really sticks out in my mind that day. There's a PETTY OFFICER LA MAY. I don't know his first name. He's a YN1, also. He works in the VCNO's office, who was relatively, he's probably the first person I saw when we left our office going down the 5th corridor, but that's probably about it. If I knew the names of the other, you know, the Army Major and the Air Force, lots of people, guys that I ran into that day, but I didn't really have time for formalities that day.

Q. (32:58) That's the norm. Anything else, Randy.

Q. (Randy) I think that's just about everything. Thank you very much first of all and appreciate it.

Q. (33:07) (Gary) Had a couple, how did you muster? Did you muster by the 800 number?

A. I mustered by the 800 number, and it took me until probably about ten o'clock that night to get through.

Q. (33:18) And you just saw it by watching the news?

A. Right, it was on CNN I believe.

Q. (33:19) Is your cell phones and the keys, are they still in the space?

A. They are.

(chuckle)

Q. 33:29) And when you were taking the stock from the store, when you were taking the drinks and the juice, how did that work? Did the store guy just say just take what you needed?

A. Well, there was a woman, and I actually went there yesterday to get gas and she was working, and I said, I said, "Oh yeah, you were here the day, of September 11."

She said, "Yeah I was here all day." But she initially, I mean there was fifty of us in uniform.

There wasn't anything that she was going to say or do that was going to stop it anyway. But she started to say something to the effect of "You can't take that," or "don't take that," or something to the effect, and all I remember is an Army officer turned around and looked at her and said, "You have no opinion in this matter," and we just started taking stuff.

Q. (34:08) Tell me about your phone call home. About 2 or 2:30 whatever you said you called your home.

A. Yeah, I finally got through. My wife never has her cell phone on, first of all, so I was skeptical that I would get in touch with her. I called home, I tried to call probably, probably,

twenty or thirty times and just couldn't get through because of the phone lines. Come to find out she had been picked up at work after she heard that the Pentagon had been hit, they let her go home. She called a friend because she didn't want to drive. Her friend came and picked her up and took her to her house where they were watching CNN and of course she knows where our office is and she saw we're hit so she's just crazy then. I guess she got a lot of phone calls from family. From my family, from her family throughout the afternoon, and then I finally got home and you could tell, there was just a huge sigh of relief. I mean she just hit her ninth month of pregnancy and you could just hear the huge sigh of relief in her voice when she answered her cell phone.

She was actually on the phone, the phone with her mother when her cell phone rang. She said I just hung it up, I didn't even tell her I was going. She just hung it up because I'm really the only person who has her cell phone number, so. It was a little emotional I think, but, you know it was all good.

Q. (35:42) Last chance anything else you'd like to add.

A. No, sir, I don't think so.

Q. (35:46) OK, great.

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